Director's Report

by Marie Dalton-Meyer, CDSS Interim Executive Director

When you read this, summer will be behind us and all of us will be well into our fall activities. I want to take this opportunity to give readers a bit of a look back and look forward to CDSS today, from my vantage point as Interim Director. I have been with CDSS since the end of May, and—in a few words—it is a vibrant, flexible, and creative organization.

VIBRANT. The summer sessions at Pinewoods, Ogontz, and Timber Ridge reflect a depth and breadth

of teaching and learning that is palpable. (Believe me, I was there!) Publications like *Don't Stop Calling* and *Volume 15 of Bare Necessities* are hot off the press and celebrate the extraordinary richness of dance and song in the English and American dance repertoire that CDSS is playing a key role to disseminate.

FLEXIBLE. The CDSS website continues to evolve to include a growing number of resources and information to better tell our story and provide a rich resource of information for members, groups, dancers, musicians, and any and all interested in learning more about what is going on and how to connect. My colleagues in Haydenville are not only being flexible with this new kid in town, but are juggling many responsibilities while organizing and unpacking our new office in Easthampton.

CREATIVE. It's everywhere, from incredible networks that are created every week among and between people working and playing, to staff figuring out the best ways to offer support to people who want to attend camp, start a dance group, bring people together, support musicians, attend a conference, and to bring

the experience and resources to an ever-widening community. Creativity is also seen in fundraising activities and the unfolding excitement about CDSS's centennial. I am struck by how seriously each and every person takes the work of the organization, currently and its future sustainability and potential.

And then there is also the joy and laughter. As you might guess, in my job, I regularly receive emails from CDSS board members, responding to reports

I've sent, getting updates, setting up meetings and sharing information. I am impressed by their hard work dedication and passion. One board member often has a quote running across the bottom of his emailsalways about the joy of dancingalmost as an afterthought or a reminder to readers why and for what we are all working so hard. Each time I read one of these quotes it makes me smile, and sometimes laugh out loud. CDSS is continuing traditions and linking those who love them, as our tagline says. I see it in action every day.

I was lucky enough to get a taste of the extraordinary dance and music programs at Ogontz, where I spent a few days at Family Week, and at Pinewoods where I spent a weekend during English Dance Week. I had a chance to visit and dance with

people from all over the United States, Canada, and Europe. To a person, everyone was having a good time.

It is a joy and a pleasure to serve as Interim Executive Director of CDSS. There are bright days ahead, and I look forward to moving toward them together with you and helping prepare CDSS for a new Executive Director. Stay tuned and keep dancing.



Marie at English Week 2011; photo by Stewart Dean

"Dancing: the vertical expression of a horizontal desire legalized by music." ~ George Bernard Shaw