



SCD SS

SPRING/SUMMER 2025





BALANCE AND SING online store

*This
Spring!*

Now available at the CDSS Store—the dances and music of Philippe Callens, as well as brand new books and CDs for your playing and listening enjoyment! Don't know what to get? Gift certificates are always available at the CDSS Store in any amount.

By Philippe Callens

Post Scriptum (Book)

Now available for the first time in the US! Celebrated caller Philippe Callens's posthumously-published collection, *Post Scriptum*, contains 28 new English country dances, collected by Simone Verheyen. Each dance contains choreography and music notation, and the book contains an index to all five of Philippe's collections.



Post Scriptum (CD)

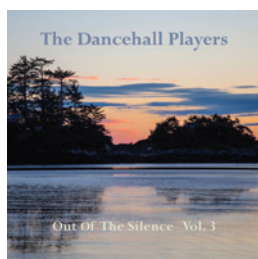
This CD accompanies Philippe Callens's posthumous book, *Post Scriptum*, with music to 16 of the 28 dances played by Paul Hutchinson (accordion), Karen Wimhurst (clarinets), and Dries De Maeyer (recorders and whistles). A second volume with the remaining dances will be published in the future.



By The Dancehall Players

Out of the Silence Vol. 3

This third volume (a double album!) of original music writing project, *Out Of The Silence*, from the Dancehall Players has come into being during a challenging two years—written, collected, rediscovered as they worked to recover the joy that music and dance bring to our community. This collection of tunes embodies the variety of emotions that we all experience as life unfolds.



Compiled by Kathryn Tickell

Folk Tunes from the Women

Folk Tunes from the Women, curated by Kathryn Tickell, is a tunebook like no other! This is a bumper book of more than 150 contemporary tunes by 100 unique composers from Britain and Ireland, all from different areas, traditions, and backgrounds. There's a wide selection of jigs, hornpipes, reels, airs, marches, polkas, waltzes, mazurkas, and more. All tunes are presented as melody lines with chord symbols, making it a useful book for teachers and players alike.



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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. We steward the living traditions of English country dance, contra and square dance, morris and sword dance, and the music that is an integral part of these traditions. 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 twice a year 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: Cover: Recent recipients of CDSS Community Grants. Top to bottom: Musicians workshop at BACDS Fall Frolick 2024; photo by Audrey Jaber. ContraQuebec Spring Buds 2024; photo by Armelle Lorcy. Victoria (BC) Contra Dance Autumn Allemande 2024; photo courtesy of Brad Johnson. Southern Illinois Community Contra Dance; photo by Clover Johnson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you!

Our sincere gratitude for your support during our 2024 fall appeal. With a more ambitious goal than ever, in a season where many nonprofits experienced record low giving, we still managed to make 96% of our appeal goal! We consider this a huge success, and feel that this speaks to the unity of our community and the shared experience of joy created through music, dance, and song.

Work at Camp this Summer!

A few positions are still open at our weeklong camps this summer! Thinking of attending one of these weeks? We might have a job for you!

American Dance & Music Week

(Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA, July 19–26)

- Lifeguard (with CPR/First Aid Certificate)

Family Week at Agassiz Village

(Poland, ME, August 11–17)

- Lifeguard (with CPR/First Aid Certificate)

We'd love to have you join our 2025 camp team! Find more info about these positions at cdss.org/jobs.

NEW FOR ORGANIZERS

Community Culture & Safety Toolkit Now Available

New in the Resource Portal! The Community Culture & Safety Toolkit is a comprehensive guide to help organizers develop the policies, procedures, and supporting documents needed to understand and facilitate safety in their communities. Topics include creating a statement of community values, code of conduct, and etiquette guidelines; establishing protocols for handling complaints

and infractions; and evaluating the safety of a physical space. The toolkit also includes bonus guides on facilitating community meetings, role terminology, and managing chemical sensitivities. Check it out at cdss.org/toolkit.

Celebrating Our 2025 Lifetime Contribution Award Recipients

We're delighted to invite you to three Lifetime Contribution Award celebrations this year!

John Roberts

Saturday, May 10, Schenectady, NY
Register at cdss.org/lca/roberts.

Though unfortunately John passed away on February 3, this event will still take place as scheduled. It will be a time to honor and celebrate John, share memories, and comfort each other.

