

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 (maximum size for most articles: 1,400 words, 700 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. Please include a note saying which issue(s) your ad is for.

SENDING ADS

Ads must be black and white or grayscale and in PDF format. Send electronically to news@cdss.org, with check or Visa/Mastercard info sent the same day.

DEADLINES

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

The UPCOMING EVENTS calendar is online at <http://www.cdss100.org/events>. To include an event, send date, name of event, town/state, sponsoring group, website to events@cdss.org.

Follow us on



<http://www.facebook.com/cdss.org>
[@CDSSorg](https://twitter.com/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 www.cdss.org/join-renew#ways-to-give. Your help is much appreciated.

PLANNED GIVING

Does your will include the Country Dance and Song Society? If not, please consider ensuring that the programs, publications and services that matter to you continue in the future with a bequest. It's practical and tax deductible. For information, go to <http://www.cdss.org/join-renew#planned-giving>.

Letter from A. Rima Dael



My five years at CDSS have been a time of great excitement and growth. I have cherished my time with you. I am stepping down from my Executive Director role to seek opportunities that better fit the needs of my family. I chose to let the Board know my decision before securing another job so that I could work with them to plan my exit and to help ensure a smooth transition.

I am so very proud of what we have accomplished together through the Centennial celebration and the Spread the Joy Campaign. CDSS is an organization poised for tremendous growth. We are becoming recognized as a champion for traditional dance, music and song communities in North America, and I will watch with much excitement and anticipation as CDSS moves forward.

I move on with a sense of enormous gratitude to all of you who have worked so hard to build CDSS into an adaptive and resilient organization. I am working with board members and staff as we begin the transition process and want to do what is best for CDSS in every way possible during this time. Toward those goals, CDSS has created an Executive Transition Committee, chaired by Doug Plummer. Please direct questions regarding the transition to him at 2doug@dougplummer.com. CDSS will update our website with more information over the coming weeks to share news of the transition, <http://tinyurl.com/h9c49mz>.

It will be difficult to leave, and this is not a full good-bye, merely "I'll see you on the dance floor and at Camp." Again, my deep affection to all of you and my gratitude for having the opportunity to do the work of building community through dance, music and song.

*Yours in dance, music and song,
Rima*

Above: Rima Dael and CDSS VP Dorcas Hand at the November 2016 Executive Committee meeting in Madison, WI (photo by Doug Plummer)

Summer Jobs at Pinewoods Camp

Want to live at camp this summer? Participate in all the dance and music programs? The following jobs are available at Pinewoods for the 2017 season: camp manager, cooks, kitchen and grounds crew. Fulltime crew is needed from May 26-September 6. Volunteers are needed for at least three to four weeks throughout the summer. For more info, go to www.pinewoods.org/jobs, or Pinewoods Camp, 80 Cornish Field Road, Plymouth, MA 02360, manager@pinewoods.org, 508-224-4858.

A Learner's Paradise

A learner's paradise: that's what Pourparler is to me. We dance, we learn, we teach, we talk, we sing, and then we dance some more. Most importantly, we form and nourish professional relationships that support our work as dance leaders.

Pourparler is an annual gathering of dance leaders who specialize in school populations and community dancing. Pourparler has occurred annually since 1997 when it was started by international dance leader Sanna Longden as a chance for dance leaders to gather and talk about their work. Ever since that first small gathering in Sanna's home, Pourparler has been hosted each year by local leaders in different parts of the county. The 2016 Pourparler was held September 22-25 in Eugene, OR. In contrast to other conferences or dance weekends, Pourparler is simply a gathering of colleagues, with neither staff nor keynote speakers. Rather, all share and learn. Additionally, Pourparler is unique in that it joins dance leaders from different genres of folk dance. Contra, square, and English country dance callers, international folk dance leaders, community dance leaders, music teachers, physical education teachers, and musicians all join to lead, to learn, and to give.

