

Forty Years of Princeton Country Dancers: Recalling 1979 to 2019 in Stories (and the Occasional Picture)

Every 10 years since PCD began we have celebrated and charted our progress with a history of events and impressions of our developing community.

Here we present the last 10 years (2009 through 2019). Thanks to everyone who contributed. Earlier histories are available on the PCD website.

We hope you will enjoy reading the memories and keep dancing and collecting memories for our 50th reunion.

Regularly scheduled PCD events:

Contra dances
English dances
Family dances

Special Events:

Rum and Onions (R&O)
Head for the Hills (HFTH)
Cotillion
February Fling

CONTRA DANCES

Contra dances continue to take place every Wednesday and fourth Saturdays.

To encourage a greater attendance by younger people, we have initiated a free Contra dance on the last Wednesday of the month for those 35 or under.

ENGLISH DANCES

For a number of years PCD, under the able direction of Sue Dupre, has sponsored a once a month (second Saturday) English dance, except in November, when the community Heads for the Hills. In general, local callers are paired with local bands. Once a year, in summer, the second Saturday event expands to an afternoon for experienced dancers, with the evening open to all.

FAMILY DANCES

Family Dances (formerly known as Community Dances) continue to be run by a small committee: Sue Dupre, Louise McClure, Janet Mills, Barbara Vadnais, and Amy Zakar. They are scheduled approximately 4 times a year. Music is provided by the PCD MAD (Mixed Age Band).

From Amy Zakar



From September 2017 Family Dance. Bandleaders Amy Zakar and Louise McClure; caller Janet Mills.
(photo by Amy Zakar)

This picture was taken during the middle of the dance (clock says 4:10 and dances go from 3-5)
but at the end of each Family Dance we end with “Oh How Lovely Is the Evening” sung in a round.

The dance is a lovely way to make new friends.

From Louise McClure:

The Family Dance and MAD Band have become an “institution” in that a lot of families now look forward to dancing/playing. Sue Dupre has done a wonderful job of widespread publicity. We have a large enough team now that we can spread out the responsibilities so no one gets burned out.

CALLERS:

PCD continues to have a roster of callers for both Contra and English dances.

Workshops organized by Bob Isaacs produced new callers which energized the Contra scene: Anne Lutun, Kathy Wilcox, Bryan Suchenski, Laura Winslow, Desiree Halcomb, and Sue Gola.

From Sue Gola:

I've been dancing with PCD for many years, but it was only in 2012 that I signed up for Bob Isaacs' new callers' workshop. Bob had already been mentoring new callers and had run several earlier workshops. He developed a reference manual which I still go back to. During the several weeks of the workshop, he gave us written homework assignments as well as expecting us to practice our calls. At classes we had guest speakers from the dance community, and we also had the opportunity to practice calling for our classmates. Since Bob's class, I've called for crowds both large and small, as well as for groups of all skill levels. It's been a treat to work with some very talented musicians, and dedicated organizers.

The Local Bands:

Live music remains a staple of PCD events. In addition to our long-standing bands, Hold the Mustard, Raise the Roof, A Joyful Noise, and the Pick-up Band, the following new bands emerged to delight us with their music.

Phase Shifters (Contra) (2019)

Jeff Gauthier
Natalie Levine
Ross Harriss
Miranda Weinberg

Ginger Jam (English) The band played together under the name "Will Food Be Served" prior to about 2002.

Robert Mills
Janet Mills
Jane McCarty
Michael Bell

Palmer's Square (started playing in 2016) (Contra)

Doug Healy (guitar)
Amy Zakar (fiddle)
Paul Prestopino (mandolin, banjo, etc)
Pat Palmer (mandolin)
Paul Morrisett (fiddle)
and guest Nathalie Levine (fiddle)

Peter, Paul, Ed, Garry (Contra) (2016)

Peter Szego
Paul Prestopino
Ed (Yankowitz?)

