



CDR NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2015 EDITION



Netherfield Ball, August 29, 2015. Photo by Lisa Brown.

Giving Thanks

As we approach Thanksgiving and the end of another great year, we at CDR have a lot to be thankful for. By the end of the year, in 2015 alone Country Dancers of Rochester plans to have held nearly one-hundred community dance events in a mix of Contra and English Country styles; we've made great strides in cooperation between our various planning groups; we've experienced the rejuvenation of the dance floor at our longtime Contra venue; we've seen the growth and maturing of the English Demo Team into the Meryton Assembly Dancers; we've even launched a new quarterly newsletter; and through it all, we've had a lot of fun! And looking forward, before the end of the year we still have some amazing events planned, including our 32nd annual Thanksgiving Dance Festival, the Turning of the Year English Country Ball, and a celebratory Contra dance on New Years Eve! So sincerely, Thank You to everyone who's contributed to making this an amazing year for CDR.

See you on the dance floor,

Kate Baron - CDR President

Time Change

Contra dancers: Don't forget, Thursday Night Contras are starting 1/2 hour earlier. Dances start at 7:30 pm and end at 10:30 pm, starting Thursday, November 5.

Save the Date!

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

- Thanksgiving Festival
Friday, November 27-28, 2015
- Turning of the Year Ball
Sunday, December 27, 2015
- New Years Eve Contra
Thursday, December 31, 2015

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

Lively Fun in an Elegant Setting: Turning of the Year Ball 2015

By Chris Cassidy

Step into an evening of energy and elegance as Country Dancers of Rochester presents its 4th annual Turning of the Year Ball on Sunday Dec. 27, 2015. Featuring a night of English Country Dance, this year's event will take place at the Tango Cafe located in the historic Jonathan Child House in Rochester NY.

Built in 1837 for Rochester's first mayor, the house was considered one of the foremost residences in Rochester. It served as a fashionable boarding house called the Pillars in 1885 and as the Edwards restaurant in 2002. Today, it is the home of the Tango Cafe which provides a full range of dance activities to the Rochester community.

Attendees at last year's event will attest to the magical elegance of the Jonathan Child House. Fully decorated for the season, the venue brings to life an era of charm and beauty.

Upstairs we will dance on a comfortable wood floor in a room amply decorated to put you in the mood of the season.

This year music will be provided by the ever popular Serendipity. These fine musicians have often played at our Sunday night dances and promise an evening of music both lively and elegant.



Jonathan Child House.

Of course you can also expect sumptuous refreshments; perhaps we will once again be visited by cream cheese penguins.

With or without the penguins, this year's Turning of the Year Ball promises to be the most elegant and lively event of the season. So put on your best attire, step into a world of music, movement, and merriment, and enjoy a memorable evening of English Country Dance.

For more information see the website www.cd-rochester.org. Registration will be taken online until the event reaches capacity.



Jonathan Child House.
Photo by Lisa Brown

Love that Floor?

Let's give thanks to Covenant Methodist Church for taking such good care of us! The church recently refinished the wood floor in the main hall for Thursday Night Contra, so now the wonderful sprung floor is beautiful once again. Thanks also to the anonymous CDR donor whose generous gift helped make this important update possible.



Thursday Night Contra.
Photo by Kate Baron

Contra Dance on New Year's Eve

Please join us for a Contra Dance on New Year's Eve! CDR is pleased to be planning a very special contra to celebrate the end of the year on Thursday, December 31. We've got some incredible talent lined up: Tim Ball on guitar and fiddle, Laurie Hart on fiddle, and Jane Knoeck on accordion and keyboard.

The dance will be from 8:30 to midnight (bring your noisemakers!), and will feature mostly contra dances with a sprinkling of couple dances such as waltz, French bouree, and Scandinavian dances. Bring a friend and a dish to share! It will be a great night to spend with your friends dancing, listening to amazing musicians, and munching delicious snacks. Watch the web site for further details.

