

Center and Back

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Harvest Moon Beckons, September 22-24

The seventeenth annual **Harvest Moon Dance Festival** beckons you with world-class musicians and caller, the delightful ambience of the open air dance platform, the billowing canopy overhead, a new dancing surface underfoot, and the camaraderie of over 100 other smiling dancers.

The **Monks**, an irresistible east-coast band, features dual flaming fiddlers **Claudio Buchwald** and **Frank Hall**, and the musical couple consisting of former/occasional Wild Asparagus mandolin/guitar/banjo player **Sam Bartlett** and bassist **Abby Ladin**.



Local dancers Bettine and Lawrence Wallin witnessed their musicianship at the Pinewoods camp last summer and knew then and there that we had to have them for Harvest Moon.

Susan Kevra is a skilled and delightful caller of contras and squares, in demand not only in the US but in Europe as well.

Limited space is still available, but don't delay.

Applications are available at the dance, at the SBCDS web site <<http://www.sbcds.org/download/>>, or by contacting the SBCDS, or George Cannon, registrar, at 805 886-0843.

New Modular Oak Park Floor

Work has begun on the creation, from scratch, of a modular floor cover for the deteriorating Oak Park dance platform.

It will provide a smooth dancing surface for the Harvest Moon Dance Festival. The design is a proven one, used for ten years in a demanding environment at Seattle's annual Folk Life Festival. Everyone we've talked to who has danced on the Seattle floor was quite happy dancing on it.

The floor is a major project, but many hands will make it manageable. Please contact Lawrence Wallin at 805 565-1501 and volunteer to lend a hand. We need help before Harvest Moon, as well as *immediately* before the festival (Friday, Sept. 22, in the morning) to install the floor and after (Sunday, 4 p.m.) to remove it for storage.

Tax-deductible donations for the floor project may be made to the SBCDS, PO Box 21904, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.

Sniff, sniff

More Board Changes

The SBCDS Board of Directors has reluctantly accepted the forthcoming resignation of Mignon Bradley from the Board.

Mignon has been our dedicated scheduler extraordinaire since the spring of 1998 and has volunteered in other important ways as well.

Mignon was on sabbatical from teaching when she first volunteered to work with the Board and pick up the booking/scheduling job from Jonathan Southard. Now after juggling the needs of teaching, family and volunteering simultaneously for a year, she realizes she needs to spend less time volunteering.

We are looking for more people who can volunteer so that no one person has such a big responsibility. Come and join our Board meetings to see what is needed and how we govern the dances. The next Board meeting is on Sunday, September 10, at 4:30 p.m. in the Baylor Room (where we have our breaks and potlucks).

August 27 Dance Location Changed to Carrillo Ballroom

Potential Rewards

Many current contra dancing fans of English Country Dancing used to say, when asked about it, "I don't like English Country Dancing." I was one of those people.

What inspired this change of heart? The possibilities include (1) participating in ECD without the expectation that the rewards would be the same as those of contra dancing, (2) being exposed to an inspirational band and/or teacher, (3) being inspired by the music, (4) being inspired by the one-to-one relationships between the dances and music, (5) being caught up in the flow in a transcendent sort of way. The word "epiphany" comes to mind.

My point is that ECD still has the potential to offer incredible rewards to even the staunchest non-fan. An excellent opportunity to give ECD another try is described in the article at right. James Hutson is an excellent teacher, and the musi-

cians are top-notch.

Not to mention our own dances on some Tuesdays, and the popular BACDS Monte Toyon camps in fall and spring, which feature both contra and English Country Dancing.

Gary Shapiro

English in Eagle Rock

A special English Country Dance lands in Eagle Rock on Friday, September 29, from 8-11 p.m.

No experience is necessary, but do arrive promptly at 8 to review the basics. Admission is \$8.

James Hutson provides instruction and calling; **Linda Kodaira**, **David James**, and friend play the music.

Location: Eagle Rock Community Center, 2225 Colorado Blvd., just west of Eagle Rock Blvd. in the Eagle Rock area of Los Angeles.

