



SCD
SS

FALL 2023





BALANCE AND SING online store

*This
Autumn!*

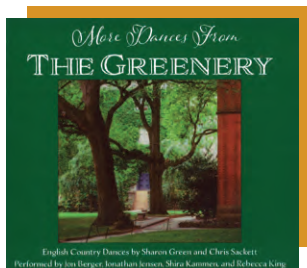
Fall in love with new music and books, as well as some restocked favorites from the CDSS store! Not sure what to get?

Gift certificates are always available online in any amount.

*By Shira Kammen, Rebecca King, Jonathan Jensen,
and Jon Berger*

More Dances from the Greenery

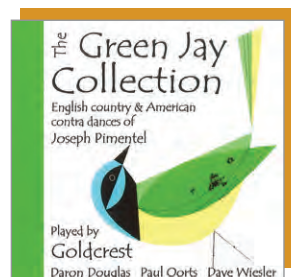
Following their immensely popular first CD (*Dances from the Greenery*), Shira Kammen, Rebecca King, Jonathan Jensen, and Jon Berger lend their musical expertise to 17 more tracks. Sixteen are to dances choreographed by Sharon Green, and one by Chris Sackett and Jonathan Jensen. Sure to be a household favorite!



By Goldcrest

The Green Jay Collection

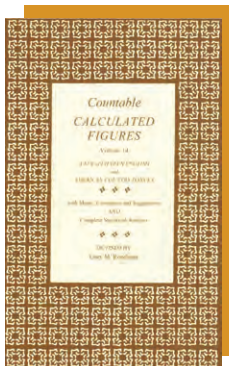
The wait is over! The companion CD to Joseph Pimentel's Green Jay Collection contains music to the 14 English country dances and 1 contra dance in the book. All tracks repeat seven times and are longways duple minor, except for track 8, which repeats six times for 3-couple dance. Played beautifully as always by Goldcrest (Daron Douglas, Paul Oorts, and Dave Wiesler).



By Gary Roodman

Countable Calculated Figures Vol. 14

The latest from renowned choreographer Gary Roodman. The 2023 installment and 14th volume of the *Calculated Figures* series features 15 new and exciting English and American country dances with music, comments, suggestions and, as always, complete statistical analysis. An abbreviated index to all 14 volumes is included.



Huge Sale Ongoing!

Dozens of items from the CDSS store are on deep discount as we make space on our shelves! Great books of tunes, ritual dance, and overstock CDs are all there! Most items have been cut to \$5, so take a look and grab something before it runs out. When these are gone, they're gone! Find everything at cdss.org/sale.

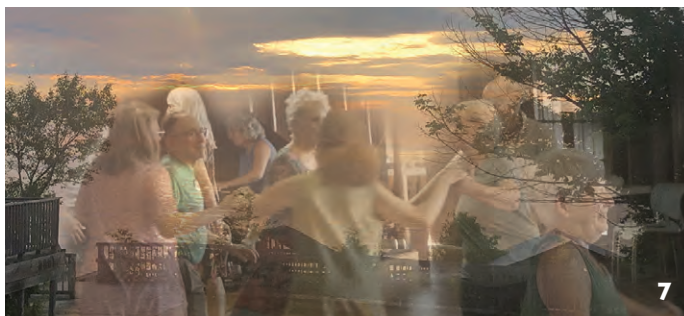


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The Country Dance & Song Society connects and supports people in building and sustaining vibrant communities through participatory dance, music, and song traditions that have roots in English and North American culture. Membership is open to all. Direct benefits include this magazine, a 10% discount from the CDSS store, priority registration for our summer camp programs, and more. Indirect benefits include the satisfaction of knowing that your support will enhance CDSS's ability to spread the traditions you love. CDSS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; membership dues and donations are tax deductible. For more information, visit cdss.org.

This magazine is published quarterly by the Country Dance & Song Society. The views expressed within represent the authors and are not necessarily those of CDSS. All material is published by permission.

FRONT COVER: 2023 CDSS Family Week at Agassiz Village, Poland, ME. Screenshot from a video taken by Hamish Swanson.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lifetime Contribution Award Celebration

Registration is open for the 2023 CDSS Lifetime Contribution Award Celebration, honoring the New England Dancing Masters: Mary Alice Amidon, Peter Amidon, Mary Cay Brass, and Andy Davis

Sunday, October 15, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange

401 Chapman St, Greenfield, MA 01301

This will be a daytime event, with singing and socializing, presentations from special guests, and of course community dancing!

Space is limited due to hall capacity. If you'd like to join the celebration, please register at cdss.org/nedm. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis, and we will maintain a waitlist if needed. Find more details and COVID protocols at cdss.org/nedm.



Pourparler: A Gathering for Community Dance Leaders

Are you a dance/music educator, community dance caller, or musician? Come share with others who do this vital work for an extended weekend of dancing, singing, playing music, exchanging ideas and networking.

The 24th annual Pourparler will be held October 26-29, 2023 at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, WI. Scholarships especially for CDSS Members are available! For more info and registration, visit nfo-usa.com/pourparler or see the ad on page 32. To request a scholarship, email ppourparler.info@gmail.com



Bob McQuillen Tunes App

All of Bob McQuillen's Note Books are now available as an iOS app! You can find the app at cdss.org/BobsNoteBooks or search "Bob McQuillen's Note Books" in the Apple App Store (iPad only).

The app includes 1,500 tunes, searchable by title, page, key, and meter. The Note Books are part of Ralph Canapa's Transported Productions' Tune Librarian app and can be combined with the tunes from *The Portland Collection*, *New England Fiddler's Repertoire*, the Barnes books, and more.

Enormous thanks to Laurie Indenbaum and Deborah Maynard for creating the app along with Ralph. You can learn more about Laurie's project to play all the McQuillen tunes at mcquillentunes.com.

Corrections

In the June 2023 issue of the CDSS News, the contra dance New Jersey Commute listed incorrect instructions in the B1. A corrected version of the full dance is at cdss.org/news (click on the cover for the summer 2023 issue).



Cultural Equity Task Group Update

The Cultural Equity Task Group of the CDSS Board is continuing to work toward our goals of identifying and reducing barriers to access in the traditions we steward, including acknowledging historical harms and racism.

Last fall, we facilitated an open Zoom meeting for CDSS Members, where we shared the Cultural Equity Advisory Group recommendations (cdss.org/equity) and some of the work we are engaging in to move us forward.

In the spring we drafted a definition of cultural equity to help guide us:

In the context of CDSS, cultural equity encompasses the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people have access to the dance, music, and song traditions defined in our mission. This includes the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources as well as a responsibility to research and share the complete history of the traditions we support.

We are working to empower everyone who wants to participate in these traditions to do so with a full sense of safety and belonging. This includes people who have been historically underrepresented or denied access based on age, body size or type, citizenship status, disability, gender identity or expression, veteran status, national,

regional, or ethnic origin, race, religion, sexual or romantic orientation, and socioeconomic status.

This summer, we convened a “CDSS History Working Group” of board and community members tasked with researching and writing information to share about the history of CDSS, what has been omitted, and how to address racism in our traditions.

This year the Cultural Equity Task Group plans to support the work of the History Group and create more opportunities for conversations and training on equity issues for the CDSS Board. The group includes board members Margaret Bary, Jeremy Carter-Gordon, Gaye Fifer, Avia Moore, Marni Rachmiel, and David Smukler, and CDSS Executive Director Katy German.

