

DANCE STAR

Issue Number 69, Fall 2006 • News, Articles & Calendar of Events

Guys ... Help!

Dear Editor,

As we have all observed, there has been a great drop-off in dance attendance in the last few years. Many of the dances have been losing money. Many of us have become discouraged, and don't want to dance as often.

Several reasons have been set forth, including: gas prices prevent commuting from other areas unless it is a special dance, members have died, the cost of living in our area has forced many to move away. I have also sighted an abundance of local callers and bands, who don't draw as much of a crowd. The biggest turn-off for me is an over-abundance of women. Many women don't want to pay and sit!

Groups of women have been good sports and danced together several times in the course of an evening. It does, however, get old dance after dance. Although it is hard to remedy the gender imbalance I feel the male dance community can do their part to make these dances more fun.

Men, instead of heading for the new single lady at the dance, ask married woman or an established single lady dancer to dance. Many women who have husbands or life partners have noted that the men ask them to dance less often or not at all. Even the men with partners seem to head for the single gals all the time. What is up with that? On a personal note, I have experienced this phenomenon myself. Gentlemen who are very friendly off the dance floor have never approached me for a dance!

How do men usually get to the dance for the first time? They come with a woman! Women will come on their own but men rarely do. So gentlemen, ask a male colleague at work to join us. Ask a neighbor or a male friend. Women with partners do the same. How about a price break for people who bring an extra male who is not their date or partner?

Let's not lose couples because the lady refuses to go for lack of partners. Let's not let new ladies refuse to come back because all of the men hit on them right away!

Guys, give us some help here!!!

Thanks, Barb

Star Attractions

The OpporTunists

The OpporTunists are a group of talented multi-instrumentalists who will be joining caller Susan Michaels for our Zesty Halloween Dance on Oct. 29. Hailing from the San Francisco area, the band plays tunes ranging from Celtic to old time. The roster includes Alan Snyder on fiddle, keyboard, and guitar. Alan is well known among dancers in Southern California as a dancer and a musician, having played at many dances there in recent years with his former band, Bog an Lochan. Alan's musical background is centered on Cape Breton, Scottish, and Irish tunes, but with a variety of other influences.

Alan is joined by Erik Hoffman, best known to us as a very popular caller who used to be one of ours until he moved to the Bay Area. With the OpporTunists, Erik plays guitar, fiddle, and percussion.

Also on this tour is David Hansen on guitar, bass, and mandolin. David played for many years with Alan in Bog an Lochan, where he was well regarded for his driving guitar rhythm.

Final Call for Harvest Moon

As we go to press, there are still openings for men, women, and couples for the legendary Harvest Moon Dance Festival, September 29 through October 1. All dances, including Saturday night, will be on the great Sprung Floor at the Carrillo Ballroom. Nils Fredland will be calling and the bands will be Mock Turtle Soup and Key Ingredients.

Pre-registration is required. Admission is \$105. For a registration form, log onto www.sbcds.org or contact Elliott Karpeles at ebkarpeles@aol.com, 805-682-1877.

Anyone for a Dutch Crossing?

Gary Shapiro is announcing a Dutch Crossing workshop, provided that 16 or 32 dancers sign up for it. The Dutch Crossing is a challenging but rewarding dance for eight couples. The possible times will Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00. There will be signup sheets at the contra and English Country dances.



P.O. Box 21904, Santa Barbara, CA 93121

DANCE SCHEDULE – Fall 2006

San Luis Obispo

Odd Fellows Hall
520 Dana St, San Luis Obispo
(Hwy 101 Marsh St. exit, left on Nipomo, left on Dana)
805-541-0201 www.cccds.org
Second Saturday of every month
7:30 to 10:30 (7:00 workshop) Admission: \$9.00

- Sept 9 Gary Shapiro/The Foggy Bay String Band
Oct 14 5:30 *Potluck*
Warren Blier/The Crabapples
Nov 11`20th Anniversary Special Dance : 5:30 BBQ & Potluck
Erik Hoffman/Growling Old Geezers
The original caller and band at our first dance!

Ojai Art Center

113 S. Montgomery, Ojai
(South of East Ojai Avenue)
805-933-0660 www.ojaiartcenter.org/dance.htm

Contra Dance

7:30 to 10:30 (7:00 Workshop) Admission: \$8.00

Oct 21 Warren Blier/Key Ingredients

English Country Dancing

www.geocities.com/circlesandrows/ojaiecd/

Second and fourth Mondays

7:00 to 9:00 Admission: \$5.00 — Gary Shapiro & guests teaching

Sept 11 & 25; Oct 9 & 23; Nov 13 & 27

Santa Barbara Contra Dances
are co-sponsored by SBCDS and

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
Parks & Recreation
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805-969-1511 contact@sbcdds.org www.sbcdds.org

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Bob Leonard, Gary Shapiro, Bettine Wallin

The Dance Star is produced quarterly. Editor: Keith Connes

Email dance-related contributions to dancestar@sbcdds.org.

The deadline for the next issue is November 1

Our special thanks to all the many volunteers who give their time and efforts to make the dances fun and contribute to the content of this publication.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the articles, news, and letters do not necessarily reflect the views of SBCDS.

Carrillo Ballroom

100 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara
(Hwy 101, Carrillo St. exit, go north to Anacapa St.)
805-969-1511 www.sbcdds.org

Contra Dances Every Sunday
6:30 to 9:30 (6:00 Workshop)
Admission: \$8.00 unless otherwise noted

- Sept 3 Gary Shapiro/Chopped Liver
Sept 10 Donna Karpeles/Iron Mountain Boys
Sept 17 Barbara Stewart/Michael Gutin Band
Sept 24 Barb Kirchner/Perpetual Motion
Sept 29-Oct 1 Harvest Moon (Pre-registration required)
Nils Fredland/Mock Turtle Soup
Post-Harvest Moon Public Dance
Oct 1 at 7:00 (\$10)
Oct 8 Gary Shapiro/Chopped Liver
Oct 15 Barbara Stewart/Growling Old Geezers
Oct 22 Karen Fontana/MG and the Generators
Oct 29 *Zesty Contras & Halloween Costume Ball*
Susan Michaels/The Opportunists
7:00 to 10:30 (\$9)
Nov 5 Gary Shapiro/Growling Old Geezers
Nov 12 Jonathan Southard/Kristina & her Hey for Four
Nov 19 2:30-5:00 English Country Dance
Annie Laskey/Pate de Fois Gras
5:00-6:00 Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck with
turkey provided — Cost: \$1
6:30-9:30 Contra Dance
Donna Karpeles/Chopped Liver
Nov 26 *Dessert Potluck Dance*
Susan Petrick/Michael's Mixed Nuts

English Country Dances

Westside Community Center
423 W. Victoria, Santa Barbara
(Where Victoria dead-ends at Hwy 101)
805-682-5523 www.sbcdds.org/eec

Now every Wednesday — 7:30 to 9:30
Admission \$3.00; whole evenings of live music TBA, \$5.00

All dances led by Gary Shapiro and/or Alice Williams