

Center and Back
 Winter Dance Calendar 3
 Contrary Thoughts 2
 Star Gazer column 2
 New Year's Eve Dawn Dance 4

**Just a Phase
 We Go
 Through**



If you can twirl, etc., while still being in synch with the music and the dance, then sure, more power to ya. But it seems like a required stage for many new dancers: twirling and spinning, thinking that that's what good dancing *is*, while obviously failing to notice that the couple across from them is wondering if they're ever going to start the next figure.

You have the option to skip or cut short that phase. Focus on good dancing instead. Focus on timing—being neither early nor late. Find ways to dance that help those around you, without words or finger-pointing. Improve on the mechanical aspects of dancing such as framing and giving weight, being centered, healthy allemandes. Notice how you adjust to different dancers differently. Dance and hear the music at the same time. Hear and anticipate the musical phrases without counting, and then, without even thinking about it. Discover clever, slick, and/or elegant ways to flow from one figure to the next.

You might discover that a twirl makes an interesting, fun transition. Perhaps that's the time to start embellishing here and there, if you desire. But please don't leave those around you wondering why you're still twirling even though the rest of the floor is circling left.

Gary Shapiro

SBCDS Gets Energy Boost

A warm welcome to Moira Butler, long-time dancer and SBCDS volunteer, now the newest member of the SBCDS Board of Directors as of October.

In September, the SBCDS gratefully accepted a generous offer from Kelli Butler to be the scheduler for our Sunday dances. As you can see, we have a great SB schedule for the next three months. Thank you, Kelli.

Floored by Harvest Moon Floor Help

Harvest Moon: what a rousing success. Wonderful band and caller and dancers and, beneath us all, a wonderful floor. I was thanked many times at Harvest Moon for the floor. I appreciate the thanks but I was one of a large number of volunteers that made the floor happen. I now want to thank everyone who helped make the floor a reality.

First, the Seattle Folk Floor Committee members who sent me detailed information on the materials and methods they use to put together their floor for the Northwest Folklife Festival: Eileen O'Connor and Luther Black. Next, a special **thank you!** to Drew Tronvig. It was Drew who helped keep me sane with his advice and all the hours he gave, helping plan, test and prepare, load for shipping, lay and maintain, take up, clean off, load for shipping back and storing the floor.

Ramsey Harris helped me cut the Masonite and edging boards to size, and along with Shane Butler and Gary Shapiro, used their trucks to transport the flooring panels to and from Oak Park.

Drew Tronvig, Rob Gardner, Joe Aleks, Steve Decker, Marla Wilson, Rick Beers, Paul Hartloff, Tony Friend and Dave Wil-

liams all helped trim the edges of the Masonite. And a thanks to Bettine for cooking us dinner, as the work party went until 10:00 p.m. Many of the same people helped load the trucks on the Thursday before Harvest Moon and then met at Oak Park starting at 7:00 a.m. the next morning to unload the floor.

For unloading and laying the floor and taping it together we were helped at different times by Elliott Karpeles, Bill Bowker, David Troy, Jon Miller, Bruce Morden, Mike Weissman, Richard Haug, John Campbell and Helen Sears. The volunteer help never flagged all during the weekend as the floor was maintained with sweeping compound and covered overnight. On Sunday, after the last dance, many of the people already mentioned along with Dave Buller, Steve Gray and Bill Ossa helped get the floor up, into the trucks and stacked for storage.

There were so many people who helped remove and scrape off the tape that I did not get everyone's name. But I want to thank you all too. Thanks to Jeremy Carol who ordered the floor materials and got us a very good price.

see FLOORED, next page



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Thinking Contrarily About Center Set Issue

(The center set issue is about how, when two or more sets form, one of the sets ends up with a higher percentage of experienced dancers, of the hot-shot dancers, of the aggressive bookers. The other set(s) end up with a higher percentage of newer dancers, those who do not book aggressively, community-conscious dancers, and those who would rather not dance in what they might see as a set full of hot shots. Note that the center set is not necessarily in the geographic center.)

Lately, I've been thinking differently (I think) about this issue.



Looking Ahead to Special Events

For most of these events plus others you'll find more information in the Carrillo Ballroom lobby during our dances.

Email addresses and web sites for most of these events plus others can be found by going to our web site at <<http://www.sbcds.org>>, and clicking on "California Dance Schedule for This Month."

