



HOW DID WE GET HERE? It's almost time for the **30th Annual Flurry Festival!** Three decades ago, the first Flurry got underway with three dance halls, a few workshops, 30 performers, and 300 dancers for a one-day event. The festival has become a well-known, 3-day event with 5000 participants from all over the country; and our 17 year-round dance series and special events have also grown in number, location and dance type. All of this is brought to you by an extraordinary community of dedicated volunteers who work with a small, part-time staff. We are very fortunate, and very grateful to have so many talented people involved — and to have so many supportive participants.

WHERE ARE WE GOING? We are constantly mindful of the need to continue to build the future of the organization and sustain the events that are so important to us. We strive to build capacity — just look at the array of workshops offered at the Flurry alone. In 2016, the Burnt Hills Contra Dance held pre-Flurry Festival beginners workshops, and we revived the Megaband program which aims to train musicians to play for contra dances. DFYO! Grants helped the Saratoga High School Fiddle Club hold two workshops, including one with premier Quebecois fiddler, Pascal Gemme, and one with local legend George Wilson.

We work to bring in new participants. In 2016, the Flurry Festival Committee provided tickets for 25 youths and 8 chaperones from Schenectady and Camillus, and the DF-YO! Flurry Scholarship Program provided 6 youth and one disabled adult tickets. **We've even taken to the streets to attract new dancers!** — with mini-dance sessions held at the Albany Upper Madison Avenue Street Fair, and English Country dances held at a block party and at the Victorian Stroll in Troy.

DFO Dance Organizers expanded the line up and kept ticket prices affordable. We held the 2nd Contra Fest weekend in Albany, ran the 2nd year of the Cajun/Zydeco series, and began the Albany Shindig, a community dance geared for folks of all ages and ability levels.

HELP US GET THERE. We appreciate your participation at events and love dancing and making music with you. Help us even more by volunteering to help a dance series or work on a DFO committee, join as a member, make a donation, and include us in your estate plans to help sustain us for the next 30 years.

Thank you, on behalf of the DFO Board,
John Guay, President, DanceFlurry Organization

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF GATHERING COMMUNITY TOGETHER, THE FLURRY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE IS PLANNING A SUPER EXCITING LINEUP OF EVENTS FOR THIS SPECIAL FESTIVAL WEEKEND, February 17-19, 2017.

You can count on our usual wide array of programming - a magical weekend of music, concerts, jam sessions, singing, stories, dancing, and family friendly events from many North American and international traditions. It's a celebration of diversity, and a joyous age-integrated union of all who come, from toddlers to nonagenarians.

Dance instruction is available for beginner level on up. No need to bring a partner, just come have fun! Don't dance? NO PROBLEM! We offer a mind-boggling array of sessions for instrumentalists, singers, concert and storytelling listeners. Programming offers activities for all ages, beginner - through experienced-level dance and music workshops. You can spend the entire weekend just listening to music and enjoying performances.

AS A SPECIAL GIFT TO OUR AMAZING PARTICIPANTS, THIS YEAR WE OFFER 3 EXTRA HOURS OF DANCING ON SUNDAY NIGHT - TILL 9 PM in our four largest rooms: contra dancing with Great Bear, swing with Gordon Webster, zydeco with Curley Taylor and Zydeco Trouble, and a special Urban Social Dance Afterparty featuring Urban Artistry from Washington, D.C, which will include dancing and instruction in Hip Hop, House Dance, Breakdance, Popping (Boogaloo) and more. All of this will be included in the price of a full festival or Sunday ticket.

We're not only proud of our performers, but of our volunteer Flurry Committee chair people who are responsible for making our festival the seamless event that it always is. Also, we're super appreciative to our Board of Directors who administer for us in the Not-For-Profit Realm. Hats off to you guys!

See the box on page 2 for a partial list of the experiences that await, and visit www.flurryfestival.org for more information about the Flurry events.

The Flurry Festival Managers and Committee are looking forward to seeing you at the 30th!

