

CDR NEWS

#cdrocs

IS007

FEBRUARY 2017 EDITION



Striking Strings and Eric Rounds at Thursday Night Contra, December 8, 2016. Photo by Bob Berch.

Use Your Power for Good

By Lisa Brown

We've all seen the influence of social media on our daily lives, especially in the last year. One post, by one person, can change the world. The internet gives all of us the power to sway family, friends, and foes alike.

Use your power for good! Let the world know how much you love dancing and CDR!

CDR has started a social media campaign; you can find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Please "Like" and "Share" our posts, photos and videos. Create your own social media posts about the fun you have at our dances. Use the camera on your smart phone to take and post photos and videos. If you want to help CDR create a stronger social media presence, join our social media team.

Social media team member Dave Boyer has generously volunteered his tech talent with frequent short videos to promote CDR. Dave mostly takes and even edits the videos inside his Apple iPhone6. Titles and voiceover can be done all in one's hand. By liking and sharing his videos, view count or "hits" have been multiplied from 200 to as high as 350 views.

Please use **#CDRoCs** and **#CDRdancefest** for your all CDR social media posts.

Save the Date!

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

- Scholarship Submissions Due
Tuesday, February 28, 2017
- Open Band Contra
Thursday, March 30, 2017
- Jane Austen Ball Prep Classes
April 2, 9, 23, and 30, 2017
- Jane Austen Ball
Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7, 2017
- Blue Contra Dance
Thursday, June 22, 2016

Blue Dance

By Margaret Mathews and Bob Fabinski

CDR rocked the house on September 29 and February 2 with the unique stylings of Blue Dance, a compulsively danceable swing/R&B/blues band that has been heating up area dance floors for nearly a decade. They move smoothly through classics by such luminaries as Duke Ellington, Elvis, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder, and the Manhattans.

Sammy DiFranco's vocals are first-rate. Other regular members of the band are Chuck Abell, Ernesto LaBella, Mike Stutzman, Tom Henderson, and Eric Metzger. They are joined by top-notch horn players, typically Eastman students, to emphasize the big band sound. Mike Hoeschle also joins in on fiddle to provide some traditional contra melodies as a counterpoint to the rock and roll pieces. Our own Chuck Abell has been instrumental in "squaring up" the tunes as solid 4/4 numbers, so they work as contra dance music. Caller Margaret Mathews works the contra calls in between the lyrics.



Blue Dance. Photo by Stephen Spinder.

Her description of the process follows.

Two evenings during the last full weeks of January were spent with Blue Dance, listening and observing multitalented musicians shape popular tunes to fit within the framework of contra dance. What happens when you take Van Morrison's "Domino" and square it to fit 64 bars of music? Or Lou Rawls' "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" or The Beatles' "While My Guitar Gently Weeps"? Each tune set evolved into a particular feel: some smooth, some swingy, some more rock and roll or calypso in beat. How does a caller work with such variety of musical genres?



Blue Dance, February 2, 2017. Photo by Stephen Spinder.

Creating a satisfying dance program is an art acquired over decades of musically backing talented callers and having the opportunity to call for various communities and small festivals in the U.S. and Canada. Some is obvious, at least to callers. Tunes with a smooth feel call for flowing dances, with little or no balances. Rock and roll or calypso beats cry for balances and lots of them.

With this type of contra dance evening, a key component is to allow the dancers to simply groove on the music, enjoy the singers in the band, sing along if they wish. With that in mind, simpler dances work best, meaning dances with less moves per beat and, therefore, easier for dancers to remember. My goal is to be able to back out of calling early in the dance while continuing to keep an eye on the dancers. When it looks like a little more support is needed, there is always space to add a word or two. That space happens between phrases of songs. The singers pause, I add a word "swing," "chain," or "hey."

One more evening of rehearsal with Blue Dance before the February 2nd dance. There will be an opportunity to run through some of the dance program with the band to see if the dances chosen really fit the mood of a particular tune. It's a time for fine tuning the program while keeping in mind there may be changes in the program the night of the dance if needed.

