

**NEFFA is on the
Move!**

Mansfield, MA

April 20-22, 2007!



Fall 2006 – Vol. XXXII #3

Calendar Briefs

**What's doin' behind
the scenes**

Shameless filler!

It's Mansfield!



We're making tracks!

The New England Folk Festival is **moving** from Natick High School to Mansfield (Massachusetts) High and Middle Schools. The upcoming 2007 Festival will be the first at our new location.

The Search

After thirty-three uninterrupted years at Natick, we decided that the time was right for us to find a more suitable location. An exhaustive search, headed by Persis Thorndike and aided by the suggestions of many Festival-goers (thank you, all!), resulted in a short list of potential facilities. With keen eyes, the Festival Committee toured the sites looking at everything including the availability of on-site parking, location, the quantity and layout of rooms, the outdoor terrain, the quality of the maintenance, and the “feel” of the place, among other things.



This site didn't make the short list

Where is Mansfield?

Mansfield is located near the junction of I-495 and I-95, about 28 miles southwest of Boston and about 20 miles northeast of Providence. It is home of the Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts. Mansfield was incorporated in 1775, it has a population of 23,000.

Why Mansfield?

We found a lot to like with the Mansfield site. All the schools in town are on an academic campus, with the High School separated from the Middle School by a one-minute walk. There are about 900 parking spots close by, which will reduce, but not eliminate, our need for satellite parking. With two schools, we get two gyms, two cafeterias, two auditoriums, and lots of large classrooms. We are working now to figure out how to use this bounty of space.

A lot of work remains to be done. The last time we moved the Festival, back in 1974 from Brockton High School, the Festival was a lot smaller. No “Lower Hall”. No shuttle buses. No website. But now, just like then, we have wonderful volunteers. Given the site characteristics and our guest's unfamiliarity with the site, we will need more volunteers than ever, so when the call goes out, please answer it and help the Festival.

There will be more information in the next NEFFA News (along with the Festival flyer), but in the meantime, mark the dates: April 20-22, 2007, and plan to be at the NEFFA Festival as we pass a historic milestone in our history.



Editor: **Dan Pearl** Mailing: **Dayle Watts**

Editorial Review: **Maureen Carey, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Robert Johnson**

The NEFFA News, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc., is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons. **Please send all**

editorial submissions to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to neffa@neffa.org. Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

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Issue	Deadline
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1

Mansfield: A Photo Tour



Overview of the Festival site. Across the street in the front of the school are the town's elementary schools, which will supply us with some parking spots. The Middle School has a lovely triangular enclosed courtyard, which seems to be a fine place for little ones to blow off steam.

The New England Folk Festival Association, Inc. is a non-profit educational and cultural organization, incorporated under the general laws of Massachusetts to preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere; to encourage the development of a living folk culture; and to encourage high standards of quality and performance in the folk arts.

Membership entitles one to voting privileges, publications, and to reduced admission to selected NEFFA-sponsored activities. It is open to interested persons who support our objectives.

Annual Dues are \$20/individual, \$38/family (up to 2 people over 18). Contributions beyond these basic amounts are welcome and tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the office. Occasionally, NEFFA shares its mailing list for a one-time use by like-minded folk organizations. If you do not want your name and address shared in this way, tell us with your membership. **Please direct all inquiries** to the NEFFA office: PMB 282, 1770 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 or (781) 662-6710, or via email: neffa@neffa.org

Interested persons may get on NEFFA's mailing list for one year at no charge. Send request with full name and address to the office.

Photos by
Mark Jones &
Dan Pearl



High School Main Entrance



High School Lobby area



High School Cafeteria



High School Auditorium



High School Gymnasium



Middle School Entrance



Middle School Auditorium



Middle School Cafeteria



Middle School Gymnasium



Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend Coming Soon!

Join the fun at the University of New Hampshire January 12-24, 2007. The 20th Annual Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend will feature special guests that will capture the sprit of the past with a vision for the future.

