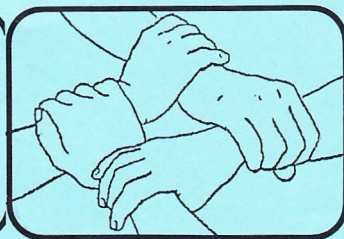


# Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

# dance star

Volume 7 Number 3

Winter 1996-97



## news & announcements

### Dance Every Sunday!

By popular demand (and a vote of the SBCDS Board), the Carrillo Ballroom will host a contra dance every Sunday beginning January 5 on a trial basis. The Ballroom is a wonderful resource; it's a shame to let it sit idle on a Sunday night if all the other ingredients are available (and show up): volunteers, staff and plenty of dancers.

We anticipate few problems staffing the extra dances (although we seem to have a few more TBA's than usual).

In terms of volunteers, we will have more opportunities (and, frankly, needs) for participation in the following areas: refreshment coordination (call Tony at 569-3967 or Donna at 682-1877), dance coordination (contact Scott Swain at 685-3926) and greeter (contact Scott).

And attendance? One can come up with all kinds of reasons why attendance might go up or down. We'll just have to see.

Hope to see you every Sunday! (Now there's a hint!)

### New English Dance Series

A new English Country Dance series has started in North Hollywood.

For those not familiar with it, English Country Dance (ECD) is much like contra in form and mechanism (and the smile it puts on a dancer's face). This is not surprising, given that ECD was the forerunner of square and contra dancing. Like contra, it is primarily social and recreational; dances are taught and generally called; partners, costumes and experience are not necessary.

Where ECD differs most is in temperament. It can be zesty, even boisterous, but more likely it is elegant, uplifting, intricate, flowing, and flirtatious. Each dance has its own music (and some if it will uplift you to who knows where), whereas in contras, almost any tune of the proper length can be used with almost any dance. While the longways set formation so fa-

miliar to contra dancers is used, other formations are used as well.

Representations of ECD that can give you a visual grasp of the idea can be seen in any of the recent Jane Austen films or videos. But for a more complete understanding, and for your enjoyment...

The new English Country Dance series takes place at the College Field House of Los Angeles Valley College, Ethel & Hatterias Streets (near Burbank Blvd. & Coldwater Cyn. Ave.) in North Hollywood. The next dates are December 1 and 15, and then starting in February on 2nd and 4th Sundays, from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5. Instruction and calling by **Robert Burger**, music by **Sally Cadwell** & friends. For information contact Robert at (818) 881-5834 or send e-mail to hceen006@email.csun.edu. Robert encourages contacting him before traveling.

### Dance Away on Fridays

A disk jockey plays a wide variety of music in an alcohol- and smoke-free environment. People dance, generally on their own, in whatever way the music moves them. Dance Away happens every Friday (except this November 22), 7:30-10:30 p.m., Unitarian Society Parish Hall, 1535 Santa Barbara St. **Erik Hoffman** DJ's on

## Survey, Part Two

by Kelli Butler

Hopefully, many of us remember the independent dance survey mailed out with the Spring 1996 Dance Star. This article is a continuation of the analysis that appeared in the summer issue. A total of 128 surveys were turned in, with 11 respondents (9%) identifying themselves as beginners, 58 (45%) as moderately experienced and 59 (46%) as very experienced. The summer issue gave a breakdown of the table-oriented questions in the survey and a brief overview.

This article focuses on the comments that were entered on the survey form in response to a few questions.

see **SURVEY**, next page

November 29. 967-5241.

### Still Lost & Found

Found at Sprung Floor Dance Festival: a *really* nice green jacket. To claim, call Peter at 899-2912.

Our box of found items from all dances is overflowing. Please claim your stuff soon, or find it at one of our local charitable thrift stores.



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

## Survey from first page

Beginners' comments were overall the most positive, feeling satisfied with the local callers, local bands and the energy. Some of their comments included enjoying the friendly people, and the helpfulness of the pre-dance class, and one person said he or she liked the free next-dance pass to new dancers. Others suggested that they would appreciate more mixing of regular dancers with newcomers, and for the calling to continue throughout the dance. One person thought the pre-dance class should be longer, while another thought it would be helpful to know the level of difficulty of the next dance.

