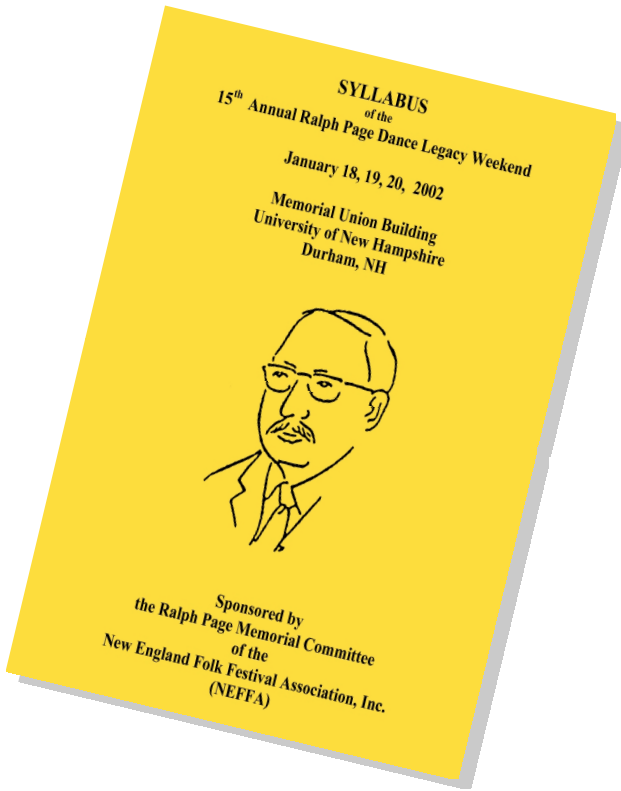


**David Smucker gets  
off the syllabus  
Puttin' On The Dance  
update  
Minutes!**



**Smile when you order  
from Amazon, and  
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Contra Calendar  
Coming Soon!**



**Syl-la-bus (sīl' ə-bəs): A summary outline of a discourse, treatise, or course of study or of examination requirements.**

RPDLW Syllabus: an accounting of all the workshops and dances that occurred during the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend. For historical and practical purposes, it is of interest to callers, musicians and dancers - hey! That's all of us!

The details contained in the RPDLW syllabi are impressive - a listing of every dance danced, complete with author, source, caller's name, type of dance formation, dance notation, names of the tunes played, the musicians' names and their instruments! And then there are the workshop notes; reading an accounting of a workshop is as close as you can get to being there. The final pages of the RPDLW Syllabus contain indices by Title, Author, and Dance Type and a Bibliography of Published Sources. Wow, what an amazing resource!

So how do you obtain one of these gems? They are available for purchase through the NEFFA Office, at Down East Festival and NEFFA and by arrangement with the RPDLW Committee. You may even place your order at the upcoming Ralph Page Weekend!

Thanks to a cooperative effort with the University of New Hampshire Library, online versions of each syllabus become available one year after the event they record and may be downloaded for free at [tinyurl.com/RPsyllabi](http://tinyurl.com/RPsyllabi) This site also contains a searchable index back to 1988.

**A Little History**

A syllabus has been produced for all but four of the weekend's 27 years but even in those years Ted Sannella kept notes. Hanny Budnick created the first syllabus in 1990 followed by the efforts of Chris

Ricciotti, Don Parkhurst, Mary Wakefield, and Dave Bateman.

David Smukler ► took over as compiler in 1997 for the 10th annual RPDLW, and has worked tirelessly every year to produce a complete accounting of the weekend’s events. Able assistance has come from Lynn Ackerson and Nils Fredland who have authored significant portions of some of the syllabi. David Millstone has carefully edited every syllabus David Smukler has compiled.

David Smukler is passing the baton to Lynn Ackerson for the up-coming 2015 Weekend. The RPDLW Committee, numerous callers, musicians, dancers and historians are deeply indebted to David Smukler and to everyone involved in producing such a detailed recounting of one of our favorite dance weekends of the year! Thank you, all!



