



For Winter/Spring 2009

Sun Assembly News



Sun Assembly's Philosophy

Our philosophy is to welcome and encourage everyone to join the dance--young and old, families and singles, people of all genders, experienced dancers and newcomers.

At Sun Assembly dances, we will:

Teach and call all dances.

Promote community and inclusiveness through the use of global (or non-gendered) terminology.

Encourage experienced dancers to partner with newcomers to help them learn the terms and patterns of English Country Dancing.

Enjoy the fun, beauty and community of English Country Dancing!

For more information about Sun Assembly's history and dance philosophy, please see:

<http://www.sunassembly.org/>

Spring Dances of the Month

Each month the Sun Assembly teachers—Allan, Carol, Gail, Pat, Russell—choose a dance that will be taught every Thursday. The idea behind this practice is that regular attendees will get this dance “in their body” and will enjoy dancing it without having to think too much about the figures. We try to choose dances that have interesting figures and wonderful tunes! We also try to alternate between “old,” i.e. 17th- and 18th-century, dances and modern dances. If you have a suggestion for a future dance of the month please let one of the teachers know.

March : Bartlett House

This longways dance comes from the Thomas Bray collection of twenty country dances published in London in 1699. Bray was a choreographer for the London theaters. His dances often incorporate unusual figures and formations that would have looked very attractive to an audience. Diana Cruickshank, one of several dance historians who have reconstructed “Bartlett House,” describes it as, “a lively, jolly dance, with an unusual opening [and an] agreeable contrast between the flowing circular movements of the casting figures and the faster, more angular Rights and Lefts.” The music is in the somewhat unusual key of Bb major, and moves quickly. The title may refer to an actual 17th-century house (what we would call a mansion) but if so it has not been identified.

April: Old Friends

Gary Roodman is a modern composer of brilliant and imaginative English-style country dances, using both old and new music. His intricate choreographies reflect his profession as a mathematician. On his website Gary describes his compositional process as follows: “With the music as my framework (the tune almost always comes first for me), I enjoy trying to find elegant solutions (in a mathematical sense) to interesting dance puzzles—sequences of figures that are logical, economical, easy to follow, and that obscure the underlying complexities.” “Old Friends” was published in 1996; it is set to a wonderful hornpipe tune (3/2 meter) by Jonathan Jensen, Gary’s frequent collaborator. As is true of most of his dances, the title refers to actual people.

April 29, 2009 is International Dance Day!

“The future of dance lies where there are persons who do not dance. These belong to two categories: those who simply did not learn, and those who think that they are not able to dance. They represent the greatest challenge for the dance teacher's profession. In line with UNESCO's struggle against prejudice and discrimination, we are trying to expand the boundaries of dance and to change the current perception of what a dancer is. Dance performances are not necessarily exhibitions of extreme physicality, accurate precision, or bursting emotion - they can be celebrations of interaction between performers[...]. CID (*Conseil International de la Danse*) holds to the philosophy that everyone can dance. Dance Day 2009 is dedicated to inclusive dance. Let us include all members of society into our classes and our performances.” (The official message from UNESCO for 2009’s International Dance Day)

SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2009

Sign me up! Enclosed is my check made out to **SUN ASSEMBLY** for:

___ \$200 for Sustaining Membership 2009 (includes all weekly and New Year’s Eve Dances)

___ \$12 for Regular Membership 2009 ___ Contribution to the Celia Wright Live Music Fund

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

To join or renew, send this form with your check, made out to **Sun Assembly**, to Carolyn Worthing, 725 Kenmore Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514. You can also use the form to donate to our Live Music Fund. Questions? Call Carolyn at 942-8094 or email: sunassemblydancers@mindspring.com

Dance Calendar and Teaching Schedule

All dances are held at the Freedman Center of Beth El Synagogue, 1004 Watts Street, Durham, NC 27701 (Watts St. at Green), 7:30-9:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified. Suggested donation: \$5/night or \$20/month. For more info, call 683-9672 or 286-2202.

Directions: From Raleigh: take I-40 to the Durham Freeway; exit at Duke St. Turn right; go through town, past the high school on the left, through the light at Trinity; the next light is Markham. Go one block, turn left on Green, go to the 2nd stop sign, turn left on Watts, and left into the parking lot. **From Chapel Hill:** take 15-501 to I-85 north. Exit at Gregson St. The 3rd light is Markham; turn right, right at the next corner onto Watts, and right into the parking lot. The building is to the left of the parking lot.

WHEN	WHERE	TEACHERS	SPECIAL INFO
S p r i n g D a n c e F e s t , M a r c h 1 3 - 1 5 !			
Thurs., March 19	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., March 26	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., April 2	Freedman Center	Carol Marsh	<i>First Thursday Fun & Easy</i>
Thurs., April 9	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<i>Live Music! Collard Greene</i>
Thurs., April 16	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., April 23	Freedman Center	Russell Herman	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., April 30	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<i>Fifth Thursday Challenge!</i>
Thurs., May 7	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<i>First Thursday Fun & Easy</i>
Thurs., May 14	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<i>Live Music! Collard Greene</i>
Thurs., May 21	Freedman Center	Carol Marsh	
Thurs., May 28	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., June 4	Freedman Center	Gail Lacey	<i>First Thursday Fun & Easy</i>
Thurs., June 11	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<i>Live Music! Collard Greene</i>
Thurs., June 18	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., June 25	Freedman Center	Carol Marsh	<i>Live Music! Collard Greene</i>

