



THE MILFORD CONTRA DANCE

Physically Distanced Yet Socially Connected!



NEWSLETTER #7

JANUARY 2020

MESSAGE FROM SANDY, PETER, RICH, KATE, AND BILL

Greetings Dancers and Musicians!

2021 - Can you believe it?

This being January, many dancers and musicians would normally be carrying their instruments, dance shoes and water bottles up the (many) steps of UNH's MUB (Memorial Union Building) for the annual Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend held over the MLK Jr. weekend. Due to Covid, no one is dancing right now so the RPDLW Committee decided to have a one-day virtual event (that I participated in over Zoom.) Nothing can replace the in person experience of dancing with a room full of smiling faces; taking hand in hand, sharing an oh, so satisfying balance and swing. But I will say the effort to put this online event together was certainly worth it and I enjoyed it immensely.

The afternoon was a wonderful and varied program that included a concert, a discussion of some of the older, traditional dances (referred to as "Chestnuts"), concurrent sessions in Zoom "breakout rooms" of International Dance, Tunes and Stories, a Music Jam session, and a Social - Chat room. This was followed by a Retrospective on Ted Sannella (www.neffa.org/ted-sannella) and then a virtual offering of the chestnut tune/dance "Money Musk", followed by a waltz. Vist <https://www.neffa.org/ralph-page/33rd-annual-ralph-page-a-virtual-event> to see four video clips of the event.

A big "Thank You!" to the talented performers, the Committee and the tech folks that made this



possible, and to all the familiar, smiling faces I got to see on Zoom. We WILL dance together again. Mark your calendars for the 2022 Ralph Page weekend!





VISUALIZE THIS DANCE

Submitted by Sandy Lafleur

Shooting Star by Nick Boulet

Here's a dance that I've called more than a few times as I really like the flow of it. Calling it was particularly fun a while back at the Griffith Academy dance in Wethersfield, CT. Wethersfield has the distinction of meteorites crashing through houses not once but twice! This merited a story on the front page of the New York Times and a segment on an episode of NOVA.

Star Struck by Nick Boulet. Nick is from the Louisville, Kentucky area and creates dances that keep the energy up.

This is a duple improper dance, meaning that the dance starts with the ones crossed over and units are of two couples interacting with each other (1s and 2s).

So here we go! Find a partner and line up for a contra! Hands four from the top, and the number one couple trade places - gent with lady and lady with gent.

In your group of four, put your right hand in for a right hand star and turn that all the way around back to place; gents draw your neighbor lady into a swing on the side of the set, ending with the lady on the gents right, facing across the set.

Long lines go forward and back; ladies make eye contact and right shoulder round each other once and a half more.

There's your partner! Balance and swing.

Ladies, right hands to each other, pull by for a ladies chain. Gents, help them around with a courtesy turn.

All put left hands in for a left hand star. Turn that star - ones look down, twos look up for the next couple to make a right hand star with. And the dance begins again.



The "crib" on my card looks like this:

Star Struck - Nick Boulet (duple improper)

A1: RH star; gents draw neighbor to swing

A2: Long lines F & B; Ladies gypsy 1 1/2

B1: Partner B & S

B2: Ladies' chain; LH star





MONEY MUSK

One of the traditions at Ralph Page is the impromptu dancing of Money Musk in the dining hall just as lunch is ending. It begins simply enough - a couple of fiddlers start the tune, joined by a few other musicians, then more. Folks grab a last bite of their lunches, quickly find a partner and line up on one side of the dining hall. No one is calling the dance; the dancers know what to do! Chairs and tables get moved out of the way as the line grows as the dance continues. No one wants it to stop. Of course, it has to. There is more dancing to be done in the hall as the next session is about to start. Here's a short clip of the 2013 lunch Money Musk. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyPFU0KKzwg> There are a lot of familiar faces in this video. Enjoy finding your friends in the group.



IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT.....



How did you first come to the Milford Contra Dance? Or in the jargon of Marvel Comics, what is your origin story? Our website is up and running (<https://www.milfordnhcontradance.org>) and we have a section on the people involved with the dance. Please consider sending us your "Milford" story so it can be shared. A few lines will do, and photos are completely optional. Please submit your history to strumma@aol.com



THE PEASANTS' DANCE.



PICTURE PUNS

Each box contains a play on words. For example, Box 1 is "forget it."

1 Get it Get it Get it Get it	2 Jack	3 Somewhere 	4 DOOR
5 <u>READ</u>	6 Blood Water	7 Beeeeeee	8 CANCELED
9 once 	10 Egg Egg HAM	11 Try Stand 2	12 TOWN
13 Nl bumpGHT	14 Aid ← Aid Aid	15 Mill1on	16  3.14
17 ice ³	18 R O G O N C  I K	19 Think 	20 GROUND feet feet feet feet feet feet

Click [here](#) for answer key



SUGGESTION BOX

Forward your feedback, article ideas, and personal updates to Sandy Lafleur at strumma@aol.com. Prefer the phone? Call Kate at 654-9854

The Milford Contra Dance is sponsored by the Milford New Hampshire Recreational Department