— Ralph Page Memorial Committee

## Shop at Amazon, and NEFFA Gets a Wee Bit o’ Moolah!



**New Amazon Program Enables Shoppers to Easily Donate to Their Favorite Nonprofits**

AmazonSmile is a program offered by Amazon where 0.5% of the purchase price of many items they offer is donated to a charity of your choice. NEFFA has registered as a selected charity, so you can help NEFFA while you shop!

To join, go to smile.amazon.com, and you'll get a chance to select a charity. We'd love it if you selected "New England Folk Festival" in the search box. (The address of the organization is listed as New Bedford, MA, which is the address of past NEFFA President Robert Golder.)

So instead of shopping at plain old "amazon.com", go instead to smile.amazon.com (or amazonsmile.com), and your charity will be shown at the top of the screen when you login.

And thanks for your support! — Dan Pearl



Editor: **Dan Pearl**      Mailing: **Dayle Watts**  
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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Issue	Deadline
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1



# Acadia Trad School 2015 Celtic Music Festival June 29th - July 3rd

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Cajun, Cape Breton

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Baron Collins-Hill



Katie Trautz



Pete Sutherland



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Bar Harbor, Maine  
Class Registration Opens October 10th  
[www.acadiatradschool.com](http://www.acadiatradschool.com)

## **June 22, 2014 NEFFA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

### **President's Report**

Bill introduced new board member Jonathan Cannon.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ralph: we have additional Festival and Membership income arriving from PayPal.

From a financial point of view, I want to discuss paying volunteers at the Festival: we pay them by giving them a free ticket. This year we have paid for pizza (\$280) we have given some volunteers some NEFFA merchandise (mugs, tee shirts). Bill: Lisa also gives several shirts for marketing purposes. Linda: in general, I'm a little distressed that we do not have budgets and we do not know about these things. It might be really nice to get back into being firm about budgets. Shelagh: so you are suggesting the budgets include these items? Linda: to keep things more transparent. Pat: so there is a balance and parity. Shelagh: We should talk about this at a later meeting. Linda: we also had an issue of a volunteer at the performer table saying "you don't need a performer badge because you have a craft ticket." Craft, Food, Bazaar tickets do not include Festival admission. Ann: this definitely needs to be discussed. This is not the way we have understood it. Dan: food badges are a special badge that is to be transferred to table workers but do not include Festival attendance. That is why there is no space for an attendee's name on the badge. Shelagh: the idea is that they are there to sell wares, not to attend the Festival. Linda: this should be a retreat topic.

Ralph: I also want to mention people who charge us money. We pay the police \$45/hr, \$68/hr overtime. The police assigned people to 8 hour shifts. The fire department, in contrast, used to charge a fixed rate. A couple of years ago they changed to hourly and are scheduling people for 15 hour shifts. This is an additional \$700 for the Festival. They also charge us an extra 10% overhead for the department. Ralph: we also had a new electrician this year. The total was twice what it was in previous years. \$76/hour sounds high. It was \$156/hour for take down. Total bill was \$3700.

### **Festival Committees**

#### **Advertising (Bill Cowie)**

Bill: Marge did a bang up job. Most of the ads were Festival related. Not a big change from last year.

#### **Crafts (Ann Schunior)**

Ann: any questions? The changes we made are going well. As usual some people were up some were down. People appreciate good work. There is no rhyme or reason as to who does well. Bill: were all the slots filled? Ann: we had more cancellations than usual. We had more good applications this year. It is a challenge to fill the room with good applicants.

#### **Evaluations (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)**

Shelagh: I will circulate my report. I cut down the number of paper evaluations this year. I received 114 paper evaluations out of 260 total. People still really want paper evaluations. Cost will be less than \$75.

Last year we had 296. It has been a downward trend. Dan: what does that mean? Shelagh: online is staying reasonably strong. People may be less inclined if they are going to say the same-old, same-old. I think a first time attendee is more likely to do an evaluation. The content is available in Google docs and a spreadsheet. Any board member can access that.

Linda: did you evaluate interest in intercity bus service?

Shelagh: the numbers were really low. I was underwhelmed by the level of interest. Linda: trying a bus and seeing how we do would be a better judge. Bill: I did get a quote and it came out around \$40/person round trip from Cambridge.

