A "Community-Oriented" Issue

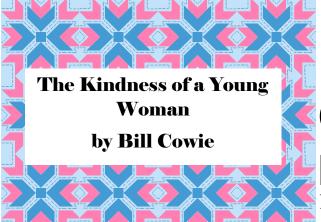
Bob Stein: what "community" means to me



Welcoming Beginners

The NEFFA Office is on the move!

No minutes





he was a young woman, brimming with energy and attractiveness. She was tall and strong, with an easy smile, but her attractiveness came more from something inside her. It came from some

quiet, internal confidence, a confidence that allowed her to be comfortable with people, comfortable enough to hand out small kindnesses to people she didn't know as easily as she handed them out to people she did know. She was the kind of woman that any of the men that night would have been thrilled to dance with.

He was an older gentleman, tall and thin, almost gaunt. A gentle man, just a bit shy, beset by the slowness that age and shyness impose. Anyone looking at him would say "He sure is spry for his age." But that would be a comment as much as a compliment. For age and its inevitable fallibilities had surely eroded the energy he once must have possessed.

She came that night to dance. She came to *dance*, to feel the rhythm of the music in her arms and her legs and her feet. She came to find other dancers with the same energy, to feel how they moved to the same music, to feel the rhythm of the music in the beat of each of their brief interactions.



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He came that night to dance. He came to move, to stave off the gathering stiffness of age, assisted by the music and the energy of the crowd around him. He came because it was a safe place, a place that afforded opportunities for the brief social interactions that satisfied his need for contact without overwhelming his shyness.

The dance hall was just beginning to fill a few minutes before 8:00. He had changed his shoes, and was sitting quietly, waiting. Others were sitting or standing, some were milling about, some chatting. He had chosen a seat on the perimeter. There were plenty of empty chairs on both sides of him. He felt safe sitting there. If anyone cared to approach him, to speak to him, or even to sit near him, he would be pleased.

She breezed in, and sat down to change her shoes. Following some unwritten custom, she sat not in the chair beside him, but in the next one over, leaving an empty chair between them. He looked at her as she arrived. Their greeting was one of politeness, not familiarity or friendship. He looked at her shyly. She smiled warmly and said Hello. Having been accepted by her, he had the confidence now to say Hello in return.

He paused for a moment, gathering just a small bit of confidence. He was about to do something that he had done many times before. Sometimes he had succeeded and sometimes he had failed. But to a person like him – a person somewhat more sensitive than most – the emotional reward of the successes was just a bit more satisfying, and the pang of the failures just a bit more disappointing, than they might have been for most people. So he turned toward her, and he started carefully.

"Do you have a partner for the first dance?" he asked.

Do you have a partner for the first dance. He asked

He watched her reply carefully, for this was the critical part. He watched how she replied. He listened to how she replied. What he really wanted to find out was whether it was OK with her if he asked her to dance. What he was really asking was "Would you mind giving up one of your dances tonight to spend with an old man?" He watched her to see what her reaction would be. Would she gladly dance with him? Or would she just go through the motions because she couldn't find a socially acceptable way to avoid him? Or worse yet, would this woman turn him down so she could dance with someone younger, someone stronger, someone she had come to dance with?

But she held his gaze as she answered, and she continued to smile at him when she was finished, and in doing so she answered his real question. She told him that it was OK to ask her. With that small kindness, she allowed him to ask the next question much more easily.

"Would you like to do the first dance?"

"I'd love to," she said, still smiling.

She not only accepted his invitation, but she also made him feel as though she was honored to dance with him.

I want to thank you, young woman, whoever you are, for showing that small kindness to an old man. I thank you on behalf of this gentleman, and I thank you on behalf of the community that, however tenuously, connects all of us to each other, including you to me.

And I thank you for one more reason. You see, I hope that I will be lucky enough to live as many years as this gentleman has lived. And if I do, I hope I will still be dancing at that age. And most of all, if I reach that age, and I am still able to dance, I hope there will still be women like you who will be kind enough to share a dance with an old man like me.

NEFFA

"No, I don't" she replied.



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Issue **Deadlines** Covering Calendar **Editorial** Apr.-Jul. Jan. 20 Feb. 15 Jul.-Oct. Apr. 20 May 15 Oct.-Jan. Jul. 20 Aug. 15 Oct. 20 Nov. 15 Jan.-Apr.

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. **Send Calendar items** to Jacob and Nancy Bloom, 169 Sylvia St., Arlington MA 02476, or to bloom@gis.net. **Other submissions** go to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to Daniel_Pearl@yahoo.com . Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

Publicize your events! Display advertising or flyer enclosures are available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For more information, contact Dan at +1-508-229-2854.

Community

With one word, Bob Stein, a dance musician and teacher from Philadelphia, entitles his article, and also defines the theme of this issue of the NEFFA News.

I have been a folk dancer for 25 years. I have played music for folk dancing for 23 years. In both roles I have experienced and participated in many types of folk dancing: International, Israeli, traditional squares, contra, Cajun, Swedish...and on and on and on! Dance and music are a significant part of my life and will most likely remain so.

All of the above is an effort to establish my credentials as a creditable commentator on the word "community" and how it applies to dancing. Not that I am an expert;

while I have participated in the dance community for many years I remain mystified as to why and how it all fits together...

So what is this thing called "community"? Is it some nebulous concept bandied about by callers, dancers, and musicians at workshops? Is the number of potlucks, outings, birthdays celebrated, friendships, marriages, children that are generated from

one's local dance? Is it just the dance itself? Is it the "cool people", or the "nerds"? And what about the different dance types: is the contra dance community similar in structure to the international folk dance community? Is community defined by geographical location, or are we all part of one world-wide dance community? And if that is so, how does one hold a potluck for *that*? And what about the communities-within-communities? One can speak of the community of dancers, of musicians, of callers, of organizers. And what about the discrete groups of people who come together as social entities *within* each type of dancing — do they define what a community is?

Hmmm....I keep asking questions, and instead of narrowing the focus of this concept, I seem to have expanded it to the limits of infinity. It seems that I can only rely on my personal experience, and that is where I will start.

