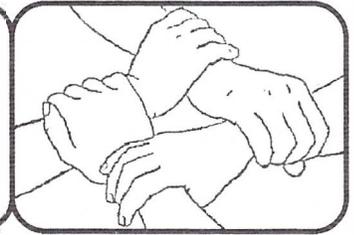


Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

dance star

Volume 4 Number 4

Spring 1994



THE LETTER BOX

More Great Dance Tunes

Just read your latest *Dance Star*. I want to point out the 55 great tunes in my book, *Balance and Swing*. Many musicians have bought that book just for the music. In fact, for one year (before *New England Fiddler's Repertoire* came out) my book was the standard music book that all the New England musicians carried. One band in Massachusetts used it as a base upon which they built their repertoire when they started up.

I want to add a vote for all of Bob McQuillen's Tune Books (#1 through #9) — there are some great tunes to be found there!

Another good source is Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook*. Check it out.

My new book, *Swing the Next* (due out in late 1994) will have about 75 excellent contra style tunes, many not easily available elsewhere. As in *Balance and Swing*, I will insist the Tune Index is inside the back cover so that musicians can easily find what they want.

TED SANNELIA
WISCASSET, MAINE

Men Dancing with Men Again

When I was in Boston last fall I had an enlightening discussion with Larry Jennings on this issue. At my request he summarized his thoughts in the following letter. — Erik Hoffman

We usually have more men than women at our dances so, as a member of the sponsoring committee, I often set an example by dancing the woman's part. (Even John Parkinson seems to tacitly admit that the right to join the dance takes precedence over homophobia so long as there are as few same-sex couples as possible.)

See LETTER BOX, page 2

The Dance Star Gazer

Dance Highlights for Spring, Summer

Gazing into spring we see the annual rebirth of one dance series, a festival named after the season, and enough dancing to keep spring going at a fever pitch. We also offer a sampling of summer happenings that you might want to mark on your calendar.

Our **Carpinteria** series leaps from fourth Saturdays to second Saturdays. If



you've never danced in Carpinteria, check it out on a second Saturday soon!

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

The pre-contra **International Folk Dance** series continues on March 20 with live music provided by **Kitchen Junket**. A variety of eastern European dances will be taught and danced. Beginners are welcome. Call Linelle at 682-1593 for more info.

We'll have another International Folk Dance on May 15 plus folk dance sessions during Sprung Floor '94.

Both International Folk Dances run from 5:30 to 6:20 in the Carrillo Ballroom.

DANCE THROUGH APRIL

This April you just might want to check the warranty on those dance shoes.

But first, check the warranty on your Ronco Potluck-O-Matic, because on April 3 we're all going to meet before the contra dance for a community potluck dinner. Bring an item to share (chocolate bunnies don't count), your own eating utensils, and one dollar.

Now, back to those dance shoes...

On Sunday, April 17, **Andrea Hoag and Julie King** join **Erik Hoffman** for our third Sunday Carrillo Ballroom contra dance, plus a special **Family Dance** at 5 p.m. Andrea Hoag has played widely on both coasts as well as studied and taught Scandinavian music. Julie King has been driving contra dances with rhythmic punch and dynamic texture for over a decade. Both are widely recognized for their musical styling and are enthusiastically received by contra dancers from Boston to Seattle.

Dancing under the stars returns to the SBCDS calendar, with the **Oak Park** dance season premiering on Friday, April 22. Beginning in May, our Oak Park series moves to fourth Saturdays (although in May the dance is absorbed into the Sprung Floor Dance Festival).

We finish off April with a special **fourth Sunday** dance on April 24 featuring **Kathy Anderson** and the **Growling Old Geezers**. Kathy hails from Dayton, Ohio, and returns to enliven the Ballroom. Some of us remember her from Harvest Moon a couple of years ago, or from that Sunday evening right after Harvest Moon, dancing five feet off the Ballroom floor. (Or was it six feet?)