Garry Moore

Crossing the Millstone (approx 1992) (contra)

John Macdonald
Jane McCarty
Michael Bell
Larry Koplik

Blue Jersey (Contra)

Louise McClure
Ellen Ruck
Frank Ruck
Michael Sutton (until 2016)
John Burton (2017)

Harbor Mystic (Contra--now defunct, played from 2007 until 2014)

Sarah Gowan (guitar)
Amy Zakar (fiddle)
Paul Prestopino (mandolin, banjo, etc)
Pat Palmer (mandolin)
Bill Quern (tenor banjo)

ContraPositive (Contra)

Janet Mills
Robert Mills
Imogen Mills
Cecily Mills

Kestrel (English)

John Burkhalter
Paul Morrissett
Judy Minot
Mary Roth

Mr Darcy (Contra and English)

Josh Burdick
Kirsten Irwin
Adam Oleksa
Wes Steenson

In addition to organized bands, many musicians form “one-night” bands to play for particular dances.

Our talented local musicians have composed many tunes. Titles and descriptions have been put together in a chart by Barbara and John Vadnais. This compilation will be posted on the PCD website.

From Barbara Greenberg:

Hold the Mustard, which formed in 1980, continues to play for PCD dances. In the 2009-2019 decade, HTM was not in the weekly contra dance rotation as they were in the 1980s. Instead, the February Fling and a summer full day English dance event with a special guest caller, have become the dances

HTM always play for. They appear every other year at the PCD Cotillion. Over the last 10 years, the band has been delighted to play Contras and English at birthday and wedding dances for members of our community.

2011 saw the release of "Seasons of Invention" - their fourth recording of English Country Dance, and their second collaboration with Belgian caller and dance composer, Philippe Callens. Like the first collaborative recording, "Seasons" is also a collaboration with the band, A Joyful Noise.

From 2009-19, Hold the Mustard continued to play for our neighboring dance groups in Lambertville and Philadelphia, and also in New York City, Westchester, and Albany. █

Memories from dancers:

From Stanton de Riel:

Annette Sheldon and Stan de Riel met ~ 2007 JAN 29 at a Wednesday Contra Dance. But we didn't really get together until the Wednesday dance was canceled due to heavy snowfall on 14 FEB. Sometimes cancelled dances work that way. We married on 2011 JUL 8, after contra dancing a lot together.

From Nathalie Levine:

My very first PCD event was a Family Dance in 2008. Later that year, I joined Rum and Onions. What has always amazed me about PCD is its commitment to musical mentorship and intergenerational community. I immediately felt adopted into the social and musical community of young people who had grown up in PCD, and I felt not only cared for but also valued and respected as a musician by the older generations as well. PCD community members' mentorship and encouragement helped me become a confident dance fiddler in this community and others. Beyond musicianship, the PCD community has been there for me over the past 11 years, as I have moved in and out of the Princeton area under various circumstances. I am grateful and proud to call PCD my home dance!

From Barbara Simpson Vadnais:

After a dance, helping hands put away the sound system. First the chairs are removed to access the equipment. Then the heavy speakers, small monitors, and mike stands are moved to the closet. Finally, each sound cable is individually coiled. I enjoy working on the sound cables because it gives me a chance to talk with the musicians, catch up with old friends, and meet new dancers. PCD is such a friendly community.

From Steve Tayler:

Back in 1992 I was married with three children living in a house in Kingston NJ and did not know that Contra dancing existed. From time to time my family would go out for dinner with another family that also consisted of three children. At one dinner the other couple told my wife and I that they were going to a dance that featured a dance called "contra dance" for beginners. They invite us to try it. My wife thought

it was fun but nothing special. On the other hand, I found it to be “my cup of tea”. Within two weeks we were at a Princeton Country Dancers dance. To start, I only danced with my wife but soon noticed people switch partners after each dance. With permission from my wife, we also

By the following July my wife asked for a divorce and I started dancing all over the country. Going to dances in New England and down to Washington was my norm. When I visited my son in Colorado I would also dance in nearby cities. I would also go to Contra dance weekend camps. Through the years I have found many partners at the dances. Its now a good 26 years that I have done contra dancing and it is where I met my life time partner of 15 years. Her name is Martha and we built a house nearby.

