

# Letters and Announcements

## SUBMITTING ARTICLES, PHOTOS & ADS

Articles, letters, poems, and photographs about contra and traditional square dance, English country dance, morris and sword dance, dance tunes, folksongs, and the dance and music community are welcome. Newly-composed dances and tunes also are welcome, as are new looks at historical dances and tunes. Please contact the Editor for guidelines or send submissions to [news@cdss.org](mailto:news@cdss.org) (maximum size for most articles: 1,100 words, 600 words for essays and event reviews). We may edit for length and clarity. Photos should be 300-600 dpi (print resolution).

**PERSONAL ADS** (75 words maximum) are free for CDSS members and \$5 for nonmembers.

## DISPLAY AD SIZES & RATES

full page, 7-1/8" wide x 9-1/4" high, \$440  
half page horizontal, 7-1/8" wide x 4-3/8" high, \$250  
half page vertical, 3-3/8" wide x 9-1/4" high, \$250  
quarter page, 3-3/8" wide x 4-3/8" high, \$175

CDSS members may take a 50% discount from these rates. Anyone placing the same size ad in three consecutive issues may take a 10% discount. Rates are slightly lower for the Summer digital issue.

## SENDING ADS

Ads must be black and white or grayscale and in PDF format. To reserve, fill out and submit the form at [cdss.org/cdss-news-insertion-order](http://cdss.org/cdss-news-insertion-order).

## DEADLINES

Spring—February 1st (issue mailed early March)  
Summer—May 1st (issue online only in June 2019)  
Fall—August 1st (issue mailed early September)  
Winter—November 1st (issue mailed early December)

The **EVENTS CALENDAR** is online at [cdss.org/events](http://cdss.org/events). To include an event, navigate to the bottom of that page and click on the words "Add an Event" in the blue box. You can also email [events@cdss.org](mailto:events@cdss.org).

**BE SOCIAL WITH US!**

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@CDSSorg  
<http://blog.cdss.org>

## SUPPORT

CDSS is a 501(c)3 organization; dues and donations are tax deductible. For the many ways you can support us and the community at large, visit [cdss.org/join-renew#ways-to-give](http://cdss.org/join-renew#ways-to-give). Your help is much appreciated.

## LEGACY OF JOY SOCIETY

Does your will include the Country Dance and Song Society? Please consider ensuring that the programs, publications, and services that matter to you continue in the future with a bequest. Read more about the CDSS Legacy of Joy Society and sign up at [cdss.org/legacy](http://cdss.org/legacy).

## This Issue is *Digital Only*, But You Can Get a Print Copy!

In order to lessen our environmental impact (and also decrease postage costs), CDSS has committed to having one issue of the *CDSS News* each year be **digital only**. In 2019, that is this issue — the Summer issue.

That said, we realize that there are some folks out there who like a print copy of the Summer *News* for their collection. With that in mind, we are making arrangements for on-demand printing for the issue. If you would prefer to have a copy mailed to you, go to this link within the CDSS Commons and purchase it for a nominal fee at [cdss.force.com/commons/s/newsletter-order-form](http://cdss.force.com/commons/s/newsletter-order-form).

The Fall and Winter issues of the *News* will be mailed to all members as usual. Thanks for your support and understanding.

## CDSS Member Directory Returns!

The much-missed CDSS Member Directory is back!

The searchable Online Directory is now LIVE on The Commons. If you are a CDSS member, you should have received an email from us with your Commons username and instructions for how to log in. If you did not get that email, you can go here to reset your password:

[cdss.force.com/commons/s/login/ForgotPassword](http://cdss.force.com/commons/s/login/ForgotPassword).

Members logged in to The Commons can view the Online Directory.

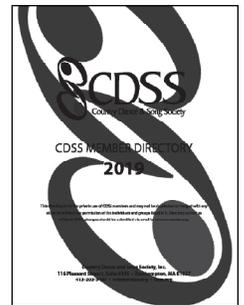
We realize, however, that many of you want to have a Directory you can *hold in your hands*, so we have produced a print edition. To purchase yours, go to [cdss.force.com/commons/s/print-directory](http://cdss.force.com/commons/s/print-directory).

Questions? Contact us at [commons@cdss.org](mailto:commons@cdss.org) or 413-203-5467 x103.

## Meet Crispin



CDSS is pleased to announce that Crispin Youngberg has joined us as Office and Registration Manager! Crispin is an active member of his local folk community, and is involved with morris dancing (he is a member of the Marlboro Morris Men), Sacred Harp singing, and English music. He feels passionately about the importance of CDSS's mission, and is excited for the opportunity



to contribute to the music and dance communities he cares so much about. When Crispin isn't working out of the CDSS office in Easthampton, you'll find him at Pinewoods Camp, assisting Steve in his camp duties.

## Scholarships STILL AVAILABLE for CDSS Summer Programs!

Please share this announcement with ANY friends who might be interested.

Need financial help to attend one of our life-changing weeks this summer? The following scholarships are being offered first-come, first-serve as long as funds remain. Please apply SOON!

- **Partial scholarships** (including work scholarships) are available based on financial need to support callers, musicians, singers, dancers, families, etc. (ages 15 and up). To submit a scholarship application, register for your desired [camp week](#) and follow prompts.
- **New Generation Initiative (NGI)** scholarships are offered collaboratively by CDSS and Pinewoods Camp. Qualifications: Ages 15-30 with financial need coming to a week at Pinewoods for the first time (or returning for a significant reason). Talent and/or leadership initiative is helpful but not required. NGI Scholarships can cover half or the full camper fee. To apply email [linda@cdss.org](mailto:linda@cdss.org).

