

Who's Calling at Synergy?

Tom Amesse



In June of 2004, Tom graduated from the CD*NY apprenticeship program, and went on to participate in ECD Leader's Programs at Pinewoods camp. At about the same time, Tom began calling dances for the North Jersey English Country Dancers in Ridgewood, NJ, where he continues to teach on a regular basis. He is the emcee of the North Jersey ECD Playful Ball each June, sharing the stage with a variety of guest callers and The Flying Romanos. He has called English Country Dancing in White Plains, NY, Hurley, NY, Lambertville, NJ, Smithtown, Long Island, Washington DC, Boston, MA, and Binghamton, NY. His dance composition "Susan" can be found on The Flying Romanos Take-Off CD, which he co-produced with his wife Susan.

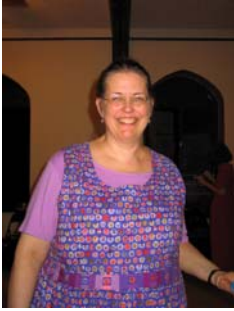
In May 2002, Tom organized and led a troupe to Wales where they performed ECD style dances composed by American choreographers at the Tredegar House Folk Festival. Tom has performed sword dancing with New World Sword, a NYC-based Longsword side.

Marty Fager



Marty has been dancing contras, squares and English Country dances regularly since 1984. Long interested in choreography, he has been composing contra and English dances for over twenty years, and for many years called dances at open microphones every chance he got. He has taken callers' workshops with Ted Sanella, Kathy Anderson, Lisa Greenleaf, and Steve Zakon-Anderson, and finally launched into full-scale contra dance calling after taking Bob Isaacs' caller workshop sessions sponsored by CD*NY in 2005. He was also an original member of Christine Helwig's Chelsea English Country Dancers performance troupe. He is often seen coordinating Saturday contra dances in NYC, and has served on the CD*NY Board of directors for twenty years.

Beverly Francis



Beverly Francis started country dancing in 1974. As a caller she has taught at English and American events up and down the Eastern seaboard from Philadelphia to Boston. she called the Ridgewood dances from 1984 to 1990. As of spring 2001, she was a mistress of ceremonies at six of New York's Playford Balls and on the staff at all of the New York True Brit weekends. Beverly has also led workshops at country dance weekends in London, Ontario, and in the California Bay area. She was a member of the country dance staff at Pinewoods Early Music Week in 1999 and 2000. She has also been on the staff for Winter Dance Week at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C.

Beverly notes on her CD*NY Web page that a few years ago I taught country dance at weekend programs for the New York chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America. My research on country dance in Austen's letters and novels led to a booklet of Austen quotations about dance. In 1997, CD*NY was looking for a way to attract new dancers, and a Jane Austen evening was scheduled. That day, we had the good fortune of Linda Wolfe's article In Step with Austen in the New York Times; there was a splendid turnout, and the influx of dancers helped rejuvenate Tuesday night English dances.

Wendy Graham



Wendy Graham, of Durango, Colorado, serves up delicious and nutritious dances for all. With infectious enthusiasm and a smile, she's called nationally at Kentucky, New Mexico, and Colorado dance camps. Catch Wendy at Sidmouth FolkWeek in England this summer and the Youth Dance Weekend in Vermont this fall. Learn more at www.folkmaids.org/wendy.htm

Sharon Green



After her first contra dance, in May 1988 in Bar Harbor, Maine, Sharon felt "maybe I could learn how to do this." Then she "lucked out and got into English Week at Pinewoods that August." She first called a dance, Jack's Health, in June 1993, at Country Dancers of Westchester's Ice Cream Social, and by that fall she had begun apprenticing in Westchester and teaching in North Jersey.

Interested in performance dancing as well as social dance, Sharon helped found the now defunct Harpies Molly team and served, with Paul Ross, as co-director of Christine Helwig's Chelsea English Country Dancers demonstration team, with whom she began dancing in 1990. If you have attended any of these festivals, weekends and camps, you may well have danced to Sharon's teaching: NOMAD (CT), Heritage (PA), the Dance Flurry (NY), Down East Festival (ME), Mainewoods Dance Camp (ME), NEFFA (MA), San Francisco Free Folk Festival (CA), Lark Camp (CA), BACDS English Week (CA), and CD*NY's True Brit Weekend and Weekend Whirligig (NY). She has also been a frequent visiting caller and teacher at dances on both coasts and has taught at festivals and workshops in the UK and in Japan.

