

CDR NEWS

IS006

OCTOBER 2016 EDITION



Netherfield Ball, August 27, 2016. Photo by Ashley Phillipps.

1976 - 2016

Warning: Great Dancing Ahead!

Welcome to the 2016-2017 CDR Membership Year! It's starting to feel like fall and changes are under way here at Country Dancers of Rochester. We've just elected a new slate of officers to the Board of Directors (President: Lisa Brown; Vice President: Lori Anschuetz; Secretary: Jeanie Lockwood; Treasurer: Rich Dempsey), updated the bylaws (available online at www.cd-rochester.org), implemented our first Annual Pass, and are looking forward to even more great dancing this year!

Plans for the Thanksgiving Dance Weekend are well under way, we've got a fantastic lineup of performers and callers scheduled - see pages 4 and 5 for details! The annual English Masquerade Ball will also be an awesome event, coming up soon on October 29 (see page 2 for details). We've got another great combined Contra-English dance planned for the end of the year (page 2) as well as another beautiful Turning of the Year Ball. And scholarship applications will be due before you know it (page 3), so start planning now!

And as always, we're always looking for more helping hands - talk to a volunteer or email us at newsletter@cd-rochester.org to find out how you can help out!

Save the Date!

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

- Masquerade Ball
Saturday, October 29, 2016
- Thanksgiving Dance Weekend
Friday & Saturday, November 25-26, 2016
- Year End Extravaganza (English & Contra)
Thursday, December 29, 2016
- Turning of the Year Ball
Sunday, January 1, 2017

Want to Contribute?

Have something to share with the CDR community? Want to write an article or notice, submit a photo, or have an upcoming event you want to share? Want to participate in putting together the newsletter? Submit your information to newsletter@cd-rochester.org today to be included in the next quarterly issue.

Join us for a Masquerade Ball

By Chris Cassidy

Fall is upon us and that means the ghosts and goblins will soon be out. Come and celebrate Halloween with an evening of masquerade, music and movement as CDR presents its Eighth Annual Masquerade Ball. The Masquerade Ball promises an evening of lively and elegant dances, beautiful music, delicious refreshments, and, shall we say, interesting dancers.

No, there will be no laboratory or humble abode for this dance. Our Masquerade Ball will take place at the First Baptist Church where we usually hold our Sunday evening dances. For this evening, however, the hall will be transformed into a Halloween Hall with fall foliage, pumpkins, spider webs and a graveyard.

We can't be sure that Wolfman and Dracula will be present, but past balls have been attended by Jane Eyre, Mr. Bingley, the cast of Downton Abbey, plus assorted ghosts, knights, fairy princesses, veterinarians and pirates. Costumes may be as simple or sophisticated as you like. Just put on a mask and come dance. You will be amazed at what you will encounter.

Our music will be provided by Jane Knoeck on keyboard, Molly Jaynes on fiddle, and Gordon Bonnet on flute. These experienced performers will excite and entertain us with some of the best English Country Dance Music available. At times lively and energetic, or slow, elegant and possibly haunting, their music will accompany us through a variety of our favorite dances. Igor and the hounds may even take up English Country Dance music.

Our caller for the evening will be Pamela Goddard from Ithaca, NY. We probably won't do the Transylvania Twist, but Pamela's program is guaranteed to be both lively and elegant. Pamela's masterful calling and clear instruction will make dancing fun for experienced dancers and those new to English Country. Under her direction, masked clowns, pirates, and princesses will move expertly through the hall, while the Crypt Kicker Five goes back to the graveyard.

The Masquerade Ball will definitely be cool and you can be part of the fun. Dancers are encouraged to bring a treat to share. Proceeds are used as a fundraiser to help with the cost of our balls throughout the year. Put on a mask or costume and join us at this year's Masquerade Ball. Come early just to take in the scene. Just watch out for the gravestones.

