

Activity Room Chairperson Needed!

**NEFFA Concerts Kick
off with Showcase on
Mar 23 in Somerville**

NEFFA



NEWS

Spring 2012 – Vol. XXXVIII #1

Farewell to Joan Pelton

Presidential Message:



See you at the
Festival! April
20th to 22nd!

Get Fest Tix Online!

NEFFA is now offering advance ticketing for the Festival in 2012.

Changes this year:

- We are switching from using Brown Paper Tickets (BPT) as our agent.
- We've found that less than 3% of advance purchasers ever spoke with BPT by phone, so we can transition to a web-only offering via the NEFFA website. Hopefully this will improve the purchase experience while still lowering costs, enabling more revenue to go towards producing the Festival.
- We now accept advance ticket payment via PayPal (note: when using a credit/debit card, *no PayPal account is required*)

NEFFA members have access to Festival ticket pricing averaging 15% off. The member discount code for 2012 is "**EVOLVES**". *This code will be required to access member prices for advance ticket sales, so please retain it for your later use.*

Advance ticketing via

<http://tickets.neffa.org>

is now open.

Questions? Email advancetix@neffa.org or leave a message at 617-299-1590.

-Don Veino

Important!

Children's' Activity Room Needs a Chair

Since the mid-1980's, the Children's' Activity Room has been a prime Festival destination for the younger set. And it's no wonder, because the room is filled with crafts, activities, and fun entertainments.

This year, however, we find ourselves shorthanded: we need a chairperson to coordinate the room. The job does not require constant attendance, as some of the more experienced volunteers can act as shift supervisors.

There is money for new supplies, and a collection of supplies, costumes, etc. in the NEFFA collection. Each Activity Room chairperson puts their own mark on the area, bringing their ideas to life to the delight of the attendees.

Interested? We'd be really happy to talk with you about the job, which would not only provide a solid contribution to the Festival, but also provide an interesting outlet for your creativity.

Feel free to contact NEFFA President Bill Cowie (billc.neffa@yahoo.com) for more information about the position.

-- Dan Pearl



NEFFA Showcase Concert March 23rd in Somerville, MA

Concert to Feature Lynn Noel, Corvus, Wear My Letter and Marylou Ferrante

Although the New England Folk Festival has been around since 1944 and in April will present its 68th annual edition in Mansfield, “NEFFA” is not necessarily a household word to the general populace. To increase public awareness, and to entice new patrons to the Festival, the non-profit educational and cultural organization, whose mission is “to encourage, sponsor, and preserve high standards of performance of the folk arts and traditions in New England and elsewhere” will present in Somerville a pre-Festival “showcase” concert featuring a representative sample of four distinct music genres that are typically found at the Festival.

“The Festival is well known to and attended by those already connected with folk arts, and NEFFA produces a weekly contra dance series at the Scout House in Concord. But at our 2011 retreat and subsequent meetings, the Board of Directors decided that more could be done to bring folk music to the community,” said Jeff Boudreau, who serves on the NEFFA board.

The New England Folk Festival has many components: folk arts and crafts; folk music, including concerts, workshops, and jams; International Dance Performance in traditional costumes; Ritual Dance Performances; and participatory dancing, including International line dance, Couple dance, and Contra/Square dancing and other traditional dance forms. When NEFFA says “folk” it means “folk”. “The general public often confuses “contemporary” singer-songwriter music with folk music, NEFFA presents the real deal, the kind of music and dance that has been handed down from generation to generation. The showcase will present an opportunity to experience a taste of what NEFFA has to offer.

“Using the roster of some 400+ artists who will be performing April 20-22 in Mansfield, we selected four distinct musical genres to present at the showcase.” The four acts, all residents of the Commonwealth, are **Lynn Noel** - solo voice/group sing, **Marylou Ferrante** - pre-war blues, **Wear My Letter** - old-time music and **Corvus** – Celtic. “With a deep talent pool, it was very difficult to select just a few performers for the showcase. We hope that this concert becomes a tradition each year, so that we can feature different performers.

The NEFFA Showcase will be presented at Unity Somerville, 6 William Street (near Davis Square), Somerville, MA. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for NEFFA members. Ticket are available in advance at the NEFFA concert website: <http://concerts.neffa.org>

In addition to his duties as a NEFFA director, Boudreau also hosts a folk music program on community radio WCUW in Worcester (91.3fm, <http://wcuw.org/>). NEFFA showcase and Festival specials will air on Tuesday, March 20, Tuesday, April 3, and Tuesday, April 17th. Watch the NEFFA and WCUW websites for more information.

