

The 2015 Flurry Festival was our 28th successful year providing a blissful community with three days of music, dancing, jamming, storytelling, singing, and loads of fun. We fought the bitter cold and intense snow storms of the month and brought together our community of young and old for a real good time.

The festival provided our traditional three-day lineup with some new focuses on Urban Artistry, Greek dance, exciting and interactive workshops for teens, and dynamic family fun workshops for families with young children and loads and loads of programming for adults of all ages. We are well on our way packing the schedule for Flurry 2016 and are also rubbing our hands together with fun plans for our 30th anniversary for Flurry 2017. Just you wait and see what we have in store for you in the coming years!

The lineup this year is already packed with non-stop traditional contras, techno contras, contras and squares, swing dancing, Balkan dance, Yiddish dance, Blues and Swing, Zydeco, Cajun, Scottish, Irish, a Rockabilly Sock Hop, Jazz, loads of jamming, music instruction, storytelling, concerts and performances, and more.

So, save the date!

Flurry 2016 runs from February 12th to the 14th.

Advance discounted tickets will go on sale December 21st. Watch our website and your mailbox for important reminders and updates for the best winter weekend of the year!

Can't wait to see you there!

Your friends at The Flurry

**Tamara Flanders, Peter Davis, Ian Hamelin,
Josh Snitkoff, and Sue Mead**

Your continued support and participation have been crucial to the DanceFlurry Organization board, many dedicated volunteer event organizers and staff as we juggle a number of objectives: to provide quality events featuring traditional dance and music; to cater to both the experienced dancer and the first-time participant; to provide opportunities to local musicians and callers while also taking advantage of the talent to be found outside the Capital Region; to sustain an atmosphere of welcome and community at all of our events; and to support the work of other organizations who seek to use dance and music to reach their own goals.

The challenges we face in our region are common among those working in other communities to provide similar important cultural events. The DFO provided a small stipend to Eric Gidseg, who attended "Puttin' On The Dance," a conference held in Ottawa last March for dance organizers. He returned with valuable ideas to address the goals of Hudson Valley Community Dances events, including attracting new (and younger) dancers.

It is not only important to build the audiences for dance and music, but also to continue to encourage folks to step up and work as board members and organizers to run events in the first place. The payoff is apparent as you watch a room full of people happily swept up in the joy of music and dance. As you will see in the next few pages, **grants and scholarships are available** (www.danceflurry.org/grants.php). We have been able to offer help to several organizations who are trying to preserve cultural heritage and to use dance and music to create community. We hope you will be inspired to contribute and help us continue to build the DanceFlurry Organization.

John Guay, DanceFlurry Organization President



FLURRY SCHOLARSHIPS are available for youth, ages 6-21, and adults with disabilities who wish to attend part or all of the event. Volunteer opportunities can also aid with the cost of admission. Deadline for applications is Jan. 8, 2016. More information is at www.danceflurry.org/dfyo_flurry_scholar.php.

CHANGING PARTNERS

Both the Flurry Festival and the DanceFlurry Organization wish to offer our sincere thanks to **Chrissie VanWormer Beauchemin** for 8 years of service as Festival Finance Director and DFO Bookkeeper. Chrissie's expertise served us well as we worked to improve our overall business practices and achieved independent non-profit, tax-exempt status. **Ian Hamelin**, former Technical Director for the Flurry Festival, has been hired as our new Flurry Finance Manager, and **Josh Snitkoff** has stepped in as Flurry Technical Manager. We welcome our new DFO Bookkeeper, **Lisa Allendorph**.

We'd like to thank **Rich Futyma** for many years and countless hours of work as the organizer for the Saratoga Contra Dance. Fortunately, he continues volunteering for the Flurry Festival. **Laura Perrault** has completed her 9th and final year as the organizer for the Adirondack Dance Weekend. Active on the DFO Board and Flurry Festival Committee, Laura oversaw the ADW as it grew into a weekend of contra and English Country Dance. We are very grateful for her energy and leadership.



CHANGING PARTNERS, *continued*

Several events are ending, changing, or beginning. Susan Beal and David Pearson announced that the **Bennington Contradance will be ending after 14 years on Dec. 4, 2015**, with special preliminary potluck, caller Fern Bradley, music by Set American, and post-dance jam session. "Thanks to all the gifted callers and musicians who have played for us through these years, and thanks to the wonderful dance community who came and danced, and kept it such a friendly, energizing event." • June Bischoff says "Join us for the 5th and **final winter ALBX event Dec. 11-13, 2015** (Albany Lindy and Blues Exchange). We've grown steadily since we started running events 5 years ago; we're looking to scale back and focus on smaller, local events. We have been deeply inspired by working with local musicians, poets, and community organizers and are looking to put more of our energy in that direction."