Here are the details:

Eighth Annual Masquerade Ball

Saturday, October 29, 2016, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

First Baptist Church,

175 Allens Creek Road Rochester, NY 14618

Admission: \$25 students \$15

Costumes encouraged but not required, just come and dance!

Refresher session around 6:15

Year End Extravaganza

Mark your calendars, this is a dance you won't want to miss! The **Thursday, December 29** dance will be a combined Contra & English event with music by Tempest and calling by Katy Heine. A good time will be had by all with great music, delicious holiday treats and great friends! We hope to see you there!

*"I was working in the lab, late one night,
When my eyes beheld an eerie sight,
For my monster from his slab began to rise
And suddenly to my surprise
He did the mash, he did the monster mash
The monster mash, it was a graveyard smash.*

*From my laboratory in the castle east
To the master bedroom where the vampires feast
The ghouls all came from their humble abodes
To get a jolt from my electrodes.*

*The zombies were having fun.
The party had just begun.
The guests included Wolfman,
Dracula, and his son*

*The scene was rockin', all were digging the sounds,
Igor on chains, backed by his baying hounds.
The coffin-bangers were about to arrive
With their vocal group, 'The Crypt-Kicker Five.'*

*Out from his coffin, Drac's voice did ring.
Seems he was troubled by just one thing.
Opened the lid and shook his fist
"And said, "Whatever happened to my Transylvania Twist? "*

*Now everything's cool, Drac's a part of the band
And my Monster Mash is the hit of the land.
For you, the living, this mash was meant too.
When you get to my door, tell them Boris sent you."*

- "The Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett



Stay in Touch...

- www.cd-rochester.org
- www.facebook.com/CountryDancersofRochester
- www.meetup.com/Rochester-Community-Dances
- Questions? Comments? Write to us at newsletter@cd-rochester.org

2017 CDR Dance Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2017 Country Dancers of Rochester Dance Scholarship! Last year we received several excellent submissions and awarded Meg Grindrod a scholarship to Maine Fiddle Camp. She had a great time at camp and has brought home her new musical knowledge and great camp experiences to share with our community.

This year we're again opening our scholarship opportunity to all members of our community (callers, musicians, sound techs and organizers as well as dancers), to apply for funds to attend a camp, seminar, or other activity related to our mission of furthering the preservation, study, teaching, enjoyment and continuing evolution of English and American traditional and historical dance and dance music. Here are the requirements to be considered eligible for a scholarship:

- All applicants must have an active membership with CDR.
- Applicants must state the benefit that his or her proposed activity will bring to the Country Dancers of Rochester community.
- Proposed scholarship activities **MUST** be related to English and American traditional and historical dance and/or music. A preference will be given to applications that are directly related to Contra or English Country dancing.

Scholarship applications can be downloaded from our website, www.cd-rochester.org. All applications are due by February 19. The maximum amount to be awarded is \$500. Please email scholarship@cd-rochester.org with any questions you might have.

Thanks from a Contra Bride

By Kate Holevinski

I'd just like to say THANK YOU to everyone who accepted our open invitation to our wedding contra and ice cream social - You made our special day even more so! It was wonderful to be able to celebrate with all of our dance friends, and I loved seeing you mix and mingle with our (mostly non-dancing) family. You really showed them what the Contra community is all about! I hope you had as much fun as we did - thanks again for being such an amazing group of friends!



Dancers at the wedding contra. Photo by Stephen Spinder

Letter from our 2016 CDR Scholarship Recipient

Dear Country Dancers of Rochester,

I attended Maine Fiddle Camp on a CDR scholarship this summer. Thank you all. What a magical place! The atmosphere was one of complete acceptance and appreciation of everybody's level of playing - from beginners to experienced musicians. Staff and campers got up on the stage and played for and with each other, we had dancing every night with a pick up band, singing around the campfire and hours of workshop and lesson time every day. I came away a different piano player. (Listen for some of the French Canadian style that I picked up when you hear me play for you.) The willingness of all the staff to try something new made it safe for all of the students - the very first performer on the first day was a fiddle player who had never touched a fiddle before that morning. (He also happened to be a wonderful banjo instructor). He got up on the stage and squawked out "twinkle twinkle" to thunderous applause. That set the stage for the rest of the week. Everybody was free to take a turn on the stage and we heard all kinds of good music throughout the week. Accommodations were rustic - many of us were tenters and some stayed in bunkhouse style cabins, the food was good and plentiful, the company was friendly, and the music was out of this world.