Survey Coming Soon

Hey you! Are you 18-44 years old? Do you participate in folk music or dance? Congratulations—you’re important in shaping the future of our communities, and CDSS wants to hear from you! We want to better understand WHO you are and WHAT your community’s needs are. A survey just for you opens on Sept. 25, at cdss.org/survey2023. Your input will help create CDSS’s future, and we couldn’t be more excited.

If you are outside of this age range, we really appreciate you and hope you take a moment to pass this survey along to the younger members of your communities.

Photo by
Doug Plummer.



JOHN DEXTER'S FAR-REACHING

Legacy of Joy



JOHN DEXTER

“Whatever this gift of mine to CDSS ends up being, making the gift is the very least I can do to acknowledge everything CDSS has given me over the years.”

John Dexter—morris dancer, musician, teacher, fearless leader and guiding light of New York City's Bouwerie Boys—passed quietly from this world in May of this year, leaving behind a 50 year legacy of incalculable breadth.

Not long after his passing, CDSS learned that John had left us a significant bequest. We did expect it. Years ago, John had let us know that CDSS was included in his estate plans. In fact, he was the first of our members and friends to share his Legacy of Joy story here in the News. [You can read the full story here](#), but I'd like to share this excerpt, which captures his vibrant spirit and his generosity so well:

I was given the gift of dancing by CDSS. And that gift has actively influenced my life every day since 1965. I am SO grateful for this, and I was SO lucky to have been given it.

And I say Thank You not only to the organization at large, but also to all the people involved in keeping the thing going! Your work is difficult in that regard, and you should know that people like me would be dramatically different people were it not for CDSS and its lasting influence in my life. So, THANK YOU, CDSS! Thank you for everything you do and have done over the years. As we used to say in the Morris, may you continue to flourish!

The bequest arrived in July, and we say, THANK YOU, JOHN! Thank you for the legacy of your years of dancing, playing, and teaching, and for this generous legacy gift, which will help CDSS to flourish this year and well into the future.

YOU TOO CAN BE A DANCE ANGEL...

Do you, too, envision a future where the traditions you love flourish and endure, and opportunities for dance, music, and song communities to learn, grow, and thrive are supported across North America?

You need not be wealthy to leave a legacy. Becoming a member of CDSS's Legacy of Joy Society is a great way to make your core values known to others while ensuring the sustainability of our organization. Generations to come

will benefit from your gift, and your lasting support of our mission will serve as an inspiration to others.

To join, fill out the online form at cdss.org/legacy, or email Robin Hayden at robin@cdss.org. Considering including CDSS in your estate plans but don't know where to begin? Check out our FAQ page: cdss.org/loj-faq, or fill out the Expression of Interest form, and we'll be in touch to help you figure out your options.

GREAT LAKE

By Cathy Hollister

Waves lap, lap on the shore
rhythmic but not regular,
the lake's heart beats differently than mine

Both hold secrets

My shipwrecks are intangible
but just as epic.
Passive, below the surface, ready
to snag a toe or take my breath
as I drown in cold arrogance

These failures will sink me
unless I learn to navigate
the cruel currents
that eddy in obtuse repetition.

The lake has no limits that I can see
at once calm and fearsome
familiar and unknowable.
She creates her own weather
her own community.
She has range and worth.

I can learn from her.

*Written at Dance, Music &
Spice at Camp Cavell, 2023*

BELOW: *Sunset photo by
Peter Baker merged with a
dance photo by Carol Ormand.*





Hoggetowne Fancy: Playing for English Country Dance in Florida

By Pete Turner

What does it take to play regularly in an English country dance band? I've been playing with Hoggetowne Fancy for our weekly English country dance for about ten years and have learned some things to share!

The dance happens at a rented church hall in Gainesville, FL, every Monday night (and I mean every Monday!). The leaders, Randy Thorp and Annette Merritt, have created a wonderful community dance that is welcoming and strives to encourage better dancing. Attendance is 20-40 dancers each week. The admission price is minimal, and the dancers are asked to contribute a similar amount to the band.

Currently, Hoggetowne Fancy has three core members: JoLaine Jones-Pokorney (recorders), Bob Reyniersen (baroque guitar and steel-string guitar), and myself (10-string guitar-bouzouki). Each of us can carry the melody for the ten or so tunes that we play each week. The callers send us the list of dances/tunes in the week before the dance. We appreciate not having to choose the material, since each English dance has a corresponding tune, though we do choose a tune for the closing free waltz. Some weeks there are two or three new tunes to learn. My ability to read music has improved greatly over the past decade!

The band also needs to know the tempo for each tune. The caller is responsible for setting the tempo. We also review videos to see how many beats per minute are ideal for the dance. Playing well for dances requires setting a steady tempo, and maintaining it, which can sometimes be challenging if the tune itself feels better played at a

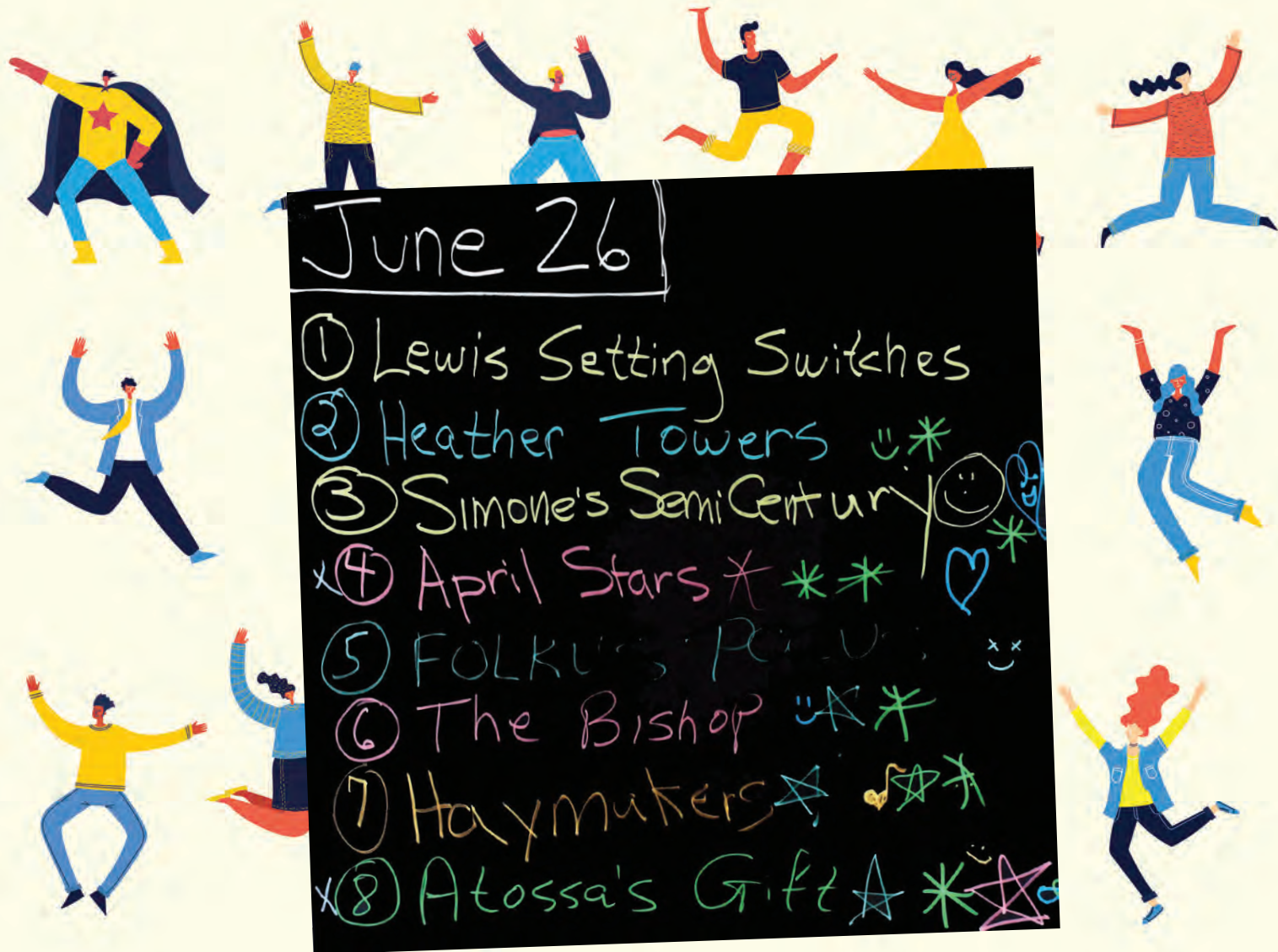
different pace. Playing for dancers is wonderful in that the dancers are not looking out for us to make mistakes and are generally very appreciative as long as we give them a clear and steady beat.

