

SYNERGY FAQ

What is Synergy?

Synergy is bringing several things together to create something greater than its individual pieces. CDNY is creating synergy by bringing together the contra dance community and the English dance community, plus some other interesting types of dancing and other activities, to create a wonderful new dance weekend. It has all the charms of the True Brit English-dance weekend that has been held in the past, plus the energy of the contra dance crowd. There will be a range of levels of dancing, from relatively new dancers to very experienced ones. You can choose to dance only your favorite kind of dancing (there will be parallel workshops all day), or to use this chance to see what something new is like.

When is Synergy?

October 2-4, 2009. It starts with dinner on Friday evening, followed by an evening dance for everyone. On Saturday there are workshops all day, and again an evening dance for all, and Sunday there are morning workshops and a dance for all in the afternoon, ending around 4:00.

How much will Synergy cost?

Admission fees include the entire weekend program – housing, 6 meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch), and all activities at Circle Lodge. The cost is based on the level of housing you choose. Prices of the different housing options are based on varying levels of comfort and privacy.

Premium: \$325 per person for shared, heated room with private bath;

Superior: \$310 per person for shared room with private bath;

Economy: \$255 per person for shared room with shared bath;

Budget: \$210 per person for dormitory room with shared bath.

Child sharing room with parents: under 7 free, 7-17 \$100.

NOTE: Circle Lodge provides portable heaters for lower-priced rooms without built-in heat.

Scholarships/Financial Aid?

Yes. A limited number of partial scholarships are available for more responsible work assignments. We will contact you after registration with

questions about your preferred job, need for a scholarship, dietary needs, workshop interests, talents you may like to share, and auction contributions.

How do I register?

Print out and complete the registration form at:
www.cdny.org/SynergyRegistration.pdf

What is Circle Lodge?

It is a combination conference center and children's camp. There is one large dance area, and three others of smaller size. There is a range of housing, with most of it being rooms for two people with either a private bath or a bath shared with other rooms; and some dormitory space with four to a room. Meals, good and plentiful, are served buffet style in a large dining room where you have a chance to get to know new people or eat with your friends. Circle Lodge is located on a small lake, and at that time of year it is usually lovely, with the fall foliage starting to turn and a crispness in the air.

Where is Circle Lodge?

About 70 miles north of midtown Manhattan.

Transportation?

Driving is the easiest way. The Taconic Parkway gets you there.

Metro-North train goes to New Hamburg, about 12 miles from Circle Lodge.

We will have transportation available from the train station to the camp.

In addition we will be coordinating rides to help people get there.

What should I bring?

A sunny disposition, lots of smiles, and soft-soled dance shoes (the dance floors are wood). A flashlight, alarm clock (if you do breakfast) clothes for warm, cold and/or rainy weather. All rooms have sheets, pillows, and a blanket, but you may want to bring an extra blanket. (If you have chosen an economy room, extra blankets may be needed. If you are driving, please bring a spare for those who are flying.) Bring musical instruments and music stands for impromptu jam sessions. Shape note singers may bring their books.

Remember to bring your contributions for the auction - we want this to be the best auction ever!

Do I need to be a CDNY member?

No. CD*NY members will receive registration priority until June 1, 2009. After that, registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Please register early to ensure your housing preference. If you are not a member, you may join when you register by including a separate check – \$30 single; \$50 families – made out to CD*NY (or by joining at any dance). Memberships beginning after May 1 will be valid until August 31, 2010.

Tell my friends?

Yes! The more the merrier! We would like to see all sorts of people there - those who have never been to one of our weekends, and those who have been attending for years. There will be something for everyone!

Will I have to do English or contra dancing?

No – there will be parallel workshops for English and contra during the morning and afternoon Saturday and morning Sunday. The evening dances will be divided between the two. So you can stick with what you know and like. However, you might be surprised at how much you enjoy the other kind of dancing if you do try it.

Are there any single rooms?

There may be a very small number. If you don't have someone you prefer for a roommate the registrar will be happy to match you with someone else in the same situation.

The flier mentions "volunteer" jobs that everyone does. Do I have to "volunteer"?

No. We do need help from members of our community at Synergy, just as we do on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Volunteering is often a good way to meet new people, as well as contributing to everyone's happiness. Most tasks are small and take only 15-30 minutes during the weekend. They include things like sweeping the dance floors, helping with the auction, and helping with setting food out for snacks.

I've heard something about a **chocolate feast** on Saturday evening - what is that? There is a pause for refreshments halfway through Saturday evening's dance. It isn't all chocolate - only about half! Everyone who wants to is invited to bring something to contribute to the feast, so we have a huge variety and plenty enough for a bunch of hungry dancers.

What is the auction you mentioned?

It is traditional to have a fund-raising auction at this weekend. Actually, there are two auctions. There is a "silent" auction, in which items brought by participants are on display in a section of the dining hall, with pieces of paper for you to bid on them until Sunday noon. And there is the "lively" auction, usually during the break on Saturday night, with an auctioneer (noted more for humor than auctioneering talent, usually). Participants are invited to bring items they no longer use but which they think might appeal to others there. The items are donated, and receipts from the auctions go to help keep costs down at CDNY dances during the year.

Do you have other questions? Just ask the Synergy committee members (Elizabeth Parry, Suzanne Ford, Paul Ross, David Chandler, Merle McEldowney and Miriam Newman), or send an email to info2@cdny.org.

See you there!