



# Bay Area Country Dancer

No.86– June 2011

[www.bacds.org](http://www.bacds.org)

## You're a Good Man, Charlie Fenton!

Mark your calendars now! It's a contra dance celebration of Charlie Fenton, a "thank you" for nearly 30 years of volunteering and contributions to the Bay Area dance community.

**Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8 p.m. – 11 p.m.**

**St. Paul's Presbyterian Church**

43<sup>rd</sup> Ave & Judah St, San Francisco

Regular SF Contra Dance Pricing: \$8 members, \$10 non-members, \$5 students

While Charlie continues to call, he recently retired from managing and programming the SF Contra as well as the ever-popular No Snow Ball. As a founder, initiator, organizer, programmer, caller, and a man of both wisdom and action, Charlie is the reason we've had these events to enjoy through the years.

Charlie was one of our dancing pioneers and formed part of the foundation upon which the strong Bay Area contra dance community developed and continues to develop. One of its initial members, he served on the BACDS board for its first seven years. Over time, Charlie's dance and music interests have extended beyond BACDS contra and include San Francisco Folk Music Club, Camp Harmony, English Country, Irish, Scottish, the Plowshares Coffee House Concert Series at Fort Mason Center and his famous January music parties.

An all-star line-up of some of Charlie's favorite musicians features:

- \* Cathie Whitesides
- \* Daniel Steinberg
- \* Chris Knepper
- \* Charlie Hancock
- \* Kathrine Gardner

Sound by: Marty Brenneis

A cavalcade of callers near and dear to Charlie will include:

- ♥ Erik Hoffman
- ♥ Kirston Koths
- ♥ Eric Black
- ♥ Nick Cuccia
- ♥ Joyce Miller
- ♥ Lynn Ackerson
- ♥ Susan Petrick
- ♥ Warren Blier

Program Coordinators: Kirston Koths and Erik Hoffman.

Sponsored by: BACDS, the San Francisco Contra Committee & many, many friends

The evening will include tasty refreshments and amusing blasts from the past. (Anyone with pictures, memorabilia or other nuggets can contact event organizers at [CelebrateCharlie2011@gmail.com](mailto:CelebrateCharlie2011@gmail.com).)

Messages to Charlie are also encouraged and can be forwarded to that email as well. Please note that these may be made public at the dance.

Join in the celebration of **You're a Good Man, Charlie Fenton**, a BACDS Thank You to Charlie for his many, many years of service. It will be night of remembrances and a night to remember.

## Woodshed Dance Series: A Practice Venue for Callers and Musicians

*by Alan Winston*

BACDS is sponsoring a monthly second-Tuesday "Woodshed" dance series, with the first session on June 14, 2011, at the Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton, 150 Watkins Avenue (near Middlefield), 8:00 - 10:00 pm.

This is the place to be for dance geeks!

The idea is to provide callers a place to polish material before presenting it to paying customers at a regular BACDS dance. Experienced callers can try out newly choreographed dances or practice their latest favorites, and new callers can begin to finesse their style and timings.

Since the dancers are experimental subjects who are encouraged to voice opinions and make suggestions, the dancers get in free, and the callers pay the minimal expenses. (At Holbrook-Palmer Park, the rent is \$25 a night, so we just divide the charge among everybody who calls.) We expect callers to take their turns as dance guinea pigs, as well. Dancers, you should already know the basics.

Organizer Alan Winston will try to make sure that there are some experienced dance musicians present. This is a good spot for English musicians who want to try out playing for contra; contra musicians who want to try out playing for English; and musicians who want to learn how to play in an ensemble for dances. If you'd like to play, it helps a lot if you can sight read or learn by ear very quickly.

<http://www.bacds.org/series/woodshed/atherton/> for maps, directions.