Dan: that seems high. Harold: given that there are so many social apps has anyone heard of a web service we could point to or ride sharing? Dan: we do point to Ridebuzz.

Shelagh: if there is a committee who wants to pursue this issue. Bill: Audrey and Ron were working on this.

Michael: I assume things went up on Facebook. Could we put a small reminder on the grid? Linda: probably not.

Luke: NEFFA has a perpetual problem of being seen as a Boston festival. Any steps we can take to make it a New England festival would be good.

Shelagh, we had locations on 119 evaluations. Quick distribution of location 129 MA, next highest is NY. Beth: I forgot that I had offered to collect zip codes at ticket sales. I will try to do that next year. Luke: going forward with the attitude of "we will let outside groups take care of it" doesn't let people know that we are interested in fostering that discussion. I would like to see more discussion on how to help that happen. As simple as "what can we do to help the discussion?" Shelagh: that can depend on how strong the interest is. Bill: the people who are not coming are not filling out evaluations. Shelagh: to arrange for buses we need people to pay. Bill: if we let people know we are interested in making this work. Pat: to add to that, you do not have a large enough sample to know if the evaluations are representative. Just because we didn't get a response does not mean we have a consensus. Shelagh: if something requires a lot of work it requires a champion. Linda: how do we reach out and let people know it is an issue for us. We had a performer pay for a taxi from the Providence train station. Clearly we need to reach out to everyone saying "let us know if you have transportation issues." Jonathan: performers are good candidates for ride-share since they know they are attending long in advance.

Bruce: is it worth it to have separate evaluations for performers? I usually do it on a standard form. Michael: are you getting the information you need? Linda: I could consider this. What is the purpose? There is a difference between a contact person and members of a group. Bruce: if someone told us about issues we could take note of them. Linda: we get this information now via standard evaluations and verbal communications. If you think we are not getting enough data I am willing to entertain a proposal.

Luke: there was a comment that [a specific event] was panned. Is there any response to this? Shelagh: program committee definitely handles that. Dan: in the past comments have been sent to the performer. Pat: was it



helpful? Dan: different performers respond differently.

### **Folk Bazaar (Jane Breede)**

Jane: Things went about the same as usual. The Hmong table proprietor had a death in the family at the last minute. They were missed. The Dutch table told us they could not afford to attend any more. The Irish table asked for a different location and then, humorously, he wondered why he had been moved. I think it would be nice if we could have some sort of entrance way so it is obvious that they are in a functioning area. Pat: I didn't know where to find the different parts of Bazaar. Dan: would a map in the program guide help? Jane: maybe just a sign. Michael: all we currently have are the hanging signs. Harold: if you want some identity to set apart, perhaps a color theme and/or signs on the glass doors to route people to the folk bazaar. Jane: we have been there long enough that people know where to find things. Dan: perhaps handout maps that could be available on the bazaar tables. This could unite the tables. Ann: let me brain storm with you about this.

### **Information (Terry Huffaker)**

We had some trouble getting volunteers. They seemed to be in short supply at the Festival. I had good staff, lots of returning people. The housing people are happy. The church put up about 35-40 people. The hotels filled early. Between 25-35 slots per hotel per night. Pat: did you get any last minute requests? Terry: not this year. I did send out a notification on the NEFFA Facebook page. Dan: we could do more on the web page. Perhaps with indicators with availability. Terry: several hotels are unwilling to work with us. Dan: should we do some advance publicity?

Terry: I did have issues with the phones. We tried rounding up iPhone 3s, I tested them at my house and they were fine, none of them worked at the Festival. I will be looking for someone else to deal with the phones next year. The issue is the "Festival Phone" line that was publicized worked. The radios are working well.

### **Inside Operations (Harold Henry)**

Harold: I apologize for not getting a report done. Overall despite the weather things went well. We had not had really bad weather for a while. The damage to the lawns was an issue. The food vendors were so close to the sidewalks that people could not get by on the sidewalk. We need to keep people off the grass in the rain so the grounds are not damaged. Traffic flow was an issue. Beth: the sidewalk did not work as both a walkway and a food ordering area.