For further information contact James at 310 474-8105.

29th Annual Old-Time Fiddlers' Convention



Join in the fun of the annual Fiddlers' Convention on Sunday, October 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The celebration of traditional American Folk Music (and dance!) is sponsored this year by Rotary Sunrise. Admission is likely going to remain at \$8/\$5 seniors/\$3 children.

Once again, it all happens at Stow House, 304 N. Los Carneros, in Goleta's countryside.

For more information contact Hilda Wenner (805 966-1191, wenner@lifesci.ucsb.edu) or Linelle Glass (805 682-1593, lglass@sbceo.org).

Hands Four: a New Protocol

Dear dancers, friends and callers,

Everyone begins to line up for the next contra dance; amiably chatting, getting drinks of water, hugging their friends, sharing introductions to new dancers. The caller calls for hands four from the top. The caller repeats the request. The folks at the back of the line call out for hands four. The caller starts to teach the dance and the folks at the end of the line repeat their, now insistent, calls for hands four. This can go on for a long time.

I would like to propose a new protocol for dancers to follow. In the same way we automatically go to the end of the line when forming sets, let us take hands four as soon as we line up. Once the next hands four forms below, the people at the top of the line then would be free to socialize and whatever is needed or pleasant until the lines and the caller are ready for the dance.

I feel there would be no loss in the friendliness of the dance experience and much gained in time for dancing with less frustration. At the next dance you attend, start to do it and encourage your friends to do it too. After a while it will become the custom and I believe we will all benefit.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Wallin

Car Donation Benefits SBCDS

Make a tax-deductible donation to the SBCDS in the form of your old car, running or not. That's what I did recently. My "Goldie," as I called her, was 14 years old. She had served me well and I was finally ready to part with her. Rather than even consider replacing her transmission, placing an ad, taking phone calls and waiting around to show her, I chose to donate her to SBCDS through Cars4Causes.

Cars4Causes is a nonprofit organization designed to simplify the process of fundraising for nonprofit organizations through contributions, and sales of automobiles, boats, trucks, RVs and other items of value. By making one simple phone call I was able to transform my old car into cash for SBCDS. Cars4Causes took care of all the DMV paperwork, arranged to have Goldie picked up and auctioned, donating half the pro-

ceeds of the sale, after the towing charges, to the nonprofit I selected, SBCDS.

Now the process will be even easier since Cars4Causes has SBCDS in its system as a qualified nonprofit organization to which they can easily make donations.

You are able to claim on your income tax form the full bluebook market value of the car you donated, regardless of what the car actually brings at auction or the amount SBCDS actually receives. Your donation is technically made to Cars4Causes, which can be reached at

2535 Ventura Blvd.
Oxnard, CA 93030

800 766-2273, email: 2c4c@msn.com

web: <http://www.cars4causes.net>

I feel really good about having made this donation. It might work for you too!

Mignon Bradley



Looking Ahead to Special Events

For most of these events that are out of town, you'll find more information in the Carrillo Ballroom lobby during our dances.

Email addresses and web sites for most of such events can be found at <<http://www.ucolick.org/~sla/danceCaConEng.html>>.

Sept 1-4: Alta Sierra Dance Camp near Kings Canyon. 310 459-7179.

Sept. 15-17: Echo Summit Dance Camp near Lake Tahoe. Callers **Susan Kevra** and **Erik Hoffman**. Music by **Domino** and the **Post-Industrial String Band**. 916 489-0488.

Oct. 6-8: Sturtevant Hike and Dance Weekend in the Angeles National Forest. 310 831-1975 or 818 354-7972.

Oct. 13-15: BACDS Fall Dance Weekend at Monte Toyon near Santa Cruz. English, contra, square and ritual dance. 650 365-2913.

see **STAR GAZER**, back page

Santa Barbara contra dances are co-sponsored by

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
Parks & Recreation
Enriching People's Lives

and



Post Office Box 21904 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

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Board of Directors: Sammy Ellis, Rob Gardner, Elliott Karpeles, Bob Leonard, Gary Shapiro, Bettine Wallin.