I served as a committee person with the Princeton Country Dancers for about 10 years and set up sound for that length of time. I have also volunteered at many of our special dances over these many years. I still set up the lights for our winter cotillion dance in December. I have made many friends over the years and these days look forward to Wednesdays for the fun of being at the Wednesday dance.

From Marion Stuart:

It was 1984, I was teaching at what was then UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Family Medicine, and one of my residents, Patricia Janku, MD, suggested that I should attend an event called “Rum and Onions” which was being held at some Princeton Boys Private School, on the Saturday before Halloween. She said they did something called Contra Dancing and that I would love it. I was single, and had nothing better to do that day so I appeared at the beginner workshop at 2 pm. and saw that the moves were much the same as the square dancing I had done in High School. At 4, there was a workshop for advanced dancers. I had no problem keeping up—and no one told me that I didn’t belong there. I loved it, just like she said. I have been dancing ever since. My home dance was Chatham, closer to where I lived in Morristown, but I got down to Princeton some Wednesdays after work and started to attend Head for the Hills. I met my husband, Keith, at a dance in Chatham. When I retired from the Medical School, Keith and I moved closer to Princeton, because I wanted to be part of this dance community.

From Gary Szelc:

I first started contra dancing in 2012 at the Swingin’ Tern in East Hanover. It wasn’t long before somebody said, “They have a pretty good dance down at Princeton too!” So I looked up the directions and made my way down on a Wednesday night. The dance was in full swing when I arrived and as I glanced over the crowd to see if there was anyone I recognized I noticed a young lady on the far side of the room. She was obviously a new dancer as she gazed intently at the passing dancers, her head swiveling back and forth as she seemed to be trying to absorb the moves by osmosis. I walked over and introduced myself (to Meghan) and asked, “Would you like to do the next dance?” She replied, “I’m not sure, I’ve never done this before...” “No problem,” I countered, “I’ve been doing this for all of a couple of months now [LOL], I’m sure we can figure this out.” (At least I hoped so!) And of course, with the help of the friendly PCD dancers

we got through the dance fine. So now it's been a couple of Head-for-the Hills, a bunch of Rum-N-Onions, and a heck of a lot of Wednesdays (and a few Saturdays) later and we're all still going strong! Congratulations to the Princeton Country Dancers on your 40th Anniversary! See y'all back here for the 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th.... (well, many more!)

From Lisa Fleming and Sue Butterworth:

We met at a contra dance in 2002! Fast forward to 2015 or so and we met again at Rutgers Gardens, taking the hazardous tree identification course. Of course we passed it and now we dance English and can't stop meeting! How great is that!

From Al Smith:

Fond remembrances of my first English country dance under Sue Dupre's tutelage at the Harlingen church. At that time only a mere 50 miles from home. Best wishes to all at PCD.

From Sandra Johnson

I was fortunate to be able to retire early retirement that is in 2001. So more dancing! My favorite dances are Rum and Onions, Head for the hills, the winter cotillion and February fling. And of course many wonderful Wednesday dances! I feel grateful to be part of such a vibrant as well as thoughtful and caring dance Community. PCD!!

From an anonymous dancer:

Made friends at this dance that have helped my mental health and who I love with all my heart!

From Michelle Ochsner:

Terry and I got to know one another at PCD and participating in the PCD steering committee in the late 1990s. By 2001 we were partners, married in 2005 - and the story continues.

From Pat Flaherty:

Don Flaherty and I came to the Cotillion many years ago when it was held at the Harlingen Church on Route 206 in Montgomery. Remember Robert Stockton. Remember sliding on the yellow "banana" at Sue and Bob Dupre's barbecue? Do you recall the Dupre's twins as pumpkins (for Halloween)?