• The **Hubbard Hall Community Dance** has shifted from monthly dances to several events during the year. Information will be posted at hubbardhall.org and the DFO website.

Paul Rosenberg is **launching the "Albany Shindig!"** which debuts Friday, Nov. 20th at the First Congregational Church, 405 Quail Street, Albany, and continues on most 3rd Fridays. Many of the DFO Family Dance participants look for more opportunities to dance and sing after their children "age out" of the Family Dances, and all other DFO dances are geared primarily toward adults. This series will focus on simple, traditional dances geared to all ages of participants including singles, couples, families, people with disabilities and the elderly. To create a well-rounded evening and to attract a more diverse audience, some of the dance evenings will also feature a mini concert. Jay Ungar and Molly Mason will play for the November concert and dance. Quickstep - with John Kirk, Trish Miller and Ed Lowman - will play for the Jan. 15, 2016 event. For more information: 482-9255, paul@homespun.biz.

• Ann Thomas and Diane Bell are planning the **Spring Stockade Assembly that will return in 2016.**



Mission Accomplished

POSITIVE ENERGY: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The 14-year old dancer at the Mission Accomplished 2014 Danceathon could have danced for joy at his first place prize—but he did a back flip instead. Aided by a **\$500 DF YO! (DanceFlurry Youth Outreach) grant**, the

Danceathon fundraiser was planned to introduce participants to dance as a healthy activity. Many were comfortable dancing with friends, but few were at ease dancing in front of strangers. During the day, however, their confidence grew as they were encountered new types of music and dance, learned that dance can express different emotions, and experienced how dance can create community. "There were several comments about how unifying those circle dances were the first year," explained Mission Accomplished Founder and CEO Carmen Duncan, "and we wanted to offer that again this year." Mission Accomplished is a non-profit youth service agency.

The second Danceathon event last May also received a **\$500 DF YO! grant**. and featured workshops and performances with civic leaders and politicians as participating celebrities. Over the course of the day, the 100 participants ranged in age from 6 to 50+. DFO Board member and DF YO! Committee Chair Lauren Keeley and DFO Founder Paul Rosenberg were instructors, and other board members participated and staffed the DFO table. The winner among the 18 contestants was Leticia Rivera, a choreographer who Ms. Duncan describes as "very committed to community and youth development." "It is intended to be a community event," Carmen Duncan commented, "and we really wanted dancers of different ages. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, and people appreciated the positive energy of the event and the fact that dancers felt comfortable and safe."

The Mission Accomplished board appreciated receiving DFO support for two years. "It was great that [the DFO] was both showing up and giving money," Ms. Duncan says. "That way you were able to interact with the Mission Accomplished organization and see what the event brings to people instead of just hearing about it."



**"JUST.
EVERYTHING.
EVERYTHING
WAS AMAZING.
WRITE THAT
DOWN."**

So reads the summary of one of the fiddlers who traveled to Ireland with the Saratoga High School Fiddlers Club last April. The Club has played at the Flurry Festival for 3 years and received a **\$500 DF YO! grant** to help with travel expenses. Fifteen students ages 15 to 18 traveled with their instructor, Jessica LaBello, and chaperones for a very busy week of performing and workshops. They had at least one performance, if not two performances almost every day.

Ms. LaBello organized the club in 2006, one year after she began teaching music at the school. She recounted that one of the favorite sessions of the trip was with the Ennistymon Comhaltas chapter. "We were supposed to perform for about an hour, but everyone was having so much fun that we ended up jamming and sharing tunes for about 3 hours. There were also some people who did some step dancing, and at one point someone taught all of the students a set dance. So the students from the two countries really got a chance to interact." The students also loved studying with Anna Jane Ryan, a fiddler and professor at Limerick University. Once home, they shared four new tunes with other club members who had not traveled to Ireland.

The trip was the first venture outside the country for most of the students. They were enthusiastic about what they value about their experiences:

I loved being immersed directly in a culture and sharing this experience with my closest friends. It's something I will never forget.

MEMBERSHIP /DONATION FORM* Join or donate using this form or pay online at www.danceflurry.org

Memberships run the one calendar year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, and offer discounted admission to DFO dances, the Flurry Festival, Adirondack Dance Weekend, Stockade Assembly, ALBX events and other events.