Another important aspect of playing for dancers is to give a clear indication of when the dance begins, which is usually accomplished by one of us (generally JoLaine on recorder) giving two clear lead-in notes. I learned some suggestions on how to do this in a class led by Jacqueline Schwab at Pinewoods week this summer: generally the two notes should lead up or down to the starting note, be in the key of the piece, and be spaced appropriately to indicate the tempo.

The band must also keep track of how many A sections and B sections we've played. If the dance/tune structure is AABB, we need two of each section, no less and no more! We usually check with the caller before the dance starts to confirm what the structure is, as there are other patterns such as AAB, AB, ABB, etc. If one of us messes up during the dance, the others are looking out to rescue their bandmates.

For variation in sound, we like to switch who takes the melody. Our default is to go from right to left across the line, i.e., JoLaine, Pete, Bob, and then repeat. We also come up with melody pairs (bouzouki plus recorder or recorder plus guitar) to give some more texture, making sure there is still rhythm backing (guitar or bouzouki). Hoggetowne Fancy is also practicing improvising on the fly. One interesting strategy that Jacqueline Schwab suggested is subtracting notes to make a skeletal melody that is recognizable as the tune (leaving the notes on the beat) and then adding other notes in, but not just the notes that were subtracted. This is going to take some work! The improvised melody should still fit the chords and be recognizable, so that we don't strip out the parts of the tune that tell the dancers where they are in the dance.

As the leader of Hoggetowne Fancy, my job is to make sure the musicians know where to find the tunes before each Monday and to make sure we're all using the same versions. Sometimes we will modify the chords. One difficult part of running the band is finding musicians to fill in if one of us is absent, as I had to do for the six weeks that I was running the CDSS bookstore at Pinewoods this summer. I've found it quite difficult to find musicians who have both the ability and the desire to play the tunes, but we now have a small number of musicians that we can call on, playing accordion, piano, or recorder, who are greatly appreciated. We like to



include guest musicians in the regular roster, too, so that we're not calling on them only when they're absolutely needed. Once in a while, a guest band plays in place of Hoggetowne Fancy, which gives the regular musicians a break and enables them to do some dancing.

I consider myself very fortunate to be part of Hoggetowne Fancy. The variety of tunes in the ECD repertoire is delightful, spanning from the Playford era (1700s) to the present day. Some of my personal favorites are in 3/2 time. There is a fair amount of effort involved in learning the tunes, practicing with the band each week, and lugging sound equipment to the dance, but the overall experience is very rewarding. I'd encourage anyone who is interested in playing for dancers (ECD or contra) to give it a try!

Hoggetowne Fancy performs every Monday in Gainesville for North Florida's ECD community. Gainesville English Country Dance also hosts the [English Country Dance Channel on YouTube](#). You can also watch [videos of the band playing](#) (without dancers) the tunes Barbarini's Tambourine (1747), The Emperor of the Moon (Playford 1690), Judy and Jim's Wedding (Larry Unger, 1988), and Moonflower (Rachel Bell, 2016).

ABOVE: Dancers rate each week's dances with decorations to indicate which were their favorites, and the callers will repeat some of those dances the following week. Photo by Patrick Harrigan.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Hoggetowne Fancy, featuring JoLaine Jones-Pokorney (recorders), Bob Reynierson (baroque guitar and steel-string guitar), and Pete Turner (10-string guitar-bouzouki). Photo by Dave Pokorney.

Remembering

Tribute to Rosemary Lach (1947-2023), our caller, VECDS

from The Dancehall Players:

Keith Malcolm, Ann Schau, Karen McIvor, Gregory Brown, Barrie Webster, Lael Whitehead, and Susan Larkin

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is presented on a single staff with various chords indicated above the notes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 8, 13, 18, 21, 25, 30, and 34 marked at the beginning of their respective lines. The chords used include F, Bb (Gm), Dm, Bb, Gm, C, F, Bb, A, Dm, C7, C, Am, Gm7, F/C, and Bb. The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings at measures 13-14 and 30-31.

Chords: F, Bb (Gm), F, Dm, Bb, Gm, C, F, Bb, A, Dm, C7, C, Am, Gm7, F/C, Bb, C, F, C, F, C7, Bb, C, F.

© June 23, 2023. Contact thedancehallplayers.com and vecds.bc.ca for details.

Remembering Rosemary Lach

By Jane Srivastava, with help from Rosemary's daughters, Katrina and Megan, and Victoria dancers, including Claudia Haagan and Martha Burd

Rosemary Lach, a stalwart of English, contra, and morris dancing in Victoria, BC, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on March 29, 2023, at the age of 75. Rosemary was a CDSS Board member in the early 2000s, presented at the 2006 West Coast Leadership Conference, helped organize the 2016 Executive Committee meeting in Victoria, and, with Bev Bernbaum, co-edited the News' "News from Canada" column.

Rosemary was born on England's south coast, the youngest of four children. At an early age, her mother enrolled Rosemary in ballet classes to channel her kinetic energy, thus initiating a lifelong passion for the joy of movement to music.

Rosemary moved to Montreal when she was in elementary school. After attending McGill University, she moved back across the pond to live in Oxford and travel in Europe. Returning to Montreal, she worked as an audiologist, and married, sailing with her husband down the Atlantic seaboard, through the Caribbean, and into the Pacific. With their daughter, Megan, on the way, they moored their small boat near Victoria and lived on board until the arrival of their second daughter, Katrina, necessitated a move to land.

In Victoria, Rosemary first worked interpreting sign language and later creating activity programs for seniors and individuals with mental disabilities. Amber Harvey remembers Rosemary as a mother at Sundance Elementary School, "She was a loving advocate for the children and often brought pots of delicious homemade soup for everyone to enjoy at lunchtime during the winter months."




ABOVE: Rosemary's mother enrolled her in ballet classes to channel her kinetic energy. Photo provided by Rosemary's family. **RIGHT:** Rosemary Lach; photo courtesy of VECDS archives.

