

**Worth Waiting For?  
YOU be the judge!**

**New Music Camp in  
Northern Vermont**

**Minutes? You betcha!**



Winter 2004 – Vol. XXX #4

**Help Run NEFFA!  
Run for Office!**

**Review of  
Nightingale's Latest  
Weasels**

**Dear NEFFA Supporter,**

Happy whatever you celebrate and the best for the New Year!

The year 2005 brings us Festival dates that are on an ordinary weekend (April 8–10), instead of our usual end-of-school-vacation week weekend that gives us an empty school in which to do the magic of the annual transformation to the Festival site. With the Festival less than four months away, committee chairs are busy making plans to cope with the new

## FOOTNOTES

### **Thank You All!**

Cal and Irene Howard wish to thank everyone for their kindness and concern during and after Cal's recent stroke. Fortunately it was a mild one and he's already back to a little dancing and eventually expects to be his former self. He is now driving and is again playing his several music gigs. We greatly appreciate the phone calls, good wishes, cards, e-mails, offers of help with transportation, visits and goodies and look forward to seeing our friends on the dance floor real soon. — Cal and Irene Howard

## **From the President's Desk**

*Maureen Carey*



problems caused by our date change away from our usual pattern. And from the problems of the changes made in the plant that they think is their high school and we know is our home, like the new rubber floor on what they think is their Health Center and we know is the Lower Hall. And how our retiring electrician is going to train his successor to turn what they think is their school cafeteria to what we know is our eleven-restaurant ethnic food court.

The previous paragraph gives you some of the details of the challenges on which we are working. And we are having fun. There is great satisfaction in being a constructive part in making the Festival

*(Continued on page 7)*

### **NEFFA/FAC Family Dance: Spread the Word**

The NEFFA Family Dance series is looking for a few people to help out with publicity. If you would be willing to post a flyer at your child's school, or dance class, or wherever parents congregate, please contact Jacob Bloom at 781-648-8230, bloom@gis.net.

### **Think Locally, Act Globally**

Many of us by now have noticed how drastically the new Boston Globe Calendar format has limited coverage of folk music, and for that matter, all cultural coverage.

We want to urge you to make your voices heard! The best advice we've been able to get is to make your complaints to Calendar editor Scott Sutherland (ssutherland@globe.com) and Main editor Martin Baron (baron@globe.com). — Billie Hockett

# IN PASSING

**Dawn Culbertson** collapsed and died at the Baltimore Folk Music Society Thanksgiving night dance in Baltimore on Thursday, November 25th. She had Thanksgiving dinner with several friends in the folk community, arrived near the end of the dance, and danced a few contra dances. While chatting after the dance, she slumped to the floor. She received immediate emergency assistance, but it seems likely that she had died immediately. She was 53.




Dawn called English country dance, played recorders and lute for ECD (in another persona, she played punk lute), danced, and sang. In honor of this year's cicada visit, she choreographed and wrote the music to a dance called Cicadas. She was a journalist and wrote perceptive music reviews.

— Mike Franch, Baltimore, MD. USA

P.S.: While it seems unlikely that nothing would have changed the medical outcome, two things struck me as something to pass on to the dance community:

- Make sure that there is a phone available. The hall doesn't have a phone, and even though cell phones seem ubiquitous, not everybody has one. Had the mix been a little different last night, we wouldn't have had a phone.
- Know the street address of your hall. The emergency dispatcher wanted the address. Fortunately, one of the people there was able to rattle it off. I wouldn't have been able to.

