

Can you draw
"Ralphie"?



NEFFA



NEWS

Fall 2012 – Vol. XXXVIII #3

If you can, you might
be the next NEFFA T-
shirt artist! See inside!

Minutes!



George Fogg to be Honored



Long-time Boston English dance leader George Fogg has been selected by the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS) for their Lifetime Contribution Award. George's many accomplishments are described in a very nice piece written by Nikki Herbst and published by CDSS (See it at <http://tinyurl.com/99hharc>).

The Country Dance Society, Boston Centre will be hosting a special dance at which the presentation will be made:

**Sunday, October 14, 2012 2pm-5pm,
Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont St, Belmont, MA.
For more info or to RSVP: judyericks@comcast.net, or
Nikki, russiababy@aol.com**



Committee Opportunities!

The NEFFA Concert Series Committee was formed to keep NEFFA involved in Folk Music and Song events during the year, in addition to its wealth of offerings at the Festival. We need volunteers to help produce future concerts. All interested in potentially serving on the NEFFA Concert Series Committee should contact its chair, Jeff Boudreau by phone (781-643-1586) or email at notlobmusic@gmail.com. In September the committee will begin planning Fall and Winter concerts in the greater Boston area and (hopefully) beyond.

Concert production and publicity experience is helpful but not required.

-- **Jeff Boudreau**

NEFFA T-SHIRTS: DESIGN YOUR WAY TO FAME

NEFFA is looking for a graphic artist to design our popular Festival T-shirt. Are you an artist who seeks accolades and glory? Read on!

Your design should speak to NEFFA's folk traditions in an original and engaging way; we are looking for colorful patterns or bold graphics that embody the vibrant nature of the Festival.

Theme: The design should appeal to both men and women, and to as wide a folk audience as possible. Festival ideas to draw upon include music, song, community, folk instruments, folk designs, and dance (international, line, couples, contra). If you include human figures, we encourage multi-ethnic and/or multi-generational representations.

It's best to avoid cartoonish or "commercial" art; designs that have sold well have had a craftsman-like quality to them. No gradients, drop shadows or other screen effects. Flat shapes only, please, and leave some elements of the design unprinted to promote ventilation.

Colors: Up to 5 ink colors, including a white

undercoat if designs are on a dark shirt. We use a silkscreen process, so halftones need to be sufficiently coarse. Final shirt color will be determined as the design is finalized, so flexibility is appreciated. We would not do a red shirt in 2013. You may suggest shirt colors with your submission.

Format: jpeg, no bigger than 1MB or 1600 x 1200 px whichever is bigger, just to be manageable on email. The printer might want an Adobe Illustrator file in order to separate colors (this is how we've done it in the past).


Artist: Designs are rarely accepted as complete. The artist should be prepared to engage in a dialogue to achieve the maximum graphic punch and satisfy our target audience.

Recognition: The accepted design will become property of NEFFA and will be used not only on the T-shirt, but also on the website and program book as a logo for that year's Festival. The artist will receive 2 T-shirts and a \$200 fee, plus loads of compliments!

Deadline: Please send submissions or questions to Lisa Greenleaf, laleaf@verizon.net, by December 15.

T-Shirt Gallery on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/ntees>



	Editor: Dan Pearl	Mailing: Dayle Watts
	Editorial Review: Bill Cowie, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Maureen Carey	
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Issue	Deadline
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1

Looking Ahead



January 18-20, 2013

26th Annual Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend

The Spirit of the Past, with a Vision for the Future



2013 Staff preliminary list

Weekend Callers: Nils Fredland, Bob Dalsemer

Sat. & Sun. Music: Old New England, Notorious

Friday Night: Calliope, (callers TBA)

Retrospective dance session: The details haven't been set yet, but it's looking likely that the Retrospective will feature square dancing in some fashion.



<http://www.facebook.com/rpdlw>

April 19-21, 2013

69th Annual New England Folk Festival

Mansfield High and Middle Schools, Mansfield, Mass.



The Polka Dots from Dennis, MA. 1954 NEFFA Festival



Photo by BJS of Shoregrass Bluegrass



Photo by Joe Piedle

www.neffa.org

Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Exec Board

18 March 2012

President's Report (Bill Cowie)

The committee slate for the period was presented.

