



# Bay Area Country Dancer

No.99– September 2014

www.bacds.org

## Contra College: Fall Term, Saturday, October 11

by Les Addison

### What is Contra College?

Contra College is a dance event designed to help new and intermediate contra dancers become comfortable on the dance floor, familiar with all the calls, and networked into the Bay Area contra dance community. We have offered basic workshops in waltz, square dancing, hambo and contra dance music. While it may not be the only dance event to include homemade vegan baked goods, we work hard to provide lots of healthy food (lunch and snacks).

Contra College will be a day of contra dancing workshops taught by two talented Northern California Callers. An integrated curriculum and careful pacing will allow dancers to build skills slowly over the course of the day and to internalize what they've learned as they go along. There will be plenty of explanations and question-and-answer time. The group's small size will allow for individualized attention and the dances will be selected to help everyone gain confidence and feel at ease. The carefully-crafted curriculum will emphasize dances that are simple while still being varied and well-choreographed.

### Is Contra College just for new dancers?

Dancers of all levels and skills attend and enjoy Contra College. It is an opportunity to learn the "other" dance role, to learn how to incorporate flourishes and twirls, and to refine your skills. Contra College is a style workshop for contra dancers that will help you improve your dancing and take it to the next level. Each session of the workshop will build on what comes before it. If you come into Contra College knowing lots about contra dancing, you'll walk out knowing more (as well as having a new group of friends and people who want to carpool with you to contra dances).

### What is new and special this term?

Contra College will have four classes during the day. We strongly encourage new dancers and beginners to come to the first class at 10 and anticipate that some will want to stay through the third session which ends at 4. Intermediate dancers might wish to dance the three afternoon contra sessions. Everyone is welcome all day, but recognizing that it can be a very long and energetic day, we believe in giving you choices. We're also including a waltz workshop, open to all, from 6 to 7:30.

**Contra College:** Saturday, October 11, First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto. [bacds.org/contracollege](http://bacds.org/contracollege)



## COLORful FALL BALL

by Judy Rose Dornbush

**COLORful:** (1) brightly colored, vivid, vibrant, brilliant, radiant, rich; multicolored, rainbow, varicolored, polychromatic; psychedelic, neon, jazzy. (2) vivid, graphic, lively, animated, dramatic, fascinating, interesting, stimulating, scintillating, evocative.

**FALL:** To occur, take place, happen, come about; arise, come to pass; arrive, appear, materialize.

*aka* **AUTUMN:** The third season of the year, when crops and fruits are gathered and leaves fall, in the northern hemisphere from September to November and in the southern hemisphere from March to May; the period from the autumnal equinox to the winter solstice.

**BALL:** A formal social gathering for dancing; enjoy oneself greatly; have a lot of fun.

We welcome English Country dancers to slip into festive array and dance *COLORfully* together at this year's *Fall Ball*. For our community's spectrum of dancers, Scott Higgs (Philadelphia, PA) has lent his prismatic vision to designing a rich, colorful program. His vivid dance and tune palette blends noted favorites of dancers, callers, *and* musicians, alike, and adds textured strokes and dabs of the unusual, complemented by subtly tinted waltz highlights.

Bringing light to the picture is a re-blended volunteer committee (to date: Joyce Cooper, Judy Rose, Shirley Worth, James Candlin and Alan Winston) with intentions to boldly color outside of the lines. We invite community members ... classicists, romanticists, abstractionists and expressionists; even, perhaps, a few cubists ... to join us in bringing our efforts into focus.

**ANTICIPATE:** regard as probable; expect or predict; be aware of, take action in order to be prepared; look forward to

- A fulfilling afternoon workshop designed to intensify our joy of dancing.
- Time to schmooze (or, snooze?) during community dinnertime held *in* the hall during the break between the Workshop and the Ball itself.
- Pre-ordering & pre-paying \$20 for a fresh, thoughtfully prepared buffet dinner offered by *Feast Organic Catering*. The menu will be posted on the website [bacds.org/fallball](http://bacds.org/fallball) by mid-October.
- A refreshing, rejuvenating *mid-evening* catered snack blended with time to schmooze (not to snooze) before being drawn back onto the dance floor.

