

# The President's Report *by Diane Silver*

Our reputation precedes us!

Last month I did a calling tour around the Midwest, and had an opportunity to talk about all sorts of dance-related topics with a lot of folks from that region. It was interesting to hear from the outsider's perspective that our dance community is famous. It seems everyone knows that Asheville is a hotbed of contra dancing. They all want to know what our secret is to attract so many dancers, and to have such a great range of ages participating, from teens to retirees. They also said they had heard that Asheville is a "hard" place to come dance. HmMMMM.

It's difficult to define for sure what makes a dance a success. I guess it's a combination of things - our richness of talented musicians and callers; the history of traditional dance and music here in the mountains that attracts potential dancers to the area; maybe even just holding the dance on a good day of the week. But surely one of the most important aspects of our dance community is the community itself. Our big crowd and high energy level can be intimidating to newcomers, whether they're new dancers or contra diehards from other locales, but we always try to make everyone feel welcome.

Joining a contra dance group is sort of like jumping onto a moving merry-go-round. It seems that our merry-go-round is going faster than in most other cities. It's not that we're literally dancing faster, it's just that our big crowd and high energy make our dance more frenetic than in most other cities. This is part of what makes it so vibrant, but it can make it difficult for new folks to jump on board.

I want to encourage you to continue to do what you do in the name of community. Keep asking newcomers to dance, offer a hand to help new folks join our fray. Reserve a dance or two each evening for someone you've never danced with before. Keep welcoming them into our group!! Make a point to look for the new folks and say hello. Keep trying to encourage responsible dancing so that people feel safe and comfortable!

This is a great place for contra dancing. We have great volunteers, musicians, callers, dancers, and sound guys, and a vibrant, well-attended scene. Let's make sure we are also great hosts, so that visitors find it easy to join us.

Happy dancing!

## T-shirt Sales a Success

Our shirts are showing up on dance floors all over the country. Combine a snappy design and the memory of a fabulous dance experience in Asheville and dancers from far and wide are sporting our shirts!

This year's t-shirt design is SOLD OUT! "Down to one," says Jonathan Gilbert, the head of our t-shirt project. Jonathan, an artist himself, definitely has a knack for picking designs and colors for successful t-shirt sales. The proceeds from the sale of shirts support our scholarship program and other projects of the Old Farmers Ball.

As we look to plans for next year, we thought that you'd enjoy seeing all of the t-shirt designs in one place.. a gallery of sorts! So here they are 2005-2007.



### 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT INFORMATION:

President..... Diane Silver  
diane@diane-silver.com

Vice President..... Suzanne Hosch  
suzhosch@yahoo.com

Secretary..... Linda Mitchell  
lindamitchell53@yahoo.com

Treasurer/T-Shirt Project.. Jonathan Gilbert  
bodystone@aol.com

Booking/Newsletter.....Beth Molaro  
bmolaro@earthlink.net

Volunteer Coordinator.....Daniel Davila  
catofpassion@yahoo.com

Able Allen.....contramindset@yahoo.com

Joe Karpen.....jkarpen@lpcutting.com

John Combs .....johncombs@main.nc.us

Laurie Fisher.....fiddlewitch1111@main.nc.us

David Hayes.....contravert@gmail.com

Bill Hufnagle.....bikerbilly@bikerbilly.com

Emily Mitchell.....mlemitch@gmail.com

Hank Morris.....HanknJune@cs.com

Sara Slaughter.....swinginfiddler@yahoo.com

David Stalnaker.....Stalnakers3@aol.com

### WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Telephone Info-Line .....828-258-4809

Website .....www.oldfarmersball.com

List Serve groups.yahoo.com/group/ofb/



**DANCE THOUGHTS from History**

Dancing, is, for the most part, attended with many amorous smiles, wanton compliments, unchaste kisses, scurrilous songs and sonnets, effeminate music, lust provoking attire, ridiculous love pranks, all which savor only of sensuality, of raging fleshly lusts. Therefore, it is wholly to be abandoned of all good Christians.

Dancing serves no necessary use, no profitable, laudable, or pious end at all. It is only from the imbred pravity, vanity, wantonness, incontenency, pride, profaneness, or madness of man's depraved nature. Therefore, it must needs be unlawful unto Christians.

The way to heaven is too steep, too narrow for men to dance in and keep revelry out. No way is large or smooth enough for capering rousters, for jumping, skipping, dancing dames but that broad, beaten, pleasant road that leads to HELL. The gate of heaven is too narrow for whole rounds, whole troops of dancers to march in together.

Histriomastix (1632),  
Puritan William Prynne

**THE COMMITTEES & Their CHAIRS**

Watch here and on the web for more information on what these committees are up to!