Inside things ran well. There was some damage in some classrooms. There was a bookcase that the school claimed was cracked. Someone wrote on a Smartboard. They need signs: these are not whiteboards. Linda: Nichole is willing to work with Michael on this. Harold: the two concerns are that the boards were written on and that apparently they went into drawers looking for markers. If someone needs something to write on, they should be prepared to bring their own.

Pat: are there disability issues about blocking the walkways? Harold: no. this year was exacerbated by the weather. Dan: looking at the walkways, [showing satellite

map] we are using this small walkway for both transit and food, we should consider moving the food to one of the other walkways. Bill: so we need to reconfigure location of the outside food booths.

Harold: Concerning volunteers. I had too many volunteers on Friday night. I need more on Thursday and very few on Friday. I will work with volunteers with what I need.

Ralph: Can you talk about expenses. Harold: I need to talk to the Fire Department. There shifts are a concern. I need to request only 8 hour shifts. With the electrician he said it would be higher this year because it was their first year. Both their rate and number of hours were higher. Linda: are we required to use them? Harold: we are not required to use them. They are the provider of choice with the school. Pat: when you put this out to bid, make sure that it is indicated that we are a non-profit. Also look at electricians in the area. Bruce: was most of the extra cost because of not knowing the setup? Harold: this vendor had a Sunday differential our previous electrician did not.

### **Inside Signs (Michael Resnick)**

In short, it went OK. Because Harold was having some difficulty with volunteers, it slowed my team down. We got everything done in time.

I have notes that we need middle school auditorium door closing possibility. Signage on the single bathrooms may be changed to gender-free. There were some crafts rooms signs issues. Apparently it is not against Mansfield health code to have bare feet in the cafeteria. I now know about the Smartboard issue. Jamming rooms need to be marked as music/vocal. Harold: and some folks wanted to know which rooms had pianos. Michael: There were issues on the indoor morris area. Linda: when the weather is good it is not an issue.

The only other issue was the supposed changing area in the main lobby. The volunteer cloak room. Bill: the police notified us that there is now a security camera with a direct feed to the police station.

### **Outside Facilities (Dan Pearl)**

Dan: busses: I think we have a good balance of busses and attendees. Very few comments on the evaluations. This year we suggested that the bus company use an alternate route to avoid high-traffic areas. We increased the number of busses on Saturday by one bus. The cost was virtually the same as previous years because we cut back on the dispatcher hours. Porta-potties, no issues, except that the one by the school was put by the wrong door.

### **Performer Sales**

Harvey: tees were just about gone by Saturday. I think it is part of the NEFFA tradition to sell out. Beth: I think it's generating bad will to sell out so quickly and it was better when we had extras. Harold: this indicates that the designers we've had good designs. Ralph: Cortni has does a good job. Harvey: her name wasn't in the program book.

Harvey: when told people we didn't take credit cards they wanted to know where an ATM is. Ann: is there an ongoing discussion about using a system for credit cards?

Harvey: I cut down the number of volunteers.

### **Mobile App (Dan Pearl)**

Dan: people are getting used to its limitations and capabilities. It worked fine.

### **Printed materials (Linda Leslie)**

Linda: The blue bars on the grid were an error. We will get the grids for free next year because of the error. We will print the same number next year. What Marge does with ads pays for both the program book and grid.

### **Program (Linda Leslie)**

Linda: In response to Luke's earlier question: I leave contacting the performers with evaluation information up to the individual program head.

You have received the program report. It is long and complete.

Program, especially Jillian and John, would like to do some outreach in Mansfield. We are sure we can get some teams to do some dancing on the green the week before the Festival. Harold: the music and drama directors would be open to having something in the school. The library has a large meeting room. The Y is in Foxboro. Senior citizens homes are also always looking for performers. Pat: Paul Wilde has been doing something in Providence. Community cable is another possibility. There is a coffee house at the same church that helps us with housing.

Linda: John is joining Bob and Isabel and Nicole on Folk Music and Song.

Linda: thank you, Harold, for making sure the ritual space was available. Gillian was pleased with how it turned out. The question of whether a tent could be put up in front of the school, possibly paid for by the ritual teams, over the existing sidewalk has come up. What about the small parking area in front of the high school auditorium? Perhaps it could take a tent for food, morris and eating area. Michael R: are you considering a tent large enough for ritual and audience? Linda: Whatever we decide, ultimately we are better off having the teams dance rather than not. Harold: the cheapest thing is an awning without sides. Terry: the inside room was not handicapped accessible. Harold: there is a part missing on the lift, so it was out of commission.

