



Bay Area Country Dancer

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www.bacds.org

Family Week 2014

Join us for another wonderful Family Week, near the town of Sonora in the Sierra Foothills. This year, camp will be held a week later than usual (following BACDS' American Week): July 6 through 12, 2014. We're trying something new this year: we'll have three morning class sessions, with a more relaxed afternoon that includes "Round Up" (an all-camp gathering), swimming, more dancing, and games.



The morning dance classes for adults and teens starts out with Contra dancing led by Carol Ormand, a superb caller from Madison, Wisconsin. Our own Kalia Kliban will then teach English country dance, with music for both classes provided by the Raggedy Annes (Anne Goess, Andy Eggleston, and Charlie Hancock). Following that: Irish sets taught by Michael Riemer, which was one of the most popular sessions last year. Also, teen rapper sword will return!

In other morning classes, budding and experienced musicians can take tutorials from staff musicians, join a camper band led by the amazing Will Wheeler, or work on repertoire at any speed with Kevin Carr. Margaret Miles returns again to lead us in song, and Carol will lead a caller's workshop.



During these three morning sessions, the 5 – 12 year olds will be learning Morris dance (taught by Julie James and Randall and Rhonda Cayford); joining together in traditional American kids' dance, song, and games (taught by Evo Bluestein, leader of weeklong school programs like this for many years); and creating really fun art projects (led by Emily Janssen and Lorraine Kostka). Family Camp veterans David James, David Brown, and Kathrine Gardner will be providing the music for these dance classes.

We're delighted that Annie Johnstone, our preschool teacher, will return to lead adventures with the youngest campers during the morning.

After a few hours in the pool (under the watchful eye of the ever-affable Stan Fowler) and a visit to the snack shop, there will be some wonderful choices for afternoon sessions: square dancing led by Nick Cuccia, stilt-walking with Andrea Veltman, a folk jam for all led by Evo, or meadow games (bring your favorite!).

Then there's an hour break to rest up, visit, and get ready for the evening: dinner, family dancing, stories from Kevin, and Pied Piper, where the entire community joins Jerry Allen to lead the younger kids off to bed in a lullaby parade. While roving babysitters keep an eye on the kids in their bunks, we can settle down for an evening dance featuring our wonderful music and calling staff.

As it has for over twenty years, Family Week features every style of dance that BACDS offers, wrapped up in a single week of camp. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Families of all sizes, from three generations' worth to single adults with no kids, are invited to come join in the fun. Visit our website at www.bacds.org/familyweek for all the details, further encouragement, and to register. Hope to see you there!



May Day in Palo Alto

by Kaela Fine

This year, join us to dance the sun up at the Baylands with **Mad Molly** and **Deer Creek Morris Men**.

Dancing starts at 5:30 am and includes both morris performances and audience participation dances. Directions: take Embarcadero East from the US-101 to the end of the road, turn left, go past the airport, and bear right, past the Duck Pond and the Ranger Station to the parking lot on the left. Be prepared to join in as we'll be teaching dances to the audience as well - good fun for all!

A potluck breakfast will be hosted by Kaela of Mad Molly: 3482 South Court, Palo Alto (between East Meadow and El Verano). Phone: 650-283-9529 if you get lost.

For more information, especially about other performances these teams may be doing during the day, check the team websites. As the time gets nearer, you can check the BACDS May Day web page, <http://bacds.org/mayday>.

Editor's Note: If you can't get to Palo Alto, check out the other May Day morris events at Tilden Park in Berkeley (*Berkeley Morris*), Twin Peaks in San Francisco (*Goat Hill Morris*), the Lighthouse at Santa Cruz (*Seabright*), and in Sabatopol (*Apple Tree Morris*). All are listed at <http://bacds.org/mayday>.

AmWeek: The Perfect Choice

By Lynn Ungar



Say you had a week of vacation available this summer – not quite a week – and you wanted to find the perfect way to enjoy your precious free time. It would be great if you had the chance for some really amazing contra dance, but on the other hand it would be wonderful to play tunes with other musicians, and to build some skills on your instrument. Of course, it would be wonderful to spend time hanging out with friends, but maybe it would be even better to have time to yourself to wander in the redwoods or and a nap under a tree. How do you choose? The answer is, of course, that you don't have to – you come to BACDS American Dance & Music Week.



