

# DANCE STAR

News, Articles, and Calendar of Dance Events For Contra & English Country Dancers

FALL 2008

## *A Bountiful Harvest (Moon)*

By Shane Butler

Fall is fast upon us. Days are getting shorter, leaves are turning color, there is a chill in the evening air, and all thoughts in Santa Barbara are turning towards...

### HARVEST MOON!

This September marks the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SBCDS's *Harvest Moon Dance Festival*. With an unprecedented 210 dancers registered, we are looking forward to one of the most exciting dance weekends in Santa Barbara's history. As you most likely know, this year we have two stellar bands for our dancing pleasure.

The weekend kicks off on Sept 26<sup>th</sup> with the legendary **Airdance** and will close on Sunday evening with the outstanding **Lift Ticket**. These two great bands will be raising the roof all weekend long to the accompaniment of one of the countries most renowned callers, **Cis Hinkle**. This incredible lineup, combined with the most celebrated dance hall on the west coast, is going to be a weekend long remembered and hard to top.

A great dance camp like this doesn't just happen. It takes a

dedicated, enthusiastic and energetic team to plan, coordinate, and organize an undertaking of this magnitude. Heading up this team, and the newest member of the SBCDS Board of Directors, is **Kelli Butler**. With over 15 years of contra dancing experience, co-organizing (with her husband Shane) the popular *Dance Awakening Dance Camp*, and having attended up to 10 dance camps a year, Kelli brings a wealth of insight and experience to the task of making *Harvest Moon* a truly memorable event.

But no (wo)man is an island, and Kelli has amassed a wonderful committee to handle all the different aspects that make the

weekend so delightful. The first thing you will notice on Friday evening will be the decorations in the Carrillo Ballroom. Thanks to **Mark Edwards**, the hall will be absolutely beautiful. From the thousands of twinkling lights, many of which will be covered with origami paper lanterns he made by hand, to the floral garlands throughout, Mark and

## Free Halloween Costume Dance

on November 2, 2008

in celebration of

**Bettine and Lawrence Wallin's**

40th wedding anniversary.

Please come and celebrate Bettine and Lawrence's 40th anniversary. The Wallin's have been supportive of and sharing with the dance community for many years. This dance is being sponsored in recognition of and thanks for their contribution to the Santa Barbara contradance community as well as their still being newlyweds after 40 years!

Please, no gifts. Your presence is enough. Cards, letters or other expressions of delight are welcome.

If you are interested in helping with the dance planning, food, or decorations. Please contact Paul Hartloff or Linda Wise at 648-5858.



## The Dance Star is back!

After a couple of years vacation, the **Dance Star** has returned. Under the watchful eye of its new editor, **Shane Butler**, it will bring you stories of local interest and relevant articles cribbed from other publications. The focus will be on upcoming events that our dance community may want to know about, and it will be a forum for ideas and discussions on relevant topics.

The paper will only be distributed locally and will be available online. We are looking for written contributions, and an artist who works in pencil or pen who would like to help with an occasional drawing.

We encourage and greatly appreciate contributions from the community.

Articles can be reprinted with permission. For more info please contact Shane at: 805-665-8852 or [dancestar@sbcds.org](mailto:dancestar@sbcds.org)

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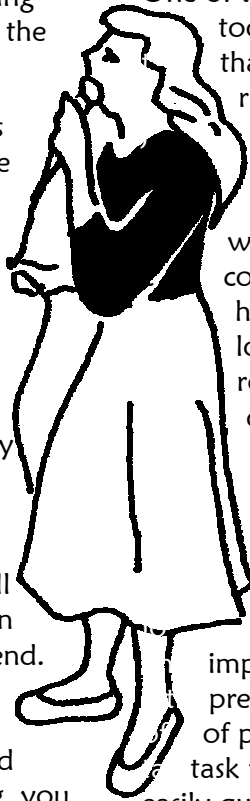
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his crew, will turn the ballroom into a wonderland of delights. Walking out onto the garden patio you will be astounded at the transformation that they have managed with hay bales, blankets and festive lighting. You just might have to keep reminding yourself that you are still in the Carrillo Ballroom.