Linda: For dance performance times, there was a Scandinavian dance on the HS auditorium stage. It made us wonder about how we use the space. Folk Music and Song does not use the HS auditorium in the evening. Moving performances to the afternoon of both Saturday and Sunday would free up the HS stage for participatory dance and perhaps for "meet and greet" type sessions with the dance performance groups.

### **Publicity (Bill Cowie)**

Bill: No big changes. We did press releases, local TV promo. Last year we did some radio promos and got no responses, so we did not do this this year.

Harold: Mansfield has a town calendar, are we on it? Bill: we are on it.

### **Sound (Michael Bergman)**

Michael B: there was sound. We had mostly predicted incidental expenses.

Audrey was in charge of MS auditorium. She is planning on coming back. Mike Booth was in charge of HS auditorium and intends to come back. Mattie Givens became stage manager for one of the performance blocks. The MS gym contractor didn't quite understand the nature of a medley; he didn't even know it was multiple callers, even though I tried to communicate with him about it. Otherwise I was happy with his work. Dave Eisenstadter handled sound volunteers. We worked well together. Marcie VanCleave and Persis Thorndike had some issues but everything got worked out.

I still need a logistics person. I handled this myself and didn't do a great job. I was dividing my attention in too many directions.

Concert halls, there are two halls in the middle school that I have no notes about. Evaluations rarely specify where problems occur. The systems in there appears well suited for the halls. Shelagh: You can tell when an evaluation was entered by the time stamp.

Eric Kilburn was back as our primary contractor. We did do bidding this year. His price was consistent with previous years. We have a bidder who wants to bid for next year, but I am leaning toward not bidding on the HS next year and taking bids only for MS. Michael R: how often do you usually go out for bid? Michael B: not usually every year, not necessarily every three years, but when we feel it appropriate.

Middle school dance hall: I got at least one complaint that the callers were not loud enough. Harold: it did seem a little hard to hear at times.

HS Dance hall: I have no notes. We had a slightly different arrangement for fill speakers that appeared to help with the top of the lines. Dan: there seemed to be some issues about getting the band's sound up on time. Michael: I have frankly given up on trying to get the sound people to keep the leader and bands' mics on at all time. I have requested it but they do things the "right way" and won't keep the mic levels up.

Auditoriums: we had a number of issues in the HS auditoriums. The barriers for participatory dancing was handled by program and they were set up incorrectly. The barriers were in the wrong halls with the stronger one in the high school rather than the middle school; if we are going to do more dancing in the high school we need a better barrier for it. Harold: program in the middle school is mostly dancing. It needs to be able to be moved quickly. The better barrier was designed by Ralph. We will see what program has for next year and plan accordingly.

It was decided to use an iPad for dance performance music. We did not get information about this until Friday night. Essentially everything went fine, but it was just dumb luck that it did.

We had a small number of live bands for dance performance scattered throughout the schedule. This meant we had to have an engineer available the whole time.

Middle school auditorium: we changed a number of things. We moved the stage area to the other side of the stage. The

custodians did not fill up the right wing which made this possible. The result was very positive. This allowed us to make the stage area wider by about 50 square feet. It also meant that people were not entering past the band. Linda: did this cause problems with the sound forms? Michael: no, we were fine with the forms showing it on the left. We did sound workshops before the Festival. Walter Lenk led a couple of them.

There is a permanently installed assisted listening device in the middle school. We perhaps should look into using it.

### **Tickets (Beth Parkes)**

Beth: The tabulation of tickets was in your pre-meeting package. We sold about a hundred fewer tickets but brought in more total in revenue. Just the luck of the distribution.