General Committees

Archives	Terry Huffaker
Family Dance	Jacob Bloom
Finance & Review	Ralph Jones
Folk Concert Committee	Jeff Boudreau
Grants	Robert P. Johnson
Membership	Beth Parkes
NEFFA News	Dan Pearl
RPMC (Acting Chair)	Dave Bateman
Thursday Night Dance	Dan Pearl
Web Site	Dan Pearl
T-Shirts	Lisa Greenleaf
Volunteers	Julia Nickles

Festival Committees

Access Committee	Shelagh Ellman-Pearl
Activity Room	Susan Levitin
Advanced Sales	Don Veino
Advertising	Marge Lewin
Badges	Mac Sloan
Crafts (Co-Chair)	Ann Schunior
Crafts (Co-Chair)	Raelinda Woad
Early Entry	Dick George
Evaluations	Shelagh Ellman-Pearl
Folk Bazaar	Angela Taylor
Food	Julia Friend
Information	Terry Huffaker
Inside Facilities	Harold Henry
Inside Signs (Co-Chair)	Diane Biglow
Inside Signs (Co-Chair)	Michael Resnick
Instrument & Costume Check	Alex Krogh-Grabbe
Marketing	Don Veino
Outside Facilities	Dan Pearl
Outside Signs	Dayle Watts
Parking	Gene Fry
Performer Sales	Nancy Hanssen
Printed Materials	Frank Kreimendahl
Program	Linda Leslie
Publicity	Bill Cowie
Safety	Alan Finkelstein

Sound	Mike Bergman
Tickets (Co-Chair)	Caroline Bays
Tickets (Co-Chair)	Michael Carey

The slate was approved by vote of elected board members.

Dan Pearl resigned as director to allow Ron Bernier to fill the position. Linda moved that we accept Ron as director to fill the position. Motion carried by elected board.

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Ralph: Are we going to have a discussion about paying performers? **Nancy:** We will put this in new business.

I will have the annual Treasurer's report for the next meeting. Beth has suggested that it be electronic.

Grants Committee (Robert Johnson)

In the last 12 months we had four grant requests. Two we declined, one we granted, and one is pending. One was a group that we did not think was a "folk organization" that aligned with NEFFA's goals.

Another was a music studio that we declined because it was a for-profit organization. The granted request was Candyrapper's trip to England to compete. They subsequently performed at NEFFA.

Ralph: If the grant's committee makes a loan who administers the repayment?

Robert: We have 3 types of awards: grants, loans and risk-sharing loans. A grant is an outright gift. A loan is expected to be repaid. There is no interest. We recognize that there is a risk that it will not get repaid, but repayment is expected. A risk-sharing loan says "here is seed money, we expect an accounting and if you make a profit expect repayment." Each risk-sharing loan is worded slightly differently. If there is no money left over, the risk-sharing loan becomes a grant. **Shelagh:** What is the time period for a loan?

Robert: that is usually spelled out in the letter granting the loan. It includes a clause "by accepting this money you agree to..." with whatever the conditions are. **Dan:** I think we need to do more administration of our loans. We could state that we have been losing money and remind people of their obligation. We could send annual or bi-annual statements to remind them that we have not forgotten

that they owe us money.

Shelagh: How much money? Robert about 10% of our activities are loans. Most are paid back. I have to a certain extent chased those who owe us money. Moved into Executive Session to discuss Grants committee policies. 1:50

Returned from executive session: 2:04

Program Committee (Linda Leslie)

Marcie Van Cleave is going to be dance performance co-chair with Persis Thorndike. Marcie will be working to get new groups; Persis will mostly be in charge at the Festival. We are very happy about this. Nicole Singer is joining Isabel and Bob on Folk Music and Song. She brings her focus on singing to that process. Katy Burns is off of Ritual, Gillian Stewart is joining that.

Invitations to perform have gone out and over 90 applications have come in so far.

I would like to open a discussion of the proposal from Lisa Greenleaf concerning techno contra at the Festival. You all know that Lisa is in charge of American dance. Techno is based on electronic overdubbing and sampling.

Don: Techno does include an expectation of lighting as well. Flashing lights will drive some people away because there are people who have issues with flashing lights. **Harold:** There are setup considerations with lights. **Linda:** Lisa did not include lighting in her proposal.

