

**Learn to Hambo!**  
**Remembering Nat**  
**The Fabulous Festival**  
**Lost and Found List**  
**Special Thanks**

**NEFFA**  
NEW ENGLAND FOLK FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
**NEWS**  
Summer 2013 – Vol. XXXIX #2

**Minutes!**  
**Phil Zimmerman**  
**Memorial Event**  
**Leadership**  
**Workshops at**  
**Mainewoods**

## **THURSDAY CONTRA**

# **NEWS**

### **Learn Hambo at the Thursday Dance**

Andy Taylor-Blenis ► will teach the Swedish hambo, a traditional couple dance often seen at contra dances, at five consecutive Thursday evenings before the contra dance at the Concord Scout House. The series runs September 5th to October 3rd, and go from 6:15pm to 7:15pm.

The first two evenings will feature instruction for the first half hour, followed by practice opportunities. Subsequent evenings will feature less teaching, but more opportunities for practice and corrections. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend either or both of the first two sessions, but will be accommodated on other dates.

Regular admission fees apply for these evenings.

### **Dance for FREE at the Thursday Dance!**

Earn **FOUR** admission tickets to the Thursday contra dance by collecting admissions at the door for a couple of hours. It's easy, and you get to meet everyone at the dance. When you are relieved, you can dance the rest of that night for free. We have a new self-service sign-up procedure! Go to <http://TheDoor.neffa.org/>, create an account, and sign up for open dates. SignUpGenius will send you a reminder. Thanks!



# Many Thanks To Our Special Contributors

These individuals have been generous to NEFFA by joining at the higher membership categories. NEFFA appreciates all financial support, regardless of the size.

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

# Remembering Nat *by Chrissy Fowler*

The contradance diaspora mourns when an important person passes, especially when the death is untimely. When Nat Hewitt died of complications of cancer in November, the loss was keenly felt by dancers, musicians, and callers across the world, and particularly in Maine, where Nat was the much-loved house fiddler for the Falmouth dance series. Over many decades, he also appeared regularly at dances around the state, in places like North Yarmouth, North Whitefield, Belfast, Rockport, Trenton, Freeport, Kittery, and Eliot; was on staff at Maine Fiddle Camp; and several times was a featured performer the annual DownEast Country Dance Festival.



In November, Maureen Costello (an early Falmouth organizer) catalyzed the idea of a memorial dance event in Maine. A quartet of us began to plan the event: Maureen, Nat's band mate Glen Loper, current Falmouth organizer Barry Magda, and myself.

I was motivated to be part of it because I'm grateful to Nat for our various connections over the years. He did innumerable gigs with me, starting early in my calling practice, he passed on useful nuggets re. calling and self-employment, his musicianship lent credibility to dances I organized, he provided memorable late night hilarity at Pinewoods and elsewhere, and he was such a damned talented dance fiddler. Who else could pull off playing Wizard's Walk for the dance Haste to the Wedding at a Bat Mitzvah?

We decided to run the June 1<sup>st</sup> Falmouth dance as a fundraiser for a CDSS scholarship fund in Nat's name, invited many callers and musicians to volunteer their time, and started spreading the word. Musicians and callers in Maine jumped right on board, and a few folks from "away" committed to come (including NEFFA leaders Dan Pearl & Linda Leslie, fiddler Jaige Trudel, and another of Nat's bandmates Adam Broome.) One dancer volunteered to assemble a memory book and brought supplies, various photos, and some anecdotes and memories that people had shared online in the wake of Nat's passing. It all came together, coincidentally, just 2 days before Nat's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday.

And it was amazing.

The day was hot. Really hot. We should have been on the water in a sailboat, not in a steamy hall. But there we were, having what Maine native and Oberlin student Ness Smith-Savedoff labeled "a mystic sweat lodge experience".

The floor was full of longtime Maine dancers and new faces. Nat's mother Elizabeth watched from the side of the hall, taking it all in. The musicians and callers exulted in each other's contributions, whether listening onstage or whirling around the dance floor. As Linda Leslie succinctly stated, "the dance was very special."

Each caller did 2 dances, and the bands played separately and then combined forces for a couple of

sets. DEFFA president Pam Weeks observed that this format illustrated “the diversity of styles we have in our little community.”

