

**Benefit Dance  
Coming in March**

**Waltz/Hambo  
Workshop Coming  
January 1**



**Volunteer News**

**Beware of  
Imitations**

**All the Usual  
Features**

Winter 2008 – Vol. XXXIV #4

**Come to the NEFFA Medley Benefit Bash!!!**

**Fun Stuff!**

Please join us for an evening of dance and fun at the Concord Scout House on Sunday evening, **March 1, 2009** from 5:30-10 p.m. The fun starts with a half hour of waltzing. Other planned events include a contra medley, a Hambo competition (with prizes!), and of course, lots of contra dancing! Attendance will be limited to the comfortable capacity of the hall, so tickets will be available in advance – details below.

**Special Pre-Dance  
Waltz & Hambo  
Workshop  
Thursday January 1st**

Please bring your energy, your dancing shoes, your smiles, and your friends! Your support of this fundraiser is vital to the financial health and continued success of NEFFA and its annual Festival.

**Is your New Year's resolution to  
learn or improve your Swedish  
hambo or waltz? Well, you've come  
to the right place!**

Lisa Greenleaf will be the featured caller for the evening. She will be joined by Linda Leslie, Beth Parkes, Dan Pearl, and Bob Golder---all members of the NEFFA Board.

On Thursday January 1st, before the regular contra dance in Concord, there will be a waltz/hambo workshop led by the inimitable (it's true: we've tried) Marcie Van Cleave. Come at 6:00pm, and for one delightful, dance-packed hour, you'll finally learn the basics, brush up on your technique, and have fun, too.

All proceeds from this Benefit Bash go to supporting the Festival in April. The callers are donating their services, and an anonymous donor has generously paid for the Scout House for the evening. Come celebrate with us! You will have lots of fun, and help support the April Festival at the same time.

At 7:00pm, the workshop ends, and we'll set up a potluck dessert feast. Dessert? Yup! In lieu of an additional admission fee for the workshop, we're encouraging you to bring a dessert to share. It's optional, and you don't even have to stay for the main dance, but you know, it'll be fun.

The Benefit Dance Committee is Terry Huffaker, Koren Wake, Linda Leslie and Tony Parkes. If you'd like to volunteer, or help us out in other ways, please email Terry at [Tee.huffaker@verizon.net](mailto:Tee.huffaker@verizon.net) or Koren at [koren.a.wake@gmail.com](mailto:koren.a.wake@gmail.com).

**Ticket prices:**

\$17 Student/Low-income, \$25 Regular Admission, \$50 Friend, \$75 Donor, \$100 Benefactor, \$200 Angel

Ensure your place at the party and buy your ticket in advance. See one of the Committee members at a dance, or send your check and SASE (every little bit helps!) to Terry Huffaker, 12 Greenwood Lane, Acton MA 01720 by February 15. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to NEFFA. For more information or any questions about tickets, please call Terry at 978-263-5458 or email [Tee.huffaker@verizon.net](mailto:Tee.huffaker@verizon.net)

## Festival Volunteers Needed

Plans for the 2009 Festival are well under way, and a group of dedicated volunteers is working to bring to life the event that we enjoy year after year. And once again, we ask you to consider donating your time to help, either in pre-Festival planning, or by signing up to help during the Festival. Your efforts will be much appreciated, you will get to work with a wonderful group of people, and you can earn admission to all or part of the Festival, depending on how much time you can give.

Friday session	1 hour
Saturday – first session	2 hours
Saturday – second session	2 hours
Saturday – both sessions	3 hours
Sunday session	2 hours
Full Festival	6 hours

If you can help with pre-Festival work, please drop us an email at [volunteering@neffa.org](mailto:volunteering@neffa.org).

If you would like to help during the Festival, please sign up at the volunteering web site [www.neffa.org/volunteering](http://www.neffa.org/volunteering) starting in February. Or call Bethany Seeger at (413) 256-6739.

Thanks to all of you for supporting NEFFA in all your many ways.

NEFFA Volunteer Coordination Committee  
 Bethany Seeger (Chair)  
 Bill Cowie

## Recycle, Refill, Reward

Long-time dancer Will Roper is partnering up with NEFFA to what we hope will be our mutual benefit.

Will is in the printer cartridge recycling business, and is always looking for empty cartridges (inkjet and laser toner) to refill and resell. Will has arranged with NEFFA to collect your empties at the next few NEFFA Contra evenings at the Thursday Night Dance. The next opportunity is **February 19**.