## Contra College 2011: A Focus on Learning

by Joyce Fortune

Last year, I had a vision of a teaching weekend that I wanted to create and my husband James, Susan Petrick, Eric Anderson, and Lee Anne Welch helped me make it happen. Contra College was an amazing weekend. We had a variety of dancers, from brand new to quite experienced, who connected with a singular purpose: learning contra dance. The small group setting (30 dancers) and the focus on learning made the weekend quite unique. Here's what was special about last year:

- At a local dance, callers usually plan a progression of steps so that newcomers can easily handle the first few dances and experienced dancers will not get bored by the end. This progression from easier to harder figures theoretically helps the newer dancers learn, but sometimes by the time they go to their next dance, the learning has faded and they need to start again. For Contra College, Susan and I carefully planned a curriculum that involved a slow progression of dance moves which allowed the dancers to become confident with the current repertoire of steps before adding more. By having the whole weekend for this process, the dancers were able to become proficient at the new steps as they went along reinforcing them.
- Usually at local dances and weekends, there is a certain proportion of the group that just wants to dance and has little patience for explanation, teaching, and developing skills. These folks usually start chatting amongst themselves if the caller goes on for too long talking about dancing. At Contra College, though, dancers chose the weekend based on a desire to learn and improve. Everyone knew what our collective goal was, and this allowed us to spend the time that some people want and need to learn how to dance.
- At local dances and weekends, there is not a lot of time and space set aside for deconstructing the dances. At Contra College, after each dance, we would discuss what worked, what didn't, what we noticed, how it felt, and what we could do differently. The small group atmosphere allowed everyone to contribute, to talk through problems and their solutions, and offer suggestions and tips.
- The time spent talking between dances also prevented newer members from becoming too tired. Dancing tune after tune with little time in between for hours is exhausting and the process of learning the dance vocabulary, dance-floor orientation, and how to connect is hard work. We danced fewer dances and rested more between them, allowing us to really enjoy the pace of learning.
- At local dances, it can take months to get to know people, and at weekends with 100 or 200 dancers, it can be hard to make connections. Usually we talk to the people we already know and newer dancers can feel left out. The size of the group at Contra College along with having meals together helped the group to bond. The people who attended last year are like a family and still have that connection when they meet each other at local dances.
- Something I had not expected was that Contra College would be a great place to bring a romantic partner who would like to be a better dance partner but isn't so good at just picking it up as they go. Several of the people attending were brought by their significant others, and they found the warm, accepting environment a great place to learn to dance and share in this activity with their sweeties.

The tradition in country dancing is to just pick it up as you go and specifically not have dance classes. Several fairly prominent people questioned my desire to have this sort of weekend, fearing that the message would become, "you can't do contra dance unless you take lessons." They fear that contra dance will become like modern western square dancing, and some sort of strict teaching guidelines will be put into place.

Although I understand their fears and also appreciate the fact that you can just "jump into" country dancing without formal instruction, I also recognize that there is a variety of people out there. Some of us feel more comfortable with a formal style of teaching. Contra College is not for everyone, but it is a way of reaching out to different kinds of new dancers and building our community. It is also, by the way, an excellent place to learn to dance the opposite gender role.

Contra College will be an urban weekend this year, located in the beautiful and historic Woman's Club of Palo Alto, easily accessible and centrally-located on the Peninsula. It will be held November 11- 13, starting with dinner on Friday night and ending with a special session open to the public on Sunday afternoon called "Contra Grad School" for more experienced dancers who would like to polish their skills and add embellishments. The cost of the weekend is \$140 (including 5 meals), and financial aid is available. Susan Petrick will be the main caller/teacher for the weekend, and a variety of local bands will be providing the music. Please look for details on a flyer table near you or at [www.bacds.org/camps](http://www.bacds.org/camps).

## Memorial Dance for Patsy Bolt

by Sharon Green

The Bay Area memorial dance for Patsy Bolt (mentioned in last quarter's newsletter) will take place on Sunday, July 24th, from 2 to 5 PM, at the Lucie Stern Ballroom, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

Before their move to Santa Barbara, Patsy and her husband Fred Perner lived in Palo Alto and were active members of the Peninsula-based display teams Mayfield Morris and Sword, and Deer Creek Morris Men.

Sharon Green is the M.C. for this free English country dance and celebration of Patsy's life sponsored by Fred Perner. Bill Jensen, Stan Kramer, and Jim Oakden are the band. The afternoon will also feature a special performance by Bufflehead Morris, the northwest morris team for whom Patsy played melodeon.