After retirement, Rosemary reconnected with her childhood sweetheart, Robin Lowry. They lived in a home near the ocean whose garden boasted prolific apple trees whose fruit was dried, made into applesauce, pressed into cider, baked into apple crumbles for sharing at potlucks, and given away to community groups. Rosemary sewed most of her dance dresses, created numerous quilts, loved to read, play with her cat, Lucy, row in the harbor, walk on rainy beaches, and cycle instead of drive whenever she had the chance.

In 2000, Rosemary was a morris dancer with a bad knee, restless and bored. Armed with a quilting project, she set off for Seattle's ECD workshop weekend Cascadia, planning to watch from the sidelines. She danced all weekend. At that time, ECD was virtually non-existent in Victoria, and Rosemary returned home determined to launch a weekend event to build local musicians' and callers' skills and expand dancers' skills and repertoire.

She joined CDSS and traveled to Pinewoods that summer to dance, connect, and gather resources and practical knowledge, which she used to launch *Hands Across the Water* in September.



By January 2001, dancers wanted to dance weekly, Dan's Hall was the hub of the nascent Victoria English Country Dance Society, and Dan Page and Ann Schau regularly played for the dances there, sowing the seeds for the Dancehall Players. It was a perfect storm: an inspired and energetic dance leader, dancers, a hall to dance in, and a house band. In 2002, Victoria hosted its first ball, complete with lunch and entertainment. Over the succeeding years, Strawberry Teas on the green expanse of Pat Mason's lawn, dance-outs at Mayne Island, and Twelfth Night Dinner-Dances in the dark of January were added to their dance calendar.

Rosemary promoted and taught ECD at local and international Jane Austen Society events; she called local contra dances and participated in Morris, Newfie, Norwegian, International, and Scottish Country Dancing. Helen Kirk remembers, "...at the Victoria ECD New Year's Eve party this year, Rosemary surprised and delighted those in attendance by teaching a Hawaiian hula dance... she had an amazing talent to make dancing joyful and fun while also pushing us to improve our skills and expand our horizons."

A consummate student of English country dance, ever expanding her knowledge and repertoire, Rosemary attended, taught at, and called for balls and camps across the US and Canada. She wrote the dance Filigree to the tune "Lady Marian" by Dancehall Players member Gregory Brown. As a leftie, she enjoyed writing as many opportunities as possible to make a move in the left hand direction. Dan Page wrote the tune "Waltz for Rosemary" for her, which she used for her dance Serenity, written to celebrate her marriage to Robin.

"We will remember Rosemary as the instigator, the rock, and the anchor of the Victoria English Country Dance community."

During the pandemic years, Rosemary established a weekly Zoom dance, adapting dances and drawing dancers from the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Her dance Stay at Home Blues, written to Ann Schau's jazzy and playful tune, will forever remind us of this time and of

Rosemary's creative and resourceful spirit.

Claudia Haagen writes, "We will remember Rosemary as the instigator, the rock, and the anchor of the Victoria English Country Dance community. She was a dear friend, a lively dancer, a gifted teacher, a mentor to her community of callers, and an adept delegator of the many tasks needed to bring the joy of dance to her local community." She was all of this, and more.

More from and about Rosemary:

[5 Things... Inside the Dancing Mind of Rosemary Lach](#), video from the Historical Tea & Dance Society, April 2021

[Wednesday Zoom Dancing in Victoria](#), article by Rosemary and the Wednesday Zoomers, Summer 2022

[The Exec Visits Victoria, BC](#), article by Doug Plummer, Summer 2016

"Remembering," composed by The Dancehall Players in memory of Rosemary. Sheet music on page 11; recording coming spring 2024 on *Out Of The Silence Vol. 3*



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SYMMETRY ECD

By Sharon Spangler

Formed by a group of friends in 2020,
we continue to thrive in cyberspace.

It's Sunday, 1:15 p.m. Eastern time. From my home in North Carolina, I log into the Zoom account for Symmetry ECD and open the meeting.

My co-hosts join from the UK (where it is evening), Oregon (where it is morning), Missouri, and Montreal. The musicians join from the UK. We laugh and chat, excited about the upcoming dance.

Time for sound check! The band plays; the caller calls.

How is the sound balance? Can you hear the calls over the music? Excellent! Thumbs up.

It's 2 p.m. Dance time! Dancers appear in the waiting room, and the co-hosts admit them. The dancers wave to each other out of their little screens, from British Columbia to Ontario, from Massachusetts to Nevada, as well as from various locales in England.

The band plays the tune. The caller teaches the first dance, a simplified version, helping the dancers keep track of their invisible set members.

*Face your partner across the middle of a 3-couple set.
Right shoulder back to back with your partner, left hand turn
with the neighbor on your left.
Right hands across with the couple on your right.*

Dancers move in beautiful patterns to beautiful music. Some bring their instruments and play along with the band. Others rest and watch their friends dancing in their kitchens or living rooms or on the back deck in the sunset.

Break time! The band sings a song. Then more dancing, a final waltz, chat time. With waves and farewells, dancers sign off, filled with the glow that comes from friendship, fellowship, music, and dance.

Welcome to Symmetry ECD, an entirely virtual dance community, the first of its kind to become a CDSS Affiliate. At the beginning of the pandemic, a group of friends from Virginia, Maryland, and Missouri started getting together on Zoom to enjoy English country dance. They decided to open up to others and advertised in the CDSS calendar.

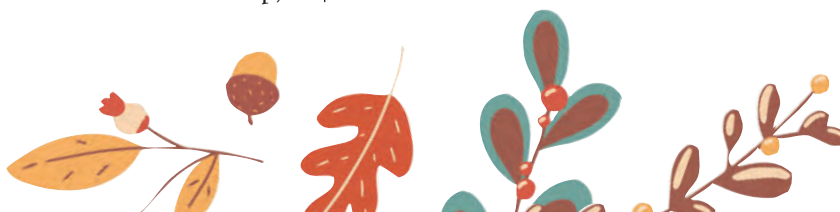
From this informal beginning, we have grown to a non-profit with a governing board of members from the US, Canada, and the UK. We have a group of rotating callers from both the UK and the US. We are truly an international community, meeting to dance two to three times per week.

Though we began in the US, we have had a strong UK presence from our earliest days. Symmetry's 2 p.m. Eastern start time is 7 p.m. British time, a perfect time for an evening dance. Many of our participants, volunteers, and callers – and our band – are from across the pond, and they have contributed greatly to enrich our community and our repertoire of music and dances.

We discovered our band, British duo Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer, at the New Year's Eve Coast to Coast Celebration in 2021. Well-known in the UK as a contra and Playford dance band, Vicki and Jonny's technical expertise and versatility make them a perfect choice for our online dances. Jonny plays keyboards, guitar, banjo, and accordion while Vicki plays flute and nyckelharpa, a bowed stringed instrument from Sweden. They are also wonderful singers, songwriters, and storytellers, and they share these talents with us during our break times midway through the dance.

If you haven't danced on Zoom since early in the pandemic, you will be amazed at how much better the sound and visuals are now. Zoom has come a long way. No, it's not like in-person sound, but pretty close, and sometimes even better. Everyone in the "Zoom room" has the ability to turn up their own volume. So that everyone can hear the caller and music, dancers stay muted during the dance unless they have a question. In the chat time afterwards, everyone is invited to unmute and take part.

