



[Local Highlights]

Dec. 25: Our 11th annual **Christmas Dance**, on Christmas Day starting at the normal Sunday evening dance time. **Erik Hoffman** and **Bayou Seco** (Ken Keppeler and Jeannie McLerie) & Friends have been part of this for many years. Joining Bayou Seco are several surprise guest musicians. As to the normal ending time, Ken and Jeannie say it will be hard for them to quit playing before 10:30, and Erik says he can keep calling.

Dec. 27: **Bayou Seco & Friends** sticks around and plays for our **Christmas Dance, Part 2**, also featuring caller **Jonathan Southard**. After all, it's only the third day of Christmas.

Jan. 10: San Diegans **Martha Wild** and **Jump Fingers** return. Martha has been calling for ten years. Jump Fingers is **Dave Allen**, fiddle; **John Wright**, banjo; **Randy Cheek**, guitar; and **Paul Johnson**, mandolin. Each has been making music for over 20 years.

Jan. 31: **Community Dance, Potluck, and Fundraiser** with callers, musicians, and others chipping in to help make it an SBCDS fundraiser. For the potluck, bring a generous dish to share, tableware, and 50¢. The Society is not arranging a turkey for this potluck, so please keep that in mind when deciding whether to quadruple or octuple your recipe.

To help with the calling or music making, see the Calendar page.

Feb. 14: It's not very often that a Sunday dance falls on **Valentine's Day**, or is it the other way around? In any case, let's make the most of it: wear those heart-printed boxer shorts. Caller extraordinaire **James Hutson** will certainly plan an appropriate program and band extraordinaire **Sliding Scale** will play heartfelt music
 see **GAZER**, back page

.....news & announcements.....

Not good news

The net worth of the SBCDS declined by \$3504 in 1997. With 1998's year-to-date losses easily exceeding those of 1997, the reserves are in the danger zone. During the next two months the Board will decide how to stop the hemorrhaging.

In the meantime, we urge everyone to attend, attend, attend, and bring another friend. And another.

New Dancer Pass

Free Dance Passes for people who have never contra danced anywhere are now being distributed in the Santa Barbara area in various ways.

Word of mouth is the best recruiting method, so take a few passes if you think they can push a few friends over the top and get them to give our dance a try.

The passes are available at the sign-in

desk starting at the break.

This program ends real soon, so don't delay! (The offer may not be combined with any other offer.)

Another dance pass is being printed with a small advertisement in the *Independent*. A group of dancers has donated the money to pay for the ad.

Dance Hosts welcome new dancers

Dance Hosts is a newly formed group of Santa Barbara contra dancers who have committed to help new dancers have an enjoyable and welcoming experience.

Each Dance Host:

- participates in the 6:30 Introductory Workshop on a periodic basis, generally signing up to do so for a month at a time

see **DANCE HOSTS**, next page

CD Release Dance Party December 6

We're sure you're all aware that this community has its share of talented musicians. A case in point is a soon-to-be-released CD of all-original tunes by Michael Mendelson, fiddler for the bands Sliding Scale and Granite Tapestry.

The upcoming release, *A Fiddler's Notebook*, features 18 original compositions, ranging from old-time and contra dance fiddle tunes, to waltzes and jazz, to a couple of tunes that defy categorization.

With the help of such great local dance musicians as Mike Mullins, Tom Lee, Suzie Richmond, Steve Lewis, Kristina Eriksen, Jeff Spero and Anita Anderson, along with other musical stars such as David West, Tom Ball, Gilles Apap, Jakub Jerzy Omsky, Tony Marcus,

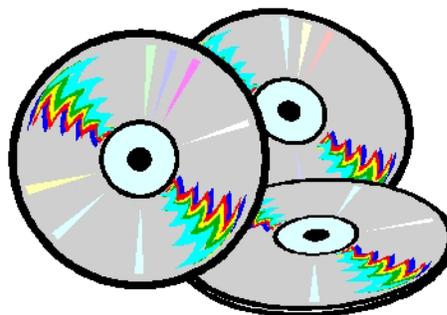
Chris Symer, Brian Mann and Dave Tolegian, this recording showcases the strength of our musical community. And with graphics help from Lorin Grean and cover art by our very own Lawrence Wallin, the CD will make an attractive

addition to your bookshelf even when it's not in your stereo.