From an anonymous dancer:

R&O 1999-- came as Y2K bug. During the evening the "Y" fell off. Someone picked it up and wore it. People kept asking him "y not"

From Martin and Nancy Barbour:

1996--my first meeting of PCD people was at a pool party at our new house. Janet Mills arrived and realized that she had been at many parties there in the past. The previous owners are the parents of a former PCD dancer (Corolla Bosenberg)

From Jeff Gauthier:

I remember in the winter of 2011 or 2012 there were several dances that had to be cancelled on account of massive snow storms. During one of these, I and about a dozen other dancers (mostly younger folk) decided to brave the blizzard together at Rowan Lupton's house. Many brought their instruments, and we stayed up late into the snowy night playing music together, singing, and general merry - making. It made me realize - the reason dances are so much fun isn't just the great dancing, or the talented musicians or the thoughtful calling - it's the PEOPLE that make evenings at PCD so magical.

From Desiree Halcomb:

I joined PCD in the fall of 2014 and cannot even begin to count the blessings being a part of this community has afforded me. After discovering the joy of contra dancing at a family dance camp that summer, I found an immediate home at PCD with dancers who welcomed and guided me through my uncertainty and inexperience. Friendly faces, playful dancing, and great music kept me coming back Wednesday after Wednesday. In a short time, I was asked to take on the role of Out-Of-Town booker for PCD, which I have continued to do over the last 4 years. From this vantage point, I have had the opportunity of connecting with people (callers, musicians) I may not have otherwise had the pleasure of meeting. And despite the business aspect of this work, I am always struck by the kindness, generosity, and passion of our out-of-town performers, who are always appreciative of our community.

In 2015, under the generous mentorship of Bob Isaacs, I began to dabble in calling. His expert teaching, and positive, yet exacting approach, gave me the courage and confidence to call several half and full evening programs over the past couple years. During this time, I have truly benefited from the wisdom and encouragement of our calling community; I am especially grateful to Sue Gola, whose honest and supportive feedback pushes me to grow every time. Of course, the work of calling is only made pleasurable by the joy of dancers. I am so appreciative of the warmth and energy our dancers and musicians have given me each time I've called, motivating me to continue on this journey.

While these leadership opportunities that PCD has provided me have been immensely gratifying, my most satisfying work by far has been helping to lead our Family Dances. I am grateful to Richard Fischer, who recognized my skills as a music teacher could be channeled into bringing the joy of dancing to children and their adults. How I've loved sharing some of my favorite dance activities from my classroom with a wider community, and experiencing the sense of play that comes when you combine children, live music, and a few dance figures. Again, it is a journey that has been helped along by the support of many, including Sue Dupre and the PCD Executive Committee for helping fund my professional development.

It is truly an honor to be a part of such a giving and nurturing community. I look forward to learning, and growing, and dancing with all of you for many years to come.

From Eliane Geren:

Belonging to the dance community offered a river of love and support to me when my partner, Pete Soloway, died in April 2011. The beauty of the memorial, which included a potluck and a dance, happened because so many people shared their energy, skills and talents. They organized the potluck, prepared delicious food, shared memories of Pete, and played soul-soothing music during the memorial service and the dance. The grief I felt was made lighter by the dance community's contribution. Thank you!

From Barbara Goldstein:

In 1990 I discovered Contra dancing at both Princeton and Swing n' Tern. As time passed, I loved it more and more. Its friendly atmosphere is unlike any other form of dance. I've made so many friends over the years. In 2000 I began calling. Sue Dupre and Mark Widner were my mentors along with Bob Isaacs and Melanie Axle - lute. I've learned so much from them and continue to grow as a dancer and caller. Thank you to all the fantastic bands I've worked with and everyone who makes Contra dancing a wonderful experience. Here's to PCD 40th anniversary. May there be many many more years of dancing, music, friends and fun! Keep on Dancing...

