



NEFFA *News*

New England Folk Festival Association

1950 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge MA 02140 — (617) 354-1340

Winter 1998 — Volume XXIV #4

President's Message

Last year at our retreat, the Board revamped Festival scheduling, coming up with a timetable which has made it easier for performers, committee members and attendees to do their Festival planning. At the retreat this year we continued to look at our activities to determine what, if anything, needs improvement. Following our discussion, we came up with a formula for ticket pricing which will make that process easier, we are looking into the possibility of moving the Festival to the preceding weekend in the year 2000, when it conflicts with both Passover and Easter (more on that at another time), and we decided that the Ralph Page Memorial weekend was ideal for many people, and might attract more attendees with only a few simple changes.

Another topic we considered was the decline in membership numbers - and we came to the conclusion that many people do not realize that NEFFA is a membership organization which operates all year long, not just in April. We have not emphasized the parent organization during our very successful sponsorship of the Thursday night dance series or at our family dances, and our grants program seems to be one of the better-kept secrets of the local folk world. As I write this a committee is considering ways of promoting NEFFA membership and thereby strengthening our community. Let us know what you think we can do to attract more members.

The Festival is our big event, of course, and preliminary information is included in this newsletter. Once again, I urge you to start thinking about volunteering, since without the

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Twelfth Annual Ralph Page Legacy Weekend

The Ralph Page Memorial Committee is pleased to announce that the Twelfth Ralph Page Legacy Weekend will be held on Friday January 15 — Sunday January 17, 1999. It will be held at the Durham campus of the University of New Hampshire, in the Memorial Union Building. As with previous weekends, it will feature lots of traditional and contemporary contradancing and square dancing, including many old favorites from the Ralph Page repertoire.

The weekend will feature an outstanding staff of well-known musicians and callers. Callers will include **David Kaynor** and **Susan Kevra**; in addition the Friday night dance will feature **Linda Leslie**, **Peter Yarensky**, **Sarah Mason** and **Sylvia Miskoe**. Music will be provided by some of New England's finest musicians playing in two combinations: **Peter Barnes**, **Dave Langford** and **Bill Tomczak** as "**The Lizards**"; and **Mary Lea**, **Andy Davis** and **Bob McQuillen**. The Friday night dance will feature music by **Cuckoo's Nest**. On Saturday, there will be a Retrospective honoring Rod Linnell, a well-known contemporary of Ralph Page from Maine. The Retrospective will feature some of Rod's famous Double Quadrilles. Other highlights include the Banquet and Grand Ball on Saturday evening, and workshops in dance, music and calling.

Reservations will be necessary for all meals; all other events may be attended without advance reservation. For more details on weekend events, scholarship information, and an application form, contact the office (address above). Please enclose a SASE. (The brochure is also on-line at the NEFFA website:

<http://www.neffa.org/~neffa>

Highlights of the Minutes of the NEFFA Exec Board

For information on attending future meetings, call Dan Pearl at 508-229-2854 or E-mail: pearl@sw.stratus.com

31 May 1998

Call to Order (Nancy Hanssen)

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Hanssen.

Secretary's Report (Dan Pearl)

There were two minor corrections to the minutes of the 22 March 1998 meeting, and a motion to accept them was passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Our membership has gone down to 1700. We should think about membership.

Although the number of people in attendance was down at the Festival, income was up from \$52K in 1997 to \$56K in 1998. Pepsi income was \$2000 (half of last year).

Gross at Performer Sales was \$9352, up from \$7500 in 1997.

Program (Katy Burns)

Katy summarized the printed distributed report.

