

# DANCE STAR

Issue Number 70, Winter 2007 • News, Articles & Calendar of Events

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## Have You Tried English Country Dance?

Compiled by Gary Shapiro

English Country Dance (ECD) is similar to contra dance, but different. Similar enough to be familiar, but different enough to be interesting.

Different how? ECD, in general, has less physical contact but more eye contact. ECD can be more mentally challenging. There is an amazing variety within ECD: in the music, meter, mood, attitude, tempo, formation and figures. ECD is often graceful in a gracious way, calling to mind the elegant balls you've probably seen in film versions of Jane Austen novels.

### Coming to Ventura

English Country dancing comes to Ventura beginning January 8. New dancers are enthusiastically welcomed. The series continues on the second Monday of every month from 7 to 9 PM. Join us at the Senior Recreation Center, 420 E. Santa Clara, near the corner of South Oak St. That's one block south of Main St. and one block west of California St. Many of the dancers at the Ojai English Country Dance come from Ventura, so the Ojai group thought it would be okay to have one of the two monthly dances in Ventura instead.

The Ventura dance will be on second Mondays, Ojai on fourth Mondays. The Santa Barbara Country Dance Society is sponsoring the Ventura dance and the Ojai Art Center will continue to sponsor the Ojai dance. For information, visit [www.sbclds.org/ecd/](http://www.sbclds.org/ecd/). You may also send email to [ecd@sbclds.org](mailto:ecd@sbclds.org) or you can call 682-5523.

### Winter Solstice Party

Come celebrate the Winter Solstice a few hours early on Wednesday,

December 20, when SBCDS English Country Dance aficionados host a Solstice Party featuring snacks (bring some!), fellowship and song, and dances with a theme to fit the season. The dance will take place at the Westside Community Center, 423 W. Victoria St., Santa Barbara, starting at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$3.

### Mr. Fezziwig's Ball

The Ojai Art Center presents Mr. Fezziwig's Ball on Tuesday, December 26 (Boxing Day), with some live music and special snacks for both neophyte and die-hard English Country dancers. Some (not all) will be dressed in period costume. All dances will be taught. Admission is still \$5.

The last dance of 2006 in Ojai would have fallen on December 25 this year and has been moved to December 26 to avoid conflict with the Christmas Day contra dance in Santa Barbara.

## Star Attractions



Greg McKenzie

Greg McKenzie has been dancing contras for 21 years and calling for 20 of those years. He has called throughout California, Nevada, and Arizona. Greg is one of the most precise and clear callers around and is known for his ability to get dancers moving quickly to lively music with little or no teaching. His professional calling and confident, relaxed style puts dancers at ease, allowing the music to take center stage for an exciting and joyful social dance event.

Greg will be calling on December 3 with the Growling Old Geezers and again on January 28 with Michael's Mixed Nuts.



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

# DANCE SCHEDULE – Winter 2007

## San Luis Obispo

Odd Fellows Hall  
520 Dana St, San Luis Obispo  
(Hwy 101 Marsh St. exit, left on Nipomo, left on Dana)  
www.cccds.org

Second Saturday of every month, unless otherwise noted  
7:30 to 10:30 (7:00 workshop) Admission: \$9.00

- Dec 2 (First Saturday) Greg McKenzie/Paddy O'Furniture  
Jan 12-14 Contra Carnivale – Registration full. Volunteer openings:  
Work 3 hrs, dance 3 hrs. If interested, call 805-995-2456  
or email judygems@yahoo.com.  
Feb 10 Gary Shapiro/The Foggy Bay String Band

## 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

Jan 27 Gary Shapiro/Frank Hoppe & Friends

### English Country Dancing

Second and fourth Mondays (Fourth Mondays only beginning Jan)

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

Dec 11 • Dec 26 (Tues) • Jan 22 • Feb 26

*Tuesday, Dec 26 is a Special Dance – Mr. Fezziwig's Ball*

## English Country Dances

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

Every Wednesday — 7:30 to 9:30  
Admission \$3.00; whole evenings of live music TBA, \$6.00  
Special Winter Solstice Party and Dance Wed., Dec. 20

All dances led by Gary Shapiro and/or Alice Williams

NEW!

Senior Recreation Center  
420 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura  
(One block west of California St. near the corner of S. Oak St.)

Beginning January, Second Mondays — 7:00 to 9:00 \$5  
Jan 8 • Feb 12

Instruction by Gary Shapiro and guests

## 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

- Dec 3 Greg McKenzie/Growling Old Geezers  
Dec 10 FREE DANCE  
“Celebrating 60 years of life experience”  
Gary Shapiro/MG and the Generators  
Dec 17 Jonathan Southard/Chopped Liver  
Dec 25 MONDAY! CHRISTMAS DAY DANCE!  
(Usual 6:30-9:30 time) Donna Karpeles/Bayou Seco  
Dec 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE — ZESTY DANCE  
Susan Petrick & Warren Blier  
Chopped Liver & Ruby's Dream  
7:00 PM to 1:00 AM \$20  
Jan 7 Warren Blier/Syncopaths (\$10)  
Jan 14 NO DANCE  
Jan 21 Donna Karpeles/Porch Dogs  
Jan 28 Greg McKenzie/Michael's Mixed Nuts  
Feb 4 Jonathan Southard/Growling Old Geezers  
Feb 11 Karen Fontana/Fiddle Tunas  
Feb 18 MARDI GRAS! Costumes Optional  
Gary Shapiro/Porch Dogs  
Feb 25 Barbara Stewart/Kristina & Her Hey 4 Four

Santa Barbara Contra Dances  
are co-sponsored by SBCDS and

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

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805-969-1511 contact@sbcdds.org www.sbcdds.org

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The Dance Star is produced quarterly. Editor: Keith Connes

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

The deadline for the next issue is February 1

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