Though none of us can touch each other, we can see and hear each other, and it's wonderful to see friends from far-flung places every week. Moving in time to the music is very satisfying, as is getting to know new dances and new dance communities. We all have so much to share and talk about. Zoom dancing is a great addition to in-person dancing, another way to experience English country dance.



If you haven't danced on Zoom since early in the pandemic, you will be amazed at how much better the sound and visuals are now. Zoom has come a long way.



Symmetry's callers have different ways of handling the modifications that are necessary for online dancing. I like to give my modified versions of dances a different but similar name to the original dance, to stress that they are not exactly like the original dance. Some callers deviate from the original only enough to eliminate the progression, while others make further changes to help Zoom dancers navigate more easily around the set. All our callers are very aware that online dancers need positional cues like "Face the couple above you" or "Three changes moving up the set," as well as calling throughout the dance.

We have a variety of callers with different styles. Some demonstrate as they call, others may ask an experienced couple to provide a demonstration. Second walk-throughs are common, and questions are always welcomed.

Symmetry ECD offers dances every Sunday at 2 p.m. ET, every Tuesday at 2 p.m. ET, and every first Thursday at 7 p.m. ET. The link to get there plus info about upcoming events is on our website, symmetryecd.com.

Donations are encouraged for operating expenses and live music, but never required. There is an optional email list for those who want reminders of special events, but you don't need to be on it. Just click the Dance Link on the website to get to the dance. Once you are there, we like to have your name displayed on your screen. Turning on your camera is optional, but encouraged. It's so much fun to be able to see each other!

Check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/SymmetryECD or email us at contact@symmetryecd.com.

If you want to see what our Zoom dances are like—and hear our fabulous band—watch this video of the dance Bonnie at Morn made by Vicki Swan: bit.ly/BonnieAtMorn. (You can't hear the caller, but you can hear the music and see the dancers.)

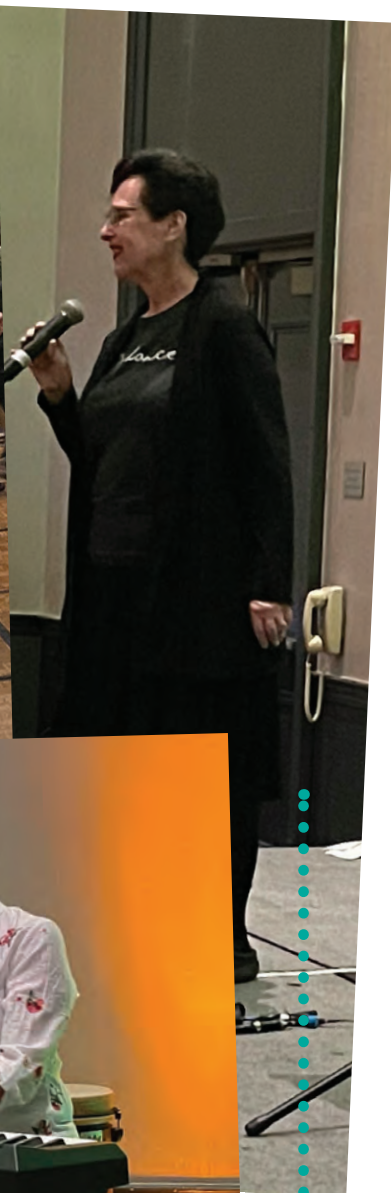
Give us a try! You'll be glad you did. See you on the dance floor.

Sharon Spangler is a caller with Symmetry ECD. At home in North Carolina, she dances with Sun Assembly English Country Dancers and Durham/Chapel Hill Scottish Country Dancers.



Weekly, Sundays &
Tuesdays@2pm ET;
1st Thursdays@7 ET
Zoom **DANCE LINK** at
symmetryecd.com





THIS PAGE: *Sandy Knudsen and Reelplay lead a dance at the Organization of American Kodály Educators conference in Jacksonville, FL, March 2023. Photos courtesy of Robbin Marcus.*

FIVE YEARS WITH THE CDSS EDUCATORS TASK GROUP

By Robbin Marcus and Kathie Brown

Who Are We?

The Educators Task Group is a team of teachers from various subject areas and grade levels, united by our passion for traditional song and dance. The Educators Task Group (ETG) was convened to support the CDSS 2019-2023 Strategic Plan focus area: “Improve our ability to bring traditional dance, music, and song experiences to school-age participants through school and community-based programs.” The group was charged with expanding CDSS’s understanding of how traditional music and dance are presented in formal education settings and with building partnerships with educational organizations and teachers.

We organized after the CDSS annual board meeting in 2019 and created the group’s mission statement:

The ETG Mission

- To expand CDSS awareness of the PK-12 education community, specifically how to support educators teaching folk music and traditional dance in the classroom.
- To explore how CDSS can serve as a resource to teachers through connecting with their professional organizations.
- To generate original educational and family content for the CDSS website.
- To expand teacher awareness of CDSS and all it has to offer.
- To collect data for marketing CDSS camps to PK-12 educators.

We wanted to get to know the teachers already in our membership and encourage others from outside the organization with an interest in folk music and dance to join CDSS. As teachers are brought into the CDSS fold, our dream was for them to receive continued support for developing and sharing their love of folk music and dance in a wide range of program areas. We believe that bringing teachers on-board with CDSS materials from the store and website and information from camp sessions can positively impact student learning in the long term.

In addition to music teachers, our target audience includes:

- home-school teachers
- public school teachers
- private music lesson providers
- dance leaders
- people who see themselves as teachers outside the school/classroom setting.

Strategy

The ETG initially focused on holding outreach sessions about CDSS at a variety of education conferences. We began with music education, because that’s an easy target audience for what we offer. The world shut down five days after our first conference in March 2020.

To adapt to the pandemic, for a year and a half, we pivoted to editing educator resources on the CDSS website and creating original resources that could be shared online for free, such as the Dance It Yourself video series, which families and students could use at home. This series was a great success, with each video garnering hundreds (and even thousands) of views, suggesting that teachers who were starved for online content were using our series often.

We’re relieved to have returned to seeing folks’ smiling faces in person at local and national conferences. For example, at the Organization of American Kodály Educators conference dance in Jacksonville, FL this past March, Sandy Knudsen’s calling and the music of Reelplay (Robbin and

Dave Marcus) kept participants up and dancing for several hours. At a CDSS booth the rest of the weekend, Robbin was able to provide free CDSS materials and resources to several hundred music educators who had enjoyed their time on the dance floor and were curious about what CDSS had to offer.

We are looking for additional educator conferences that would welcome CDSS dance sessions with our volunteer callers and musicians. Share your ideas with us!

Our group is continuing to build a multi-discipline, crowd-sourced, online lesson plan toolbox. Sample plans range from fourth graders writing and dancing their own contra dances to tenth grade English language arts students analyzing themes of marriage and sexism in versions of "The Wagoner's Lad." To get your own creative juices flowing, take a moment to browse the toolbox on the website at cdss.org/educators. We welcome plans in all subject areas in addition to music and dance! Imagine math lessons using dance and movement to teach counting and patterns, elementary after-school programs offering traditional dance, language arts students writing their own ballads, and social studies classes using the ballad form to tell first-person narratives of historic events. If you are an educator, consider contributing lesson plans and let us know if you have questions.