Beth: I am offended by the possibility of a 2 hour slot for a single hot band. I think this is moving in a new direction that we would not want. I am NOT offended by the idea of moving to techno contra, I think it is good to move to new directions.

Michael: We could use two bands just fine. **Linda:** That is helpful, we wanted to avoid new difficulties Friday night is hard to program.

Michael: Lighting would in fact be very difficult. No special lighting would be better than badly done lighting.

Don: Enthusiastic yes to proposal. **Harold:** Enthusiastic yes for me, but I need a little more information, is this like a regular dance in terms of dances? **Linda:** Yes. We are not looking for another medley.

Mac: I have no problem with a 2-hour band. I think it would lend an excitement factor. I am enthusiastic on the concept for Friday night.

Terry: The idea of a 2-hour dance is exciting but I

don't think it fits NEFFA. This is a way to say "Where is NEFFA going?" Why don't we take contra dancing in a lot of different directions? We are a traditional Festival, contra dance has a history, but we also enjoy lots of types of music.

Don: Part of the desire is to reap the benefit to drive attendance Friday night. From the marketing committee I would want to emphasize this. **Linda:**

The word will get out. **Shelagh:** We have never publicized specific bands. **Linda:** We don't need to highlight certain groups. **Ann:** I am puzzled that we do not promote people by name, because we do promote folk music performers. **Ralph:** Who else would be in the other time slots? **Linda:** Program creates a "Philosophy program" that says what type of thing will be where. The other items would probably be international line dancing.

Dan: I think the sense of the meeting is "yes" we are interested. **Linda:** Are we OK with one band if we cannot get two?

The board consensus was to encourage two groups, but that one would be OK if necessary.

Crafts (Ann Schunior)

Ann: I was not at the retreat, but I read the notes from the retreat and saw some discussion about crafts.

Linda: Susan would like to have a room, not in the crafts hall, for crafts demos. We are just getting started on discussing this. If there is someone who wants to take it on it may happen, if not it may not.

Nominating Committee (Linda Leslie)

We have started the process for this next year. I will have an article for the next newsletter to encourage names for the board and officers. Keep your thinking hats on.

Sound (Michael Bergman)

I was generally satisfied with this past year. Eric appears to be willing to work with us when there are issues brought to his attention. We have some adjustments for next year.

Facilities (Harold Henry)

Mansfield continues to be very positive about having us there. They are aware of some of the confusion we had last year. We will be meeting earlier this year to go through all that with them.

Festival Ticket Prices

Dan: We often do this later. We usually make adjustments close to the flyer deadline. **Michael:** I would like to ask people to think about the issue of whether the organization is making money off the fact that musicians are not paid. We have in the past said that we pass this along to the attendees, but this not the case; it is being passed along as our not being dependent on the government and commercial entities. Other festivals have prices similar to ours, but have corporate and government underwriters. Should we, indeed, have lower ticket prices? Should we move toward grants and commercial underwriting? **Linda:** I looked into this a lot last year. The majority of granting organizations do not give money for operations but want you to come up with something special. It does not appear to make any sense for us to write for grant money.

Mac: I agree that who we are should be advertised across our identity. We do not have outside support. **Don:** I have not seen ticket price given as a reason for not attending. **Shelagh:** we appear to be moving out of the economic downturn that has been affecting discretionary spending.

Shelagh: Harold and Michael and Dan have the big ticket items. If they are going to change in any significant way that will affect ticket prices. **Linda:** There is a significant issue that when we moved from Natick to Mansfield we increased the number of performers, which did cause us to have fewer ticket purchases. It behooves us to question expanding rooms, etc. And what significance it has to the bottom line.

Discussion of the number of performers who are accepted with a group and how that affects our bottom line.

Dan: It takes time to grow a clientele. **Harold:** This is our seventh year in Mansfield; perhaps we should have some promotional stuff to bring in community.

Linda: This is a party we throw for ourselves. Perhaps we need to emphasize that this Festival is "brought to you by US!"

Michael: I think we need to reinstitute the housing committee. **Linda:** We do have the start of a new housing committee, at this point for performers only. **Terry:** This is a tough one, we tried it in 2010.

NEFFA Festival: April 19-21, 2013



N·E·F·F·A

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