**WANTED:** To have a desire to do something; wished for; required to be attended to in a specified way; needed to do something *helpful*; desire to be in a particular place or situation.

- Festive dancers of good nature.
- Community oriented VOLUNTEERS willing to help us support the underpinnings that will compose a most enjoyable and *COLORful FALL BALL*. To volunteer, contact Judy Rose <[dancenart@artishappening.com](mailto:dancenart@artishappening.com)>

**Fall Ball:** Saturday, November 15, San Mateo Masonic Lodge. [bacds.org/fallball](http://bacds.org/fallball)

Program designed and presented by Scott Higgs.

Music by *The Whoots* (Charlie Hancock, Jim Oakden and Michelle Levy)

Pre-Ball Workshop led by Kalia Kliban. Music by Jim Oakden, Michelle Levy and Ruth Anne Fraley

# Dare to be Square

by Evie Ladin

Dare to be Square—West is coming to Oakland November 7-9, 2014. D2BS—W is a weekend of square dance calling & music workshops, dancing, jamming, and tons of fun, featuring guest callers Phil Jamison (NC) and Kathy Anderson (OH), as well as local old-time bands Squirrelly Stringband, KC & the Moonshine Band, the Earl White Band, Right to Parlay and Uncle Dave. All events held at Geoffrey's Inner Circle, downtown Oakland - easily accessed by BART and other public transit. Register NOW and SAVE: [www.daretobesquarewest.org/](http://www.daretobesquarewest.org/)

D2BS was founded in 2003 by Phil Jamison & Nancy Mamlin at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC. Phil & Nancy continued to organize the event annually through 2006. In 2007, a West-coast version of the event was hosted by the Portland old time music community (AKA Bubbaville). The effort was headed by Maggie Brunjes & Caroline Oakley, who were inspired after attending Dare to Be Square in Swannanoa. They were assisted and encouraged by the late & great Bill Martin. The Bubbaville Community's hard work resulted in a very successful 2007 & subsequent 2008 event! In 2009 & 2010, D2BS travelled north to Seattle, here Charmaine Slaven & Tony Mates, along with the Seattle Subversive Square Dance Society, presented a very successful SOLD OUT event. After a 2 year hiatus, in 2013, Kelly Marie Martin, Amy Hofer, & Charmaine Slaven revived the event in Los Angeles with great success.

We're excited that Oakland will be hosting the event in 2014, co-sponsored by BACDS, with Jordan Ruyle, Evie Ladin, & Erik Hoffman as the active planning committee. This event has brought forth many new dance callers & musicians, spreading the square dance fever.

Besides an awesome weekend of music, dance and community, here's what you can expect:

- A Beginner Track for those brand-new to calling
- A Master Track for callers looking to learn/try new dances and techniques and deepen their repertoire.
- Workshops for musicians who want to play old time music for dances on banjo, fiddle, and guitar.
- Work on square dance calling
- Learn the history of the tradition
- Learn more about playing music for dances
- Learn new dances
- Dance for three days straight
- Play music for the dance workshops
- Jam with friends

# Consider Square Dancing

by Aahz

Looking for a different kind of challenge? Square dancing\* is a lot like doing a no-walkthrough contra where the choreography never repeats. Overall, square dancing requires less physical effort, but more mental effort, than contra dancing. If you're curious, many square dance clubs offer the first two or three classes for free, so you can try it without obligation.

Contra dancers have a leg up in learning to square dance; many of the basic moves are the same: promenade, allemande, star left and right, California twirl, dos-à-dos, and others.

Because there are many square dance clubs in the area, you can dance almost any night of the week -- often with less driving than to a contra dance! There are also many opportunities to square dance when you travel. Square dance clubs are independent from each other and have various preferences. In the Bay Area, most clubs welcome both street clothes and fancy square dance duds, as well as both couples and solos, but contact each club to verify.