Jane Austen Ball Video Available Now

Re-live the grandeur of the Rochester's 2015 Jane Austen Ball. Held at the City's most exclusive country club, period dressed ladies and gentlemen danced to the direction of famed NYC English Country Dance master Tom Ames with music by Serendipity. The video contains a "walk through" of each of the 16 dances before they are executed. DVD \$20 plus \$3 shipping, Country Dancers of Rochester, c/o 161 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14611. A video can also be purchased in person at any upcoming English Country Dance.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent CDR election of a new Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 membership year! The Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers who manage the legal obligations of the club as a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Terms of office are one year and officers may not serve more than five consecutive terms in the same office.

Meet the Board

CDR President - Kate Baron

Kate is a Rochester-based architect with a love of social dancing. Introduced to Contra dancing during college, she embraced the philosophy of non-judgmental and welcoming community dance and never looked back! Today, after more than a decade of dance, Kate has developed health issues that unfortunately prevent her from dancing, but she still works to support CDR from behind the scenes and occasionally stops by to visit at the Thursday night dance. Outside of CDR she enjoys refurbishing antique furniture, photography, reading, and spending time with her family. Kate is entering her fifth term as CDR President.



CDR Vice President - Lisa Brown

After years of driving from Syracuse to Rochester for every English country dance, class and event, Lisa shortened her dance commute by moving to Rochester four years ago. She is current chair of the English Planning Committee and director of the Meryton Assembly Dancers (Demo Team). Lisa is the regional coordinator of the Jane Austen Society of North America and the proprietress of Regency Rental, a costume rental company. She enjoys photography and every fall visits the Adirondacks for leaf peeping.

CDR Treasurer - Rich Dempsey

Although Rich works in IT at Kodak, his passions are for food, dance, and music. At the end of a tough day in the "cubicle farm", there's little better than chopping and sautéing onions, carrots, and other goodies as the base of a tasty dinner. As many know, soups are a particular specialty of his, and well suited to Rochester's winters. Rich has been dancing for just over 20 years now, and loves the community. Country dancing is delightful for bringing people together, and for the way we all dance together. While he's learning his way around the CDR books, Rich is taking a break from one of the two choruses where he is a bass. He's looking forward to singing with his wife Peggy and the rest of the Mount Hope World Singers at their fall concert on November 20.



CDR Secretary - Jean Lockwood

Jean is a stay-at-home mom of three unschooling kids, ages 12, 10, & 6. With 40 years of not dancing to make up for, she participates in as much contra as her busy family life allows, as well as English and belly dance (and whatever waltz, polka, Lindy, and swing she can pick up from fellow dancers willing to teach). Jean's interests outside of dance include preparing and enjoying nutrient-dense foods, study of German New Medicine, nights out with her husband, and books and movies that make her laugh. Jean extends a special thank-you to her (almost perfect and yet mostly non-dancing) husband, Craig, who supports her dancing habit and makes possible all the time away from home that it brings.

Stay in Touch...



What's this mottled square? It's a Quick Response (QR) code: You can scan it with a QR app on your smart phone. The QR app will decode the pattern and take you directly to our Easy Email Sign Up page online. Fill out the form and receive emails about upcoming dances.



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

THANKSGIVING DANCE FESTIVAL

The Dancing Plan

Every year CDR gathers feedback from our dancers and uses it to shape our plans for next year's Thanksgiving Festival. We want to keep all the parts you love, fix anything that didn't work well, and also bring something new and exciting to the dance each year. This year we've lined up some incredible talent and we think it's going to be our best event yet!

Friday night will be a mix of Contra styles – the Groovemongers are going to rock the main stage in the early session, and then Buddy System is going to light up the hall with a Techno-Contra for the second half of the dance. Not interested in trying out techno? That's OK - there will be couples dancing upstairs for anyone who prefers to dance without blacklights and glow-sticks.