Well, yeah, the choice problem is still there. At any given moment you might have to choose between dancing or music sessions, or participating in a slow jam or couples dancing, or between yoga and writing tunes, or between weaving a basket and taking a hike in the woods. Life is never simple. But at

American Week it's very, very good. Dancing morning, afternoon and night to music by Tidal Wave, Stringrays, and The Avant Gardeners, called by Lisa Greenleaf and George Marshall. The Camper Band led by George Paul and Laura Light. Fiddle lessons with Michelle Levy and singing with Shira Kammen. Traditional crafts with Lea Smith, couple dancing with George Marshall and a callers' workshop with Lisa Greenleaf. And that's just a start. Find out details, and register, at <http://AmWeek.org>

Can you have it all? Well, you'll have to make some choices once you're at camp, but you can spend your precious vacation time in a place that offers both music and dancing, both a beautiful location and great companionship, both skill building and a chance to relax and let go. If you ask me, that's a pretty great choice.



CDSS Scholarship Opportunities

by Cassandra Vlahos

The Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS) offers many exciting specialized camps in both Contra and English dance and music every year along with scholarship opportunities to help you attend. People under 30 who have never attended Pinewoods Camp before are eligible for the Pinewoods NGI Youth Scholarship, jointly funded by Pinewoods and CDSS. CDSS also provides matching funds scholarships, which can be used at *any* CDSS Camp. With the approval of your hometown dance group (BACDS), CDSS will match BACDS's funding in order to provide scholarships for up-and-coming dancers, callers, and musicians who couldn't otherwise afford to attend.

In order to apply for a matching funds scholarship, you must first apply to the program you wish to attend, fill out a matching scholarship application, and then send it to BACDS for approval. You can do this by sending a completed form to me (Cassandra Vlahos) as a pdf at cmvlahos@gmail.com or you can contact me about mailing the form or delivering it to me in person.

Also keep in mind that in addition to the CDSS camps, BACDS has its own sparkling lineup of Northern California summer camps with many scholarship and work-trade opportunities: American Dance and Music Week, Family Week, and Hey Days. Please see the individual camp websites for more information.

Useful Links: CDSS camps, www.cdss.org/program-week-details.html; BACDS camps, www.bacds.org/camps; CDSS scholarships, www.cdss.org/scholarships.html; NGI Youth Scholarships, www.pinewoods.org/camp-sessions/ngi-scholarship-info/.

Jubilee Seeks Male Dancers and a Fiddler for International Gig!

by Ruth Suzuki

Want to be an International Dancing Star? Jubilee American Dance Theatre has been invited to perform in France. Dust off your beret and come dance with us.

Jubilee American Dance Theatre is a multi-generational company comprised of dancers ranging in age from 30s to 70s. Our repertoire consists of suites from various decades of American history: 1860s pioneer party games, 1890s New England sailor's hornpipe, 1930s Appalachian clogging, and Texas knockdown. Jubilee has performed for over 10 years, and international touring has been part of our program since inception. We've played to audiences in Italy, France, Finland, Russia, and Cuba.

We have an invitation to perform for 10 days at the Culture & Tradition Festival in Gannat Festival, where a small farming community of 5000 swells to 30,000 when the Grand Chapeau (Big Tent) rises. For two weeks, Europeans gather to sing, dance, and make merry.

Jubilee needs male dancers and a fiddle player to round out the tour company. Interested folks should e-mail us at info@jubileedance.com. We rehearse Monday nights at 7:15pm at Ashkenaz (1317 San Pablo Avenue). Check out our web site: jubileedance.com.

Contra College May 2014

By Les Addison

Contra College 2013 was a blast: an exhilarating, sold-out weekend of activities. A number of participants said, "Great, I want to do it again, but with more square dancing and more time for waltzing." We listened, and this spring, we are going to try out a one-day format for Contra College.

Contra College May 2014 will be held on Saturday, May 10, at FUM, regular home to the Palo Alto contra dance, from 10 am to 6 pm. Frannie Marr (SoCal) will be teaching contra basics and flourishes for three hours; Nick Cuccia (Central Valley) will teach square dancing for contra dancers; and Lea Smith (Mendocino) will teach waltzing for contra dancers. This program will give contra dancers of all levels greater skill, proficiency, and comfort doing the dances one can expect to find at most evenings of contra dance. It is also an excellent opportunity to develop camaraderie with other dancers and make new friends. Some dancers are very skilled at one form of dance but more tentative about or intimidated by another form of dance, so this will be a time for us to share our enthusiasm as well as expand our dancing comfort zone. Music will be provided by Swing Farm and The Rosin Doctors. The contra dance that evening will be called by Nick Cuccia and Lea Smith.