Sincerely,

Meg Grindrod

2017 CDR Wall Calendar

Love seeing great photos of our dances? Want to know about all our events coming up throughout the year? This fall, we'll be publishing our first ever CDR Wall Calendar! It will feature great photos of our community in action and also note all of our regularly scheduled events for your convenience. Presales will open in November and orders will arrive in time for the holidays.



Want to submit your photos for consideration? Here are the criteria: photos must be submitted by the photographer; must be of dances or activities held by CDR within the 2015-2016 membership year; please include information about what/when the event was and your (the photographer's) name; only a maximum of six images per photographer will be considered. Image resolution of at least 1700 x 1300 pixels is recommended.

We'll be holding juried selections in November! Send your submissions to newsletter@cd-rochester.org.

The Dancing Plan

Our 33rd Annual Thanksgiving Dance Weekend will be on Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26, at the same venue as last year: Salem United Church of Christ, which is at 60 Bittner Street in Downtown Rochester.

Check the website for registration information. The whole weekend is \$70, with a discount for pre-registering, and students. This year, in addition to the regular à la carte Friday and Saturday Night dances, we are dividing up the Saturday Morning and Afternoon sessions. Both include the lunch. All sessions are \$20 each. This was suggested on the surveys from last year, and we listened!

We've got an amazing lineup of performers and callers this year, and look forward to seeing you there!

Looking forward to all of this dancing goodness? Great! Mark your calendars and buy your tickets early to get the best price (pre-registration will be open through November 4 – go to www.cd-rochester.org to purchase online). Also, we need your help – This weekend is a great chance to show visiting dancers what a fantastic community we have here in Rochester. Whether it is setup or take-down, transporting equipment, helping with snacks, providing beverages and entrees for the performer dinner or gently used dance attire for the clothing sale, your participation helps make this an annual event that people far and near love to attend. 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

Pete's Posse

We are so excited to have Pete's Posse as our featured band! They have been touring together with Mary for over a year, across the USA. Pete's Posse is composed of renowned musician Pete Sutherland (fiddle, piano, banjo and vocals), Oliver Scanlon (fiddle, mandolin, dobro, foot percussion and vocals) and Tristan Henderson (guitars, mandolin, jaw harp, bodhran, foot percussion and vocals). The twin fiddles play in tight, wild harmony over high-powered guitar and pounding footwork with mandolin, clawhammer banjo, jawharp, rocking keyboards, and their voices adding to the mix. Old songs and tunes, lyrical and driving, alongside brand new ones. That's the multi-generational heart and mind of Pete's Posse, at work and at play.



Pete's Posse



Tempest

Tempest

The Thanksgiving Weekend has also always been a venue to showcase local talent. This year, we'll have jazzy, rockin' contras with Americana band Tempest. Leader Chuck Abell on guitar has assembled an outstanding set of musicians: Tim Ball on fiddle, Harry Aceto on Bass, Brendan Lanighan on trombone, Eric Metzger on drum kit, and Erik Stabnau on Sax. Representing a wide range of experience, they draw deep from the well of American music to create a powerful dance experience.

Food For Thought

We also want to welcome back Food For Thought: Casey Murray (Cello), Daphne Pickens (Fiddle). Casey and Daphne are home from college for Thanksgiving. They are joined this year by Donal Sheets (Guitar) who is another young accomplished musician and member of Gallimaufrey. They will be playing contra sets during the day.

What would the weekend be without the Wake-Up Waltz on Saturday morning? We will have Rebecca McCallum playing for this set. Musicians, bring your instruments – there will be a jam session all day Saturday.