Friends wishing to help with the memorial should write to event organizers Bill and Cathy Bryg, [the.brygs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:the.brygs@sbcglobal.net). Those wishing to send their condolences to Fred may reach him at 742 Calle Alella, Santa Barbara CA 93109

# San Francisco Contra Summer Line-Up

by Ellen Eagen

The San Francisco Contra has a wonderful line up of bands and callers to provide contra dance fun all through the summer. Come dance with us on 1st and 3rd Saturdays and 4th Fridays. Please check the BACDS Web site for more information.

The San Francisco Contra also has some special events planned for the summer; be sure to reserve time for these events on your calendar!

## Saturday, July 2: Eric Weberg and Hammer & Strings

Dancers' feet will be sending up sparks as Eric Weberg (OR) calls dances that make you glad you are a contra dancer. Hammer & String (NY) (Rhys Jones, Cleek Schrey, and John Hermann) play driving dance tunes that will bring you onto the dance floor for a raucous celebration of music and movement!

## Saturday, July 16: You're a Good Man, Charlie Fenton

Whether you have been dancing 30 years or 30 days, you have Charlie Fenton to thank for the gift of contra dance in the City by the Bay if you have ever contra danced in San Francisco. Enjoy the talent of many musicians and callers. Share the dance floor with Charlie and others whose memories of contra dancing include:

- A walk down the hall and back
- An old chestnut danced across the hall
- Long, lovely swings with so many dancers

Bring a snack, photos if you have any, your dancing shoes, a smile, and a hearty "thank you for the dance" – for Charlie Fenton. (For more information, see the article on page 1)

## Sunday, August 14: Groovemongers with Steve Zakon-Anderson

Come dance with us this evening to the exciting and varied calling of Steve Zakon-Anderson and the put-you-in-the-dance-zone playing of the Groovemongers (CW Abbott, Mark Hellenberg, Rebecca McCallum, and Jane Knoeck). It's the perfect way to end the weekend OR begin the week – great music, great dances, and great folks to share the evening with.

## Balance the Bay

We're gearing up for our 4th annual San Francisco contra dance weekend extravaganza! We expect to fill up early this year, so register now if you haven't already done so.

<i>The When</i>	August 12-14, 2011
<i>The Where</i>	Janet Pomoroy Center, San Francisco
<i>The Talent</i>	The Groovemongers, Contra Sutra, Steve Zakon-Anderson & Deb Comly
<i>The "Color"</i>	Polka Dots
<i>The T-Shirts and Totes:</i>	Choose from a variety of colors this year. Check them out on our website at <a href="http://www.bacds.org/btb/tshirts">www.bacds.org/btb/tshirts</a> . Be sure to place your order now to take advantage of the early bird price discount.
<i>The website</i>	<a href="http://www.bacds.org/btb">www.bacds.org/btb</a> for more details about the weekend

Looking forward to another great BTB weekend of wonderful music, dance, and friends! Hope to see you there!

## Special Summer Dances!

by Bill Ward

Join us this summer for an extravaganza of contra dance goodness. Whenever out-of-town talent comes to the area for a dance camp, we try to book them for one or more additional dances in the area. These dances are always a lot of fun and attract the best of the dance community for a rocking good time. The bands and callers staffing American Week (early July) and Balance the Bay (mid-August) will be playing at local dance venues, so even if you can't attend the camps, you can still enjoy the special talent.

### American Dance and Music Week

We have four special dances featuring talented musicians and callers who will be staffing American Week (July 3-8). You won't want to miss any of these great dances!

- Friday, July 1: Contra Dance with The Avant Gardeners and Will Mentor in Felton (near Santa Cruz, presented by TDSC\*)
- Saturday, July 2: Contra Dance with Erik Weberg and Hammer & String in an American Week Warm-Up Dance at St. Paul's Church in San Francisco
- Friday, July 8: Special Contra Dance with all three bands and both callers in a post-American Week Spectacular Blow-Out Dance at the Lucie Stern Center in Palo Alto
- Saturday, July 9: Contra Dance with Will Mentor and Crowfoot at First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto
- Sunday, July 10: Special Contra Dance with Will Mentor and Hammer & String at the Masonic Hall in San Rafael (presented by NBCDS\*)

**The Avant Gardeners** are the creative collaboration of Virginia fiddler, singer, and composer Laura Light and Alaskan wild man and keyboard wizard George Paul. They delight dancers everywhere with traditional American fiddle styles, swing influenced improvisation, and eclectic compositions.