SHOWCASE ARTISTS

CORVUS Genre: Celtic <http://seansmithmusic.webs.com/corvus.html>

Corvus is a trio of Boston-area musicians who play traditional Irish tunes and songs on a somewhat unlikely but quite pleasing combination of instruments. Emily Peterson (concertina, flute) has been a self-taught concertina player since 1996, learning Irish tunes in sessions while moving around the US for school and her day job in optical physics. Steve Levy (tenor banjo, mandolin, bouzouki, lead vocals) fell in love with Irish music during the 1970s and went on to study with eminent Boston-area musicians such as Peter Maguire, John McGann, Matt Heaton, and the late Tony Cuffe. Sean Smith (guitar, bouzouki, bodhran, lead vocals) began playing traditional Irish, Scottish and English music as a teenager and since then has appeared, solo or in various collaborations, at various coffeehouses, Festivals and other venues around Massachusetts and New England.

LYNN NOEL Genre: Solo voice/group sing <http://homepage.mac.com/lynnoel/>

Noel celebrates a sense of place in song and story through bluewater and whitewater music. She captures the spirit and *joie de*

vivre of the voyageurs, the raw energy of working chanteys from the days of sail, the exploits of adventurous women from Vikings and pirates to industrial mill girls, and the magic of the seasonal round in ritual dance and drama.

MARYLOU FERRANTE Genre: Pre-war blues <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marylou-Ferrante/141951529188772>

Ferrante was described by music critic and writer, Daniel Gewertz, in the Boston Herald, as the Bay State's finest female acoustic blues interpreter. Performing pre-war blues from the 1920's & 30's, she covers major artists from the delta to east coast Piedmont style players such as Robert Johnson, Charlie Patton, Blind Boy Fuller and Memphis Minnie along with mandolin players such as Yank Rachell. Her passionate expression of these old songs comes from a love of the music and the arrangements themselves, as well as what she says is an appreciation for "the history of these folks and the difficult circumstances they endured." Marylou has honed her craft listening to the old recordings and learning from some of the great blues players today such as Paul Rishell, Guy Davis, Robert Jones and mandolin great Rich Del Grosso. Marylou has taught at The Cellar Studio, Salem MA.

WEAR MY LETTER Genre: Old-time <http://www.wearmyletter.com/>

Wear My Letter is comprised of musicians Justin Nawn and Bronwyn Bird. Natives of Doylestown PA, they are now Boston based, adding their unique sound to the city's diverse music scene. As multi-instrumentalists they hit the stage with an arsenal of instruments, including the nyckleharpa (Swedish keyed-fiddle), mandolin, accordion and guitar. Justin's background in Rock/Pop music is combined with Bronwyn's love of early Jazz and traditional folk from Scandinavia and Appalachia, creating a fresh and original style that all audiences can enjoy!

REMINDER!

Bring a Friend to the Festival...For Free!!


Here's a golden opportunity to share the fun of the NEFFA Festival with a friend! It's called **Members Bring-a-Friend Friday**, and it's just what it sounds like. Each adult NEFFA member can bring a non-member to the Friday night of the Festival (April 20th) for no charge!



When you and your friend arrive at the Festival, simply check in at the Membership table in the Mansfield High School lobby and claim your benefit.

Even better, each of the two adults included in a Family membership can invite one friend!

So now the question is not whether you should bring a friend, it is who you should invite!

	Editor: Dan Pearl Mailing: Dayle Watts	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Issue</th><th>Deadline</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Spring</td><td>Feb. 1</td></tr><tr><td>Summer</td><td>May 15</td></tr><tr><td>Fall</td><td>Aug. 15</td></tr><tr><td>Winter</td><td>Nov. 1</td></tr></tbody></table>	Issue	Deadline	Spring	Feb. 1	Summer	May 15	Fall	Aug. 15	Winter	Nov. 1
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	Editorial Review: Bill Cowie, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Maureen Carey											

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 neffa_news@neffa.org** . Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

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FAREWELL

Joan Pelton died on February 15th, on her 80th birthday. Joan was an important individual in the establishment of contra dance music as a viable genre in recorded music. A memorial service and reception will be held at Waterbury Congregational Church on Saturday June 9 at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of Joan's love for dance music, Joan's family suggest you consider a donation to the New England Folk Festival Association either via mail (NEFFA, PO Box 2789, Acton MA 01720) or via the Donate button at the NEFFA homepage at www.neffa.org.

Here are some remarks from David Millstone:

"Joan Pelton was involved with the folk scene in upstate New York starting in the late 1960s, including the Pickin' and Singin' Gathering at the Caffe Lena and the Fox Hollow folk festival. She appears as the piano player on the first hammered dulcimer album of Fennig's All-Star String Band. She was a fixture at many festivals, selling first from her truck and then from a booth at the Hudson River Revival, Old Songs, and Falcon Ridge.