- Governance Committee..... Joe Karpen
- Policy Committee.....Able Allen
- Volunteer Committee.....Daneo Davila
- Finance Committee.....Jonathan Gilbert
- Membership Committee.....Deborah Swanson
- Sound Committee..... Daneo Davila
- Booking Advisory Committee.....Beth Molaro
- Newsletter.....Beth Molaro
- Dance Development Committee.....Suzannah Park
- Community Outreach Program Committee.. David Hayes
- Marketing and PR Committee..... Jonthan Gilbert
- Special Events Guidelines Committee....Suzanne Hosch

Special Events Committees – Committees are formed each year for Reunion, New Year’s Eve, and any other official Old Farmers Ball event. These committees plan and carry out the event from start to finish according to the guidelines set forth by the Board.

- Reunion 2007 Committee.....John Combs
- New Year’s Eve '07-'08 Committee.....

Long-Range Vision Committee.....  
This committee was originally called the “Dream Dance Hall” Committee, and grew out of discussions about whether sometime in the future we might want to have our own building for holding dances. What is the long-range vision for our organization?

**MISSION/VISION STATEMENT REVIEW**

The Old Farmers Ball board is planning a board retreat on October 14 to examine and refine our mission and vision statements.

There were suggestions at the last community meeting that Old Farmers Ball devote some of our resources to dance-related activities in the area other than just our own events (such as the English dance, or LEAF is schools and streets, etc.). This prompted the creation of the community outreach committee, but it also raised the question of what exactly is our mission and vision.

This retreat will provide us an opportunity to re-examine who we are and what we do for our community with the assistance of a facilitator.

Anyone who cares to have input should provide it to Joe Karpen by Oct. 10. If you have any ideas you would like to have incorporated into our discussions, please send them to Joe, and he will have the facilitator incorporate your suggestions into our discussions.

jkarpen@lpcutting



**HEY, GET CONNECTED!**

**Old Farmers Ball Board Meetings** are generally held on the 2nd Monday of the Month: 6:30 PM @ the Grey Eagle... You are welcome to attend. Check oldfarmersball.com for details.

**Beginner/Intermediate Music Jam is back on.** The group meets on Thursday evenings in Room 25 in Kittredge Music Building at Warren Wilson College before the dance. 6:45-8:00. All beginners and early intermediate players are invited. This group plays tunes very slowly and a lot... the idea is to get comfortable playing with others, playing both by ear and with some reading if there is interest. Bring a tune to play... and share ... or just come to pick at strings. for more information please email Suzanne at [suzhosch@yahoo.com](mailto:suzhosch@yahoo.com) with slowjam in the title line. Or call 828-215-3625 and leave a message.

**Membership Directories are READY!** If you are a current member and have not received your copy by NOW, please let us know so we can get one to you!

**MOONDANCE Tickets for sale.** Did you register too late to get in? Your luck is changing! Jonathan has two tickets for Moondance with lodging that he cannot use. Call Jonathan at 645 0456.

**Join the List-Serve.** [ofb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ofb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
Post on dance related subjects, thoughts, etc. Organize Carpools to dances, etc. Discuss Dance Stuff. Just simply stay connected!

**Next Community Open Band is September 20 and is a FundRaiser for REUNION.** Funds raised from this event will support the Scholarship program for the Reunion Dance Weekend. Anyone is welcome to play with the Open Band. Those who are interested in playing with the open band are encouraged to a tune list if they have one and to arrive by 7 PM if possible for stage placement and sound check. **This dance evening includes an OPEN MIC for CALLERS.** Callers sign up to call a dance or two with the MC. All are welcome to play music or call a dance!

UP-DATE PROPOSED FOR BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors has voted to present updated Bylaws for a membership vote on November 1, 2007. Significant changes include conformance to the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, term limits and rotating membership for the board. In order to save paper, a copy of the proposed bylaws is at www.oldfarmersball.com. There will also be copies of the proposed bylaws at the Old Farmers Ball dances, and also by request by sending an e-mail to Joe Karpen. jkarpen@lpcutting.com

If you would like to comment or propose any changes, let Joe Karpen know before Spetember 9 so that there will be sufficient time for the board to make changes before the special meeting. Please e-mail Joe Karpen - jkarpen@lpcutting if you would like further explanation of the proposed bylaws. A response will be provided as soon as possible. The November 1 vote for the bylaws is either accept or reject, as any amendments would have to be noticed 30 days in advance.

You do not have to be present at the meeting to vote, just fill in the proxy and give to someone who will be at the meeting or mail to Old Farmers Ball, PO Box 9000, WWC Box 6278, Asheville NC 28815.