Search for this series of social media posts from CDSS and the ETG for more ideas:

Do you have a **sample lesson plan** to contribute to our resource page? **Send your ideas** to the Educators Task Group for review: **education@cdss.org**



Also, we hope to offer educators' sessions at CDSS summer camps again, and are working to determine when the stars will align for teachers to be able to attend a family-based week. In 2023, ETG members offered informal educator lunch meetings at camp to share what we've accomplished and to learn what inspires you.

How can educators use CDSS resources and support our goals?

- Peruse our existing resources on the CDSS website at cdss.org/educators.
- Write to us at education@cdss.org with questions and the following:
- Sign up for our email newsletter.
- Suggest conferences you attend (not only music educators!) that might like to have a dance session presented by CDSS volunteer members.
- Browse our online toolbox and submit your own subject area lesson plan to our email before October 1, 2023.









As a task group under the previous CDSS strategic plan, the ETG will be wrapping up its work in April 2024, when the board turns its focus to the new strategic plan. So if you have ideas, suggestions, or comments for us, please send them in now!

We look forward to hearing from you.

The ETG includes teachers of music and dance, a librarian, and elementary and secondary educators. Our common goal is to promote music and dance in schools and to support CDSS. We are: Robbin Marcus, chair, Margaret Bary, co-chair, Dorcas Hand (2019-2021) Diane Silver (2019-2020), Karen Gaughan (2019-2020), Kathie Brown (2022-2023), Meg Dedolph, Sandy Knudson, Justin Morrison, Jeremy Carter-Gordon, Katy German, CDSS Executive Director.

NAME THAT ECD (EMOJI COUNTRY DANCE)!

Created by Renée Camus and Alex Bradley for Pinewoods English Week, 2023

1.  _____
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19.  _____

"Final Boss" Super Challenging Round 😊:

20.  _____



GENERATIONAL TRANSITION SURVEY *coming soon*

Are you 18-44 years old and part of the folk community?
We'd love to hear from you to better understand your
and your community's needs. Visit this link after Sept. 25
to share your thoughts!

cdss.org/survey2023



Minnesota Weekend
English Country Dance
Save the Date

Star of the North

October 6 - 8, 2023

Live Music with
ALCHEMY

Rachel Bell
Accordion

Piano
Karen Axelrod

Fiddle
Eric Martin

Susan Kevra
Caller

Online Registration
coming soon!

www.tapestryfolkdance.org

T.A.P.E.S.T.R.Y.
Folkdance Center

INTERNATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOP

Minneapolis, MN

NOVEMBER 3 - 5, 2023

Lee Otterholt

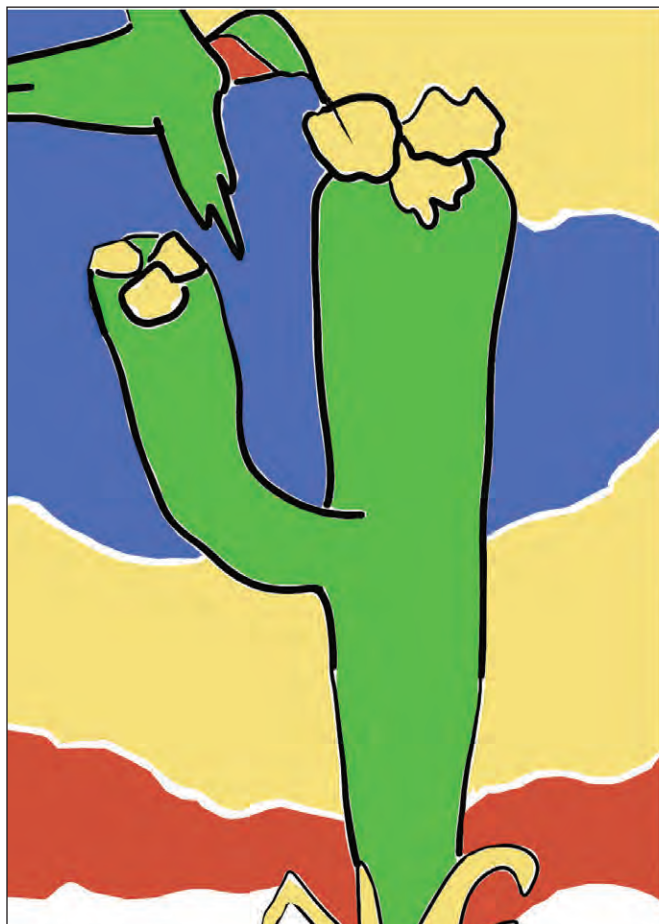

Instructor

Music by
Orkestar Bez Ime

An incredible weekend of choreographed
diverse sessions and dances

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE
WWW.TAPESTRYFOLKDANCE.ORG

T.A.P.E.S.T.R.Y.
Folkdance Center

You are invited to

Dance in the Desert 2023

November 10 - 12

At the Triangle Y Ranch
Tucson, AZ

Featuring The Dam Beavers and Turnip the Beet
Callers Gaye Fifer and Jacqui Grennan

Registration now open!

For Covid Policy and other information go to tucsoncontradancers.org

BEV BERNBAUM



SISTER HAGGIS



Phylla Mae Fall Fest

October 20-21, 2023



OSTARA

Two Special Events This Fall

from

**SYRACUSE
COUNTRY
DANCERS**

CONTRA & ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING



Don't
miss
them!



Contras & More
Friday Night and
All Day Saturday

Double English Ball

Multiple Callers with
Peregrine Road

Rachel Bell and Karen Axelrod



November 4, 2023

Afternoon:
Challenging ECD
Evening for all:
Dress-up admired,
not required

For details, see: syracusecountrydancers.org/special-events/



Pittsburgh Contra Fall Dance Weekend 2023

Save the dates:

October 27 - 29, 2023

Visit <http://pittsburghcontra.org/fdw/> for more information.



Music City Masquerade

Oct 27 - 29, 2023

Nashville, TN

Featuring Lighthouse:

Audrey Jaber (Knuth), Max Newman & Stuart
Kenney

Lisa Greenleaf calling

Learn more at nashvillecountrydancers.org



Harvest Moon Folk Society



Table Rock State Park,
Pickens, SC
October 6-8, 2023
with the following fabulous bands

The Dam Beavers

Ben Schreiber, Scotty Leach &
Ness Smith-Savedoff

Tune Drivers

Pam & Fred Stoll,
Amy & Bob Buckingham
with Callers

Steve Zakon-Anderson
and Terry Doyle

Registration now open!

<https://moondancesc.com>

Scholarships are available

Covid Policy / Wellness Policy

We want to have a healthy and safe dance. Please follow the precautions below:

- * Please take a home Antigen COVID test the morning of the event, prior to your arrival.
- * Masks are optional.
- * Cancel / do not attend if you have had any COVID, or other communicable disease symptoms, or if you have come into contact with a positive case within the past 10 days.
- * Please leave immediately if you begin to have symptoms during the event and inform the organizers.
- * Moondance will issue pro-rated refunds to attendees who leave due to suspected illness or for those that cannot attend due to exposure or illness.

Monterey Country Dance Community presents
our 7th Annual

Contra
Dance
Weekend

Nov 3-5, 2023



Dance with us to:

ELIXIR &

The Free Raisins!