Dance coordination: Scott Swain

Bookings: open position

Mailing coordination: Gloria Hall

Mailing list: Mary Ballard, Carl Magagnosc

Liason to Parks & Rec: Elliott Karpeles

Dance Star: Gary Shapiro

and many many other volunteers

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

Next issue copy deadline: November 9.

Dance Star contact info: 805 682-5523,

garies@pobox.com

FALL
2000



SANTA BARBARA CONTRA & ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE SCHEDULE



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 neces-

sary. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

SANTA BARBARA CONTRA DANCES

Sponsors: SB Country Dance Society & SB City Parks and Recreation Dept.

Dance from 7–10 p.m. every Sunday at the fabulous Carrillo Ballroom. SBCDS 24-hour Dance Hotline: 805 969-1511.

SB ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

Some Tuesdays (see below). Westside Community Center, 7:30–9:30 p.m. \$2–5. 805 682-5523.

LOS OLIVOS DANCES

Sponsor: Santa Ynez Grange
Dance first Saturdays, 7:30–10:30 p.m. For more information contact Jeanette, 805 688-7122.

SAN LUIS OBISPO DANCES

Sponsor: Central Coast Country Dance Society

Dance in SLO on one Saturday each month, from 8–11 p.m. International Folk Dancing precedes at 5:30. SLO 24-hour Danceline: 805 541-0201.

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

The SB & SLO contra dance groups hold workshops 30 minutes before each contra dance evening. Also, the simpler dances are generally taught earlier in the evening.

ADMISSION

\$7 (\$10 in Los Olivos) unless otherwise stated; subject to change. In SB, 12 and under free, 13–17 half price.

KEY TO DANCE LOCATIONS

Carrillo Ballroom		100 E. Carrillo St., SB
Westside Community Center		423 W. Victoria, SB
San Luis Obispo Veteran's Hall		801 Grand Ave., SLO East of 101, Cal Poly exit
Grange Hall in Los Olivos		2374 Alamo Pintado Ave. West of flagpole

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

Aug 29, Sept 5, Nov 7, 14, 28: Westside Community Center, 7:30–9:30 p.m. \$2–5

OTHER DANCES

Oct 31: Mostly Waltz Halloween Costume Ball. Westside Community Center, 7:30–10 p.m. Come waltz the night in costume. Some one-on-one instruction available. \$6

CONTRA DANCES

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND • Etc.
Sept 2 Sat	LO	Carl Magagnosc • Hot Flashes & Friends
Sept 2 Sat	SLO	Martha Wild • Blue Sky Band
Sept 3 Sun	CB	Martha Wild • Chopped Liver • a fitting end to a wild weekend
Sept 10 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Chameleons
Sept 17 Sun	CB	Jeff Spero • Kristina and Her Right-Hand Stars
Sept 24 Sun	CB	Susan Kevra • The Monks • Lordy! Superlatives don't do these post-Harvest Moon Dance Festival dances justice. Open to all. (\$10)
Oct 1 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Kitchen Junket • Week-after is nothing to sneeze at, either!
Oct 7 Sat	LO	TBA • TBA
Oct 8 Sun	CB	Drew Tronvig • Kristina and Her Right-Hand Stars
Oct 14 Sat	SLO	Barbara Stewart • Paddy O'Furniture • A mini-tour for Barb and Amber
Oct 15 Sun	CB	Barbara Stewart • Growling Old Geezers
Oct 22 Sun	CB	Gary Shapiro • Hot Flashes
Oct 29 Sun	CB	Jonathan Southard • Chopped Liver • Annual Halloween Masquerade Ball. Take an extra hour to prepare a costume (Daylight Savings Time ends).
Nov 4 Sat	LO	TBA • TBA
Nov 5 Sun	CB	Caller's Jubilee • Jump Fingers • If you'd like to call, please contact Don Ward (818 353-8052, dward@loop.com). If you'd like to dance, you know what to do.
Nov 11 Sat	SLO	Warren Blier • Blue Sky Band
Nov 12 Sun	CB	Warren Blier • Kitchen Junket
Nov 19 Sun	CB	Chuck Galt • Chameleons • Annual Thanksgiving Potluck precedes the dance at 5:30. Bring lots of food to share, tableware, and \$1. Turkey provided.
Nov 26 Sun	CB	Susan Michaels • New Young Buzzards • Dessert potluck during the break.

