



CDR NEWS

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IS008

JUNE 2017 EDITION



Meryton Assembly Dancers with Eastman School of Music students, February 2017. Photo by Dave Boyer.

Remembering Jane

By Lisa Brown

2017 marks the bicentennial of beloved British author Jane Austen's death. Janeites all over the world are spending the year reflecting on her lasting influence on our culture and lives. Like many ECDers, Jane Austen's books and their film adaptations were my introduction to English Country Dance. Some Janeites try dancing once a year and some, like me, embrace country dancing and can't get enough.

CDR's first Jane Austen Ball, eleven years ago, was a turning point for the ECD series here in Rochester. The English community has steadily grown by leaps and bounds since then. Jane Austen is our greatest marketing tool. Thanks Jane!

"There were twenty Dances & I danced them all, & without any fatigue. . . . I fancy I could just as well dance for a week together as for half an hour."

- Jane Austen in a letter to her sister Cassandra on December 24, 1798

Save the Date!

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

- **Contra at the Brighton Town Market**
Sunday, June 18, 2017
Sunday, August 27, 2017
- **Blue Dance**
Thursday, June 22, 2017
- **Open Band Contra**
Thursday, June 29, 2017
Thursday, August 31, 2017
- **ECD with Peregrine Road**
Sunday, July 9, 2017
Featuring Rachel Bell & Karen Axelrod
- **Contra/English Combo Dance**
Saturday, July 29, 2017
With calling by Pam Goddard and music featuring Molly Jaynes, Marc Dumont and Chris Degolyer

Meryton Assembly Dancers Get Schooled

By Lisa Brown

This spring, the Meryton Assembly Dancers taught English country dance to enthusiastic students at three local colleges.

In February, they visited the Eastman School of Music to work with the freshman acting class as the first session of a three part dance series that included the polka and the waltz. After two severe weather cancellations, the Meryton Assembly Dancers finally made it to Roberts Wesleyan College to work with the cast of *Pride and Prejudice*. During a marathon 3.5 hour rehearsal the students learned six dances for their show in April. SUNY Brockport was the final destination for an Honors English class on "Jane Austen and Popular Culture." The Meryton Assembly Dancers taught the students dances from five Jane Austen movies.



Meryton Assembly Dancers with the cast of *Pride and Prejudice* at Roberts Wesleyan. Photo by Dave Boyer.



Left: Meryton Assembly Dancers with the cast of *Pride and Prejudice* at Roberts Wesleyan. Photo by Dave Boyer.

Above: Meryton Assembly Dancers teaching at Eastman School of Music. Photo by Dave Boyer.

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).

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 9: July 31
- Issue 10: Oct. 16

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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CDR's Premier 5th Thursday Open Band Contra

By Bob Fabinski

Thanks mainly to the tireless efforts of Eric Rounds, we had wonderful music for the first of our 5th Thursday Open Band nights on March 30th 2017. Eric penned the scores of about a dozen pairs of tunes for the musicians to practice before the event. The scores have been digitized and made accessible on our website under the "Open Band Resources > Links to Sheet Music" link. Check out the great introduction essay written by Eric as well. It contains guidance on tempo, and how the tune sets are organized. Some of the money collected at the dance will be used to create a few binders containing the complete set of sheet music for future Open Bands to use. We are slowly putting the tunes into a program that is designed to print sheet music, and allows us to have an easy way to transpose to B-Flat notation as well.

Upcoming performances for the Meryton Assembly Dancers

Sunday, June 11 at 1:00 pm

Ellwanger Garden Peony Week

Saturday & Sunday June 24 & 25 at 3:00 pm

Village Square - Genesee Country Village & Museum

Monday, July 10 at 7:00 pm

English Country Dancing for Everyone

Central Library - Harold Hacker Hall of the Rundel Memorial Building

Thursday, August 10 at 8:00 pm

Purcell Ball with the Summer Baroque Ensemble

Eastman School of Music

The group was anchored by Eric Rounds on fiddle and Mark Henry on keyboard. They were joined by many others from our talented community, including Dick Bolt who invited quite a few of his students and fellow fiddlers to the event. John Kerr, Ben Ford, Fred Filbrich and Ira Srole helped round out the sound of all the fiddles with mandolin, banjo, guitar, bass and woodwinds. Maxine McDonald played on the keyboard for a set.