David Surette

Sunday, October 19, Concord, NH

Save the date! More info will be available soon at cdss.org/lca/surette.

Tony Parkes

Saturday, November 22
Concord Scout House, Concord, MA

Registration not required.
Find more info at cdss.org/lca/parkes.

You're Invited...

2025 CDSS Annual Meeting

The CDSS Governing Board is holding its annual meeting this year at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, WI, May 15–18. CDSS Members are welcome to attend our

Photo by Jeff Bary.

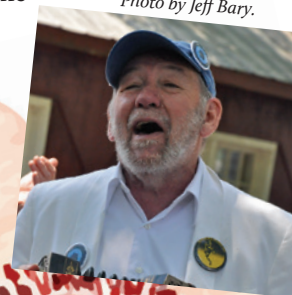


Photo courtesy of the Burke family.



Photo by Doug Plummer.



Photo by Nikki Herbst.

business meetings, generally 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CT on Thursday and Friday.

As is usual for our meetings, we will not provide housing or food for member visitors. Meetings will be indoors. Our COVID protocols include daily rapid tests. Masking is optional.

Please notify us if you plan to attend so that we can ensure ample parking and seating. For more information, contact Board President David Smukler (dsmukler@verizon.net, 315-883-6049).

We Filled the Barrand Fund!

We're pleased to report that after several generous donations, including a final gift from the Cajolet family in memory of Ron "Cajy" Cajolet, the Anthony Barrand Research & Stewardship Fund is now complete and ready to be put to use!

Inspired by the life of Tony Barrand and his numerous contributions to the thriving morris, ritual, and song traditions on the continent, this fund provides financial support to the next generation of song and dance researchers. For more info, visit cdss.org/grants.

Announcing the latest CDSS Podcast: the Belfast Flying Shoes Radio Hour!



This monthly podcast, hosted by Chrissy Fowler from Belfast, ME, will feature live studio recordings of contra dance music and conversations with travelling bands. Check out this perfect dose of delight with musicians whose talents catalyze joy and connection wherever they play! Available now wherever you listen to podcasts and at podcasts.cdss.org.



Photo by Tom Collicott.

Need a Smile? Stream *The Canote Twins* for free!

The Canote Twins is a feature-length documentary that gives us an intimate look into the remarkable bond of identical twins Greg and Jere Canote and their genetically-matched musical mastery. The film shares their journey from infancy to the present day as they take their place in the rich tradition of musical brother duets, quickly evoking such seminal duos as the Blue Sky Boys, the Delmore Brothers, and the Everly Brothers. But delightful music is only part of the story. Greg and Jere have another unique characteristic: they are two of the happiest people you will ever meet. And their happiness is mysteriously contagious. Anyone finding themselves in close proximity to the twins might also find themselves caught up in a vortex of joy and optimism. The film is of special interest to CDSS—filmmaker Larry Edelman is a well-known musician and dance caller and past coordinator of several programs at Pinewoods; Greg and Jere have been frequent staff members at numerous CDSS weeks; and the film features a section on the inimitable Sandy Bradley, recipient of the 2017 CDSS Lifetime Contribution Award. The film is filled with music and humor, and audiences all over the world report feeling a little more joyful, a bit happier after watching it. And can't we all use more of that? You can stream the film for free at thecanotetwins.com.



Searching for Images of Pete Sutherland

Pete Sutherland was a beloved musician, songwriter, poet, artist, and teacher whose creative spirit radiated from his distinctive blend of roots music. *The Endless Chain* is a documentary being produced to take viewers on an intimate journey into Pete's life and artistry. The filmmakers are currently collecting photographs and video of Pete to include in the film. Pete was on staff at CDSS camps in 1991, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, and 2018. If you have images that you're willing to share, please fill out the contact form at piggysnoutproductions.com/contact describing the documentation that you have, and the filmmakers will get back to you quickly.



Photo by Steve Mease.

Welcome, Matt!

We're excited to welcome Matt Reyna as our new Affiliate Coordinator! Matt joins the CDSS Programs Team with a background in fine arts, community arts, public garden management, and informal adult education. A lover of many traditional dance and song traditions, he attended his first CDSS camp, Harmony of Song & Dance, in 2017. He was so inspired by that experience that he founded a contra dance in his hometown!