The following website provides a list of classes on the SF peninsula starting this fall: (The list is updated throughout the year as new classes gear up.) <http://www.3osb.com/classes.html>

Another list, available from the previous website, covers most of the Bay Area and lists ongoing classes: <http://www.scvsda.org/cgi-bin/sdinfo.cgi?c=a4&f=c&s=d>

The following YouTube videos illustrate some of the different styles of square dancing:

<http://youtu.be/Je2bchbUJiw> (Stanford Quads graduation dance)

[http://youtu.be/qBe\\_fBmURcl](http://youtu.be/qBe_fBmURcl) (Teen square at a convention)

<http://youtu.be/w46EBHyvXAc> (Ad for easy square dancing)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs8j4AezAUQ> (Gay square kilt tip)



\* More precisely, Modern Western Square Dancing (MWSD). If you dance squares at a contra dance, they probably are "traditional squares," which are more like a contra dance where the moves are pre-choreographed and repeated.

# 12-Hour Twirl: November 15. KGB, the Syncopaths, & More

by Susan Pleck

It's with great excitement that Traditional Dancers of the Golden State, sponsors of the Hayward Contra Dance, presents the **TDOGS 12-Hour Twirl!**

Fall Has Sprung, the fabulous 12-hour contra dance held in Grass Valley, is sadly no more... but TDOGS has picked up the torch so that dancers from all over California and beyond can continue to gather each November for a day of contra bliss with amazing bands and callers. And we're even more excited about our lineup for the first 12-Hour Twirl – some of the best and most in-demand on the West Coast (or anywhere!)

**Bands:** *KGB* (Julie King, Claude Ginsburg, Dave Bartley); *The Syncopaths* (Ryan McKasson, Jeff Spero, Christa Burch, Ashley Broder); *Uncle Farmer* (Ben Schreiber, Michael Sokolovsky)

**Callers:** Susan Petrick, Susan Michaels, Joyce Miller

**Sound:** Nick Cuccia

It all happens Saturday, **November 15, 2014**, from 11 am to 11 pm, at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Hayward (22737 Main St.). The hall has a great floor, plenty of room, and offers easy access to free parking and numerous restaurants.

Admission is \$40, payable at the door. No pre-registration is necessary.

Check back for more info at our website: <http://bit.ly/TDOGS12hrTwirl>. In the meantime, mark your calendar and plan to dance the hours away in Hayward on November 15!

## Spring Fever wants to expand your comfort zone

by Jens Dill

There's something special about a dance camp that opens your eyes to new experiences. *Spring Fever* dance weekend tries to do just that, by offering a program that combines the best of Contra dance, the best of English dance, and a solid third track of music and singing workshops. If you are already in love with both English and Contra, you can skip the rest of this article and just sign up for camp. If you do just one, and detest the other, you've probably stopped reading by now. But if your eyes are open and you are interested in a new experience, this is the way to do it. *Spring Fever* offers a full two tracks of dancing, so you can remain within your preferred genre and get a full camp experience. But you can also branch out, and try the other side. Dance camps bring out the best skill level in the people who attend, and what better way to be introduced to a new dance form than being surrounded by people who are *really* good at it? Contra and English share common roots, and have been trading figures back and forth for years, so there is a lot of synergy. You get Contras with extra smoothness and precision, and English with extra energy and twirls. What could be better?

Oh, and did I mention the expanded music track?

This spring's lineup:

- **Nils Fredland** (who was just here for *Balance the Bay*)
- **Gene Murrow** (who was just here for *English Week*)
- **Kalia Kliban** (who is always here for *everything*).
- **Maivish**, featuring Jaige Trudel and Adam Broome (you may remember them from *Crowfoot*) and Matthew Olwell.
- **A Joyful Noise**, featuring Barbara Greenberg, Daniel Beerbohm, Kathy Talvitie (3/4 of *Hold the Mustard*).
- A strong supporting cast of local talent, including *Anne Goess*, *Ruth Anne Fraley*, *Tony Elman* (singing), *Marty Brenneis* (sound), and *MacKenzie Rainbow* (sound)

**Spring Fever:** *March 13–15, Monte Toyon Camp, Aptos CA.* [bacds.org/springfever](http://bacds.org/springfever)

## Two CD Launch Parties this Fall

by Sharon Green

This fall, BACDS provides a showcase for several of the Bay Area's composers, choreographers, and musicians as we celebrate two new CDs produced by our members.