*Further tributes to Dawn can be found at [www.BaltimoreComposersForum.org/dawn.htm](http://www.BaltimoreComposersForum.org/dawn.htm) — ed.*

|   | Editor: <b>Dan Pearl</b> Mailing: <b>Dayle Watts</b><br>Editorial Review: <b>Maureen Carey, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Robert Johnson</b> | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Issue</th> <th>Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Spring</td> <td>Feb. 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summer</td> <td>May 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fall</td> <td>Aug. 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winter</td> <td>Nov. 1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Issue | Deadline | Spring | Feb. 1 | Summer | May 15 | Fall | Aug. 15 | Winter | Nov. 1 |
|--|--|--|-------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------|--------|--------|
|  | Issue  | Deadline   |       |          |        |        |        |        |      |         |        |        |
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| <p><b>editorial submissions</b> to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to Daniel_Pearl@yahoo.com . Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.</p> <p><b>Publicize your events!</b> Display advertising is available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For more information, contact the editor.      Copyright © 2005 by the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.</p> |  |  |       |          |        |        |        |        |      |         |        |        |

# Call For Nominees



*The Nominating Committee:  
Linda Leslie and Shelagh Ellman-Pearl*

**NEFFA** is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. In addition to producing an annual Folk Festival, NEFFA runs a weekly contra dance, the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend, and a series of family dances. NEFFA also supports various folk-related activities through its grants program.

Our traditions and bylaws encourage member participation in a number of ways. While, many of you are no doubt familiar with the role of volunteering at the Festival, you may also know that NEFFA's goals of preserving folk traditions are actually overseen by an Executive Board, composed of elected and appointed members. Under NEFFA's bylaws, elected Directors are expected to chair or serve as a member of a committee or to take on another responsibility.

Each year, the Nominating Committee prepares a ballot listing the nominees for the open positions for the Board and for Officers. We welcome all **suggestions** and volunteers from the NEFFA membership. Our bylaws also encourage **direct nomination** by members: the name of any eligible person suggested by twenty-five or more members is included on the ballot, if he or she consents.

Please send all suggestions and direct nominations to Nominating Committee Chair, Linda Leslie, by mail (164 Maxfield St., New Bedford MA 02740) or by email ([laleslierjg@comcast.net](mailto:laleslierjg@comcast.net)). The deadline for nominations is January 28, 2005. Feel free to contact any board member with an inquiry regarding the roles and responsibilities of the various positions.

The current Elected Board members are listed below. Those positions marked with a dot (·) are to be filled in the April election. Directors and Officers serve terms of two years and may be re-elected for one additional term (the Secretary and the Treasurer are always eligible for re-election). Members of the Nominating Committee serve for a single three-year term.

In recent years, Nominating Committees have recognized that NEFFA is a large organization with a geographically dispersed membership and that most members do not know each other or the candidates. Thus, there is little point to an actual contested election. In addition, the preference is to reward those who step forward and wish to become involved. Most ballots, therefore, have presented uncontested slates. We anticipate continuing this practice.

| Office               | Name                  | Term Expires | Eligible for re-election |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| President            | • Maureen Carey       | 2005         | ✓                        |
| Vice President       | Robert Johnson        | 2006         | ✓                        |
| Secretary            | • Laura Leibensperger | 2005         | ✓                        |
| Treasurer            | Ralph Jones           | 2006         | ✓                        |
| Nominating Committee | • <i>vacant</i>       | 2005         |                          |
|                      | Linda Leslie          | 2006         |                          |
|                      | Shelagh Ellman-Pearl  | 2007         |                          |
| Directors            | • Harold Henry        | 2005         | ✓                        |
|                      | • <i>vacant</i>       | 2005         | ✓                        |
|                      | • Stephen Moore       | 2005         | ✓                        |
|                      | • Peter Olszowka      | 2005         | ✓                        |
|                      | Nancy Hanssen         | 2006         | ✓                        |
|                      | Dan Pearl             | 2006         |                          |
|                      | Angela Taylor         | 2006         | ✓                        |
|                      | Dayle Watts           | 2006         |                          |

# The Concord Scout House

A great facility to dance in —  
deserving of your support



Dear NEFFA members,

I write to let you know that an important and long appreciated part of the Boston dance community needs your help. Most of us have visited the Concord Scout House for years, and it has always been there for us.

The Concord Scout House is a precious community resource that provides a unique experience for dancers, a hall that is large, affordable, warm and comfortable. The Scout House is owned and managed by an independent, non-profit, all-volunteer, tax exempt corporation, the Concord Scout House, Inc.