- Festival Hits: Larry Unger waltzes, Hungarian Line Dances (Tom Roby), Advanced Cajun, Ted's Unpublished Dances, Cool Move Contrás, Defensive Contrás, Basic Macedonian, One-Footed Balkan Dances, Open Sing, Kids Call and Play for Contrás, Bourrees. Also unscheduled jam sessions in the back hallway were popular.
- Some dissatisfaction was expressed about a very few sessions.
- There was demand for Gammaldans, and more English Country dance, more waltzes, more beginner contrás and squares.
- There was some dissatisfaction in the balance of the program. Next year there will be more contra dancing, but not a lot more. There were complaints about the quality of calling and music. (Larry Jennings suggests: Perhaps their local standards have gone up.)

- The Folk Music and Song program was strong and well received. We coped with last-minute cancellations.
- There were poor event transitions in halls without stage managers.
- The Loft looks like an unviable space due to sound bleed from the Natick Room.
- The use of the back hallway for Folk Bazaar seemed to work.
- Morris dancing was successful. Katy will consider the suggestion of extending Morris hours earlier to entertain people waiting for the Festival to open.
- The committee will explore: how to publicize changes at the Festival, readability of the grid and information availability.
- In general, hall assignments were good.

Larry: Do you committee members feel responsible with telling performers that it is time to quit? I've done this, and I encourage you to do the same. : "NEFFA is the festival that runs on time."

Nancy: Stage manager assignments should be handled by Sound, with needs relayed by Program.

Nancy read a letter from Doris Possi regarding Dance Performances [excerpts follow]:

"The performances went well considering that the Albanian group called and canceled out on Saturday evening and on Sunday the new Indian group from New Hampshire didn't show. In talking to George Fogg a week later, he said that a man called on Sunday, but Doris never got the message. The Saturday evening performances started and ended four minutes late; the other sessions ended early. ... NEFFA is fortunate to have so many dedicated groups. I think we need signs to designate dance performance space, since there were jammers there at times. Ann Gooding will be my co-chair next year. ..."

Activity Room (Linda Palmstrom)

Everything was a success! Parents responded to the requests for supervision of their own children. There were around 100 kids in the

room at one time! I will provide a written report for a future meeting.

Toobers and Zots aren't traditional folk, but young kids love it.

We could use more chairs.

Arrangements (Bob Solosko)

Setup was a problem. We just didn't have enough volunteers. We were helped by volunteers from Sound and Signs, when they got finished with their jobs.

We shared a rental truck with Sound, which worked well for transport to/from the storage locker and storage during the Festival. Leslie was concerned that all drivers of the truck are appropriately insured.

Take down went very quickly. We lost three rental chairs and destroyed one table. We got some DOA fans; next year we'll check them on delivery.

Jean noted that there was one Folk Bazaar booth that was still taking down at 9pm on Sunday, when the takedown crew was leaving. **Nancy:** They were uncooperative and very slow; they were still trying to sell after the Festival was closed.

We needed to evict jammers who were impeding take down.

Despite detailed instructions, bleacher deployment was not done correctly. The sweeping schedule was not observed.

Some people complained about the temperature in the rest area. People still can't find it.

An unexpected "extra piano" should not be placed near telephones.

People move our clocks, for no apparent reason.

Several people have requested Porta-poties at the Army Lots.

We need more HP parking spaces. The wording on our signs is not "legal"; we will consult with Natick Police.

Parking on Saturday was a mess: cars were in No Parking zones, bus stops, etc. Cars were towed. There is a limit to what we can do. We want to call Natick Rec. Department and ask them not to have any use of the playing field on NEFFA weekend.

Dan heard that some nearby hotels provided shuttle

service to NEFFA. Leslie suggests it may be worth it to inquire. Army Lots were very well used; because of ambiguous markings, some people got jammed in; perhaps cones can be used to help.

Shelagh heard a complaint that full buses leaving one Army lot couldn't pick up any passengers at another Army lot. We will give some thought to an improved system next year.

Outside signs were very well received. Nat's goals for next year: improve signage around the school and those leading people in from Speen St.

Leslie: I got grief from volunteers and supervisors on Friday when I turned away the volunteers who didn't have early admission passes. We need a better system. Also, we need a big sign which says who can enter at the Guidance door before opening time.