Yonina Gordon



CD*NY dancers know Yonina Gordon in three guises, as caller of both contras and English dances and as a morris and sword dancer. No wonder! Yonina inherited dancing genes from her folk dancing parents, grew up folk dancing, then discovered American contra and English Country dancing in 1982. It wasn't long before she had branched out into morris, joining Ring O'Bells in October '85.

Yonina now calls contras for most of the metropolitan area groups: Swingin' Tern, Princeton Country Dancers, LITMA, and Round Hill. She has also called at the Heritage Folk Festival, NOMAD, and in '93, '94, '97, and '99 at NEFFA. In addition to her regular

English calling at CD*NY, Yonina has done dances for the Albany Country Dancers, LITMA, Woodstock, New York, and CD*NY Alpine dances. In summer 2001, Yonina was on staff at Pinewoods, teaching rapper and longsword at the Boston Centre's English-Scottish Session, and rapper and longsword at English Dance Week.

Sarah Henry



Sarah Henry has been involved with rapper, longsword, Cotswold morris, and English clog dancing for almost a quarter of a century. Sarah is an active member and teacher of Half Moon Sword, NYC's renowned women's sword team and producers of the annual Half Moon Sword Ale, and of Ring o' Bells, the oldest women's Cotswold side in North America. She has taught at Pinewoods, Buffalo Gap, Country Dance*New York's True Brit weekends, the Sidmouth International Folk Festival in England and Emma and Molly's elementary school. By day, Dr. Sarah is a historian, in charge of programs at the Museum of the City of New York.

Bob Isaacs



Bob Isaacs was introduced to country dancing in 1994 and was immediately attracted to its social and physical benefits. He started calling in 1999, and from his home base in New Brunswick, NJ has since been active calling regularly around the Northeast and at weekends and camps across the country. He is known for clear, enthusiastic teaching, and the ability to adapt the teaching and dance selections to audiences of all levels.

Bob is also one of the most prolific and respected choreographers writing contras and squares today. Some of his more well-known dances include The Cure for the Claps, Turning in Turn, United We Dance, Don't Be Scared of Your Shadow, and You're Among Friends. He is one of the few writers to explore contra/square hybrids such as grid squares and zias, which continue to fascinate experienced dancers. He is also

committed to continuing the calling tradition, and in addition to one-on-one mentoring, regularly runs workshops for new callers on calling and choreography.

Orly Krasner



Orly teaches English Country Dance in New York City and Westchester . She is a regular guest in Boston and other cities on the East Coast,. Recent highlights include the Ottawa May We Dance weekend, the Whately Assembly, and the upcoming Shell We Dance weekend in Fort Myers , FL. This past summer, Orly taught a session of her own choreography at the Lichfield (UK) Folk Festival and the publication of her first book of English Country dances is eagerly awaited.

In “real” life, Orly teaches music history and theory at the City College of New York.

Gene Murrow



Gene Murrow has been an English country dancer and musician since 1965 and has been teaching and calling at clubs, workshops, festivals, and balls throughout the United States as well as England , Europe, and Japan since 1988.

As a member of the English dance band MGM, he has made four recordings. He is also the Producer of the series of English dance recordings featuring the Boston-based band Bare Necessities.

Paul Ross



Paul Ross has enjoyed English country dancing since 1971 and has been teaching in both New York and Westchester since the early 1990s. He taught at the Fried for All West in 2006, has taught at various East coast locations, including Princeton, Philadelphia, Amherst, and Pinewoods, and last year with Robin Hayden launched The Lenox Assembly weekend, a successor to choreographer Fried de Metz Herman's Fried for All in Lenox, MA. Paul has served as teacher in the apprenticeship programs in both New York and Westchester and is teaching English Country Dancing from the Ground Up for the second year at the 92nd Street Y.