The **Sprung Floor '94 Dance Festival** springs into action right here in Santa Barbara on Saturday and Sunday, May 28–29, Memorial Day weekend. We'll have workshops, potlucks, pizza and plenty of dancing. See the Sprung Floor article on page 4 for more details.

PLAN AHEAD DEPARTMENT

Look for flyers at our dances for information on these and many other events.

The **Bay Area Country Dance Society** (BACDS) sponsors two week-long dance camps: **Adult Week** is July 9–16, and **Family Week** is July 17–24.

See DANCE STAR GAZER, page 2

Dance Star Gazer *from page 1*

KCBX Public Radio creates another weekend of music magic at the **Live Oak Music Festival** at Camp San Marcos from Friday evening, June 17, through Sunday, June 19. Call the Live Oak Hotline at (805) 781-3030. Register for the full festi-

val by April 15 and get a festival t-shirt or take \$10 off.

The California Traditional Music Society presents its 14th annual **Summer Solstice** folk festival on the weekend of June 24-26 in Calabasas at the beautiful Soka University. (818) 342-7664.

Non-Polluting Energy Source for SBCDS

The SBCDS does not run on gasoline, nor on batteries. The SBCDS runs on volunteer energy. Help make the SBCDS run: be a volunteer. Both you and the SBCDS will benefit.

Here are some of the current volunteer positions we'd like to fill: special event decorations coordinator, Oak Park coordinator, insurance coordinator, bookkeeping

liaison, SBCDS historian, mailing coordinator, refreshments volunteers, door greeters and dance coordinators. But you can be of service no matter what your skills and interests.

If you'd like to help make the SBCDS run, call our volunteer coordinator, Jonathan Southard, at 683-4909.

(Batteries not included.)

Membership Info

Join the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society. You'll receive a \$1 discount at regular dances (generally those in the main listing) and priority admission to the Harvest Moon Dance Festival. Membership is \$18 per calendar year, pro-rated by calendar quarter. For April 1-December 31 the cost is \$13.50. To join, send a check to the SBCDS or apply where you sign in at one of our dances.



LETTER BOX *from page 1*

When a male dancer unfamiliar with the situation comes to me with a look of puzzlement and incipient homophobia, I say, "The parts you're allowed to touch [in public] feel the same." This almost always puts us at ease and I go on to say that he should dance with me exactly as he would with a woman. I feel strongly that, if this view is upsetting to him, he is treating the women improperly. I assume that the same reasoning would apply to a woman dancing the man's part if there is an excess of women.

On the other hand, I recognize that the overwhelming majority of the dances we do contain a "man's part" and a "woman's part" and it makes the dancing much more difficult if there is any hesitation in recognizing who is dancing what part. Although a few groups accomplish this distinguishing with props such as arm-bands, tradition and predominant preference is to have, insofar as possible, males dance the man's part, females the woman's part. I also find the resulting uniform arrangement of the sexes on the floor aesthetically more satisfying than a random arrangement. Thus, except to the extent that there is a gender imbalance (or perhaps a little obvious horseplay), I think it best that when the caller says "women" it is the women who respond; likewise for the men.

LARRY JENNINGS
BOSTON

Some Thoughts on Clapping

I'd like to share a couple of my personal thoughts on clapping with the music during dances. I understand how exciting and fun the spirit of the evening can be, and when it hits, clapping along with the music seems like the only natural thing to do. But as a caller and musician, there have been times when this has been disruptive to my performance. This is because, for a couple of reasons, clapping ends up out of rhythm with the performers on stage. So I, personally, would like to encourage you to explore other creative outlets for joyous expression. It's great to do some percussive movements, like clogging, foot-stomping, and hamboning (slapping various parts of the body). These movements have a softer sound. The power of sonic clapping can drive bands and callers crazy.

Clapping as a percussive movement has a very sharp and distinct sound. Clapping cuts through the general noise of the dance, and can be heard from one end of the hall to the other. On the other hand (other foot?) foot sounds, when not wearing taps, are not as sharp, and tend to blur with the rest of the ambient noise. When clapping is not in sync with the music as heard by the musicians on stage, its powerful nature makes it more difficult to "play in the pocket." That is to say, it can disrupt the groove for the performers on stage.