With some luck, NEFFA will get a few bucks, and we'll all benefit by keeping the empties from the landfill.

NEFFA will get around a dollar for each item brought in. Thanks for your support!



Editor: **Dan Pearl**      Mailing: **Dayle Watts**

Editorial Review: **Robert Golder, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Robert Johnson**

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 Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to [neffa@neffa.org](mailto:neffa@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

# BAY AREA

## American Dance and Music Week, Movement Afoot, July 4-11, 2009

at the Mendocino Woodlands in the Coastal Redwoods of Northern California

### OUTSTANDING MUSIC

Tidal Wave: **Stuart Kenney, Rachel Aucoin, Sabin Jacques & Eric Favreau**

Notorious: **Eden Mac-Adam-Somer, Larry Unger, Sam Bartlett & Mark Murphy**

Dave Bartley with The Avant Gardeners: **Laura Light & George Paul**

### CONTRAS AND SQUARES

**Lisa Greenleaf & Linda Leslie**

### COUPLE DANCING

**Matthew Duvencek**



### CLOGGING & STORYTELLING

**Chris Bischoff**

### CONTRA CALLERS' MINI-COURSE

**Lisa Greenleaf**

**SOUND**

**Marty Brenneis**

### SUPREME CUISINE

**Tod Nysether**

For more information, go to [www.bacds.org/amweek](http://www.bacds.org/amweek) or contact Loren Kalmen, Registrar

<[amweek2009@amweek.org](mailto:amweek2009@amweek.org)>

(775) 240-0117

# COUNTRY

## BACDS 17th Annual Family Week • July 5-11, 2009

Just because you have children doesn't mean you have to stop dancing! BACDS has a camp just for you. Adults and children of all ages gather to create a community, to dance, play, sing, swim, listen to stories, make crafts and, most important of all, to make the kind of friendships that will last a lifetime. Come and have a great time, knowing that your child is having as much fun in their class as you are in yours. Come and get to know the wonderful folks who have been coming to Family Week for years.



oak woodlands of the Sierra foothills just outside Sonoma, CA. It will be a great week for dancers, campers, and musicians of all ages and families of all sizes. Bring the grandparents!

Program Director: Randall Cayford

Camp Managers: Wayne Mullen and Sue Endter

Registrar: Rhonda Cayford

<<http://www.bacds.org/familycamp/>>, or email:

[FamilyWeek2009@bacds.org](mailto:FamilyWeek2009@bacds.org).

Only two hours from the Bay Area, Family Week 2009 will be held at Foothill Horizons, a large, modern site in the pine and

Come join us!

# DANCE

## English Dance & Music Week

at the Mendocino Woodlands Camp (in the Redwoods of Northern California)

English Country Dance: **Philippe Callens** and **Brad Foster**

Border Morris & Jigs: **Julie James**

Waltzing & Cotswold Morris: **Matthew Duvencek**

Sound by **Bob Felch & Adrienne Simpson**



## July 11-18, 2009

Fabulous Music by **Jim Oakden, Daron Douglas, Anita Anderson, Dave Bartley, Eden MacAdam-Somer, Larry Unger, Jon Berger, and Charlie Hancock**

Complete Music Track, Tune-writing Workshop, Callers' Forum, Choreographers' Workshop, Daily Gathering, Picnic in the Meadow, Singing, and more!

[www.bacds.org/eweek](http://www.bacds.org/eweek)

# SOCIETY

BACDS is dedicated to teach, promote and present country and ritual dancing throughout the San Francisco area. For BACDS information, or to contact us, please write to PO BOX 7309, Redwood City, CA 94063. Phone (415) 282-7374. E-mail [bacds@bacds.org](mailto:bacds@bacds.org). Web <http://www.bacds.org/>

# Call For Nominees



*The Nominating Committee:  
Beth Parkes and Julia Nickles*

NEFFA is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. In addition to producing an annual Folk Festival, NEFFA runs a weekly contra dance, the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend, and a series of family dances. NEFFA also supports various folk-related activities through its grants program.

Our traditions and bylaws encourage member participation in a number of ways. While, many of you are no doubt familiar with the role of volunteering at the Festival, you may also know that NEFFA's goals of preserving folk traditions are actually overseen by an Executive Board, composed of elected and appointed members. Under NEFFA's bylaws, elected Directors are expected to chair or serve as a member of a committee or to take on another responsibility.

Each year, the Nominating Committee prepares a ballot listing the nominees for the open positions for the Board and for Officers. We welcome all **suggestions** and volunteers from the NEFFA membership. Our bylaws also encourage **direct nomination** by members: the name of any eligible person suggested by twenty-five or more members is included on the ballot, if he or she consents.

