

**You read it here  
first: The Festival  
was in the black!  
Thanks to many  
supporters!**



Summer 2009 – Vol. XXXV #2

**The famous Festival  
Lost and Found List!  
Laufman Awarded!  
We have run out of  
exclamation points.**

## **Dudley Laufman of Canterbury, N.H., Named National Heritage Fellow**

Washington, D.C. - Dudley Laufman, a musician and barn dance caller from Canterbury, N.H., has been awarded the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts, the National Heritage Fellowship. The National Endowment for the Arts, which bestows the fellowships, is one of eleven winners announced for 2009.



Laufman is the third New Hampshire resident to receive the award. Contra dance musician and composer Bob McQuillen of Peterborough earned a National Heritage Fellowship in 2002, and Littleton basketmaker Newt Washburn was selected in 1987.

"I really didn't believe it at first," Laufman says of the honor, which comes with a \$25,000 honorarium and will be celebrated with ceremonies and performances in Washington, D.C., in September.

At 78, Laufman has been involved in the contra dance and barn dance community in New Hampshire for over 60 years. He called his first dance in 1948 and soon started his own musical group for the dances, which later became the Canterbury Country Dance Orchestra. During the 1970s, the orchestra made a number of recordings, and Laufman traveled throughout the region, performing and teaching dance, averaging 300 or more engagements each year.



As longtime members of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' Traditional Arts and Folklife Listing, Laufman and his partner Jacqueline Laufman - the two perform together in the group Two Fiddles - are sought after to conduct barn dance residencies in schools and at community centers.

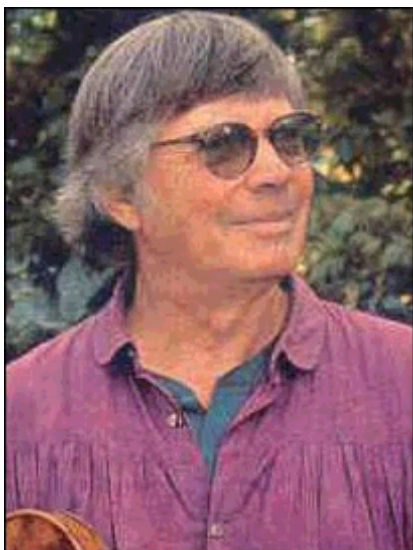
Laufman has been the subject of a documentary film, *The Other Way Back: Dancing with Dudley*, and he and Jacqueline recently published "Traditional Barn Dances with Calls & Fiddling," an instruction book that includes two music CDs and a DVD, through Human Kinetics press.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Ernest Thompson, New Hampshire resident and author of *On Golden Pond*, succinctly conveys Laufman's contributions to New England dance: "I think Dudley Laufman belongs in the pantheon of genuine American artists. He belongs in Franconia Notch, the real Old Man of the Mountain."

The other winners of the 2009 NEA National Heritage Fellowships are: the Birmingham Sunlights, an a cappella gospel group from Birmingham, Ala.; Chitresh Das, a Kathak dancer and choreographer from San Francisco; LeRoy Graber, a German-Russian willow basketmaker from Freeman, S.D.; "Queen" Ida Guillory, a zydeco musician from Dale City, Calif.; Amma D. McKen, a Yoruba Orisha singer from Brooklyn, N.Y.; Joel Nelso, a cowboy poet from Alpine, Texas; Teri Rofkar, a Tlingit weaver and basketmaker from Sitka, Alaska; Sophiline Cheam, a Cambodian classical dancer and choreographer from Long Beach, Calif.; Edwin Colón, a cuatro player from Orocovis, Puerto Rico; and Mike Seeger, a musician, cultural scholar, and advocate from Lexington, Va., who won the Bess Lomax Hawes Award for his significant contribution to the preservation and awareness of cultural heritage.



# Thank You!

A big NEFFA Thank You to these NEFFA members who joined at higher membership levels!

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**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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| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Deadline</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Spring       | Feb. 1          |
| Summer       | May 15          |
| Fall         | Aug. 15         |
| Winter       | Nov. 1          |

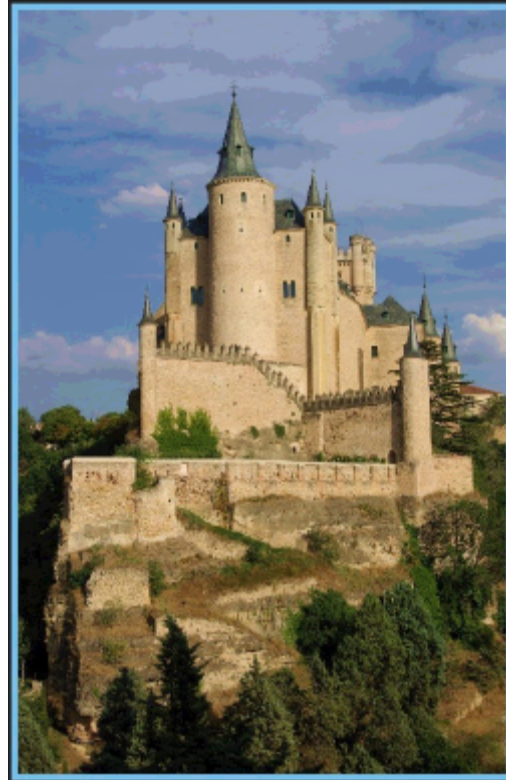
## "Because We Asked"

