

# DANCE STAR

Issue Number 68, Summer 2006 • News, Articles & Calendar of Events

## Something to Think About

*Following are excerpts from an open letter written by caller David Kaynor to the dance community in Greenfield, MA. We are reprinting it, with David's permission, to address the question: Are we always as helpful as possible to newcomers? We should be, out of communal courtesy. Also, we need those newcomers! If they are discouraged from coming back, dwindling attendance could eventually bring an end to our every-Sunday dances. – Ed.*

I can't begin to guess how many times I've said, "Don't worry if you make mistakes in the beginning," only to observe (and later hear) that the beginners did, in fact, receive some very rough treatment at the hands of some impatient individuals who, in effect, saw fit to *punish* these folks for their mistakes.

I know who some of the impatient individuals are, and I have seen them pushing, yanking, directing, and even simply evading and ignoring beginners who are lost or confused. I have seen facial expressions conveying exasperation and condescension, and I have heard about sarcastic and otherwise nasty instructions and remarks being made.

It's ironic that the Greenfield dance, for many years, was known as one of the entire region's more open and hospitable dances. This was due to the fine qualities of a solid core of local dancers, some of whom had learned to dance right here in the Guiding Star Grange, all of whom were so friendly and accessible that beginners never got stuck at the bottom of a side set, nor lacked partners who could teach them something in a manner which was fun, nor received punishing treatment during the inevitably mistake-laden process of learning-by-doing.

That core group is still around, and thanks to them, we have fewer "one-time-only" beginners, fewer terminal beginners, and more friendly folks than do many other dances. You might think we have plenty of dancers as it is, but I fear that contra dancing can not thrive as a closed club, and I will take extra time for walk-throughs, if need be, in hopes that the beginners, some day in the future, will remember how great their first contra dance was, and will come back.

## Star Attractions

Peg Hesley & FootLoose

Peg Hesley began calling seven years ago. She has attended intensive contra and square dance calling workshops under the tutelage of Kathy Anderson, Tom Hinds, Robert Cromartie, and other noted dance callers. Peg looks for dances that flow naturally from one figure to the next. She varies the dynamics during the evening by alternating smooth flowing dances with dances that have lots of balances. Peg started her calling career in Maryland, and since moving to Arizona two years ago has been calling all over the southwest.

Playing with her is FootLoose, a fun, creative and high energy band from North Carolina. Band members include John Davidson on fiddle, David DiGiuseppe on accordion, Dean Herington on clarinet and soprano sax, Pete Campbell on piano and bass, and Jim Roberts on percussion. Their sound draws upon Celtic, southern old time, jazz and classical music influences, with their primary purpose being to rock the socks off of contra dancers!

Come dance to Peg Hesley and FootLoose on July 16. This will be a \$10 dance – and well worth it!



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

## 3 Special Events

• **Sprung Floor Dance Festival** May 28, from 1:00 PM to 1:00 AM. Four callers, four bands, plus workshops and a potluck dinner. Admission \$25.00 for the whole enchilada, after 7:00 PM it's \$15.00.

• **Free sponsored contra dance** June 4. The price is right, and so's the dance. For details, see Dance Schedule on Page 2.

• **Harvest Moon Dance Festival** Sept 29 - Oct 1. All dances will be at the Carrillo Ballroom. Talent will include Nils Fredland and Mock Turtle Soup, plus Key Ingredients. Workshops include Salsa, singing and jamming

The Festival begins on Friday at 7:00 PM and concludes on Sunday at 4:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$105.00.

Nils Fredland and Mock Turtle Soup will return for a separate public dance on Sunday at 7:00 PM. Admission is \$10.00.

If you have not received a flyer that includes the registration form, you can download it at [www.sbcds.org/download/](http://www.sbcds.org/download/).

Moving? Please let us know at 805-969-1511 or [maillist@sbcds.org](mailto:maillist@sbcds.org) or via US Mail. It'll save us money on USPS Address Service fees.

# DANCE SCHEDULE – Summer 2006

## English Country Dances

Westside Community Center  
423 W. Victoria, Santa Barbara  
(Where Victoria dead-ends at Hwy 101)  
805-682-5523 [www.sbcds.org/ecd](http://www.sbcds.org/ecd)  
7:30 to 9:30

Admission \$3.00; whole evenings of live music TBA, \$5.00  
Dance on Tuesdays, except for 3 Wednesdays, as noted by \*  
June 7\*, June 13, June 20, June 27  
July 4 (see below), July 12\*, July 18, July 25  
August 1, August 9\*, August 15, August 22, August 29

**Special Event: Dances of the American Revolution  
Tuesday, July 4 – Time TBA – Watch for the flyer!**

All dances led by Gary Shapiro and/or Alice Williams

## 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](http://www.cccds.org)  
Second Saturday of every month  
7:30 to 10:30 (7:00 workshop) Admission: \$9.00

June 10 Greg McKenzie/Growling Old Geezers

July 8 Warren Blier/TBA

Aug 12 Susan Petrick/TBA

## Ojai Art Center

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

### Contra Dance

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

August 19 Karen Fontana/Key Ingredients

### English Country Dancing

[www.geocities.com/circlesandrows/ojaiecd/](http://www.geocities.com/circlesandrows/ojaiecd/)

Second and fourth Mondays

7:00 to 9:00 Admission: \$5.00

June 12 Annie Laskey

June 26 Gary Shapiro

July 10 Annie Laskey

July 24 Gary Shapiro

August 14 Gary Shapiro

August 28 Gary Shapiro

## Carrillo Ballroom

100 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara  
(Hwy 101, Carrillo St. exit, go north to Anacapa St.)  
805-969-1511 [www.sbcds.org](http://www.sbcds.org)

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

June 4 *Free Sponsored Dance!*

Gary Shapiro/MG and the Generators

June 11 Barbara Stewart/Fiddle Tunas

June 18 Gary Shapiro/Porch Dogs

June 25 NO DANCE—See you at CTMS Festival!  
([www.ctms-folkmusic.org](http://www.ctms-folkmusic.org))

July 2 Jonathan Southard/Growling Old Geezers

July 9 Donna Karpeles/Porch Dogs

July 16 Peg Hesley/FootLoose (\$10.00)

July 23 Jeff Spero/Kriss Larson Band

July 30 *Zesty Dance!* 6:30 - 10:00 (\$9.00)

Brenda Goodwin/Marmalade

Aug 6 Warren Blier/Michael's Mixed Nuts

Aug 13 Gary Shapiro/Growling Old Geezers

Aug 20 Karen Fontana/Chopped Liver

Aug 27 Jonathan Southard/Porch Dogs

Santa Barbara Contra Dances  
are co-sponsored by SBCDS and

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

SBCDS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

805-969-1511 [contact@sbcds.org](mailto:contact@sbcds.org) [www.sbcds.org](http://www.sbcds.org)

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

The Dance Star is produced quarterly.

Editor: Keith Connes

Editorial contributions are welcome! Email dance-related material to  
[dancestar@sbcds.org](mailto:dancestar@sbcds.org) or mail to

Keith Connes, 283 Carlo Dr., Goleta, CA 93117

The deadline for the next issue is August 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.