Eric Weest Johnson was the superstar of the night. He brought his 24 channel board and a ton of gear – even pre-labeling a cable for every single musician. He did an initial sound check of each group during our pre-dance potluck, and this meant that the bands could just plug and play. When the whole group launched into their first mega-band set, the mood was jubilant.



Much appreciation to Glen Loper, Maureen Costello, Barry Magda, Maggie Robinson, Bill Olson, Kim Roberts, Linda Leslie, Dan Pearl, Jessie & Greg Boardman, Frigate (Steve Muise, Glen Loper, Fred White), Adam Broome, Jaige Trudel, Jeff Raymond, Henry Road Band (John Praia, Jamie Oshima, Glen Loper, Toki Oshima), T-Acadie (Pam Weeks, Bill Olson, Jim Joseph, Jay Young), Edward Howe, and Eric Weest Johnson on sound, but **special thanks** to all of the dancers and the folks who tossed in extra money above and beyond admission.

We netted nearly \$1,400 given generous contributions of time and money from the dancers, performers, and organizers. Wow!

But, more importantly for all of us, it was what Pam Weeks described as a “celebration and amplification of Nat's spirit and legacy in dance music.” And the bonus was the way our community pulled together to make it happen. I think every one of us was seeing Nat’s impish smile and devilishly sparkling eye, and hearing his fiddle in the mix of the traditional music and dance that we all cherish. “Being together and remembering together our old friend Nat, through celebration, was uplifting and cathartic and brought its own richness,” reflected Adam Broome. Such richness is at the core of our traditions. We celebrate them as we celebrated Nat.

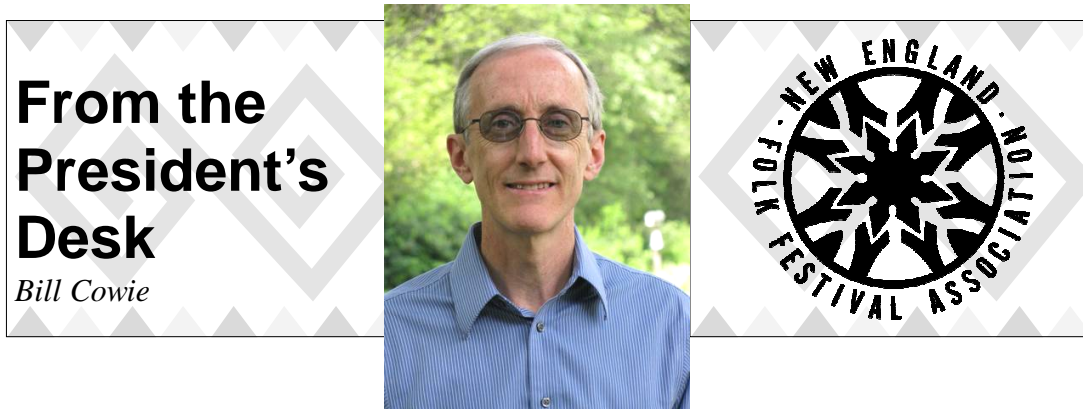
~ Chrissy Fowler

More photos and a short video are on Dropbox: <http://tinyurl.com/NatPhotos>

Folks may still [donate to CDSS online](#), noting that it’s in memory of Nat Hewitt.

Chrissy Fowler is a dance leader and a board member of the Belfast Flying Shoes Dance Series DownEast Friends of the Folk Arts (DEFFA) – both of which are CDSS affiliates.





From the President's Desk

June, 2013

Every year at the Festival, we ask all of you to fill out evaluation forms, and every year, you collectively respond in great numbers and with great insight and enthusiasm. This year, we received almost 300 evaluations, for which we are very grateful.

Many of you may wonder what happens once you drop that evaluation form in the slot, or push the Send button on your browser. Especially since we don't usually have the time and resources to respond to each of you individually. So I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you what happens.

First of all, I want to let you know that we take great interest in your feedback. Whether you comment on the facilities, the music, the food, or some other aspect of your weekend, at least one member of the NEFFA Board (and sometimes several!) reads what you have to say. Even if you don't see an immediate change or response, your voice is heard.

