



# Bay Area Country Dancer

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www.bacds.org

## A Ball to Celebrate 1718 - a great year!

By Mary Luckhardt

Four books of country dances were published in 1718, probably the largest number published in any single year. Mr. Pearson, the successor to John and Henry Playford's company, put out "The Dancing Master, Volume the Second," a collection of 360 old and new dances. Pearson's competitor John Walsh largely plagiarized Pearson with the "Compleat Country Dancing Master" containing another 360 dances. Walsh also published 2 books of "24 New Country Dances" one by Nathaniel Kynaston and one by A Person of Quality. The four collections contain some old set dances such as Cuckolds All a Row, as well as longways sets, almost all triple minors. (The newly composed dances are almost exclusively in triple minor formation.) I have been arguing that this year was perhaps the high point of "the first golden age" of English country dancing. There are so many great dances! "The Collier's Daughter," "Neat, Mr John," "Farnicle Huggy," "Flora and Phaon," "King's Maggot"—the list goes on and on. I couldn't let the 300th anniversary pass unnoticed.

Sharon Green, Kalia Kliban and I are putting on a small, select ball for connoisseurs of the period. It will take place on Saturday, November 17, 2018. We have asked Shira Kammen and Judy Linsenberg to put together a band to suit the baroque music. We will do the dances in Modern English Country Dance style, in their 20th- and 21st-century reconstructions; thus, we shall dance some of the triple minors as 3-couple sets or duple minors. As at most modern balls, dress is your choice. Costumes will be greatly admired, modern formal dress will be appreciated, but dance comfort and excellence are the real goals of the evening. While most of the dances will have one walk-through, we shall probably dance a few set dances "for those who know." We expect to have one rehearsal on the day of the ball, but do not plan any other formal workshops. We strongly recommend that those signing up for the ball be entirely comfortable with triple minor progression, heys, and figure 8s.

Registration will be very limited, as the Hillside Club, just up Cedar Street from Christ Church Berkeley, will hold only about 60 dancers comfortably. We don't expect this ball to be everybody's cup of tea, but if the Great Year ball sounds like something you don't want to miss, we encourage you to sign up soon. You will find a registration flyer in this mailing or in ePubs. If you have questions, feel free to talk to one of us at a dance, or email us.

Mary Luckhardt (mary@luckhardt.com),  
with Sharon Green (sharongreen@post.harvard.edu)  
and Kalia Kliban (kalia@sbcglobal.net)

## Family Week: July 1-7

By Susan Gere

Family Week is dancing and live music, crafts and play for all ages. "A magical place where you can forget about your other life and just dive in to the dancing and the music and be surrounded by it all the time." Liberate a child you care for from the tyranny of electronics for seven days! (Your own inner child joyfully included.) This year we have a bodacious plenitude of fiddlers on staff—seven of 'em! Learn to play, jam, dance, sing, listen, walk in the woods or try the stilts, read, converse, craft, and nap. Four kinds of dance: Irish, Scottish, English, American—and Calling! Don't forget your stuffed alter-ego for the Teddy Bear's Picnic, and dress-ups for the Parade.

Watch our video at <http://bit.ly/XqKWGw> for a splendid montage with interview clips. ("Camp is a necessity of life!") For early pricing, register by May 1—See the brochure linked at [www.bacds.org/familyweek](http://www.bacds.org/familyweek).

## Hey Days English Dance and Music Week!

Join us this summer **August 19-26, 2018** at Hey Days English Dance and Music Week!

### Talented Dance Staff

**Joanna Reiner** (PA) returns by popular demand. Known for the clarity of her teaching and her dedication to encouraging people to become better dancers, her calling has taken her from CDSS camps at Pinewoods to Hey Days, and from St. Croix to Hawaii. **Gaye Fifer** (PA) has a pleasant style and graceful teaching that puts dancers at ease and sets the stage for a great dance experience. Incoming president of the Country Dance and Song Society, Gaye is an organizer in her local community and has led many organizing discussions at dance weekends and weeks. Our program director, **Brooke Friendly** (OR) is known for her warm yet commanding personality, her clear and concise teaching, her creativity, and her sense of humor and whimsy. Brooke has been on staff at events throughout North America and England. A dance choreographer, she and Chris Sackett have published five books of dances (*Impropriety Vols. 1-5*).

In addition to teaching ECD, **Gaye Fifer** is an experienced waltz teacher and will lead a Waltz class. She believes that waltz is first and foremost about connecting with your partner and with the music.