From Janet Mills:

MILLS FAMILY SWEET SIXTEEN Contra Dances

Our family was very impressed by Marian Stuart's birthday dance. A few years later Imogen and Cecily started going to other kids' sweet sixteen parties, where they danced to recorded music. When it was their turn they decided that live music and contra dancing was what they wanted. Imogen's dance was the Wednesday between Christmas and New Years, and she asked one of her favorite callers, Adina Gordon, to come down to NJ to call. We had five lines of dancers!

When Cecily's sixteenth birthday approached she contacted several of her favorite bands, but they were either busy, or no longer together. That's when she decided to create a Mills family band, which we named Contrapositive. We had a great time coming up with medleys that included singing, drumming, pop songs, and lots of different instruments. Because we used didgeridoo, accordion, ukulele, and percussion, as well as piano, guitar, fiddles and cello we made sure that the sound technician was paid - he worked hard! Cecily asked Janine Smith to come North to call. Janine loves singing squares and we knew she'd show us all a grand old time with singing contras, too! We played together a few more times before the girls went off to college.

From Jules, with love:

PCD was my escape valve and anchor through high school and entry into this crazy corner of the culture; I can honestly say I wouldn't know who I was without you all. So wherever we may meet - on the dance floors of NASA or at a random dance across the country - we can always dance as friends.

From Linde and Michael:

Thinking of your big, welcoming smiles (especially from Louise) when we return to English dancing via the February fling after a 30-year + hiatus... And then dances at all kinds of events with both of you ever since.

From Fred Cotton:

I only get here for the February Fling. It's always a great dance!

From Corey:

I have met so many kind and generous souls through Contra all over the US - so happy to have Contra facilitate that.

From Christopher:

I have been greatly moved and inspired by the Contra dance moves in every Contra dance event I've attended. The staff and leaders really know what they're doing and help dancers of all levels in a positive, encouraging manner. I love it!!

From Erin P.:

It's only my second dance here, but it's been fun so far. Everyone is friendly. The music is great.

Rum and Onions (R&O)

Rum and Onions (R&O), the PCD Halloween dance with the enormous, and enormously talented, pick-up band, continues. Over the years attendance has decreased somewhat, so the dance has relocated from large schools to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Princeton. Band leaders were Janet Mills and Amy Zakar in 2009 and Bob Pasquarello from 2010 to 2018. R&O also makes a yearly appearance at NEFFA.

Head for the Hills

Debbi Kanter, with Trish Petzold and Ellen Harrison

Over the last 10 years the PCD weekend in the Poconos has continued to be one of the highlights of the year. We take over Camp Harlem with 120+ of our best friends for a weekend of music, dance, and general camaraderie. The weekend continues to include numerous dance and music workshops, including couple dancing and ritual and/or traditional dancing (Morris, longsword, rapper, molly, clogging, step dance, etc). There is the swankiest of cocktail parties, featuring two bartenders and a wonderful jazz band. Also a ceilidh (talent show) on Saturday night, and a chamber concert before lunch on Sunday. A huge silent auction all weekend provides entertainment when not dancing, playing, or singing, and helps keep costs down. In recent years attendance has decreased a little, and there are fewer young children. This has led to a change in programming away from activities for youngsters. Registration is now available online, as is payment by credit card. And though it may be a children's camp in summer, the staff at Camp Harlem has adjusted to our needs and now provides a better quality of food, including vegetarian options.

Head for the Hills chamber music

By Judy Klotz

Over the past 10 years we have continued a Head for the Hills tradition of playing about 15 minutes of chamber music just prior to lunch on Sunday, led by Ted McClure or me. The recent regular troubadours have been Louise and Ted McClure, Barbara Greenberg, Daniel Beerbohm, Janet and Robert Mills, Michael Bell, Mat Clark, Peggy Leiby, and myself, occasionally including others such as Judy Kleppel, Miranda Weinberg, Annie Anderson, Bob Dupre, Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, Pat Palmer, and Imogen and Cecily Mills. Mostly we have played music from the Baroque, occasionally the Renaissance, and sometimes more recent, e.g. Mozart and Ravel.