Since then, Matt's passion for fostering joy, wonder, and human connection through community song and dance has only grown. He's been a participant, founder, and board member in various dance and song communities, and is excited about building a strong network of support among CDSS Affiliates. Outside of work, Matt enjoys making art, hiking, travel, and gardening.



Photo courtesy of Matt Reyna.

Throughout the year, Matt will be working with affiliates remotely from New Orleans. In July and August, he will be leading our summer admin team at Pine-woods Camp!

Welcome, Whitney!

We're excited to welcome Whitney Rowlett as our new Director of Programs! Whitney has made teaching and performing historical dance—from the Renaissance through Regency—her passion for more than thirty years. She specializes in teaching large groups of people with a wide variety of dance experience. She created the dance troupe Moonlight Dance Theatre to fuse historical dance, fantastical elements, and modern teaching techniques in a warm, inclusive environment. Throughout her career, Whitney has developed dance programs at living history sites, Renaissance festivals, conventions, and for stage productions and nonprofit events around the world.



Photo courtesy of Whitney Rowlett.

In her spare time, Whitney continues her work as a visual effects producer for feature films, television, corporate clients, and virtual reality experiences on behalf of major corporations including Sony, Netflix, Apple+, Camouflaj, Meta, Marvel, SyFy, Verizon, The Travel Channel, Comedy Central, NBC Universal, CBS, and Riot Games. She was a member of the Academy Award-winning art team on *The Amazing Race* and was a team member on *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* and *Emma Approved*, both recipients of an Emmy for Original Interactive Programming. When not otherwise engaged, Whitney is working toward a masters degree in folklore and flying airplanes. She lives in Austin, TX, with her two cats.

BANISH MISFORTUNE

By Theodore Deppe

Is everything gone? Most everything. Then why
hurry home? Our friend is in Vermont
when she gets the call

and since there's nothing now to save, she goes
as planned to the contra dance. Puts off
until next day her return to Portsmouth.

I try to imagine that. Fire guts her home
so she gives herself
to the grace of movement.

A dance partner. Assigned steps that lead
through flames. One outstretched
hand then the next.

Most things destroyed, so how can it still be possible
to be this light on her feet? She recalls
the swallow-like girls who swooped

through the house after her aunt's funeral,
playing under the table, then back in motion,
almost flying. Aunt Beatrice,

who once told her that ten years after
Uncle Derek's death, she still
reached out for him most mornings,

then got up and made her own coffee.
After the funeral, she spent the night
in her aunt's home

and saw the fox. A regular visitor. "The fox
from the far field." One constant
in the time of flux, a wild red flash,

though utterly unhurried, and now
she faces her partner, follows the sequence
of hands and smiles

and tries to keep moving through *Bring Me Flowers*,
The Bare Necessities,
then *Banish Misfortune*.

Her drive back to the charred
apartment awaits, her stepping through loss.
She wants these dances first, needs

to take the hand of whoever appears, you, now,
smiling as she casts off, fiddle and accordion
keeping things progressing.

Draws another deep breath. Does her best
to take flight like those young girls. Oh, to be
the age of those swallows again.

To not yet know what disaster can bring.

Theodore (Ted) Deppe grew up in the US and went to Christmas Country Dance School in Berea, KY, a couple of times and eventually graduated from Berea College with a degree in nursing. He now lives in County Galway. This poem first appeared in *Impossible Blackbird*, Arlen House, 2024.



STORIES FROM THE CDSS

Legacy of Joy Society



SANDY & SAM ROTENBERG

“Our organization and activities bring joy to many, and we wish to support this endeavor for years to come.”

In writing our will, it was clear that supporting CDSS was important to both of us.

Watching CDSS's response to the COVID-19 crisis on our continent several years ago confirmed all that we admire about our national organization. Musicians played music to calm our souls, camp weeks held virtual gatherings to unite families and friends, web chats helped local organizations with logistics, and a venue was created for people to financially support musicians and callers who depend upon events for their livelihood.

We met folk dancing and years later discovered contra and English dancing. When our children, Tanya and Ben, then ages 13 and 12, asked to join us, they were welcomed by our community. What a pleasure this has been.

Our local dance group just welcomed two babies into our community, made quilts for them, and celebrated their parents' return to dancing. We love the mix of generations that attend our local events—the energy and new ideas from the younger dancers and musicians, the tradition and history from the older folks, and the fun we create together are the building stones of our future.