**Alex Cumming** (UK/MA) is a ritual dancer and teacher, traditional singer, accordionist, pianist, and ceilidh dance caller from Somerset, England, now living in Boston. He has taught workshops in longsword, border and Cotswold morris, singing, and music in England and New England. Alex performs songs and tunes from around the United Kingdom and America with a great depth of knowledge of the tradition. He has made his mark on the folk scene with his rhythmic danceable accordion style, strong voice, and his fun and engaging stage presence. He will teach a Border Morris class.

### Singing

We will have two singing classes and other opportunities for singing throughout the week. **Alex Cumming** will lead Sing with a Theme—a song sharing session that will include campers leading songs, new songs in the day's theme and tips on how

to choose, perform and adapt songs for yourself. **Shira Kammen** will teach “Wit and Mirth: or Pills to Purge Melancholy”—songs from the D’Urfey collection published between 1698 and 1720. We will sing from both sheet music and by ear.

### **Inspiring Musicians**

**Roguary’s** music shows many influences: English, contra, early music, classical, Breton, Scottish, Irish, Cape Breton, Galician, French, Balkan, jazz-fusion, gospel, Scandinavian, and Greek just to name a few! **Anita Anderson** (WA) is an extraordinary English country and contra dance pianist. She brings a large bag of tricks to her piano playing, with influences from doo-wop, baroque, ethnic, and vintage dance music, but first and foremost, Anita is passionate about matching her playing to the moods and movements of dancers. **Dave Bartley** (WA) plays mandolin, guitar, cittern, and other plucked string instruments and draws from a musical experience that stretches from classical training to classic rock. He has written over 300 tunes for English dance, contra dance, and couple dancing. **Shira Kammen** (CA) is a favorite at dance camps and events around the country and abroad. A multi-instrumentalist (primarily violin, vielle, and viola) and vocalist and member of many ensembles, she has spent most of her life exploring the worlds of early and traditional music. **Jim Oakden** (CA) has played in many bands and performs on an absurd number of instruments including accordion, mandolin, various bagpipes, recorders, whistle and zurna. He has been on staff for many dance events, including appearances with the ECD band Persons of Quality.

**Alchemy** is steeped in traditional English Country Dance music. Their improvisatory style brings a contemporary and innovative feel to both traditional and newly composed tunes. From lush waltzes to driving jigs and everything in between, Alchemy delights the listener with heartfelt performances touched with whimsy. **Karen Axelrod** (MA) is highly regarded for her creative piano playing at English, American and Scottish dance events. Her improvisational playing is lyrical, fun and full of rhythm. In addition to Alchemy, Karen is in the band Foxfire with Daron Douglas and plays accordion with 3rd String Trio, a band that plays old world cafe music. **Rachel Bell** (PA) is an accordion player, tunesmith, and music teacher. Her musical horizons span a variety of dance traditions from New England contras to English country dances and French dances. Rachel plays in a number of bands with Karen and others, and also has a new collaboration with Becky Tracy, a contra, concert, and French band called Eloise & Co. **Eric Martin** (MA), equally at home on fiddle and viola, is a dance musician who brings joy and soulful expression to many folk dance idioms. Originally a classical musician, Eric enjoys the freedom and improvisation inherent in traditional music, and has played for English country dances, contra dances, festivals, balls, camps, and concerts with numerous groups including Alchemy. Like Rachel, this is his first appearance at Hey Days.

**Sande Gillette** (WA) has both feet firmly in the two worlds of dance and classical music. As a dance musician, she plays inventive fiddle with *Tricky Brits* and *Bag o’ Tricks*. As a classical musician she played violin in the Seattle Symphony for many years (maybe you caught her at Carnegie Hall). Her dual lives provide lucky dancers with superb fiddling music.

**Alan Roberts** (WA) will return as sound engineer. He provides a great experience for callers, musicians, and dancers alike.

### **Daily Schedule—So Many Great Things to Choose From**

In addition to a wide range of English dance classes, we will have Border Morris and Waltz. Off the dance floor, you can join Joanna for a callers’ workshop and Gaye for a Workshop for Organizers. And, of course, we will have a full complement of music workshops for all levels, including a Band Workshop, English Country Masala, French Tunes, and *Everything in 3 is Not A Waltz*. Fifth period will include grab bag sessions - special one-day workshops led by campers and staff.