On the Mic

Mary Wesley has graced the stage at NEFFA and the Flurry, toured the West Coast from Seattle to San Diego, and regularly calls in community dances around New England. Her clear calling and broad repertoire of contras and singing squares are a joy to dancers everywhere. She will call a 4-facing-4 session Saturday morning, as well as “Hey There” and “No-Walk-Thru/Mini-Medley” contra sets during the day, and leading both evening dances.



Mary Wesley



David Smukler

David Smukler

David Smukler is an experienced regional caller. He will be calling an Extreme English set on Saturday Morning with Tempest as the band, and a “Squares with Flairs” set on Saturday afternoon, with Pete’s Posse providing the beat. David will also share the stage with Mary on Friday Night.

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.

Upstairs we will have our smaller sound system, staffed by Mike Hoeschel and Fred Filbrick.



Tony Hernandez

Behind the Scenes

Each year a dedicated group of volunteers work behind the scenes to make the Thanksgiving Dance Festival happen, starting to plan for the next year before the current event is even finished. This year the planning efforts were led 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: 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.

Contra Flash Mob at the Brighton Farm Market

By Peggy Dempsey

The Brighton Farm Market was the site of a Contra Dance Flash Mob on Sunday, October 16. It was unseasonably warm and pleasant for mid-October with a large crowd at the market. More than 24 contra dancers showed up and a few shoppers joined in the dance. WildRoot String Band provided music and Evan De Smitt called three dances. Since contra dancing is a form of community dance, it felt just right to be dancing at a community market. Laughter and smiling faces abounded, both from the dancers and the observers. We may see some of those observers at our upcoming dances, as all 20 of the informational handouts were picked up at the event! Many thanks to everyone who participated.



Flash Mob. Photo by Stephen Spinder

Want to participate in our next Flash Mob? Watch our Facebook page for information on upcoming events!

www.facebook.com/CountryDancersofRochester

Become a Member!

It's not too late - you can still become a member!

CDR members are eligible for a host of benefits, including a discount at the weekly dance, eligibility for great members benefits (such as the annual scholarship and - new this year - member nametag buttons!), and this newsletter delivered to your door! And membership helps support the CDR Community: while most of the revenue from attending the dances goes directly toward the costs of our events (performers, rent, supplies, etc), the income from club membership helps pay for the annual expenses of the club, such as insurance, website hosting, advertising, etc. So support CDR and become a member today! Fill out a form at the weekly dance (prorated rates available) or online at www.cd Rochester.org (Membership registration information is on the "About Us" page).

.. Last Call to Buy an Annual Pass! ..

- If you missed the opportunity during the September Membership drive, there is one last chance to buy an Annual Pass for the 2016-2017 membership year! We're offering a prorated pass for the holidays - this is the **ONLY** time we'll be prorating the cost of the pass, and these passes will become active the last week of December. Benefits of getting an Annual Pass include:
- - Not having to worry about having cash at the door
- - The more you dance the more you'll save!
- - Special pricing for children's passes (under 17) and student passes make dancing more affordable for young dancers and families. (Makes a great gift for students!)
- - Students and Children receive their CDR membership for free, with purchase of an annual pass
- - Family pricing: households with more than two children under the age of 17 only need to buy two children's passes - additional children's passes are free.
- Contact us for details at newsletter@cdrochester.org

Thank You, From One President to Another

By Lisa Brown

Many thanks and much gratitude to Kate Baron-Holevinski for five years of dedicated service as president of CDR. When Kate took office, the organization's officers only met once a year and CDR's volunteers had no direction or leadership. There hadn't been a budget in over a decade and financial reports didn't exist.

Kate instituted monthly meetings and regular financial reports leading to increased engagement, energy and excitement with dance organizers and volunteers. She increased CDR member benefits and started a newsletter.