A CD Release Dance Party is scheduled for the regular December 6 contra dance. Erik Hoffman is coming down

from the Bay Area to call, and many of the musicians on the CD are dropping by to help Sliding Scale with the music. Mark this event on your calendar; it's coming up quick!

Michael's web site is at <<http://www.silcom.com/~fiddle>>.



..... *comments & opinion*

On sweat and self-centeredness

Regarding Lawrence Wallin's sore-arm complaint (from holding up limp women), I haven't suffered from that very much, possibly because I cheat and dance mostly with my 96-pound wife. However, like everyone else, I dance with neighbors and often have something of a wet-arm (more specifically, wet-hand) problem from those who perspire profusely. I minimize this by using the edge of my hand to support the moist neighbors who come my way, but my enthusiasm is, momentarily, dampened. If it's in someone's nature to perspire freely, I guess one can't, or rather, must, sweat it, but how about the application of some body powder while dressing for the dance?

Now that I've gotten warmed up, on to my major gripe.

There are those among us who have

brought the art of whirls, twirls, lifts and backbends to a level I haven't seen since the 1935 production of *Top Hat*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. All well and good, I suppose, but when some of these star performers are out at the end, they soar into triple axles, three-and-a-half gainers, pas de deux and whatnot, totally ignoring the commoners who are dutifully executing long lines forward and back and expecting to find a hand for the next alle-mande. Worse yet, when they're in the line and the call is, say, for actives to swing, some of these exhibitionists will launch into a swing even though they're inactive, trashing the symmetry of the dance and in effect thumbing their noses at the caller and the rest of the dancers. I ask these people, however nimble they might be at movement and creative interpretation, to give some thought to the spirit of contra dancing and community.

Keith Connes

small is beautiful in Ojai

If your only contra dance experience is at the Carrillo Ballroom, you owe it to yourself to experience a dance at a smaller facility. One such dance is at the Ojai Art Center.

While we are extremely fortunate to have the Carrillo Ballroom in our midst, the charms of a smaller dance cannot be denied. The music is more immediate, more intense, more right there in front of you. The crowd is less of a, well, crowd, and so, more intimate.

I recommend getting there early to enjoy the art on display. Before too long it will all be swirling around you.

Gary Shapiro



..... *news & announcements*

Dance hosts

from front page

- dances with newcomers a few or several times during each dance evening
- respects the varying skill level of dancers
- is aware of dizziness of others and compensates if necessary
- is aware that fancy stuff is often not appropriate with new dancers
- is a good example: dances on time, gives weight, is attentive, smiles uncontrollably, etc.
- checks in with new dancer(s) during break
- helps new dancers feel welcome socially

All of this has been done to some extent without a formal program. The purpose of Dance Hosts, though, is to bring more visibility and presence of these values and hence more into consciousness in the dance community, and hopefully give more newcomers an experience that will bring them back. Also, it lets newcomers know that we take seriously the mission of welcoming and integrating them into the dance community.

If you are an experienced dancer who would like to participate formally in this program and commit to arriving at 6:30

on a periodic basis, please see Elliott Karpelles, who attends almost every dance.

Gender imbalance reversing course?

As this is written (November 23) I must report that in six of the last eight weeks, gender imbalance at our Sunday dance has been in the direction of more men than women.

GS

English Dance update

Dances of the English Regency is a six-week class beginning Tuesday, January 12, from 7:30 to 9:30, at the Adult Education Wake Center auditorium. These are dances from the Regency era of Jane Austen, many of which are done in North America today in both English Regency and English Country Dance groups. For more class information, call the Adult Education Wake Center at (805) 964-6853.

English Country Dances cosponsored by the SBCDS are in hiatus during the class and will resume the last week in February. For the latest details, contact the Santa Barbara Friends of English Dance at (805) 682-5523, <<http://www.rain.org/~gshapiro/sbfd/>>.

Dance on the Internet

SBCDS Web Page:

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

Includes our schedule, directions, and links to other dance groups. In addition, current and back issues of the *Dance Star* can be downloaded.

The above URL can always be found in the *DS* masthead like the one below.

SBCDS announcement and discussion email list:

To join the list, send a blank email to sbcds-subscribe@egroups.com or follow the instructions on the SBCDS web site.

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dance star

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Newsletter: Gary Shapiro, garyes@iname.com

Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors. Express yours in the next issue!