### **Welcoming Community**

Hey Days offers many chances for additional fun outside the workshop schedule, including pool parties, a plethora of late-night dancing and jamming opportunities, and a daily Gathering featuring staff and camper performances, stories, jokes, and more. We will have a few planned pre-dinner and post-dance parties with room for camper-led events and activities. All callers and musicians may participate in Campers Night. We also encourage callers and musicians to help create late-night dance and music parties.

### **Fabulous Location**

The Bishop’s Ranch in Sonoma County has comfortable accommodations, delicious meals in a spacious dining hall, beautiful views, a wonderful pool to cool off in, hiking trails, and local vineyards to visit. The air-conditioned main dance hall is lovely, with high ceilings and lots of natural light.

Check out [bacds.org/heydays](http://bacds.org/heydays) to get details and a registration. We hope to dance, sing, and play with you at camp!

## **Contra Waltz**

*By Scott Gamble*

**Date:** May 4

**Time:** 7pm to midnight

**Place:** First United Methodist Church 625 Hamilton Avenue Palo Alto CA 94301

**Websites:** [FridayNightWaltz.com](http://FridayNightWaltz.com), [ContraWaltz.com](http://ContraWaltz.com)

**Staff:** Susan Petrick, Richard Powers, and the Offbeats (Ben Scriber, Jeff Spero and Ashley Broder).

This is our 7th Contra Waltz. A Contra Waltz is a dance mashup of waltzing and contra dancing. All previous Contra Waltzes have been very popular with over 200 attending. Very many social couples dancers from Friday Night Waltz attend as well as very many contra dancers. Each group benefits from skilled dancers from the other group. Everyone gets to meet some new dancers! Much fun by all!

The format is 8 sets of 3 dances: a called contra dance, then a waltz, then either a mixer or one step.

**Richard Powers** will teach one step from 7:15 pm to 8pm and Introductory dance rotary waltz from 8 pm to 9pm for our contra dancer friends in the Main Fellowship Hall upstairs.

The one-step is the easiest of all the social couples dances to learn. The one-step also can include nearly all of the additional steps from other traveling dances: outside, hesitation, shadow, yale, inside turns, outside turns, grapevine, pivots, spins, etc. This is a great way to start learning how to dance; the one-step easily leads into learning polka, two-step, tango, foxtrot, rotary waltz, cross-step waltz, and Viennese waltz.

The rotary waltz is the most basic simplest and straightforward waltz, danced at very many local dances: Peers, Gaskells, Friday Night Waltz, East Bay Waltz, Vintage Invasion, Jammix, Stanford Viennese Ball, San Francisco Waltzing Society Autumn Ball, CSC dances, and Dickens Xmas fair Fezziwigs warehouse.

Richard Powers is one of the world's foremost experts in American social dance, noted for his choreographies for dozens of stage productions and films, and his workshops across the country, in Paris, Prague, London, Rome, Geneva, Russia, and Japan. He has been researching and reconstructing historic social dances for twenty-five years and is currently a full-time instructor at Stanford's Dance Division. He was selected by the Centennial Issue of Stanford Magazine as one of Stanford University's most notable graduates of its first century. He was awarded the Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for distinctive and exceptional contributions to education at Stanford University. (1999). He teaches social dance forms of North America and directs the 70-member Stanford Vintage Dance Ensemble. He is a faculty liaison to Friends of Dance at Stanford. Richard joined the Dance Faculty in 1992

**Susan Petrick** is our contra dance caller. She will also teach introduction to contra dance from 8 pm to 9pm for our social couples dancer friends in the lower level Kohlstedt Hall. She will review most basic steps, including four-hand star, back to start, do-si-do, courtesy turn, hey for 10, balance and swing, pass through, and many other basic steps.

Susan has been calling contra dances for ten years. Her greatest pleasure is to program interesting, varied dances with great flow, and to teach them clearly and concisely. She has enjoyed working with wonderful bands, traveling and calling throughout the country in addition to up and down the West Coast.

Susan has exceptionally clear teaching, expert pacing, and gracious manner. Her efficient guidance makes even complex dances accessible to all.

\$15 for dance and classes (sorry no separate pricing for dance only).

\$2 off for BACDS members. \$10 students under 25 with ID.

All ages. No partner necessary. We rotate rapidly in class. Wear casual comfortable attire.

