

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.



BE SOCIAL WITH US!

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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 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. Read more about this and sign up at cdss.org/join-renew/legacy

Nominations Sought for Lifetime Contribution Award

The Lifetime Contribution Award is an opportunity for CDSS to honor and thank individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the mission and vision of our organization. Through dance, music and song they have inspired, instructed and led by example.

Your help is needed in the search for the next recipient of the award. Do you know an outstanding caller, musician, singer or community leader who has made an extraordinary contribution to CDSS? Has this person worked with CDSS for more than 20 years? Examples 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. See a list of all the honorees, including 2019 recipient Sue Songer of Portland, OR, at cdss.org/community/lifetime-contribution-award.

The Lifetime Contribution Committee is planning some changes to the nomination process. We'll use an online survey from now on to streamline the process. Look for an announcement in early 2019 for instructions.

Puttin' on the Dance 3 Update

Breaking news for dance organizers of the Northeast! For many months, Dela Murphy and Coral Breuer worked hard to build some initial groundwork for creating a POTD-3 conference. We are grateful for all the time and energy they poured into this first planning phase. For a variety of reasons, those plans have been postponed, and a new plan has emerged. We are pleased to announce that Lisa Sieverts will chair a committee to organize POTD-3, sometime in 2020 in the Northeastern U.S.

A project manager by trade, Lisa has organized dances in Boise, ID, Nelson, NH, and Peterborough, NH, and she worked closely with Larry Jennings on his book, *Give-and-Take*. She is also on the board of the Monadnock Folklore Society. Lisa attended POTD-1 and believes strongly in the POTD mission. We're thrilled to have her at the helm!

In July 2019, we will send out a call for folks to join the organizing team for POTD-3. If you have ideas, enthusiasm, or questions before then, please contact the advisory board at puttinonthedance@gmail.com. For ongoing updates, visit puttinonthedance.org.

Yours in traditional social dance,

Puttin' On the Dance Advisory Board:

Emily Addison – POTD-2 chair Linda Henry – POTD-1 co-chair
Chrissy Fowler – POTD-1 co-chair and CDSS Liaison

Burt Feintuch Made His Mark



Burt Feintuch, ethnographer of traditional music, author, editor, contra-dance musician, folklore professor, film producer, record producer, and director of the Center for the Humanities at the University of New Hampshire, died on Monday, October 29th. Burt was an active dance fiddler in the New Hampshire Seacoast

region, appearing many times with the Lamprey River Band and Old Favorite.

Burt's career documented traditional musical forms ranging from the Northumbrian pipes in North East England to African-American gospel music in Kentucky to contemporary Scottish music on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia to the street and club music of New Orleans and finally to the zydeco-fueled trail rides of Texas and Louisiana. He was a member of the Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Board and represented the American Folklore Society at the United Nations' World Intellectual Property meetings. He authored seven books, including an encyclopedia documenting the culture of New England, which was co-edited with New Hampshire Senator David Watters. He produced numerous albums of traditional music for Rounder and Smithsonian Folkways. Black gospel music, refugees in New England, and black history in New England, respectively, were the subjects of the three films he produced. He secured many grants, including ones from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Beloved as a witty, sardonic, and caring father, brother, partner, and colleague, Burt maintained his irreverent sense of humor even after he fell ill. When told he needed surgery that could impact his brain, he said, "Well, I hope this brings back my Hebrew." And, "If you're going to map my brain, will you please put in some points of interest?"

He is profoundly missed by his daughters with his first wife, Maxene Feintuch: Sophie, a program officer at an international human rights organization in New York and Hannah, who teaches English to recently arrived immigrant middle schoolers in Chelsea (MA) Public Schools. In addition to his daughters, he is survived by his

We have been thrilled that participants from over twenty states and two provinces have joined each of our first two web chats! If your community is interested in **Increasing Youth Involvement** at your dances, please encourage your organizers to join our next web chat on **Wednesday, January 16 from 8:30-9:30pm EST**. Several organizers from far and wide will share successes from their communities on this topic, and we'll include time for Q&A.