The first reason clapping can be out of

sync is obvious: there are those who may be musically inspired but can't keep a beat.

The second reason has more to do with physics, so bear with me. Even if you have the greatest sense of rhythm around, sound takes time to travel. When you're halfway down a contra line, the sound of the caller and band takes some time to travel through the air and into your ear. Then, when you clap, the sound of your clapping takes time to get back to the band (and caller). This time delay is often long enough to blur the beat for the performers, and again, lead to the loss of the groove. So even people with great rhythm are often distracting for the performers on stage.

For these reasons, clapping can impair the quality of the music. Thus, the next time you feel inspired to clap, I'd like to suggest kicking up your heels, or jumping around, and refraining from clapping. (Cloggers should take note, and if you sit out a dance to clog, ask the band if it's O.K. and then clog close to the stage!)

The appropriate time to clap is after the music has ended. At this time, it increases the connection between the performers and dancers and lifts the spirits of all. So at the end of the dance, clap loudly!

ERIK HOFFMAN

Erik emphasizes that these are his personal views and do not necessarily represent the opinions of any other person or organization.

♣ Spring 1994 ♣

Old-Time Contra Dance Calendar

Santa Barbara Country Dance Society • P.O. Box 21904 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121 • (805) 969-1511

Location Key

CB Carrillo Ballroom, 100 East Carrillo St., SB. Co-sponsored by SB Adult Programs.

CARP Main School, corner of 8th and Palm, Carpinteria.

OP Oak Park Dance Platform, on Junipero at Calle Real, SB.

Come dance on the finest floor in the west at the Carrillo Ballroom, under the stars at Oak Park, or at the Main School dance hall in Carpinteria. Join the fun! Dance to the irresistible rhythms of live old-time string bands.

We hold an **Introductory Workshop** before each dance. Come at 6:30 to learn the basics. No prior experience or partner is necessary. All dances are taught and prompted. Generally, dances become more complicated as the evening progresses. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing, and have a good time!

Times & Admission

(unless otherwise noted)

Admission: \$5

Dance time:
7:00–10:00 pm

Introductory Workshop:
6:30 pm

FOR THE LATEST DANCE INFORMATION, CALL THE SBCDS 24-HOUR DANCE HOTLINE: (805) 969-1511

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND
March 6 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Drastic Measures
March 12 Sat	CARP	Jonathan Southard • Hot Flashes • Now on <i>second</i> Saturdays.
March 20 Sun	CB	Erik Hoffman • Kitchen Junket International Folk Dancing precedes at 5:30–6:20 with <i>live music</i> by the versatile Kitchen Junket. \$3 separate admission.
April 3 Sun	CB	Carl Magagnosc • Hot Flashes Preceding the dance we get together for a community potluck dinner, 5:30–6:30. Potluck admission: a dish to share plus \$1.
April 9 Sat	CARP	Gary Shapiro • Carl Magagnosc & Friends
April 17 Sun	CB	Erik Hoffman • Andrea Hoag & Julie King (\$6) Preceding the contra dance Erik Hoffman hosts a special Family Dance , 5–6:30. Separate admission: \$3; under 18, \$2; \$8 per family tops.
April 22 Fri	OP	Carl Magagnosc • Drastic Measures • Our first OP dance of the year!
April 24 Sun	CB	Kathy Anderson • Growling Old Geezers (\$6) A special caller from Ohio for a special fourth Sunday dance.
May 1 Sun	CB	Erik Hoffman • Swing Easy
May 14 Sat	CARP	Carl Magagnosc • Michael Mendelson & Friends
May 15 Sun	CB	Jonathan Southard • Growling Old Geezers International Folk Dancing precedes, 5:30–6:20. \$2 separate admission.
May 28 Sat	OP	The fifth annual Sprung Floor Dance Festival (see article on reverse) 2:00 – 5:00: Open Band/Open Callers (free!) 5:00 – 6:30: Our Community Potluck dinner 6:30–10:00: Dance: Charlie Fenton • Kitchen Junket (\$6) 10:30–midnight: singing & jamming at Rusty's Pizza on Carrillo
May 29 Sun	CB	The Sprung Floor Dance Festival continues on the floor for which it's named. 12 noon–12 midnight: Workshops and dancing (\$20).