After a few hugs and hello's you may find yourself in the *Baylor Room* looking for a snack. But what you will find will knock your socks off. Spread out before you will be a cornucopia of edible delights. Under the expert guidance of **Denise Shesler**, a delectable bounty of finger foods will await your culinary pleasure. The yummys won't stop there, for Denise and her crew will have many more surprises in store throughout the weekend. From a delicious catered lunch on Saturday, to the 3 foot high fountain of melted chocolate later that evening, you will always find a smile and something delicious waiting for you whenever you get the munchies. Enjoy a plate full of treats while swinging in one of the rockers on the patio. Ahhh heaven!

Continue on past the Baylor Room and you will find yourself in *The Moon Lounge*. This inviting oasis of calm is the creation of **Barbara Briggs**. She is going to

conjure up a homey relaxed environment where you can put up your feet, join in an impromptu music jam, have a quiet chat, or browse the many interesting items that will be raffled on Sunday afternoon.



One of the least obvious, but all too important, magic trick that makes Harvest Moon run so smoothly is the juggling act performed by **Donnalyn Karpeles**. Singlehandedly (and without a net), she coordinates the shared housing. By matching up local dancers who have room for guests with out-of-towners in need of a cozy and welcoming place to sleep for the weekend, she makes many a dancer's weekend that much more enjoyable. Donnalyn's impressive act of prestidigitation is the result of performing this delicate task for many years and could easily qualify her for consideration in *Cirque du Soleil*.

This is just a sampling of what's in store and who's behind some of the magic. There are still many others who will help make this camp memorable, with none less important than the next. So if you are coming to Harvest Moon, and find yourself unexpectedly grinning from ear to ear, you might want to take a moment to thank one of these selfless folks

for making your weekend so wonderful!



## OJAI'S THE PLACE!

The lovely **Ojai Art Center** has been sponsoring contra dances for almost 22 years. Along with a playhouse theater they provide a cozy, art-filled space with a vintage 1930's wooden dance floor, lively acoustics and a charming patio. The hall is just a couple of minutes walking distance from downtown for those who wish to come early and have dinner in one of Ojai's fine restaurants.

Coming up Saturday, November 29, from 7:30-10:30 pm the Ojai contra dance community welcomes **Susan Petrick**, from Northern California, to call the **Thanksgiving Weekend Dance**. Joining her will be **The Michael Mendelson Trio**, featuring Michael on fiddle & guitar, Kurt MacInnis on mandolin & guitar and Bill Flores on banjo, fiddle, saxophone & dobro

Please contact **Karin Dron** at (805) 933-0660 or e-mail her at [karincontra@juno.com](mailto:karincontra@juno.com) for car-pool or overnight housing information. Come alone, or bring friends and family, to enjoy this community-oriented dance! Admission \$9 Art Center members \$8.

Watch for details in the winter edition of the *Dance Star* for a **NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE** featuring **Susan Michaels & Bonfire with Frank Hoppe**.

### Picture Your Ad Here!

We are looking into running ads to support the businesses of local dancers. To find out more information on how to see your business card printed in a future edition please email [dancestar@sbcds.org](mailto:dancestar@sbcds.org).

## Don't Miss "Lefty Lucy"

We have a new band in town. Mark your calendar for Sept. 16th for the debut of **Lefty Lucy**. This local, all-girl, stringband plays Celtic and old-time music. This exciting young band includes Barbara Taylor, on lead fiddler, Nicola Gordon on second fiddle, Nancy Cohen on guitar, and Donna Lynn Caskey on banjo. Their repertoire of lively hoedowns and gritty, romantic old-time waltzes is drawn from the traditional music of the Carolinas, West Virginia, and Kentucky. This is sure to be a fun evening with many new dancers following them down from UCSB.