So what happens at Pourparler? This year, 52 colleagues from around the US and Canada gathered in a lovely old grange hall in Eugene. Beginning with Thursday night's Welcome Dance Party, we didn't stop dancing and talking until Sunday morning's Let's Just Dance Together session, after which we dispersed with tired feet and full hearts. We shared dances, teaching tips, stories, songs and games. A sampling of session topics hints at the variety that the weekend included: Favorite Starters/Mixers/Icebreakers, Music Games and Movement Activities, Dances from Different Cultures, and Dances for Seniors and Differently-Abled Folks. Pourparler participants led two public evening dances, one international and one contra.



photo by Melissa Layton

During our three days together, we danced a wide variety of contra, square, circle, and international dances. Each session included a combination of recorded international tunes and live music played by Pourparler participants who hopped from dance floor to stage when they were summoned. Down the hall from the dancing space, our mealtimes provided opportunities to discuss additional topics in interest groups, such as Making a Living at This, Classroom Management, Using Technology to Organize Dance Materials, and Using Dance in the Music Classroom. Our goal, at all times, was to address the needs of becoming better dance teachers, leaders, and callers. What did we gain? New repertoire, examples of different teaching techniques, idea sharing, professional conversations, encouragement, brainstorming, inspiration, advice—and most of all, connection with colleagues from coast to coast. Pourparler is this, and much, much more.

Pourparler has received significant support from CDSS over the years in the form of financial contribution, scholarships, grants, and publicity. This year, I was honored to receive a grant from CDSS to cover my registration. On behalf of myself and the hundreds of participants over the years, I offer a heartfelt thanks to CDSS for its continued support of Pourparler. Thank you! For information regarding next year's Pourparler, refer to www.nfo-usa.org/pourparler.htm.

Sue Hulsether, Viroqua, WI

Sue Hulsether works bringing dance to schools and communities, and is writing a book on her work (helped by Pat MacPherson, CDSS Education Director and editorial consultant).

Dance to Cable TV

Public Access Television is a cable television service that allows members of the public to use video production equipment and facilities and to create and cablecast their own content to the local community. Long ago we used PAT equipment in Traverse City, MI to create a 30 minute DVD: "Dancing Contras: An Introduction to Contra Dancing." Over the years the Public Access Channel in Traverse City has aired that video hundreds of times. Channels in Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids also aired it.

PACs are desperate for content. A show that originates outside the municipality is often referred to as "bicycled," "dub and submit," or "satellite" programming. If you contact your local PAC and ask them—as a service to your community—to air our recently created 40 minute video "English Country Dancing—An Introduction," we will send you (for free) two copies of our DVD, one for you to give them to air and one for you to keep.

They can view the full DVD at <http://www.upnorthmedia.org/watchupnorthtv.asp?sdbfid=9491>, our local "UpNorth TV Channel 189" Cable Access Channel. Or just Google UpNorthMedia and search for English country dancing. Anyone can watch it online anywhere in the USA, anywhere in Europe. Unfortunately the video you see is not HD although our DVD is (1080p). The CDSS Store sells both our DVDs.

Henry and Jacqui Morgenstein, henry@henryandjacqui.com (text updated 12/13/16)

Fall Mountain Folk Festival Successfully Turned the Pages

For some 60 years the Fall Mountain Folk Festival has taken place at Levi Jackson State Park in London, KY, originally put on by Berea College dance program, but for the past 20 years the Folk Circle Association of Berea has organized the event. After several years of declining numbers of participants, challenging financiers and a worn-out facility, the FCA board decided to make a bold move instead of closing down the event for good.

During the last weekend of September the 62nd Fall Mountain Folk Festival was held at Russel Acton Folk Center in Berea, and almost everything exceeded our modest expectations. A lot of young and very skillful dancers showed up from near and far.

Letters-FMFF continued on p. 21

(Dance Musicians, continued from p. 7)

A good leader will welcome new people. Introduce yourself, ask a few questions to make them feel welcome, and learn a bit about their musical tastes and level. I don't like to scare away shy people, but if they seem like they would like to start a tune, this would be a good time to ask.

Encourage players to suggest tunes. As an experienced player, you will have many tunes that you want to play, but as a leader, it is a great thing to be inclusive, and to encourage other players. Some players are burning to play a tune or tunes, but many are reluctant to make a suggestion. With the shy folks I will often ask "What would you like to hear?" The subtle implication is that they won't need to start the tune or even play it. Another way for the session to feel inclusive is to end a set of tunes with something that most or all people know. Spank it!

A good leader will also learn and remember some of what each player knows and likes to play, to make sure everyone feels included.