Sandy was on the CDSS Board for 12 years, during the first years that the executive committee began traveling to different communities for meetings. It was amazing to meet so many talented and dedicated organizers around the country, to observe and participate with CDSS's diverse affiliates. Our organization and activities bring joy to many and we wish to support this endeavor for years to come.

Photo by Ted Rudofker.



YOU TOO CAN BE A DANCE ANGEL...

Considering including CDSS in your estate plans? For more info about planned giving, please contact Charmaine Slaven, Director of Development (cslaven@cdss.org; 413-203-5467 x107) or visit cdss.org/loj.

STEPPIN' UP TO THE MIC IN CALIFORNIA

By Jean Gorrindo

In the heart of California's central coast, the historic town of San Luis Obispo has hosted a contra dance on the second Saturday of each month since 1986. Like so many contra dances, the dance series was suspended during the COVID-19 shutdown, but was able to start up again in September 2022. I resumed my duties as the only caller in the area, even though I had thought that my days as a caller were over.

In 2024, I recognized that indeed, my days as a caller were coming to an end. However, there was no one stepping up to fill my shoes. In response, I proposed to our Board of Directors a workshop series to teach others how to call for contra dancing. I felt that not only would this save my own dance, but would also bring new people into the pool of callers available in California, at a time when many dance organizations are experiencing difficulty finding good callers for their dances.

Thus, a new callers' workshop series, "Steppin' Up To The Mic", launched! The series of six workshops will be held throughout 2025 in San Luis Obispo, CA, and will feature such notable callers/teachers as Lisa Greenleaf (Boston), Jeff Spero (Los Angeles), Jacqui Grennan (San Pedro, CA), and Kelsey Hartman (Hayward, CA). The series has been generously awarded a grant from CDSS, and their support is very much appreciated. Details about the series are available at cccds.org.

Our organization, Central Coast Country Dance Society (CCCDs), is very excited to welcome new and aspiring callers to town. Each workshop will cover a different set of topics unique to the world of a caller, such as:

- Building a repertoire of dances
- Working with the band
- Understanding the music
- Teaching the introductory lesson and walk-thrus
- Gendered and non-gendered calling
- Programming
- Building a base of solid teaching

CCCDs is especially excited that renowned caller Lisa Greenleaf will travel all the way from Boston to teach the final workshop December 12-13, in an expanded, three-part presentation.

As of February 19, we have nine wonderful new callers registered for our series! We held our first workshop on February 8 and thoroughly enjoyed greeting our enthusiastic attendees, who were receptive and ready to further their skills. Two of them felt ready to step up to the mic at our dance that evening, and they enjoyed a most enthusiastic response from our local dance community. They did a fantastic job! We look forward to hearing more from them, and eventually hiring them to call for our dance. I fully expect that many of the dances in California will follow suit.

For new and aspiring callers, having an opportunity to learn from such an amazing, knowledgeable, and diverse group of callers will be invaluable. And for the contra dance community in California, having a group of new, energetic, and enthusiastic callers will go a long way toward keeping our beloved tradition alive.

Look for our follow up article next year, after our series has concluded. And if you happen to be in the area, please come dance with us, and share in the growth and development of this fine group of new callers! Let the joy of learning and growing together begin!



LEFT: Sam Winter, from Monterey, CA, takes a turn at the mic! **RIGHT:** Dancers in San Luis Obispo enjoy the calling of new caller Sam Winter.

A PLAYFUL PORPOISE

Longways duple minor

For Chris Levey, September 2023.

- A1 All dance into the center; turn single right.
Star right halfway; turn single left and face partner.
- A2 Two changes of rights and lefts.
1s right-hand turn 1.5, moving down between the 2s. 1s end crossed over,
with original first corner dancers facing each other.
- B1 Full dolphin hey (pass left shoulders to begin). 1s end in top place (still crossed over).
- B2 Mirror back-to-back, 1s splitting the 2s to begin.
Partners turn and progress: 1s turn halfway and cast,
while 2s turn once round and lead up.

TEACHING NOTES:

In the dolphin hey (B1), the 1st couple dances in tandem, changing leads at each end.