"Dance community" has meant many things to me over the quarter-century that I have been involved in dancing. When I first started out, the dance community was a refuge from an uncertain and unhappy college experience; I found joy and movement and music in international folk dance. These things helped alleviate the stress in my life and helped me become more alive and confident.

Later on, "dance community" meant a year-long party playing and dancing to old-time music and Southern squares. It was hanging out with friends until all hours, playing tunes until dawn, dancing every weekend (This was in Pittsburgh in the mid 1970s we didn't have

dances on weekday nights with the frequency that occurs now!), communal dinners, and playing in bars. Nothing had to be organized; events seemed to just be created out of thin air. A church would offer a hall for free to use for a monthly dance, a person would call up and say "Come on over and bring your instrument" for an all-night music and dance party. We formed a community of people who fed off of each other's youthful energy and love

of music and dance.

In the early 1980s, "dance community" meant "woodshedding." It was sitting down and painstakingly learning the newest and most difficult clogging step, or traditional banjo or fiddle style, or big-circle dance. It was going to Augusta, or Brasstown, or Ashokan. It was hours listening to ancient recordings and trying to duplicate traditional stylings. We were drawn together by our common thirst for knowledge and mastery.

As the mid and late 1980s came around, "dance community" for me meant the company of my fellow musicians. It was playing every weekend, going to festivals, getting hired in "big-name" arenas: Boston, Washington, San Francisco, Seattle. I started traveling out of state and playing farther and farther from home. We musicians started to sound like rock stars when we talked amongst each other: this dance was unresponsive, that one they whooped and hollered all night, they really liked that hot medley we laid on them! We started

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competing with other bands: are we as good as ___? Will the callers hire us? Will the dancers like us? Heady times...yet I felt a little isolated from the dancers. I was on stage, they were down there, and when I did interact with them it felt artificial and

awkward. "You actually dance?" People would ask me when I was down on the dance floor: as if I was some exotic species only known for one thing: playing music. In some ways, while I enjoyed the attention, it was the least "community" feeling I have ever experienced.

"Dance community" means people working and playing together to create an enjoyable, musical, and movement-filled experience that is both meaningful and joyous.

Now, "dance community" means "stewardship". I don't mean that in any lofty sense, just in the fact that I am a member of the Thursday Night Dance Committee that organizes the Thursday contra dance at Glenside, and I feel a sense of responsibility towards the "community." I realize that dances don't just happen anymore, they take a great deal of planning, energy, coordination, and preparation. I now have a long and integrated view of the community. And that view takes in some of the common threads that make up my different community experiences throughout my life.

"Dance community" means people working and playing together to create an enjoyable, musical, and movement-filled experience that is both meaningful and joyous. It encompasses many things: the social interactions the friendships formed, flirtations, romantic liaisons, etc; the need to move and play; the discovery of and the enjoyment of music; the creation of a learning community (so that people may discover the history, ethnicity, and complexity of dance and music and experience the personal growth inherent in learning these new things); and other intangibles that I would be hard-pressed to describe.

All communities, whether they are neighborhood, or religious, or political, or dance, need to be nurtured. They need constant attention or they will grow stagnant and disperse. Communities will change over time, and they will exhibit varying amounts of cohesion and vitality as time goes on. But the basic existence of the community will remain viable if people are willing to put energy into maintaining the institutions and activities that make that community unique.

I think that (to paraphrase a very over-used saying) it takes a community to raise a community. It is the simple, individual acts that lend vitality to any community. One does not need to sacrifice huge amounts of time to do a community deed. For the dance community, I can thing of many things that

would qualify as simple acts that would help give the community "oxygen":

- Volunteer to help clean up at the end of a night of dancing
- Have a dance party at your house once a year
- Ask a new person to

dance, or show a new dancer a basic step

- Volunteer a service (running off flyers, researching sound equipment, carrying equipment, storing equipment, offering rides to and from the dance, etc.)
- Learn how the sound system works at your dance and volunteer to help run it for an evening
- Take money at the door
- Musicians: ask dancers for input on: tempo, phrasing, etc.
- Callers: ask dancers for input on teaching techniques, approach, etc.
- Dancers: Listen to the music, the caller, the teacher
- Organize a potluck dinner before a dance
- When things go wrong, and the evening is not perfect, smile
- When things go right, and the evening IS perfect,
 smile
- Feel joyous and pass that on to the next person you dance with

Simple acts most of them, and yet, taken together they help not only to nurture community, but to define community. After all, we are all part of the community we dance in!

Bob Stein's e-mail address is: squeeze@voicenet.com This article was previously published in the newsletter of the Heritage Dance Association and has been reprinted by permission.

On Welcoming Beginners

From Kiran Wagle, a DC-area caller and curmudgeon from somewhere out on the Net.

A Sad Story

Here's a story from not long ago, at one of our DC-area dances. It's nothing new.

A new dancer (clumsy, but not excessively so) and I jumped into a dance at the end of the line. The caller was from out of town; serviceable, but not any better than that. He didn't mangle the walkthrough, or crash the dance, but the walkthrough wasn't clear enough to some dancers. That was probably the fault of the dance; the dance he picked was a circus.

When we stumbled our way to the top of the line, my beginner partner looked at me and said "They're not going to let *me* back in here."

And she probably believes that. You and I might think it's absurd. We know that the problems were really in the choreography. It didn't flow. It had parts that were easily mixed up. Other parts didn't seem to fit the music very well. The choreographer's intentions for the transition were unclear. There was no good place for lost dancers to get their foursome back together. And so forth.

She didn't realize or notice that she did about as well as me, and most of the other dancers in that line, *all* of whom had trouble with it. (And why would anyone expect her to notice this? She doesn't know who's new and who isn't.) She believed that she didn't do well enough to *deserve* to come back.

(Read that again.)

That's the legacy of poor calling.

Was this the fault of the caller or the choreographer? I don't know. In general I don't hold choice of repertoire against callers. The caller didn't do anything glaringly wrong, after choosing the dance. The dance *was* mostly undanceable even by experienced dancers, so I'd be more likely to blame the choreographer. Bad choreography is as much a problem as bad presentation. But having said

that, being able to pick dances that work is part of the job of the caller.

