

DANCE STAR

Join "The Barn Dance Project"

By Scott Williams

In an effort to attract new dancers to contra dancing and introduce Santa Barbara and our neighboring towns to the pleasures of the dance floor, a dedicated group of our dancers have formed **The Barn Dance Project**.

The organizers (Jude Conroy, Scott Williams, Donnalyn & Elliott Karpeles and Gary Shapiro) are enrolling interested & committed contra dancers to participate in an outreach program within our extended community. The Barn Dance Project offers to put on a Barn Dance, as a free group participation event at any business or community gathering of 30 or more people, anywhere in the Tri-County area. The band, caller and experienced dancers are supplied for free!

The first ever SBCDS 'Barn Dance' was held at the **World Fest 2008** on October 18th at Earl Warren Show Grounds. 25 eager and enthusiastic dancers showed up, along with a full band, dubbed **The Pick Up Artists**, and Elliott Karpeles did the calling. The dance was a tremendous success and was even briefly covered by KEYT, so we even wound up on the evening news. We ended the performance by handing out SBCDS dance schedules and a free coupon to their first dance. The turnout and interest in this event was very encouraging. Getting people to dance was as easy as asking. The World Fest organizers were so impressed that we were asked back to next year's event and also want us to participate at the much bigger S.B. Fair and Expo in

April 2009.

What the Barn Dance Project offers is a simple community building event whose objective is to expand our contra dancing community by exposing hundreds of potential dancers to what we do. We're committed to seeing our community outreach make a real difference in



our community, and we invite you to join us by adding your name to our data base of possible dancers at these events. We want to do Barn Dance Introductions throughout the Tri-County, so if you live in Santa Maria, Ventura, etc. please let us know if you could possibly participate. To help with the driving we will help

organize carpooling. Attendance is never mandatory, but if we have a large pool of possible's it will be easier and more fun to make each event a success.

To be added to the contact list please contact Scott at 805-451-9300 or scott@scottwilliams.com. Also if you have a suggestion or can think of a business that might like to put on a Barn Dance event, contact us to determine if it would be suitable.

Our next **Barn Dance** Event is coming up on February 22nd. The local organization **Santa Barbara New Comers** will be bringing 20-40 first time dancers to our regular Sunday night dance. There will be a special lesson starting at 5:30 so we'll need extra men that night. One last special thanks to everyone who made the first event such successful fun. It was wonderful to see what is possible when we work together for the community.

A History of Contra Dancing

(Part One)

by William Noack

Humans have always danced!

It seems to be a part of our nature to express joy, reverence, fellowship, as well as individuality through movement, especially to music. And among the forms which developed in the 1500's and 1600's in England were the roots of our present contras. These country dances – as opposed to the formal courtly dances where a misstep might elicit a beheading (OK, I exaggerate) – were enjoyed by the common folk – by everyone of all classes, adults and children. Even Queen Elizabeth enjoyed Country Dancing.

In 1651 the first collection of English country dances was published, which introduced country dancing to the wealthy and city dwellers where it also became popular. The longways set, which we now use, gradually over the decades of the 1600's became the most prevalent and enjoyed formation in country dancing.

As it is also human nature to be intrigued by the foreign, these English country dances were avidly adapted on the Continent, especially in France where they were called contredanses, a corruption of the term country dances.

Publication in England, while preserving and popularizing country dances among the gentry, also unfortunately caused the dance forms to lose much original spontaneity, joy, and simplicity. Standardized folk tunes would be attached to each particular dance, and there would be proper polite ways to perform each

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Jude's Journal:

Happy trails to Bill Ossa! Bill will be with the Peace Corps for three years in China. We'll miss your silly and fun antics Bill!

DANCING WITH OUR SENIOR SENIORS They are such an inspiration to me and I am sure to most dancers. We'd want to be able to have the desire AND the get up 'n go to attend a dance AND dance! **KUDOS TO ALL OF YOU!** Let us all "Keep it Grounded" for them by acknowledging our strengths and exuberance by transferring these gifts into gentleness and fun with them !!!

DANCING PROTOCOL:

THE WAVE: unless told differently by the caller, while holding hands, four across, stomp and look at the dancer to your **RIGHT**, then stomp and look at dancer on the **LEFT**. If wave is quickly repeated, (unless told differently by caller) stomp and look to the dancer on the **LEFT**, then **RIGHT**.

EXCITING NEWS!!! Simon Kiefer has joined the SBCCDS board. For the past year he has been scheduling the talent for our weekly dances and is responsible for all the wonderful bands and callers we've been so delighted in having on our stage.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Local dancer Nancy Breslin and her partner Tom Smith will be residing temporarily in Berkeley as they await the arrival of Nancy's first grandchild and setting herself up to be the loving, caring, cooing grandparent she's so excited to be! We will miss both your faces, so delight in your forthcoming wonderful event and hope to see you both 'on the dance floor' in SB whenever you get the chance.

