

# Letters and Announcements

## SUBMITTING ADS AND ARTICLES

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](mailto:news@cdss.org) (maximum size for most articles: 1,500 words, 750 words for essays and event reviews). We may edit for length and clarity.

Go to <http://www.cdss.org/upcoming-events.html> to see UPCOMING EVENTS. To include an event, send date, name of event, town/state, sponsoring group, website or phone/email to [events@cdss.org](mailto:events@cdss.org).

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. Please send electronically to [news@cdss.org](mailto:news@cdss.org) (PDF, JPG or TIF, with 300-600 dpi, fonts and images embedded), with check or Visa/Mastercard info sent 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)

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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 <http://www.cdss.org/ways-to-give.html>. 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/planned-giving.html>.

## Hats Off to Theresa Lowder



In this centennial year's celebration of the Country Dance and Song Society, there is someone who deserves a special salute! Theresa Lowder of Berea, Kentucky has for the past twenty-eight years headed up a high school dance troupe, the Berea Festival Dancers. They perform primarily English country, early American, Danish, morris and sword dances. No

teen who applies is turned down; they meet every Sunday afternoon to rehearse. Over the years, Theresa has taken these dancing teens to perform in Canada, United Kingdom, Denmark, Australia, Spain, Italy and, of course, all across the United States, including the White House. Wherever they travel, they learn about the area, its history and culture. A friend lovingly referred to Theresa as "the teen whisperer," and she IS! She has the rare ability to be teacher, parent, friend and chaperone, all rolled into one wonderful person the teens adore! They, having been inspired to dance beautifully, will be some of the future CDSS community dance leaders, teaching others the joy of dancing! Hats off to the Berea Festival Dancers' leader, Theresa Lowder!

Mary Owen Harrell, Berea, KY



*The Berea Festival Dancers' troupe performing a rapper sword dance and a country dance on an estate lawn in the United Kingdom; photos by Bill Lowder*

Thank you, Theresa, for all your good work!

— CDSS



*Mary adds: Theresa officially "retired" in June of this year, and the leadership of the BFD is ably assumed by Jennifer Rose Escobar.*

## **Aye, Aye, Captains!**

I have a new job with CDSS, and I'd like to tell you how exciting it is! I set aside time one evening a week to make phone calls to local CDSS affiliates in my region to talk with them about how things are going in their communities and share with them resources available from CDSS. I also talk about ways they can connect with the Centennial celebration this year and be more connected to the wider dance music community. It's a pleasure to talk with folks around my region who are passionate about music and dance, willing to work to keep their communities healthy and connected, and eager to be part of the larger picture.

Many of us get so busy in our local work that we forget the wonderful resource CDSS can be. The most rewarding calls are the ones where I can help connect a community to ideas and resources to help solve a problem or initiate discussion of an important issue. It's great to be more aware of how many of us are giving time and energy to keep our communities vibrant! Many of my contacts report that they are already involved with Centennial projects. ("Yes, we are already a Passport to Joy destination!") Others are happy to learn about how they can participate. Some have ideas and suggestions for me to convey back to the CDSS office. ("Wouldn't it be a good idea to have a regular regional conference so we could stay connected with other groups in our area?")

To facilitate more visibility for CDSS and help strengthen connections, we have organized a team of regional volunteers to help the CDSS office and to build a regional network of motivated, visible CDSS promoters. We look for volunteers who are passionate about CDSS and the wider dance community, and who enjoy interacting with people. Our job may change as this project develops, but at this point, we have been recruiting folks who are willing to make regular phone calls to affiliates to share information and to encourage them to share their stories and experiences.

Each "regional captain" is given a group of affiliates with whom to build a relationship. Once we have made contact with the right person (the one who can speak for the local community), we call them periodically to check on how things are going and to encourage them to participate in Centennial projects. This is an efficient way to get information from many groups and update the CDSS office on what is happening around the country.

Project manager Mary Wesley gives us support, talking points about the latest projects and ways to become involved, and a forum for connection and communication among captains. As a pilot project, we are looking for feedback, suggestions and better ways to be effective in our communication.

We're imagining this Centennial year as an opportunity to honor community heroes and collect

our joint histories, to celebrate the best of what we do—song circles, fiddle sessions, dance parties, contra proms, family gatherings, and May Day mornings—and to visualize a future where more people than ever share the joy of our participatory arts.

Please let us know how this program is working for you. Have you been contacted by a regional captain? (All regions are not yet covered.) Would you like to be a regional captain? Can you suggest a way to improve our program so we can be even more effective? Feel free to contact Mary Wesley ([mary@cdss.org](mailto:mary@cdss.org)) or Gaye Fifer ([gayefifer@gmail.com](mailto:gayefifer@gmail.com)).