The moderately experienced dancers made varied comments in all sections. When asked for their opinion of local callers and bands, most made a quick comment of "okay" to "excellent." The most common suggestion was to increase the variety of callers. 11% wanted an increase in caller energy and clearer explanation of the dances, while 9% mentioned the callers should be better prepared. Other comments included less squares, more original dances, and less catering to beginners as the evening progresses. Few comments were noted about the bands; however, 12% wrote they would like to see the local bands increase their energy, tempo and creativity. To the question, "What do you like about your Santa Barbara dancing experience?" many comments mentioned friendly people and the dance hall. A joyful, fun evening was often mentioned. Many wrote they enjoyed the en-

ergy, while others praised the music, appreciated the exercise and loved the sense of community. One-of-a-kind comments included an appreciation that children are allowed, being able to dance every time, feeling non-threatened and that the dances are well organized.

To the question, "How could your dancing experience at Santa Barbara be improved?" the most repeated comments were for more mingling and tolerance of various levels of dancers, less center set focus, and less booking ahead. Other comments included lowering the lights, teaching the waltz and the hambo, and generating new dancers. Some noted that there was an uneven gender balance (not enough men), and a few mentioned that they would like more dances at the Carrillo Ballroom. One-of-a-kind comments here included shorten the simple dances, decrease teaching after the break and each couple should have a chance to be active. In the comparison of Santa Barbara dances to dances in other areas, most people put that ours is better and friendlier.

### news & announcements

#### Talking to the SBCDS

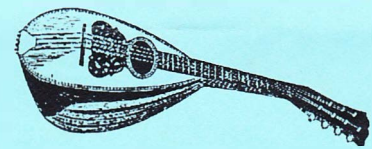
The SBCDS Board welcomes your input, feedback, suggestions, comments, kudos, complaints and your Great Aunt's recipe for spinach lasagna. Here are some easy ways to get them to the SBCDS:

Talk to a board member, in person or by phone. Leave a message on the Dance Hotline. Write down what you have to say and put in into the handsome green Suggestion Box that is at our Carrillo Ballroom dances, or hand it to a board member, or (e-)mail it to the SBCDS. See the box at left for the SBCDS phone number and addresses.

#### Goleta Series Ends

Due to lack of popular demand (and a vote of the SBCDS Board), no more Goleta dances have been scheduled. Thanks to the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation for giving the SBCDS a good deal on the space, and to all the people who pitched in in various ways. Special thanks to Scott Swain, who allowed himself to be drafted into dance coordination duties for the duration of the series.

Dancers who identified themselves as experienced had more comments, many of them quite specific. The largest response in the local caller section, 50%, was to increase the variety of callers. 34% wanted an increase in local caller energy and dynamics. Quite a few others noted that the callers should be better prepared and cater less to beginners. Other comments included decreasing walk-throughs, setting tempo for the band, reminder for good set spacing, better gauging of the level of the crowd, and having one dance medley. On the subject of local bands, some appreciated the variety, while others



wanted to hear more out of town bands. Overall, these dancers enjoyed the dance hall and being around friendly people. Some mentioned the wonderful sense of community, while others said they came for the music. Quite a few improvements were suggested, ranging from decreasing advance booking and center-set syndrome, to increasing the general dance energy and marketing to younger people. Some felt the lighting should be lowered and others wanted to add more dance nights at the Carrillo Ballroom, and more outreach to other dance communities. One-of-a-kind comments include offering name tags, providing a dance for experienced dancers only and to increase teaching at the pre-dance workshop. In the comparison section, more people felt other areas were better. A lesser number said SB is friendlier and that the hall is the best.

If the feedback I've heard since this survey is correct, the energy has improved in the Santa Barbara community. Changes to the schedule have been noted by the increase of new and out-of-town callers, and as of December 29, a dance is scheduled every Sunday. Also, a suggestion box is now available. Overall, it seems that less negativity is heard in the hall.

Thank you again to all dance participants who responded to the survey. Ongoing communication and input is essential in making the Santa Barbara dance community the best for all.

Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

**dance star**

Vol.7 No.3 Winter 1996-97

A quarterly publication of:

Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

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(805) 969-1511

email: cannon@alumni.caltech.edu

http://www.rain.org/~gshapiro/sbcds/

Newsletter Я Us: Gary Shapiro

The SBCDS encourages articles, letters,

illustrations, comments and suggestions.

Don't delay, send them today.

Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors.

## Star Gazer

## Winter Event Highlights

Here's what's happening in the coming months in the contra dance realm.

*Nov. 24: Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dance and Potluck.* 5:30 p.m., Carrillo Recreation Center. Bring one dish to share and \$1, turkey provided. Save paper: bring plate and cup. The dance, featuring Susan Michaels and the Immortal Lemmings, follows at the usual time.

*Dec. 1: An actual post-Thanksgiving dessert potluck during the break.* Delicious dances called by Erik Hoffman and tasty tunes played by Kristina & Her Right-Hand Stars on either side of the break.