In the weeks following the Festival, the Evaluations committee, led by Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, compile and organize all written and electronic evaluations, and distribute them to the various Board members and committee chairpersons. Each committee representative then reviews the comments related to their committee, as well as any others that they find beneficial.

About a month after the Festival, once we have all had time to catch our breath but before our memories begin to fade, the entire NEFFA Board gets together to review the Festival. Each committee reports on what went well, what might need improvement or review, and what suggestions they have for future Festivals. Your feedback is always a significant part of those reports. Often, we hear your verbatim comments, whether they are glowing compliments or tough love.

The most common subject of your responses is related to the performers and performances. Your feedback lets us know how much you enjoyed (or were less than thrilled by) the various events and performers, including how crowded the venue was, how good the sound was and anything else that affected your enjoyment. And of course, you let us know when we schedule two of your favorite events at the same time! You are our eyes and ears, and your feedback helps us adjust and plan and hopefully improve in the years that follow.

Another popular subject of your evaluations is the food. NEFFA is somewhat unique in the way we try to include many different types of food as a part of the weekend experience. We are very aware of the wide differences in likes, dislikes, limitations, restrictions and tastes of several thousand Festival attendees. Once upon a time, much of the food that was served at the Festival was prepared and served by members of the NEFFA community. Even today, some of the most popular food vendors are long-time NEFFA participants. But as the Festival has grown and the number of hungry mouths has increased, it has become impractical to serve so many people safely and efficiently in that manner. So more and more, we have turned to commercial food vendors.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Committee

## Summaries of Secretary's Report of the NEFFA Executive Board Meetings

**March 10, 2013**

### **President's Report (Bill Cowie)**

Jeff Boudreau has resigned his position. If anyone is interested in picking up the concert series, let me know. The Judith Stames-Hamilton event went very well. Thank you to the people who worked on that.

### **Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)**

The subject of an audit has come up. We are supposed to have one every three years. My understanding of an audit is that it is to check that the treasurer is not "cheating us blind." Mac gave me a list of potential people to contact about doing an audit. Should I follow up or would it be better for someone else? Bill: I will pursue this for you. I agree it should probably not be you.

### **Membership**

Beth: Memberships are coming in. Dan: the ballot mailing goes out this week and that will encourage people to renew as well.

### **Festival Committee Reports**

#### **Activity room**

Susan: If you know anyone who plays an instrument who would want to present in the instrument petting room let me know. We are in pretty good shape getting things together.

#### **Advertising**

Program book has closed. Over \$4000 in advertising. Marge Lewin has done a great job.

#### **Badges**

Bill: Mac reports that he is going to put the tee shirt design on the Festival badge. He sent out a request for who needs a badge. Please respond if needed.

#### **Crafts**

Ann: We are not doing demos this year. There is not much pay-off and people were not enthusiastic about doing it. We will order chairs for that space and make it available for jamming. This worked last year just fine.

Saturday and Sunday mornings, what is the procedure? I

need to know when I need someone to cover the Crafts room door. Dan: after 8:30. Send me the locking/unlocking schedule and I will make sure they are on the master operations schedule.

### **Nominating Committee**

Linda: all positions have candidates. Dan has the candidate statements.

### **Early entry**

Bill: Safety is taking this job over. Alan Finkelstein will be in charge.

### **Folk Bazaar**

Angela: Have we heard anything about inexpensive housing? Bill: there have been a couple of ideas. Terry would know more, the church group is doing the housing again. Linda: a friend of mine who housed performers last year offered to start a small program for performers. I reached out to local dances as a way to make some money. Two responded positively. College Hill and Medway, Rehoboth was also willing to communicate with their dances. We have about 12 people who responded.

### **Printed Materials**

Linda: Frank is going with InfoGraphics again. Bob and I will transport them to the Festival. Beth: deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. This week! Bill: so get any last minute corrections to them this week.

### **Program**

Linda: our schedule was relatively stable until just recently. We are doing juggling at this time. Most of the international folks have confirmed that they are coming. It looks like the South African group is not going to make it. We have given them a March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Bill: I will be starting teasers, so I need to make sure the people are locked down.

