

CDSS Web Chat #4, April 4, 2019: Family/Community Dance Organizers Unite!

Chat Questions/Comments

Ron: What resources do you recommend for finding simple dances?

Bev: New England Dancing Masters and Marian Rose Step Lively

Craig: Are the same dances repeated every dance or do the dances change and get more difficult from dance to dance? Do kids get bored if the same dances repeat from dance to dance?

Bev: I think kids love repetition. They get energized by things they know

Emily: Repertoire is so important but any suggestions for resources on delivery??? How the caller engages is as important/more important than the actual dances.

Claire: Has anyone noticed if you get a lot of the same families returning every time? Or do you have a wide base of families that show up randomly and that big base keeps the dances paying the bills?

Emily: What are the prizes for the door prizes? Kid friendly?

Bev: In Bozeman, MT, where I call family dances, we get many of the same families returning. also home schoolers.

Emily: In cities, it's really hard to get parents' attention as there's so much going on. Any suggestions on promotion in a big city in particular?

Susan: Anyone do this for free?

Claire: Rick, are the teen dances growing in ability?

Emily: How do the two afternoon dances vary in age in compared to the evening dances? Do Phli/California get younger kids?

Emily: Go to Pourparler conference!

Chloe & Rick Mohr: Claire - yes, but there's a tradeoff between dance size and skill building. Lately we've had a ton of new dancers (yay!) but our skill level has taken a hit.

Jacob Bloom: Also books by Sanna Longden and Dudley Laufman.

Claire: Pourparler training weekend by NFO, national folk org

Carol: Does anyone use ethnic folk dances for part of an evening, or an alternate time? Greek hora, etc?

Bev: Delivery - smile... it comes through your voice! Be willing to be silly

Emily: Pourparler :) :) :)

Jennifer Rose Escobar: For those who have a teen and preteen element, we'd like to invite you to SPRING MOUNTAIN FOLK FESTIVAL in Berea (Katy knows all about it)!!

dansingsal: Carol asked about ethnic dances - yes, I do! Our dances are smaller than the ones being featured this evening and this may be one reason, however. On the other hand, some people LOVE coming just because of what they call these "quirky fun" dances!

Jacob Bloom: Carol: I've found Hora Pe Gheata and Savila Se Bela Loza very useful.

Claire: BACDS Family week has Susan Michaels & often Kalia Klivan who are great family dance callers to learn from

Chloe & Rick Mohr: on ethnic dances - we have here and there, but I've stopped doing anything that requires a specific tune. Pretty much anything I call can be done to any jig or reel.

Juliette Webb: Chrissy Davis-Camp is excellent!

Susan: Doing demonstration of even the simplest dances with a regular kiddo helps a lot.

Rossi: Any other "Theme" dance ideas similar to the Beatles dance Chrissy mentioned?

Bev: Not sure if it's ethnic, but a favorite is Sasha!

dansingsal: Delivery resources: at the most recent Pourparler we had a long session on using humor in delivery! I learned a lot at that session. And I repeat: Pourparler is a terrific resource for all things related to Family/Community Dance!

Jennifer Rose Escobar: We start our family dance with Sasha every.single.time :) :)

Emily Flouton: Re international dances, Sasha is one of our signature dances, both at Sebastopol Family Dance and also BACDS Family Week.

Susan: I use international folk dances about half of the dance time. I have regular musicians who know the tunes. Zemer Atik, Branle des Rats is a BIG hit, the Hustle, too, to a reel.

Paul Rosenberg: There are so many ethnic dances that I have discovered that are a BIG hit at our family dances. I found a totally different repertoire than the standard international folk repertoire. Eg, Kinderpolka, Sasha, Funga Alafia, and dances from Latin America, China, Africa, etc etc

Chrissy: In Belfast we do Sasha!

Emily Flouton: Sarah Lee has gotten the BEST door prizes donated!

Chrissy : In Belfast at the community dance, we give away bumper stickers and a free admission certificate. On our yearly anniversary dance, we give away disco ball necklaces.

Emily Flouton: ...Waldorf toy store gift certificates, handmade ice cream store gift cards, and Sarah's Silks Waldorf play silks

Emily Flouton: Sebastopol prices are only \$5/person, \$10 per family, NOTAFRAF

Emily: Chapel Hill & Belfast --- what is the age range of the kids as it's early evening...

Paul Rosenberg: Do you all have a door person? We never do. Just a shoe box with "suggested donation" of \$5 to \$8 for adults and \$1 for children

Claire: Has anyone tried doing one-offs in a community first before launching a family dance series?

dansingsal: Will these comments & questions be available for viewing later?

Chloe & Rick Mohr: claire - yes! It's fine to try a dance before committing to a series.

Susan: Thanks to all of the presenters and CDSS for putting this on!!

tavimerrill: TY everybody, presenters and participants! Wonderful resources and insights ... Let's make 2020 a year of community dance :) hi from windy Bangor, ME

claire: The best part of Pourparler is access to the email list with folks like Chrissy, David Millstone, Jeremy Korr, Seth Tepfer, Paul Rosenberg etc etc, totally invaluable for callers

Chloe & Rick Mohr: Come to Philadelphia and visit our dance! We'd love to have you.

sarahlee: Come to Sebastopol and dance with us too!

Emily: Yea! Thank you!!!

Paul Rosenberg: THANKS