(A Lennon/McCartney tune was heard in 2018.) It's been a joy to convivially select the music, revel in each others' musical ideas and instincts, and experience how gorgeous chamber music keeps its charm even when some lines are played on surprising instruments.

Cotillion

Every Dec. PCD's festive holiday dance begins with an elegant potluck dinner in the beautiful hall of the Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. After dinner entertainment is provided by our ritual dance teams, followed by carol singing. The dance begins with a grand March and is a combination of English and Contra dances. During the dessert break we are entertained by the Cotillion Singers.

Musical directors during the last 10 years were: Janet and Robert Mills (2009-10), Annie Anderson (2011-2014), and Frances Slade (2015-17). For various reasons the Cotillion Singers were unable to perform in 2018, however, we were delighted that they performed at the 40th Anniversary Celebration in late May 2019.

From Frances Slade:

I love the idea that singing is part of our dance community. When Annie invited me to conduct the group, I chose music that would fit with our English and American dance traditions. Carols are closely connected to dance, so I started with 15th century English carols and other traditional carols. I chose music from the shape note tradition and the folk tradition. From the Revels tradition came our procession with the Boar's Head Carol (with the boar's head designed by Maggie Grant), and our closing with the Lord of the Dance. It was fun and rewarding performing this energetic music with our cheerful and enthusiastic singers.

February Fling

The February Fling, a day-long English Country Dance event on the fourth Saturday of February, has been jointly sponsored by Princeton Country Dancers and Lambertville Country Dancers (LCD). It is run by a subcommittee and features music by Hold the Mustard. It is a sold-out event every year and attracts dancers from all parts of the United States.

Gender Roles in Dancing

Over the years in our community we have danced with people of different genders in both dance roles and had dancers who switch roles. We have also often had dancers of different gender expressions who enjoy wearing clothing that does not traditionally fit their assigned gender. For example, cis-men wearing skirts while dancing.

Lately we have made a greater effort to create a more welcoming atmosphere for people who prefer not to dance traditional gender roles or enjoy dancing both roles. We have recently experimented with entire evenings that used gender free role names. Instead of "ladies or gents", the dance roles are called "larks or ravens" (larks on the left, ravens on the right). We hope to continue to grow and learn as a community in order to create an inclusive environment for all dancers.

New events:

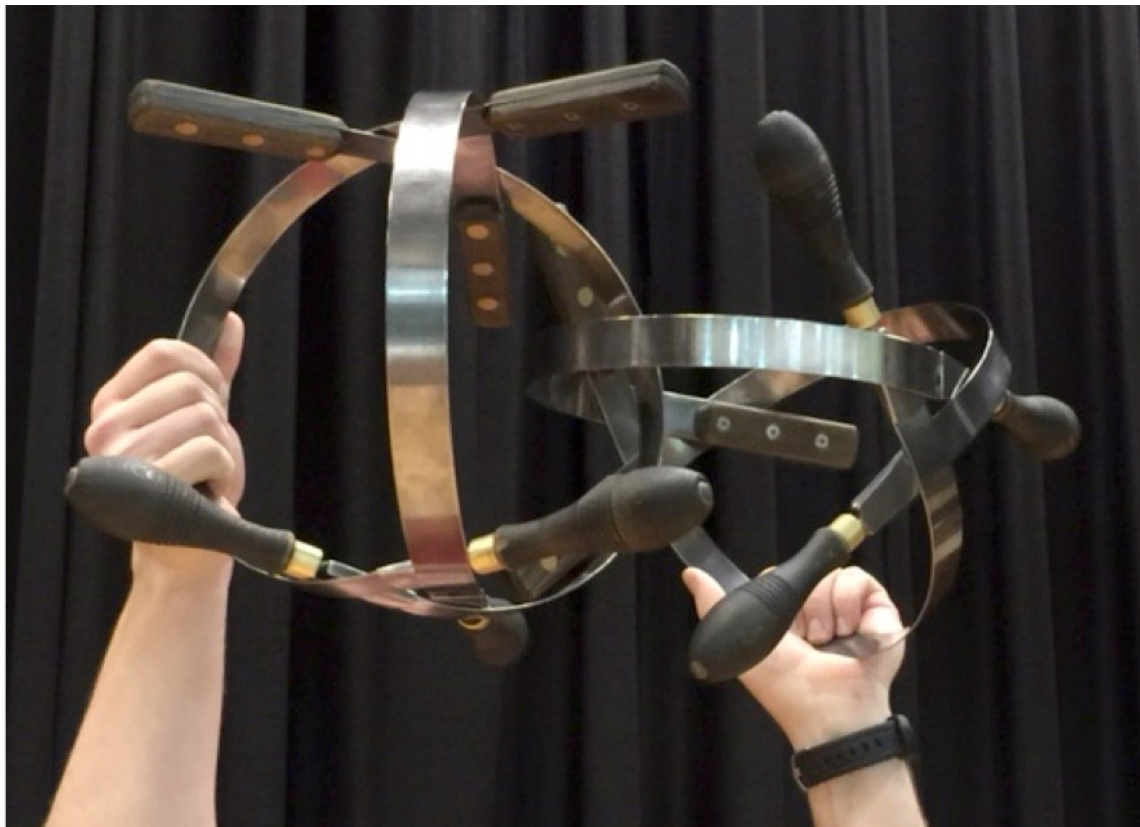
Since 2009 people in the PCD Community have sponsored free dances to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or someone's life.