But does it really matter? I haven't seen that woman come back.

And that's the kind of thing I think poor callers (and all choreographers) need to *see*, in order to be motivated to do better. I wonder if they can be so motivated at all; the more I see the more I believe they just don't care. Perhaps they don't believe they might be hurting people. Or perhaps they can't believe it, because everyone's been telling them they did well when they did poorly. Who knows?

We can talk till we're blue in the face about welcoming beginners. As callers, we can focus on various random behaviors we speculate are welcoming (for example, cracking jokes) instead of on clear, concise, and accurate walkthroughs in words everyone can understand. Over

and over again, I see beginners drop out because *they* think *they* didn't get it. They're confused by the dance, and, discouraged, they sit down and refuse to get back up, and leave at the break. No matter how many talking heads drone on about welcoming them, when things fall apart around them, do *they* feel welcomed?

I have no idea. I usually don't see them again to ask.

A follow-up from Mike Prager, who lives in Beaufort, NC



Who's responsible for a lousy dance?

Well, I am of the old school. Once the band is on the stage and the crowd is in the hall, the caller is in charge. Given that, the caller is responsible for **everything**, unless there is a good reason not to hold her responsible for any particular thing.

Choice of material is probably the most important technical thing a caller does. (The most important thing is setting the tone of the evening.) We ask, why is a given dance done, and others not done any more?

Why is an evening's dancing less or more varied? Why are squares less or more popular? The most direct answer is choices by callers.

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I get the impression that some newer callers underestimate the caller's role in shaping our tradition, on time scales from the evening to the decade. With all due respect to the responsibility where it belongs and at the same time wonderful musicians in the band, who make the whole thing possible, I think it

is pretty hard to *over*estimate the influence callers have.

Having said all that, everyone makes mistakes. As I dance for more and more years and lose more and more brain cells, that point is driven inexorably home. So, let us place realize: we're all human, and we're in it for the fun.

Happy dancing!

THE CALENDAR

Many of the listings for the Boston area appear courtesy of the Folk Arts Center of New England, 42 West Foster St., Melrose MA 02176 — 781-662-7475. They publish Folk Dancing Round Boston, a bimonthly listing of dance events in the Greater Boston area. Many of the Northern New England listings appear courtesy of the Dance Gypsy Calendar (P.O. Box 6447, Brattleboro, VT 05302 - 802-257-4478) or the Down East Friends of the Folk Arts Newsletter (c/o Malcolm Sanders, 13 Pinkham's Flats Road, Lamoine ME 04605). All three are published monthly with much last-minute information which can't be included here - why not subscribe!

Always call to confirm before traveling great distances to get to a dance!

All of these events require that you bring clean, non-street shoes to dance in! The number of halls available for dancing has been shrinking because of the concerns of hall-owners about wear and tear on their floors. Please help dancing continue by bringing shoes which do not have street grit on them and changing into them to dance.

* Items marked with a * are events which we still have not heard about this year. If you have information about them or other dances, please send mail to Jacob and Nancy Bloom, 169 Sylvia St, Arlington MA 02476 or e-mail to: bloom@gis.net. The other events have been confirmed, but the information is always subject to last minute changes. The deadline for the winter calendar is 10/15/00.

Regular Events - Eastern Mass.

International, Cambridge. Instruction 7 PM, dance 7:30 All Sundays All Sundays Israeli Folk Dancing. Cambridge 8-10:30 PM. \$3.00 All year All Sundays *Scottish Brookline 6:30-8:30 PM \$4 2nd Sundays Gammaldans (Easy Scandinavian). Brookline. First dance 9/10. Various Sundays Family Dance Concord 2-5 PM. \$4, \$15/family. Dances on 11/5, 12/3, 1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18 All Mondays Contras & squares w/Yankee Ingenuity. Concord.7:30-10:30 PM.\$6 Israeli Brookline 8:30, teaching 8:00. \$4 All Mondays *Scottish Cambridge 7:45-10:15. \$6 All Mondays All Mondays *Scottish Fitchburg 7 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays Gender-free English. Boston. 7:30-10 PM \$5 2nd & 4th Tuesdays Contra Cambridge 7:30 PM All Weds. English Arlington 7:30-10:30, \$6 All Weds. Israeli Cambridge 7:30, teaching 7:00 All Weds. Western Square Classes Danvers. 7-8:30 PM \$3 All Weds. *International Southboro 8-10:30, \$3.50 Sep-June All Thursdays Contras & Squares, Cambridge. 8-11 PM. \$5. All Thursdays Experienced International. Belmont. 8-11 PM, \$6. All Thursdays Scottish. Salem. Beginners 7:30, dance 8 PM. \$2 *Experienced English Brookline 8:15-11, \$5 Oct-June 1st Fridays 1st Fridays Contra Worcester. Oct-May. 1st 3rd 5th Fridays Scottish Weston 8 PM \$4 *International w/Cambridge Folk Orchestra. Arlington 8:15-11 2nd Fridays

\$3.50 Sep-June

2nd Fridays *Contra w/Walter Lenk & O'Connor's Mob. Carlisle 8-10:30, potluck 6:30 \$5 Oct-June

2nd & 4th Fridays English. Barnstable. 7:30 PM. \$5.00. Call to confirm dates

2nd & 4th Fridays Contra Rehoboth 8 PM \$6

2nd & 4th Fridays *Scottish Stow 8:30 \$3

3rd Fridays *Contra w/Roaring Jelly. Lexington 8-11, teaching 7:45. \$5/under 12 free. Sep-June

3rd 4th 5th Fridays Basic International, Arlington.8-11 PM. \$6.

1st Saturdays Contra w/Woods Hole Folk Orchestra. Woods Hole. 8 PM

*Contra Medway. 7:30-10:30 \$6 Sep-June 1st Saturdays

1st Saturdays Contra w/Berlin Country Orchestra. Berlin. 8-11 \$5/\$12 familv. Sep-June

1st & 3rd Saturdays Scandinavian. Brookline. 8-10:30 PM. \$5. First dance 9/16.

