

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: 1,200 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. 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. To reserve, fill out and submit the form at cdss.org/cdss-news-insertion-order

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 **EVENTS CALENDAR** is online at 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.

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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? Please consider ensuring that the programs, publications, and services that matter to you continue in the future with a bequest. See the article on pages 8-9 of this issue about the launch of our Legacy of Joy Society.

Our Heartfelt Thanks

Many thanks for publishing *Atossa's Gift* and the associated tune "Love for Three Generations" in the spring edition of the *CDSS News*. We would like your readers to know that Atossa #1 was our grandmother who danced with May Gadd in the summer camps held in Amherst before Pinewoods was established, dates uncertain. Atossa #2 was our mother who, along with our father, danced with Gay in the Armory in Brooklyn in the 1940s. Years later, in 1959, our mother went to spend an English Week at Pinewoods leaving Dad to supervise the kids. I (Kit) was 11 years old and remember driving into the camp in the dark to fetch Mom back. I was smitten on the spot with the music and the dance going on in C#. In the subsequent years I (Atossa #3) got involved with ECD and we all have remained intertwined ever since. Thus "Three Generations."

Another inter-generational feature of the dance is the way it is flavored by the tune it is danced to. The newly-minted tune has a modern, more upbeat feel, while the dance also moves along in a traditionally flowing manner with earlier, more sparse tunes. *The Shepherd's Wife*, found in the *Waltz Book* by Atossa #3 enhances the more traditional features of Scott Higgs's dance. He agrees that the callers should feel free to choose which tune suits the mood of their program.

~ Kit French (Albuquerque, NM) and
Atossa French Kramer (Black Mountain, NC)

Showing Musicians Some Love

Our Contra Council in Pittsburgh received some feedback from a local musician indicating that local musicians might be feeling a lack of concern/interest from the dance community. One suggestion was to specifically schedule workshops for musicians and invite them personally to participate. As a result of this comment, we planned a musicians' workshop when Larry Unger and Audrey Knuth were going to be in town for a weekend. In addition to playing for contra dances, an English country dance and an open waltz, they played for a house concert and facilitated the musicians' workshop.

They led nine musicians (flute, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, mandolin, piano, fiddles and voice) in an exploration of two old-time tunes: Larry's own "Sweetbriar" and the traditional "XXXX" (Maro, I didn't pick up the name of the second tune). Wow, we rocked the pentatonic scale (easy!) and Larry explained how we could improvise on his tune using any of the five notes in the scale. We learned the tunes by ear in short parts, singing every part several times before approaching the instruments. Larry showed us how to kick the beat to make the music more compelling for dancing, and he also gave us some chord substitutions to make the tunes sound even cooler. By the end of the session we were an awesome dance band!

How cool that the participants included English country dance musicians and old time musicians, as well as those who are not currently playing in a dance band!

Our community is very happy to have provided this opportunity for local musicians and hopes to do it again in the future!

~ Gaye Fifer, Pittsburgh, PA

A Memorable Wedding

Hello, fellow CDSS folk. Recent news items evoked strong memories for Dave Bartley, Eric Anderson, and me of a wedding reception dance I called and then played eighteen years ago. They encouraged me to share the story.

Katrina and Robert had attended some friends' wedding in 1999 for which I had called dances. Having had a good time then, they asked me to call for their wedding in June of 2000. Robert's father, Stephen, despite the challenges of using an electric wheelchair to get around, traveled all the way from England to Seattle to attend. I was then thoroughly impressed during the opening grand march to see Stephen expertly and joyously "tunning through" the arches made by other guests. He and his wife waltzed together and, a few dances later, after gathering the wiling participants into two concentric circles (gentleman on the inside facing out, ladies on the outside facing in), Stephen and his wife decided to join that mixer. Clever as he was driving his chair, the action of the dance involved stepping sideways (a lot), a move I was fairly sure his chair was not designed for. There was also a pair of "into the center and backs," and I doubted the chair came with a reverse gear. It was, in short, a dance most definitely unsuitable to his mode of locomotion. Of course, I most certainly could NOT ask the groom's father to leave the dance floor, so, with a bit of trepidation, I quickly reconfigured the side stepping to involve only the ladies, eliminated the into the center and back portion, turned to the band and said: "I don't know what tune you've chosen, but this dance has just changed from 32 bars to 24." Quick as a wink they altered the tune, and the dance went off flawlessly (or as flawless as one gets at a wedding dance).

Farewell, Dr. Hawking. I'm so glad you got to dance at your son's wedding.

~ Laura Mé Smith (Kirkland, WA)

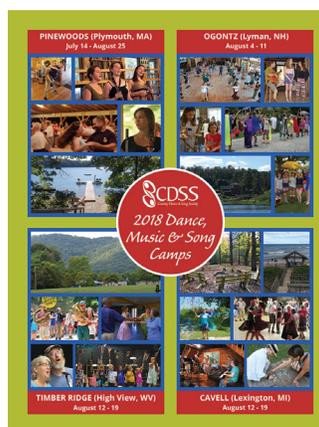
CDSS will be hosting our first **web chat on Thursday, June 21 from noon-1pm EST!** This will be the first in a series of online events to share resources with dance organizers. We'll address the topic of **Boosting AttendANCE** by hearing tried-and-true stories from members of several dance communities that are experiencing success in this area. We'll also have time for Q&A and a chance for participants to request topics for upcoming webchats, so feel free to have your wish list handy.



Please join us! To participate you'll need to RSVP by sending your name and **email to Linda Henry at linda@cdss.org**. We'll need to hear from you by June 19th in order to include you for this web chat.

Still Room at Camp for YOU!

Camp registration for 2018 is in full swing at cdss.org/camp, where you'll find descriptions, schedules, staff lists, the online registration form, and a link to the camp brochure as a colorful flipbook. Join us for contras and squares, English country dance, morris & longsword, folk song, traditional music, and more at our week-long adult camps, family camps and mini-courses. We still have room at:



CAVELL, Lexington, MI

- Dance, Music & Spice, August 12 - 19

TIMBER RIDGE, High View, WV

- Adult & Family Week, August 12 - 19
- Everyone Can Improvise Course, August 12 - 19

PINWOODS, Plymouth, MA

- Harmony of Song & Dance, July 21 - 28
- American Dance & Music Week, August 4 - 11
- Early Music Week, August 11 - 18
- Square Dance Callers Course, July 21 - 28

Need help coming to camp? Scholarship money is still available on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply, register for camp and fill out the scholarship portion of the online camp registration form.