..... PROXY .....

The Old Farmers Ball By-Laws Special Meeting

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member of the Old Farmers Ball, does hereby constitute and appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as my Proxy, with full power of substitution, to act for and on my behalf at the November 1, 2007. Special Meeting of the Old Farmers Ball membership, and all adjournments thereof, to act, vote, and execute consents with respect to my membership interest in the Old Farmers Ball as fully and to the same extent and effect as I might do myself.

In specific, I direct my Proxy to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Accept proposed by-laws presented at this Special meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Reject proposed by-laws presented at this Special meeting.

This proxy is authorized by North Carolina General Statutes 55A-7-24.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Meet Your '07 Board of Directors (continued)

In the last few issues of Old Farmers Ball News we have introduced you to many of our current board members. In this issue, we introduce you to member-at-large, Beth Molaro. Watch for more introductions in future issues.

Beth Molaro .....Member-at-Large

Beth Molaro has lived in Asheville for eleven years now, happily surrounded by the mountains of Western North Carolina. Along with her daughter Rebecca Grace, she is often on the road calling dances all over the country. Her clear calling and skilled dance selection have made



her one of the country's most popular and widely traveled callers. Beth is a skilled and exuberant foot percussonist in the Appalachian flat-foot style and a budding banjo uke player.

Since 1992, Beth has called hundreds of dances from coast to coast as well as Denmark and Canada. Beth is in demand as a caller and teacher for weddings, family reunions and other gatherings as well as community dances both small and large, at Dance Weeks, Weekends and Folk Festivals too numerous to mention. Beth calls high-energy, turbocharged squares and smooth flowing contras. She is known for her quick no-nonsense walk throughs and effective teaching for both the newest dancers and the most seasoned of dancers. Beth's vocal style is unique in the dance world. Her ability to sing the calls makes for an exciting blending of music and calls which she accomplishes with both clarity and musical integrity. You will hear elements of the blues and jazz in her voice as she sings you from one figure to the next, weaving together the various elements of dance, music and dancers into a positively charged room of inspired enthusiasm.

When asked what is it about contra dancing that attracted her, Beth's reply is "I challenge you to find another place where you can find a room full of people smiling at each other all night long?"

Beginning with her teen leadership as president of the local 4-H club, Beth has served on the board of several arts organizations in the past including Charleston Folk, Charleston Crafts Co-operative, SC Crafts Association, Lewisburg Country Dancers. Beth was most recently nominated to serve on the board of the national dance group, the Lloyd Shaw Foundation for the upcoming term.

Beth has served on the Board for the Old Farmers Ball for 9 years and is currently chair of the Booking Advisory Committee, books bands and callers for the Thursday Night dance, and edits the Old Farmers Ball News.

By serving on the Old Farmers Ball board, Beth shares her enthusiasm for Traditional American Dance with the community. She is dedicated to helping make the Old Farmers Ball the best it can be. Beth feels that with her travel to diverse dance communities world-wide and the opportunity to compare notes with other dancers and community leaders, she brings to the board a perspective made unique by her myriad of dance experiences.

The Old Farmers Ball is a Community Dance. It is given life by individuals in this community volunteering their time and efforts. You are encouraged to volunteer where and when you can. Contact any member of the board with comments, suggestions, or offers of help.

OLD FARMERS BALL  
PO BOX 9000 W W C BOX 6278  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28815



## BE A MEMBER

◆Be a supporting and voting member of the Old Farmers Ball community.

◆Be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

◆Be listed in the *Old Farmers Ball Membership Directory*.

◆List your occupation in the Directory... another way to connect with our community.

◆Get a copy of the *Old Farmers Ball Membership Directory*.

◆Get our Official Newsletter, *the OLD FARMERS BALL NEWS*.

◆Get \$1 off dance admission with your Membership Key Tag.

Join anytime. Renewals due each January.

Membership Forms are available online or at the Old Farmers Ball Thursday dance.

## LOOK FOR YOUR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER DANCE FLYER INSIDE

the OLD FARMERS BALL NEWS

September/October 2007

Send us your REUNION Stories and photos for inclusion in upcoming newsletters...



