

May 2004; photos by Marty Stock; used with permission.

## CDSS Lifetime Contribution Award 2004—Larry Jennings Honored

Boston caller, author of the immensely popular *Zesty Contras* (1983) and its sequel *Give-and-Take* (2004), friend and mentor to so many dancers and callers, Larry Jennings was honored by CDSS in May 2004 with our Lifetime Achievement Award. These pictures are from that event.

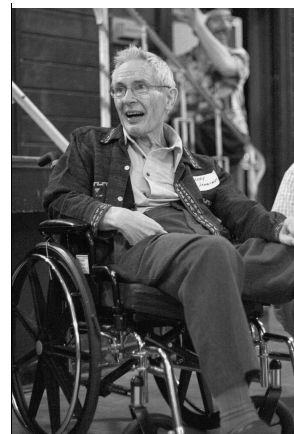
Brad Foster, CDSS's director, presented the award at NEFFA Night, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a regular event in the Thursday night contra dance series of the New England Folk Festival Association, with which Larry has long been affiliated. He is the second recipient of the award, following English country dance caller, Helen Cornelius.

The *CDSS News* was home to Larry's "Contra Connection" articles which he cowrote with Dan Pearl and Ted Sannella from 1988-1995. Dan's interview with Larry appeared in the NEFFA News, Fall 2002; see [www.neffa.org/news/2002\\_fall.pdf](http://www.neffa.org/news/2002_fall.pdf).

"I believe that administrators and leaders should have strong feelings about the objectives and techniques appropriate to their local situation. I certainly do, and I hope you will too. Thus I have scattered my own opinions throughout the book, but I fully expect you to display a healthy skepticism toward these opinions. Indeed, I request such skepticism! So, if my subjective style riles you up—sets you pondering about your local needs—gives you a few ideas to adapt—clarifies your own thinking, no matter how different from mine—I'll be well satisfied that my work has borne fruit."

~ Larry Jennings in the "Author's Preface" to *Zesty Contras*

*This article appeared in the CDSS News, issue 179, July/August 2004. The obituary appeared a year later.*



### Obituary, June 2005

Larry Jennings, husband, father, physicist, dancer, passed away peacefully on June 29 from complications of Parkinson's disease. He joins in memory his loving wife Genevieve Asch Jennings. He is survived by his three loving children: Noel Genova of Portland, Maine; Mark Jennings, of Katy, Texas; and Lauren Jennings, of Newton, Massachusetts, and by his seven grandchildren. Larry was ahead of his time in so many ways, from eating health foods to commuting by bicycle. He will be remembered for his years of service and leadership in the Boston area traditional dance community, for his two definitive books, *Zesty Contras* (1983) and *Give-and-Take* (2004) and innumerable seminars on New England style contra dancing. For these accomplishments he was awarded Lifetime Achievements awards by the New England Folk Festival Association in 2002 and by the Country Dance and Song Society in 2004.

(Mark Jennings)