The first CD, *Nearer & Farther*, features Hey Days program director Rebecca King offering solo piano versions of her original tunes and arrangements. Several of these tunes have already had dances set to them by, among others, Brooke Friendly and Chris Sackett, Gary Roodman, Tom Senior, and new local choreographer David Edgar, whose "Tanya and David's Waltz" had its premiere at Hey Days. The CD *Nearer & Farther*, together with its accompanying booklet, will be available at Rebecca's CD Launch Party at October's Fourth Saturday experienced English dance, October 25th, held at Christ Church, Berkeley. Joining Rebecca for what promises to be a splendid launch party are Jon Berger (violin), Judy Linsenberg (recorders), and Kalia Kliban. The dance starts promptly at 7:30pm; regular Fourth Saturday admission fees apply.

The second CD, *Dances from the Greenery*, features dances associated with the Greenery, the North Oakland home of David and Sharon Green and Michael Siemon. Two of the dances on the recording, "Westward Bound" and "Golden Green," were choreographed by Belgium's Philippe Callens; the remainder, including "Juniata," were written by Sharon Green. Recorded at Berkeley's MuscleTone Studios, *Dances from the Greenery* features the playing of Jon Berger, Shira Kammen, and Rebecca King, joined for the occasion by Baltimore's multitalented composer-musician Jonathan Jensen. *Dances from the Greenery* will be launched at a special experienced English country dance on the evening of Thursday, December 18th, at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. Jon Berger, Shira Kammen, and Rebecca King are the evening's musicians; Sharon Green and friends will call. Admission to the Greenery CD launch party is free; however, if anyone wishes to make a donation that evening to the Country Dance & Song Society's Centennial Fund, the Greens would be very happy. (All funds raised through the sale of *Dances of the Greenery* will go to benefit CDSS.)

## The President's Corner



**From the President:** Your President is wearing too many hats, and taking on too many odd jobs, all of which are fun. The problem is that all of them add up to an overload. I just could not bring myself to get the President's Letter written by press time. I guess I need to do a better job of asking for help. Please talk to me about what jobs you'd like to take on. Like I said, they *are* fun.

~ Jens Dill, BACDS President, [bacds-president@bacds.org](mailto:bacds-president@bacds.org)

## Volunteer Thanks

- ♪ Thanks to the *Balance the Bay* Committee (*Jens Dill, Susan Petrick, Joan Maramonte, Stephen Connelly, Yoyo Zhou, Randall Cayford, Joyce Cooper, Costello, Claire Matthews*) for pulling together and putting on a fabulous weekend. And thanks to all the regular helpers who are not on the committee, but step up to take on the key jobs: *Ray Grott, Clark Cole, Maria Markoff, Doug Beckstein, Ken Karp, Janet Pape, Diane Frank, Kai Barnwall*, and many, many more.
- ♪ Thanks to *Denise Ludwig* of *Feast Organic Catering*, who came through to cater the Saturday Supper and other meals for *Balance the Bay* immediately after a freak accident in which her car rolled off a cliff into the ocean (without Denise).
- ♪ Thanks to the *Playford Ball* Committee (*Jody Distler-Dill, Shirley Worth, Allison Saichek, Alan Winston, Cin Barnes, Catherine Allen, Sandra Vlahos, Sue Wilson, Diana Cox, Joyce Cooper, Susan Jensen, Joyce Ugglá*) for putting together an absolutely splendid ball.
- ♪ Thanks to *Les Addison* for putting together the Fall term of *Contra College* session in October. Les could use more people on her committee.
- ♪ Thanks to the *Family Week, American Week, and English Week* committees for putting making our summer camps a success again this year.
- ♪ Thanks to all the invisible volunteers who keep things going behind the scenes.
- ♪ 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. I can't even fit everyone in, because of all the events they create.

## Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept 26	Special San Francisco Contra	<i>Yoyo Zhou with Celador</i>
Saturday, Sept 27	Hambo Workshop, Sebastopol	NBCDS, 6:30 pm
Saturday, Sept 27	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Lynn Ackerson with Celador</i>
Tuesdays, 8/26–9/23	Berkeley Morris	<i>Free workshops</i>
Saturday, Oct 11	<b>Contra College</b>	<i>Eric Black, Lea Smith</i>
Fri-Sat, Oct 17-18	<b>NBCDS Beach Party</b>	<i>Santa Rosa, Bodega Bay, San Rafael</i>
Fri-Sun, Oct 17-19	<b>Fall Frolick English Weekend</b>	<i>Mary Devlin, Kalia Kliban, Joanna Reiner . . .</i>
Saturday, Oct 25	<b>Halloween Contra</b> in Palo Alto	<i>Mary Wesley with Pete's Posse</i>
Saturday, Oct 25	<b>Nearer &amp; Farther</b>	CD Releas Party at Berkeley English Dance
Wednesday, Oct 29	Special Berkeley Contra	<i>Mary Wesley with Pete's Posse</i>
Saturday, Nov 1	Special SF <i>Zombie</i> Contra	<i>Karen Fontana with Uncle Zombie</i>
Wednesday, Nov 5	Special Berkeley Contra	<i>Kathy Anderson</i>
Friday, Nov 7	Special Palo Alto English	<i>Robin Hayden</i>
Fri-Sun, Nov 7-9	<b>Dare To Be Square West</b>	
Friday, Nov 14	Special SF Contra	<i>Susan Michaels with the Syncopaths</i>
Friday, Nov 14	Special Regency Dance	<i>Scott Higgs</i>
Saturday, Nov 15	<b>Fall Ball</b>	<i>Scott Higgs, Kalia Kliban, the Whoots.</i>
Saturday, Nov 15	<b>Twelve-Hour Twirl (TDOGS)</b>	<i>Susan Petrick, Susan Michaels, Joyce Miller</i>
Sunday, Nov 20	Special Mill Valley Contra (NBCDS)	<i>Susan Michaels with the Syncopaths</i>
Tuesday, Nov 18	Special Peninsula English	<i>Scott Higgs</i>
Wednesday, Nov 19	Special Berkeley Contra	<i>George Marshall with The Great Bear Duo</i>
Thursday, Nov 20	Special Mill Valley Contra (NBCDS)	<i>George Marshall with The Great Bear Duo</i>
Friday, Nov 21	Special Santa Rosa Contra (NBCDS)	<i>George Marshall with The Great Bear Duo</i>
Saturday, Nov 22	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Kalia Kliban with The Hillbillies From Mars</i>
Friday, Nov 28	SF Techno Contra	<i>Frannie Marr with DJ Gordon Allen</i>
Saturday, Nov 29	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Frannie Marr with Magic Reelian</i>
Thursday, Dec 4	Special Mill Valley Contra (NBCDS)	<i>Frannie Marr with Rodney Miller et al.</i>
Saturday, Dec 6	<b>No Snow Ball</b>	<i>Charlie Fenton, Susan Pleck</i>
Saturday, Dec 6	<b>Faux Snow Ball</b> (Queer Contra)	<i>Frannie Marr with StringFire</i>
Thursday, Dec 18	<b>Dances of the Greenery</b>	CD Launch Party
Friday, Dec 19	Palo Alto English Holiday Party	
Saturday, Dec 27	Berkeley English Holiday Party	
Wednesday, Dec 31	<b>New Year's Eve Contra</b> , Palo Alto	<i>Yoyo Zhou with Common Ground</i>
Wednesday, Dec 31	<b>New Year's Eve Contra</b> , Santa Rosa	(NBCDS) <i>Susan Michaels with Bonfire</i>
Fri-Sun, March 14-17	<b>Spring Fever</b>	<i>Nils Fredland, Gene Murrow, Kalia Kliban . . .</i>

See [baeds.org](http://baeds.org) for more information. For events sponsored by our neighbors, see [nbcds.org](http://nbcds.org) (NBCDS), [sactocds.org](http://sactocds.org) (SCDS), [sffmc.org](http://sffmc.org) (SFFMC), [santacruzdance.org](http://santacruzdance.org) (TDSC), [montereycdc.webs.com](http://montereycdc.webs.com) (MCDC), [cccds.org](http://cccds.org) (CCCDs), [haywardcontradance.org](http://haywardcontradance.org) (TDOGS)

This issue was edited by Julie Thomas, Chris Folger, and Jens Dill. Send corrections to <[caljuliet@comcast.net](mailto:caljuliet@comcast.net)>. Deadline for *Winter Dancer*: Nov. 15, 2013. Send submissions to [caljuliet@comcast.net](mailto:caljuliet@comcast.net). Please join the conversation.