Questions? Contact [Linda Henry](#).

## Volume II of CD+S Online is Now Available

The second volume of CDSS's scholarly journal [Country Dance + Song Online](#) presents articles that explore how Anglo-American dance and song traditions continue to reinvent and refresh themselves in the age of the internet and the cell phone. In this issue, edited by Allison Thompson, you'll find articles about the dolphin hey, sacred harp singing, longsword dance, and the cake walk. It's a good read for those who like to take



## Next CDSS Web Chat: Building Safe Dance Communities — July 11, 2019, 8:30 PM ET



Don't miss this exciting opportunity to hear stories and advice on this important topic! Guest speakers from coast to coast will be joining us, including Avia Moore who will share resources compiled by the CDSS Community Safety Task Force. Also, guest organizers will share suggestions and tools based on their groups' direct experience with this topic. Please share this news with other dance groups that might be interested.

To join this web chat (by computer or phone), **CLICK HERE** to submit your online registration BY JULY 7. All registrants will receive instructions via email about how to participate. Even if you can't join us on **July 11**, submit a registration to receive announcements about upcoming web chats.

For our last web chat to support Family and Community Dance organizers, we were thrilled to have participants from Alaska to Australia! Here are a couple of the comments we received:

"The web chat organizers chose very fine people to be the presenters. All presenters were well-prepared, and having the chat line was great."

~ Sally Jenkins, Creswell, OR

"Even after 25 years of organizing a family dance, I learned new ideas that might help my dance, especially marketing more to homeschoolers and Waldorf families. Also, now I'm thinking of changing the name from Family Dance to Family Barn Dance after all these years!"

~ Paul Rosenberg, Albany, NY

**CLICK HERE** for recordings of this and our two previous web chats.

a deeper dive into the history of traditional dance, music, and song.

## Just Added to CDSS Online Library...

Thanks to Robert Messer, who compiled it, we have now included a valuable resource in the CDSS Online Library: a [database of the tunes and associated dances in Volume Three of the Barnes Book of English Country Dance Tunes](#) with links to dance instruction and further information about many of the dances.

## Response to Larks & Ravens

In response to the article, “Larks and Ravens: A Report from the Field,” and at the risk of offending many who are enthusiastic about gender-free or “larks & ravens” dance, here’s my view:

I can see a reasonable place for creating new dances and a new dance form which remove the emphasis on the binary: Brooke Friendly’s and Chris Sackett’s *Impropriety* series dances have many successful examples. But I draw a different line when taking classic and traditional dances and pushing them into radically new terminology and an altered culture. I see a fundamental flaw in the logic. Make something new, and leave the traditional alone.

I’m one of those who was surprised last summer by a camp I’ve attended for years suddenly and without warning going Lark & Raven terminology. It was NOT a pleasant experience, and was rescued for me only by one teacher who didn’t go along with the change. This year, the camp has gone fully L&R, and I’m not signing up for it. A disappointment, but you really don’t want a cranky dancer on the floor — doesn’t do me any good, and doesn’t do anyone else any good. My absence will, I hope, speak for itself.

It’s neither kind nor helpful to spring this change on folks. You write it proudly, but I find that kind of sudden change arrogant and heedless: a Bug, not a Feature.

From now on, I’ll only attend guaranteed bird-free dances. Please do NOT surprise me: I will leave, and if you announce a surprise avian experience at the start of the event, I’ll probably ask for my door fee back as I leave. As a word-sensitive person, I find the binary substitute terms to be awkward and poorly chosen. Lisa Greenleaf did a great session several years ago at CDSS American week at Pinewoods, each day using a different set of new

terms so we could try them out in practice. (Jets/rubies, larks/ravens, bands/bares, gypsy/dance-around/Darcy, etc) A good teaching exercise, which had the side-effect of proving to me that the alternate terms are not doing what they need to do, which is to get folks gracefully from one place to another with a minimum of confusion.

One common error for feedback: if you only ask the opinion of those who stayed until the end of an event, you get just one viewpoint. What’s missing is the opinion of those who left early, or who sat on the sidelines and left at a graceful break. If they’re not enjoying the dance, you might never know — they just leave.

**First**, one of the reasons I started doing English, Scottish, and contradancing was the historical roots of these dance forms. Binary gender roles are fundamental to the forms. I like the culture and traditions. I’m fine with binary, as long as it’s fair (no “men & girls” for example), and am always happy to dance either role. I actively enjoy the binary roles and dance-related social forms. In my calling, I long ago switched from “men & women” to “gents & ladies”; not for any cultural reason, but because the former sounds too much alike for me to hear clearly while moving.

**Second**, I’m not a bird. I’m a person playing a traditional role, and want to be addressed by a traditional term in a traditional dance form.

**Third**, “Larks” and “Ravens” are NOT neutral terms. Lark has cultural meaning: early riser (I’m a night owl, not a lark!), or larking around, a lightweight, a goof. “Raven” is a large heavily built black crow, which eats carrion — a morbid symbol of death and bad luck. Most certainly, I don’t want to be called either a Lark or a Raven!

In conclusion, my opinion: Invent your own form: “Aviary Antics” or “Gender Fluid Dynamics” instead of “Contra Dance” for example, and publicize the new thing as a new thing. Allow dancers to choose by letting them know in advance. Why surprise the unwary and force this new form on those of us who enjoy the historical forms and their traditional terms? If respect for all is your goal, please be consistent.

~ With respect and honesty, Linda Nelson

*Editor’s Note: For more on the history of larks & ravens, check out [this thoughtful piece](#) by Jeff Kaufman.*