Tamara Flanders, Administration

Peter Davis, Programming

Ian Hamelin, Finance

Josh Snitkoff, Sound and Tech

Sue Mead, Administrative Assistant



PONDERING 30 YEARS OF FLURRYS

Paul Rosenberg, DanceFlurry Organization Founder

In February 1988, I organized the first "February

Dance Flurry Festival" as an extension of my goals of promoting local and regional talent (our twice-monthly contra dances were staffed entirely by local performers at that time) -- with the addition of a few "national talent" performers to spice up the festival and to draw in more participants. We hired 30 performers and had about 300 participants for the one-day festival. It was the day after a big snow storm, the high temperature was 10 degrees, it was windy, and even the main roads were covered with hard packed snow. Nevertheless, the participants were ecstatic about the festival and encouraged us to make it at least a two-day event at a bigger venue.

The first year we used Westmere Elementary School in Guilderland partly because it was fairly easy to find and also because the principal was a friend of mine. Some local dancers encouraged me to rent Farnsworth Middle School near Westmere for the second year. This school had also been the venue of the predecessor event when Old Songs, Inc had a "Winter Dance Fest" in February 1986.

Needless to say, there have been many changes in the intervening years, beginning with the re-location of the Festival to Saratoga Springs in 1994 after burst water pipes forced us from Farnsworth Middle School. The developments I have been involved with which I am most proud of include adding family programming, encouraging jamming, adding music workshops, expanding programming geared to teens, providing a huge variety of dance and music workshops and performances for all throughout the weekend, bringing in legendary elder performers like Frankie Manning and Bob McQuillen, producing two documentaries about the Flurry, and changing the name from Dance Flurry Festival to Flurry Festival in order to bring in more non-dancers and also to reflect the breadth of the programming.

It makes me happy that the current program director, Peter Davis, continues to make a very interesting schedule every year, and that the Flurry Managers and volunteers do a great job with running a much-treasured community event. I have to say it's a pleasure to enjoy lots of sessions without having any responsibilities.



Robert Cohen



Robert Cohen



For the past few years, the DFO has offered two grants to support individuals and groups who want to develop traditional music and dance events in our region. We offer

technological, administrative, and/or financial assistance. To learn how to apply for support up to \$500, visit www.danceflurry.org/grants.php.

In addition to the fiddle workshops mentioned previously, the DFO Youth Outreach Committee was pleased to provide a **DFYO! grant** to help Parsons Families United Network host Reggie Harris at a recent family event. Harris taught youth and their parents folk songs by the campfire, and provided an enriching experience for youth with mental health or other challenges. For 2017, we will increase Flurry Festival scholarships to 10 tickets. Youth (ages 6-21) or adults with a disability are eligible to apply for a free ticket. Visit www.danceflurry.org/grants.php for a **Flurry scholarship application which is due Friday, January 6th, 2017**. Note that general DFYO! grant applications are accepted year round until each year's allocations are used. Examples of possible events include teaching dance in physical education classes, hosting a Family night with a live band, or teaching participants how to play traditional music. For questions or help with planning an event or finding a band or instructor, contact YouthOutreach@danceflurry.org.



Chelsie Henderson

A DFO Program grant, (for general public events) supported an afternoon of

African dancing and drumming workshops for all ages sponsored by Rural Soul Studio and taught by M'bemba Bangoura in Easton, NY. We also provided funding for a "Dancing with the Docs" workshop event sponsored by Physicians Fighting Global Obesity and Diabetes, One Step At A Time. We welcome your proposals! For assistance with Program grants, contact program@danceflurry.org.



The DFO runs on volunteer power, and we invite you to help us make things happen. Join one of our committees and help with

grants, outreach events, or a special project. Step up to help one of our dance organizers with one part of putting on a great dance series. Have graphic design skills? We could use help with publicity. We plan to update our website in the coming year—do you have skills you might be able to contribute? Whether you can offer short- or long-term assistance, there are lots of good projects to work on. Please note your availability on the member form or contact flurryadmin@mindspring.com.



SPECIAL EVENTS

FLURRY FESTIVAL each Presidents' Day Weekend.

ADIRONDACK DANCE WEEKEND Sept. 22-24, 2017, Contras and

English Country Dances at the scenic Silver Bay YMCA Adirondack@danceflurry.org.

ALBANY CONTRAFEST!, a short festival that doesn't skimp on great music and dance, Nov. 10-11, 2017; albanycontrafest@nycap.rr.com.