2nd Saturdays Contra Cotuit.

2nd Saturdays *Contras & Squares w/Tony Saletan. Concord. 8-11 \$6 Oct-

3rd Saturdays *Contras & Squares w/Beth Parkes & Swinging On A Gate. Concord. 8 PM \$6 Oct-June

3rd Saturdays Contra w/Amy Larkin & Friends. Sandwich. 8 PM. \$6

3rd Saturdays Contra. Northboro. Sep-June.

4th Saturdays *Contra w/Lenk, O'Connor & Knight. Concord. 8-11 Sep-June

5th Saturdays *Contra Concord. 8 PM

Various Saturdays Gender-Free Country Dance Jamaica Plain, Boston. 7:30-11 PM \$6

Various Saturdays Zdravets Concert & Dance (Balkan). Arlington. 8-11 PM. \$5. Dances 9/16, 11/4, 12/16. See 10/14 special event.

Various Saturdays *Salsa/Swing Medford. 8-11, advanced class 6:30, beginners 7:15. \$12.

*** SPECIAL EVENTS ***

Sept 23, Saturday FACONE Benefit Bash. Concert and folk dance party. Congregational Church, 400 High St, Medford. 7:30 PM. 781-

Oct 14, Saturday Zdravets workshop & Dance (Balkan). Dance Barn, 35 Westbrook Road, Whately, MA. fjjoseph@unix.amherst.edu, or call (413) 665-0484

October 22, Sunday Advanced English Dance. Munson Library, South Amherst. 2-5 PM. 413-549-8159.

Nov 5, Sunday Family Dance w/Dudley Laufman & Two Fiddles. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

Dec 3 Sunday Family Dance w/Judith Stames-Hamilton & Regina Laskowski. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

Dec 31, Sunday FACONE New Years Eve Party Friends of the Performing Arts, 51 Walden St, Concord. 781-662-7475, fac@facone.org

Jan 7, Sunday Family Dance w/Tony Saletan & Judith Stames-Hamilton. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

Jan 21 Sunday Family Dance w/Sarah Gregory Smith & Rick Mohr. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

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Feb 4, Sunday Family Dance w/Chris Ricciotti & Judith Stames-Hamilton. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

Feb 18, Sunday Family Dance w/Judith Stames-Hamilton & Marcie Van Cleave. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

Mar 4, Sunday Family Dance w/Sarah Gregory Smith & Jacob Bloom. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

Mar 18, Sunday Family Dance w/Marcie Van Cleave & Regina Laskowski. Scout House, 74 Walden St, Concord. 2-4 PM. \$4, \$15/family. 781-662-7475, 781-662-6710, fac@facone.org

Venues - Eastern Massachusetts

Arlington 2nd Friday International: 781-272-0396 at St.John's Church, 74 Pleasant St. Balkan: 617-964-2003, at Church of Our Saviour, 21 Marathon St. Cajun: , 781-662-8967 at Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass.Ave. English: 781-662-6710, 508-875-0382, 3rd,4th,5th Fridays International: 617-491-6084. At Park Ave

Cong. Church, Park Ave & Paul Revere Rd.

English: 508-362-9570 at West Barnstable Community Hall, Rte Barnstable

149 (North of US 6)

Belmont Thursdays International: 781-662-7475. First Unitarian, 404

Concord Ave

Berlin First Saturday Contras: 978-365-3883. At Town Hall, Route 62.

Oct-May

Boston Tuesday English: 781-891-3296, 781-271-0356. Gender-free:

617-522-2216, 617-522-1115. At First Church Unitarian, Centre &

Eliot Sts, Jamaica Plain.

Brookline Scottish: 617-325-6657, 617-661-5899. English: 781-662-6710, 508-875-0382. **Scandinavian:** 781-891-3207, Eph@ieee.org. At

Church of our Saviour, 23 Monmouth St. Israeli: 617-484-4282, 617-277-9155, ken avner@harvard.edu, www.israelidance.com/ playshop/ifd.htm. At Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard St

Cambridge Sunday Israeli: 617-484-3267, 617-254-HORA at Harvard/Radcliffe Hillel, 52 Mt. Auburn St Sunday International, 2nd & 4th Tuesday contra, Wednesday Israeli: 617-253-FOLK, http://

web.mit.edu/fdc at MIT Student Center. Call for location on campus. Scottish: 617-484-0950 at 7 Temple St. Thurs contras: 781-662-6710, 781-272-0396, 508-229-2854 At VFW Hall, 688 Huron

Contras: 978-369-1232, 617-547-7781 at Unitarian Church Carlisle

Family dance: 781-662-6710, 617-491-6084. Monday Contras: Concord 781-272-0396, 781-259-8442. Second Saturday Contras: 978-

369-4462, 781-944-3544. Third Saturday Contras: 978-667-7459. Fourth Saturday Contras: 617-547-7781, 978-369-1232. Fifth Saturday Contras: 781-662-6710. At Concord Scout House,

74 Walden St.

Danvers Western Squares 978-774-8159, 978-927-8173. At Calvary Epis-

copal, corner Holten & Cherry Sts.

Fitchburg Scottish: Egyptian Room, Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

978-342-1724.

Contras: Whipple Middle School, Green St, off County Rd. 978-Ipswich

356-1477

Contras: 781-944-3544, 781-235-0713. First Unitarian, on the Lexington

Medford Salsa/Swing: 781-646-1233. www.DanceCaliente.com at Cong.

Church, 400 High St.

Contras: 508-883-3443,508-429-1773, mtvictor@juno.com, at Medway

Christ Episcopal Church, 14 School St

Balkan: 617-840-2362. Dance Studio, 466 Franklin St. Melrose

Northboro 3rd Sat Contras: 978-481-4802. First Unitarian, 40 Church St Rehoboth

Contras:508-252-6375, 508-669-5656, shwnkndrk@aol.com At

Goff Hall, Bay State Rd

Salem Scottish: 978-745-2229 at First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St

Contras: 508-888-4968 at Grange Hall, Old County Rd, East Sandwich

Sandwich (near fish hatchery)

Southboro **International**: 508-872-4110. At Fayville Village Hall, Central &

Scottish: 978-897-2466 at Town Hall Stow

Weston Scottish: 781-259-9566, 617-235-6490 at First Church, on the

Woods Hole Contras: 508-548-6661. At Community Hall.