Winter 1998-99

with Ojai and SLO listings

Santa Barbara Contra Dance Calendar

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

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

SANTA BARBARA DANCES

Sponsor: SB Country Dance Society
Dance from 7-10 p.m. every Sunday, usually at the Carrillo Ballroom, one of the best dance floors anywhere. Carrillo dances are cosponsored by SB Parks and Rec. Dept. 24-hour Dance Hotline: (805) 969-1511.

precedes at 5:30.
SLO 24-hour Danceline: (805) 541-0201.

OJAI DANCES

Sponsor: Ojai Art Center
Dance 7:30-10:30 p.m. For more information call Ginnie at (805) 646-0832, or Karin at (805) 933-0660.

KEY TO DANCE LOCATIONS

Santa Barbara Carrillo Recreation Center
Carrillo Ballroom **CB** 100 E. Carrillo St.

Ojai Art Center **OA** 113 S. Montgomery

San Luis Obispo 801 Grand Ave.
Veteran's Hall **SLO** East of 101, Cal Poly exit

SAN LUIS OBISPO DANCES

Sponsor: Central Coast Country Dance Society
Dance in SLO on the second or third Saturday of each month from 8-11 p.m. Break-time snacks are potluck. International folk dancing

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

All three groups hold workshops 30 minutes before each dance evening. Also, the simpler dances are generally earlier in the evening.

ADMISSION

\$6 for SB and SLO dances, \$7 for Ojai, unless otherwise noted; *subject to change.*

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND • Etc.
Dec 6	Sun CB	Erik Hoffman • Sliding Scale with Special Guest Musicians This is Michael Mendelson & Friends' CD Release Dance Party.
Dec 12	Sat SLO	Gary Shapiro • Hot Flashes • SB band in SLO
Dec 13	Sun CB	Warren Blier • Growling Old Geezers • SLO band in SB
Dec 20	Sun CB	Gary Shapiro • Hot Flashes • Less shopping! More dancing!
Dec 25	Fri CB	Erik Hoffman • Bayou Seco & Friends • Our 11th annual Christmas dance
Dec 27	Sun CB	Jonathan Southard • Bayou Seco & Friends • Christmas dance, Part 2
Jan 3	Sun CB	Gary Shapiro • Chameleons • On the tenth day of Christmas...
Jan 10	Sun CB	Martha Wild • Jump Fingers • San Diego caller, band too.
Jan 16	Sat SLO	Warren Blier • Sliding Scale
Jan 17	Sun CB	Jeff Spero • Kristina & Her Right-Hand Stars • Yes, you are seeing stars.
Jan 23	Sat OA	Don Ward • Growling Old Geezers
Jan 24	Sun CB	Gary Shapiro • Kitchen Junket • If you can't stand the cold...
Jan 31	Sun CB	Community Dance—Fundraiser—Potluck Potluck is at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a generous dish to share (no turkey provided this time), tableware and 50¢. To participate: as a musician, contact Michael Mendelson, (805) 687-3804, fiddle@silcom.com ; as a caller, contact Gary Shapiro, (805) 682-5523, garyes@iname.com ; as a dancer, just bring your smiling face and the usual admission price.
Feb 7	Sun CB	Jonathan Southard • Donna Hébert & Pete Spicer (\$7) • Dynamo fiddler and pianist from Amherst and Santa Cruz, respectively.
Feb 14	Sun CB	♥ James Hutson ♥ Sliding Scale ♥ A genuine Valentine's Day dance ♥
Feb 20	Sat OA	Jeff Spero • TBA
Feb 20	Sat SLO	Gary Shapiro • Growling Old Geezers
Feb 21	Sun CB	Chuck Galt • Michael's Mixed Nuts • Long Beach caller. Beach, nuts.
Feb 28	Sun CB	Don Ward • For Old Times' Sake • The band from three states puts you in a higher one.

December 1998

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February 1999

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English Country Dancing — Schedule varies. For latest schedule call (805) 682-5523. Pub, 18 E. Ortega St. (set back from the street)

Celtic Music Jam — every Thur. 5:30-7:30, Dargan's New Year's Eve Dawn Dance. (818) 951-2003

Dance in L.A. area — Contra dances every weekend;

Gazer from front page

sic heartily. Appropriate decorations are also a possibility.