Name:* _____ Date _____ New ___ Renewal ___ Gift
City: _____ Address: _____
Email: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____ + _____
Phone: _____

*For a gift membership, complete the form with recipient’s information and add your name and contact information here:

I approve public recognition of my membership and/or donation ___ Yes (We will assume “no” unless checked)
We Need Volunteers! I can help with : ___ Local dances ___ General DFO activities ___ Outreach activities ___ Publicity
Dance Interests ___ Ballroom ___ Cajun/Zydeco ___ Community ___ Contra ___ English ___ Family ___ International ___ Salsa
___ Scandinavian ___ Scottish ___ Swing ___ Tango ___ Waltz Other: _____
Music Interests: _____

MEMBERSHIP: The amount exceeding basic membership levels of \$25 for Individuals or \$45 or \$15 is tax deductible
___ \$25 Individual ___ \$45 Couple/Family ___ \$15 Limited Income Individual ___ Supporter \$50 ___ Partner \$50
___ Sponsor \$100 ___ Patron (\$350) ___ Hero(ine) \$1000 Other: \$ _____ ___ I am requesting an employer match
Optional ___ I would like a name tag: _____ (We no longer use member cards)

DONATION: \$ _____ Flurry Festival \$ _____ General DFO Fund \$ _____ DF Youth Outreach Grants \$ _____ Program Grants
Please send along with your check to the DanceFlurry Organization PO Box 448, Latham, NY, 12110-0448 Thank you!!

The DanceFlurry Organization is a non-profit organization registered with the NYS Charities Bureau. EIN-14-1693779
DANCEFLURRY BOARD John Guay, *President*, Rich Pisarri, *Treasurer*, Kate Sanger, *Secretary*, Melanie Axel-Lute, Mark Berman, Brian Carr, Mike Gregware, Gabe Holmes, Janice Joyce, Lauren Keeley, Terry Kinal, Vonda Mason, Laura Perrault, Tycho Spadaro, Patricia Stephens.
Emeritus: Jen Brown, *Past President*, Bill Matthiesen, *Past President* *Founding Members:* Pat Melita and Paul Rosenberg

Getting to play with people who have music as such a huge part of their lives. Seeing some of the differences in how they learn and perform and how we perform. Getting to talk to these other students and even just learning little details like how they let the rosin build up on their strings because it's a sign of how long you've been playing and a source of pride. Whereas we clean our strings every time we play. It's these little details that we only would have learned there that I appreciate.
Being able to share a common passion with people from a different culture.

Being able to bond with a group (our club) that is already such a close knit family.

While Ms. LaBello has been to Ireland before, this trip was certainly a stand out. “This was truly an amazing experience that's hard for us to put into words. [It] was really great to be able to see my students experience such a great musical culture for the first time. They are very thankful for this experience and your support in helping them get there.”

DANCE AS AN AID TO RESETTLEMENT

The application for funding for a Refugee Women’s Dance Circle arrived just as the facilities for the Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emannus United Methodist Church in Albany (RISSE) were badly damaged by arson. The loss of the building disrupted plans for the program, but RISSE Executive Director Rifat Filkins was determined to find a new location and gather the group together. “This is so important because I need these women to laugh and support each other,” she explained. “They are alone.” The **\$500 DanceFlurry Program Grant** helped with supplies needed for the program. The classes were the idea of Shilpa Darivernula, a medical student

who began studying Kuchipudi, one of the classical dances of India, at age 8. An internship with a dance therapy program and a year spent studying local traditional dances around the world inspired her to think about different ways in which dance could be used to address the needs of immigrants.

For the Women’s Dance Circle, currently composed of women from Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Pakistan, she decided to begin by teaching Indian dances. The approach created a sense of common ground, since the dances were unfamiliar to all of the women. Now that there is more of a sense of community in the group, the women will be encouraged to teach their own traditional dance to others from different countries. The project partners plan for the group to present a performance for other women in the coming year. The project has confirmed Ms. Darivenula’s belief in the two-fold value of traditional dance: as both an activity that helps an individual or a group retain cultural traditions, and a bridge that can aid in the development of a new community.

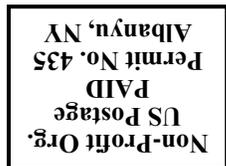
WE’RE ON THE DANCE FLOOR ALL YEAR!