Callers will be Tony Parkes and Dudley Laufman will kick off the program on Friday, joined by the music of the famous and influential Canterbury Country Dance Orchestra. Joining Tony on Saturday and Sunday will be Carol Ormand, with fabulous music provided by Bob McQuillen, Vince O'Donnell, Laurie Andres, and Old Grey Goose (Carter Newell, Doug Protsik & Jeff "Smokey" McKeen).

See the www.neffa.org/rplw.html for more details. Don't miss it!

Revels Salon Series in Watertown, Mass.

The 2006-2007 Revels Salon Series, now in its 5th season of music, lectures and performances kicks off on October 20th with a presentation entitled "The Wind that Shakes the Barley: Irish Songs of Insurgency." The presenter is Brian O'Donovan, host of WGBH-FM's weekly program "A Celtic Sojourn."

The series takes place at the Commander's Mansion, 440 Talcott Av., in Watertown. Each program begins with appetizers and drinks at 7:30pm, with the presentation following at 8pm.

The price for each program is \$20, and the full series of five is \$85. For more information or tickets, call 617-972-8300 x 22 (or www.revels.org).

Future programs in the series are:

November 17: Thomas Cahill, author (How the Irish Saved Civilization). Topic: "St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) and John Langstaff (d. 2005): A Collaboration"

January 19, 2007: Sue Robbins, musician, founder of Libana. Topic: "Women's Music Traditions from Around the World"

February 16: Gregory Maguire, author (Wicked). Topic: "Fantasy and Imagination in Childhood Play and Art"

April 20, 2007: Susan Cooper, author (The Dark is Rising, The Shortest Day). Topic: "The Gentle Hero: Working With Jack [Langstaff]"

The Revels Salon Series is presented by Revels, a non-profit cultural organization.

Summary of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

March 12, 2006

May 21, 2006

Committee Reauthorization (Maureen Carey)

Changes in personnel:

- ❑ Folk Music and Song: Isobel Abelson and Jean Schwartz are resigning. Kathy Westra, Neil McMillan and Suzanne Mrozak will head the committee, with Dennis and Judy Cook as advisors.
- ❑ Crafts: Susan Tornheim is resigning. Dina Flockhart and Jean Schwartz will join Ann Schunior as Crafts co-chairs.
- ❑ Sound: Susan Falkoff is leaving the Sound Committee; Kristin Gilbert may take over.

Secretary's Report (Laura Leibensperger)

Minutes of March Exec. Board meeting were corrected and motion to approve was carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Ticket income was up by \$10,000 over 2005. Expenses have grown as well (the tent alone was just under \$12,000).

Festival Evaluations

- ❑ **Access** (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl): We didn't have many requests other than for large scale grids. People aren't asking for ASL; it is advertised.
- ❑ **Crafts** (Ann Schunior & Susan Tornheim): Things went really well. Evaluation comments: people really love the demos – something to think about in our new space. Dina will work on updating our use of the web. We don't want more vendors – we just want to revise the procedure.
- ❑ **Early Entry** (Steve Moore): There were no major problems. Linda: There was one unhappy performer who wanted early entry Sunday. At the new site, could we have a restricted lobby space open? Shelagh: That's always comes up when there's bad weather. Dan: In the past, we've used the flier hallway as a "holding pen" with volunteers at either end; then let them out into the courtyard to go to the main entrance.
- ❑ **Food** (Maureen Carey): The problems we had were things we couldn't do anything about, like people not showing up. Dan: Some booths shut down because they ran out of food. Perhaps they should be warned to bring more food when there are fewer vendors. Maureen: Our net loss was 1 booth. Shelagh: Some of the booths

seemed redundant. Dan: Do we ever ask, 'If you did well, would you consider making a donation?' Angela: I ask vendors if they'd like to be members. Maureen: Some booths are commercial, some aren't.