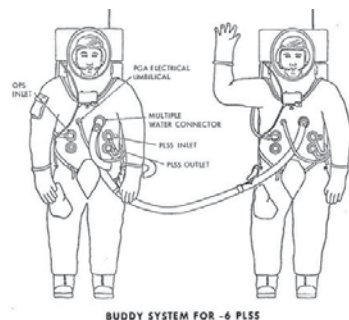
Saturday morning will start off with a session of Wakeup Waltzes, and then the Meryton Assembly Dancers will demonstrate a couple of advanced English dances to lead us into the English set in the main hall. Upstairs will be Flow and Glide Contra and then a Challenging Contra session before lunch. After lunch Joan and Jim Savitt will teach a Hambo workshop in the upstairs hall. Don't know what a Hambo is? That's why there's a workshop! In the afternoon Susan Kevra will answer questions in a Caller's workshop in the Kaelbers Room. In the main hall the Grand Shapes session featuring Zias, 4-Facing-4, and other formations will be a longer session to allow extra time to learn some unfamiliar figures. Then we'll wrap up the afternoon with a Mostly-No-Walk-Thru session. After a break for dinner we'll return to the main hall for another amazing evening dance with the Groovemongers.

Looking forward to all this dancing goodness? Great! Mark your calendars and buy your tickets early to get the best price (pre-registration has been extended to November 13 – go to www.cd-rochester.org to purchase online). Also, we need your help – many hands make light work, and in this case, there's a lot of work to be done! From shopping and chopping, to prepping the halls and doing cleanup, our festival depends on all of our wonderful volunteers. If you'd like to pitch in please contact Bob Fabinski at bobfab@cd-rochester.org to find out how you can help out.

Meet the Talent

The Groovemongers

The Groovemongers are back in Rochester with their eclectic mix of world music for our 32nd Annual Thanksgiving Dance Weekend! For the past 14 years, the Groovemongers have been thrilling contra dancers with a world beat approach to dance music. Countless tours, festival weekends and dance camps in 32 states, Canada, the UK and the Caribbean have forged an ensemble that is equally at home with crafted musical arrangements as with jam band improvisation. Originally founded here in Rochester, these folks truly set the standard for a great dance experience. Come contradance to their groove rhythm on Friday and Saturday.



Buddy System

Buddy System melds the driving beats of electronic dance music with live fiddle tunes and improvisation in a groundbreaking format. Noah VanNorstrand (fiddle, foot percussion, didgeridoo, vocals) and Julie Vallimont (computer, piano, synths, accordion, jawharp) create live sonic landscapes that'll put you in a dance trance. Noah and Julie will also play as an acoustic duo on Saturday, using fiddle, feet, didgeridoo, piano, and jawharp.

Ginger Majority

Rochester has great local talent, and we are proud to present Ginger Majority at the Thanksgiving Festival. Liza Sommers, Audrey Potter, Casey Murray and Clare Fraser will be providing great danceable tunes for Saturday sessions in the upstairs hall.

THANKSGIVING DANCE FESTIVAL

On the Mic

Susan Kevra

We are so excited that Susan Kevra will be calling for the Rochester Thanksgiving Weekend! Susan burst onto the contra dance scene in the early 1990s in New England and honed her craft at her monthly dance series in Greenfield, MA. She now makes her home in Nashville, Tennessee, where she calls and organizes English, contra and square dances. She also travels to call at dance camps across the country and occasionally, around the globe. Susan is noted for her warmth, clear teaching and lovely voice. Dancers on both sides of the Atlantic appreciate her diverse repertoire of contras, singing squares, Western patter calls, and English Country dances. She has choreographed a number of well loved contra and square dances, including "Trip to Phan Reel" and "The Hume Fogg Reel."



Katy Heine

Ithaca-based caller Katy Heine has been leading contras and community dances in the Finger Lakes region and beyond for more than 25 years. She's known for her clear teaching style and for her large repertoire of fun and flowing dances. We welcome Katy back to the festival stage with eager anticipation!

Checking the Levels

Tony Hernandez

Tony Hernandez is a full-time traveling sound engineer with over a dozen years of experience all around the country. He specializes in sound for acoustic music for dances, providing a high degree of intelligibility and acoustic clarity. Tony combines an in-depth understanding of the physics of sound production with a deep love and appreciation for music and the people who make it. Originally based in Rochester and now located in Connecticut, Tony returns to the CDR Thanksgiving Festival each year to help us make dance great.

Bob Berch

The leader of Thursday Night Contra sound crew, Bob will be running the sound in the upstairs hall all weekend. He's an amazingly dedicated CDR volunteer, and we couldn't do it without him – if you see him at the festival, take a minute to say thanks for all his hard work!