Dave: Also have a sign on the *main* doors about where early-admission people should enter.

Ralph: I couldn't find the "No Jamming" sign near the Natick Room. **Bob:** We need more signs there, and in the stairwells. **Larry:** The signs go unread, but are there to back you up.

Bob's last year for Arrangements is 1999.

Operations (Dan Pearl)

Written report distributed. The hardwired telephone was a great success with Hospitality volunteers.

Someone who was familiar with our no-animals policy brought their dog, hitched it up to a cart and gave rides to kids. We need signs that we can post in the courtyard.

Nancy: I rescued several bags of returnables from the loading dock; we should arrange to remove these on a daily basis for return.

Nancy: Elsa feels that the Beatles Singalong did not run as late as Dan claimed in his report; she is concerned that the Singalong not be penalized because of possible overtime.

We have made improvements in routing people away at the end of the day; perhaps more can be done to provide routes that don't queue up at a long traffic light (Speen St. & Pond St.) or a hard left turn (Pond St. and Rt. 27). **Nancy:** We need to talk to the police about this. **Ralph:** Do we need a traffic officer? **Dan:** Maybe, but not just directing traffic ("go left...go left"). Actively working the traffic controls would be better. I'm talking about

reallocation of existing resources. **Bob:** We could put it on the map.

Nancy: We didn't need booth maps, because Chairs were all there on Friday. Angie labels her booth tables. **Mary:** I provide crafts people with maps showing them where their booth is, and how to get into the building. **Leslie:** It was suggested that there be a set of mug-shots so that people can identify key NEFFA Festival committee members.

Michael: Suggests four versions of the map to correspond to the four walls they might be posted on.

Crafts (Mary Stafford)

Written report presented.

We can accommodate additional people in the hallway, but the lighting is dim.

Composition of the room is a concern. (Mary has the backing of the committee to do what she feels is necessary to improve the balance.)

Some people who arrived too early on Friday to setup were told that they were in violation of policy, and were impeding other setup activities.

Food (primarily Nancy Hanssen)

There is a problem with ice cream trucks in the front of the school. Ralph granted a truck permission and collected a fee on the spot. People have problems with the noise and exhaust from the truck's motor. Are there alternatives? Pushcarts? Electrical feeds? Do these affect NEFFA's image? This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The health inspector this year was concerned about proper preparation of lentils. An arrangement was struck with the Indian booth.

The day before the Festival, the Common Ground booth canceled.

The Pepsi company did not provide coolers this year; there were barrels and we had to run out and get ice. Sandy is considering finding a new beverage provider. **Dan:** Could we just set up vending machines?

The Smoothies sold out. There is an electrical issue for the Pepsi booth & Smoothies: we could extend an electrical run to have both the Smoothies and the Pepsi booth on one wall.

The kitchen matrons were new to the Festival, and had not been briefed on what to expect. We were surprised to find our refrigerator space was much less than in years past.

We need more breakfast food. The Indian booth came up with wonderful blueberry pancakes!

Mary Wakefield wants Sunday early admission to be the same time as Saturday (coffee pots take the same amount of time to heat up). Larry says that the later opening was due to prior food booth requests.

We still need kid-friendly plain food. The kitchen staff was talking about running such a booth (that is what they do all year).

Folk Bazaar

No report yet. Nancy liked the use of the back hallway and mix of booths.

Hospitality (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

Written report distributed. Thanks to Lee Fisher for great work. It was a smooth year.

We were wondering if there should be volunteer training sessions just before opening on Friday.

It would be useful to get the phone hooked up earlier than 4pm.

Michael Anthony would like signs to read "Instrument and Costume Check" and not just "Instrument Check".

There is no Housing report yet.

Safety (John Wojtowicz)

No written report yet.

Shoe inspections went smoothly this year.

There were reports of one over-zealous volunteer. Some volunteers were double-booked. We had plenty of volunteers.