## Dancing with the young ones By Shane Butler

In my 22 years of contra dancing, I have gone from being a Romeo-rouge lothario of the dance floor to a loving husband and doting daddy of two dancing daughters. This evolution of perspective has given me tremendous insight into the difference between dancing with women of my own age to dancing with *new-to-the-dance-floor* preteens.

In the younger generation we have the future of contra dancing and it is dependant on us to make their dancing experience as positive and nurturing as possible. With this in mind I want to pass along a few things I've learned that could help make dancing with kids fun for you and a helpful learning experience for them.

**Keep it grounded:** We know you're very strong and also how much fun it is to swing kids around and around without their feet touching the ground. But this teaches them nothing and makes some of them very nervous. It takes away their sense of control and their connection with the dance as a whole. Imagine yourself being flung around willy-nilly by a stranger and being too shy to ask them to stop. Let's leave the air-twirls for their own daddys to do!

**Personal space:** An adult may enjoy being cuddled or squeezed close during a swing, plus they can definitely let you know when they don't. But a child is not always going to be as comfortable in this situation or as forthcoming enough to let you know when they are not. The whole dance environment is intimidating enough for young beginners without somebody getting a little too close for comfort.

**Flirting:** Let's keep it age appropriate! Amorous advances, regardless of how playfully intended should only be directed at adults and preferable to the ones you already know.

Most of all **make it fun:** This is all new to them, instruction and guidance can be useful, but most of all we want them to thoroughly enjoy their dancing experience and be eager to return.

A good rule of thumb is to treat all young dancers as you would want a child of your own to be treated.

Remember: *How a child, or anybody for that matter, feels about themselves when they get home will determine if they want to come back.*

## Fiddle the day away

The **Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise** is pleased to announce that on October 5, 2008, the 37th Annual **Old-Time Fiddler's Convention and Festival** returns to the historic Stow House in Goleta.

This event celebrates and preserves the distinctly unique "Old Timey music" originating in the Appalachian region, the birthplace of American Folk music. It's a day of family entertainment with contestants competing for prizes.

The Performance Stage will offer a great line-up of acoustic bands, which in past years has included the Gap Tooth Mountain Ramblers, J.T. and the Zydeco Zippers, and Molly's Revenge.

This year they will be offering a special commemorative T-Shirt in memory of Oakie Adams, a well know fiddler and banjo maker who passed away this past year. Kick back and enjoy the music with a cold drink and some fine food under a weeping willow tree.

Next year the program will expand to include square dancing and contra dancing in the newly refurbished dance hall. For more info please visit: <http://fiddlersconvention.org>.

Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

In partnership with:

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

Parks  
&  
Recreation  
*Enriching People's Lives*

**SBCDS** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation  
805-682-1877 [www.sbcds.org](http://www.sbcds.org)  
PO Box 21904, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904  
The Dance Star is edited by Shane Butler.

Articles, announcements, contributions and letters to the editor, for consideration in the winter '08 issue, must be submitted before Nov. 10th. Please send everything to:

**[dancestar@sbcds.org](mailto:dancestar@sbcds.org)** or mailed to:

Dance Star,  
SBCDS, PO Box 21904,  
Santa Barbara CA 93121-1904

All schedule information subject to change.  
Accuracy not guaranteed.

# SBCDS DANCE SCHEDULE *Fall 2008*

## Santa Barbara Contra Dances

Carrillo Ballroom, 100 E. Carrillo (at Anacapa)  
www.sbcds.org 805-682-1877

**Dance Every Sunday**

\$8.00 unless otherwise noted

6:30 to 9:30pm (6:00 Contra dance workshop)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CALLER</u>	<u>BAND</u>
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Sept 7	Jeff Spero	Celticladda
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**Free dance!** Sponsored by "**Mike & Amanda**".

*Celticladda*, from New Hampshire, plays melodic, vibrant, exciting dance music with a Celtic twist!