Behind the Scenes

Each year a dedicated group of volunteers work behind the scenes to make the Thanksgiving Dance Festival happen, starting planning for the next year before the current event is even finished. This year the planning efforts were lead by Bob Fabinski as chairman of the Thanksgiving Planning Committee. Juggling all aspects of the event, from booking the talent to planning the food, Bob has been a major force behind the orchestration of this event. Other members of the Thanksgiving Planning Committee this year include: Kate Baron, Marcia Locke, Mary Haverfield, and Rich Dempsey. In addition, a host of volunteers have contributed their time and effort in other ways to make this weekend great, so to all of you who pitched in: THANK YOU! We couldn't have such a great dance weekend without all of your help.

Want to help with the planning for next year's event? Email us at Thanksgiving@cdrochester.org to volunteer for the Thanksgiving Planning Committee.

English Country Dance Terminology Puzzle

Brought to you by the Meryton Assembly Dancers

T V Y Z C R S S Z A V U O N T T H R N E C N A L A B U N G Y
P H D S E A D U G G S F R Q Z H W O I E S V I B O H R W I A
S C R C P N S Z K A M U N I E E G N Y G I L K T V U B R V W
S E N E A Y T T D R T E F V G W O I H E G G T R T U U E E F
L A T H E L G A J F H W O S M K H M E D H O H D C Z A N W L
D N O T A C N E A G B X U P R O P E R E M R N B C K R R E A
G N U W I C O E Q N P A R T N E R L S E R A O D O C M O I H
B J N P E N L U P I L S C W C W C P B Q H U C R D R I C G A
P X Y Y H R G G P Z R G O C N F K I N O R U G Z R O N Y H F
C E L Y E M S N X L B B U U D S T R W E W W T I U I G G T E
H O H V E F I U R E E D P L U U O T P W I B I D F X M O N W
L R O T O P F X L T S S L P R L L O N G W A Y S K G W D D Z
E L A D Q Z A O L M O E E N I A R T P L R O W P U S A U G D
C I P T H X W V G O F X S T K P B S J I O E O T K W V T M X
D N O D S K Q K P Q C I E L M B A N D G N L B I P P F P X Y
R B U G X B G X M E N C T I H P F L L P O B P G N A Z D E N
G C S E C E S M A G L W L C D U A X X A H U S Z W C X H N Q
V B E T L D E P L Q N C G P B U R P L S S O R C B V X X Z K
F Z T X P G L E A X K Z R V J I P T B Q G D N T Q G R D D X
O X T V H F V S U M C Y G I G T Y L J A N A K S H X M U O D
U X E E P U H E M S B R S H C Y T E E R R P L Q H Y I I H G
T O O U N F U X B A C K T O B A C K S M Y U Q U R D Y C E E
N R Y O J F F H W U Q H U C D U C H P T I M G A N C O D L Q
C J Q S J M U D Q I A R E L L A C N G S R N Z R C E D L U I
R U O F S D N A H N J Z Z K E S P D H S Q U O E K N E V X U
R I G H T S A N D L E F T S K N I D T D Y L C R E V G D F F
V S S B N H Q T S S R S Y R U P Y D Z L B M V S G D A L H L
C B D Y Q T U P D N U M Z D C M M G I B A V M O B J T Z D M
Z A R G V R G N R U T D N A H T F E L N Z L D A Y Z E K V T
X U J J N W T H J S W X W Q C K W E C Z G T T U T B K M B K

Instructions: Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find the hidden words below. Some letters may be shared by more than one word. Circle the word in the puzzle when it's found.

ARMING	FOURCOUPLESET	RIGHTHANDTURN
BACKTOBACK	GATE	RIGHTSANDLEFTS
BALANCE	GIVEWEIGHT	SETTING
BAND	GYPSY	SIDING
BELOW	HALFWAY	SKIP
BOTTOM	HANDSFOUR	SLIP
BOW	HEY	SQUARE
CALLER	HONOR	STAR
CAST	IMPROPER	THREECOUPLESET
CIRCLE	LEFTHANDTURN	TOP
CLOVERLEAFTURN	LONGWAYS	TRIPLEMINOR
CORNER	MIRRORHEY	TURN SINGLE
CROSS	NEIGHBOR	TWOHANDTURN
CURTSEY	NOHANDS	UPADouble
DANCER	PARTNER	USADANCE
DUPLEMINOR	POUSETTE	WALTZ
FIGUREEIGHT	PROPER	



Meryton Assembly Dancers.
Photo by Richard Sauvain

Meryton Assembly Dancers

The Meryton Assembly Dancers will be performing at the Jane Austen Holiday Tea at the Penfield Town Hall on Sunday, December 6 - 12:00 PM.

