

**Festival Preview  
concert takes over  
Club Passim!**

**Serve NEFFA! Call for  
Nominees**

# NEFFA



# NEWS

Winter 2014 – Vol. XL #4

**Workshop offered for  
Trad/Folk performers**

**No minutes!**

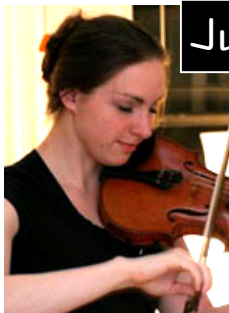
**No President's  
Message!**

## NEFFA Night at Passim

*Listen. Experience. Engage.*



On Friday, March 20th, Club Passim in Harvard Square will host "NEFFA Night", a musical preview of the New England Folk Festival! We've lined up some special performers in an eclectic program that mirrors the exciting variety of the Festival itself.



**Julie Metcalf**

**Old-time &  
Quebecois  
fiddle**

**Lydia & Andrea**

**Scandinavian  
fiddle**



**Outrageous Fortune**



**Jug  
Band**

**Marylou Ferrante**

**Blues**



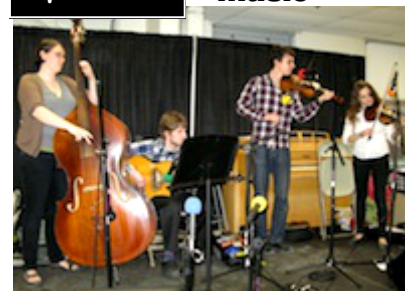
**Mark Mandeville &  
Raienne Richards**

**Folk  
musicians**



**Mierlita**

**Romanian  
music**



The program starts at 8pm, and tickets (\$15) are available at [www.clubpassim.org](http://www.clubpassim.org)

# SERVE with the New England Folk Festival Association!



## Call for Nominations for the Elected Board

The core of NEFFA is volunteerism. This includes our Elected Board and all the various Committees, contributors, and participants that make NEFFA work. We are non-profit. NEFFA's members preserve and actively live folk traditions of dance, crafts, and music. How?

- Our major April weekend-long Folk Festival in Mansfield MA
- Our weekly Thursday Night Contra Dance at Scout House in Concord
- The Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend at UNH in January
- Various dance and concert events
- The NEFFA News, published quarterly
- The Grants program, which provides financial support for various folk-related activities

Every year about half of our Elected Board is up for election or re-election. The Nominating Committee searches for and nominates candidates for those positions. Suggestions from all our members are very welcome, including volunteering yourself. If 25 members suggest specific person, that person is also added to the ballot. Positions to be filled by election this year include:

**Directors:** The Directors review, comment, and vote on policies, actions, and any other matters that come before the Board. 5 positions.

**Secretary:** The Secretary records minutes, maintains records, and communicates all necessary information to the rest of the Board. 1 position.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is central to shaping the makeup of the Board and the future character of NEFFA. position.

**President:** The President is a consensus-building leader, a curator, inventor, and explorer of new ideas and directions, while conserving what we're doing right, right now. This leadership includes taking action – or delegating – where no one else has, seeing that committee heads get everything they're supposed to do, done. Educating the Board in maintenance, improvements, and new directions of the NEFFA organization. 1 position.

The current Elected Board members are listed on the right. Those positions marked with an asterisk are to be filled in the April election. Directors and Officers serve terms of two years and may be re-elected for one additional term (the Secretary and the Treasurer are always eligible for re-election). Members of the Nominating Committee serve for a single three-year term.


Please contact Mac Sloan, Nominating Committee Chair, with suggestions for candidates by February 15.

[sloan@medevelop.com](mailto:sloan@medevelop.com) or 44 Coburn Road, Berlin MA 01503

Position	Name	Term Ends	Add'l terms
<b>President</b>	Bill Cowie	2015	0*
<b>Vice-President</b>	Dave Eisenstadter	2016	1
<b>Secretary</b>	Beth Parkes	2015	∞*
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ralph Jones	2016	∞
<b>Directors</b>	Luke Donforth	2015	1*
	Pat Swift Fulton		1*
	Jenna Holmes		1*
	Carl West (partial term)		2*
	<i>vacant</i>	2016	2*
	Jonathan Cannon		1
	Susan E. Levitin		0
Bruce Randall	1		
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	Mac Sloan	2015	0*
	Audrey Knuth	2016	0
	Sarah Hirsch	2017	0

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**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](mailto:neffa_news@neffa.org)**. Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

**Publicize your events!** Display advertising is available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For more information, contact the editor.    Copyright © 2015 by the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.