**Crowfoot**, from Québec, weaves musical influences from England, Ireland, Québec, and the Appalachian Mountains along with their own original compositions into a captivating fusion that delights dancers and listeners alike. The band consists of Adam Broome on Guitar and Cittern; Jaige Trudel on Fiddle and Cello; and Nicholas Williams on Flutes, Accordion, and Bodhran.

**Hammer & String**, from New York, explores the cross-Atlantic boundaries between Appalachia and Ireland, conducting a musical conversation with all the texture, sparks, and improvisation of virtuosic performers, spanning continents and centuries. Band members are Rhys Jones on Fiddle, Banjo, and Guitar; Cleek Schrey on Fiddle and Piano; and Joel Wennerstrom on Banjo and Guitar.

**Erik Weberg**, from Portland, OR, is equally adept at contra and English calling, and chooses dances that are tailor-made for the occasion at hand. Erik's ability to connect with dancers and his sly sense of humor insure an upbeat, congenial atmosphere on the floor as well as a terrific dance experience.

**Will Mentor**, from Vermont, is a popular caller whose clarity and energy will delight you. Will has been described as "a great teacher, endlessly amusing, and someone who has all his calling priorities straight!" With over fifteen years of calling experience, Will has developed an excellent contra and square dance repertoire.

Each year BACDS puts on the American Dance and Music Week. In the past it's been held up north in Mendocino, but this year, it's right here in the bay area, at the Jones Gulch YMCA Camp in La Honda. Just a few miles southwest of Palo Alto, this is a much more accessible location for bay area dancers. As of this writing, it's not too late to sign up! For more information or to register, go to [www.bacds.org/camps/amweek2011/](http://www.bacds.org/camps/amweek2011/).

Besides the bands and callers mentioned here, American Week also features the Avant Gardeners (Laura Light & George Paul), couple dancing with Erik Erhardt and Karina Wilson, and Given Harrison (CA) leading the Jam-O-Rama on bass, guitar, and mandolin. The week is not just for dancers; music workshops and sessions will provide a chance for musicians to build up their skills.

### **Balance the Bay**

This year, three local dances provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the fabulous bands and callers staffing our fourth annual event. Hardy dancers attending the weekend have an opportunity to dance five days in a row! See the article on page 3 for details about the weekend; there's still time to sign up; go to <http://www.bacds.org/btb> for more information

- Thursday, August 11: Warm up for the weekend with Steven Zakon-Anderson and the Groovemongers at the Masonic Temple in San Rafael (NBCDS\*)
- Sunday, August 14: Prolong the weekend groove with Steven Zakon-Anderson and the Groovemongers at St. Paul's Church in San Francisco
- Monday, August 15: Begin the week with a special dance at the First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto with Deb Comly and Contra Sutra

**Groovemongers**, based in upstate New York, features Rebecca McCallum on fiddle, Jane Knoeck on keyboard and accordion, C.W. Abbott on mandolin, and Mark Hellenberg on percussion. For the past 14 years, the Groovemongers have been thrilling contra dancers with a world beat approach to dance music. From Celtic to Calypso, Southern to Salsa, Old England to New England, Motown to Cape Town, plus a liberal dose of American Rock 'n' Roll, the Groovemongers' memorable tunes and driving rhythms fuse into a spicy mix that is irresistibly danceable.

**Contra Sutra**, from the Pacific Northwest, features Dave Bartley on guitar, mandolin, and other fretted instruments; Ryan McKasson on fiddle and viola; Marni Rachmielon flute, sax, piccolo, and other woodwinds and reeds; and Russell S on percussion. Their tunes are a mix of familiar favorites with a funky twist and new tunes, many by band members and friends, infused with pop moments, African rhythms, swing, and a wicked sense of humor.