By the time this article reaches your home, February 2 contra evening with Blue Dance will be history, leaving you, the dancers, with good vibes of an evening well spent. Let's do it again!!

Mark your calendars: June 22 will be the next Blue Dance Contra night!

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

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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 28. The maximum amount to be awarded is \$500. Please email scholarship@cd-rochester.org with any questions you might have.

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).



Meryton Assembly Dancers at the Macedon Public Library, January 14, 2017. Photo by Dave Boyer.

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.

2017 Article Submission Deadlines:

- Issue 8: May 22
- Issue 9: July 31
- Issue 10: Oct. 16



Forecast: Dancing Weather Ahead

Sometimes the weather in Rochester makes traveling downright dangerous! Even though we want to dance with you every week, we don't want you to risk your life. When we need to cancel the dance for yours or the performers' safety, we will post a banner on the website by 3pm on the day of the dance. We are working out the plans for additional notifications, such as emails (another reason to sign up) and Public Service Announcements.

JANE AUSTEN BALL

About The Ball

"The ball was now a settled thing, and before the evening a proclaimed thing to all whom it concerned. Invitations were sent with despatch, and many a young lady went to bed that night with her head full of happy cares..."

--Mansfield Park

The 11th Annual Jane Austen Ball has been proclaimed and no doubt many ladies and gentlemen are now looking forward to it with eager anticipation. Country Dancers of Rochester and the Central & Western New York Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America are proud sponsors the Ball, which is one of the premier social occasions of the spring.

Jane Austen loved to dance and some of the most pivotal moments in her novels occur at balls. On May 7 we will come together in music and dance to enjoy an afternoon of elegance in the Regency style. Music, merriment, a beautiful venue, and delicious delicacies await those who attend the ball.

DETAILS

Event: 11th Annual Jane Austen Ball
Sponsors: Country Dancers of Rochester & The Central & Western NY Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America
When: May 6 and 7, 2017
Where: An Elegant Country Club in Pittsford
Website: cdrochester.org

The Caller



Tom Amessé

This will be Tom Amessé's fourth appearance as our dancing master. His clarity and easy-going style have helped him become a favorite at English country dance events in the New York/New Jersey area and all over the US. With regular calling engagements in North Jersey and Staten Island (his home), he has also emceed New Haven's Elm City Assembly, the Binghamton Ball, several New York Playford Balls (with Gene Murrow), and the Twelfth Night Assembly in Staten Island.

The Music

"There had been music, singing, talking, laughing, all that was most agreeable..."

--Persuasion

The ball this year will feature the music of three much loved musicians who are familiar to dancers in our area: Jane Knoeck on keyboard, Eileen Nicholson Kalfass on violin and Rebecca McCallum on violin.

Jane Knoeck's musical beginnings were in classical piano and voice studies. She entered the instrumental folk music world upon discovering the hammered dulcimer. Contra dance bands followed and she's been playing for dances ever since on piano and accordion, weaving a variety of musical influences into her style.

Eileen Nicholson Kalfass began studying violin at age 4 as a classical Suzuki violin student. Her appreciation of fiddle music followed soon thereafter as a result of her family's interest in folk arts. Her playing combines an unforgettably smooth and pleasing tone with the solid rhythm dancers appreciate.

Rebecca McCallum grew up playing classical violin, but in college, she fell in love with contra dancing, and soon abandoned classical music for the fiddle. Nothing gives Rebecca greater musical joy than creating lift, energy and drive for a roomful of dancers. A member of the Groovemongers since 1997, Rebecca plays for contra dancers across the US and overseas.



Top to Bottom:
Rebecca McCallum,
Jane Knoeck, and
Eileen Nicholson Kalfass

JANE AUSTEN BALL

The Venue

"Well! This is brilliant indeed!--This is admirable!--Excellently contrived, upon my word. Nothing wanting. Could not have imagined it.--So well lighted up!"