Call, tell or email Jude Conroy about your travels, anniversaries or birthdays to be included in future Jude's Journal, 9jude6odie@roadrunner.com

Ojai Concert Series

The Ojai Concert Series provides a valuable service for traveling contra bands and a treat for music lovers. About once a month the OCS brings an evening of wonderful music to Ojai. The main focus is Celtic and Folk with lots of Contra and Roots Music from around the world. They often feature bands that are on a contra dance tour. **Jamie Laval, Ashley Broder, Notorious' Larry Unger & Eden MacAden-Somer** plus members of **Crowfoot** are a few of the artist you might remember dancing to. These concerts are held in downtown Ojai at the beautiful, 100 year old, *Ojai Valley Woman's Club* meeting hall and all profit goes to the artists.

OCS is run by local dancers Shane & Kelli Butler with help from Barbara Briggs and Joe Aleks. So come on out to Ojai for dinner then stay for a wonderful concert and help support live music.

Upcoming Shows

Dec. 22nd: **IRISH CHRISTMAS SHOW** with **Cul-An-Ti** a unique Japanese/Celtic fusion band from Portland and featuring local step dancers **Elizabeth & Deirdre Wood** of *Celtic Spring*.

Jan 14th: **Crowfoot**

Appalachian/Quebecois fusion Trio sensation (they are also a featured band at this year's *Contra Carnivale*)

Feb. 6th: **Tom Chapin**

Three time Grammy-winning Folk Singer and the brother of 70's folk legend Harry Chapin

For directions, carpooling or ticket info or to get on their mailing list go to www.ojaiconcertseries.com or call Shane at 805-665-8852.

Upcoming Contradance Camps

Contra Carnivale January 16-18 in San Luis Obispo CA.

Bands: The Groovemongers, Crowfoot & Notorious. Callers: Nils Friedland, Rick Mohr and Susan Petrick. www.cccds.org/carnivale

Fiddling Frog February 27 - March 1 in Pasadena, CA.

Band: Contrazz and The Lissa Schneckenburger Band. Caller: Kathy Anderson www.caldancecoop.org/cgi/frogdriver.cgi

BACDS Spring Weekend March 13-15 at Monte Toyon

Bands: The Raggedy Annes, The Guppies, and The Rhythm Rollers. Callers: Bob Isaacs and Linda Leslie. www.bacds.org/camps/springweekend

Dance Awakening April 10-12 at Harbin Hot Springs Middletown CA.

Band: The Figments. Caller: Rick Mohr. www.danceawakening.com

May Madness ContraFest May 15-17 in Prescott Az.

Bands: Groovemongers and the Privy Tippers. Callers: Beth Molaro and Kari Usher. www.folkhappens.org

OJAI'S THE PLACE!

Join us once again on Dec. 31 for an intimate **New Year's Eve Dance** in beautiful OJAI!

SUSAN MICHAELS will be calling, bringing her wonderful sense of humor, and ability to elevate the level of dancing to fit her flowing, synchronistic repertoire. **BONFIRE** will set your feet on fire with their unique configuration of the traditional.

Bonfire is: **BONNIE INSULL** on flute, pennywhistle, and foot percussion sparking the band with her passion for traditional, classical, and improvisational music, **RICHARD SCHER** playing keyboard & percussion, and bringing his extensive background in jazz, popular, and world music and **FRANK HOPPE**, who has been delighting dancers with his rhythmic fiddling for longer than he cares to remember.

The evening starts at 7:30 with an introductory lesson and hors d'oeuvres (*potluck dish is optional*) followed by live music & dancing from 8 PM 'til midnight, with special entertainment & refreshments planned for the break.

Ojai Art Center is located at 113 S. Montgomery St. Admission \$15, teens \$10.

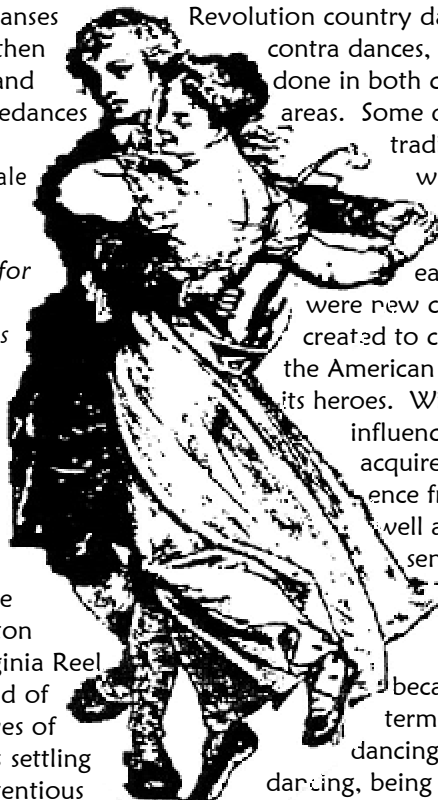
For further information, please call Karin @ (805) 933-0660, or e-mail her at: karincontra@juno.com

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movement, with some variations.