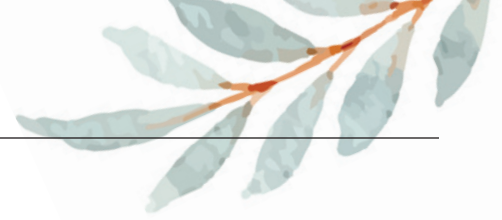
EDITOR'S NOTE: Chris submitted this dance and tune to the *News* prior to his passing last fall. Chris was, in his words, “tickled pink” to have these pieces written in his honor, and we are likewise honored to share them on his behalf. Chris was a former board member and lifetime supporter of CDSS and, as Sally Eshleman says in her introduction to this dance, instrumental in spreading community dance in the Upper Valley (VT/NH). We miss him and send love to his family. Read more about Chris and his (many!) passions at cdss.org/levey.

“This dance is a gift to Chris Levey, who introduced English country dance to the Upper Valley many decades ago, and as dancer and caller has shared his love of its beauty and grace ever since. Scott Higgs wrote the dance and Carol Compton composed the tune. This is for you, Chris, who gave us such wonderful gifts of music, dance, and yourself.”

—Sally’s presentation at the Norwich Mini-Ball,
September 23, 2023

Commissioning a dance and tune for Chris was my idea, though once it was shared with the dance community, it became a wonderful group venture. Scott asked what sort of dance we envisioned: what figures, what feeling? Chris was a devoted swimmer and a lively and humorous presence. A dance evoking water was suggested, with a dolphin hey included. Scott named it A Playful Porpoise. Carol composed a spritely tune, “Hey Nonny Nano,” whose title alludes to both Shakespeare’s refrain, “Hey Nonny Nonny” in *As You Like It*, and to Chris’s professional involvement with nanotechnology.

The occasion for the commission was the first Norwich Mini-Ball, planned by the same committee that for 25 years had arranged the Strafford Ball in Strafford, VT, two enjoyable days of dancing, eating, and hiking. After a respite of three years due to COVID, dancing was coming back once again. So, guided by a dancer survey, the committee planned a masked half-day mini-ball in Norwich, VT. Some



HEY NONNY NANO

For Chris Levey

CA Compton 2023

Chords for measures 1-5: G, C, D, G, A, D, G

Chords for measures 6-12: C, D, C, D, G, Em, B, Am, Em, B

Chords for measures 13-18: Am, Em, B, B7, Em, B

Chords for measures 19-24: Am, G, D, C, B, Am, B, Em

Alternate chords for measures 15-16 Cdim7 and B

*“A hint of the Bard’s English at a very small scale for a fine dancer,
singer, microphysicist—and friend!”*

dancers dressed to the nines, others were casual. The calling by Chris and David Millstone was excellent, and the music by the group Triptych, comprising Thal Aylward, Kate Barnes, and Carol Compton, was outstanding. It was an exciting time to pay tribute to Chris, who stood astonished on the dance floor with his wife, Barbara DeFelice. After whoops and applause, we all began to dance.

—Sally Eshleman



Celebrating Chuck Ward's Musical Legacy

By Audrey Jaber

At the 2009 Lifetime Contribution Award celebration for Chuck Ward, Sharon Green said that one of Chuck's greatest talents was his ability to "transform printed notes into cascades of infectious vitality and great beauty." That very ethos lives on through CDSS's Chuck Ward Musicians Training Fund.

The Ward Fund was established in 2007 in collaboration with the Bay Area Country Dance Society (BACDS) to celebrate Chuck and his impact on English country dance music across the US. Known for his playfulness, puns, and love of tricks, Chuck was an accomplished pianist, accordionist, and organist. He played in dance halls from coast to coast and founded the English Country Dance Society of San Francisco (now BACDS).

Chuck left a lasting impact on the Bay Area dance community, so it is only fitting that these generous funds be used to strengthen the local musicians he so deeply influenced.

Why Local Musician Training Matters

As someone fortunate enough to travel and experience many incredible dance communities, I've seen firsthand that local musicians, callers, and organizers form the nucleus of any thriving dance scene. Investing in local musicianship does more than just improve the quality of music at dances—it strengthens the relationship between dancers and musicians, deepens their engagement, and builds a sense of community that keeps the tradition alive and flourishing. I challenge anyone to find a reason not to support local musician growth!