Plentiful refreshments: chocolate cake, raspberry cheesecake, cherry pie, rocky road ice cream, french vanilla ice cream, shrimp platter, cold cut platter, veggie platter, grapes, all kinds of chocolate, and more. We will have a selection of Mitchell's famous ice creams for an ice cream taste testing. We will have many (but not necessarily all) of these ice creams. Mitchells is famous for Philippine and other Asian island flavored ice creams with a by 16% butterfat cream content.

Contact me at [scott.g@pway.com](mailto:scott.g@pway.com)

## In Memoriam: Lydee Scudder

*By Chris Folger*

Like many, many others in the BACDS community, I was deeply saddened to hear that Lydee Scudder passed away on February 12. Lydee was a vibrant, forceful presence on the dance floor, at dance camps, and behind the scenes at BACDS throughout the '80s and '90s. She worked hard to make the dance experience warm and fun for all participants, especially new dancers. I was one such newbie who stumbled onto the dance scene some 30 years ago, and Lydee was among the very first people to make this shy guy feel welcome and accepted into the social milieu as quickly as it takes to box the gnat. For years thereafter, up until the time she relocated to Southern California, Lydee was always among the first persons I looked for when I arrived at a dance, and I can still see her exuberant face as she was dancing up a storm.

I missed her when she left the Bay Area, and I will always remember her.

## The President's Corner



**From the President:** It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that this is my final President's Letter. I have made the decision to move away from the Bay Area, and to step down as BACDS President. It's been a wonderful experience, but I've held the position for fourteen years now, and it's more than time for someone else to take the reins.

I'm moving back to the East Coast. I grew up there, and have always felt drawn to move back. My parents are there, and they are getting on in age, so that is another reason for me to move closer to them. I plan to settle in Maine, and, if I can, buy a large enough property that I can build a dance barn on it and host dance weekends. I will be giving up a job that I love, and saying farewell to a tremendous network of friends. I will have to start all over again in Maine. But the signs are encouraging. The Maine dance community has been very welcoming, and I have tapped into other networks that should help me find a job and get settled. But I'll miss you all.

Being President of BACDS has been a wonderful experience. It is a real treat to be running an organization where everybody wants fun things to happen. I seldom have had to deal with motivational problems. What I have been doing is facilitating, greasing the wheels, and reminding people of things that need to be done. You are all a great group of volunteers, and what you have done for BACDS has been amazing.

BACDS Board elections are coming up in May (on the third Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup>). If you want to have a hand in helping make BACDS even better than it is; if you have new ideas about what we should be doing; if you think that new leadership is needed; if you want to *be* that new leadership; or even if you just want to find out how things work behind the scenes, then step forward and put your name in the hat.

I will miss you all very much.

