



News from Sun Assembly

Spring 2008

Sun Assembly Spring DanceFest: Register NOW!

On Saturday and Sunday, March 8-9, Sun Assembly is sponsoring a weekend of English country dancing on the Duke University Campus in Durham, NC, featuring Gene Murrow, from New York City. Gene is a much sought-after teacher at English country dance workshops throughout the country, bringing to his calling a background in music as well as dance. He approaches English country dances as works of art, striving "to make their richness of structure, musical form, texture, and affect enjoyable and appreciated by dancers of all abilities."

The schedule: workshops on Saturday morning and afternoon, focusing on various aspects of style and technique; Saturday evening and Sunday morning dances. Music will be provided by our own wonderful musicians, Mara Shea, Robbie Link, Joey O'Donnell, and friends. Preregistration (before February 25th) is \$40 for all events. The flier and registration form are available on the Sun Assembly website: www.sunassembly.org

For further information:

Carol Marsh: noelmarais@yahoo.com

Phone: 336 855-6899

Country Dance and Song Society Board Election

Each year the Nominating Committee of CDSS nominates one or more candidates for each position becoming vacant among the Officers and Governing Board Members at large. All terms are for three years, beginning at the annual Board meeting in May 2008. Congratulations to Sun Assembly's Pat Petersen on her recent election to the CDSS Board.

Pat first encountered English country dance in the '70s in Chicago, where her hopelessness with Hole in the Wall did not deter her enthusiasm and her love of the combination of music and movement. After moving to New York, utter confusion with her first triple minor still left her undaunted, and she plunged into English, sword and Morris classes at NYDAC with eagerness. Before long, she began teaching and playing for ECD at early music workshops. Pat has been dancing, teaching and playing for ECD for more than 25 years, on both coasts and as far as Australia. Pat's love of teaching includes making dances fun and accessible to nervous newcomers as well as challenging more experienced dancers. As a longtime member of and teacher for Sun Assembly, a gender-neutral ECD group, she believes strongly in dance as a builder of community, respect, connection and awareness. In her work life, Pat is a recorder and *early* music performer and teacher. She directed an early music vocal ensemble for 20 years, and has been known to play a mean banjo-uke with an old-time band. She has served on the boards of many organizations, including the American Recorder Society and local dance and recorder groups. She was for many years the assistant director of Amherst Early Music, and continues to serve on its Executive Committee.

Newsletter News

Jennifer Shoemaker has resigned after two years of volunteering to publish the Sun Assembly newsletter. We have enjoyed her interesting articles about our dances of the month and interviews with members of our community, as well as keeping us informed about upcoming events. Kudos for your fine work, Jennifer!

Chuck Roser has volunteered to take over as our new editor. Thank you! We look forward to your newsletters in the months to come.

Sad Farewell

John Shaw, a member of Sun Assembly, passed away in January. A native of England, John and his wife Betty started English country dancing in college in Cambridge University, and later became active in other types of folk dance as well. They founded the English country dance group in Columbus, Ohio in 1977, which is still active.

John moved to Durham in 2004, to be closer to his daughter Jennifer Fostel, and joined the Sun Assembly community. Although his health prevented him from dancing physically, John danced in his heart and enjoyed the music and fellowship. We enjoyed his keen observations and wit. We miss him, and are thankful for the time he spent with us.

5th Thursday Challenge Dances

The Steering Committee decided to try out making the 5th Thursday dance an evening in which we'll do more challenging dances for more experienced dancers. It will give the dancers an opportunity to revisit past dances of the month and explore other interesting dances as well. The next one is May 29

SUN ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2008

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

___ \$200 for Sustaining Membership 2008 (all weekly and New Year's Eve Dances)

___ \$12 for Regular Membership 2008 _____ 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, Watts St. at Green, Durham, 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
Thurs., March 6	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<i>First Thursday</i>
Thurs., March 13	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., March 20	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	
Thurs., March 27	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy & Carol Marsh	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., April 3	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	<i>First Thursday</i>
Thurs., April 10	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., April 17	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	
Thurs., April 24	Freedman Center	Carol Marsh	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., May 1	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<i>First Thursday</i>
Thurs., May 8	Freedman Center	Gail Lacy	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., May 15	Freedman Center	Carol Marsh	
Thurs., May 22	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	Live Music! Collard Greene
Thurs., May 29	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	5th Thursday Challenge
Thurs., June 5	Freedman Center	Pat Petersen	<i>First Thursday</i>
Thurs., June 12	Freedman Center	Allan Troxler	Live Music! Collard Greene

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