Please send all suggestions and direct nominations to acting Nominating Committee Chair, Beth Parkes, by mail (13 Springs Rd., Billerica MA 01821) or by email ([beth@hands4.com](mailto:beth@hands4.com)). The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2009. Feel free to contact any board member with an inquiry regarding the roles and responsibilities of the various positions.

The current Elected Board members are listed below. Those positions marked with a dot (·) 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.

In recent years, Nominating Committees have recognized that NEFFA is a large organization with a geographically dispersed membership and that most members do not know each other or the candidates. Thus, there is little point to an actual contested election. In addition, the preference is to reward those who step forward and wish to become involved. Most ballots, therefore, have presented uncontested slates. We anticipate continuing this practice.

Office	Name	Term Expires	Eligible for re-election
<b>President</b>	· Robert Golder	2009	✓
<b>Vice President</b>	Linda Leslie	2010	✓
<b>Secretary</b>	· Laura Leibensperger	2009	always
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ralph Jones	2008	always
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	· (vacant)	2009	
	Beth Parkes	2010	
	Julia Nickles	2011	
<b>Directors</b>	· Bill Cowie	2009	✓
	· Gene Fry	2009	✓
	· Tony Parkes	2009	✓
	· Steve Moore	2009	✓
	Terry Huffaker	2010	✓
	Robert Johnson	2010	✓
	Jill Nowak	2010	✓
	Koren Wake	2010	



**In** “The History of the New England Folk Festival 1944-1994,” edited by Tony Parkes and published by NEFFA for the 50th Anniversary Festival, the story is told of how NEFFA came into being. In the summer of 1944, three people were chatting over coffee following a square dance at the Boston YWCA: Grace Palmer, director of the Y, Mary Gillette, head of the Y’s phys.ed. program, and Ralph Page, who led the dance series at the Y. As Ralph Page later recalled, the three friends were discussing a “folk” event at the Boston Garden that had left them unimpressed, when “...suddenly, Mary said, ‘Why don’t we have a *real* folk festival?’ and so the idea was born – as simple as that!”

The History (which you can read in full at <http://neffa.org/history.html>) continues with this fascinating observation: “The idea had probably been germinating for a while. That spring, the governor of Massachusetts had held a Conference on Recreation, with leaders from all over the state discussing ways to counteract wartime stress in people’s lives and promote understanding between cultures.”

Fast-forward sixty-five years, and it seems to me that these social goals – to bring joy out of trouble, to exercise creativity in the midst of uncertainty, and to build bridges of understanding between peoples and cultures – are as relevant today as they’ve ever been. They are in line with NEFFA’s specific purposes, as outlined decades ago by the organization’s founders: “...to preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere, and to encourage the development of a living folk culture.” We don’t intend to be pretentious and self-conscious about achieving these goals in 2009. Our simple aim for the upcoming Festival is to create a long weekend filled with fun and joy. The deeper expressions of the human spirit will flow naturally from our everyday efforts.

NEFFA was born in a challenging and stressful time. Today’s economic difficulties are just the latest of many challenges that NEFFA has faced during the past sixty-five years. The optimistic spirit and volunteer support of everyone involved, through good times and hard times, continues to be the secret of NEFFA’s success. The Board is committed to good oversight of our lean budget, so we can bring you the most Festival fun out of every dollar. But expenses keep rising, and it is now a challenge to pay for

rental of the Mansfield schools, for police, fire, and EMT coverage, for sound systems and the other requirements necessary to hold a great event.



## From the President’s Desk

*Robert Golder*

The Board has decided that there will be **NO INCREASE** in ticket prices for the 2009 Festival. This means that we must find other ways to cover increased costs. We must raise more dollars and stretch them further. Wherever we reduce costs, we will do so without sacrificing any of the joy and beauty that characterizes the Festival.

In response to this financial challenge, NEFFA’s board members are developing new ways to build financial and volunteer support for the Festival. I just want to highlight one of these new efforts, the NEFFA Medley Benefit Bash, which is described more fully elsewhere in this issue of the NEFFA News. On Sunday, March 1,

2009, at the Concord (MA) Scout House, you’ll enjoy four-and-a-half hours of contra dancing, a contra medley, waltzes, and a Hambo competition. Please put this event on your calendar right now, and buy your ticket early! This will be a very special, memorable, and enjoyable evening. Please consider supporting NEFFA above the minimum ticket price required to enter the hall. You’ll have a blast at the Medley Benefit Bash, and you’ll also have the satisfaction of knowing that your admission fee goes directly to support of the 2009 Festival.