Worcester Contras: 508-755-7329. First Cong. Church, 1070 Pleasant St.

Regular Events - Western Mass.

3rd Sundays Family dance. Northampton. Oct-March All Mondays English, Amherst. 7-9:30 PM. \$5.

All Weds. Scottish, Great Barrington. 7 PM. Sep-June All Thursdays Scottish, Northampton. 7-9:30. Sep-May All Fridays International. Amherst. 8-10 PM. All year

1st Fridays Contra & Scandinavian w/Fourgone Conclusions. Greenfield. 8

Contra Pittsfield. January-June. 2nd Fridays

2nd, 4th, 5th Fridays Contra w/David Kaynor. Greenfield. 8-12 PM.

Contras & squares. Greenfield. Teaching 8, dance 8:30 PM. \$5 3rd Fridays

1st Saturdays English w/Helen Davenport. Amherst. 8-10:30 PM.

1st Saturdays Contra w/Wild Asparagus. Greenfield. Beginners 8 PM, dance

8:30 \$6 All year.

2nd Saturdays Contra w/Swallowtail. Amherst. Beginners 8 PM,dance 8:30 \$5.

2nd Saturdays Square Dance w/Ralph Sweet. Goshen. 8 PM. Sep-June 3rd Saturdays English w/Pleasures Of The Town. Amherst. Beginners 8 PM,

dance 8:30-11. \$6. All year.

3rd Saturdays Gender free contras. Greenfield. 4th Saturdays Contra. Amherst. 8:30-11:30 PM.

4th Saturdays Contra w/Joe Baker & Mountain Laurel. Sheffield. 8:30 PM.

\$5/adults, \$2/kids. Jan-Nov

4th Saturdays Zydeco Greenfield. Teaching 8, dance 8:30 PM.

4th Saturdays Square Dance w/Bob Livingston. Bernardston. 8 PM

5th Saturdays Contra w/Soozarama. Amherst. 8:30 PM. \$5. various Saturdays

Gender-free contradance. Greenfield. 8 -11 PM.

*** SPECIAL EVENTS ***

Advanced English Dance. Munson Library, So. Amherst. Oct 22, Sunday 2-5 PM. 413-549-8159, lrepasky@forwild.umass.edu

Venues - Western Massachusetts - area code 413

Amherst Monday English: 256-8260. 1st Saturday English: 860-285-

> 8694. 2nd Saturday Contra: 253-5638. 3rd Saturday English: 549-4123. 4th Saturday Contra: 367-9269. 5th Saturday Contra: 802-387-4014. At Munson Library, South Amherst International Folk Dance. 323-6330, 549-6748 at Bangs Community

Center. Boltwood Walk.

Bernardston 4th Sat. Squares: 337-4778, at Bernardston School, School St. Goshen 2nd Saturday Squares: 268-7176 at Town Hall, Rte 9.

Great Barrington Scottish: 448-8621, 229-8096 at Fitness Express, 42 Bridge St. Greenfield

1st Friday Contras: 549-1913. 2nd,4th,5th Friday Contras: 367-9380. 3rd Friday Contras: 802-387-4014. 1st Saturday Contras: 323-9604, Wild. Asparagus@pobox.com. 2nd Saturday Contra: 773-1671. Gender-Free Contras: 665-8119, 584-0938. 4th Saturday Zydeco: 773-8366. At Guiding Star Grange, 401 Chapman

2nd Fri.Swing: at N.Hadley Village Hall, 239 River Drive. 585-Hadley

Northampton Scottish 586-5476; 3rd Sun. Family dance 586-7602. At Lyman

Hall, First Churches, 129 Main St (Rte 9).

2nd Friday Contra: 499-7105 at Pittsfield Grange, 1123 West St. Pittsfield

Sheffield 4th Saturday Contra: 528-9385 at Grange Hall, Route 7.

Regular Events - New Hampshire

2nd Sundays English Concord. Sep-May

English w/Marianne Taylor. Portsmouth. 7-9:30 PM. All year. 3rd Sundays

All Mondays Contra Nelson. June-Dec

All Wednesdays International. Hanover. Oct-May All Wednesdays Scottish. Concord. 7:30 PM. \$4. All year

"middle" Wednesdays Scottish. Nashua. 7-9 PM. 1st & last Thursdays Scottish. Nashua. 7-9 PM. 1st Thursdays Contra w/Lamprey River Band. Dover. 8-10:40 PM. \$4.

All Fridays Scottish. Keene. 7:30 PM. All Fridays Scottish Greenland. 8 PM. Oct-June

Traditional Squares w/Dudley Laufman, Wentworth, 1st Fridays

1st & 3rd Fridays Contra Holderness.

3rd Fridays Contra. Kensington. 8-11:30 PM. \$5. Sep-June. 4th Fridays Contra. Milford. 8-11 PM. \$5. All year.

1st Saturdays Contra. Peterborough. Instruction 7:30 PM, dance 8-11:30 PM

Sep-July

1st Saturdays Country Dance Deerfield. Nov-June

2nd Saturdays Contra. Francestown. 8:00-11:00 PM. \$5. All year.

2nd Saturdays Contra. Gilmanton Corners. 8-11 PM. \$5/person, \$10/family. All

3rd Saturdays Contra. East Concord. 8-11 PM. \$5. Kids under 12 free.

3rd Saturdays Swing Keene. Oct-May

4th Saturdays Contra. Dover. 8:30-11:30 PM.\$6. All year

*** SPECIAL EVENTS ***

English. Historical Society Hall, Islesboro. . 8 pm. \$10. Aug. 19, Saturday 207-734-8140

Oct 14-15, Sat-Sun Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival Various locations around Portsmouth, most events free. www.folkhorizons.org

Nov 18. Saturday 18th Century Scottish Parish Hall, Greenland. 436-4118.