**Steven Zakon-Anderson** (MA) has been calling contras, teaching couples dance, and leading workshops for callers for over 25 years. Steve's clear teaching, precise calling, and sense of humor have made him a favorite of dancers of all ages and abilities.

**Deb Comly** (AZ) As an avid dancer, organizer, and occasional musician, Known for her bright, clear teaching and her smooth contralto calls, Deb brings a fresh scrubbed sultry playfulness to her dances. From her beaming smile to her happy feet, Deb's energy is contagious.

\* All dances are presented by BACDS, except the San Rafael dances which are run by NBCDS ( [www.nbcds.org](http://www.nbcds.org)) and the Felton dance which is run by TDSC ( [www.santacruzdance.org](http://www.santacruzdance.org)).

## **The President's Corner**



**From the President:** The coming summer is going to be awesome.

If you look at the other flyers in the mailing that came with this newsletter, you'll see that BACDS has put together a summer program lineup that is just fabulous. And it wasn't just the "old guard" regular volunteers who did the work. Lots of new volunteers have stepped up and brought new energy with them.

Let's look at the summer camps first.

*English Week* is in a new location this year. And it's moved from early July to late August. Any time you move an event, you risk a drop in attendance, and anything offered in the tail end of August risks losing people who have to get back to start school. But did they lose people? No... *English Week* filled up fast, and has a long waiting list. The program, by *Mary Devlin*, was just too appealing, and the special ECD Musicians Course that

was built into it, thanks to a grant from the *Chuck Ward Fund*, has also proved incredibly popular. English Week has always had a strong committee, but this time they've outdone themselves. Although I'm still wondering why they need to import all those ukuleles ...

*American Week* is also in a new location this year, but still in the same time slot. The committee went through a transition last year, as *Judy Rose Dornbush* and *Joyce Cooper* handed off camp management to *Diane Zingale* and *Eric Black*. The reorganized committee is shaping up well, and with programmer *Laura Light* working her magic for the second year, they have put together a splendid camp. It's not full yet, however. Jones' Gulch has room for *more* people than we could ever fit at Mendocino, so there's still space. Some of you on the English Week waiting list should take notice. Diane's perfectly happy to insert a thread of English dance into the program, officially or unofficially. *American Week* is also a real bargain this year. The base price has been reduced by over \$200 from last year, and there are special rates for young people, for the unemployed, and you can even get in *free* if you persuade three other people to come to camp.

*Family Week* also still has space. It appears to be traditional that Family Week campers sign up late, so we're not worried. The Family Week community has built up considerable momentum in the last few years. But get the word out to your friends. It's probably the most eclectic, interesting, and fun dance camp you'll ever attend. The stellar teaching staff includes *Michael Barraclough*, *DeLaura Padovan*, *Julie James*, and programmer *Kalia Kliban*. There's a storyteller, arts and crafts, and more. You don't have to bring your kids, but if you do, they'll be well entertained, and so will you.

*Balance the Bay* is gearing up for its fourth successful year. There's already a waiting list, but you've still got a chance to get in if you sign up soon. This is *Lynn Ackerson's* third year as programmer, and she's lined up a staff that will dance your socks off. The core committee is still together and going strong, and doing well at its secondary task of spinning off trained volunteers who can run other events. And they're all convinced that polka dot is a color, at least on the dance floor. You'll have to be there to experience it.

And then there are all the spin-off dances and workshops that we've put together with the people who are coming out to staff these camps. Along with our friends at NBCDS, we've lined up at least three special dances before and after *American Week*, and three more before and after *Balance the Bay*. So if you can't get to camp to dance to these wonderful folks, you can still enjoy them before and after. If you are going to *Balance the Bay*, you can emulate the East Coast *Iron Dancer* program by dancing straight through from Thursday to Monday. Also, *Michael Barraclough* is going to be calling dances and teaching workshops in the weeks leading up to Family Week, and *John Garden*, an English Dance teacher from Australia, will be passing through in late June. Come to the special workshop and dance on Sunday June 26 to find out if they really do circle the other way Down Under.

As I said, it's going to be an awesome summer. Don't miss it.