"She moved to Vermont and worked at Philo Records, an independent record label. She then started her own distribution company that focused on small independents, especially in the folk genre. In 1977, Joan started Alcazar Records. Alcazar (pronounced Al CAY zar) was a small label with a mission. The liner notes on the Alcazar Dance Series recordings stated that goal clearly: 'Alcazar as a corporation is dedicated to the working musicians and callers of the world. The intent of the corporation is to research, record, and publish traditional dance music, and make it available to interested individuals everywhere. We believe that good dance music of all types can also be good listening music, and that making good dance records available will foster the tradition of using live music for dancing.' The first album released on Alcazar was Yankee Ingenuity's Kitchen Junket. The company's second album was Maritime Dance Party, featuring the fiddling of Gerry Robichaud (misspelled on the cover as 'Jerry'). Potluck & Dance Tonite, the third album, featured square dances called by Seattle's Sandy Bradley. Alcazar's fourth and fifth releases were the two volumes of New England Chestnuts, brought into being by the letter Joan sent the Miller brothers. (The albums have been re-released as a two CD set by Great Meadow Music #GMM 2005, available directly from the company or through such organizations as CDSS.)

"In the 1970s, Joan Pelton's son Jesse started dancing with the Green Mountain Volunteers, a performing troupe from northern Vermont. Joan started playing again for dances, which is where she met Randy Miller. Randy commented, 'She'd lean over while a dance was being taught and she'd say, "Boy, that's an old chestnut!" in that inimitable style she had.'"



Joan Pelton, second from left. Photo by Al Napper.

Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Exec Board

29 January 2012

Ralph Page Memorial Committee (Dave Bateman)

It looks like the Ralph Page weekend is about \$2000 in the black. We will share some of this with the performers.

Attendance was very good. We had more young people; we are trying to encourage that.

The committee has had significant turnover. We are trying to get new people and expand the committee geographically. We are using Skype to hold meetings. If any of you would like to get involved, that would be good.

We are meeting next week to start planning for next year. We will continue at UNH for the foreseeable future. The evaluations are available to anyone. Alex K-G: the web presence is very scattered. Dave: Dan got us a spot on the NEFFA server this year and we are moving away from the previous site maintained by Peter Yarensky, however that site has a fair amount of archive material, so we are still linking there and we are grateful to Peter for his work. The main site going forward will be RalphPage.NEFFA.org

Archives (Terry Huffaker)

Our first festival was in 1944: a few hours of programming. The newsletter started in 1960, Grants in 1984, family dancing in 1986 became a regular series, The Ralph Page Legacy Weekend began 1988 which made the connection with UNH. The Ralph Page Memorial Committee was formed to deal with Ralph's materials and bringing them to UNH. We have a lot of materials: Board minutes, committee files, budgets, membership lists, flyers, programs, posters, videos, cassettes, CDs, photos, lots of presidential stuff, etc.

For 58 years we shared office space with CDS Boston and later with them and FAC. We moved at least 5 times. Each time the materials got packed, but were not always unpacked. Sometimes they were combined. In the 1960s there was an attempt to organize, but a lot has happened since then. George Fogg, who was a collector, worked in the office. He was great at collecting materials and putting them in the office. I've spent the last two years sorting, digitizing, etc. I want it to stay organized, available, and safe from damp basements. UNH library of traditional dance & music is a good fit for us. We already have the connection.

PROPOSED MOTION (written by Dan Pearl)

The New England Folk Festival Association, Inc. approves "NEFFA-UNH Gift Agreement, Version 6" and authorizes the President to sign the agreement on behalf of NEFFA.

Dan moves the motion as written, Robert seconds. Motion carries. Round of applause to Terry for her work.

NEFFA Brochure (Alex Krogh-Grabbe)

Alex is getting information on printing and price breaks for the brochure.

Children's' Activity Room

Bill: We do not have someone for this position. Susan Eisenman Levitin: Does the chair of that ever get out of the room? Dan: it depends on how many assistants they can get. Nichole Singer: I am involved with a children's art group that I would like to invite to get involved. Susan: could we have other things in there? Bob: historically the room was run by one person who put her stamp on things. With a new person that must change. There is no sense in trying to re-create anything. New vitality would be the best possible outcome. Bill: we should have a decision about whether we are going to have an activity room before the volunteer request goes live. Linda: local museums might also be willing to sponsor something in there. I don't have specific ideas, but thought it could get us new people, too.

Crafts (Ann Schunior)

We are coming along pretty well. Our exhibitors are set and on the web site. We have several new exhibitors and three who are back after a hiatus.

Food (Bill Cowie)

Food was our biggest initiative from the retreat. Barbara Nichols is working on new vendors. Linda: I sent along two possibilities to both Maureen and Barbara and have not heard how that has worked out.

Information

Terry: I'm looking at how to handle phone numbers for safety and our table. I am planning to have more supervisors who are trained.

