



*Connecting and Inspiring
Through Traditional Music and Dance*

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To: DanceFlurry Organization Members
From: DanceFlurry Organization Board
Re: 2016 Annual Membership Meeting and Slate for Board of Directors
Date: April 26, 2015

MAY 15TH DANCEFLURRY ORGANIZATION ANNUAL MEETING AND CONTRA DANCE

This event, which often takes place at the Buhrmaster Barn, will be held at the **Shaker Heritage Society**, 25 Meeting House Road, off Route 155 near the Albany airport. Members can join in the pot luck supper and attend the meeting for free if they are not dancing. We welcome your participation throughout the year, and look forward to seeing you at the meeting—come vote and come dance too!

5:30 PM POT LUCK DINNER AND MEETING (NO ADMISSION FEE)

6:30 PM CONTRA DANCE WITH CALLER Adina Gordon and MUSIC BY **A Trip to Norwich** (Carol Compton, Thal Aylward, & Rachel Clark)

Admission: \$12 General Public, \$10 DFO Members & Seniors, \$6 Students

THANK YOU TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS:

Janice Joyce served as Second Vice President, chair of the Membership Committee, and Liaison to the Capital First Friday Swing Dance. She has also corralled and organized volunteers for the DFO's membership table at the Flurry for several years.

Gabe Holmes served on the Membership, Program, and Nominating committees and worked to promote dancing as a way of encouraging the arts, promoting physical fitness, and building strong communities.

Terry Kinal was active on the Outreach Committee and Liaison Committee. Along with his wife, Pat, Terry has worked on publicity for the Adirondack Dance Weekend and Albany Contrafest.

Laura Perrault has been active as a member of both the DanceFlurry Board and the Flurry Festival Committee for a number of years. One of her Flurry roles has working on the wonderful quilts that are raffled off. She stepped in as director of the Adirondack Dance Weekend, successfully reinvigorated the event, and will now serve as co-director of the 2016 ADW.

Josh Snitkoff served on the Outreach Committee, helped to create a new Liaison structure and process to support the work of the DFO's event organizers, and chaired the Liaison Committee. He took on a new position as Technical Manager for the 2016 Flurry.

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PROPOSED SLATE OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR ELECTION

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of directors who will be nominated at the meeting. Additional nominations may also be made by written petition of five members or from the floor at the annual meeting, provided that the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Returning Board Member and Treasurer:

Rich Pisarri (Albany) enjoys swing and Cajun/Zydeco dancing and has served as the DFO Treasurer for six years. He has worked to strengthen internal controls and keeping the DFO a financially sound organization for years to come.

New Officer:

Melanie Axel-Lute (Voorheesville), Second Vice President. Melanie is a caller for both contra and English Country dances, also attends Family and Community dances, has served on the Liaison and Outreach Committees, worked to involve the DanceFlurry Organization in the centennial celebrations for the County Dance and Song Society, and is currently working on the DFO Megaband project.

PROSPECTIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS provided answers to the following questions:

1. Are you currently involved with any Dance Flurry Organization activities?
2. Do you have any organizational or prior Board experience, professional skills, or relevant interests you would bring to the DFO's operations?
3. Which specific program or organizational goals would you personally like to promote with the DFO, and what ideas might you have to further those?
4. On which standing committee would you be most interested in participating?
5. How much time per week or per month could you spend on DFO work?

Shira Love, Averill Park

1. My family and I have attended the family dance series and Flurry workshops for the past four years. Last year I brought a Family dance to my children's school, as well as a performance by the Storycrafters for Read Across America Day. I have contra danced throughout my life, and as my kids get older look forward to participating in DFO community and contra dances.
2. I am currently the Activities Director for the Parent Council at Robert C. Parker School, where I also coordinate the annual fall festival. I have worked as a mental health counselor and youth tutor, and have volunteered for a number of community organizations.
3. As a parent of young children, I am familiar with the array of family organizations and activities in the region, which could be helpful in identifying outreach and partnership opportunities such as with school music departments to provide programs that integrate with their curricula, or coaching for groups of instrumental students on traditional dance styles. I could also assist in scouting opportunities through local libraries, township-sponsored events and festivals, camp programs, and children's arts organizations. Increased publicity for established events could also help attract new participants, and we might consider a presence at events like the Albany Kidz Expo or advertising in the Parent Pages to help increase awareness.
4. In addition to serving as liaison to the family dance series, I could work with the Outreach committee to help increase the awareness of, participation in, and reach of traditional music and dance in the community.
5. I would like to contribute my ideas and experience to the DFO, and could devote several hours weekly.

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Peter Stix, Albany

1. I currently manage the Albany Contradances! series on behalf of the DFO (and I have run this series for many, many years, starting approximately 1997, well before it became a DFO sponsored series). I was, for ten years, a co-organizer of the Adirondack Dance Weekend. I have also been responsible for the management and operation of the nascent Albany Contra Fest. This November will be the third such event. I am also active as an occasional caller for DFO dances, including the Albany Contradances!, Buhrmaster Barn, and the Saratoga/Burnt Hills contra dances, primarily. For many years I have been hired as a performer at the Flurry Festival. Outside of the DFO, I have been assisting with the management and operation of the Woodstock Contra Dance series since the summer of 2014. I've also assisted with loaning and renting sound gear for a number of DFO dance events.
2. As far as direct prior Board experiences, I am a former Board member and treasurer of Tapestry Folkdance Center in Minneapolis. Part of my duties included supervision of the organization's only employee. I have developed budgets for dance events and dance series, and I also have other experience with budgets, contracts, contract negotiations, supervision, data analysis, and so on from private sector employment.
3. My current personal interests continue to be the management and operation of the Albany contra dance series and the Albany Contra Fest events. Recently I have been working on the possibility of bringing a techno contra to Albany as a special (one-time) event. I anticipate continued involvement in management of the Albany dance series and the Albany Contra Fest. One of my main interests is in promoting dance (especially contra dance) to a younger demographic. I have a few ideas in this regard.
4. I could probably be of most use on a Finance Committee; possibly on the Outreach Committee.
5. I am responding to this question as though it was asking about time available for DFO Board work. Given my current responsibilities for DFO events, a realistic number would be between five and ten hours per week strictly for DFO Board activities.

Sandy Waxgiser, Malta

1. I am involved in an adjunct activity: Capital English Country Dance. I am the secretary/treasurer of that organization. I do participate in all contra and English dances in this region but only as a dancer, not as an organizer.
2. Boards I have been on: my neighborhood association (6 years); Saratoga Reads - I was co-chair of the Readers for 2 years); Capital English Country Dances (CECD) (1 year); WAMC Radio Station (1 year).
3. I'd love to promote line dancing which I have been doing for about 15 years. I would also like to promote CECD. (Peter Stix has helped by calling an English dance during the last Albany contra.)
4. I'm probably best as a liaison or program person.
5. I have a number of interests and other volunteer work, but my days are my own and I can schedule around whatever else I do.

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DanceFlurry Organization 2016 Annual Meeting Ballot

Proxy Vote for those members unable to attend the Annual Meeting

Please complete and return this slip to the DanceFlurry Organization, PO Box 448, Latham, NY 12110-0448, or email your response to flurryadmin@mindspring.com. Responses must arrive by noon on May 13, 2016.

Nominated Board Members (Vote for four):

Shira Love (New) Rich Pisarri (Returning) Peter Stix (New) Sandy Waxgiser (New)

Write-in candidate(s): I nominate the following person(s) for Board Member, having obtained their permission:

Nominated Officers: Melanie Axel-Lute, Second Vice President Rich Pisarri, Treasurer\