The caller was Donna Hunt, touring from Philadelphia on her way to Fiddlehead Frolic. The dances she called were carefully selected to go with the published repertoire and were the perfect blend of challenge and dance-ability.

Our next two Open Band nights will be on these 5th Thursdays: June 29th and August 31st. Mike Hoeschle and Mark Henry will be anchoring the music in June. Bring your instrument and join us on the stage! Due to limitations of the sound system, there will only be individual microphones on the anchor musicians, and a pick-up mic for the rest of the group. Admission is free to non-dancing musicians.

Maxine McDonald will be calling on 6/29, and she may share the mic with a few "guest callers" as we continue to develop our local talent for future Open Mic nights!

Contra at the Brighton Farm Market!

Coming Soon: Contra dancing at the Brighton Farm Market June 18 and August 27. Brighton High School, 1150 Winton Road South, 11:30am. Watch Facebook for details!

CDR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2017

Condensed minutes by Jeanie Lockwood

English Country Planning Committee Jane Austen Ball was held in early May. Demo Team: 2 gigs in April, 1 in June, possibly Turtle Hill in Sept.

Contra Planning Committee Resurgence in attendance! Addressing 2 incidents in parking lot: police will try to have a presence on the streets during our dances & we're keeping in touch with neighborhood association & church to work to improve security.

Marketing New web site will be complete June 1. Working with graphic designer. Members attended social media class April 1.

Scholarship winners Colleen Liggett, Evan De Smitt. Probably matching scholarship from CDSS.

Dance cancellation policy Approved.

Combo dance Next 5th Sunday's Saturday: July 29th. Noon potluck lunch; dance 1:30-4:30pm.

Button-maker needed ISO nametag Button Wrangler: to create nametag & print (we can stamp into button at dance). Also ISO someone to create a simple program so we can hand the new process over to a volunteer with minimal graphic experience. It'll be fun & has limited scope!

Newsletter wrangler needed ISO production manager: to coordinate & supervise collating & folding, mailing, & emailing. Takes minimal time away from dancing: at most 1 dance.

Bylaws Considering the the process / timing of proposed changes to bylaws. Getting input from CDSS.

Next meetings July 30 3-5pm; Oct. 15 4-6pm

English Country Dance Vacation in St. Croix- A Wonderful Mid-Winter Get-Away Organized by George Marshall

By Ruth Hyde

This one week vacation which combines dancing in the early morning and evening with a wide variety of activities during the rest of the day is a great way to spend some time in a warmer climate every other winter. (In alternate years it takes place in Hawaii.) I have gone three times starting in 2013 and plan to return in 2019 to celebrate my 90th birthday.

When our plane landed in Christiansted, we were greeted by some of the staff who organized taxis to take us to our condos and also by some locals who offered us a taste of several flavors of rum. When we arrived at the site, we were met by George and given keys to our condo and a folder containing useful information about the program and local activities. Condos are located in two adjoining complexes, Sugar Beach and Colony Cove. Each has a living room, dining area, kitchen, bedrooms, baths, and a porch. This year, I ate my breakfasts and lunches on the porch watching life on the beach, usually in the company of one of the others who shared this unusually large condo for seven. (Most suites are for four.)



St. Croix. Photo contributed by Ruth Hyde.

After settling in, it was time for dinner which is served in a large open-sided tent. Those of us who care for the environment took dishes and silver from our condos. Most of the dinners were prepared by local restaurateurs, who prepared a variety of ethnic meals. Vegetarian entrees were always available. On the first night, however, this meal was prepared by staff, and was one of my favorites. After dinner, it was time to dance. I enjoyed dancing with friends whom I knew from other workshops, here and elsewhere, and I often had the last waltz with George. Then snacks, including lots of local fruit such as star fruit, kiwi, and pineapple; dips with veggies, drinks, and cookies. These were served at the pool area, where some sat with their feet in the water.