**the Old Farmers Ball News** is published bimonthly by the Old Farmers Ball and includes the Asheville Area Dance Flyer, *Dance Thoughts* column, Project Reports, contact info and much more. Deadline for next *Old Farmers Ball News* is OCTOBER 8. Please send your submissions: photos, jokes, letters, thoughts, articles, ideas etc the editor.  
bmolaro@earthlink.net

# Asheville Area Dances

# Sep – Oct 2007

## Grey Eagle

**Mondays - 8pm** Beginners Always Welcome  
185 Clingman Avenue - Asheville NC (828) 232-5800

- 9-3 **Wild Goose Chase**..... w/ Anne Marie Walter  
Bob Kogut, Karen Gaughan, Art Shuster, Skip Metheny
- 9-10 **The Tarheel Rattlers**..... w/ Beth Molaro  
Robby Robertson, Cary Fridley, Trevor & Travis Stuart
- 9-17 **Ed Baggott & Elsie Peterson**... w/ Diane Silver
- 9-24 **The Real Magnolias** .....w/ Hank Morris  
June Advincula, Susan Hosch, Jane Weaver, Jennifer Hunt
- 10-1 **Rob & Beth Mangum & Friends**  
w/ John Combs
- 10-8 **Fly By Night**..... w/ Barbara Groh  
Beth Magill, Julia Weatherford, Laura Lengnick,  
Karen Gaughan
- 10-15 **Jaige Trudeau & Adam Broome** ..w/ Rick Mohr
- 10-22 **Dancing Bears** .....w/ Adina Gordon  
Lew Gelfond, Mark Langner, John Culp, Skip Metheny
- 10-29 **Steve Hickman, Bob Willoughby,**  
**John Devine**..... w/ Fred Park

### OFB Board Meetings

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays – Grey Eagle - 6:30pm**

- 9-10, 10-8 Before the Monday dance - Everyone Welcome

## Old Farmer's Ball

**Thursdays - 8pm** (lesson 7:30pm) (828) 258-4809  
Warren Wilson College - Bryson Gym - Swannanoa NC

- 9-6 **Spring Chickens**..... w/ Hank Morris  
Ben Harvey, Jessica Johnson, Art Shuster,  
Rob & Beth Mangum
- 9-13 **Shifty Tweeds**.....w/ Mark Langner  
David White, Ken Scott, Kathy Shepherd
- 9-20 **Community Open Band**.....MC/ Paula Bishop  
Led by Suzanne Hosch & Pearl Mueller - Come join the band  
or call a dance
- 9-27 **Roger Gold & Friends**..... w/ Diane Silver
- 10-4 **Fiddlewitch**..... w/ Sam Rotenberg  
Laurie Fisher, Karen Gaughan, Art Shuster, Skip Metheny
- 10-11 **Crowfoot**.....w/ Beth Molaro  
Adam Broome, Jaige Trudeau, Nickolas Williams
- 10-18 **Wild Asparagus**..... w/ George Marshall  
Ann Percival, David Cantieni, Becky Tracy
- 10-25 **Feral Broccoli**.....w/ Barbara Groh  
David Lynch, Vollie McKenzie, Thorn Cary, Amy Hobbs

**Music Jam** - Before The Dance, Every Thursday  
Beginning & Intermediate – all players welcome  
WWC Kettredge Hall – Rm 25 6:00pm – 8:00pm

## Other Regional Dances & Instruction

### Asheville Community Dance Scene

**Second Saturday** - 8:15pm - Venue Varies  
Info: 828.582.9222 828.216.5115

Sep 15 TBA  
Oct 13 TBA

### Family Dance w/ Diane Silver

**Saturday** - 5pm Potluck – 6pm to 7:30 Dancing  
www.diane-silver.com/FamilyDance.html info: (828) 298-7084  
**Sep 15 + Oct 13 Before the ACDS Dance** – Fletcher NC

### advancedANCE w/ Beth Molaro

www.bethmolaro.com/ info: (828) 277-4068

### English Country Dance Karen – (828) 230-8449

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - Begins Sep 5th  
7:30pm - 9:30pm, \$5.00 donation  
FILO Pastries & Coffee/Tea, 1155 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC

### River Falls Dance – Greenville SC.....www.harvestmoonfolk.org

Dates: 9-1, 9-15, 9-22, 10-6, 10-12, 10-14,

### Swing Dance Information.....www.swingasheville.com

### Hendersonville Dance

5th Saturday (four times per year) at the VFW Hall - 900 N.Main St,  
Hendersonville, NC Info: www.folkhorizons.org

### Celo Dance – Friday 8pm ..... rlevin@trcccomputing.com

"Green Cay" at Arthur Morgan School \$3 (828) 675-4331  
Music by **Bruce Greene & Friends**  
Sep 7 with Beth Molaro  
Oct 5 with Gary Nelson

### Almond Dance (formerly the Webster Dance) ..... 4th Saturdays

At the SCC Almond Center in Bryson City NC  
call Kathy (828) 497-4709 or Ron (828) 586-5478

**OFB Thursday Dance Hot-Line (828) 258-4809**

Find current information and other dance links at:

**oldfarmersball.com**