

# Some Boston Dance history Dates

Focusing on the area's 3 weekly dance series, from 1976 thru 1984.  
The " New England contradance renaissance", as it has been called.

## A. A quick overview of the timelines for these 3 weekly series over this period:

1. CDS Tuesday night dance during the school year (Sept thru early June)  
?? 19?? - CDS Series starts at the Cambridge YWCA  
1974 - Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds hired occasionally  
1975 - Ted Sannella, Tony Parkes, and Donna Hinds hired to "freshen up" the dance.  
1976 - Dance starts getting too big for the YWCA.  
1977 February - CDS sponsors a Thursday Night Dance at the YWCA to take some of the pressure off their successful Tuesday Night Dance.  
1977 September - Dance moves to Brimmer & May school , CDS drops the Thursday night dance.  
1985 September -Because of low attendance, the dance moves back to Cambridge.
2. Tod Whittemore's Thursday Night Dance during the school year (Sept thru early June)  
1978 February - Tod starts (restarts?) the Thursday dance at the Cambridge YWCA  
1982 September - Thursday night dance moves to the Cambridge VFW
3. YI Monday (and Tuesday in the Summer) night dance at the Concord Scout House  
1978 July - Tuesday summer Scout house dances start.  
1978 September - 2nd and 4th Mondays Scout house dances starts (thru December)  
?? 1979 January - Dances now every Monday ??  
1979 September - dances every Monday during the school year, Tuesdays in the Summer  
1987 - Dance still on Tuesdays in the Summer

## B. A more complete timeline:

Notes events and date attributions are in square brackets [ ]  
competing dates are listed below in curly brackets { }  
Date format is as YYYY\_MM, i.e. 1977\_02 is February 1977

Some Events that set the stage -

- 1915 - Country dance Society Boston (CDS) founded by Mrs. Storrow primarily for English dancing. Then added American dancing.  
1940 - Ralph page started calling a semiweekly dance in Belmont  
1940s - square dancing in Harvard's Memorial Hall by the international outing clubs of America  
1943 - CDS started a weekly Tuesday night dance of the Boston YMCA with Ralph page  
1944 - NEFFA festival started at the Boston YMCA

late 1940s - Ted Sannella started calling in in Porter Square Cambridge, then the Armenian church in Belmont, and then the Congregational church in Harvard Square.

--> all the above from [D1]

1949 (not sure) 2nd Saturday Scout house square dance started with Joe Perkins [TP1]

1959 Ted Sannella starts calling the 2nd Saturday Scout house dance [TP1]

1974 - Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds hired occasionally by CDS Boston to play for their 1974-1975 Season Tuesday night dance at the Cambridge YWCA. [TP1]

1975 - Ted Sannella along with Tony Parkes and Donna Hinds hired by CDS Boston to "freshen up" their Tuesday night dance at the Cambridge YWCA. [TP1]

1977\_02 - CDS sponsors a Thursday Night Dance at the Cambridge YWCA with Roger Whynot, Tod Whittemore and New England Tradition to take some of the pressure off their successful Tuesday Night Dance [Fl-1] { January 1978 [TW1] }

1977\_08 1st Sats at Brinuner & May Tony Parkes/Yankee Ingenuity new series: [D2-9]

1977\_08 3rd Sats at Girl Scout House Tony Parkes/Yankee Ingenuity. Starts Oct 1 [D2-9]

1977\_08 - CDS Tuesday Squares moves to Brimmer & May school [D2-9] { 1978 September -[TW1] }  
{ Fall of 1977 or 1978 [TP1] }

1977\_10 at the Scout house. Fiddle contest and dance with Yankee ingenuity and Tony Parks calling sponsored by NEFFA. [JDifl]

1978\_02 - Tod Whittemore starts the Thursday dance at the Cambridge YWCA [Fl-2]

1978\_04 - 1st Sat. in Chestnut Hill Tony Parkes & Yankee Ingenuity. Dances discontinued [02-10]

1978\_04 - 3rd Sat Concord C.S. House. Tony Parkes & Yankee Ingenuity [02-10]

1978\_07: Tuesday YI (Yankee Ingenuity) summer serious at the Scout house starting July 11 and ending August 29 sponsored by Donna Hinds. start at 8:30 \$2.00 5 person band cartoon [JDifl]

1978\_09: fall winter square contra dances by Yankee ingenuity of the Scout house on 3rd Saturdays September 16 through December 16

1978\_09: Yankee ingenuity presents a series of square and contra dances for the experienced dancer on 2nd and 4th Mondays starting September 11 and going through December at the Scout house [JDifl]