I am concerned about issues we will have with not having volunteers at the remote lots and putting the phone number there. Could we have a published bus schedule? Dan: it is tough to schedule. I'm comfortable encouraging the busses to keep moving. I am also comfortable putting the number of the bus company at the remote lot.

Parking

Bill: we have multiple people covering parking. They have all done these jobs before. Longer term we are still looking for someone who would like to take on heading this committee.

Printed materials

Bill: Where we stand on a mobile application" Conventionist has increased their fee. The least expensive option was over \$1000 with a limited number of downloads. I talked with them, but we are still looking at \$500. Michael: going forward we should look at developing our own ap. Alex: I move we move forward with the \$500 for this year. Beth seconded. Motion carries.

Program

Linda: The schedule is now public on the web site. We have

some really cool new stuff. We finally got the Uruguayan group to participate. We have a number of new performers.

Publicity

Flyers will be going out shortly. Radio PSA spots will be updated soon and available on the web. Facebook updates will start soon; we will continue both group and page. Official notices on the page. Linda: performers will get a media kit.

Sound

Michael: We have Eric Kilburn for main halls (his 20th year.) People seem to be happy with sound in the High School hall. I thought the Middle School was better last year, but we still had some complaints. We will try increasing the drape coverage. If people have any additional ideas, now is a good time to bring them up. High school auditorium will have the same crew as last year. Middle school auditorium we had some confusion last year, but our previous guy will be back this year. I need a replacement for Don Veino who handled logistics: collecting our various borrowed equipment and returning it. (A committee would be OK.)

Folk Concert Series

Jeff: This is planned to be an ongoing year round NEFFA sponsored series. We are looking at Friday, March 23 for the first event. This would be run as a showcase. I have several groups on board already.

26 February 2012

Brochure

Bill: Alex sent pricing for the color brochure. These are for the generic NEFFA brochure, which is not time sensitive. Dan: has it been updated to reflect the new concert venture? Dan: moved that we approve \$265 plus incidentals for the production of the NEFFA brochure, Ralph seconded. Approved.

Nominating Committee

The slate is approved and has gone out. We are still lacking someone for the empty partial director's position. We hope to fill that position by appointment. Shelagh: I am concerned about the empty slot. Dan volunteered for the vacant position. Linda: we will accept his offer with the understanding that we are still looking someone new for the slot.

Children's' Activity Room

Bill: we still do not have a committee chair. We could scale back the room if necessary as well. Harold: could we approach an early education program? Bob: we need a decision soon. Dan: let's put out a call on our Facebook page, too.

Printed Materials, electronic media

Alex: I've been working with the advertisers. The deadline is March 1st. Advertising is similar numbers to last year. We plan on using the same printer as last year. Bill: concerning electronic media, we were able to negotiate a package with Conventionist for enough downloads for the

mobile app for the amount we discussed last year. The contract has been signed.

Dayle: have we considered something like Groupon to encourage new people? People are using this for events and festivals.

Program (Linda Leslie)

Linda: in previous years we had "NEFFA samplers." We are bringing this back this year with a "NEFFA International Sampler" and "Both Sides of the Pond." These have multiple performers per session. This is really exciting. The idea is to have an MC'd round robin type thing that will encourage folk music and song people to stay a little longer in the evening. Also new is, with permission from Mange Bene, we will have some scheduled performances at non-major eating times in the Bistro. We have a mix of people who are new and have been at NEFFA before scheduled for this. No sound, a single solo person.

Publicity (Bill Cowie)

I am putting together a set of announcements to be put up on the Facebook page. If you have announcements, please coordinate with me. And then, in the group, we want a post that says "this is on the page..." Mac: I am concerned that if we have too many streams it is hard to make sure they are all updated. Bill: the group is used as a social connection and the page as a more official announcement venue. Bruce: is all information posted on the page available other places for people who are not Facebook users? Bill: this is information that is also available on our web site and in the Festival brochure.

Volunteers (Julia Nickles)

The website for volunteers is going live today and will be open until March 22. Dayle Watts: what do you think contributed to the lack of volunteers last year? Beth: I assume the change of date had an effect.

Tickets

Bill: Don Veino had some suggestions about the Bring a Friend Friday. He would like to see an indication on the badges of the members that they used this benefit. Harold: I remember the old Festival Committee badges we had with color. Jean Schwartz is doing the badges. Shelagh: I was the person who over saw the switch to our current badges. It is important that the Festival Committee badges clearly indicate the role of the committee person.

Grants (Bill Cowie)

Candyrapper was granted money to go to DERT, in England.

T-shirt

Bob: I am doing the design this year. [Bob showed the committee a preliminary design.]

Folk Concert Series

Bill: Jeff sent us an email about the Pre-Festival Showcase Concert on March 23. Beth: I will be there for membership. Dayle: I will do tickets. Linda: I intend to be there. Bruce: I can help, too.