The Scout House's annual budget is about \$70,000, and includes costs for operations, such as heat, electricity, office administration, custodial services and snow clearing. Maintaining the aging building is increasingly important, and has included in recent years major expenditures for heating system replacement, foundation repairs, improvements to comply with safety, access and fire regulations, as well as the more mundane though costly annual floor refinishing.

It is no secret that it costs more to do everything, and it is an increasing challenge to balance the Scout House budget. We hope to eliminate this year's deficit-so-far of \$5,000. Since the Scout House's financial resources are

very modest, the continuing effort to operate, preserve and protect the hall requires the Scout House to deeply rely upon the financial aid of every group that uses the hall. The Scout House's rental income has never been sufficient to pay for all of its costs

The dance community can help. I invite you to join the generations of people that have made the Scout House possible.

Please give generously. A contribution of \$50 or \$100 will make a significant difference. You'll be doing your part toward ensuring that the Scout House will be there for us, both for now and in the future.

Thanks in advance for your support. Every contribution helps.

Regards, Mark Jones  
Board Member, Concord Scout House Inc,

74 Walden Street  
Post Office Box 73  
Concord MA 01742  
(978) 369-3455  
[www.concordscouthouse.org/contributing.html](http://www.concordscouthouse.org/contributing.html)

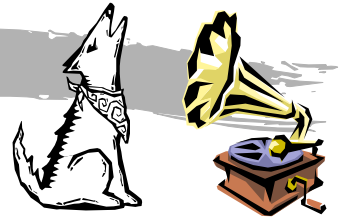
**The New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.** is a non-profit educational and cultural organization, incorporated under the general laws of Massachusetts to preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere; to encourage the development of a living folk culture; and to encourage high standards of quality and performance in the folk arts.

**Membership** entitles one to voting privileges, publications, and to reduced admission to selected NEFFA-sponsored activities. It is open to interested persons who support our objectives.

**Annual Dues** are \$20/individual, \$38/family (up to 2 people over 18). Contributions beyond these basic amounts are welcome and tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the office. Occasionally, NEFFA shares its mailing list for a one-time use by like-minded folk organizations. If you do not want your name and address shared in this way, tell us with your membership. **Please direct all inquiries** to the NEFFA office: PMB 282, 1770 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 or (781) 662-6710, or via email: [neffa@neffa.org](mailto:neffa@neffa.org)

Interested persons may get on NEFFA's mailing list for one year at no charge. Send request with full name and address to the office.

# Review



## Trois/Three Nightingale

[www.NightingaleVT.org](http://www.NightingaleVT.org)

**Becky Tracy** - fiddle,  
backing vocals

**Jeremiah McLane** -  
accordion, piano,  
backing vocals

**Keith Murphy** - guitar,  
mandolin, feet, vocals,  
piano

Review by Dan Pearl

**N**ightingale, a Vermont-based trio, has been one of the most solid, brilliantly talented and sensitive groups since their start.

Their latest entry, *Trois/Three*, hints in its title what one can expect from the album: tunes and songs with Canadian and American heritage, but much more is delivered. Including tunes from England, France, Brittany, and original material by band members Murphy and McLane.

The arrangements are exquisite. I can't shake the feeling that every note has been scrutinized and planned to optimally produce the mood, texture, and harmony that the band was going for. Despite this, the album has spontaneity, and stands up to repeated listening, revealing surprises every time. Some highlights:

**Hills** (Peter Sutherland)/**Mulqueens** (trad.) – I thought this was an instrumental until Keith started singing 40 seconds in with an unexpected couplet: “Never loved your plains, your gentle valleys...”. The tune was layered with hints of Mulqueen's. Multi-tune layering is a welcome trademark of Nightingale, and this tune didn't disappoint.

**Peregrination** (Murphy) – A coy introduction only hints at the fun to come with Keith's Latin-but-not-quite feeling waltz. The 6-beat groups (as opposed to the 3-beat groups of a traditional waltz) gives this tune a driving, restless quality.

**Eric and the Angels** (McLane)/**Jenny's Welcome to Charile** (trad.)/**Meriposa** (McLane) – Three solid reels. The transitions between the tunes are at unexpected places, but doggone it, it works! Meriposa is happy and tuneful.