Personally, I am most grateful for her ability to listen to my concerns and then implement change. She restructured the administration of the organization to provide Contra and English equal representation within the decision-making group of volunteers. At first, these plans were unpopular but we persevered with the belief that greater participation by the English community would ultimately result in a healthier club. CDR leaders and volunteers now have a free flowing exchange of ideas, more cooperation between dance groups and hugely successful special events.

Kate has set a high standard for future CDR leaders and I hope to live up to her example. Please contact me (president@cdrochester.org) with your ideas, concerns and offers to help.

Etiquette Tips...

Especially for Beginners:

Less experienced dancers are encouraged to ask those whom you perceive to be more experienced to dance with you. You're likely to learn faster and have more fun that way.

Learn the basics before trying to put in the extra flourishes.

If you make a mistake or miss a figure, no worries, it's all in fun!

Especially for Experienced dancers:

Experienced dancers should welcome newer dancers into our community by asking them to dance! Refrain from twirls, spins, and other flourishes with newer partners. It can be disorienting, slowing the learning process for your partner.

Help newer dancers face the right direction and smile! Keep verbal instructions to an absolute minimum. It is hard for newer dancers to listen to you, other dancers, the caller, and the music all at the same time.

C L A S S I F I E D S

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

CONTRA GREETERS

Volunteers to buzz people in at the door and answer questions from new dancers during the first half of the dance. Rotating position.

CONTRA SET-UP COORDINATOR

Volunteer to arrive early (6:45 to 7:00PM) to coordinate volunteers in setting up admission table, water, flyers table, and chairs. Rotating position.

CONTRA CLOSING CAPTAIN

Volunteer to coordinate cleanup & closing the hall after the weekly dance. Rotating position.

SOUND CREW

Volunteer to run the sound equipment, do sound checks, and monitor throughout the dance. Rotating position.

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR and/or SOCIAL MEDIA CZAR

Volunteer to manage weekly publicity efforts through social media (currently Facebook & Meetup) and email.

CONTRA SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Volunteer to coordinate special events at weekly dances, including theme nights and holidays.

THANKSGIVING COMMITTEE

Volunteer on planning committee for the annual Thanksgiving Dance Festival. Meets occasionally throughout year.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Volunteer on planning committee overseeing the Contra or English Country dance series. Meets monthly.

CALENDAR EDITOR

Volunteer to produce/edit the monthly printed calendar of upcoming events.

Interested in helping out?

Contact us at newsletter@cdrochester.org to discuss volunteer opportunities.

CDR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Oct. 9, 2016

(condensed minutes)

- Membership: Not yet renewed: 7 household, 13 individual. So far 8 annual passes sold: 1 child, 4 all, 2 adult contra, 1 adult ECD.
- Open House Dance was a big success; working on improving sound capabilities for future dances. Those interested in joining committee, to ensure another combo dance will happen: contact Lisa by Christmas.
- Thanksgiving dance is coming!
- Thanksgiving 2017 booked: Susan Kevra / Great Bear; Peregrine Road as B band. Susan will join on clarinet when calling with Peregrine Road – they are a trio.
- Average contra attendance up.
- Netherfield Ball for novices on Aug. 27: attendance this year up from 2015.
- Masquerade Ball (Oct. 29) is coming!
- Thursday, Dec. 29 New Year's contra dance with Tempest potentially a combo ECD/contra dance
- TOTY Ball will be Jan. 1, 6-10pm; admission \$30.
- Jane Austen Ball: caller Tom Amessé; musicians Jane Knoeck & Eileen (Nicholson) Kalfass, 3rd musician TBD.
- Weekly ECD attendance up.
- Work on logo continues, with feedback from the community.
- We need more on social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – and need a volunteer to coordinate.
- ECD community is hosting an event to teach fiddlers and other musicians of non-electric melody instruments how to play for ECD
- **Next Board of Directors meeting: Jan. 22, 3:30-5:30pm, at First Baptist.**



Country Dancers of Rochester
140 Fernboro Road
Rochester, NY 14618

Stamp



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www.cd-rochester.org