Dec. 25: 13th annual Christmas Contra Dance featuring caller Erik Hoffman and music by Bayou Seco & Friends. This dance is actually on Monday, Christmas Day, at the normal Sunday night time. No promises, but it's been known to start on time and end late.

Dec. 31-Jan. 1: Santa Barbara New Year's Eve Dawn Dance. See back page.

Jan. 13: Jane Austen Evening in Pasadena, featuring English dances from 1774 to 1817. 818 342-3482.

Feb. 18-19: Santa Cruz Dawn Dance. 831 479-9533.

Feb. 23-25: Fiddling Frog Dance Festival. 818 785-3839.

Mar. 16-18: BACDS Spring Dance Weekend at Monte Toyon (near Santa Cruz). 650 326-3665.

Mar. 31: BACDS Playford Ball in the Bay Area. 415 456-4602.

Apr. 6-8: Mt. Baldy Contra Weekend. 818 951-8255.

Apr. 27-29: Dance Awakening at Harbin Hot Springs. 805 649-5189.

In the past I've had precious little sympathy for those who rush pell-mell to the top of the center set.

The different thinking is that now I see a paradox in play and it's hard to blame anyone. The center-setites don't want to be in a set that has few center-setites in it, nor in a shorter set. Most, however, would be quite happy in one of some number of equal sets, equal in both length and in the type of dancer mix. But such sets, in general, won't exist as long as the masses believe they won't. Another way to say this is that the reason for the center set is that the center set exists. If the center set did not exist, it would not be needed.

In fact, in many dance communities the center set does not exist, nor does anyone think it's needed.

I've noticed that no one seems to object when, due to low attendance, we have everyone in the same set. That's part of my basis for the assumption that "most would be quite happy" in an equal set.

In addition, often I've divided the first single set of the evening into two, with the ones in one new set and the twos in another. No one has objected and in fact just the opposite.

So I propose that callers somehow make more dances just like one of those one-set dances where no one objects to dancing with the whole hall. Except the dancers will be dancing with one-half or one-third of the whole hall, divided evenly or randomly. The trick is how to engineer this quickly.

"Engineer" is an interesting choice of words, because I could be accused of advocating social engineering. But I believe that most of the dancers would prefer an equal dance with equal sets, but are unable to effectively make it happen themselves for reasons mentioned above.

Any other ideas? Or am I crazy to even think along these lines?

Gary Shapiro



Floored

from front page

I know I am probably missing someone who helped and should be thanked—please accept my apologies if I have missed you. A great many thanks to the 31 people who contributed almost all the money needed to buy the materials for the floor and storage. Dancers from all over California responded with donations and pledges. The SBCDS Board, too, had faith and guaranteed the costs.

At first I dreaded the job of doing the floor but if I had known the amount of readily offered volunteer help that was forthcoming I would have had no worries. It was a big job, made easy by many hands helping, and well worth it—the floor was terrific.

Lawrence Wallin

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

Phone: 805 969-1511

email: sbcds@sbcds.org

web: <http://www.sbcds.org/>

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

Dance coordination: Scott Swain

Bookings: Kelli Butler

Mailing coordination: Gloria Hall

Mailing list: Mary Ballard, Carl Magagnosc

Liason to Parks & Rec: Elliott Karpeles

Dance Star: Gary Shapiro

Helping in other ways: Many other volunteers
Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors. Express yours in the next issue.

Next issue copy deadline: February 9, 2001

Dance Star contact info: 805 682-5523,

garies@pobox.com

WINTER 2000-01



SANTA BARBARA CONTRA & ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE SCHEDULE



Santa Barbara Country Dance Society • P.O. Box 21904 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1904 • 805 969-1511

Enjoy dancing to the irresistible rhythms of a live string band. We'll dance flowing New England contras, a thriving tradition, plus other delights. All dances are taught and prompted: no experience or partner necessary. 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.

OJAI DANCES

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

LOS OLIVOS DANCES

Sponsor: Santa Ynez Grange
Dance first Saturdays, 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$10, \$7.50 for Grange members. For more information contact Jeanette, 805 688-7122.

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

Held 30 minutes (15 in LO) before each contra dance evening. Also, the simpler dances are generally taught earlier in the evening.