**Rond à Emile Leffondré/Mardi Gras Song/Brenton Plinn** (trad.) – Foot percussion and dynamic accompaniment by Jeremiah and Becky make for a dark, moody, medley.

**Out of Jewett** (Murphy)/**Raoulf's** (McLane) – This started out as a slow minor jig, then lapsed into a surprising quiet interlude, and into the Bulgarian-sounding Raoulf's. A careful listen revealed the use a delay box providing the hint of an echo on the accordion. I don't recall Nightingale using studio tricks before, but I think the tasteful restraint added to the selection.

**Battle of Naskeag** (McLane)/**Hurry Over** (McLane)/**The Flying Tent** (Murphy) – Nightingale works both the traditional and progressive in this cut. The traditional arrangement of slow air followed by strathspey followed by reel seems to be playing out in an expected way until the final reel, The Flying Tent, blows you away.

**The Green Bushes** (Trad.) – This setting of the old English ballad goes in unexpected and delightful harmonic directions. I thought the jilted lover is left feeling sorry for himself in the green bushes; not this time!

**La Belle Rose** (Trad.) – This traditional Canadian song is complemented by great piano work by Jeremiah.

**The Waiting Game** (Murphy)/**Raze** (McLane) – A melancholy, reflective medley. I enjoyed it when the foot percussion was gradually faded up in the middle of the selection, providing structure and drive for the final tune.

# Summary of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

13 June 2004

## Reauthorization of Committee Chairs

The list of committee chairs was approved by voice vote of elected Exec members.

## Other Business

Garbage Disposal (Maureen). After the Festival, we received a very large bill for fixing a broken garbage disposal. The food vendor using the appliance at the time of the breakage may have insurance. Harold: The school should get paid ASAP, the bill says "Payable upon Receipt". The bill comes from the Business Office, not the school. Maureen: I'm in good communication with the head of Food Services, and Ann, who was on the spot at the time.

Festival Expenses (Ralph). Expenses are getting turned in late. There should be a bill from the printer, which I haven't received, probably for festival fliers. Ralph: Other expenses that are not in yet: Communications, Publicity, TNDC. Right now it looks like we're plus \$4000.

.Give and Take. (Ralph): On March 14, at the Board Meeting, we set a \$6000 cap on printing. The actual bill was \$8000; the difference was paid by Larry Jennings. We agreed to give Larry some books, since he gave us some money. That leaves us \$2000 difference, if we consider Larry's payment not a publishing cost, but a payment for books.

Donation to Alex Latzko for maintaining web site server: A motion to donate \$200 to Alex Latzko for maintaining the web site server was approved by voice vote.

12 September 2004

## President's Remarks (Maureen Carey)

We need replacements for Parking, Publicity and Volunteer Chairs. Parking and Volunteer positions need to be reconfigured due to the amount of work - at present, these Chairs miss out on most of the Festival. Nancy Hanssen will be resigning as Volunteer Chair, (she will stay on the Board). Nancy: To be effective, the new Volunteer Chair should be a Board member, or at least come to a certain number of meetings, (being a Board member is not required of the position). There is another person on the Volunteer Committee, Carol Fruitkopf, who will work at the Festival. Laura: I'll join discussion of Volunteer jobs; if there are pre-Festival jobs, I might be able to help.

Mark has offered ideas for reconfiguration of Parking position. A discussion of Parking will be on the October agenda.

## Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

We had a smaller deficit than usual. I don't have the T-shirt report, so that income is not included, (Nancy Horn: T-shirts brought in \$4099), but expenses are included, so we actually profited this year. Overall, NEFFA assets, (not including RPMC, TNDC), have gone down over the years from \$54,000 in 2001 to \$23,000 this year.

## Report from Steve Moore, Legal Advisor

On June 29, I wrote a letter to our insurance agent putting them on notice about the garbage disposal. Cost of the repair is \$2100. I talked to the booth vendor - he said he hadn't done anything out of the ordinary, the disposal broke down due to ordinary wear and tear. I asked him to write a letter to that effect, which he has not yet done. Dan: What is the life span of a disposal? How old was this one?