Please visit [www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org) often for the latest updates on planning for the 65th Annual Festival on April 24-26, 2009. Remember to invite your friends who are new to folk dancing, as we have scheduled multiple beginner-level events for them. At NEFFA 2009 there will be frequent sessions aimed at satisfying your guests’ desire to learn about folk dancing, even if they can only attend on one of the three days of the Festival. If they enjoy the Festival, please encourage them to become members. You’re probably a NEFFA member already, but when the time comes please be sure to renew your own membership. It’s a vital part of supporting the activities and community that we cherish.

Please keep in mind our other programs, such as the wonderful Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend in Durham, New Hampshire, coming up on January 16-18, 2009. In the Greater Boston area, enjoy the Family Dance Series and the Thursday Night Contra Dance Series in Concord, MA. And as always, thank you for helping NEFFA to create joyful celebrations of music, dance, and crafts for the New England folk community.

# Farewells

## Barbara Hirsch

Dear friends,

I write you with sad news, and a hope. As you may have heard, my mother, Barbara Lee Schoellkopf Hirsch, passed away November 14th, of a simple cold. There is simply too much to say in an email; as her friends, I'm sure you understand how much we all miss her.

I decided that, since I could not come home right away from France, I would organize a memorial dance, for shortly after my return, to remember her in a way that seems the rightest - everyone happy and dancing and together. Mom had many friends in the dancing world, and it was always her home.

Long story short, I've been working with Shawn Kendrick, who runs the contra dances in Rehoboth, Mass. We've managed a night that hopefully will work for most people - and, the somewhat crazier part of this idea - I'd love it if we could gather together a group of mom's friends and colleagues from all different times of her life, and create a dance evening. I'm not sure entirely of how the details will pan out, since that depends on everyone's availability, but ideally, everyone would contribute whatever they could, playing, calling a dance, a story, a picture, however.

Ah, yes. the date itself: Saturday Jan 3rd, 2009. Goff Hall, Rehoboth Massachusetts. I'm thinking the times would run from 5 or 6 pm til round 11 pm, though ...like all of this.. it's pretty flexible.

I hope you come, and to see you soon! Pass the word along!

much thanks and love,  
Sarah Hirsch

## Culver Griffin

Culver Hopkinson Griffin Culver Hopkinson Griffin, long-time and much loved square dance caller, died at home early Sunday morning, November 9. He was 92. Culver called square dances throughout the New York metropolitan area, New England and Great Britain since 1946. He had the honor of calling dances for young and old, notable and notorious - from actor Paul Newman to elementary school students to square dance groups and everyone in between.

A love of Great Britain had Culver traveling to that part of the world many times in his life, both to visit friends made over the years and to call square dances at festivals and in small towns. He was most recently there for his 90th birthday, when he called at the Sidmouth Festival for the 12th time.

A graduate of Babson College, Wellesley, Mass., Culver pursued a career at Singer Sewing Machine Co. in New York City and retired in 1964.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial contributions to the Country Dance and Song Society, 132 Main St., P.O. Box 338, Haydenville, MA 01039-0338.

## Tom Lenthall

Tom Lenthall, longtime support of Scottish activities at the Festival and husband of Evelyn Murray, died November 25th after a long illness. The funeral arrangements will be private, and there will be a memorial service later. I am sure Evelyn would appreciate cards or notes at this sad time: Evelyn Murray, 37 Blanchard Road, Cambridge, MA 02138-1010.

## A NEFFA Public Service

### **Beware of Imitations!**



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

**Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA  
Executive Board  
October 19, 2008**

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

There was a discussion of Ralph's email concerning an estimated \$15,000 shortfall for the 2009 Festival. Shelagh: This may be a time to learn about fundraising for the future. Beth: We should have something in the NEFFA News. Bill: Other organizations have a "would you like to help?" button on their website. We could use something like PayPal for this – there's a small charge. Linda: We should be handing in budgets - everyone should submit a budget next month. Shelagh: We need to talk about how our money is invested. Ralph: Our investments are pretty conservative. Linda: The TNDC money should at least be in an interest bearing account, (right now it isn't).

**Festival Committee Reports**

**Volunteers (Bill Cowie)**

Bethany is returning as Volunteer Coordinator. I will be the representative at the Board meetings. Our major issue is volunteer time vs. benefit. If we change things, we need to get the word out. Robert G: Let's get proposals to vote on at the November meeting.

