



CDSS Web Chat #6 on 10/16/19

Connecting Community Sing Organizers

We'll begin the web chat promptly at 8:30 EDT. Please keep in mind...

- A few minutes before we start, you'll hear CDSS staff members chatting with our guest speakers to make sure all systems are go.
- **Please mute your microphone and turn off your own webcam/video!**
- Throughout the web chat we'll be sharing slides via our CDSS screen. Zoom has a few options for video layout that might be useful, so check out this link:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362323-How-Do-I-Change-The-Video-Layout>.
- Having trouble with your computer audio? Dial in: +1 646-558-8656

We appreciate your patience if we encounter any tech glitches along the way!



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Web Chat Format

8:30 pm EDT Introduction: Linda Henry & Katy German

8.35 Web Chat Guests:

- **Dick Thies & Kurt Smith:** organizers of song circles in Corvallis, OR
- **Kathy Whisler:** organizer of sea chantey sing from Chicago, IL
- **Tony Barrand & Amanda Witman:** pub sing organizers from Brattleboro, VT

9:00 Q & A with responses from all guests

9:20 Resources and Wrap-up: Emily Addison, Amanda, & Linda

9:30 End of web chat



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Welcome!

from Katy German
CDSS Executive Director
in Asheville, NC





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Connecting Community Song Organizers

First Guests (slides 4-6):

**Dick Thies (2nd Sunday Song Circle) >>
& Kurt Smith (4th Sunday Song Circle)**
Corvallis, Oregon

At our events we go around the circle taking turns. Each participant can sing a song, ask someone else to sing one, or pass. Each lead singer may ask others to join in with singing or playing an instrument or both. Lead singers also set the key, tempo, and volume. Folk music isn't mandatory, but most songs we include fall under the folk umbrella.



Dick: SongCircle1@CorvallisFolklore.org; **Kurt:** SongCircle2@CorvallisFolklore.org

Song Circle Formats

that Dick Thies has participated in

1. Go round the circle in order so all get a turn to lead, request, or pass

- gives all a chance to have a turn each round
- you can see your turn coming and be ready
- no chosen topic lets everyone do what they want
- but it misses chances to play off each other

2. Take a number to lead a song as that number comes up

- solves the issue of how to work in latecomers
- I have used this at one-hour song circles at getaway events

3. Sign up to do 2-3 songs in front of the crowd

- makes it more like a concert performance
- folks tend to prepare a bit more in this format

Formats continued...

4. **Announce a topic that songs should fit into**

- often getaway workshops announce a topic for a song circle
- fun to see what songs show up
- topics can be creative, eg topic: Mary, Merry, Marry, Máire

5. **“Popcorn” (just jump in..)**

- more spontaneity
- can feel competitive
- can work well if the same folks don't jump in too often

6. **A leader calls on selected folks**

- can work well for a planned getaway song circle workshop
- can be an effective way to start a song circle
(e.g. have experienced shanty singers set the tone of a shanty circle)

7. **All join in and sing from a book**

- some just like to come and use a book
- does not attract song writers or song collectors
- only works well if folks know the tunes well



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Second Guest:

Kathy Whisler

Chicago Sea Shanty Sing

Chicago, Illinois

Our community sing meets in the back room of an Irish pub one Sunday afternoon a month, and it's open to people of all ages. Anyone may lead a song or suggest one, but there's no particular order. Singing from memory is strongly encouraged. Songs are primarily sea chanties (seafaring work songs of the "Age of Sail"), sea songs, and drinking songs. Usually there's a general theme to encourage people to learn something new. Songs are mostly unaccompanied, but a few people play instruments some of the time.



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chicagoshanties/> -- sing@seachantey.com



CDSS Web Chat #6 on 10/16/19

Connecting Community Song Organizers

Third Guests:

Tony Barrand & Amanda Witman
Brattleboro Pub Sing
Brattleboro, Vermont

A monthly community pub sing in southern Vermont open to all. Anyone may lead an unaccompanied song with a chorus from memory, and all are welcome to join on the chorus. We include a wide variety of songs including drinking songs, sea shanties, work songs, gospel songs, children's songs, and any song with an easily singable chorus.

www.brattleboropubsing.org





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Q & A - How to Send a Question

If you have a question for our guests, open the chat bar by clicking “Chat” in the meeting controls at the bottom of your screen. Type in your name and a brief question.

NOTE: During the Q&A everyone except the guests will continue to be muted.

➤ **Please continue to keep your mic and webcam off.**



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Connecting Community Song Organizers

Online discussion forum specifically to connect song organizers:

Song Session Organizers Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/339950270100425/

For sharing questions, triumphs, concerns, wisdom, and anything else related to creating a healthy song session.

Other online communities that include song leaders and focus on broader topics:

- **Mudcat Cafe:** <https://mudcat.org/> Discussions on topics from song lyrics and history to upcoming events.
- **Youth Traditional Song Weekend Facebook Group:** www.facebook.com/groups/YouthTradSong/ Online community for those interested in the YTS weekend, including many young leaders.

NOTE: Do you want to participate in an email listserv to discuss song leading and organizing?

Let us know through the survey you'll receive shortly after this webchat.





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We are completing a major update to the Song Leaders and Organizers section of the CDSS website this fall!

We're seeking resources on a wide range of topics... everything from how to lead a singing session to how to encourage socially appropriate content. We'd love to hear your ideas!



Please add your suggestions to the survey you'll receive shortly after this web chat.

Starter Kit for Folk Song Organizers:

www.cdss.org/images/organizers-resources/CDSS-folk-song-starter-kit.pdf

Folk Song resources currently on the CDSS website:

www.cdss.org/resources/how-to/folk-song



CDSS Web Chat #6 on 10/16/19

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More resources available through CDSS:

- **Organizers Resource Portal:** cdss.org/resources/how-to/organizers
- **Quarterly Shop Talk e-blasts** for organizers (join via tab in Portal home page)
- **Web Chat Series** (recordings posted in Portal)
- **Community Outreach Grants** ([online application](#) - next deadline Feb 1st)
- **Quarterly e-blasts for CDSS Affiliates** (join via CDSS website: cdss.org)
- **CDSS News** include articles for singers ([quarterly newsletter](#))
- **CDSS Dance, Music, & Song Camps:** cdss.org/camp - *scholarships available!*



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Wrap Up

- **Survey:** Your valuable feedback will help us continue to improve this web chat series. Please reply to the survey you'll receive via email tomorrow.
- We'll also send you a link to this web chat recording that will soon be posted on the CDSS website. Feel free to share this with others.
- Have questions that weren't answered during this web chat? Continue these conversations via the [Song Session Organizers Facebook Group](#) (see slide 10).
- **Next Web Chat:** *Diversifying Income: Thinking Outside the Money Basket* (date TBA - mid-February)
- **Keep in touch!** Send questions and comments to Linda Henry at linda@cdss.org

Thanks for ALL you do to keep singing alive and well in your community!