Contra College May 2014 will include a lunch and snacks (which will be delicious, nutritious, and friendly to vegans, vegetarians, and gluten-free folks). During the break between Contra College and the Palo Alto dance, participants can go out to dinner nearby and practice waltzing to recorded music in the hall. Early registration (through April 18) is \$50, and the regular rate is \$60. If this one day format is successful, we'll do a day-long contra workshop in the fall.

To register or for more information, go to www.contracollege.com or contact Les Addison at info@contracollege.com or 510-599-2219.

A One-Woman Wonder

By Jody Distler-Dill

Who is BACDS's One Woman Wonder? Who has a limited involvement in BACDS, but organizes a whole weekend? She made this weekend very encompassing. Beginners ramp up their dancing, new callers are developed, there is a Hambo or Waltz workshop, and new callers teach a free dance. This all happens in a local setting, which is easy to find. It is called *Contra College* and is in Palo Alto.

Les Addison, Les Addison, Les Addison. Thank You. You are the perfect assist to BACDS and many spread thin volunteers. Bless you, bless you, bless you.

The President's Corner



From the President: I'm writing this at the very last minute. In part, this is due to my natural tendency to procrastinate, but this time it can also be attributed to having too many hats to wear. In addition to being president of BACDS, I'm also chairing the Spring Fever committee (which has just two weeks to go before camp starts) and the Balance the Bay committee (which has only two weeks to go before registration opens. Both committees are slightly understaffed, so I'm having to do work as committee chair that I ordinarily would be able to delegate.

How did this happen? Well, I've been a member of both committees for years, and have rotated through different committee jobs, including taking my turn as chair from time to time. This year, several key people stepped down, took a leave, or moved away, and there seemed to be nobody on the committee besides me who had enough experience and/or confidence to take over as chair. I wanted the events to continue, so I took the job.

It's not just me. This is a systemic problem for any organization that relies on committees of volunteers to get things done. Over time, the community gets divided between the few who have experience making things happen and know they can do the job, and the many more who would like to see things happen but don't have the experience, time, or confidence in themselves to volunteer. More and more work concentrates in the hands of the key volunteers, and then they begin dropping out due to burnout. Spring Fever and Balance the Bay are the lucky committees, who found someone to keep them going (for now). The No Snow Ball is changing leadership for the second time in two years. The Fall Ball put an article in the last issue of the *Dancer* asking for volunteers to take over. Most of the committee is stepping down. There may be *no* Fall Ball this year. And Les Addison, who is getting high praise elsewhere in this issue for what she has done to revitalize Contra College, is essentially working alone. Will anyone step in to help before she burns out?

What does it take to lead an event committee? First and foremost, you have to *want* the event to happen. That can be enough by itself, if you let it. Prior experience working on the event is helpful, but you can almost always (a) ask someone who worked on it before, or (b) make things up as you go along. Prior leadership experience helps, too, but mostly it boils down to (1) figuring out what needs to happen next, (2) figuring out who might be able to make it happen, (3) asking them. It helps to know a lot of other dancers; that makes it easier to know who to ask when you need help. Surprisingly, it doesn't take a lot more time and effort to chair a committee than to just be a member. You have to be available for committee meetings (about once a month, usually, and often by phone or video conference). You have to talk to other committee members and keep tabs on the committee E-mail list so things don't fall through the cracks. And you have to do the tasks assigned to *you*. You *can* do it. You really can.

What if things go wrong? It can happen. It has happened. We deal with it. Sometimes someone just doesn't turn out to do well in a leadership role. When this happens, we can usually get help for the committee, and the event still happens, because people *want* it to happen. But we won't know what your leadership potential is until you've tried it. And even if it doesn't work, we usually learn enough about what you are *really* good at to find other things that you can do for us.

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



In Memoriam: Cameron Craigie

Cameron Craigie died today of a heart attack while on a long-distance cycle ride. He died instantly doing one of the activities that he loved most. He is donating organs and tissue to others in need. Remember him by his passion for learning and truth, his wry humor, his love of nature, music and teaching others. (*Karen Ashforth's Facebook status from February 21*)

Volunteer Thanks

♪ Thanks to *Chris Knepper* and the San Francisco Contra Committee for all they have done to revitalize the San Francisco Contra Dance.