### **New Business**

Bill: Mark Mandeville has a proposal for a NEFFA-themed folk music event prior to the Festival. He has contacts and ideas. He is currently on a walking tour giving performances as he goes. He is willing to do the initial legwork on logistics. He is interested in an event at someplace like Club Passim in Cambridge. We would negotiate performers and ticket charges. Harold: has he done things like this before? Bill: yes. His pitch is that

NEFFA had done this in the past and would we be interested in pursuing this. Bruce: is he wedded to Passim? It is a small room. Bill: the event we had a few years ago, basically we put up the money and Jeff did the work. This could be revenue-neutral to NEFFA. Harold: so this would be name recognition. Linda: did he talk about the possibility of things closer to Mansfield? Bill: he wants to start where he has contacts. Ann: is this someone we know? Linda: superficially. This was a "gee what ideas do you have?" kind of conversation. Bill: we would need someone from NEFFA to work with Mark. Shelagh: I would like to spend some time looking into this more and then move on it. John: I would like to work on this. I have worked with Passim. Ralph: we are talking about a time just before the Festival? Bill: yes, like late March.

### **Nomination for Director's slot.**

Mac: At the last election Dave Eisenstadter moved to Vice President, which opened a director slot. Carl West has agreed to stand for this position. He is a dancer and a crafts person. He is a good guy and I think he would be good on the board. Michael B: he has been setting up the curtains in the MS dance hall for several years.

Bruce Randall moves that we appoint Carl West as director, Beth seconded. Motion carried by elected board.

## **Puttin' On the Dance 2 — Hands Across the Border**

Production is well under way for a second conference just for dance organizers in the northeast of the US and eastern Canada. The first POTD back in 2011 was a big success. Even as that conference was ending there were calls for another. The committee of four for the first POTD had only intended and planned for a one-off event, but members of the Old Sod Folk Music Society, with active support from CDSS, took up the torch and now *POTD2: Hands Across the Border* is coming this March to the beautiful capital city of Canada. Ottawa, Ontario!

Chrissy Fowler, who co-organized the first POTD, is thrilled and honoured to fill an advisory role for POTD2. "The team is taking their role seriously, and it's such a treat to know that something we felt passionate about in 2011 is being carried on by equally passionate folks for the 2015 conference. As it says on the POTD mission page, 'it is absolutely crucial to support those dance organizers, whose commitment of personal resources (time, energy, spirit, and sometimes money) manifests in such positive ways.'" Max Newman expands on that mission sentiment in his CDSS Field Report on the conference, "... under the veneer of a volunteer effort, organizing a dance is a lot of demanding, complicated work, usually orchestrated by those callers/organizers Ralph Sweet has been quoted as calling 'the overactive 10%'. It's also fairly isolated. Dance organizers don't get much of a chance to talk shop." He says, "After seeing two (organizers) conferences, I can say they are a vital idea—a time and place to give and receive support, share ideas, make helpful contacts, and elevate the level of the discussion."



In my own role as publicity and communication coordinator for POTD2, I'm most excited about the prospect of POTD becoming an entity in itself—a place for dance organizers to learn new skills, grow, and connect, just as there are for dancers, callers and musicians. I feel very fortunate to be able to take part in the shift. Enthusiastic leaders from the upcoming March 2015 conference, and from the first in 2011 (some from both!), are busy putting the intentions for POTD sustainability into practice. The reorganization of the POTD online archives is currently in progress; ease of access is paramount for the ever-growing compilation of resources and information. Meanwhile, back at the Capital, and all over the Northeast, the POTD2 committee is equally busy getting ready for another successful event, full of learning, sharing and, of course, dancing!

- Tara Bolker, Hamilton, Ontario

# NEFFA Helps Fund Contradance Calendar



Doug Plummer ◀, a talented photographer from Seattle, has produced a series of professional-quality contra dance calendars featuring photos of dances, weekends, festivals, and people all capturing the joy, movement and poetry of contra dance. Doug's trademark style gets him into the action with moving cameras and interesting angles.

Last year, NEFFA contributed to the Kickstarter campaign to fund

Doug's calendar, and in return, Doug came out to shoot an evening at the NEFFA Thursday night dance. The upcoming 2015 calendar features *two* NEFFA events! January (and the calendar cover!) features the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend, and February features the Thursday night dance.

Limited copies of the calendar will be for sale at the Thursday Night Dance starting in November.



**N·E·F·F·A**

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