ADMISSION

\$7 unless otherwise stated; subject to change. In SB, 12 and under free, 13-17 half price.

KEY TO DANCE LOCATIONS

Carrillo Ballroom	CB	100 E. Carrillo St., SB
Westside Community Center	wcc	423 W. Victoria, SB
Ojai Art Center	OA	113 S. Montgomery, Ojai
San Luis Obispo Veteran's Hall	SLO	801 Grand Ave., SLO East of 101, Cal Poly exit
Grange Hall in Los Olivos	LO	2374 Alamo Pintado Ave. West of flagpole

SB ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

Some Tuesdays (see below). Westside Community Center, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$2-5. 805 682-5523 x3.

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 Danceline: 805 541-0201.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

Dec 5, 12, Jan 2, Feb 20, 27: Westside Community Center, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$2-5

CONTRA DANCES

DATE	LOC	CALLER • BAND • Etc.
Dec 2	Sat	LO Jean Gorrindo • Growling Old Geezers
Dec 3	Sun	CB Barbara Stewart • Chopped Liver
Dec 10	Sun	CB Don Ward • Kitchen Junket
Dec 16	Sat	SLO Gary Shapiro • Growling Old Geezers
Dec 17	Sun	CB Gary Shapiro • Turtle Creek
Dec 24	Sun	No dance
Dec 25	Mon	CB Erik Hoffman • Bayou Seco & Friends • Our annual Christmas Day night dance with our traditional friends on stage at the standard evening dance time.
Dec 31	Sun	CB New Year's Eve Dawn Dance • 7 p.m.-6 a.m. \$20. See back page for details.
Jan 6	Sat	LO Jonathan Southard • Growling Old Geezers
Jan 6	Sat	OA Chuck Galt • Jump Fingers
Jan 7	Sun	CB Cris Miller • Jump Fingers
Jan 13	Sat	SLO Gary Shapiro • Growling Old Geezers
Jan 14	Sun	CB Drew Tronvig • Michael's Mixed Nuts
Jan 21	Sun	CB Jeff Spero • Sliding Scale
Jan 28	Sun	CB Gary Shapiro • Hot Flashes
Feb 3	Sat	LO Gary Shapiro • Erika Smith & Friends
Feb 3	Sat	OA Susan Michaels • Chopped Liver
Feb 4	Sun	CB Susan Michaels • Growling Old Geezers
Feb 10	Sat	SLO Gary Shapiro • Blue Sky Band
Feb 11	Sun	CB Gary Shapiro • Kristina & Her Right-Hand Stars
Feb 18	Sun	CB Chuck Galt • Chameleons
Feb 25	Sun	CB Jonathan Southard • For Old Times' Sake • The band's been warming up at the Fiddling Frog Festival all weekend.

December

					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
31						

January

	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	31			

February

				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			

Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

in conjunction with

First Night Santa Barbara

presents a

New Year's Eve Dawn Dance

featuring contra dances, with squares, waltzes and other delights

7 p.m., December 31, 2000, to 6 a.m., January 1, 2001

Carrillo Recreation Center, 100 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA

Cost: \$20.00 (includes all First Night activities and a First Night button, the Dawn Dance, and a midnight potluck!)

Callers: Susan Michaels, Erik Hoffman, Gary Shapiro, and Warren Blier

Bands: Spin Cycle, Growling Old Geezers, TBA, and Bog an Lochan (Bay Area)

Schedule

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Susan Michaels and Spin Cycle
9:30 p.m. – Midnight	Erik Hoffman and Growling Old Geezers
Midnight – 1:00 a.m.	Potluck
1:00 a.m. – 3:30 a.m.	Gary Shapiro and TBA
3:30 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.	Warren Blier and Bog an Lochan

First Night activities are from 2 p.m. to 12 midnight on New Year's Eve.

Activities include concerts, art displays, museum tours and displays, children's programs, street musicians, theater productions, multimedia displays, two other dances besides ours, and a midnight fireworks display.

(These activities require a First Night button; children 6 and under are free.)

Names _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail (optional) _____

Number of dancers x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Please remit by check to:

SBCDS

603 W. Islay St.

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Questions?

Contact:

Elliott Karpeles

(805) 682-1877

EBKarpeles@aol.com

(Please bring a dish to share to the midnight potluck – enough for four to six. Thanks.)

www.sbclds.org

www.firstnightsb.org