**Tickets (Maureen Carey)**

I'd like to set ticket prices next month. Are we assuming that prices will go up because of our shortfall? Ralph: Would that affect our attendance? Shelagh: We need to know how many tickets were sold last year – was attendance higher or lower? Gene: Last year, ticket revenue was up 11% - ticket prices went up 17% - that would suggest that paid attendance was down. Robert J.: At the retreat we set up a small group to strategize. In the past our reaction to losing money at a Festival was to raise ticket prices. I don't know if we should increase prices this year – this may not be the best way to control our deficit. In the past, we've also raised tickets in a stepped way –level for a year, raise the next, level for a

year ... Tony: If we don't raise prices we have to be careful that we're not nickel-and-diming elsewhere. Linda: In the ticket proposals, we need to institute some kind of quality control.

**Membership (Beth Parkes)**

It looks like we want to move to a tiered membership system. There's nothing in the bylaws against it. If we double our membership we could offset our Festival loss. Tony: What about selling tickets ahead of time? Beth: The purpose of that is to let people bypass the table – I'm willing to handle pre-Festival ticket sales for members. Harold: An advantage of pre-Festival sales is that we have money ahead of time.

**Printed Materials (Linda Leslie)**

Linda: Last year the Board OK'd the idea of selling ads and some advisory prices were set up.

Gene: It's better to sell ad space in the book than have to sell the book to attendees. Linda: We should all be out looking for ads, not just have one person doing it. Dan: And mention selling ads to performers in the Festival performer materials packet.

**Inside Operations (Harold Henry)**

Harold: The estimated reduction in our cost from not paying for tables could be \$2000. Also, we always over-order, we can cut it down. (The table issue does not include Food vendors).

**Housing (presented by Bob Golder)**

Do we actually need a Housing Committee? Most people make hotel reservations by email. Shelagh: I think the housing match-up is a thing of the past.

**November 19, 2008**

**Amendments to the By-Laws (Steve Moore)**

Steve presented a set of proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

**Volunteer Hours (Bill Cowie and Bethany)**

**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 \$20/individual, \$38/family (up to 2 people over 18). Contributions beyond these basic amounts are welcome and 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, or via email: neffa@neffa.org

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

## Seeger)

Several proposals for modifying the volunteer demands were presented.

**Motion made by Bill Cowie and seconded by Ralph Jones that the volunteer compensation rate be changed to the following: Friday only ticket = 1 hour; Saturday = 2 hours per session or 3 hours for an all day ticket; Sunday = 2 hours. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Motion made by Bill Cowie that the change apply only to non-Sound volunteers. Sound volunteers will continue at the 4 hour rate. Seconded by Ralph Jones. Motion carried with one opposed.**

## Ticket Prices (presented by Bob Golder)

**Motion made by Robert Johnson, seconded by (?) to charge the same ticket prices as the 2008 Festival, Motion carries.**

## Festival Committee Reports

### Program & Printed Materials (Linda Leslie)

We have a preliminary schedule ready and will do a performer mailing the first Sunday in Dec. This impacts anyone who wants to put something in the mailing. We are planning a Benefit Dance for March 1 at the Scout House. It will be a 4 or 5 hour dance with 2 medleys, Family and International Dance in the afternoon. Terry is taking the lead on this, (working with Linda, Koren and Tony).

**Inside Facilities (Harold):** I need a list of rooms from Program. I will explore the rental price of keyboards vs. pianos – can you tell me which rooms can have keyboards? Linda: We can also try to get keyboards free from the schools. We haven't identified all the spaces that we will use, only the Program spaces. We need another walkthrough.

**Contacting college campuses to provide money to send students to the Festival (Julia):** My question with that is, if we're anticipating having fewer volunteers because some of those become paying attendees, do we still want to do this? College students are the most likely to be willing to put in more time. Koren: The goal is to have schools provide money to send students who can't afford to come otherwise. Julia: That could take them out of volunteering. Bill: Go ahead and approach people with the idea and see what the response is. Don't worry about volunteer hours.

### Developing publicity targeted at families in Mansfield

**(Bob):** I've talked to Howard Griffin, head of the chamber of Commerce. Jay Barrows has been re-elected as State Senator, I may talk more with him. I'd like float the idea of a flier which would go home with every child with info about the Festival. Harold: We could offer the NEFFA library of DVD's etc. to the schools as a curriculum resource.



# N·E·F·F·A

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