For example:

9/2006 Ken Crawford 60th birthday (Forerunner to the trend of the last ten years.)
5/2010 Marian Stuart's 80th birthday
1/2011 Larry Koplik and Sarah Roberts' 25th wedding anniversary
3/2011 Brian Schmult's 50th birthday
12/2011 Imogen Mills' Sweet 16
5/2012 Frances Slade's retirement celebration
1/2013 Nelly Aranibar's 50th birthday
7/2013 Roberta Tubertini Daniels' 60th
9/2013 Steve Taylor's birthday
11/2013 Lori Rette's 50th birthday
12/2013 Cecily Mills' Sweet 16
5/2014 Larry and Sarah's 60th BDs
9/2015 Jim Rice (just for fun!)
1/2016 Dan DeMatteo (celebrating 20 years of dancing)
10/2016 Anonymous 70th
10/2016 Memorial for Marge Scott
2/2018 Larry Pearlstein's 60th
1/2019 Louise Senior and Dunbar Birnie's 120th birthday (almost exactly halfway between their 60th birthdays, Louise in November 2018 and Dunbar in March 2019)
3/2019 Keith Sagers' 70th
3/2019 Cathy Campbell's 70th
3/2019 Jeff Gauthier and Miranda Weinberg's wedding celebration
3/2019 Memorial for Dilip Soni

Griggstown Lock Rapper Team 2009- 2019

From Jane McCarty



Griggstown Lock Rapper Team was formed by Jane McCarty and Michael Bell to dance at their wedding in 1989. The name refers to both the lock in the form of a star made by the intricate weaving of flexible swords during the dance, and the Griggstown Lock on the Delaware and Raritan Canal not

far from Jane and Michael's house. The original members, seen in the photo of their first performance, were Mary Zikos, Bob and Sue Dupre, Debbie Goodkin, Jane McCarty and Michael Bell (on fiddle). Michael soon started to dance with the group too. By 1993 the group also included Janet and Robert Mills, Trish Petzold, Ken and Rachel Samoil. About that time we expanded our repertoire to include singing in four parts, a morris jig, performances of English Country Dances and instrumental pieces, and we took our show on the road, making hour-long presentations to retirement communities and at the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Performances over the last ten years have included the Half Moon Sword Ale, NEFFA, PCD Winter Cotillion, Plainsboro Traditions, Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands Earth Day Celebration, Kingston Community Picnic, Montgomery Earth Day Fair, Montgomery Farmers Market, Germantown Country Dancers' Twelfth Night dance, Grounds for Sculpture, Handsome Molly's 20th anniversary, and our own 25th anniversary in 2014.