ALBX'S (ALBANY LINDY & BLUES EXCHANGE) Offers events throughout the year; www.albanylindyandblues.com.

HUBBARD HALL COMMUNITY DANCES take place several times a year, 5 pm potluck dinner and 6 PM dance; Freight Depot Theater, Cambridge; 692-9079, www.hubbardhall.org.

OLD TIME COMMUNITY BARN DANCE, May 12th at the Octagon Barn in Knox; 482-9255, paul@homespun.biz.

STOCKADE ASSEMBLY is for experienced English Country dancers who will gather on May 21 at the Shaker Meeting House, Albany, and Dec. 10, 2017 at the Albany Elks Lodge, 273-5172.

MONTHLY DANCE SERIES

CAJUN AND SWING

ALBANY FIRST FRIDAY CAPITAL SWING DANCE always begins with a lesson at 7PM. Albany Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen St. The dance is at 8PM; firstfridayswingdance@gmail.com.

CAJUN/ZYDECO DANCE on 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 on the 3rd Friday of the month (except for Feb. when they're at the Flurry), 7:30-11PM; Saratoga Music Hall at City Hall, 7 Wells St., Saratoga Springs; 587-5132, www.saratogasavoy.com, 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! for all ages and levels, "most" 3rd Fridays Nov.-April, 1st Congregational Church, 405 Quail St., Albany.

BUHRMASTER BARN CONTRA DANCES from May to Sept., begin with a potluck dinner at 5:00, dance 6-9 PM; Pruy House, 207 Old Niskayuna Rd., Loudonville; May dance is at Shaker Heritage Society, Albany; janehusson@nycap.rr.com, 233-0847.

BURNT HILLS CONTRADANCE on 3rd Saturdays, at 7:30 PM, Calvary Episcopal Church, 85 Lake Ave.; mkrn@nycap.rr.com.

FAMILY DANCES introduce 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.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

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

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



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY! *Memberships run the calendar year, Jan. 1 — Dec. 31, and offer discount admission to DFO dances and special events. Join or donate with this form or online at www.danceflurry.org*

MEMBERSHIP /DONATION FORM

Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> New
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift*

Name(s):* _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____ + _____
 Email: _____ 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 \$500
 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)

SEPARATE DONATION: \$_____ Flurry Festival \$_____ General DFO Fund \$_____ 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

DFO BOARD: John Guay, *President*, Melanie Axel-Lute, *Vice President*, Rich Pisarri, *Treasurer*, Mark Berman, *Secretary*, Brian Carr, Mike Gregware, Lauren Keeley, Shira Love, Tycho Spadaro, Patricia Stephens, Peter Stix, Sandy Waxgiser | *Emeritus:* Jen Brown & Bill Matthiesen, *Past Presidents* | Pat Melita & Paul Rosenberg, *Founding Members* | Lisa Allendorph, *Bookkeeper*; Vonnie Estes, *Constant Contact*; Lorraine Weiss, *Administrator*

JUST TO WHET YOUR APPETITE — HERE'S A PARTIAL LIST OF FLURRY FESTIVAL 2017 OFFERINGS

An all-our-stars cast is assembling, including performers and workshop leaders such as: *Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, Curley Taylor & Zydeco Trouble, Urban Artistry, Eight To The Bar, Great Bear, Jesse Lege & Bayou Brew, Gordon Webster Band, Gentiorum, M'Bemba Bangoura, Layaali Arabic Music Ensemble, Kathy Anderson, NotoriousFolk, Jesse Lege & Bayou Brew, Stone Cold Roosters, Elke Baker & Liz Donaldson, Bob Isaacs, REVMA, Pete Sutherland, Koehler and Kelly, The Moving Violations, Steve Zakon-Anderson, Linda & Chester Freeman, Annie & The Hedonists, Kim & Reggie Harris, The Amidons, Fennig's All Star String Band, Waxwing Four, Viva Vallenato!, Graham Christian, Big Fez & the Surfomatics, Buddy System, Storycrafters, Vanaver Caravan, Graham Tichy Band, The Piggy Wiggles, Garland Nelson, John Roberts & Debra Cowan Arts in Motion, and many, many more!*



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 are needed. For more information check our "Events" section at www.danceflurry.org or contact some event organizers to get on their 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, available on our website. See the events list.