--Emma

This year we return to a venue that has been a favorite location for the Jane Austen Ball. Located at an elegant country club in Pittsford, the venue will provide the lush feel of a Regency country manor. As one approaches along the sidewalk across a beautifully kept lawn, one can easily imagine Pemberley or Netherfield Park.

Inside a brilliantly lit ballroom and spacious dining and changing facilities will support a day of elegant dancing. New this year is an optional breakfast, a lunch of three courses and a break with delicious period treats will nourish dancers throughout the day.



Sixth Annual Jane Austen Ball. Photo by Lisa Brown.

The Program

This year's Jane Austen Ball will provide a full weekend of activities on May 6 and 7, but the excitement starts much earlier. Dancers wishing to be fully prepared for the ball are encouraged to attend as many of our ball prep sessions as possible. A potluck supper and an evening of spirited English country dance will follow each session.

On Saturday afternoon, May 6, there will be preparation session for the ball at the First Baptist Church. This will also be followed by a potluck supper. Then, in the evening, we will have a dance for experienced dancers. The dances will be called, but walk through will be limited, and the program will feature more challenging dances.

Finally, on Sunday, May 7, we will gather at our beautiful venue. An optional breakfast will be offered. In the morning we will walk through all the dances on the ball program. Following the practice there will be a lunch consisting of three entrees, soup, salad and desert. After lunch there will be ample time to change into ball dress. Then we will dance through the afternoon, reliving the times and tunes of Jane Austen. A break with elegant refreshments will be provided. After the ball those who wish will gather for dinner at a local restaurant.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Ball Prep Classes

Dates: April 2, 9, 23, and 30
Place: First Baptist Church,
175 Allen's Creek Road,
Rochester 14618
Cost: \$5
Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Potluck supper to follow

Ball Weekend:

Saturday May 6 at First Baptist Church
Ball practice 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Potluck Supper 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Experienced Dance 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Sunday May 7 at the venue
Breakfast 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Ball practice 10:00 a.m.– noon
Lunch noon
Ball 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m. for those who will at a local restaurant

Registration

Registration for this event should open in mid February in time for Valentine's Day. Registration will be available online at our website or by paper registration form.

Please see our website at cdrochester.org for details.

From Jane Austen Herself

"Frank Churchill had danced once at Highbury, and longed to dance again..."

--Emma

Hope to see you all at the Eleventh Annual Jane Austen Ball!

Thanksgiving Recap

By Bob Fabinski

A Huge Thanks goes out to all the volunteers who helped make the 2016 Thanksgiving Festival a successful and enjoyable event.

The snack and lunch buffet preparation help was exceptional. The setup and takedown went smoothly. We learn more about ways to control the temperature and humidity in the main hall every year, and the floor was not as sticky, mainly because the humidity was lower. Many dancers availed themselves of the spare socks we provided, to help with the traction. There was a small profit for the first time in several years (ever since the rent increased). Pete's Posse, Tempest, and Ginger Minority played excellent music while Mary Wesley and David Smukler led us in fun and exciting dances. The Advanced Contra session was popular, and the callers enjoyed the chance to showcase some unusual figures.

Looking forward to next year, we hope to have the schedule lined up well in advance. One of the new volunteer positions we would like to staff next year is Sherpa/Roadie to help move the musicians between upstairs and the main hall. The music will be provided by Great Bear Band and Peregrine Road. We are planning on a musicians' workshop, so let us know what particular topics we should ask the bands to be prepared to discuss. Some ideas we have currently are "Many ways for Jig to Reel transitions" and "How to match the tune to the dance." The main caller will be Susan Kevra. Several of us recall thoroughly enjoying her English dances in addition to the Contras. In fact, plans are in the works for a special English dance the following Sunday with the headliner band and caller...Stay Tuned!

A Letter from a Member

TO MY ROCHESTER DANCE FAMILY AFTER OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

Thank you.

In purposeful connection we share meaningful experience. The logo on the Thanksgiving Dance flier - Yes! It is good to hold hands in exuberant celebration. For a few moments I find myself inside Matisse's painting named Dance I (as it were).

