

FRIDAY Feb. 24 in San Fran. with Erik Hoffman

St Paul's Church, 43rd Ave & Judah St, 8 to 11 pm, \$12 (members \$10, students/youth \$6) Sponsored by the Bay Area Country Dance Society, **www.bacds.org/pa-contra**

SATURDAY Feb. 25 in Palo Alto with Erik Hoffman

First United Methodist Chuch, 625 Hamilton, 8 to 11 pm, \$12 (members \$10, students \$6) Sponsored by the Bay Area Country Dance Society, www.bacds.org/sf-contra

SUNDAY Feb. 26 in Hayward with Claire Zucker and Kelsey Hartman

Hill and Valley Club, 1808 B St, 4 to 7 pm, \$10 (students/youth \$5)

Sponsored by the Traditional Dancers of the Golden State, www.haywardcontradance.org

Newcomers ... are welcome. Contra Dancing is fun and easy to learn.

Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes and arrive half an hour early for the newcomers' orientation.

STEAM is ... kick-ass reels, slinky jigs, beautiful dynamic harmonies... topped off with romantic waltzes to make for a beautiful evening of dancing. **www.dancetosteam.webs.com**

Dave Firestine: Dave's precise, driving style is spiked with eclectic twists and syncopated "grab you" moments. His mandolin or bouzouki adds imaginative freshness to every tune. Dave is the renowned jam meister at the Walnut Valley Festival

in Winfield, KS each Sept.; he regularly teaches at music camps around the U.S.; he has recorded eight CDs with various bands; he won Tucson's best strings player in 2009.

Robert Rosenberg: Robert rocks the rhythm guitar, and then pounces on a flatpick lead or picks a banjo tune to top it all off. He has given the rhythmic groove to numerous Colorado based bands in the past and brings a wealth of sound, texture

and rhythms to his sets. Robert teaches guitar & banjo; he recorded two CDs; he was a Telluride flatpicking finalist; he joins Dave to lead Winfield's Carp jams.

Claire Jamieson Zucker: Claire's bodhrán playing is rich and dynamic, evoking emotions with her skillful use of both tone and rhythm. She clogs up a storm on old time sets and romance is in the air when she sings STEAM's original waltzes or when

she lilts on lovely dance tunes. Claire has recorded four CDs; she teaches a wide variety of workshops at festivals; she won Tucson's best female vocalist in 2009; she is also a fun and energetic caller.

Alice Boyle: Wow! Alice has taken her concert violist chops and has happily released them into the creative joyful zen that is so emblematic of contra dance music. She fills the hall; shining through with both

bright top end fiddling and lovely rich deep harmonies. Besides leading the Dire Ducks, she plays with the London, Ontario band Scallywag and makes appearances with several other local bands.