- ❑ **Hospitality** (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl): Switching Safety and Hospitality sides of the table worked. There may have been some telephone problems – we need to improve training. At the new venues, I'll spend more time at the table. Bethany: The Flurry asks people to come in for training sessions. Peter: The Flurry has a high percentage of all-session attendees. Maureen: It might be hard to set a specific time for training because of conflicts. Shelagh: We could do training ahead of time.

- ❑ **Operations and Outside Facilities** (Dan Pearl): Attendance may have been slightly lighter than usual. We marked areas off with orange cones – that helped. We had one upset Folk Bazaar person – some need the same access as craftspeople. Several performers would like a way to deal with instruments.

The tent was great and might be a useful idea in the future. Most of the expense was the floor and staging, not the tent. Think about what can be done in a floorless tent.

Bus costs went up. The cost was over \$10,000. I told the bus company specifically what we wanted – the company owner did more supervision.

- ❑ **Performer Sales** (Nancy Hanssen): T-shirt sales were \$800, down about \$700 as compared to last year. Performer sales were about \$5100, down about \$300. We sold for 70 performers, down 10 from last year. We handled 245 items. Improvements this year: better shelving arrangements, writing receipts for everyone. We never have enough space. I'd like to separate checking in and checking out areas.
- ❑ **Printed Materials and Program** (Linda Leslie): We weighted toward contras because of a couple of International Dance cancellations. We need more family and beginner sessions. We could use some new blood – some of the problems were with long-time performers. We should consider a 4th rehearsal space (a large room) – the rehearsal rooms are constantly in use. Areas that I could see expanding: larger spaces, rather than more spaces, for Folk Music & Song; a dance space specifically for family dances. We probably don't want to make changes right away. Peter: There are requests

for Cajun, zydeco, swing – what is the limiting factor? Shelagh: Swing bands are less inclined to perform for free. Linda: Also salsa, but there might be an incentive in that they could attract students.

- ❑ **Safety** (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl): Kate Wojtowicz supervised in place of Alan. Wet feet going through the Lower Hall was a problem. This could be a problem if we have a two-venue site next year. Mansfield has a short walk –we could almost make it an enclosed space. Ann: Someone suggested booties. Dan: Tyvek covers are about \$1/pair. Bethany and Dan saw a Safety volunteer dancing. Dan: It turned out that they had been given permission. This is a bad idea – they need to be active.
- ❑ **Sound** (Peter Olszowka): I didn't receive quotes in advance – I don't know why. There was an added cost that we needed to rent a lift for \$550. Sound needs its own Evaluation section with specific questions. There were a couple of evaluation comments about sound in the tent being temperamental. The "Entertainer" mixers are showing their age. Sound sheets were late in getting to the crew. We had a problem of 2 simultaneous no-shows – the crew chief had to fill in for the second no-show. The Beatles sing-along was listed as "acoustic", but it wasn't. There was a sound

volunteer in the audience who jumped in.

- ❑ **T-shirts (Lisa Greenleaf)**. Bob: Lisa has been functioning as art director. I showed her 3 designs and she chose this one. Dan: I would like to have a jury process for T-shirts. Linda: If we jury, the process has to start sooner. Mark: I suggest not having more than 1 or 2 people vetting.
- ❑ **Volunteers** (Bethany Seeger): There were 3 no-shows for Sound: Peter's 2 plus 1 in the Auditorium. Sound was hard to recruit for this year – I may go back to a paper mailing. It was good to be able to switch people between "Sound" and "General" volunteering, since I had both. The majority of people want to volunteer between 11:00 and 1:00. Does Ticket Sales want to recruit their own volunteers? Ron: Caroline said she wouldn't mind taking this over.

Other Business (Maureen Carey)

The Thursday Night Dance will move to the Scout House in August. We will still look for another place – we want to maintain an "in town" constituency. Springstep did not have enough hanging-out space; the Scout House has a warmer feel overall.



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