

# Announcing The CDSS LEGACY OF JOY SOCIETY

CDSS is pleased to announce the launch of our Planned Giving program, the **CDSS Legacy of Joy Society**, recognizing and honoring members of the community who have included CDSS in their estate plans and wish to encourage others to join them by sharing their stories.

When we think about our estate plans, we're each thinking about what matters most to us – our values and the legacy we wish to pass on. If you're reading this, you have, like so many of us, found meaning and joy in dance, music and song. You believe "The world needs more of this!" The members of the CDSS Legacy of Joy Society are openly sharing how that joy and meaning in their lives moved them to provide future support to CDSS through a bequest.

## Member Stories

CDSS is delighted to recognize these friends' generosity by sharing their photos and stories



online at [cdss.org/legacy](http://cdss.org/legacy). This wonderful collection of photos shows Members doing what brings them joy, along with pithy quotes distilling their experience. Browse the pictures! See how many people you know, both across North America and in your local community. We think you'll be surprised by how many you do know and intrigued by the diversity of their experiences.

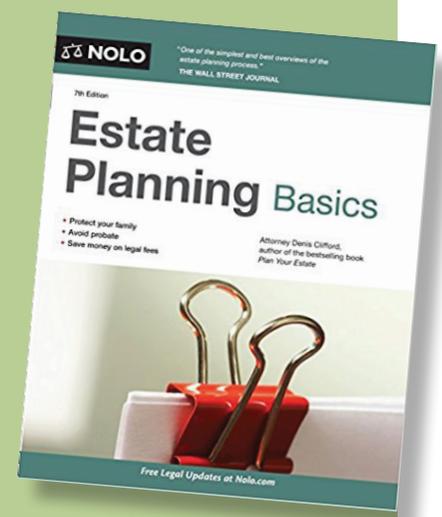
## How do I become a Member?

It's simple to join the Legacy of Joy Society:

Include CDSS in your estate plans, notify CDSS that you've done so, and express your willingness to share your story. The terms of your bequest are your business and need not be revealed to CDSS. Should you share them with us, they will be held in strictest confidence. CDSS encourages Legacy of Joy Society members to make plans at a level that is comfortable for you. There are no minimum gift sizes, nor age requirements.

If you'd like to join the CDSS LEGACY OF JOY SOCIETY, fill out the online **Request to Join form at [cdss.org/legacy](http://cdss.org/legacy)** or call Robin Hayden at 413-203-5467 x107. CDSS will work with you to contribute a joyous photo, a zippy quote, and your own legacy story.

Considering including CDSS in your estate plans but don't know where to begin or what your options are? Fill out the **Expression of Interest form** on the website, and CDSS will send you a free copy of Nolo Press's *Estate Planning Basics* (a \$20 value)!



# J O H N D E X T E R ' S S T O R Y

I have just finished the somewhat surreal task of planning for my eventual demise by establishing a process by which a portion of my estate will be given to CDSS.

As do others during this process, I evaluated all the possible people and organizations to whom I might give this sort of gift. And I concluded that CDSS is the organization I feel most strongly about.

The reasons are at once myriad and simple.

In my life, I play music professionally and I dance and play for dancing, mostly the Morris. The music playing had its beginnings when I was a young child. But the dancing started for me when I first traveled from Iowa to attend a CDSS week at Pinewoods in 1965 when I was 19. I went to Early Music Week to study the gamba with Martha Blackman, a master musician and player. I quickly realized how lucky I was. She was extraordinary in a staff of extraordinary musicians, and I was the beneficiary of that.

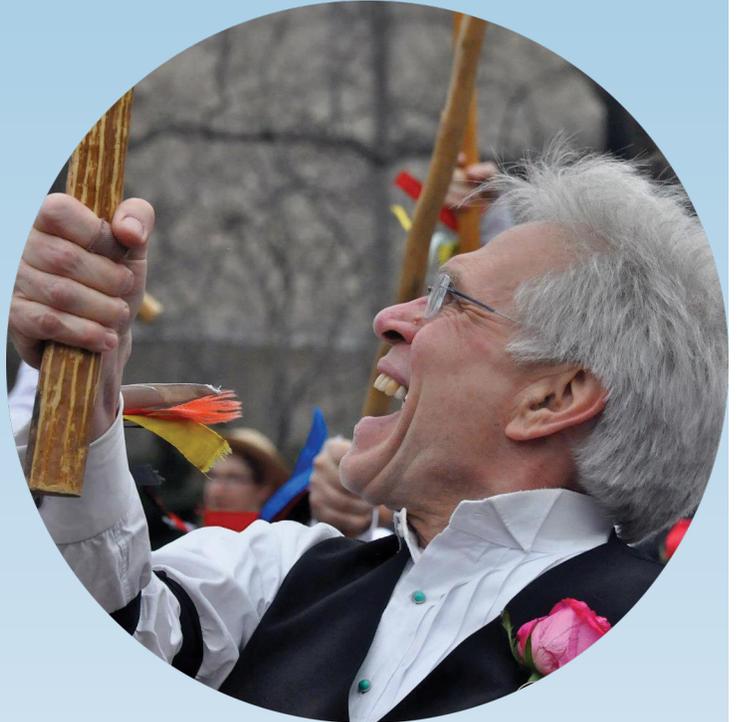
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*"I was given the gift of dancing by CDSS."*

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But what REALLY happened to me that week was that I discovered English dancing – Morris dancing, sword dancing and English country dancing. And it quite literally changed my life.

I returned to camp every year thereafter until 1981 when work prevented me. I was on staff as a Morris teacher from around 1975 through 1980. This was the critical time when Morris team dancing was just getting going in the States. The Morris atmosphere was highly charged, young people like me were crazy for the Morris, and the classes were electric! I had joined the Pinewoods Morris Men in 1966. I had been a member of the Village Morris Men with Eric Leber as our teacher. I had gone to England in June of 1973 with



a subset of the Pinewoods Men, the first American team ever to dance in England. And when I returned a changed young man, I started the Binghamton Morris Men in the winter of 1973.

I was given the gift of dancing by CDSS. And that gift has actively influenced my life every day since 1965. I am SO grateful for this, and I was SO lucky to have been given it.

Whatever this gift of mine to CDSS ends up being, making the gift is the very least I can do to acknowledge everything CDSS has given me over the years. And I say Thank You not only to the organization at large, but also to all the people involved in keeping the thing going! Your work is difficult in that regard, and you should know that people like me would be dramatically different people were it not for CDSS and its lasting influence in my life. So, **THANK YOU, CDSS!** Thank you for everything you do and have done over the years.

As we used to say in the Morris, *"may you continue to flourish!"*