We only towed one car.

Rayna shooed a small child down from a tree. One entire family reported each other lost.

Sound (Michael Bergman)

Written report distributed.

The auditorium sound crew was not perfect, but they are enthusiastic about trying again.

I had a shortage of experienced volunteers;

changeovers were slow and the sound was slow to balance.

I had fewer vociferous complaints this year.

Tickets (David Reid)

We ran out of all-session tickets. Should we have emergency ticket stock? Hand stamps?

One whole block of my volunteers didn't show up.

Dan: Some people get misdirected. There should be a few master lists available.

A strange policy: the All-session ticket was cheaper than 3 sessions. This should be revisited. The price signs don't indicate that Saturday is two sessions.

Volunteers (Nancy Hanssen)

Some people canceled after volunteering for one hour.

Early schedule was great, as was having E-mail. Web page should emphasize that we do need mailing address information.

Problems with volunteer handling were discussed.

T-Shirts (Dan Pearl)

The shirts sold out. Most of the reprints have been sent, but an error by the shirt printing company will mean an additional reprint is needed.

There are a few tote bags left.

Publicity

The listing in the Boston Globe had the wrong prices, and the wrong times for Sunday.

The Folk Almanac had a nice article.

Where do we publicize? Steve has a list. We'd love to see a publicity report.

Retreat

Retreat topics were established:

- Ticket Price Structure
- Ralph Page Weekend
- Year 2000 Problem
- Membership/Attendance Decline
- Outside Ambiance

NEFFA's URL:

<http://www.neffa.org/~neffa>

13 September 1998

Call to Order (Nancy Hanssen)

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Hanssen.

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

A written report was distributed before the meeting.

The net T-shirt income is currently \$1483.

Committee Chairs (Nancy Hanssen)

Nancy presented the proposed committee chair list.

Advisor: Larry Jennings (Non-Voting -- NV); **Family Dance:** Jacob Bloom (NV); **Grants:** Robert Johnson (Voting -- V); **Legal Advisor:** Leslie Morrison (V); **Membership:** Bob Solosko (V); **Publicity:** Steve Boylan (NV); **Ralph Page Memorial Committee:** Sylvia Miskoe (chair, NV), Sam Alexander, Dave Bateman, George Fogg, Ellen Mandigo, Deanna Marvin, Angela Taylor, Marianne Taylor, Clay Wilcox, Peter Yarensky; **Thursday Night Dance Committee:** Dan Pearl (AV)

Activity Room: Linda Palmstrom (AV); **Arrangements, Inside Facilities:** Bob Solosko (V); **Outside Facilities Chair:** Jean Krogh (AV); **Operations:** Dan Pearl (AV); **Signs:** Diane Biglow (NV), Michael Resnick (NV); **Outside Signs:** Nat Case (NV); **Crafts:** Mary Stafford (NV); **Folk Bazaar:** Angela Taylor (V); **Food Operations:** Mary Wakefield [unconfirmed] (NV), Don Parkhurst [unconfirmed] (NV); **Food Pre-Festival:** Sandy Borden (NV); **Hospitality:** Shelagh Ellman-Pearl (AV); **Housing:** Elsa Elliott (AV); **Instrument Check:** Michael Anthony (NV); **Safety:** John Wojtowicz (AV), Rayna

Tulysewski (AV); **Sound:** Michael Bergman (V); **Volunteer Sound:** Sue Carboni (NV); **Performer Liaison:** Stacie Barker (NV); **T-Shirt:** Lisa Greenleaf (NV); **Tickets:** Claire Reid (AV), David Reid (V); **Volunteers:** Nancy Hanssen (AV); **Program:** Janet Yeracaris (AV), Katy Burns (NV); **American Participatory Dance:** Lisa Greenleaf (NV); **Dance Performances:** Doris Possi (V), Anne Gooding (NV); **International Couple Dance:** Susan Worland (AV); **International Line Dance:** Mari Young (AV); **Folk Music and Song:** Ann Schunior (NV), Suzanne Mrozak (NV); **Morris Dance:** Katy Burns (NV); **Performer Sales:** Beth Parkes (NV).
The above list passed by voice vote of the elected board.