March 7: **Footloose** (Andrea Hoag, fiddle; David DiGiuseppe, accordion, mandolin, washboard; and Pete Campbell, piano, bass) steps into Santa Barbara for the finale of their California tour, which starts with the Fiddling Frog Dance Festival in L.A. the weekend before. This high-energy, sometimes zany band has played at numerous dance weekends and dance weeks. Between them, their influences include Irish, southern old time, jazz and classical. The also-zany **Erik Hoffman** calls with this highly sought-after band.

[Almost Local]

Dec. 31-Jan. 1: 7th annual **New Year's Eve Dawn Dance**, 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. at the War Memorial Hall, 435 S. Fair Oaks in South Pasadena. Callers **James Hutson**, **Cris Miller**, **Warren Blier** and **Barbara Stewart**; music by **Over the Edge**, **Laura Light & John Light**, and more. \$20 includes midnight dinner and 6 a.m. breakfast. Contact Barbara at (818) 951-8255 or barb@bhagd.com, especially if you have or need a place to stay Jan. 1.

Feb. 26-28: **Fiddling Frog Dance Festival** with **Footloose** (as listed above for March 7 plus **Dean Harrington** on clarinet, guitar and piano), **Lisa Greenleaf**, **For Old Times' Sake**, and more. Contras, English, Waltz, Swing workshops and music jams. (818) 785-3839, ac515@lafn.org.

June 25-27: Many of us will be heartened to learn of the return of the annual **CTMS Summer Solstice Folk Music, Dance, and Storytelling Festival**, again at the Soka University campus in Calabasas. They skipped a couple of years, but the 1999 edition is shaping up to make up for lost time. More info in the next issue.

[Far Out of Town]

March 19-21: **BACDS Monte Toyon Spring Dance Weekend** near Santa Cruz is a perennial favorite among certain Santa Barbara die-hard dance campers. Why should you be any different? Enjoy a weekend of contras, squares, and English.

Callers **Scott Higgs**, **Sue Rosen** and **Laurie Andres**; music by the **Rhythm Rollers** (Cathie Whitesides and Laurie Andres with **Bob McQuillen**), **Uncle Gizmo** (Larry Unger, Amy Larkin and **Ginny Snowe**), plus **Chuck Ward & Janette Duncan**. (650) 326-3665, splbndr@netcom.com.

April 23-25: 5th annual **Dance Awakening** dance camp has carefully scheduled **Reckless Abandon**, a New England band, and Seattle caller **Dave Smith**. Contra and swing dancing, geothermal hot pools at Harbin Hot Springs near Calistoga. (805) 649-5189, contra@jps.net.

March 14-21 and 21-28: Two different **Hawaii Dance Weeks**. The first is **Contra Dance Week** and features **Wild Asparagus**.

The second is **Contra & Couple Dance Week** (with a little English dancing). It features **Nightingale**, **Peter Barnes**, **Mary Lea**, **Ralph Gordon** and **Earl Gaddis** with

Steve Zakon calling. Both week-long camps are held at the **Kalani Honua Retreat Center** on the Big Island of Hawaii. (800) 822-3425, farlands@ptialaska.net.

All this, and more, could be yours. Look for flyers at our dance for these and additional events. One caveat: many of the non-local events require advance registration and fill up sooner than you might expect.



Folk music on radio

It ain't live, but it's in your living room. Or car. It's folk music on the radio.

You'll even find music like that played at our dances on some of these programs.

KCSB 91.9 FM, Santa Barbara

- Festival Americana (with Alex and Erica), Wed. 3-5 p.m.
- The Black Nag (with Pat Cardenas), Sat. 10 a.m.-noon

KPFK 90.7 FM, Los Angeles

- Wildwood Flower, Sat. 6-8 a.m.
- Heartfelt Music, Sat. 8-10 a.m.
- Folk Scene, Sun. 7-9 p.m.

KCBX 89.9 or 90.9* FM San Luis Obispo (the folks who bring us the Live Oak Music Festival)

- Pickin' up the Tempo, Tues. 8-10 p.m.
- Basically Bluegrass, Thurs. 8-10 p.m.
- Minstrel Song Show, Sat. 1-3 p.m.
- Thistle and Shamrock, Sat. 6-7 p.m.

KUSC 88.7* FM Los Angeles

- Thistle and Shamrock, Sat. 8-9 p.m.

*Santa Barbara frequencies

compiled by Joe Aleks



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