

Happy 2018!

The NFDI board welcomes new members Eileen Little and Alan Lincoln for three year terms. We are delighted to have Jean Schweitzer continue on the board for another three year term. Finally, we are very happy to have JoAnne Rudo serve the remaining year of Harry Khamis' term. Harry is moving to Sweden for a few years and we thank him and wish him the best.

We are grateful also to Noel Wannebo for her years on the board. Thankfully, Noel will still remain a co-editor of the Northwest Folkdancer. Thanks also to our membership, the majority of whom took the time and contributed the stamp to participate in our recent election.

This fall and impending winter with its early sunsets and short daylight hours brings the idea of lying fallow to mind. Sometimes it is hard to leave the house, even though the payoffs can be large. Lying fallow, however, is more than just being a sloth.

Here are a few definitions: 1. (of land) left unseeded after being ploughed and harrowed to regain fertility for a crop. 2. (of an idea, state of mind, etc) undeveloped or inactive, but potentially useful. 3. (of a period of time) characterized by inaction.

I think of bulbs I have planted which are waiting for the right time to burst forth, or germs of ideas waiting for fleshing out and implementation.

Patience is important in learning a new skill. There are periods of active learning which can be thought of as play and study, and fallow periods, time necessary for synthesis. Play can be exploring the entire universe of whatever it is you are interested in and excited about, while study is paying close attention to one part of what you have played with and practicing it until it is yours. In dance, for example, play is dancing socially and exposing yourself to many genres, while study is taking classes or attending workshops focussed on one particular style or even the steps in one dance. In this context, synthesis might be as simple as taking time between classes, sleeping on it, so to speak. In this way, learning a little more of a dance each week is a built in synthesis.

This period of waiting, with changes not yet visible on the surface, is also an important one in the healing process. In December, a number of people I know have undergone surgeries to remove cataracts, repair a heart, replace hips, replace a knee, fix their teeth and more. Sometimes we are impatient to heal from an injury, but it is important to honor the time necessary. Best wishes to all for complete healing.

So, what is one germ of an idea, waiting to bud forth? How about a membership drive for NFDI, so that we may better support folkdancing and folkdance groups in the Northwest? Ideas are very welcome.