*Gaye Fifer, Pittsburgh, PA*

## **Education Department Notes**

This past May, Rima Dael, Linda Henry, Nils Fredland and I gathered with teachers from the Amherst/Pelham (Massachusetts) school district for a dance workshop. Eleanor Lincoln, music and movement teacher in the district, reached out to the CDSS Education Department, hoping to get support for her goal of adding traditional dance to the music and physical education curriculum for grades K through 6. After stimulating meetings with Eleanor and her colleague, Anne Louise White, we decided to create a pilot program to help the teachers learn dance vocabulary and concepts appropriate to each grade; model the process of teaching dance; and to develop calling skills. Nils was our workshop leader, and Linda and I played music, and provided each teacher with a CD of tunes. Nils taught plenty of variations on a small group of dances, which the teachers could use as their students developed both social and movement skills. By all accounts, the workshop was a success. Teachers without prior calling or dance leading experience reported that they were able to teach the dances quickly, using Nils's strategies and repertoire.

Building on this, we have two more regional workshops planned for the fall: in Pittsfield at the Kids4Harmony program run by Berkshire Children and Families, and at the Muddy Brook Elementary School in Great Barrington. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more or would like us to visit your school, please contact me.

*Pat MacPherson, Director of Education*  
CDSS [pat@cdss.org](mailto:pat@cdss.org)

*The workshops are funded by donations to CDSS via Valley Gives, 2012-2014.*

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### **Dressing for Focus**

I've been taking photographs for two to three years at Ashokan at all their themed weeks (Northern, Southern, Western and Swing) and CDSS's English Dance Week at Pinewoods, which can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/sdean-dance>. The greatest technical problem in shooting dance is focusing: the dancers move fast, in rapidly changing direction, and the light is low indoors or outside at night. Even with one of the best cameras available, a Canon Mk5, my yield is often no better than one in five.

I recently had the epiphany that the dancers can dress to improve this, by wearing shirts, blouses or dresses with crisp, bold, perhaps geometric, graphic patterns: this will give the camera's autofocus something to focus on. Think about it: a moving solid color fabric gives the camera almost nothing to focus on.

Perhaps it seems silly to ask the dancers to be dressed for focus, but if you know that someone is making a serious effort to photograph at your dance, you might consider doing this.

*Stewart Dean, Kingston, NY*



*English Dance Week 2014, by Stewart Dean*

### **Thank you!**

Our thanks to Abigail Hobart and Rowan Lupton for their excellent help this summer with our Archives and other projects at the CDSS office. We loved having you with us. You made a difference!

*~ Rima and the CDSS Staff*

### **One of Those “It’s-a-Small-World” Things**

Earlier this week I got a phone call from Eric Dolan. I didn't even fully understand the name at first, but in the course of listening to the message I realized it was actually for my mother. A day later I met Eric and his wife of twenty-eight years, Sue, who were making their way, via Harley-Davidson, from Oregon to Harrisonville, Missouri. They stopped in for several hours at my parents' home in Kansas... and I had an absolutely lovely time getting to know my Uncle Eric, whom I hadn't until then known existed. (My forebears are trendsetters in the broken-and-subsequently-reblended family business, and it turns out Uncle Eric is my mother's VERY baby half-brother, who is only five years older than I am.)

The best part? Eric and Sue are from COOS BAY, OREGON! I showed them the Coos Bay video (and then ours, too, of course), and thoroughly enjoyed their viewing: “Hey look, that’s So-and-So.” “Oh yeah, she’s a terrific fiddle player.” “Wow, haven’t seen him in a while!” “You can get great pizza at that place down there.”

I want SO badly to go to that Tour stop!

*Lauralyn Bodle*

*Lauralyn will be part of her own local tour stop when the CDSS Centennial Tour rolls into Lawrence, Kansas, November 17-22, 2015 (see the last issue of the CDSS News). The Tour will be in Coos Bay on October 4-10, but Lauralyn’s band has a gig that week.*

### **Watch These Delightful Videos!**

A Heartland Traditional Dance and Music Festival promo, Lawrence, Kansas, the upcoming last” tour stop on the CDSS Centennial Tour, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McvlDbN0Rhs&feature=youtu.be>.

Tamar Bordwin’s affectionate glimpse of our Family Week program at Timber Ridge this summer, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnNZH11f980&feature=youtu.be>.

And the enthusiastic Timber Ridge campers cheer an engagement, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Gcqx1N\\_yCY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Gcqx1N_yCY).

**CDSS Centennial Tour, April-November 2015**

<http://www.cdss100.org/cdsscent/>