Venues - New Hampshire - area code 603

Concord 2nd Sunday English: 934-2543. At Howard Auditorium, 105

Pleasant St. Wednesday Scottish: 226-2739. At Odd Fellows Hall, Pleasant St 3rd Saturday Contra: 746-2388. At East Con-

cord Community Center.

1st Saturday Country dance: 463-7771, 463-7151. At Town Hall, Deerfield

Old Centre Road.

Dover 1st Thurs Contra: 664-2513. 4th Saturday Contra: 659-7038.

At City Hall.

2nd Saturday Contra: 547-2955, 487-2480, Town Hall. Francestown

Gilmanton 2nd Saturday Contra: 267-7227. At Academy Building, Gilman-

ton Corners.

Greenland Friday Scottish: 436-4118. At Parish Hall, Post Road (Rte 151). Hanover

Wednesday International: 802-633-3226, at Kendall Retirement Community

Holderness 1st & 3rd Friday Contra: 536-3887. At Town Hall.

Friday Scottish: 352-6968. At Unitarian Church, Washington St. Keene Saturday Swing: 357-2100. At Moving Company, 76 Railroad St

3rd Friday Contra: 770-7988, 659-5612. At Town Hall, Route Kensington

Milford 4th Friday Contra: 886-5071, 672-8252. Town Hall.

Scottish: 891-2331, lorenw@rwp.mv.com. At Chandler Library, Nashua

Nelson Monday Contra 827-3455, 827-3732. At Town Hall. 1st Saturday Contra: 525-3883. At Town House. Peterborough

3rd Sunday English: 886-5071, blw@star.net, taylorgor-Portsmouth

man@juno.com. At Portsmouth Ballroom, Portsmouth & Fleet Sts.

Sandwich 1st & 3rd Friday Scottish: 284-6164. Town Hall.

Wentworth 1st Friday Traditional Squares: 744-5135. At Town Hall

Regular Events - Connecticut

All Sundays International, West Hartford. 7-10:00 PM. \$5. All year.

*Contras & English w/Ed & Marjorie Potter. Norwalk. 8-1st & 3rd Fridays

10:30 \$5 Sep-May

2nd Saturdays Round Hill Country Dances. Greenwich. Instruction 7,dance 8-

11. All year

2nd Saturdays Square dance w/ Bob Livingston & Barbara's Band. Killingly 8

PM. Sep-June

*** SPECIAL EVENTS ***

NOMAD Festival. Dancing, music, perfor-Nov 10-12, Fri-Sun mances, workshops. Newtown High School, Newtown. 203-3723890, 203-226-6681, www.geocities.com/heartland/hills/8797/

Venues - Connecticut

Contras: 860-423-1963, 860-455-0368, John.Ivan@uconn.edu. At Chaplin

Chaplin Grange, Route 198.

Greenwich 2nd Saturday Country Dance: 914-736-6489, 203-381-9509,

bkoser@bestweb.net,bigfoot.com/~roundhill. Round Hill Commu-

nity House, Round Hill Rd.

2nd Saturday Squares: 860-774-5865. At Killingly Grange, Route Killingly

Newtown

Middletown Wed Scottish: 203-238-0694, 860-347-0278. At First Church

Cong., 190 Court St

Tuesday Scottish: 203-732-1017, 203-878-6094. At Medical As-New Haven soc. Building, 364 Whitney Ave (at Lawrence St) Friday English:

203-776-1812. At Neighborhood Music School, 100 Audubon St. Monday Scottish: 203-938-2881, 203-263-3578, t Hawley School,

Church Hill Rd.

1st & 3rd Friday Country Dance: 203-226-6681, 203-373-9320, Norwalk

Cranbury Comm. Chapel, Newtown Ave & Frank St.

West Hartford Sunday International: 860-561-5069, 860-232-7368, At Ameri-

can Legion Hall, 12 Memorial Rd. 1st Friday Swing 860-649-

0482, zsdman@erols.com.Town Hall,50 S.Main St

West Haven Saturday N.E. Dance: 203-776-1812. At Arbeiter Maenner Chor,

Univ. of New Haven, 420 Orange Ave.

2nd Saturday Contra: 860-633-0793, gaupton@snet.net. 3rd Wethersfield

Saturday Cajun: 860-648-2584, tamarind@webtv.net. 4th Saturday Swing: 860-267-0613, 860-346-7954, jbugj@msn.com. At

American Legion Hall, 275 Main St.

Tues Scottish: 203-874-5344, 203-762-9892. Comstock Comm. Wilton

Ctr. School Rd.

Tuesday Scottish: 860-283-5402, 860-434-0415. At Grace Episco-Windsor

pal Church, on the green.

Friday Scottish: 203-393-3189, 203-874-5344. Woodbridge Cong. Woodbridge

Church, 5 Meetinghouse Lane.

Regular Events - Vermont

2nd Sundays English Norwich. Jan-April

4th Mondays International Brattleboro. Sep-July

Most Tuesdays Scottish w/Bernard McGrath & Joy Leland. Fairlee. 7-9 PM \$3 All Wednesdays Scottish w/Ray & Lesley Purdy. Manchester Village. 7 PM

All Wednesdays Scottish. Bellows Falls. 7:30 PM. Free.

All Wednesdays Scottish Montpelier

All Wednesdays Israeli Burlington. Sep-May

All Thursdays Scottish w/Major & Bailey, Putney, 7:30 PM, Sep-June

1st Fridays Contra Danville. Oct-May

1st Fridays Contra North Clarendon. Feb-May

International Norwich. Sep-June. Call to confirm 1st Fridays

1st & 3rd Fridays Scottish Cornwall 2nd Fridays Contra Chelsea. Oct-May 3rd Fridays Contra Burlington. Sep-June

3rd Fridays Community dance North Clarendon. Jan-April

Alternate Fridays English South Burlington. Sep-May 1st Saturdays Swing West Dummerston. Sep-June

1st,3rd,5th Saturdays Contra. Montpelier. 8 PM.

2nd Saturdays Contra. Wolcott.

2nd Saturdays Contra. Burlington. Instruction 7:30 PM, dance 8:00 PM.. \$5.