~ *Jens Dill*, BACDS President, bacds-president@bacds.org

## Volunteer Thanks

- ♪ Thanks to *Charlie Fenton* for over 30 years of contributions to the San Francisco Contra and the *No Snow Ball*. Charlie's retired from both duties, and handed them over to the San Francisco Contra Committee. He's not retired from calling, however, and will still be an important resource for BACDS. Please come to the special SF Contra dance in his honor on Saturday, July 16.
- ♪ Thanks to the new San Francisco Contra Committee (*Ellen Eagan*, *Kris Inman*, *Marcia Rosenblatt*, *Maria Markoff*, *Mavis McGaugh*, *Yale Rosenblatt*) for taking the baton from Charlie and running with it so well. Anyone wanting to join the committee should speak to Yale.
- ♪ Thanks also to the SF Contra Committee for putting together the special tribute to *Charlie Fenton* at the July 16<sup>th</sup> SF Contra.
- ♪ Thanks to the summer camp committees (*American Week*, *English Week*, and *Family Week*) for putting together such splendid camp offerings for the summer.
- ♪ Thanks to everyone who went the extra mile to put together the special extra dances before and after *American Week* and *Balance the Bay*. This includes, but is not limited to, *Alan Winston*, *Bill Ward*, *Charlie Fenton*, *Diane Zingale*, *Eric Black*, *Jens Dill*, *Jim Saxe*.
- ♪ Thanks to the *Spring Fever* committee (*Jens Dill*, *Kathleen Weiler*, *Lori Honzik*, *Peggy Chipkin*, *Ric Goldman*, *Sam Weiler*, *Sharyn Peterson*, *Stewart Hall*, *Yona Ran*) for putting together a splendid weekend (although Peggy and Lori were unable to attend). *Spring Fever* was a really magical experience this year. Everybody did *both* English and Contra (it was some of the most energetic and wild English Country dancing I've seen, and some of the most on-time and wild Contra), and we had such a good time that we hardly noticed the gender imbalance (There were 25+ extra women, but we still had guys dancing together). The weekend turned a profit this year after three straight years of losses. Programmer *Sam Weiler* and the rest of the committee will be back next year to do even better.
- ♪ Thanks to the *Playford Ball Committee* and their triple-crown of committee co-chairs (*Jody Distler-Dill*, *Joyce Cooper*, and *Shirley Worth*) for putting together another stellar ball. The San Jose Woman's Club building really *is* a most elegant venue. Thanks to *Joyce and Dave Uggl*a for all their years of hosting the Playford Brunch. They passed the torch to *Jody and Jens Dill* this year, but stayed around to get us off on the right feet.
- ♪ Thanks to *Les Addison* and *Joyce Fortune* for getting *Contra College* organized for its second year. Thanks to Les's efforts to find a new venue, CC is being recreated as an urban camp, based at the Woman's Club of Palo Alto, and has expanded to include *Contra Grad School*, a special closing dance event open to the public.
- ♪ Thanks to the *Dress Guild* (*Diane Zingale*, *Ellen Eagan*, *Ellen Wall*, *Jody Distler-Dill*, *Joyce Cooper*, *Judy Rose Dornbush*, *Kathleen Fletcher*, *Lynn Ackerson*, *Merrie Sennett*, *Sharyn Peterson*) for washing, mending,

ironing, and delivering the dresses, skirts, and shirts that were sold at *Spring Fever* weekend, and will be sold at *Faultline Frolic* and the camps this summer, to benefit *American Dance and Music Week*.