A magical afternoon of tea and delectable treats devoted to Jane Austen and her delightful world. The event will swirl with 19th century holiday charm as we present crafts, fashion, music and dance from Jane's romantic era. Spend a special Sunday with family and friends enjoying the spirit of the season.

Tickets: \$10 available at Penfield Recreation

Check out our website at www.dancelikejaneasthen.com

Coming Soon! Check out the next issue of CDR News for information on the upcoming Jane Austen Ball and the 2016 CDR Dance Camp Scholarship application and info.

You Make it Great!

Featured Volunteers - Thursday Night Contra Sound Crew

By Peggy Dempsey

The first to arrive at the dance and the last to leave, the Contra Dance Sound Team enable us to hear the wonderful bands and callers at the contra dance. Each week, at least one member shows up early to set up the stage before the performers arrive. There's lifting and hauling, uncoiling of cables, positioning monitors and mic stands. The sound tech must communicate with the band and caller, understand the individual requirements of each instrument and voice, and listen, listen, listen! After the sound check, you'll often see the sound tech roaming all around the hall and stage, listening thoughtfully for the small tweaks that ensure the caller is understood and the music delightful. He continues to monitor the sound throughout the evening, especially when band members switch instruments. When the dance is over, it's time to take it all down: cables are coiled, stands are folded, and the equipment is returned to the closet off the stage.

It's a demanding job, and when done at its best, steps back from attention. We are fortunate to have such a great team, who rotate shifts through the month. So who are these guys?



Bob Berch



Rich Dempsey



Matt Loiacono



Mike Hoeschele

The Contra Dance Sound Team is led by Bob Berch with his able crew of Rich Dempsey, Matthew Loiacono and Mike Hoeschele. All of them have an interest and experience with technical, nerdy devices. Two are musicians. They are all great guys and we are so grateful that they volunteer to do the sound for us, and do it so well.

Bob plays the fiddle and has been contra dancing for more than 35 years. He's always liked tinkering ever since his father introduced him to electronics. He's done it professionally for Sound Source, repairing sound equipment, and as an engineer for Bosch. Bob's also been in many bands as a fiddler, currently playing with The Oxymorons. He got his start with sound tech back in the days when bands did their own sound. As the head of the sound team, he schedules coverage for the dances. He also monitors the equipment closely and repairs or replaces it as needed.

Kodak IT worker by day, Rich has been contra dancing for about 20 years. He learned to do sound by working with Bob, and attended a week long sound-tech course taught by Tony Hernandez at Pinewoods Camp. Rich is also the CDR treasurer and webmaster -- he's a very committed volunteer for CDR.

Matthew, a.k.a. Lloyd, is a student at RIT majoring in Applied Mathematics and also Systems Administration. He was introduced to Contra here in Rochester by a friend at RIT, loved it, and has been dancing regularly for the last 4 years. Responding to a call for volunteers, he's come along quickly and is now a strong member of the team.

Mike is a fiddler, playing with a number of bands in a range of genres over the years. He's often on our stage as a fiddler who plays with the band Arugula, among others. He was drawn to the contra dance because he loves to play and listen to live traditional music. He got started doing sound with his country band as a way to save money for them, and was drawn right in.

All of them love traditional music and dance, and have a great time connecting the performers to the dancers through good sound reinforcement. "Many hands make light work." If you're interested in helping out on the Sound Team, have a word with any of them. They'll be happy to show you the ropes.



Planning ahead... Have a sweet story to share about how you met your significant other through community dancing? Share it with us and you might be featured in our next issue of CDR News (February 2016). Have an idea, article, or information you'd like to submit for the next newsletter? Want to nominate someone for recognition? Email us at newsletter@cdrochester.org



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