Dr. Tom Bannister and Richard Sauvain must be proud of their progeny (so to speak) succeeding in such a marvelous manner. Our English family and Contra family now talk to one another. We esteem both old and new dancers - especially their intrinsic worth.

To our Canadian, New York, Pennsylvania, and more distant relatives - it gives us great pleasure to dance with you once again. Because I love him, I have learned not to be embarrassed on those brief occasions when formerly timid Little Timmy surreptitiously sneaks out to play.

Tim Kelley
December 2016

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A Marvelous Masquerade!



Masquerade Ball, Saturday October 29, 2016. Photos by Lisa Brown.

5th Thursdays:

Open Band & Open Mic Nights

Ever notice that some months have a 5th Thursday? It will be more apparent this year because we would like to try having the Thursday Night Contra on the 5th Thursday of the month be an Open Band and/or Open Mic Night. There are 4 of them in 2017: March 30th, June 29, August 31, and November 30th. We will start slowly, with just the Open Band, because touring caller and choreographer Donna Hunt will be joining us from Pennsylvania. Eric Rounds and Mark Henry will anchor the band, and our musically talented members are invited to join them on the stage for a set or two, or the whole night. If you are interested in calling or playing, contact Bob Fabinski or Eric Rounds. We will get you some chords or sheet music to practice beforehand. For those of you interested in the open mic opportunities, please consider joining our monthly caller's workshop. The emcee for the evening will be coordinating the dances to prevent repetition.

Fifth Sunday English

English dancers may likewise notice that some months have a 5th Sunday! Regularly scheduled English dances are held every Sunday of each month except on the fifth. Tim Kelley proposed that we dance on the Saturday of the fifth Sunday weekend when we don't already have a special event planned. The suggestion was met with enthusiasm and we tried it out for the first time on January 28th. A lot of friends from Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo that we don't see very often came out to dance! And not having to go to work the next day, we went out afterwards to keep the fun rolling. We had a great time. There will be more Saturday English dancing on fifth Sunday weeks, and maybe a combination of English and Contra too – keep an eye on the schedule!



English Country Fiddle Workshop sponsored by the Meryton Assembly Dancers, Nov.13, 2016.
Photo by Lisa Brown.

Etiquette Tip for the Day

When you're getting ready for the dance, please remember: Personal hygiene is important, but so is maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all of our dancers. Some of our participants have real sensitivities to perfume products, so please, when you are cleaning up before the dance just stick with products that are fragrance-free.



CDR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Jan. 22, 2017

Condensed minutes by Jeanie Lockwood

- Budget for 2017 approved, including feather flags for outside Thanksgiving dance & weekly contra dances; new logo, social media training, new web site. Number of new dancers needed to recoup marketing costs: 1 per month.
- CDR's Policy on Dealing with Complaints of Inappropriate Behavior -- procedures in case we need to enforce behavior contract -- approved.

Marketing and social media plans

- Hiring a designer for new web site; previous plans have fallen through.
- Planning committees will be submitting names of candidates (at least 2 from English & 2 from contra) for a private, personalized Flower City Arts Center social media class -- let us know if you'd like to be considered!

Branding / logo

- Previous plans fell through; seeking a graphic designer. Will use previous model for new logo & member comments on it for moving forward.

- We've been issuing news releases when we have special events; we've appeared in print a couple times recently.
- We need photos for newsletter & social media -- send full size digital photos to Lisa Brown. Also, video gets the most hits on social media, so post them as well as pictures of our dances and use #CDRocs !

Scholarship committee

- Committee that chooses scholarship winners for dance camp needs 2 more members -- see a planning committee member if you're interested!

Dance cancellation policy

- Bookers are in charge of cancellation -- each committee will develop a policy, with certain aspects consistent, such as time by which to make the decision & publicize.

Combo dance review

- Will make "no twirling" buttons available at future combo dances for those who prefer not to twirl.

Next meeting: March 26, 4-6pm, at First Baptist.



Country Dancers of Rochester
140 Fernboro Road
Rochester, NY 14618

Stamp

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www.cdchester.org