Our event organizers are busy all year planning contra, swing, Cajun, Family and English Country events that keep that festival spirit going. With few exceptions, the events feature live music and often start with a beginner’s session. No partners is needed. For more information check our “Events” section at www.danceflurry.org. You can also contact some of the event organizers to get on the individual mailing lists. Want to bring a new dancer or try a new type of dance? Many series offer a **“first time” coupon for free or half price admission.** You can find it on our website. **A list of our events follows.**

See you in Saratoga Springs
at Flurry 2016
February 12th-14th!!
Advance discount ticket sales begin Dec. 21st
www.danceflurry.org



DANCEFLURRY ORGANIZATION
PO BOX 448
LATHAM, NY 12110



SPECIAL EVENTS, in addition to the **FLURRY FESTIVAL** each Presidents' Day Weekend, include: **ADIRONDACK DANCE WEEKEND** in Sept., Contras and English Country Dance at the scenic Silver Bay YMCA; Adirondack@danceflurry.org.

ALBANY CONTRAFEST!, a short festival that doesn't skimp on great music and dance, Nov. 2016; albanycontrafest@nycap.rr.com.

ALBX'S (ALBANY LINDY & BLUES EXCHANGE) last winter event with special workshops and dances is Dec. 11-13, but stay tuned for other events throughout the year; www.albanylindyandblues.com.

HUBBARD HALL COMMUNITY DANCES take place several times a year, usually with a potluck dinner at 5:00 PM followed by the dance at 6:00 PM, Freight Depot Theater, Cambridge; 692-9079, www.hubbardhall.org. • **STOCKADE ASSEMBLY** is for experienced English Country dancers who will gather on Dec. 13, 2015, 2:30 PM, Albany Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen St.; and also in the spring; 273-5172.



MONTHLY DANCE SERIES

CAJUN AND SWING: ALBANY FIRST FRIDAY CAPITAL SWING DANCE, begins with a lesson and may also mix a performance into the evening. Albany Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen St. Lesson at

7:30, the dance at 8:30PM (changing to 7:00 and 8:00PM in Jan., 2016); firstfridayswingdance@gmail.com. • **CAJUN/ZYDECO DANCE** on Nov. 28, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 19, & Apr. 30, Old Songs Community Arts Center, a quick 10 miles from Albany at 37 South Main St., Voorheesville, 449-1604, rbmega83@aol.com. **SARATOGA SAVOY DIAMOND DANCE** offers swing and more from 7:30-11:00 PM, on the 3rd Friday of the month (except for Feb. when they're at the Flurry); Saratoga Music Hall at the top of City Hall, 7 Wells St., Saratoga Springs; 587-5132, dance@saratogasavoy.org.

CONTRA, COMMUNITY, & FAMILY DANCES:

ALBANY CONTRADANCES! run from Sept.-June on the 2nd and 5th Fridays, 8:00 PM, Albany Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen St.; 729-7791, peter.stix@me.com. • **ALBANY SHINDIG** on "most" 3rd Fridays beginning Nov. 20 at the First Congregational Church, 405 Quail St., Albany (see article above). • **BUHRMASTER BARN CONTRA DANCES** from May to Sept., always begin with a friendly potluck dinner at 5:00, dance 6-9 PM; Pruyn House, 207 Old Niskayuna Rd., Loudonville; janehusson@nycap.rr.com, 233-0847.

FAMILY DANCE musicians and callers delight in introducing children and families to traditional music and dance, Nov.-April, at 4:00 PM, alternate between the First Congregational Church of Albany, 405 Quail St. and the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave; 482-9255, paul@homespun.biz. • **OLD TIME COMMUNITY BARN DANCE** in May is held at the Octagon Barn in Knox; 482-9255, paul@homespun.biz. • **SARATOGA CONTRA DANCE** is now the **ROUND LAKE CONTRADANCE** on 4th Fridays, at 7:30 PM, United Methodist Church, 34 George Avenue; mkrn@nycap.rr.com.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS: CAPITAL ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES has run for 25 years and is held on the 1st Sundays from Oct. -May, 2:00 PM, at the First Unitarian-Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave. In Dec., the dance is a special, free event at Troy's Victorian Stroll, Christ Church Methodist United, 35 State St.; CapitalECD@gmail.com, 477-5684.

RENSELAER ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES are on the 3rd Sundays from Sept.-April, 2:00 PM, Christ Church Methodist United, 35 State St., Troy. The Feb. dance is held on the 4th Sunday. donbell@nycap.rr.com; 273-5172.