March 1994

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April 1994

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May 1994

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Other Events in Our Vicinity

Ojai — Saturday, April 16 and Friday, June 10, 7:30–10:30 pm, intro 7. Ojai Art Center, Montgomery Street, Ojai. Admission \$5.

San Luis Obispo/Pismo Beach — In SLO, second Saturday each month at the SLO Veteran's Hall, Grand Ave. near Monterey St. In PB, fourth Fridays (except third Friday this March) at the Pismo

Beach Veteran's Hall, 780 Bello Ave. Both venues: 8–11 pm, intro 7:30. Admission \$5. Dessert potluck after PB dance. For more info call Cynthia at (805) 546-0518 or David at (805) 541-1148.

Los Angeles area — Contra dances every weekend. Thursday dances restart soon. Call the LA Dance Hotline at (818) 951-2003.

Much in Store for Our Fifth Sprung Floor

Sprung Floor Dance Festival '94 arrives on Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29, Memorial Day weekend. As we approach these dates, we will publish a flyer giving complete details. In the meantime, here's what we know now.

Our featured caller is the Bay Area's beloved Charlie Fenton.

SATURDAY

On Saturday, festivities begin at 2 p.m. at Oak Park with an Open Dance. We

SBCDS Incorporating

Recently the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society reached the size where it benefitted us to incorporate. Until now we have been an unincorporated association with nonprofit status under the umbrella of the Country Dance and Song Society. Although we remain a center for CDSS we have now incorporated!

The new corporate bylaws are available for public review and admiration.

Thanks go to Jeff Alford, Autumn Brook, Bob Hamber, Erik Hoffman, Bob Leonard, Carl Magagnosc and Bettine Wallin for their hard work in bringing this about.

You may attend monthly Board of Directors meetings. Leave a message at 969-1511 and we'll get back to you with exact time and location.

mean "open" in several respects: it's our opening event for Sprung Floor '94; it's free; beginners, families, and dancers of all ages are encouraged to attend; the band is open; and the microphone will be open to beginning and experienced callers. It takes place in the open, too, so bring sunscreen and a hat.

At 5 p.m. we meet for a community potluck dinner. Bring food to share and eating utensils to the Oak Park group area, across the creek from the dance platform.

At 6:30 we waddle back to the dance platform for an evening dance. Charlie Fenton calls with the music provided by Kitchen Junket. They'll get our feet moving properly in no time. (\$6)

By 10:30 we're jamming at Rusty's Pizza on Carrillo St.

SUNDAY

We spend Sunday at the home of the west's finest dance floor, the Carrillo Ballroom. Workshops and dances will be scheduled from noon until midnight, with a merciful dinner-time break. A potpourri of callers and bands will be on hand for your dancing pleasure. (\$20 for the whole day.)

WORKSHOPS

International Folk Dancing — taught by Linelle Glass, to live music by Kitchen Junket. Open to all; no prior folk dance

experience is needed.

Hambo — Jean and Keith Gorrindo teach this popular Swedish couples dance.

Fast-Moving Squares — James Hutson, with music by the Growling Old Geezers.

Fine Points of Contra Dancing — Charlie Fenton leads a one-hour workshop on some of the finer points of contra dance.

Icebreaker Mixers — Linelle Glass leads an hour of mixer and couples dances not usually seen at our regular dances, each to its own special tune played by Kitchen Junket. No couple dance experience is needed for this session.

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The *Dance Star* is always looking for articles, letters, artwork or ? Send them to the SBCDS, call (805) 682-5523, send e-mail to gshapiro@rain.org or bring them to a dance.



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You will not receive SBCDS mailings after date on label unless you sign in at a dance or notify us.