The staff also prepared breakfast and lunch on the first day. This year I had two breakfasts, one with granola, yogurt and fresh fruit, and the second with lox and bagel. This was followed by a dance and then a get-acquainted activity in which those who had been there before gave advice to newcomers such as where to hike, swim, or do scuba diving and which tours they had enjoyed. One person advised, "You do not have to do anything." George reminded us to say, "good



St. Croix. Photo contributed by Ruth Hyde.

morning" or "good afternoon" and also pass the time of day with the local people before asking them for directions. After lunch was served, representatives of various excursions came to help us sign up. (They accepted cash or credit cards.) Then we walked to a nearby grocery store to purchase food for future breakfasts and lunches. Actually, we started walking, but a woman offered us a ride when we asked her for directions. In addition to the food I needed, I also bought a bottle of wine which I later shared with the friend who offered me and my friends a ride back.

Callers for the week were Joanna Reiner-Wilkinson and Scott Higgs. The 90 minute morning session was in workshop format and the three hour session at night a social dance. The second night Joanna called the whole dance. My favorite was a difficult dance called 1-A by Brooke Friendly and Chris Sackett. She called it so well that I had no difficulty when I had to switch from inactive to active. Afterward I complimented her on her perfect timing. Other dances I enjoyed during the week included Sapphire Sea, Heiden Roselein, Impropropriety, Interruptions, Punchbowl, Keys to the Cellar, Autumn in Amherst, Elizabeth, Stepping Stones, The Physical Snob, and the Astonished Archaeologist. Although I already knew many of them, it was a treat to do them with new people, dancing in this large circus-sized open-air tent, to the music of Bare Necessities.

Once, when the staff had the night off, a local group of dancers led the dancing and provided the music for a very long quadrille in a very large set. My partner was one of our group, but fortunately we had a local couple opposite us who knew the dance very well, especially the ten year old girl who may have been dancing with her father. She made sure that the other three of us knew exactly what to do. Later George called a few contras for all of us.

This island was once noted for the production of sugar and signs of the old plantations remain. There are the remains of one sugar mill still standing in the Sugar Beach swimming pool area. Another can be seen at The Little Princess, an estate now owned by the Nature Conservancy which is working on water cleansing and coral replacement in the sea. I wore water shoes when I went there because at high tide some of the trail is under water. One day I went on a tour provided by Sweeny Toussaint in an open air bus. Lunch was ordered when we boarded the bus so that it was ready when we arrived at a local restaurant. Sweeny shared his wide knowledge of local history as we visited the botanical gardens, a rum factory and other places of local interest.

My favorite excursion, however was sailing on the tall ship, Roseway. Passengers were invited to help with pulling up the sails and one year I even got to be at the helm for a while. This trip was organized by Edmund Robinson who entertained us with sea shanties as we sailed.

I also enjoyed going into town for lunch and shopping with two friends. Normally, we would have taken a taxi, but we decided to use the local bus. The stop had changed since the last time I had taken it, so after we waited a while, we hitch-hiked to another stop and caught a bus there. Coming back, we had even more difficulty- we ended up at a stop at a place we did not recognize. There we met a very helpful, bearded young man who told us that he was organizing a food co-op with local farmers so that they could buy fresh fruits and vegetables from each other instead of paying steep prices at the grocery stores. He also told us which bus to take to Sugar Beach.



St. Croix. Photo contributed by Ruth Hyde.

All too soon, the week was over. George had organized taxi rides to the airport. My flight was late so I had time for one last swim in the pool. I had enjoyed everything about the week, dancing most of all, but also the excursions, the food, relaxing on the porch, walking on the beach, and visiting with old and new friends.

Sound like fun? Tropical Dance Vacations offers English and Contra dance weeks in St. Croix and Hawaii every year: www.tropicaldancevacation.com

Jane Austen Ball 2017 Photos

Photos by Athena Gazzetta.





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Stamp

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