2nd & 4th Saturdays Contra Norwich. Sep-June

3rd Saturdays Family dance Cornwall. Sep-May

3rd Saturday Contra Townshend.

3rd & 4th Saturday Swing White River Jct. Sep-June. Call to confirm

4th Saturdays Contra. Bristol. 8 PM.

Last Saturdays Contra w/Fred Breunig & Tune Police. East Putney. Beginners 8, dance 8:30 -11 PM.

Various Saturdays International Lyndonville

Various Saturdays Gender-Free Contra Putney. Dances on 10/7, 11/4, 2/3, 4/7, 6/2

Ed Larkin Dancers' Open House Royalton. Dances on Various Saturdays 11/18, 12/16, 1/13, 2/17, 3/10, 4/14

Venues - Vermont - area code 802

Bellows Falls Wednesday Scottish: 463-9682. Central School.

Brattleboro 4th Monday International: 348-7463. At School of Dance, 17

Eliot St.

Bristol 4th Saturday Contra: 388-4548. At Holley Hall.

Burlington Wednesday Israeli: 878-4823. At Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, 188

N.Prospect St. **3rd Friday Contra**: 660-9491. At Champlain Club, Crowley St. **2nd Saturday Contra**: 658-0832,658-8488.

Edmunds School, Main & So.Union Sts.

Chelsea **2nd Friday Contra**: 802-883-5578. Grange Hall.

Cornwall **3rd Saturday Family Dance**: 388-7828, 426-2548 **Scottish**:

987-2572. Town Hall.

Danville **1st Friday Contra**: 426-3331. At Knights of Pythias, Hill St.

East Putney Last Saturday Contra: 387-5985. At Pierce's Hall. Fairlee Tuesday Scottish: 603-353-4647. At Town Hall.

Lyndonville Saturday International: 748-3512, 748-2877, 633-3226. Bole

Gym, Lyndon State College

Manchester Village Wed. Scottish: 362-1199. At Cong. Church.

Montpelier 1st,3rd,5th Sat Contra: 586-9661, 229-1207. Capitol City

Grange. Wed.Scottish: 863-4105, 229-9811. Union School, School

St.

No.Clarendon Friday Contras: 492-3111. 3rd Friday Community: 492-3111.

At Grange Hall.

Norwich 2nd & 4th Saturday Contras: 785-4607. Friday International:

674-5934. English: 875-4121. At Tracy Hall, Main St

Putney Gender Free Contra: 603-256-6995. At Community Ctr, Chris-

tian Square. Thursday Scottish: 387-5737. At Dance Studio,

Landmark College.

Royalton Ed Larkin Dancers: 433-1283. At Royalton Academy.

So. Burlington Friday English: 658-4126, 862-3638, 878-4893. Municipal Bldg,

575 Dorset St

Townshend 3rd Saturday Contra: 874-7141. At Town Hall.
West Dummerston 1st Saturday Swing: 254-5443. At West St. Arts.
White River Jct Saturday Swing: 603-863-6519. At Jazzercise Ctr. 27

Maple St

Wolcott **2nd Saturday Contra**: 748-5137. At Town Hall.

Regular Events - Rhode Island

All Wednesdays Scottish. East Greenwich. 7-10 PM.

Various Saturdays Contradance. Cranston. 8 PM. \$6 Dances 9/16, 10/23,

11/25, 12/23, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 5/22, 6/16

Various Saturdays Cajun Dance w/Magnolia. East Providence. 8 PM, teach-

ing 7:30 \$9

Venues - Rhode Island

Cranston **Saturday Contra**: 401-828-3229, jstw@edgenet.net. At Oaklawn

Grange, Wheelock St. 8 PM. \$6

East Greenwich Wed Scottish: 401-295-8297, paul@skye.phys.uri.edu. At

Rocky Hill Grange

East Providence Cajun 401-246-2720, 508-636-2221, Aeee@aol.com. At

Brightridge Hall.

Regular Events - Maine

All Sundays Scottish. Kennebunkport. Children 5 PM, dance 6 PM.

All Sundays *International. Orono. 7-9 PM. Free
All Mondays Scottish. Belfast. 7:30-9:30 PM. \$2.
2nd Wednesdays English. Freedom. 7-9:30 PM. \$3.

All Thursdays **International**. Bar Harbor. 7-9 PM. \$1. All Thursdays **International**. Rockland. 6:30-8:30 \$4.

All Thursdays Scottish Brunswick. 6:30-8:30. \$3

2nd Fridays Contra. Kittery. 8-11:30 PM. \$6. All year.

3rd Fridays Cajun Auburn. 8-11 PM \$6

3rd Fridays Ethiopian w/New Nile Orchestra. Portland. 8 PM

3rd Fridays Contra w/Sheep Island Rovers. Stonington. 7:30-10:30 PM \$5

4th Fridays Contra. No. Whitefield. 8:30-11:30 PM. \$6.

Bring water.

1st Saturdays Contra w/Oakum Bay String Band. Blue Hill. 8 PM \$5 All year

1st Saturdays Contra. Skowhegan. 8 PM. \$5, \$10 max. per family.

1st Saturdays Contra w/Wake The Neighbors. Falmouth. 8-12 PM, teaching 7

PM. \$7.

2nd Saturdays Folk & Contra Belfast. 8 PM \$5

2nd Saturdays Contra w/Green Mountain Railway. Hulls Cove.

2nd Saturdays Contra. No. Yarmouth. Potluck 7:30, dance 8:30-12. \$7

3rd Saturdays Contra w/Scrod Pudding. Bowdoinham. 8:30 PM.\$6. Bring water.

3rd Saturdays Contra. Trenton. 8-11:30 PM. \$6 Bring water.

4th Saturdays Contra. Rockport. 8:00-11:30 PM. \$5.

4th Saturdays Contra No. Yarmouth. Jam 6:00, potluck 7:30, dance 8:30-12 \$7.

4th Saturdays Contra w/Sheep Island Rovers. Winter Harbor. 8-11 PM. \$4.