Bringing the Ward Fund to Fall Frolick

With that in mind, last fall, I saw the perfect opportunity to integrate musician training into Fall Frolick, BACDS's annual English country dance weekend. We also wanted to introduce local musicians to fresh perspectives by bringing in instructors from outside the area.

Karen Axelrod (piano) and Ben Schreiber (fiddle) were obvious choices (in my humble opinion). After working with them at Dance, Music & Spice last year (shameless plug: registration is open, and they'll be back on staff this summer!), I was inspired by their musicality, fresh ideas, and obvious love of the music and community. I was thrilled to be able to bring them to the West Coast to share their expertise with the community. (Karen was already well-known and beloved in the Bay Area, and Ben—who previously lived in the Bay—is also cherished, though he is primarily recognized as a contra dance musician—something I hope has changed!)

The Workshops

To maximize accessibility, we structured the training across two settings:

- A Thursday night workshop before the weekend, open to all musicians.
- Dedicated musicians' training sessions during the Fall Frolick weekend

Thursday Workshop

The Thursday workshop took place before the regular English country dance evening in Berkeley. Musicians had a chance to learn, rehearse, and then immediately apply their skills in a live dance setting. Karen and Ben created a hands-on curriculum, preparing the six tunes for the night's dance that the caller, the amazing Brad Foster, sent in advance. These tunes became the vehicle for introducing core concepts in playing for ECD including:

- How to make your playing danceable
- Effective beginnings and endings for ECD tunes
- Arranging music creatively
- How to play in an ensemble
- What to do when you're not playing the melody





THIS PAGE: BASCD Fall Frolick hosted musicians' workshops, led by Karen Axelrod and Ben Schreiber, at their 2024 English country dance weekend. The workshops were sponsored in part by a grant from the CDSS Chuck Ward Musicians Training Fund. Photos by Audrey Jaber.

Karen joked that, "Normally, it would take 8,723 days to cover all this information. But we will fit it all into two hours." And somehow, they did.

The night was truly special. Brad Foster led the dances, and the energy in the room was alive, with a large, enthusiastic group of musicians playing for equally enthusiastic dancers. Both local dancers and visitors in town for the weekend came together in a joyful celebration of music and movement.

Fall Frolick Workshops

At Fall Frolick itself, Karen and Ben continued their training with two dedicated one-hour workshops for musicians. These sessions built on the Thursday night experience, offering more in-depth coaching on interpretation, two note introductions, phrasing, and ensemble dynamics. (Did you know one of the most effective arrangements is to not play sometimes?!)

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. One participant remarked, "Loved this—so helpful to learn new ways of playing for ECD!"

Making It Possible: The Impact of the Ward Fund

Fall Frolick operates on a tight budget, and without the support of CDSS and the Chuck Ward Musicians Training Fund, we simply would not have been able to bring Karen and Ben for this invaluable weekend of learning and inspiration. Their presence as both teachers and musicians, along with the other incredible staff, elevated the entire weekend, creating magical moments of music and dance that our community will carry forward.

Grants from the Ward Fund are available on an ongoing basis; I encourage you to consider how this resource can serve your own community! Investing in local musicians is investing in the future of dance, and we are deeply grateful to CDSS for the funds to make this possible.

Audrey Jaber is the Membership Coordinator at CDSS, which definitely did not bias her in writing this article. She tours widely, playing fiddle for both English and contra dances, with the Free Raisins, Wake Up Robin, and many other musicians.



The Executive Committee of the CDSS Board sends a big thank you to Boulder- and Philadelphia-area communities for hosting our traveling meetings this past year. If you're near these places, check out their fun events!





Photos by Jeff Bary and Katy German.

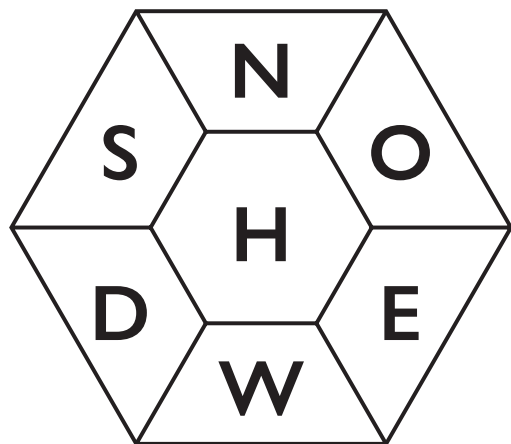


SUDOKU

Fill in the empty squares so that each row, column, and 3x3 inner square contains the numerals 1-9. Solution at cdss.org/sudoku2025