Grants (Robert Johnson)

The Grant Committee recommends that a \$1000 loan be made to Bob Childs for a waltz recording by his group, Childsplay, to be paid back before other loans, and before any profit disbursements

are made to him or any group members.

Although the original proposal was for \$5000, the committee felt more comfortable with the lower amount.

The motion passed.

Miscellaneous

- Leslie will notify NEFFA (The New England Fresh Food Alliance) of our existence and try

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued from page 1)

help of many of you the Festival can't happen. We look forward to welcoming back our returning volunteers, and to including many more of you in the volunteer ranks. We have opportunities of all sorts; the volunteer recruitment form you will receive in March lists them. I look forward to hearing from you then -- or sooner, if you would like to get involved in the advance planning. You can contact me in care of the NEFFA office.

— Nancy Hanssen — President, NEFFA

Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances Return!

The Second Sunday Vintage Tea Dances are back, running Second Sunday afternoons, 2-5, from January 10th through May 9th. That's SECOND Sundays ONLY!

The series features dances from the 19th and early 20th centuries, or, more colloquially, Victorian, Civil War, and Ragtime Dances. This is a pretty broad time period, stylistically speaking, and ranges from the proper Quadrille - ancestor to our Square Dances and descendant of John Playford's square sets - to the still-exotic Tango. In between, the Waltz and Polka run rampant, and various shorter-lived dances make their appearance - the Maxixe, ancestor to today's Salsa, the Schottische, once Queen of the Ballroom but now considered a folk dance by most, and Contras, One Steps, Two Steps, Foxtrot, Castlewalk, Blues, and Grizzly Bear.

Various formal Balls and intensive weekend workshops take place throughout the year; the Tea Dances are intended as a relaxing opportunity to learn the dances, practice the dances, and socialize, without the pressure of a formal setting.

Teaching is emphasized (the mix of teaching and dancing is about 50/50) and clothing is not; while those who have period daywear are welcome to wear it, those who do not are firmly requested not to worry about it. We do draw the line at shorts and T-shirts, however - not that we'll turn you away, just that we'll ask you to wear something a little dressier next time. Music is provided from our extensive collection of tapes and CDs of both period recordings and recent revivals of period tunes.

Beginners, whether new to vintage dance or to dancing in general, are especially welcome.

In an attempt to coordinate with said Balls, the teaching schedule will loosely follow the period of the balls - for example, as there is a Civil War era ball coming up in March, we will be teaching Civil War dances in February and March.

What would be the point of a Tea Dance without a Tea? We serve hot tea, punch, and home-made goodies at the break. Our refreshments committee



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Traditional Fiddle Conference

A significant point in the history of traditional fiddling will take place in 1999. It will bring fiddlers of the world together. **Fiddles of the World (FOTW)** is the First Ever International Conference and Reunion for Traditional Fiddlers. Taking place in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada, July 11-15, 1999, FOTW is an international gathering of fiddle players, accompanists, fans of fiddle music and music industry representatives to be held every two years. FOTW directly follows the Maritime Fiddle Festival in Dartmouth, N.S.

FOTW program includes: seminars on fiddling characteristics and techniques from countries around the world, fiddle making, accompanying the fiddler, writing tunes, an outdoor fiddle picnic and Fiddler's Fair. For more information:

<http://www2.fiddlesoftheworld.com/fiddlesoftheworld/>

<http://Fox.nstn.ca:80/~whebb/>

(TEA DANCES Continued from page 10)

prides itself that the Tea alone is worth the price of admission. Since the dancing and instruction are also, one way or another you're bound to get your money's worth out of the afternoon.