Calling by:

Nils Fredland &

Lindsey Dono

in beautiful Monterey, California

There's still room for YOU!

visit & register at montereycontradance.org



WASATCH WIGGLE 2023

Contra Dance weekend in Salt Lake City, Utah

October 20 – 22, 2023

Music by Audacious:

Larry Unger & Audrey Jaber

Frannie Marr, caller

Registration: <https://wasatchcontras.org>
info@wasatchcontras.org



Winter Frolic 2024

A mini-weekend of 3 contra dances

With Joyance

and



Christine Merryman

Fri-Sat
Feb 9-10, 2024
Chandler, AZ

Phoenix Traditional
Music & Dance

Register at
phxtmd.org



Fleur de Lis Fling

November 17th-19th, 2023

1228 E Breckinridge St.
Louisville, KY 40204

Music by The Engine Room and
Tea & Whiskey feat. Joey Dorwart

Calling by Gaye Fifer and Seth Tepfer

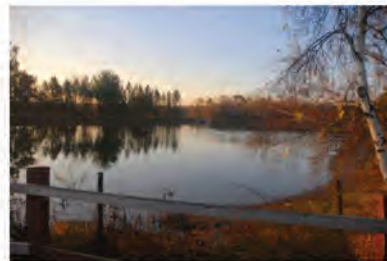
Sound by Ed Howe

Registration begins September 1st!
www.louisvillecountrydancers.org



Nov 10, 11 & 12

A getaway weekend of dance, music, and song at Camp Harlam, near Kresgeville, PA in the Poconos, sponsored by Princeton Country Dancers



Contra
Dancing
and English
Country
Dancing
every day



Couple
Dancing



An oh-so-
elegant
Saturday
evening
cocktail
party with
live swing
dance
music

Workshops: dance, singing, instrumental
music, and more

Tune swaps

A fabulous ceilidh (sidesplitting skits,
serious songs, dance performances...)

Late night fun

Jamming

With: A Joyful Noise, Brooklyn Swing Ensemble, Raise the Roof

Daniel Beerbohm, Michael Bell, April Birnie, Marco Brehm, Josh Burdick, Minda Cowen, Alex Deis-Lauby, Danny Elias, Steve Epstein, Jeff Gauthier, Sue Gola, Barbara Greenberg, Diane Hartzell, Donna Hunt, Carol Johnson, Karen Justin, Michael Karcher, Ben Kennedy, Judy Klotz, Robert LaRue, Peggy Leiby, Carl Levine, Nathalie Levine, Rick Lightbody, Susie Lorand, Louise McClure, Ted McClure, Cecily Mills, Imogen Mills, Janet Mills, Robert Mills, Bob Pasquarello, Daniel Potter, Norman Plankey, Anna Rain, Christie Riehl, Ted Rudofker, Dylan Simpson, Judi Stellar, Kathy Talvitie, Ret Turner, Miranda Weinberg, Helen White, Sam Zygmuntowicz

More information and registration at <http://head-for-the-hills.com>

Email larryk@princetoncountrydancers.org

Photos ©2008-2012 Stas Wnukowski



The Traditional Austin Area Dance Association is pleased to announce

THE 24TH ANNUAL



CONTRA DANCE WEEKEND

November 17-19, 2023

*Ben Hur Shrine Ballroom
Austin, Texas*



caller:

Bob Isaacs

band: **Playing with Fyre**



George Paul on keyboards
Rob Zisette on fiddle and
Steve Kemble on drums

***Mark your calendar and join us for a
Great Weekend of Music, Friendship and Dancing!***

*including party on Saturday Night (wear your fire colors!), workshops,
hot local band for a Saturday session, 30 minute mind-blowing medley
and potluck brunch on Sunday*



*for more information visit **Fireantfrolic.org***

BAY AREA FALL FROLICK

November 17–19 ♦ <https://www.bacds.org/camps/fallwk2023/>

Fall Frolick 2023 will feature the multi-talented Alex Cumming teaching singing (including songs from the English Country Dance repertoire), a music workshop by the inspiring Caroline McCaskey, new and old-favorite dances brought to us by stellar callers Dan Blim, Kalia Kliban, and Bridget Whitehead. There may even be a contra dance. See you in November!

Join us for two days and two nights of English dancing & singing and workshops aplenty at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg. Featuring callers Dan Blim, Kalia Kliban, & Bridget



Whitehead with musicians Patti Cobb, Alex Cumming, Christopher Jacoby, Audrey Jaber, Caroline McCaskey, & Rebecca King. Space is limited—Register now!

COUNTRY



The BACDS Playford Ball "A Starry Night"

Evening of March 30, 2024 at the San Jose Woman's Club, San Jose, CA

Program by Alisa Dodson

Music by Shira Kammen, Rebecca King & Jim Oakden

Info about the Ball and related events: www.bacds.org/events/playfordball2024/

DANCE

SAVE THE DATES FOR SUMMER WEEKS

Hey Days English Dance and Music Week, June 16–23, 2024—bacds.org/heydays

Staff: Bridget Whitehead, Melissa Running, Alchemy and more to be announced ...

&

BACDS Family Week, June 23–29, 2024—our 31st year! Monte Toyon Camp in the redwoods

Watch bacds.org/familyweek for details!

SOCIETY



Our board decided early on to support our musicians and callers during the pandemic. One project paid three of our ECD musicians—Shira Kammen, Judy Linsenberg, and Patti Cobb—to make recordings for the Oddly Even Sundays dances Sharon Green and Kalia Kliban hold on Zoom. Listen to these superb recordings at bacds.org/odd-sundays.

BACDS is dedicated to teaching, promoting, and presenting country and ritual dancing throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. For BACDS information, email bacds@bacds.org or visit <https://bacds.org>.

BACDS is a completely volunteer-run 501(c)3. Your donations are always welcome.



Music & Dance

JOHN C. CAMPBELL FOLK SCHOOL

Dance has been an integral part of the Folk School since its founding. From clogging to square dancing, you'll learn the steps, feel the rhythm, and connect with others.

UPCOMING CLASSES AND PROGRAMS:

11/29/2023
Irish Dance and Bodhrán Percussion

12/26/2023
Winter Dance Week

01/28/2024
Scandinavian Dance

03/3/2024
Dances and Stories of the Folk

04/26/2024
Spring Dance Weekend

06/18/2023
Dance Callers' Week

folkschool.org/cdss
BRASSTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 1-800-FOLK-SCH

WINTER WARMUP 2023



December 1-3



HOT COFFEE BREAKDOWN

Tom Cunningham, Luis de Leon, Kate Sanders



**DIANE
SILVER**



**DARLENE
UNDERWOOD**

*Big Scioto Contra Dance welcomes dancers
to Winter Warmup 2023!
Worthington, Ohio (near Columbus)*