Linda: we have one small extra room down the hall from Room 125. We had a performer ask us about extra time for individual lessons after a workshop. So we will have this room available. We are not going to get involved in details. Harvey: no money exchanged, right? Linda: correct.

## Sound

Michael: I am pretty much OK. I am working on an online sound form for performers which should go live this week. We now have a way for programming and sound to communicate more effectively. It is a more or less automated system, though I think Dan is doing a lot. Linda: thank you Dan. Michael: Eric will be doing sound. Roughly the same budget. Dan: will the small instruction rooms have sound? Michael: similar to last year with more supporting materials. We are switching to newer wireless mics with better battery length. Beth is contributing equipment. Audrey is going to be on the Auditorium stage. In the middle school dance hall we have added acoustic drapes in the hall. I have these drapes; we have more than in previous years. We borrow them from the Flurry. They will be in Maine next week and back in time for NEFFA. Basically the people who own them want to keep them in use so they do not have to store them.

## Advanced Tickets

Don: Sales went live on March 1. Sales have been proceeding well. I have been getting good feedback about the process. I have also been working at getting tee shirts available for advance sales. This would be only available to ticket purchasers. The tee shirt would be picked up with the tickets. The goal is to have little packets made up with tee shirts and tickets all put together.

Don: I am open to offering tote bags in advance sales as well.

## Tote Bags

Bill: Lisa and I have talked about swag for years. The tote bag is finally one we decided to move forward with. I would like to get a motion to allocate some amount of money to invest in this. Lisa said for \$1000 we get 150 bags. Susan: I really feel strongly that Lisa and Cortni have the right instincts about how the design should be. The contact is person-to-person not via the text on the bag. Linda: I agree, and neffa.org is pretty easy to remember. Robert: I am wondering if we could print 150 and if we run out could we do a second printing? Bill: there is a \$75 setup charge, plus a print charge. If we did a second printing it would not cost as much. Robert: **I move that we authorize an expenditure up to \$1000 at this time with the possibility of repeat printing.** Ralph: second. Dan: I think this figure is too low. If this

is going to be a multi-year bag, we can get a better price if we think longer range. Robert: I accept a friendly amendment to raise this to \$1500. Ralph: I want to encourage her to find a good price point. Beth: there are issues of storage. Linda: I would be willing to help with storage. Dan: it might be worthwhile to pursue other vendors and I am willing to research that. Ralph: the spirit of the board is "yes, let's go ahead and do it." Dan: yes, we should authorize a maximum price point. Don: How big a price break are we talking about? Harold: you want this to be good quality. I would trust Lisa's due diligence. **Dan I move to amend the amount to \$1500, Ralph seconded. Amendment approved. Motion carries.**

## Mobile App

Dan: I got some feedback that it seemed to work well. We spent \$99 on it, and it seems to do the job in a low-rent NEFFA kind of way. Last year's was \$500, perhaps a better app, but at a higher price. I will start publicizing the link to the page. Dan: I could use a list of the Folk Bazaar exhibitors so I can direct people to the right place. I need a list of vendors and their locations.

## Tote Bags redux

Ralph: I do not feel the sales of the tote bags should be left up to the committee. **I move that the tote bags should sell for \$15 assuming a cost in the neighborhood of \$7. Robert seconded.** Jane: I think that is too much for the product described. Harold: do we know that they will cost \$7? Ralph: these are the numbers in the discussion. Beth: I disagree with the motion. We have not voted on tote bag or tee shirt prices in the past. I believe we need to let the committee do their job. Susan: I agree with Beth and I also feel that \$15 is too much. We need to let the committee do their work. Don: I do not think we should tell the committee what to do. Michael: I thought the impetus was promotional not fund-raising, so going with \$15 is problematic. Ralph: Linda has says she gets tired of asking performers for donations. Harvey: I would like to go back to the previous discussion and say that if we charge that much it will not sell as many and we need storage. **Motion fails. Exact count: 4 Opposed: 8** Ralph: so we are sending the message that this a promotional item? Dan: the intention is that we did not have consensus in the group, we are charging the committee with evaluating how they want to price the item for the purpose.