*Dec. 25: Annual Christmas Dance,* featuring Chuck Galt of Long Beach and Bayou Seco of New Mexico. Dance 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., still only \$6.

*Dec. 29-Jan. 1: CTMS New Year's Camp in Malibu.* New improved contra dance facilities and schedule this year with callers Ron Buchanan and Susan Michaels; Music from Greg and Heidi Hooven, Hilary Dirlam, Frank Hoppe, Tom Sauber, Liz Carroll, Mick Moloney and Dave and Cathy Para. Price goes up \$25 after Dec. 1! (818) 342-7664 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. or ctms@lafn.org.

*Dec. 31-Jan. 1: New Year's Eve Dawn Dance in South Pasadena at the War Memorial Hall, 425 South Fair Oaks Ave., just north of the 110 or Pasadena Freeway.* 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. with callers Lou Dow, Leda Shapiro and Cris Miller and the music of Old Lang Syne, Over the Edge and more. Admission is \$15. For more information call Lou at (818) 504-9518.

*January 19: Don Ward,* who with his wife Shirley dances with us often, makes his SBCDS calling debut. A dance advocate since the 40's and a skillful caller since the 50's, Don has actively promoted contra dancing from within the Western Square Dance movement.

*February 21-23: Fiddling Frog Dance Festival.* Caller Susan Kevra, music by David Langford, Bill Tomczak and Keith Murphy, also For Old Times' Sake and Spontaneous Combustion. This year at the South Pasadena Women's Club. (818) 785-3839 or ac515@lafn.org.

*March 14-16: BACDS' Spring Dance*

*Weekend at Monte Toyon near Santa Cruz.* Always a popular weekend; not always easy to get in! Callers Tony Saletan, Bridget Edwards and Brad Foster. Music by the Glasnotes, the L7's, and Kathrine Gardner and Chuck Ward for English Country. (415) 856-3038 or perner@hplfap.hpl.hp.com.

Be sure to check the Carrillo Ballroom lobby on a dance evening for flyers for these and additional exciting events.

## comments &amp; opinion

## Thank the Band and Caller

If you enjoyed a particular contra dance, stop by the stage to acknowledge and thank the band members and caller. Most musicians (and callers) play/call for the love of dancing and music—not for the pay. Most bands spend a great deal of time putting together appropriate sets (and searching for new tunes), working with callers, rehearsing and playing. Sometimes it seems that the stage and the distance between the dancers and band might discourage people who would like to talk with band members, ask about favorite tunes or make suggestions. I, for one, welcome comments from contra dancers. Next time you find yourself at the top of a contra dance line, turn and smile at the band. Take time to recognize the essential contribution that bands and callers make to providing a fun, recreational evening for all. In turn, you will see us smile back as we enjoy watching you have a great evening of dancing.

Linelle Glass  
Kitchen Junket

## 'Ain't Nothing Like It!'

Hi, y'all! This is your contra dance friend wanting to thank the Santa Barbara contra dancers for being the friendliest bunch around. We have the nicest community, don't you think? More a sense of family than strangers standing off to the side like at other dances. When I go down the contra line, I can't help but smile at all your shining faces. When the caller is prepared and gives us the enthusiasm we expect, and when the band play lively tunes with a good tempo, there just ain't nothing like it! Oooo, I have so much fun... and those refreshment people, hats off to

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Our Dances

Here's some questions I've heard more than once, and my attempt at answers.

Q: Why can't we dance at the Carrillo Ballroom on Saturday or Friday nights?

A: The ballroom is committed to other dance groups on those nights. Perhaps as we speak, a philanthropist is thinking of building us a nice new facility with a sprung floor. (Think positive!)

Q: Where and when is the next SBCDS Board meeting?

A: It's usually on the first or second Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 10 p.m. at one of several locations.

Please leave a message at 969-1511 for information about the next meeting.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend, but please let us know so we can have enough chairs and Grape Nehi.

Q: Why can't we have a New Year's Eve dance at the Carrillo Ballroom this year?

A: The ballroom is committed to the ballroom dancers on New Year's Eve unless it's a Sunday night. The next Sunday New Year's Eves are December 31, 2000 and 2006.

More questions? Yes, you in the back... (Send your questions to Just the FAQs c/o the SBCDS.)

Gary Shapiro

Get a free dance pass when you bring two new dancers to one dance or one each to two separate dances. New dancers receive a free dance pass good for their second dance.

