

THE MILFORD CONTRA DANCE

Physically Distanced Yet Socially Connected!



NEWSLETTER #1

JULY 2020

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

Dear Musician and Dancing Friends - Oh how we have missed you and the greater contra dance community! Many of you are likely wondering when we'll be able to take hands in long lines, go forward and back or balance with our neighbor and transition into that satisfying swing! When are we going to be able to be part of that big Milford sound, again? None of us really knows the timetable for that but we do know that we want to be back dancing to live music as soon as it is truly safe to do so.

We hope that you are well and that this newsletter helps to connect us while we are physically apart. We would love to hear from you!

Some greetings/musings from the Milford Contra Dance Committee Members:

I look forward to seeing the smiles of the happy dancers and hearing the great music of the Milford Musicians. ~ *Bill Cashman*

Stopping the Dancing on a Covid Evening
(With apologies to Robert Frost, whose birthday falls on the Mad Hatters Ball next year)

Whose hall this is I think I know.
It's quiet with no dancers, though;
They must stay home and not dance here
Until their movements again may flow.

My little fiddle must think it queer
To play without the dancers here.
They cannot dance, for safety's sake,
The quietest evenings of the year.

The fiddle's bow begins to quake —
Surely there is some mistake!
How can the dancers get to sleep
Without their comrades' hands to shake?

These days are lovely, dark, and deep,
And we will laugh, and maybe weep,
As isolation we must keep,
As isolation we must keep.

~ *Peter Kingsley*





Although we preserve good health and strength now, we will be dancing again. How shall we celebrate when that next, big dance happens? I'm looking forward to it! ~ *Rich Hart*

Hello to All! I hope you are well. I think of the dancers and musicians often - we shall dance again! ~ *Kate McClure*

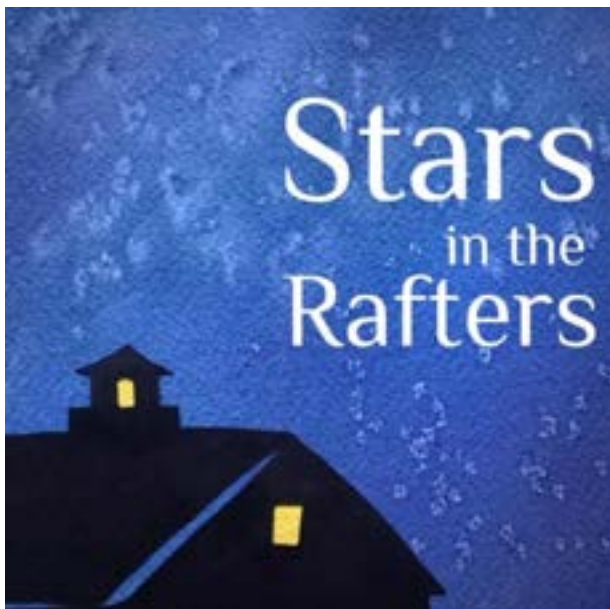
Someone asked me when was that last time I contra danced. I thought a minute and realized that it was the Milford dance on February 28th. At that point there were just rumblings about this strange virus that was starting to spread within our borders. On the Friday night in February with 51 dancers and 19 musicians, we were still clasping hands and making the hall ring with our laughter and the stamp of our feet. We grinned at each other with our unmasked faces, smiles fully evident. And we took for granted that the dance and the live music would always be there. I do believe we will return to dancing and when we do we will have a new appreciation for the community we are all STILL a part of. ~ *Sandy Lafleur*

MILFORD MUSICIANS VIRTUAL CONCERT

Drawing from the interest of some of the Milford Musicians, we're setting up a Zoom virtual concert. Date and time to be determined, but most likely mid-July. Everyone will be in their home/special place and will be able to see the musicians and others watching. Sandy will call one dance which you can dance in your living room. We won't be together, but we can wave!

Please contact Sandy Lafleur at strumma@aol.com if you would like to play or listen.

An email with the Zoom link with date and time will be sent out once the details have been worked out.



A NICE THING ON THE WEB

"Stars in the Rafters" is a lovely contra dance podcast about comfort and community. Its purpose, as described by host Julie Vallimont is "though we can't celebrate in the same way in person, we can still be here for each other."

[The podcast is available here](#)

COMING NEXT MONTH

Milford Musician Piano Player Jimmy Otis plays "The Fishers' Hornpipe" and delves into its history which has a connection to Charles Dickens and is a touch scandalous.



SUMMER SUNSHINE BY PAUL BALLIET (VISUALIZE THIS DANCE)

Hands 4 from the top! Number one couples trade places. Drop hands and flatten into a wavy line of 4 across, ladies have left hands in the center

A1: Balance the wave right then left; Neighbor swing ending facing down the hall

A2: Down the hall in a line of 4, turn as couples; return up the hall, bend the line

B1: Circle left 3 places round; Partner Swing on the side of the set

B2: Circle left 3 places round, reform the same wave; balance the wave forward and back this time, walk through to form a new wave with the next couple.

CONTRA DANCE WORD JUMBLE

Unscramble the letters to find
contra dance words!

1. WSGIN
2. DSOODI
3. AREPRTN
4. RODPAEEMN
5. ASHANICEILD (two words)

answers at bottom of page



LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS



We're planning on our newsletter being monthly and are hoping others in our community will contribute. We'd love to hear how folks are doing—so, personal updates are welcome as well as videos of musicians playing (with a link to the sheet music would be marvelous), poems and stories, crosswords and other puzzles.

Submissions should be sent to: Kate McClure @
katecontradance@gmail.com

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

Word Jumble answers: swing, do si do, partner, promenade, ladies chain