## Thursday Night Dance Report (Dan Pearl)

It was a fine season - attendance is good, steady around 200 or slightly more. Our challenge is the loss of the VFW hall - a short notice will appear in the NEFFA news. Time frame is no earlier than the end of next summer. Peter: Can the TNDC persuade the VFW/Cambridge to make a different



plan? Dan: Cambridge has had their eye on the building for a while because of its locality in a less-served residential area. This plan is also of benefit to the VFW, with their declining membership and assets. They'll have the lower level, with a new bar. Maureen: Is the hall for sale? Dan: This is a private deal; Cambridge has been working on getting the building for a while. Laura: Is it out of the question that they'd put in a hall? Peter: Or wooden basketball court Dan: We do have leads, and are collecting more.

## Festival Reports

Inside Facilities (Harold Henry): We've probably lost the Lower Hall - the school has put in wall-to-wall rubber flooring, (square mats with interlocking teeth); it's not removable. I called up Peterson Party Rental: a rental floor is \$8000. Maybe people could dance on rubber flooring with socks or bare feet? Peter: What about building a floor? Harold: The overflow hall can still be used. We could use the overflow hall as the main hall, and use part of the lower hall. Overflow hall is about 4 lines wide. Linda: We need a final decision soon - we can't program if we don't know



what's available; application deadline is Oct. 6.

Give and Take (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl): We sold 85 copies.

Program (Linda Leslie): Invitations to apply have gone out and we have about 50 applications in so far. We need to know about festival hours ASAP – will we go on at 7:00 or not? Peter: If we can rig speakers Thursday night, Main Hall will be ready to go at the normal time. Harold: I've got to meet with the High School administration about things like this – I need a list. Linda: If we can't rig speakers on Thursday, then ... Peter: We could start rigging at 3:00 on Friday; rigging takes about 4 hours. The important thing is that nothing else can happen in that space while the riggers are working. Folk Music and Song rooms can be ready at the regular time. Auditorium stage could be ready at 7:00. Linda: We'll program the Main Hall starting at 8:00. Peter: Can you block out the evening in 45 minute blocks. Linda: We can't "stretch" blocks because of potential conflicts. Also, the Board has requested that we consider a 2-3 hour block activity Friday night.

Sound (Peter Olszowko): The Auditorium Committee thinks they can work with the tighter schedule, so we don't have to go with contractors. I still have some openings in Sound - Clyde will not be available to do lighting; I also need a Logistics Coordinator. I'll talk to Mike Shannon. Harold: What about school drama students? Peter: Clyde makes adjustments to lighting to the show, requires both lighting experience and artistic judgement.

#### Other Business

Mark Jones: I've asked NEFFA to consider solicitation of members by the Scout House Committee to raise money to cover operating expenses of Scout House. Dan: I think a flier is illegal – we can't add another groups' non-profit mail. An ad would be OK, an article would be OK.

A motion to grant the Scout House Committee a full-page ad in the NEFFA News passed by voice vote.

24 October 2004

#### President's Remarks (Maureen Carey)

I've written out "A Plea" for help in finding Chairs and Co-Chairs. I've written two articles for the newsletter, and talked to friends, but not found real solutions. We need volunteers for Parking, Volunteers, Performer Sales, Publicity, and Tickets. The Publicity position may be solvable – Jean Schwartz may know someone, and I may be able to do Publicity, if necessary.

Nancy Horn is resigning from the Board as Director; she will continue with

at-Festival Performer Sales.

Linda: The over-arching problem of recruiting volunteers, and the problem of time commitment at the Festival. Shelagh: There has always been a core group of Board people who spend most of the time working at the Festival. It's a good goal to change this structure, but a big shift. Linda: I'm finding that people would rather pay than volunteer. Maureen: People are much busier, the same people who volunteer for NEFFA usually volunteer for other groups as well. A lot of people work on weekends these days: this is a shift. Peter: We need to focus on people just out of college – college students are just too busy. But I don't know many people in that age group.