Featuring Randy Miller, Eric Anderson and Tom Hodgson

Sept 14	Donnalyn Karpeles	Lefty Lucy: New, all-girl string band with Barbara Taylor, Nicola Gordon, Nancy Cohen & Donna Lynn Caskey
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Sept 21	John Rogers	Michael's Mixed Nuts
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Sept 28	Cis Hinkle	Lift Ticket
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7:00 till 10:00 \$12.00 **Post-Harvest Moon Dance.**

Last chance for a great dance with Cis Hinkle from Georgia and the ever-popular Lift Ticket: Seth Houston, Rex Blazer, T. J. Johnson and Russell Shumsky.

Oct 5	James Hutson	Contradictions
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Oct 12	Warren Blier	Crabapples
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Oct 19	Gary Shapiro	Turtle Creek
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Oct 26	Jean Gibson-Gorrindo	Fiddle Tunas
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Nov 2	Brenda Goodwin	Chopped Liver
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**Free Dance!** Day of the Dead~*Halloween Costume Dance*  
Plus a celebration of **Bettine** and **Lawrence Wallin's**  
40th wedding anniversary.

Nov 9	Gary Shapiro	Kristina & Her Hey for 4
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Nov 16	Donnalyn Karpeles	Growling Old Geezers
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**Free Dance!** Sponsored by **Vince Messina**, in appreciation for all the dancers, and our local bands and callers.

Nov 23	Jon Southard	Chopped Liver
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Come at 2:00 for a special **ECD** with a live band, followed by our **Thanksgiving Potluck** 5:30pm, (*Bring a dish to share*)

Nov 30 <b>ZESTY</b> <b>\$9.00</b> <b>6:30-10:00</b>	Susan Petrick, She's down from Reno, for the weekend, and is also calling in Ojai on the 29th	Michael's Mixed Nuts: their unique sound is described as "eccentric eclectic". Featuring midi accordion, fiddle, mandolin and kit drummer!
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## SBCDS English Country Dances

805-682-5523 www.sbcds.org/ecd/

All Wednesday dances led by Gary Shapiro and/or Alice Williams. Music is recorded or a mixture of live music and recordings (unless noted)

### Santa Barbara Dances

Westside Community Center, 423 W. Victoria St.

Dance every Wednesday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$3 *except as noted*  
No dance November 26 (day before Thanksgiving).

Halloween costume dance on Wednesday, October 29! Live music with Kristina Eriksen, Elliott Karpeles, Susan McNeill and Robert Winokur. \$6.

### Sunday Afternoon Dance

Sunday, November 23, 2 to 5 p.m. English Country Dance  
Carrillo Ballroom.

Special Guest caller Sharon Green from Oakland, CA. Music by Pâté de Foie Gras (Michael Mendelson, Suzanne Duffy and Jeff Spero). \$8. (*potluck following dance*)

### Ventura Dances

Gold Coast Fencing Center, 2300 Knoll Dr. #L, Ventura  
(Look for balloons marking the driveway to the Center)

First Sunday of every month 2 to 4:30 p.m.

\$5.00 adults, \$4.00 students 12-24, \$1.00 ages 7-11

## San Luis Obispo Contra Dances

Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St, San Luis Obispo

(From SB: Hwy 101 Marsh St. exit, left on Nipomo, left on Dana) 805-541-0201 www.cccds.org

Dance on Second Saturdays (unless noted)

7:30 to 10:30pm (7:00 Workshop) Admission \$9

Sept 13	Donnalyn Karpeles	Paddy O'Furniture
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Oct 11 Potluck At 5:30	Warren Blier	Crabapples
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Nov 8	Gary Shapiro	Foggy Bay
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## Ojai Contra Dances

OJAI ART CENTER, 113 S. Montgomery St  
805-933-0660 www.ojaiartcenter.org/dance.htm  
Admission \$9/ Art Center members \$8.

### Thanksgiving Weekend Dance

Saturday, November 29, from 7:30-10:30pm

**Susan Petrick** (from Reno NV) is calling.

**The Michael Mendelson Trio** is the band with Michael on fiddle & guitar, Kurt MacInnis on mandolin & guitar and Bill Flores on banjo, guitar, fiddle, saxophone & dobro.