*** SPECIAL EVENTS ***

July 29, Saturday Contradance. Cong. Church, 267 Falmouth Rd, Falmouth. 688-9043, 743-9252, 772-6690, srleblanc@usa.net

Venues - Maine - area code 207

Bar Harbor Thursday International: 461-6631, 288-3800, 257-4321,

jra@jax.org. At Municipal Bldg.

Belfast Monday Scottish: 469-3293. At American Legion Hall, Church St.

Folk & Contra: 338-0715. First Church.

Blue Hill **1st Saturday Contra**: 359-2070. At Town Hall.

Bowdoinham 1st Saturday Contra: 563-8440. 3rd Saturday Contra: 948-

5842, 225-2117. At Town Hall, School St. Bring water.

Brunswick **2nd Tues International**: 729-1555. The Cellar of Fitness, 9 Cum-

berland St. **Scottish**: 833-2329. Longfellow School.
Falmouth **Contra**: 688-9043, 772-6690, srleblanc@usa.net. Cong. Church,

267 Falmouth Rd.

Freedom English: 568-7597. Dirigo Grange, Rte. 137. Hulls Cove Contra 667-0260. Community Center.

Kennebunkport Sunday Scottish: 967-3813 . Community House, Temple

St.

Kittery **2nd Friday Contra**: 603-436-8372. At Grange Hall.

No. Whitefield 4th Friday Contra: 495-2331. St. Denis Parish Hall, Rte. 126.

No.Yarmouth **2nd Saturday Contra**: 865-9014, 671-4964. **4th Saturday Contra**: 865-9014, 671-4964, jeffraymond@prontomail.com. At West-

tra: 865-9014, 671-4964, jeffraymond@prontomail.com. At Wes custogo Grange, Rte 115.

custogo Grange, Rte 115

Orono **Sunday International**: 827-2324. Memorial Union, University of

Maine.

Portland **Ethiopian** 761-1545. At CCE.

Rockland
Rockport
Skowhegan

Thursday International: 372-8298. Recreation Ctr, Limerock St.
Contra: 785-5118, 568-7597. Simonton Corners Community Hall.
1st Sat Contra: 566-7952, 587-4851. At Grange Hall, Pleasant St

Stonington Contra 367-5058, 348-2333. Deer Isle/Stonington Dance Center,

Rte 15A.

Trenton **3rd Sat. Contra**: 667-0260. At Grange Hall, Rte 3 & Rte 230.

Bring water

Winter Harbor 4th Saturday Contra: 422-9014, 461-6631. At Hammond Hall.

Regular Events - Outside N.E.

All Thursdays Contra . 8 -11 PM. \$5. oldjoeclark@hotmail.com, 716-461-3816.

At Covenant United Methodist Church, 1124 Culver Rd,

At Covenant United Methodist Church, 1124 Culver Rd, Rochester, NY.

All Fridays Contra & Square. Montessori School, 120 East King Rd, Ithaca NY. 8 PM. 607-273-8678, TCCD@tedcrane.com, http://ted-

crane.com/TCCD/ 1st Saturdays English w/Richard Sauvain. 8 -11 PM. \$5.716-442-4681,

English w/Richard Sauvain. 8 -11 PM. \$5.716-442-4681, sauvain@frontiernet.net. At Covenant United Meth. Church, 1124

Culver Rd, Rochester, NY.

*** SPECIAL EVENTS ***

Sep 22-24 Heritage Dance Festival. Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School,

near Philadelpha PA. Dances, workshops, music, performances.

215-842-1425, heritagedancefestival.com

Nov 24-25 Rochester Thanksgiving Dance Festival Rochester NY. 716-

787-9645, www.ggw.org/cdr

	Festivals and Dance Camps	Sep 22-24	CampReg@ContraCorner.com Heritage Dance Festival. Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School,
Sep 15-17	Folk Song Society of Greater Boston Fall Getaway Weekend, Plymouth MA. Contact: Marilyn Levin, 49 Pearl St #2, Newton MA		near Philadelpha PA. Contact: 215-842-1425, heritagedancefestival.com
	02458, 617-558-7034, www.fssgb.org	Oct 6-9	Oktoberfest. Hurlbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee VT. Contact: 781-
Sep 15-17	American Dance Weekend at Buffalo Gap, Capon Bridge WV.		662-7475, 978-692-6217, crawdahl@gis.net
_	Contact 301-694-6794, www.cacapongroup.com/buffalo, Buf-	Oct 14-15	Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival, Portsmouth NH. Contact:
	faloBoe@aol.com.		www.folkhorizons.org, info@folkhorizons.org
Sep 15-17	Star Hampshire Traditional Music & Dance Weekend, Isle of Shoals NH. Contact: Patrick Stevens, 21 Prospect St, Portsmouth NH 03801, 603-436-8372, 603-431-4849,	Nov 10-12	NOrtheast Music Arts and Dance Festival, Newtown CT. Contact: www.geocities.com/heartland/hills/8797/, 203-372-3890, 203-226-6681
	stevepat@nh.ultranet.com		Always call ahead before traveling
Sep 15-17	New Hampshire Highland Games, Loon Mountain, Lincoln NH. Contact: 800-227-4191		great distances to go to dances!
Sep 15-17	Gender-Free Dance Camp, Becket MA. Contact: 978-597-5861,		

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 \$7/individual (\$18 for 3 years); \$11/family (up to 2 people over 18) (\$28 for 3 years) Contributions are 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.

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

The NEFFA office is on the move. After a good number of years in our Porter Square, Cambridge location at the Masonic Hall, our lease (actually the Folk Art's Center of New England's lease – we share the space) has not been renewed. Any possible move to a new folk building is years away, so we are moving to an office in Melrose. For convenience, office mail will be routed to a Mailboxes Etc. location in Cambridge. Our new mailing address and phone numbers are shown below.

We will continue to share office space with CDS Boston Centre, and the Folk Arts Center of New England.



N • E • F • F • A

New England Folk Festival Association PMB 282, 1770 Mass. Ave., Cambridge MA 02140 Phone: +1-781-662-6710 FAX: +1-781-662-6730 WWW: http://www.neffa.org/~neffa

WEB VERSION