Peter: I still need a Sound Logistics Coordinator: this involves almost no time at the Festival. Question of whether Lisa Sieverts will be available.

#### Nominating Committee (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

This is the meeting where we announce that we need a Slate for this year's election. Positions are President, Secretary, Nominating Committee (one position), and one Director. Dan: We usually asked current Directors to serve second terms – I suggest using Director slots to bring in new blood.

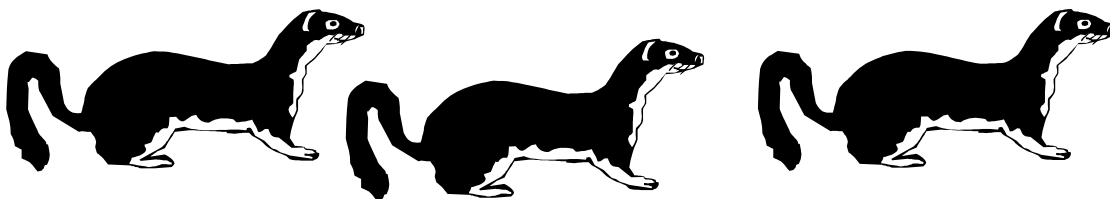
#### Ralph Page Memorial Committee (Maureen Carey)

Ways of promoting the Ralph Page weekend were discussed.

Festival Committee Reports Inside Facilities (Harold Henry): There's an interlocking rubber mat on the floor of the Lower Hall. There's a lot of equipment in the Overflow Hall. Mats can be pulled up and put back down – the floor underneath is in good shape. The thought was that we would make the Overflow Hall the "main" lower hall and keep the dance lengthwise, then take up some of the tiles in the larger hall, using the rest of that space for stor

## Remember the NEFFA Festival!

An unusually early  
time of year:  
April 8-10, 2005



(Continued from page 1)

happen. As I wrote in the spring, we are looking for volunteers to help plan and run the Festival. We have vacant committee positions with all degrees of responsibility. And jobs that can be completed both before and after the Festival, as well as during part of it. Some do not even require attendance at meetings.

With an event this big being run entirely by volunteers, a large staff is needed. Folks who have done these jobs for many years sometimes need to move on to other things. Please consider joining us. Speak to any NEFFA committee member, email me at [maureen.carey@comcast.net](mailto:maureen.carey@comcast.net), or call 617-497-6732 for further information.

## New Heritage Music Camp in Vermont

The first Northeast Heritage Music Camp, held June 12-18 in Johnson, VT (near Stowe) on the Johnson State College campus will be devoted to New England and Canadian music and dance. Co-director Ken Perlman says that they'll probably be strongest in terms of instrumental instruction, but they will have some dance and dance-calling classes.

Instructors currently scheduled are world-class players from their respective traditions:

William Coulter (DADGAD guitar; fingerstyle specialist)  
David Kaynor (contradance caller & New England fiddle)  
Peter Langston (standard-tuned guitar; flatpick specialist)  
Grey Larsen (flute, tin whistle, & contradance piano)  
Daniel Lemieux (Québécois fiddle)  
Ken Perlman (clawhammer style 5-string banjo)  
Sandy MacIntyre (Cape Breton fiddle)  
Mary MacIntyre (Cape Breton piano)  
Normand Miron (Québécois accordion)  
Pete Sutherland (New England fiddle)  
Plus special guest, Alan Jabbour (Appalachian fiddle)

There will be five class sessions per day. The evening program features staff concerts, followed by contradancing, called by David Kaynor with staff musicians. The dance will wind up early enough to leave time for spirited jams in a variety of genres; including scheduled jams at different levels led by members of the faculty and attendees.

For more information: [www.northeastheritagemusiccamp.com](http://www.northeastheritagemusiccamp.com)



**N·E·F·F·A**

New England Folk Festival Association  
PMB 282, 1770 Mass. Ave., Cambridge MA 02140  
Phone: +1-781-662-6710 FAX: +1-781-662-6730  
.neffa.org

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