REGISTER: www.bigscioto.com

MORE INFO: bigsciotocontra@gmail.com



THE ROSENTHORNS

Michael Ronstadt, Rose Gowda,
Anne Cooper and Mary Rekers



TERPSICHORE'S HOLIDAY 2023-24

**REGISTRATION OPENS
IN SEPTEMBER!**

December 27th - January 1st

Claggett Center, Frederick, MD

Music and dance camp for adults, families, and kids of all ages

**Dave Wiesler
Jonathan Whitall
Meg Dedolph
Julie Gregorio
Eric Schedler
Katie Zukof**

**WAKE UP ROBIN
Noah VanNorstrand
Audrey Jaber
Amy Englesberg**



**Calling by
Luke Donforth
Adina Gordon**



**Matthew Olwell
Emily Oleson
Chris Bischoff
Miranda Weinberg
Kappy Laning**

Financial assistance for families and individuals is available

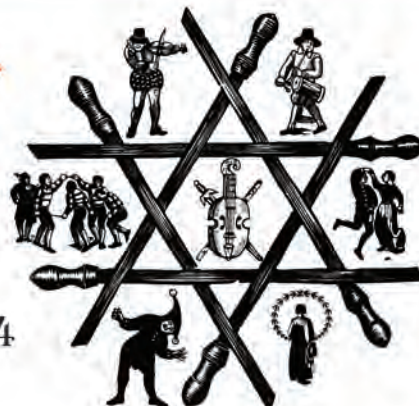
<https://danceholiday.net>

SINCE 1938
**CHRISTMAS COUNTRY
DANCE SCHOOL 2023**

BEREA, KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 26, 2023–JANUARY 1, 2024

WWW.BEREACCDs.ORG



INSTRUCTORS and MUSICIANS

Aubrey Atwater, Karen Axlerod, Elke Baker, Aidan Broadbridge, Eric Crowden, Elwood Donnelly, Brad Foster, Kent Gilbert, Wayne Hankin, Dean Herington, Debbie Jackson, Phil Jamison, Roo Lester, David Macemon, Jim Morrison, Owen Morrison, Janet Northern, Anna Patton, Jamie Platt, Bruce Spencer, Jim Napier Stites, Patty Tarter, Darlene Underwood, Larry Unger, Al White, Alice White, Joanna Reiner Wilkinson, Karina Wilson, Nathan Wilson, and Crispin Youngblood.

Executive Director: Joe Tarter

CLASSES

Contras & Squares (3), English Country Dance (5), Appalachian Dance (2), Callers Workshops (3), Appalachian Clogging/Flatfooting (2), Morris & Sword (4), Dance Band (3), Crafts (4), Singing (3), Scandinavian Dance (3), Recorder (2), Jubo, and Mummers Play

DAILY GATHERINGS FOR ALL
Morningsong, Evening Dance, and Evening Parlor.

More information on registration, food, lodging and program is available at

www.bereaccds.org

Call **(859) 986-1986** or e-mail **bereaccds@gmail.com**

ALL Participants and Staff must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19—including booster shots—and provide copy of CDC COVID Vaccination Record Card with registration.

Printed brochures will not be mailed.

Please go to our website www.bereaccds.org to register online or to print and mail registration.

Cabin Fever

Cooking up a great weekend!



Feb 9-11 2024

Knoxville, TN

www.knoxvillecontra.org



St. Croix,
US Virgin Islands

English Week

Jan 30 - Feb 6, 2024

Alchemy with **Joanna Reiner Wilkinson**
and **Gaye Fifer**

Contra/Square Week

February 7 - 14, 2024

Wild Asparagus with **Lisa Greenleaf**
and **George Marshall**

*Days are yours to sightsee, snorkel, kayak, dive, hike,
bike, shop, ride horseback, lie on the beach, etc.
Evenings come alive with dance and music.*

For more information please use the
QR code to visit our website:
tropicaldancevacation.com

Email: tdv@wildasparagus.com
413-575-6283



Created & organized by George Marshall

Bayou Bedlam

Contradance Festival in Houston, TX

February 9-11, 2024

Featuring **Gaye Fifer**

Calling to **The Dam Beavers**

For details & registration visit

BayouBedlam.org

Presented by

**HOUSTON AREA
TRADITIONAL
DANCE
SOCIETY**



www.hatds.org

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN DANCE AND MUSIC SOCIETY
of Richmond, VA presents the 27th

Springforth Ball and Dance Weekend

MUSIC BY **Drive Train**

Ed Howe - Fiddle

Bennett Konesni - Guitar

Noah Fishman - Bass mandolin, bouzouki

Calling by **Gaye Fifer**



April 12-14, 2024

tadamsva.org

HARMONIOUS CHORDS

Earring Co.



Made with up-cycled guitar strings.

Melodiously Memorable :

MAD ROBIN BALL Weekend

May 17-19, 2024
Petaluma, California

Celebrate ECD Classics

with Gene Murrow & J

♪ Jacqueline Schwab

♪ Daniel Beerbohm

♪ Earl Gaddis

♪ Mary Lea

nbcds.org





For registration information
please visit: nfo-usa.org

ppourparler.info@gmail.com

Supported by CDSS
and NEDM

The National Folk
Organization presents:

Pourparler

at Folklore Village
in Dodgeville, Wisconsin

October 26-29, 2023

Are you a dance/music educator,
community dance caller, or a musician?

Pourparler is a get together or parley for teachers of folk/traditional dance in schools and communities. The extended weekend includes discussion, networking, and sharing teaching tips along with live music, singing and dancing.

CDSS OFFICE

116 Pleasant Street #334, Easthampton, MA 01027-2784
413-203-5467, fax 413-203-5471, office@cdss.org, cdss.org
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

STAFF

Executive Director, Kathryn Tarter German, katy@cdss.org
Director of Development, Robin Hayden, robin@cdss.org
Director of Programs, Joanna Reiner Wilkinson, joanna@cdss.org
Director of Finance, Julie Brodnitzki, julie@cdss.org
Director of Technology, Sarah Pilzer, sarah@cdss.org
Accounting Manager, Anna Mach, anna@cdss.org
Gifts & Database Coordinator, Nicole Perez, nicki@cdss.org
Membership Coordinator, Audrey Jaber (Knuth), audrey@cdss.org
Programs Coordinator, Sarah Babbitt Spaeth, sbspaeth@cdss.org
Publications, Sales, & Services Manager, Ben Williams, ben@cdss.org
Marketing & Communications Manager, Kelsey Wells, kelsey@cdss.org
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Contact the board at office@cdss.org;
board bios and photos are on our website at cdss.org/board.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES, PHOTOS & ADS

Articles, letters, poems, art, and photographs about contra and traditional square dance, English country dance, morris and sword dance, dance tunes, folk songs, and the dance and music community are welcome. Newly-composed dances and tunes also are welcome, as are new looks at historical dances and tunes. For written pieces, please contact the Editor (news@cdss.org) prior to submitting your work for guidelines about word count and information about what content we are currently looking to publish.

ADS

Ad space of various sizes is available in all issues of the CDSS News, with discounts available for CDSS members, affiliates, and for multi-issue reservations. Size and pricing info is at cdss.org/advertise. To make a reservation, please email news@cdss.org. Reservation deadlines are approximately 6 weeks prior to publication.

The **EVENTS CALENDAR** is online at cdss.org/events. To include an event, click the green “Submit an Event” button in the upper left.

SUPPORT

CDSS is a 501(c)(3) organization; dues and donations are tax deductible. To become a member, visit cdss.org/join. To donate, visit cdss.org/donate. Thank you!

LEGACY OF JOY SOCIETY

Does your will include the Country Dance & Song Society? Please consider ensuring that the programs, publications, and services that matter to you continue in the future with a bequest. Read more about the CDSS Legacy of Joy Society and sign up at cdss.org/legacy.



BE SOCIAL WITH US!



facebook.com/cdss.org
youtube.com/c/cdssorg
Instagram: [@cdssorg](https://www.instagram.com/cdssorg)



Friends, we are so very grateful for your
strong and steady support!

CDSS NEWS

Country Dance & Song Society

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 334

Easthampton, MA 01027-2784

www.cdss.org

Change service requested