To join the web chat (by computer or phone), use this link to submit an online RSVP form by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9: goo.gl/vPTTQ6. We will send instructions via email on Friday, January 11th about how to join the call on the 16th. Please fill out the form even if you can't join us but want to hear about future webchats.

Recordings of the first two CDSS web chats are available on our website. To hear groups from coast to coast sharing their experiences with **Boosting Attendance** and **Creating a Thriving Open Band**, check out: cdss.org/resources/how-to/organizers-resources#cdss-web-chats. Please share these links with any organizers you know who might benefit from this valuable resource.

siblings, Robert, a painter in New York; his sister-in-law, Rona Pondick, a sculptor in New York; his sister, Betty Weinkle, an executive in Colorado; and his long-time partner, Jeannie Banks Thomas, a folklorist who often accompanied him during his fieldwork.

Princeton Country Dancers Celebrates Forty Years of Dance, Music, and Fellowship

As always, it's hard to contend with the passing of time, and forty years! Well, it seems impossible. But it's also a reason to celebrate. Princeton Country Dancers (PCD) has been a force to be reckoned with on the east coast since 1979, and on May 29, 2019, we will gather to honor that force with an all-day dance featuring the local luminary band Hold the Mustard and the extraordinary PCD pick-up band — often as many as 50 members strong! Set aside the date to come and

join our celebration; there will be videos, a slideshow, performances by our local ritual teams (Millstone River Morris, Griggstown Lock Rapper, Handsome Molly, and maybe some surprise guests), a display of the quilts made FOR members of the community BY members of the community, and much, much more. Details can be found as they're solidified at princetoncountrydancers.org.

~ Ellen Harrison, Princeton, NJ

Contra and Consent

When I go to a contra dance, I have implicitly given consent to being asked to dance by the people there.

When I agree to dance with someone, I have consented that we will negotiate what role to dance and what line to dance in. They may condition their consent to dance with me based on me being able and willing to dance the role that they don't want to dance. We may line up at the closest line, or choose the shortest line, or they may guide me somewhere else and I don't generally ask why, though I could.

When I agree to dance with someone, I consent to various sorts of touch — hold hands, swing, allemande, etc. If I don't want to do those things with that person, I probably shouldn't dance with them. If I can't do those things, I need to let the person know "no flourishes" or whatever my limitations might be. I also expect dancers to offer/ask questions about liking to twirl, or getting dizzy easily, or other things that will enable me to be a good dance partner to them. When I had an injury, I told my dance partner, as well as what accommodations/work-arounds I could use.

I consent to certain kinds of touch and interactions with all the dancers in line. I expect that I might need to allemande or hold hands with everyone in the line, and if I am not willing to do that, I shouldn't be in the contra dance line. If I need to do some small accommodation, like maybe offering a hooked-elbows allemande, I can do that. I also see dancers who are wearing slings or braces or who have differently-configured arms than I do, and when I come across them in a line, they use body language to let me know things like "just grab my elbow as though it were my hand" or "here, I'm putting my other hand across my body, so you have something to hold on to". And we dance fine.

I consent to certain kinds of touch and interactions with the dancers who are dancing not-my-role in the line. I assume that I am going to swing them, hold their hands,

and courtesy turn them/be courtesy turned by them. At some dances which use "gents" and "ladies", there is an assumption that all men are gents and most women are ladies. So I'm agreeing to swing women/be swung by men and women, depending on what role I'm dancing. In dances that call "larks and ravens," I expect dancers of any gender may be dancing any role, and that I'm agreeing to swing or be swung by anyone of any gender.

When you see a dancer who has a "two hand turns only" sign around their neck, you give them a two hand turn when it is time to swing. You don't ask them if they have an injury, you don't ask them about shoulder surgery, you just dance with them in the way that they've asked for. Maybe they find swings to be uncomfortably intimate, maybe they just find them uncomfortable.