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

Irish, Acadian, Old-Time,  
Cajun, Cape Breton

A Week of Classes,  
Workshops,  
Sessions &  
Concerts

Dance  
Fiddle  
Guitar  
Banjo  
Piano  
Accordion  
Flute  
Mandolin  
Bouzouki  
Piano  
much more...

John Doyle



Liz Carroll



Bruce Molsky



Pastelle LeBlanc



Pascal Miousse



Karen Tweed



David Greely



Kimberley Fraser



Emma LeBlanc



Nicole Rabata



Matt Heaton



Julia Plumb



Baron Collins-Hill



Katie Trautz



Pete Sutherland

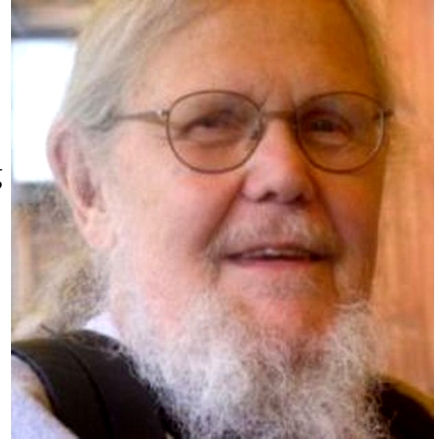


At the College of the Atlantic in  
Bar Harbor, Maine  
Class Registration Opens October 10th  
[www.acadiatradschool.com](http://www.acadiatradschool.com)



# In Memoriam

Long-time NEFFA member and volunteer **Dick Forsyth** has died. Dick was a fixture, primarily in the international dance realm, but also was very active behind the scenes. With NEFFA, Dick served on the Nominating committee, the Program committee, and the Volunteer committee, and was Program Chair, Folk Music and Song Chair, Director, and Vice President, among other jobs.



We will miss Dick's enthusiasm and knowledge, and his good-natured willingness to serve the organizations he admired.

Here is additional information from his obituary:

Richard Herbert "Dick" Forsyth of Newton, Mass. died on November 26, 2014 in Cambridge due to several medical problems including influenza, pneumonia, and amyloidosis. He was surrounded by his wife and three children (one by telephone) during his final hours, which were peaceful. He was 85.

Dick was born March 10, 1929 in Chicago to Lowell and Esther (Olson) Forsyth. He earned a BS in Chemistry from Grove City College (Grove City, PA) in 1951. He married Diana Bowden of Cardiff, Wales in 1959, and moved to the Boston area. They had two children, Kristina and Matthew, and divorced in 1974. He married Martha Schecter in 1976, and adopted her son, Peter.

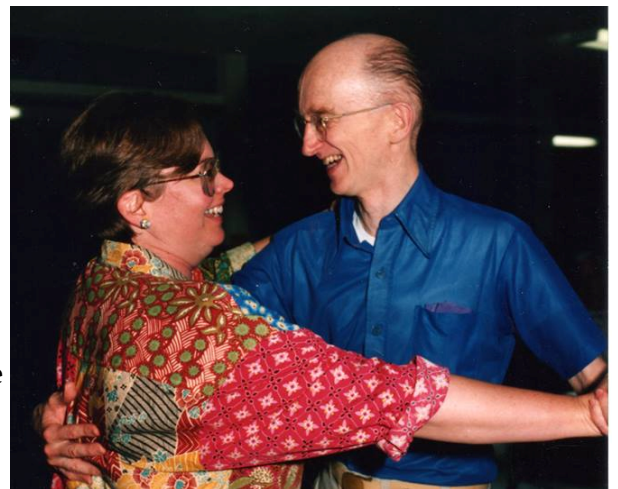
As a young man, Dick enjoyed driving in rally races. Throughout his life, he entertained a wide variety of interests, most shared with his family. After an early career in chemistry, he pursued his interest in audio recording technology, and audio engineering and electronic repair were a central element of his various jobs until he retired. His interest in audio recording intertwined with Martha's passion for Bulgarian folk music and culture. In recent years he began singing, and joined several groups, ranging from traditional Balkan to Sacred Harp singing. He also enjoyed exploring esoteric TV, movies, and literature, an interest he actively shared with Kristina.