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

## Volunteer Thanks

- ♪ Thanks to *Claire Takemori* for her innovative outreach ideas, including the Teen Dance on May 6
- ♪ Thanks to *David Buesch* for planning another great *Contra College*.
- ♪ Thanks to the *Balance the Bay* committee for putting together a really wonderful program on time.
- ♪ Thanks to the *Playford Ball* committee for doing its usual excellent job of preparing for the Ball.
- ♪ Thanks to *Mary Luckardt* for organizing the 1718 Ball, and to all her co-conspirators.
- ♪ Thanks to *Jens Dill* for his 14 years as BACDS President.
- ♪ Thanks to everyone who has helped keep BACDS running strong.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 4	Special Petaluma Contra (NBCDS)	<i>Susan Petrick w/New Brew</i>
Sat-Sun, March 9-10	<b>Contra College</b>	<i>Jacqui Grennan and Susan Petrick w/Uncle Farmer</i>
Saturday, March 10	<b>Contra College Callers' Workshop</b>	<i>Susan Petrick</i>
Saturday, March 10	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Charlie Fenton w/Frequent Flyers</i>
Sunday, March 11	<b>Contra College Graduation Dance</b>	<i>Uncle Farmer (open to all)</i>
Sunday, March 18	<b>Playford Ball Workshop</b> (Sacramento)	<i>2-5 pm</i>
Friday, March 23	<b>Playford Ball Rehearsal</b>	
Saturday, March 24	<b>Playford Ball</b>	<i>Alisa Dodson with Puck's Deceit</i>
Sunday, March 25	<b>Playford Brunch</b>	
Sunday, March 25	<b>Celebration of Life: Michael Siemon</b>	
Fri-Sun, April 6-8	<b>Epicenter Contra Weekend</b> (NBCDS)	<i>Lisa Greenleaf, Will Mentor with Elixir, Stringrays</i>
Fri-Sun, April 13-15	<b>Queer Contra Dance Camp</b> (QCD)	<i>Will Mentor and the Free Raisins</i>
Friday, May 4	<b>Contra Waltz</b> (Friday Night Waltz)	<i>Susan Petrick with the Offbeats</i>
Sunday, May 6	<b>Teen Dance</b> (with FUCSJ)	<i>Claire Takemori</i>
Sun-Fri, July 1-6	<b>American Dance and Music Week</b>	<i>Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer</i>
Friday, July 6	<b>AmWeek Gala Dance</b> (open to all)	<i>Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer</i>
Sun-Fri, July 1-6	<b>BACDS Family Week</b>	
Sun-Sun, August 19-26	<b>Hey Days English Dance and Music Week</b>	<i>Brook Friendly, Joanna Reiner, Gaye Fifer</i>
Sunday, March 4	Special Petaluma Contra (NBCDS)	<i>Susan Petrick w/New Brew</i>
Saturday, March 3	<b>Playford Ball Workshop</b> (East Bay)	<i>2-5 pm</i>
Sat-Sun, March 9-10	<b>Contra College</b>	<i>Jacqui Grennan and Susan Petrick w/Uncle Farmer</i>
Saturday, March 10	<b>Contra College Callers' Workshop</b>	<i>Susan Petrick</i>
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Fri-Sun, April 13-15	<b>Queer Contra Dance Camp</b> (QCD)	<i>Will Mentor and the Free Raisins</i>
Saturday, April 21	Special San Francisco Contra	<i>Ron Buchanan with Tripleplay</i>
Sunday, April 22	Special Hayward Contra	<i>Ron Buchanan w/Audrey Knuth, Chris Knepper, Christopher Jacoby</i>
Friday, May 4	<b>Contra Waltz</b> (Friday Night Waltz)	<i>Susan Petrick with the Offbeats</i>
Saturday, May 12	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Eric Black with Patt &amp; Possum</i>
Wednesday, June 6	Special Berkeley Contra	<i>Andrea Nettleton w/Rex Blazer, Jeff Spero, Chris Knepper</i>
Saturday, June 9	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Andrea Nettleton w/Rex Blazer, Jeff Spero, Chris Knepper</i>
Saturday, June 23	<b>Hambo Workshop</b> in Palo Alto, 5 pm	<i>Erik Hoffman</i>
Saturday, June 30	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Gaye Fifer with the Syncopaths</i>
Sun-Fri, July 1-6	<b>American Dance and Music Week</b>	<i>Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer</i>
Friday, July 6	<b>AmWeek Gala Dance</b> (open to all)	<i>Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer</i>
Sun-Fri, July 1-6	<b>BACDS Family Week</b>	
Fri-Sun, August 10-12	<b>Balance the Bay</b> Contra Weekend	<i>Seth Tepfer, Sue Rosen, Hotpoint, Nova</i>
Sun-Sun, August 19-26	<b>Hey Days English Dance and Music Week</b>	<i>Brook Friendly, Joanna Reiner, Gaye Fifer</i>
Fri-Sun, October 19-21	<b>Fall Frolick</b> English Weekend	<i>Beverley Francis, Brad Foster, Kalia Kliban, Sharon Green</i>
Fri-Sun, November 2-4	<b>Foggy Moon</b> Contra Weekend (MCDC)	<i>Cis Hinkle, Yoyo Zhou, Elixir, DynaMix</i>
Saturday, November 17	<b>1718 Ball</b> ( <i>limited enrollment</i> )	<i>Mary Luckhardt, Sharon Green, Kalia Kliban</i>

See [bacds.org](http://bacds.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), [santaacruzdance.org](http://santaacruzdance.org) (TDSC), [montereycdc.webs.com](http://montereycdc.webs.com) (MCDC), [cccds.org](http://cccds.org) (CCCD), [haywardcontradance.org](http://haywardcontradance.org) (TDOGS), [lafd.org/sf](http://lafd.org/sf) (QCD)

This issue was edited by Chris Folger and Jens Dill. Send corrections to [TheDancer@bacds.org](mailto:TheDancer@bacds.org). Deadline for the Summer *Dancer*: May 20, 2018. Send submissions to [cjfolger@yahoo.com](mailto:cjfolger@yahoo.com). Please join the conversation.