- ♪ Thanks to *Mary Luckhardt* for putting BACDS's membership records back in order. She's still got some work to do, so the next Directory probably won't come out until January or later. Thanks to *Shirley Worth* for offering to put together the Directory again.
- ♪ Thanks to *Sharon Green* for organizing the special workshop and dance for *John Garden* on June 26.
- ♪ Thanks to *Alan Winston* for taking the initiative in starting the upcoming "Woodshed" series of practice sessions for callers, and to *Ric Goldman*, who was instrumental in arranging the venue.
- ♪ Thanks to *Joyce Cooper, Linda Braswell, Shirley Worth, Susan Keeney* and others who are well along in the planning stages for starting a new dance series in San Jose. Things may finally be falling into place. Keep your fingers crossed.
- ♪ Thanks to *Lynn Ackerson*, who is taking a sabbatical from calling starting this summer. We'll miss you, Lynn.
- ♪ Thank you to Rhonda Cayford and Kirston Koths for their efforts to put together a 30th anniversary celebration for BACDS. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest in the community to make this happen. We'll just have to pick another number and try again later.
- ♪ Thanks to our outgoing BACDS Board members. *Cory Rundle, Ellen Wall, Mary Hill, and Will Kruse*. Thanks also to all our returning Board members, and to *Jeff Clements*, who is joining the Board for the first time, and *Ric Goldman*, who is returning. We still have room for three more Board members if anyone is interested in joining mid-year.
- ♪ Thanks to *everyone* who has helped to make our dances more welcoming to newcomers. I can't get enough of people telling me how friendly and welcoming our dances are. It takes a good bit of extra effort to keep the newcomers in mind as you dance, but we're doing it. And it's paying off. Keep up the good work.
- ♪ I can't possibly remember all the people who need to be thanked for their efforts. If I fail to mention someone, let me know, and I'll add them next time.

### Upcoming Events

June 11	Mad Robin Ball	Andrew Shaw ( <a href="http://www.madrobin.org">www.madrobin.org</a> )
June 17 – 19	Faultline Frolic ( <a href="http://www.nbcds.org">www.nbcds.org</a> )	Seth Tepfer with Dr. Groove
June 24 – 26	San Francisco Free Folk Festival	<a href="http://www.sffolkfest.org">www.sffolkfest.org</a>
June 26	Workshop and Dance	John Garden
July 1	Pre-AmWeek Dance	Will Mentor with The Avant Gardeners, in Felton
July 2	Pre-AmWeek Dance	Erik Weberg with Hammer & String, in SF
July 3-8	American Dance and Music Week	at Jones Gulch Camp ( <a href="http://bacds.org/amweek">bacds.org/amweek</a> )
July 3-9	BACDS Family Week	at Foothill Horizons ( <a href="http://bacds.org/familyweek">bacds.org/familyweek</a> )
July 8	Special Contra Dance	With American Week Staff, at Lucie Stern Center, Palo Alto
July 9	Post-AmWeek Dance	Will Mentor with Crowfoot, in Palo Alto
July 10	Special Contra Dance	Will Mentor with Hammer & String, in San Rafael
July 16	You're a Good Man, Charlie Fenton	St. Paul's, San Francisco
July 26	Patsy Bolt Memorial Dance	Lucie Stern Center, Palo Alto
Aug 11	Pre-BtB Dance	Steve Zakon-Anderson with the Groovemongers, in San Rafael
August 12-14	Balance the Bay Contra Weekend	Steve Zakon-Anderson, Deb Comly The GrooveMongers, Contra Sutra ( <a href="http://bacds.org/btb">bacds.org/btb</a> )
Aug 14	Post-BtB Dance	Steve Zakon-Anderson with the Groovemongers, in San Francisco
Aug 15	Post BtB dance	Deb Comly with Contra Sutra, in Palo Alto
Aug 21- 28	Hey Days English Dance and Music Week	At the Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg ( <a href="http://bacds.org/eweek">bacds.org/eweek</a> )
Sep 16-18	Echo Summit Contra Dance Weekend	Lisa Leslie, Will Mentor with Tidal Wave and Rumblestrip ( <a href="http://www.sactocds.org/">www.sactocds.org/</a> )

See [bacds.org](http://bacds.org) for more information. For events sponsored by neighboring organizations, see [nbcds.org](http://nbcds.org) (NBCDS), [scds.ca](http://scds.ca) (SCDS), [sffmc.org](http://sffmc.org) (SFFMC), [santacruzdance.org](http://santacruzdance.org) (TDSC), [haywardcontradance.org](http://haywardcontradance.org) (TDOGS).

This issue was edited by Julie Thomas and Loretta Guarino Reid. Send corrections to [<caljuliet@comcast.net>](mailto:caljuliet@comcast.net).  
Deadline for Fall *Dancer*: Aug 15. Send submissions to [caljuliet@comcast.net](mailto:caljuliet@comcast.net). Please join the conversation.