1978\_12: December 16. The Yankee ingenuity Christmas cotillion at the Scout house. refers to the YI dances on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and the 3rd Saturdays also. This may be the 1st cotillion. [JDifl]

1979\_01: Monday, January 8, Yankee ingenuity special dance at the Concord Scout house with Gill Gilbert of Denver calling [JDifl]

1979\_01: winter spring schedule of dances by Yankee ingenuity at the Scout house 3rd Saturdays January through May, 2nd and 4th Mondays January through June 1979 January 8 special dance. [JDMfl]

1979\_05: Monday, May 28 special benefit dance at the Scout house to purchase window screens for the Scout house with Tony Parks and Yankee ingenuity. [JDMfl]

1979\_08 continuing Dudley Laufman' s 1st Fridays in Carlisle start Oct 7

1979\_08 continuing Monday Squares with Yankee Ingenuity at the Concord Scout House.

1979\_08 continuing Ted Sannella, 2nd Saturdays, GirlScout House. Starts Oct 8. Page 11 -

1979\_08 continuing Yankee Ingenuity 4th Friday in Carlisle starts Sept 23. 275-18'79

1979\_08 continuing Thursdays Squares with Tod Whittemore and others, at the Cambridge YWCA.

1979\_08 continuing Tuesday CDS New England dances at the Brimmer & May Gym, Chestnut Hill..

1979\_09: Yankee ingenuity every Monday dance from September 17 1979 to June 16, 1980 [JDMfl]

1979\_10: Saturday, October 20 (3rd Sat) - Tony Parks calls challenging squares at the Scout house. [JDifl]

1980\_09: YI Monday night dances at the Scout house September 1 thru 2 December 15 [JDifl]

1980\_10 October 25 YI fiddle contest at the Sentry Center auditorium and dance at Monument Hall [JDifl]

1980\_10: announcing 1st Sunday experienced dancers starting October 4 at the Scout house with Yankee ingenuity [JDifl]

1980\_12: December 20 3rd annual Christmas Cotillion at Brimmer and May school [JDifl]

1980\_12: December 31 New Year's Eve dance at Belmont Hill school with Todd and Rod and Randy and Tony and Yankee ingenuity [JDifl]

1981\_06: dance all summer the Scout house on Tuesday nights with YI - June 23 through August 25 [JDifl]

1981\_08 - The Thursday night dance moves to the Cambridge VFW hall [TW1] { 1982\_09 [TND] }

1981\_09: dancing every Monday night with Yankee ingenuity starting September 7 through June 14 at the Concord Scout house. [JDifl]

1985\_09 - The CDS Tuesday night dance moves to the 1st church Congregational in Cambridge [02-14]

1987 the weekly YI scout house dances still running on Tuesday nights in the summertime. [JDifl]

Undated events:

Tony Saletan takes Tony Parkes place in the CDS Tuesday Night rotation

"Zesty Contras" book published by Larry Jennings

Monthly NEFFA Contra Dance organized by Larry Jennings starts

## C. References

1. Contemporary publications, as collected and scanned by Terry Huffaker  
[D1] N.Junket\_Vol11 Sq dancingBoston\_LWinstin.pdf  
Northern junket volume 11, number 10 and number 11  
A history of Boston dancing in the 20th century, written by Louise Winston.  
[02-10] 1978\_04 NEFFA News.pdf  
[02-11] 1979\_08 NEFFA News.pdf  
[02-13] 1978\_11 NEFFA News.pdf  
[D2-9] 1977\_08 Neffa Listings.pdf  
[02-14] Pg 14 1984 to our dancers.pdf
2. Contemporary flyers, as collected and scanned by Joyce Desmarais Isen  
[JDIf1]  
[F1-1] 1977 Thursday flyer 1.JPG  
[F1-2] 1978 Thursday flyer 2.JPG
3. Thursday night dance web site history page  
[TND] [http://www.neffa.org/Thurs\\_hist.html](http://www.neffa.org/Thurs_hist.html)
4. Recollections of some of those Involved:  
[TP1] 02/13/2013 eMail from Tony Parkes  
[TW1] 02/13/2013 eMail from Tod Whitemore  
[DH1] My Life and Times in Contradance Music by Donna Hebert  
From The Old-Time Herald Volume 7, Number 1  
[http://www.oldtimeherald.org/archive/back\\_issues/volume-7/7-1/dance-beat.html](http://www.oldtimeherald.org/archive/back_issues/volume-7/7-1/dance-beat.html)