The location is the lovely Arts and Crafts era Parish Hall of the First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton. It's easily reached by car or Commuter Rail; call for details: Michael Bergman, (617) 964-7684, eclectic@mit.edu.

Worldwide Morris Festival

Over 1000 morris, clog, step, garland and sword teams are to be invited to Scarborough Fayre, the 1999 Worldwide Morris Dance Festival.

The festival is to be held May 29 to June 6 in Scarborough, England. Highlights of the program include Saturday Dance-outs, Saturday night Ceilidh and other gigs, Sunday Dance-out on the sea-front with procession from lifeboat station to the Spa, Massed dance display (Dorset Four Hand Reel), and a conference on Morris roots and futures.

For more information, contact Yorkshire Coast Morris, Jim Clarke, Redworms, Helpertorpe, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 8TL, England. john.maher@bristol.ac.uk

Dear NEFFA Friends —

Truly, I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate all the kind message I received on not just one, but would you believe TWO, great, big, get well cards?! Thank you all for the nice things you wrote; it was most heart-warming and so very thoughtful of you, and I am truly grateful to have heard from so many kind friends.

My recovery is going along very well, and I must tell you that I am already looking forward to next year's NEFFA so I can thank you in person, and we can have a few tunes together. That sounds like a great plan to me! Until then, I am

Most Sincerely, Bob McQuillen

Festival Housing and Hospitality Information

Although the 1999 55th New England Folk Festival is still a few months away, it is not too soon to make arrangements for your lodging during the Festival. Enclosed with this newsletter is the Festival flyer listing lodging rates at a number of hotels and motels located in towns near the Natick High School, our Festival site. These rates are available as of November 11, 1998 and are subject to availability. The Howard Johnson Hotel and the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza are offering a NEFFA rate that is available by calling before April 2, 1999 and specifying the "New England Folk Festival" when you call. Please make your arrangements soon as already two hotels on our list are already filled (Westboro Marriott and Econo Lodge).

If you would like assistance in obtaining hospitality with folks in the Boston-Natick area, or if you live near the Festival site and are willing to put up some out of town Festival guests, please use the housing offer/request flyer included in this newsletter. You can also send a business size self-addressed stamped envelope to me, Elsa Elliott, 4 Ridge Road, Billerica, MA 01821 to receive transportation and accommodation information. Housing request/offer forms should be returned to me by March 26, 1999. Guests and hosts will be notified in early April regarding lodging.

Thanks and look forward to seeing you in April.

Pinewoods Summer Jobs

Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, MA is looking for full-time and volunteer crew members for the 1999 season. Cooks and cooks' assistants are especially needed. We may also be looking for an Office Manager and other kitchen and grounds crew.

Full-time crew should be available from June 1 through Labor Day, and volunteers should be able to live at camp for at least 3 weeks. Crew members live at camp and have opportunities to participate in the dance and music programs being offered. For more information, contact Eileen Callahan, Manager, Pinewoods Camp, 80 Cornish Field Road, Plymouth, MA 02360; 508-224-4858; e-mail: manager@pinewoods.org



N·E·F·F·A

New England Folk Festival Association
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The NEFFA News, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons.

The New England Folk Festival Association is a non-profit educational and cultural organization, incorporated under the general laws of Massachusetts to encourage, sponsor, and preserve high standards of performance of the folk arts and traditions in New England and elsewhere.

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/household (\$28 for 3 years) (two or more persons living together as a family in one residence — one mailing per household). Supporting members are those who contribute any amount beyond regular dues. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the address above. 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 telephone inquiries to the NEFFA office (phone number above).

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.

Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Covering</u>	<u>Calendar</u>	<u>News</u>
Spring	Apr.-Jul.	Jan. 20	Feb. 15
Summer	Jul.-Oct.	Apr. 20	May 15
Autumn	Oct.-Jan.	Jul. 20	Aug. 15
Winter	Jan.-Apr.	Oct. 20	Nov. 15

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 pearl@sw.stratus.com

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

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