# I wish

I could remember where and when I first heard the once-upon-a-time story of two brothers who served the king of a distant realm. As I recall, this king had a beautiful daughter, to whom one of the brothers felt a great attraction. This young man decided to work very hard at all the tasks the king assigned to him, so as to win the king's favor, and the princess's hand in marriage. "But I'd better not tell my brother why I'm working so hard," he thought to himself. "Since I'm attracted to the princess, I'll bet that he likes her too."

So the first brother started to work incredibly hard at all his tasks assigned by the king. He harvested all the wheat from the fields, polished the knights' armor until it glistened, and drained and cleaned the castle moat. The first brother also spent some time conversing with the princess, and he felt that she showed an encouraging interest in him.

The young man kept a watchful eye on his brother's interests and activities. He saw that his brother also worked hard for the king, and also spent some time in conversation with the princess. But the first brother felt that he was working much harder, so it was a great shock to him one day when the king announced to all the assembled court that his daughter would soon marry the second brother.



The first brother immediately sought and was granted a private audience with the king. "Look here, my liege," he cried in frustration. "I have worked much harder than my brother. This is not at all fair! Why does he get to marry the princess?!"

"Because he asked her," the king replied.

I'm happy to report that in the weeks following the 2009 Festival, I've been feeling a lot like the second brother in that story. I worked hard, as did all of our Board members, committee chairs and members, and volunteers, to help prepare for the Festival. But we achieved far greater results than we ever could have hoped for, simply because we asked you to fully participate. In particular, after explaining NEFFA's fiscal needs, we asked for your increased financial support. You answered with a resounding "YES! I'll support NEFFA."

Several weeks before the Festival began, many of you participated in our first NEFFA

Medley Benefit Bash, held on March 1 at the Concord Scout House in Concord, MA. It was a joyful event filled with music, dancing, great food, and a silent auction, coordinated by Terry Huffaker and many other volunteers. Every dime raised by the Benefit Bash was pledged toward support of the April Festival. I hoped that we might raise three or four thousand dollars to defray Festival expenses. But – because we asked – you contributed more than six thousand dollars!

Also – because we asked – many of you advertised your businesses, upcoming dance events, and other projects in the 2009 Festival

Program Book, and you covered two thousand dollars in Festival expenses. Thank you for assisting NEFFA in this new way.

Elsewhere in this issue of the NEFFA News, you'll see more evidence of your increased support. You'll read about a special outreach to performers, made when they arrived at the Festival. You'll also see a list of members who joined NEFFA at the Festival, or renewed their memberships, at over-and-above levels.

Throughout the past few months, I have been struck by how generous you have been – not only by donating money, but by the gracious and supportive manner in which you did so. And I must also thank our committee chairs and volunteers who found ways to cut costs without sacrificing the joys of our Festival. Heartfelt thanks must also go to the Mansfield Schools, which – because Harold Henry asked - reduced our rental costs, and to vendors and suppliers like Bushell Piano and Wellspring Sound, who similarly assisted us.

Was the Festival a financial success? Yes, it was! NEFFA spent about \$85,000 to stage the Festival, and NEFFA took in about \$85,000 in ticket revenues, Crafts Room and Folk Bazaar vendor fees, and your contributions. When your Benefit Bash contributions and your membership contributions are added to the total, NEFFA is ahead by several thousand dollars on the year!

This does not mean that NEFFA is out of the woods financially. But for the first time in several years, we did not engage in deficit spending to fund the April Festival. We now know what is required to operate successfully in these challenging economic times. We also know that you want NEFFA to be vital and healthy, year after year. And we know these things because we asked you.

We always ask your opinion of each Festival by means of evaluation forms, available on paper at the Festival or at the NEFFA web site. I have read all 450 evaluations submitted this year by Festival attendees. The evaluations show several key areas where our work needs adjustments. Not surprisingly, attendees want better sound quality and better air circulation in the dance spaces, and have varied opinions on programming, food, and other matters. The Board and committees will work hard this year to address these concerns. But I would say that in general your responses are quite positive. Overall NEFFA 2009 was a success artistically, logistically, and – thanks to you - financially.

Remember that NEFFA is more than just the April Festival. Please keep in mind our other programs, such as the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend in Durham, New Hampshire, coming in January 2010. 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, song, storytelling, arts, and crafts for the New England folk community.

Bob Golder  
President, NEFFA

# NEFFA Requests Voluntary Support from Performers

In response to the financial challenges that NEFFA has faced this past year, the Program Committee, with support from the Board, decided to ask Performers to make donations. Buckets were placed at the Performer Check-in Table in the Lobby of Mansfield High School, and the volunteers at this table made requests as performers checked in. The purpose of this appeal was really two-fold: not only did we hope to collect funds, but we also wanted to make sure that the performers became aware of NEFFA's financial situation. Along with the request for donations, there were also informative posters on the wall behind the check-in table.