GL names its dances for one of the figures in it, and all are named after foods: Donuts, Popcorn, Jalapeno, Stir-fry, Hammentaschen. Inspired by the spherical 5-sword lock of the rapper team Cutting Edge from the DC area, we decided to create a six-sword lock of two interlocked spheres which we weave at the end of the Stir-fry dance. As far as we know, no other teams are making this type of lock.

A few years ago several of the younger members of the team started a new team named "Go Figure". The members are Amanda Barbour, Kathryn Barbour, Robin Barbour, April Birnie, and Isaac Burr. With limited practices, they still placed at the Dancing America Rapper Tournament (DART) the first two years they competed.

Other former members not mentioned earlier include Mark Goldman, Beth Hodsdon, Robert LaRue, Marian Hepburn, Ben Bolker, Ezra Fischer, Erin Schrayner, Sue Gola, Yana Malysheva, Juliette Calvarin, Nathan Wozny, Chloe Calvarin, Melody Liu, Nelly Aranibar. Our musicians have included Robert, Janet, Imogen and Cecily Mills, Michael Bell, Debbie Goodkin, Garry Moore, Susie Lorand, Ben Bolker, and Rick Waterborne. The current members are Jane McCarty, Debbie Goodkin, Michael Bell, Barry Schnorr, Nancy Barbour, Martin Barbour, Catherine Weiss, April Birnie, Dunbar Birnie, Louise Senior, Heidi Fichtenbaum.

Thank you all for 30 years of dancing.

Handsome Molly 2009-2019

From Debbi Kanter:

Handsome Molly continued to mark the passing years celebrating Plough Monday, wassailing the apple trees at Terhune's, and performing at various festivals and events, notably NEFFA (the New England Folk Festival), May Day at the Princeton Battlefield, and the PCD Cotillion. There were occasional forays to New York (city and state), Toronto Canada, and parts of New England and the greater Baltimore-Washington DC area. The Barbour girls and Isaac and Paloma Burr went off to college and other adventures and April Birnie graduated from college and rejoined the team, which by then included her mother, Louise Senior. Martin Barbour took on the job of Squire from Mary Zikos in 2013.

In June 2018 Handsome Molly marked 25 years of molly dancing in New Jersey and the retirement of Foreman Sue Dupre and Principle Singer Mary Zikos. This momentous occasion was celebrated in February 2019, with a day of dance, including wassailing the aforementioned apple trees, and partying accompanied by fellow molly team Green River Tap and Die from Massachusetts, and King Sessing Morris team from Philadelphia. Nancy Barbour and April Birnie have taken up the mantle of leadership. Bob Dupre has become principle singer, ably assisted by Daniel Potter.

We look forward to our next 25 years. Practice is Thursday nights at the Unitarian Universalist church from September to May, and outdoors at Fine Hall on the Princeton University campus in the summer.

Come join us! Email April Birnie: birnie.april@gmail.com.

Millstone River Morris

From Amy Livingston

Millstone River Morris has been welcoming in the Spring every May Day for over 30 years and dancing everywhere else anyone will let us. We practice Thursdays from 8 pm to 9:30 at Fine Hall on Princeton campus in the summer and at the UUCP during the rest of the year, and we would love to have you join us. Come to one practice and you're on the team!

Marriages:

Annette Sheldon and Stan de Riel

Pat Palmer and Mark Widmer were married in 2002 (the news was not included in the 30th anniversary history).

Jeff Gauthier and Miranda Weinberg

Ryan Gingo and Em McKeever

Emily Adams and Doug Hohensee

In Memoriam: Gone but Not Forgotten

Margoleath Berman

Florence Powers

Pete Soloway

Lauren O'Neill

Marge Scott

Dilip Soni
Eric Benson
Spence Wilcox
Bill Mates
Alex Goldenberg
Dave Parker

Looking forward to the next ten years of music, song, dance and community.