September

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Star Gazer from page 2

Oct. 29: Halloween Masquerade Ball. Kind of like our regular Sunday night contra dance, except with outrageous costumes. Who *is* that masked man?

Oct. 31: A Mostly Waltz Halloween Costume Ball. An evening of mostly waltzes with some other couple dances and a taught set waltz or two thrown in. If you don't know how to waltz, some one-on-one instruction will be available. Musicians TBA. Westside Community Center, 423 W. Victoria. 7:30–10:00 p.m. \$6.

Nov. 4: Fall Has Sprung Contra Dance. Day-long contras and squares on a Sprung Floor in Grass Valley (N.E. of Sacramento). 530 346-0099.

Nov. 11: BACDS Fall Ball. English Country Dance, singing, potluck. 510 814-6947.

Nov. 19: Annual Thanksgiving Potluck. Kind of like our regular Sunday night contra dance, except get there by 5:30 bearing mass quantities of good food to share. Also, save a plastic tree and bring your own tableware, and \$1 (50¢ for 12 and under). Turkey provided.

Nov. 26: Annual Post-Thanksgiving Dessert Potluck. Kind of like...just bring leftover desserts to share during the break. Start those power walks tomorrow.



Ojai Dances on Hold

No Ojai dances this fall. Check again in the winter. Contact Karin for more info: 805 933-0660, karinsisar@juno.com.

Working With 'Whoosh'

Nothing is perfect, and life is not always fair, but part of wisdom is knowing when you might be able to make a difference.

Case in point: the "whoosh" factor. As soon as one dance is over, whoosh, new partners are taken. Those who are less aggressive may repeatedly find themselves without a partner, especially members of that night's majority sex. People who have been sitting out have an even more difficult time. Sure, women are open to dancing with other women, but frequently it's two new, relatively inexperienced dancers dancing together.

Here are some suggestions to consider:

- If you're in the minority, before you "whoosh," check the perimeter of the hall for people sitting out. Also give some priority to people who had same-sex partners.
- If you are sitting out, stand up as the current dance is about to end and mingle right into the mass of people. At least stand up. Some people are sitting out because they don't care to dance, and many dancers assume that you don't care to dance if you're sitting down.
- If you always book ahead, book at least one dance with someone who can benefit from your dance expertise, or vice versa.
- About booking during a dance in

progress: If done by many, it can lock out the people sitting out. (Some consider it disrespectful of your current partner as well.) Also, part of the joy of dancing is being totally in the present, as opposed to planning for the next dance.

- Experienced dancers: take a turn dancing the opposite role when the opposite sex is under-represented. If you always book ahead, leave yourself open for that at least once each night.
- Callers: remind the dancers to check the

Greet 3rd Millennium With SB Dawn Dance

A New Year's Eve Dawn Dance at the fabulous Carrillo Ballroom is a "go"!

The dance will run from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. with a break shortly after midnight for a potluck dinner. \$20.

The SB First Night Committee sponsors the event from 7 to midnight, with the SBCDS producing it. Then the SBCDS both sponsors and produces the a.m. portion. In other words, First Night sponsors that portion taking place in the second millennium C.E. and we sponsor that portion taking place in the third.

Serious planning begins shortly after Harvest Moon.

perimeter, etc., at the end of each dance or so. Remind those sitting out to stand up if they wish to dance.

- If you're headed toward the sides to ask someone to dance who sat out the last one, and someone who *was* dancing gets your attention and asks you to dance, I feel it's quite reasonable to say, "Sorry, I'm about to ask someone who sat out the last dance."
- In fewer words, what I'm saying is, let's just look out for each other.

Gary Shapiro



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Dance Star
Internet edition
Fall 2000 rev 3
4 September 2000