

CDR NEWS

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AUGUST 2015 EDITION



Contra demonstration at the Brighton Farmer's Market. Photo by Kate Baron

Welcome to the first edition of CDR News - the Country Dancers of Rochester's new quarterly newsletter. We'll be publishing articles to keep you updated on everything from upcoming events and dance opportunities, to dance trivia, history, and games. If you would like to submit an article or participate in the publishing of the newsletter please contact us at newsletter@cdrochester.com. We hope you'll enjoy reading!

Membership Drive

September is our annual Membership Drive month! Please renew your membership for \$12/individual or \$18/family - it will save you \$1 per dance throughout the year and the membership fee goes to pay for the annual expenses of Country Dancers of Rochester, including web-hosting, insurance, and sound equipment upgrades. It will also give you access to special benefits planned throughout the year - stay tuned for announcements in each quarterly newsletter.

Bring a Friend!

This September the Thursday Night Contra will run a "Bring a Friend" special - any active member who brings a new dancer to the Thursday night dance during the month of September will dance that night for free. First-time dancers still pay the normal entrance fee, and will receive a ticket for their second dance free. So renew your membership, put on your dancing shoes, and introduce a friend to the joy of dancing!

Upcoming Elections

CDR will hold the annual election of the Board of Directors at the weekly Contra dance on **Thursday, September 24**, and at the English Country dance on **Sunday, September 27**. All active members are encouraged to vote. Up for re-election this year are Kate Baron for President and Rich Dempsey for Treasurer. Lisa Brown has been nominated for Vice President, and we are still looking for a nominee for Secretary. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more, please email cdrexec@cdrochester.org

Christmas in July

Australian dance caller and historian John Gardiner-Garden paid a visit to Rochester this July. Among his many talents (author, workshop leader, musician) is composing dances. He's even published an entire book of dances done to Christmas Carol tunes! Since July is mid-winter in Australia, and a month in which Rochesterians often get nostalgic for winter, the CDR English Planning Committee thought it would be fun to celebrate Christmas in July and invite the entire community. His dances to carols are easy to pick up, even if you've never danced before, so work well with both contra and English dancers.



Christmas in July dance. Photo by Lisa Brown

Many folks were interested in buying the Christmas dance book but it was sold out at the event. A copy can be ordered here: <http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/books-cds/Christmas-Carol-Dance-Book>

Callers Night

What makes contra dancing so much fun? All of the answers to that question have something to do with contra dancing's three essential components: the music, the calling, and the dancers! A few years ago, long-time dancers and organizers Peggy and Rich Dempsey initiated the "Rochester Callers Night", a monthly event geared towards nurturing beginning callers and providing more experienced callers with opportunities to collaborate and to try out more complex and original dances. Peggy and Rich continue to roll up the rug to provide the space once a month so callers can test dances and receive feedback from dancers. Happily, Chuck Abell, a local caller who now tours widely, organizes and facilitates this monthly event.

If you'd like to join us as a caller or as a dance "guinea pig", contact Chuck Abell at chuckabell@hotmail.com

Volunteers Needed!

CDR is an entirely volunteer-run organization, and we're always looking for extra hands to help out! From setting up and closing down at our regular dances, planning special events, helping with sound, and serving on the committees that keep our dances running smoothly, there are many ways you can help CDR stay great. Currently, we are particularly looking for volunteers with experience at graphic design and website design/management.

Sound like things you could do? Please speak with the organizers at your weekly dance about how you can help out, or email us at questions@cdrochester.org

The evening was entertaining and unique, with both the English and contra communities well represented, lots of dancers who don't usually attend the weekly dances, and some families with kids. Happy Endings provided sparkling music, sometimes augmented by John himself on hurdy-gurdy or bagpipes! Lots of laughter, and a hilarious grand finale of the Twelve Days of Christmas, complete with day-appropriate movements (think arms flapping for the turtle doves), and the entire floor singing along!

CDR Scholarships

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's CDR scholarships!

CJ Bish-Ziegelhofer and **Carol Gayeski** were each awarded a \$250 scholarship from CDR to attend a CDSS dance camp at Pinewoods, along with matching scholarships from CDSS. We look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return!

Look for information regarding this exclusive CDR member benefit in the next issue of CDR News.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars! Here are some upcoming events you won't want to miss:

- Netherfield Ball: An Assembly for Novice Dancers
Saturday, August 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm
- Masquerade Ball: A Spooktacular Affair
Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 6:30 pm
- Thanksgiving Festival
Friday, November 27-28, 2015

Visit our website at www.cd-rochester.org for additional details on all our special events.



Meryton Assembly Dancers
Photo by Lisa Brown

Netherfield is for Novices

If you ever wanted to attend a Regency Ball or learn English Country Dancing but were wary of the fervent pace of some events then the Netherfield Ball is for you. The low-key, stress-free, fun-filled atmosphere of the Netherfield Ball is designed to encourage new dancers. The ball program is chosen especially for beginning dancers with all the dances being taught and called. There will even be experienced dancers, including the Meryton Assembly Dancers, to help at every turn.

The ball is Saturday, August 29th at 2:00 pm. It will take place at the First Baptist Church, 175 Allens Creek Rd., Rochester, NY 14618. The cost is \$10. Regency dress is admired by not required.

The callers will be Lisa Brown and Richard Sauvain with music by Molly Jaynes on violin and Chris DeGolyer on piano. Please check www.cd-rochester.org for more information.

Look for the Meryton Assembly Dancers

The English Country Demo Team, known as the Meryton Assembly Dancers, is an accomplished group of dancers who performs at events around the region. They have a new website, www.dancelikejaneandjane.com, which includes information about the group and a calendar of upcoming demonstrations. Look for them at this year's Rochester Fringe Festival, where they will be accompanied by the Cordancia Chamber Orchestra, on Saturday, September 19, 2015. The performance will be at 4:00pm in Sproull Atrium at Miller Center, Eastman School of Music. Admission is free.

Booker's Choice - Featured Performers : Maivish Duo

*Coming to Thursday Night Contra on September 3, and
English Country on Sunday, September 6*

Maivish is a collaboration between American fiddler Jaige Trudel and British born guitarist Adam Broome who have been performing together as a duo for over a decade. The band frequently includes Matthew Olwell on flutes, bodhran, and percussive dance. Both a dance band and a concert act, Maivish tours regularly, appearing at dance weekends, festivals and venues around North America. Making music their full time occupation, Jaige and Adam also teach, offering workshops and private instruction, as well as co-organizing the popular Ooh La La Dance weekend held in Richmond, QC each summer.



Maivish Duo

Calling for both English and Contra dances will be provided by the vivacious up-and-coming caller Angela DeCarlis. Mark your calendar - these are dances you won't want to miss!



Dance at the Market. Photo by Kate Baron

Contra Demo at the Brighton Farmer's Market

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Contra demonstration at the Brighton Farmer's Market! CDR was honored to participate in **Dance Day at the Market** on July 26.

Special Thanks to Peggy Dempsey for coordinating, Sharon Perry for calling, and Molly Jaynes for the music. Ladies, you rock!

Did you know...

We're on Facebook! Like our page and stay up to date on all CDR activities at:
www.facebook.com/CountryDancersofRochester





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Stamp

Address Line 1
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*CDR appreciates your support!
Renew your membership today, and continue receiving our quarterly newsletter direct to your home.*