Performers responded in great numbers! The total that we received was \$2573...a number beyond our original expectations. Many performers commented that they had no idea that there was a need; many others expressed their total support and willingness to contribute. Others promised to become NEFFA members. The response was heartwarming, and very much appreciated.

There were about 1300 performers at NEFFA. We know that their dedication to the Festival is amply demonstrated by their willingness to perform as volunteers, and by the quality of their performances and teaching skills. We are truly fortunate to have such a community of performers.

The Program Committee wishes to send out a very sincere "THANK YOU" to all those performers who contributed by giving their time and financial support.

— *For the Program Committee, Linda Leslie, Chair*

**This is the list of items found at the NEFFA Festival that were unclaimed at press time. If you think any item may be yours, contact NEFFA Lost and Found at 508-229-2854. Items unclaimed after August 1st will be given to charity or recycled.**

#### Miscellaneous

- \* Cosmetics Pouch - LaZura
- \* Insulated Tote Bag - large, red Copper spiral
- \* Umbrella - Black, folding
- \* Basket - wicker, crude
- \* Glasses and Sunglasses
- \* Water Bottles - many
- \* Shawl - black

#### Jewelry

- \* Earring - silver, feathered wing
- \* Bracelet - beaded with silver balls and clear/blue hearts
- \* Necklace - dragonfly charm
- \* Cross - perforated silver
- \* Earring - light green transparent stone
- \* Badge - Black Jokers
- \* Earring - 1" silver hoop

#### Music-related items

- \* Nat Hewitt CDs - Lowdown Hoedown, Nat Hewitt
- \* Tuning wrench for hammered dulcimer
- \* Microphone clip
- \* Whistle - "Copeland" in fabric bag
- \* Binder with Swedish sheet music

#### Footwear

- \* Dancing shoes - many
- \* Flip-flops - Teva
- \* Sandals - Wolky
- \* Clogs - Dansko

#### Skirts

- \* Black pleated
- \* Two skirts on hanger with dress (performer's ensemble?)

#### Shirts

- \* T-Shirt - Black, "Jinx" logo
- \* Flannel shirt - several, different colors

#### Sweaters/Jackets

- \* Blue zipper front fleece
- \* Red, hooded, zipper cotton blend
- \* Turquoise buttoned
- \* "Compass" navy hooded sweatshirt
- \* Olive, fleece, short zipper
- \* Coral buttoned sweater

#### Pants

- \* "Lands End" pajama-type black flannel with red crosshatch

#### Kid items

- \* Minnie Mouse doll

#### Headwear

- \* Baseball caps - Boston Red Sox; Cabot Roamers; San Diego Zoo
- \* Straw hat - floral band
- \* Flannel cap - camo pattern

## Accessing the Lloyd Shaw Collection

I don't know how many of you are familiar with the Lloyd Shaw Collection, but it is the largest collection of information relating to square dance in the US, containing copies of almost every square dance publication; notes from dance camps, festivals, & workshops; personal files & collections from a number of callers; as well as an extensive collection of recorded dances, cue sheets, etc. It was so extensive (11 tons, 72,000 items) that the Lloyd Shaw Foundation simply didn't have the resources to index it, and several years ago they donated it to the Carson-Brierly Dance Library <<http://tinyurl.com/mj5ab7>> at the University of Denver.

Most of it has now been indexed, and the Library is applying for a grant to digitize this collection, and make it available on-line. I was recently contacted by Joan Brown, from the Carson-Brierly Library, to write a letter of support for their grant application. She also asked me to forward this request to any others who might be willing to write a letter of support. I thought that many of you might be interested in this. (Many of you are aware, I'm sure, of what a valuable resource the Traditional Music & Dance Library <<http://tinyurl.com/nbgese>> is at the University of New Hampshire, containing the Ralph Page Collection, as well as many other resources pertaining to dance in New England.)

They would like letters of support from callers, musicians, dance historians, etc., about the value of the collection, and the value of having it available on-line. Also about the use you (or others) might make of it, were it more easily available.

I think this is a very worthwhile project, and I am writing a letter of support for her. Would any of you be willing to do so as well? Your letter can be emailed (probably best as a pdf) to her at [joancbrown@q.com](mailto:joancbrown@q.com), or sent by snail mail to Carson-Brierly Dance Library, c/o Joan Brown, 1010 Monaco Parkway, Denver, CO., 80220. The deadline for the first review of their grant proposal is June 25th.

Thanks,  
Chris Kermiet, Denver, CO.



# N·E·F·F·A

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## Sol Weber is Making The Rounds

NEFFA was good, and our 2 rounds sessions were well attended and a blast. At the sessions I forgot to mention that folks in and near New York City are welcome to come to our periodic round singing parties, and I'm always interested in receiving new (or old, less familiar) rounds.

Interested singers can contact me at [solweber@juno.com](mailto:solweber@juno.com) Thanks.  
— Sol Weber

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