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**Al Olson** is a name that is not familiar to many dancers these days. Al, who died in December, was a fixture on the contra dance scene in Boston, and then in Chicago. He wrote hundreds of contra dances and acted as a muse to Larry Jennings, primarily. He was leading the beginner session at Brimmer and May when I showed up for my first contra dance, and his behind the scenes involvement didn't stop there. - Dan Pearl

Eric Zorn writes:

"In his time Al was a significant force in the contra dance community nationwide. His dances and his influence were all over [Larry Jennings first book] *'Zesty Contras,'* which, pre-Internet, was *the* sourcebook for aspiring callers. He moved to Chicago from the Boston area at some point in the 80s, as I recall, to care for his ailing mother. He not only wrote numerous dances but was a stern critic of others' dances and dance programs. It was not at all unusual for Al to present me, at one dance, an analysis of the dance I'd called the previous week. Though I didn't always agree with his views, I always appreciated the thought he put into these critiques. He ultimately and it seems inevitably lost his battle with clinical depression, a battle that kept him away from dances for at least the past decade. He will live on through his dances and in the memories of those of us who knew him."



Al, dancing with Martha Tyner

# WORKSHOP FOR FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTISTS

! The New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA, not NEFFA) is hosting a workshop for folk and traditional artists to learn more about their grant programs and other services. Info about the event can be found on their website at: <http://www.nefa.org/events/workshop-folk-traditional-artists> .

When: **4 February 2015 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**  
Where: **NEFA (145 Tremont Street, 8th floor, Boston, MA 02111)**  
Cost: **Free!**

Folk and traditional performing artists in New England are invited to learn more about NEFA's grant programs and services. Whether you perform traditional Cambodian music, Sudanese dance, or are a part of a Native-American drum group, join NEFA staff and regional State Arts Agency folk arts staff at this event.

This workshop will focus on:

- NEFA's New England States Touring grant program, which supports performances and community engagement activities by performing artists touring outside their home state.
- A demonstration of NEFA's newest tool, CreativeGround, New England's regional directory that spotlights artists and creative enterprises. Participants will learn how CreativeGround can help increase visibility and connections with other artists and organizations. One-on-one technical assistance for any participants who want help updating or creating their profile will follow the demo — don't forget to bring your laptop!

Limited travel support may be available. Contact Summer Confuorto ([sconfuorto@nefa.org](mailto:sconfuorto@nefa.org) 617.951.0010 x533)

## Agenda

- 1:00PM Intro to NEFA and overview of NEST program
- 2:00PM Demo of CreativeGround
- 3:00PM (Optional): One-on-one assistance for participants who want help updating their profile. Laptops will be available, but we recommend bringing your own if possible.

Register by February 2 at <http://tinyurl.com/k59wq37>

\*The event space is accessible for individuals using wheelchairs; please contact Daniela Jacobson ([djacobson@nefa.org](mailto:djacobson@nefa.org) or 617.951.0010 x528)

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**NEFFA Festival: April 24-26, 2015. Mansfield MA.**  
**See our website for schedule and performers!**  
**<http://www.neffa.org/>**



# Advance Sales for 2015 Festival

NEFFA will again offer advance ticket sales for the Festival in 2015.

As a member, you have access to ticket pricing averaging 15% off. The member discount code for 2015 is "**HARMONY**". *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> will open no later than March 1st. Questions? Email [advancetix@neffa.org](mailto:advancetix@neffa.org) or leave a message at (617) 299-1590.

-Don Veino

A NEFFA Public Service

## **Beware of Imitations!**

North East Foodshed Finance Alliance (NEFFA) is a network of organizations + individuals seeking to bring about food system change through financing the growth of a localized sustainable food marketplace.

*Our motto: "NEFFA, the New England Folk Festival Association: oft imitated, but never copied... or duplicated, or something like that."*



NEFFA ·

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[www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org)

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