# FOUND ITEMS AT THE NEFFA FESTIVAL

These items, if not claimed, will be disposed of by September 1, 2013. If an item might be yours, go to [www.neffa.org/lost\\_and\\_found.html](http://www.neffa.org/lost_and_found.html) or call the NEFFA office (phone number on front page).

## Accessories

- Change purse w. cash, Dark brown, 4" heart shape, leather
- Belt, brown, Size 22, leather
- scarf, turquoise, 5" x 5' fringed, acrylic?
- Cosmetics pouch, black mesh, 4" x 5", nylon, Unlisted
- sunglasses, black

## Book

- "Sins of the Fathers", Inscribed: "Valentine", paperback

## Glasses

- farsighted W's, black/tortoise, half-frame, plastic
- farsighted W's, brown frame, plastic

## Hats/Caps

- Tiger Guatemalan hat, Orange, black, white, polyester
- Cap, light green, colored threads, wool
- Cap, fleece interior, tan, Patagonia
- Baseball cap, Dark green, Adidas, cotton, Adidas

## Jewelry

- Earring, Blue, tiger eye, blue, 1.5", three stones on metal threading
- Earring, Blue/ silver, 1", three blue stones surrounded by 2 silver balls
- necklace?, silver, gray, 6" diameter, silver rods connecting 1/8" balls
- Earring, silver, black, 1", moon w. yin/yang, Silver
- bracelet, multicolored, 3" diameter, beads w. small shells
- Earrings new in purple box, silver, 3/4", interlocking knot, silver
- Earring, golden, 1" diameter, hoop, gold plate

## Miscellaneous

- Viewfinder eye cup, Black, 1.5", rubber, plastic
- Pouch, drawstring, Black, 5"x2", cotton/Modal, drawstring
- MP3 player, black, 1.5" x 3.5", plastic, Coby
- Shoulder bag, blue, 12" x 8", Dunfry, Donq Cristal rum, Nylon
- Country fair ribbon, Green w. gold, 12" x 6", Rochester Country Fair fifth place, Nylon,
- Pouch, black, 8" x 6" zipper, nylon, Eagle Creek
- Pouch w. feminine supplies, black, 6" x 4" zipper, Feminine supplies
- Sack, blue with gold, 12" x 18" drawstring, UUAP, nylon
- Blanket, lavender, polyester, LL Bean
- Umbrella, dark blue, 14" folding, nylon
- Folding chair, blue with white tubing, various

- Water bottles, travel mugs, LOTS OF THESE
- Umbrella, black, 12" folding, totes



## Musical

- Guitar stand, silver, It's A Hamilton
- Bodhran tipper (beater), brown frame, 8", wooden
- Capo, silver, black, plastic, metal, Shubb
- CD - The Short Sisters

## Pants

- Blue jeans, Blue, 32x30, with brown belt, cotton, Gap
- wooly, "sleepwear", Black, L, polyester, Geoffrey Beene

## Shirts/Blouses

- W's long sleeve, Maroon, M, Cotton/Modal,



- Covington
- M's long sleeve sports shirt, maroon/tan checked, XL Tall, cotton, LL Bean
- M's sports shirt, black, L, cotton, Bill Blass
- W's , blackish, L, cotton, spandex, Gap
- W's fabric buttons, blue, purple stars, XL, rayon, Eagle Ray Traders
- T shirt, black, S, vegWorcester, cotton, Anvil
- W's very short sleeve, black, M, cotton, spandex, xhiliaration
- Dress shirt, Black, M, 5) Goldberg, cotton, nylon, Perry Ellis
- M's dress shirt, dark blue, white striping, XXL, cotton?, Old Navy
- M's dress shirt, blue with black lines, L, Merona

### Shoes

- Loafers, Brown, 10M, in Go Go Dance Shoes bag, leather, Perfectsole
- single shoe Maggie, black, 7.5M, Amanda Sports, vinyl, Meyers
- sports shoes, black, 11.5, various, Bloch
- slippers, tan, 42, strap, cotton, rubber, Pandamerica

### Skirt

- elastic waist, multicolored "patchwork", poly/cotton?