Some dancers have a strong preference for which role they dance. I don't. Some dancers have a strong preference for which gender(s) they dance with. Some don't. Many of the dancers who have a preference for what gender to dance with stick to dance venues that reflect those preferences, but not all do.

I think it is great when someone steps outside their comfort zone. But I recognize that most of us are only okay being a *little* bit outside our comfort zones. Step too far into the unknown and unfamiliar, and we get anxious or afraid or become inclined to break easily.

Contra dancing is a community dance, and people need to dance with each other in some ways in order to make things work for everyone. And maybe you show up some place that has norms which are more outside your comfort zone than you expected. But if we can help people to stretch a little bit at a time, we can expand their comfort zone.

~ Les Addison

Feedback on the Digital-Only Fall CDSS News

We know we took a risk making the Fall CDSS News a digital-only edition. We received lots of feedback — *thank you!* — both positive and negative, and I'm including a sampling of the comments here. Know that we hear your concerns, and as a result when we offer a digital issue in the future, we will also offer a print-on-demand option:

"Congratulations on the electronic distribution of the Fall

CDSS News. I would be happy to receive all issues this way."

"I would be pretty disappointed if the magazine became digital only. I've sat at my desk and read the issue through, but that is not the way I want to read it. I'm not keen on reading on a screen; and I like being able to take the print magazine with me when I am out and about, partly because I find that reading it in pieces produces more reflection."

"I'm super disappointed not to get a hard copy version of the CDSS News. I really like the magazine and enjoy reading it as hard copy. I read too many things electronically at work, so things that are sent to me electronically, I never read. I know there's all sorts of good things you can do digitally, but if it doesn't get read, it's not that helpful. I know I could print it out, but that doesn't happen."

"The digital version of the CDSS News is just about worthless to me. Sorry to be such a Luddite, but I read through the News over the period of a month or more, and I don't want to have to sit at my computer 5 or 10 times a month, and open a web page to do that. I also can't put the computer on the music stand and play the music, as I can with the print version."

"I love the digital option — it's the first time I've read the magazine within 48 hours of receiving it in years."

"I am very unhappy with this change. I do not read items of any length online and do not have print capability at home so it is difficult to print a pdf. Basically, the CDSS News will be lost to me."

"Wow. It's really beautiful online! The colors really pop! I might have to change my mind about hating the whole idea of stopping the print version."

"Thanks for making this change! As much as I like reading the newsletters from CDSS, I feel bad taking them to be recycled. This will make all the content accessible, and take up less space!"

"I'll read it, but I still object."

"Understand that digital is the way everything is going — but I can't easily put a "digital issue" of CDSS news on our paper based flyer table. Our community still leans heavily toward folks in their 50s and 60s. We like paper."

"Inevitable, I guess, but it makes me sad..."

"As an individual member I am happy to receive this digitally, but as a group organizer I am disappointed. We put our copies, current and past, on our flyers table at every dance. A number of our dancers pick them up to look at, and usually remember to leave for others to enjoy. Your hard copy on our table is one of the ways of keeping CDSS visible to the greater community."

"That's disappointing as none of my electronic newsletters get read. I'm glad you are saving money, but to me it is not worth the trade off."

"Yay for being able to download as PDF... I really like reading print on paper more than on screen, so this gives me the option to print the issue to keep with my other copies. Thank you!"

"So old codgers (like me) that really do not like computers at all just have to get out of the way so you youngsters can spend hours and hours looking at a screen instead of dancing or singing or playing music. Phooey!"

"An impressive newsletter, thanks for putting it out! I can see why you're excited about generating a digital version, with links embedded and such. I will say that the primary way I read the CDSS News is as a bathroom magazine, and so the digital version means I'm a lot less likely to actually read it cover to cover. I hope the print versions stick around for a while still. If they go away, I'll understand."

"Oh my goodness! What a tremendous Fall CDSS News issue. Congratulations to everyone else who had a hand in this volume. I am so impressed!"

"Just reading the digital fall news -- good job! Although I'd still rather have a paper copy, but then again, I'm a dinosaur."