## Current SBCDS Board Members

Peter Glatz, 899-2912; Bob Hamber, 964-1445, rhamb@nfesc.navy.mil; Elliott Karpeles, 682-1877; Bob Leonard, 733-5176; Gary Shapiro, 682-5523, gshapiro@rain.org; Bettine Wallin, 565-1501

ya. Where else can you pay only \$6, have a great social time, and eat scrumptious treats? The Santa Barbara contra society has my heart. Let's keep the good energy going! Now y'all put your comments on those pretty little suggestion cards near the front. Here's to a magical time...see you in line!

Jeanie

Winter 1996-97

# Santa Barbara Contra Dance Calendar

plus Ojai and San Luis Obispo listings

Calendar produced by Santa Barbara Country Dance Society • P.O. Box 21904 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904 • (805) 969-1511

Come enjoy a contra dance to the irresistible rhythms of a live old-time string band. We'll dance flowing contras of New England and other delights, a tradition that thrives throughout North America. All dances are taught and prompted: no experience or partner necessary. Wear comfortable

clothes and shoes.

Come for the **Introductory Workshop** held one-half hour before the dance. Also, generally, the dances are simpler earlier in the evening.

**Santa Barbara** dances are sponsored by the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society and S.B. Parks and Recreation Dept.

On almost every Sunday, dance on the best floor in the West: the Carrillo Ballroom, from 7 to 10 p.m.

For more information call the SBCDS Dance Hotline at

969-1511.

**San Luis Obispo** dances are sponsored by the Central Coast Country Dance Society.

Dance in SLO on the second Saturday of each month (exception: this February) from 8 to 11 p.m. International folk dancing precedes at 5:30. Separate \$3 admission includes \$1 off the contra dance.

For information call the SLO Danceline at 541-0201 or Cynthia at 783-0112.

**Ojai** contra dances are sponsored by Ojai Contra Dances.

Ojai dances are held from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. For more info call Ginny, 646-0832.

**Admission** for most or all dances is \$6.

## Key to Dance LOCations

- CB** Santa Barbara Carrillo Recreation Center  
Carrillo Ballroom 100 E. Carrillo St
- SLO** San Luis Obispo 801 Grand Ave.  
Veteran's Hall East of 101, Cal Poly exit
- OA** Ojai Art Center 113 S. Montgomery

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND • Etc.
Dec 1 Sun	<b>CB</b>	Erik Hoffman • Kristina & Her Right-Hand Stars During the break, a Dessert Potluck. You know what this means.
Dec 14 Sat	<b>SLO</b>	James Hutson • Hot Flashes
Dec 15 Sun	<b>CB</b>	Jeff Spero • Kitchen Junket
Dec 21 Sat	<b>OA</b>	Chuck Galt • Chameleons
Dec 25 Wed	<b>CB</b>	Chuck Galt • Bayou Seco A great way to wrap up the day: our annual Christmas Dance. Start at the usual time, dance until 11 p.m., no extra charge.
Dec 29 Sun	<b>CB</b>	Gary Shapiro • All Spruced Up David Roine (a Chameleon fiddler) & friends' newly christened band.
Jan 5 Sun	<b>CB</b>	TBA • TBA • Dance every Sunday, starting last Sunday! <i>JH + All spruced up</i>
Jan 11 Sat	<b>SLO</b>	Greg McKenzie • Reel Evolution
Jan 12 Sun	<b>CB</b>	<del>Jonathan Southard</del> • Chameleons <i>SM</i>
Jan 19 Sun	<b>CB</b>	Don Ward • Growling Old Geezers
Jan 26 Sun	<b>CB</b>	Gary Shapiro • Kitchen Junket
Feb 1 Sat	<b>SLO</b>	James Hutson • Growling Old Geezers
Feb 2 Sun	<b>CB</b>	Drew Tronvig • Immortal Lemmings Last Groundhog Day dance until 2003.
Feb 8 Sat	<b>OA</b>	Gary Shapiro • Growling Old Geezers
Feb 9 Sun	<b>CB</b>	James Hutson • Growling Old Geezers • A Valentine's Dance
Feb 16 Sun	<b>CB</b>	Gary Shapiro • Hot Flashes
Feb 23 Sun	<b>CB</b>	TBA • TBA • This dance could get cancelled—please check the Hotline. <i>Is Draganfly</i>

## December 1996

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More Fun  
Within 2 Hours

Los Angeles area — Contra dances every weekend. L.A. Dance Hotline: (818) 951-2003.  
CTMS New Year's Malibu Camp — Four days, three nights of contra dance on a wood floor (new

this year), folk music and dance. (818) 343-7664.  
New Year's Eve Dawn Dance — in South Pasadena, War Memorial Hall, 435 S. Fair Oaks. 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. (818) 504-9518.