### Sweater

- lightweight zipper front, turquoise, W's ?, poly/cotton?, American Eagle Outfitters, hooded, white drawstring
- M's , brown, tan & orange stripes, M, American Eagle Outfitters
- W's lightweight open front, black, L, cotton, Old Navy

### Sweatshirts/fleeces

- Long sleeve, full zipper, royal blue, XS, Amer. Eagle 1977 patch, poly/cotton, American Eagle Outfitters, lined hood, white drawstring
- Long sleeve, short zipper, Black, L, American Water Heaters, Polycotton, Jerzees
- hooded, long sleeve, black, L, cep Northeastern Univ., polycotton, F.O.T.Loom
- open front, long sleeve, very dark purple, 2XL, polyester, Faded Glory
- W's fleece, full zipper, black, S, polyester, Jenny Buchanan
- hooded, long sleeve, full zipper, Black, 2XL, vmware End User Computing, polycotton, Jerzees
- long sleeve, full zipper front, dark red, 12/14/2013, All Time Excellent., cotton, Cherokee

### Toy

- Soccer Ball, White w. Black/Blue spots, 6", Premier League, Vinyl, Nike

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## Memorial Gathering in Memory of Phil Zimmerman

Philip A Zimmermann, longtime Boston area contra dancer and Morris dancer, passed away on Tuesday May 14 from complications of his amyloidosis. He was diagnosed with the amyloidosis as he began his decline seven years ago. He received extensive treatment, with the hope of a cure, and this treatment surely prolonged his life, but the cure was elusive.

Philip tried to present an optimistic view of his condition, even in recent weeks as his decline accelerated. We do not know if his optimism was for his benefit or for ours. But it was nevertheless clear that he was very ill, and his passing was not unexpected -- *Michael Weinreich*

For those who knew Philip Zimmerman, a few of us have taken on the role of coordinating a gathering and dance to honor and remember Philip. The event will be on Sunday, September 15th at the Park Avenue UCC church at 50 Paul Revere Road in Arlington, MA, 7-10pm.

We will have time to share memories and stories and then celebrate Philip's life with contradancing. People are welcome to submit any digital photos they have of Philip that they'd like to share. We're hoping to have a slide show of photos.

We will need lots of help to make this a wonderful, meaningful event. If you would like to help by playing music, calling a dance or two, helping with the sound, setting up, cleaning up or contributing food, please let us know. You can e-mail Tamar Myers at [tamarbulk@gmail.com](mailto:tamarbulk@gmail.com)

Thank you and we hope to see you, — *The organizing committee: Bev, Melissa, Nell, Tamar and Thais*

*(Continued from page 5)*

Unfortunately, NEFFA is not able to determine exactly what types of food will be served, and by whom. We can recruit and we can invite, but ultimately, each vendor we approach makes their own decision about whether or not to participate at the Festival. For most of them, it is a business decision. Julia Friend, our Food Committee Chairperson, is always on the lookout for new and different types of food to serve, and would love to offer you an even greater variety of styles and choices. This is another opportunity for you to help. If you are at a similar event, and run across a food vendor you enjoy, please get their name and contact information and send it to Julia, or any member of the Board.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank each and every one of you for your feedback, and for your continued moral and financial support of NEFFA. We hope you enjoyed the Festival this year, and hope to continue celebrating these wonderful traditions with you for many years to come.

## Opportunity for Dance Teachers and Leaders at Mainwoods

Do you want to improve your **skills as a folk dance teacher**? Do you yearn to learn more dances from unusual countries like **Ecuador, India, Samoa, and Taiwan**? Could you benefit from folk dances and teaching techniques for family and **multigenerational gatherings**? Do you, or does someone you know, work with youth in **schools or other community settings**? If so, then don't miss out on the following!

We're pleased to announce that during Session Two, **Sanna Longden** will offer a special class on dances for children and families. In addition to bringing a wide range of dances from all over the world, Sanna is renowned for her amazing teaching techniques for all ages. As one folk dance teacher has said, "She is simply The Best Folk Dance Teacher I have ever seen."

For more information on Mainwoods programs, go to <http://www.mainwoodsdancecamp.org/>



**N·E·F·F·A**

New England Folk Festival Association

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