One of the most important roles of a jam session leader is dealing with "problem children." Someone new to the group may be playing in an inappropriate style, or too loudly, or they may be rhythmically challenged, or all of those and more. If you can see that the jam will be seriously disrupted by someone, it is the role of a leader to deal with it. Try taking that person aside and gently tell them that there is an issue. Listen to their response, and consider their point of view before offering suggestions to fix it. If the folks are reasonable, they will try to make the necessary changes.

As a leader, you have a lot of experience with the music. The knowledge and insights you have can be shared with players. It may come in the setting, where you might say "On this next set of tunes, let's listen closely to the rhythm and see how tightly we can play together." You may take a few moments during a break to show a new player a particular technique that will make things easier. You may help set up workshops outside the session, led by local musicians or touring musicians.

Jam sessions can be a wonderful opportunity to share music with friends and acquaintances. For all participants, go out and play! Learn and enjoy.

Dave Firestine plays mandolin and other string instruments with STEAM! and The Privy Tippers, and can be found at the epicenter of Carp Camp at the Walnut Valley Festival (CA).

(Letters-FMFF, continued from p. 6)



Hazel White Jodock led the Saturday morning family dance that was free to the community. Musicians were Kendall Rogers, Alice White and Al White.

We believe that we kept the best from the old tradition, added new and twice as many workshops, and extended the dance party till Sunday noon. We are grateful that musicians such as Al and Alice White continued to support our efforts

with their in-depth knowledge about the program. Other younger musicians such as Kendall Rogers, Andrew and Becca Taylor fulfilled their roles with perfection. We are grateful to workshop leaders and FMFF veterans Frank Jenkins, Phyllis Rogers, Peter Rogers, Hazel White Jodock, and dance composer Cary Ravitz for leading the way with great support from others. We took the liberty to cooperate with Contraire Dance Association, who had already scheduled a contra dance Saturday night featuring Darlene Underwood and The Ripples. It turned out to be a massive hit for both FCA and CDA. The quality of the dance was high and probably the best for a couple of years.

Through good and constructive conversations we managed to come up with a concept that appealed to a broad range of dance enthusiasts. Plenty of thanks to the two co-directors, Howard Carlberg and Deborah Thompson, for scheduling and many fruitful meetings. Right now, we are where we want to be three years from now. Learn more about FCA at www.berea-folk-circle.org, or join us on Facebook.

Sune Frederiksen, FCA President, Berea, KY



Buy Books, Donate to CDSS

CDSS can receive donations from amazon.com. Go to <http://www.smile.amazon.com>, where you'll be prompted to choose a charitable organization. (Be sure to select Country Dance and Song Society in *Easthampton, MA*.) For eligible purchases, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to CDSS. Every 0.5% helps!

Recommendations Sought for 2018 Award

Your help is needed! Do you know someone who has made a long term and exceptional contribution to the mission of CDSS? Has this contribution benefited more than one geographical area and/or generation? Has he or she worked in conjunction with CDSS for more than 20 years? If the answer is "yes" to all of these, then you may know a future recipient of the CDSS Lifetime Contribution Award (LCA).

Examples of a significant contribution include: increasing the quality of what we do by inspiration, instruction or excellent example; bringing what we do to new communities; expanding the repertoire of dance, music and/or song through scholarship or original composition; working behind the scenes or enabling others to make these contributions.

Recommendations for the 2018 Lifetime Contribution Award must be received by February 17, 2017. Send them to Awards Committee chair Mary Devlin, mary@mdevlin.com. Your recommendation must include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person you are recommending as well as your own name and full contact information. Recommendations must be for living persons. Please be sure to include one page highlighting the person's significant accomplishments, innovations and examples of leadership. The Awards Committee may not know the person you are recommending so this is the type of information that would help us get to know her or him. (Please see our website for examples, <http://www.cdss.org/community/lifetime-contribution-award#lifetime>.)

We also want to know if you would be willing to ensure the organization of an award event, or to organize it yourself, if the person you recommend should receive the LCA for 2018. If you are not able to do it, please include the name(s) and contact info for people who will do the organizing. Award events are organized in conjunction with CDSS.

People recommended in prior years stay on the list for consideration until they receive the award (or are no longer with us). The Awards Committee will review new and existing recommendations in March 2017 and submit our recommendation to the CDSS Governing Board for its decision. Thank you for providing informative, thoughtful recommendations for us to review.

The recipient of the 2017 LCA will be announced in January.