♪ More to come next issue (*no more room*)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 8	FREE Contra in Palo Alto	<i>Jim Saxe celebrates 1/3 century of dancing</i>
Sunday, Mar 9, 3pm	Peninsula Playford Ball Workshop	<i>Lise Dyckman</i>
Wed, March 12	Berkeley English	<i>Michael Barraclough "Playford Time Machine"</i>
Thursday, March 13	Special Mill Valley Contra (NBCDS)	<i>Kathy Anderson with Contra Sutra</i>
Friday-Sun. Mar 14-16	Spring Fever dance weekend	<i>Kathy Anderson, Michael Barraclough, Laura Mé Smith</i>
Sunday, March 16	Special San Francisco Contra	<i>Laura Mé Smith with Contra Sutra</i>
Sunday, March 16	Special Santa Cruz Contra	<i>Kathy Anderson with FootLoose</i>
Monday, March 17	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Susan Petrick with FootLoose</i>
Wednesday, March 19	Berkeley Contra	<i>James Hutson with FootLoose</i>
Wednesday, March 26	Berkeley English	<i>Tom Roby</i>
Friday, March 28	San Francisco Contra	<i>Jeremy Korr with The Nettles</i>
Friday, March 28	Playford Ball Rehearsal	<i>Cavalcade of callers</i>
Saturday, March 29	Playford Ball	<i>Alan Winston</i>
Sunday, March 30	Playford Brunch	
Sunday, March 30	Hayward Contra	<i>Jeremy Korr with The Nettles</i>
Fri-Sun, April 4-6	Epicenter dance weekend (NBCDS)	<i>Lisa Greenleaf, Seth Tepfer</i>
Sunday, April 6	Special Mill Valley Contra (NBCDS)	<i>Lisa Greenleaf, Seth Tepfer</i>
Monday, April 7	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Lisa Greenleaf with Rodney Miller et al.</i>
Tuesday, April 8	Special San Francisco Contra	<i>Susan Pleck with Rodney Miller et al.</i>
Wednesday, April 9	Free Introduction to English Dance	<i>Before the regular Berkeley English Dance</i>
Fri-Sun, April 11-13	Queer Contra Dance Camp	<i>Adina Gordon and Chris Ricciotti</i>
Tuesday, April 22	Special San Francisco Contra	<i>Yoyo Zhou with Perpetual e-Motion</i>
Thursday, May 1, 5am	May Day Morning Morris Dancing	See www.bacds.org/mayday for details
Sat, May 10, <i>daytime</i>	Contra College in Palo Alto	10am-6pm, followed by Palo Alto Contra
Saturday, June 14	Mad Robin Ball (NBCDS)	<i>Brooke Friendly with Roguery</i>
Wednesday, June 18	Special Berkeley Contra	<i>Erik Hoffman with Notorious</i>
Fri-Sun, June 20-22	Faultline Frolic weekend (NBCDS)	<i>Cis Hinkle with Notorious</i>
Sunday, June 22	Aftershock Contra in Mill Valley	<i>Cis Hinkle with Notorious</i>
Friday, June 27	Special San Francisco Contra	<i>Lynn Ackerson with the Avant Gardners</i>
Saturday, June 28	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Lisa Greenleaf with Rodney Miller et al</i>
Sun-Fri, Jun 29-Jul 4	American Dance and Music Week	<i>Lisa Greenleaf, George Marshall</i>
Sun-Sat July 6-12	BACDS Family Week	<i>Carol Ormand, Kalia Kliban, many more ...</i>
Fri-Sun August 9-11	Balance the Bay Contra weekend	<i>Nils Fredland, Frannie Marr</i>
Sun-Sun Aug 17-24	Hey Days English Dance Week	<i>Brad Foster, Brooke Friendly, Gene Murrow</i>

See bacds.org for more information. For events sponsored by our neighbors, see nbcds.org (NBCDS), sactocds.org (SCDS), sffmc.org (SFFMC), santacruzdance.org (TDSC), haywardcontradance.org (TDOGS), montereycdc.webs.com (MCDC), cccds.org (CCDS)

This issue was edited by Julie Thomas, Chris Folger, and Jens Dill. Send corrections or submissions to caljuliet@comcast.net. Deadline for Summer *Dancer*: May. 15, 2014. Please join the conversation.