Meanwhile, on the Continent, lively new music for the contradance evolved alongside the dance form, much based on the folk tunes. In 1699 seventeen contredanses anglaises were published, then Mozart wrote a number, and Beethoven wrote 12 contredanses for orchestra, from one of which he developed the finale of the Eroica Symphony. *(This contradance music is eminently danceable, and for variety it would be fun to have an evening sometimes with 18th century music!)*

Country Dancing was brought to Colonial New England in the late 17th and 18th centuries where common folk as well as the gentry danced to the jigs and reels. One favorite dance of George Washington became known as the Virginia Reel But America, being the land of immigrants, soon had waves of rural Englishmen and Scots settling and bringing their less pretentious forms of country dancing to its shores. The spontaneity and



energy of rural English country dancing returned and evolved in New England.

Contra Dances were taught from New Hampshire to Charleston, and by the time of the American Revolution country dancing, mostly contra dances, were being done in both cities and rural areas. Some dances were the traditional ones which had been published over a century earlier, but others were new contra dances, created to commemorate the American Revolution and its heroes. With French influence helping us acquire our independence from Britain, as well as an anti-British sentiment in the colonies, the French term, contredanse, became the popular term for our type of dancing. And contra dancing, being democratic in nature, was a perfect activity for the sons and daughters of the American revolution.

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
PO Box 21904, Santa Barbara, CA 93121
The Dance Star is edited by Shane Butler.
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and letters to the editor, for considera-
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send everything to:

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.

SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR READERS:

Thank you all for your interest in receiving the Dance Star Calendar by mail for all these many years. We have decided to stop sending them out by regular mail, instead they will only be available at our regular local dances as well as a downloadable version on our website. This change is to save the cost of postage, the environment and a few trees. You can always get the dance schedule at our website, and while there, sign-up for our email list and receive regular announcements when the Dance Star is available for downloading. If you simple must receive a paper copy in the mail please respond by phone, mail or email to SBCDS and we will gladly continue to send you a copy every 3 months.

Dance Star
SBCDS, PO Box 21904,
Santa Barbara CA 93121-1904
805-682-1877 www.sbcds.org

DANCE SCHEDULE Winter 2008-09

Santa Barbara Contra Dances

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

Dance Every Sunday

\$8.00 unless otherwise noted

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CALLER</u>	<u>BAND</u>
Dec 7	James Hutson	Bonfire: Bonnie Insull, Richard Scher & Frank Hoppe
Dec 14	Jon Southard	Chopped Liver
Dec 21	Susan Petrick	Whitetop Mountaineers from the Appalachians with special guests Jim and Amber Mueller
Dec 25 FREE DANCE	Erik Hoffman	Bayou Seco and Friends <i>A Holiday Tradition</i> "Bring the family"
Dec 28	Gary Shapiro	Contradictions
Jan 4	John Rogers	Dogwood: Up from LA in their SB debut.
Jan 11 Special dance \$10.00	Adina Gordon Guest caller from North Carolina	Chopped Liver with Special guest
Jan 18	NO DANCE! Everyone's gone up to Contra Carnivale up in San Luis Obispo!	
Jan 25	Gary Shapiro	Atlantic Crossing returning from Los Angeles
Feb 1	Susan Michaels	Syncopaths from LA with Jeff Spero, Ryan McKasson, Christa Burch & Bill Flores
Feb 8 Special dance \$10.00	Susan Petrick	On concert/contra tour Jamie Laval with Jeff Spero on piano
Feb 15	Jean Gibson-Gorrindo	Michael's Mixed Nuts
Feb 22	Donnalyn Karpeles	Growling Old Geezers

SBCDS English Country Dances

805-682-5523 www.sbcds.org/ecd/
All dances led by Gary Shapiro and/or Alice Williams.
Music is recorded (unless noted)

Santa Barbara Dances

Westside Community Center, 423 W. Victoria St.
Dance every Wednesday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$3 (\$6 if live music)

Special Pre Potluck Thanksgiving Afternoon Dance

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2 to 5 p.m. at the Carrillo Ballroom.
Guest caller Sharon Green from Oakland,
Music by Pâté de Foie Gras (*Michael Mendelson, Suzanne Duffy and Jeff Spero*). \$8

No Dances on Dec. 24th and 31st

Ventura Dances

2300 Knoll Dr. #L, Ventura
(Look for balloons marking the driveway to enter, which will put you at the back entrance)

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

\$5 adults, \$4 students 12-24, \$1 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 10:30 (7:00 Workshop) Admission \$9

Dec. 1	Jean Gibson-Gorrindo	Paddy O'Furniture
Jan. 16-18	Contra Carnivale with The Groovemongers, Crowfoot & Notorious playing and Nils Friedland, Rick Mohr and Susan Petrick calling. For info: 805-682-8248	
Feb. 9	Jean Gibson-Gorrindo	Michael Gutin Band

Ojai Contra Dances

OJAI ART CENTER, 113 S. Montgomery St
805-933-0660 www.ojaiartcenter.org/dance

NEW YEARS EVE CONTRA CELEBRATION

Wednesday, Dec. 31st 8:30-12:30 PM

Caller: Susan Michaels

Band: BONFIRE with Bonnie Insull on flute,
Rich Scher on piano, Frank Hoppe on fiddle

See page 3 for all the details!

Jan 24 Caller and Band TBA (call for more information)