3		7		5	6	8	2	
	1		2					4
		5			9		7	
8		6	5	3			1	
					4			5
			9		2	6	3	
6	4				8		5	
9			7					2



BEEHIVE

Create words using letters from the beehive. Each word must be more than three letters long and use the center letter at least once. Score one point for each word and three points for each pangram (any word that uses all seven letters). Letters may be used more than once in a word. Our solution list (worth 94 points, at cdss.org/beehive2025) doesn't include proper nouns, obscure or hyphenated words, medical terms, or obscenities.

This puzzle is inspired by "Spelling Bee," published in the New York Times.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE by Sarah Pilzer

Opposite: Find 10 differences between these two images. Solution at cdss.org/difference2025

The Abbots Bromley horn dance at Pinewoods Camp, c.1970. Photo from the CDSS archives; photographer unknown.



SCISSORTAIL TRADITIONAL DANCE SOCIETY

SET FOR SPRING

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND

Joanna Reiner, caller

Music by:
Karen Axelrod
Anna Patton
Eric Martin

APRIL 4-6, 2025
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
IDANCE STUDIO



SCAN ME



Puttin' on the Dance

MAY 2-4 2025
IN BELFAST
MAINE

A CONFERENCE FOR DANCE ORGANIZERS



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FORWARD
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OPENS
MARCH 1ST

A weekend of learning, sharing, renewal, and fun!
For organizers of traditional participatory social dance
throughout Eastern Canada and the Northeastern US.

WWW.PUTTINONTHE DANCE.ORG

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Country Dance & Song Society

SPRING THAW

CONTRA DANCE!

May 9 -10, 2025

PRESENTED BY: 

The Callers

 **Will Mentor**

 **Rick Szumski**

The Bands

 **Stomp Rocket**

 **Jon Cannon & Adam Iredale-Gray**

The Location
St. Barnabas church
175 Hampton Ave, Toronto, Ontario
(near Chester Station)

Visit tcdance.org for more information.



Maritime Folknet

Celebrating the Maritime Music
of the Pacific Northwest

A Registered 501c3 Non Profit Organization

Maritime Folknet connects the public with Pacific Northwest Maritime culture, both past and present, through the production of live musical events, song contests, educational and inspirational workshops, and recording projects.

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www.MaritimeFolknet.org



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NEW CAMP APRIL 4-6
Translucent Borders Weekend a global music camp

2025 ASHOKAN MUSIC & DANCE CAMPS



MAY 2-4
Scottish String Fling

MAY 16-18
Old Time Rollick

MAY 23-26
Ukulele Weekend

JUNE 22-28
Western & Swing Week

JULY 3-6
Ariles Son Jarocho Camp

JULY 13-19
Northern Week

JULY 21-25
Acoustic Guitar Camp

JULY 28-AUG 1
Family Camp

AUGUST 4-8
Bluegrass Camp

AUGUST 10-16
Southern Week

NOVEMBER 7-9
Banjo Weekend

DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 1
New Year's Winter Camp



LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT [ASHOKAN.ORG](https://www.ashokan.org)

THE ASHOKAN CENTER • 477 BEAVERKILL RD, OLIVEBRIDGE, NY • 845-657-8333 x3



APPLE BLOSSOM BLISS



Full weekend: \$120 (early bird \$100)
Single day and evening rates available

Schedule and registration:
<https://aactmad.org/appleblossombliss>

Concourse Hall
4531 Concourse Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108



Join us for the 2025

MAD ROBIN BALL

led by: **Joanna Reiner Wilkinson**


with musicians
**Charlie Hancock,
Shira Kammen,
& Jim Oakden**

May 16th, 17th & 18th
Friday pre-ball dance led by
Kalia Kliban

Sunday brunch and afternoon dance
with **Joanna**

All events at Hermann Son's Hall in
Petaluma, CA

register at <https://nbcds.org/mrb2025/>



English Country Dances 1600 to 2024

39th Annual Washington Spring Ball

May 17, 2025 • Silver Spring MD

Practice Session: 2 – 5 pm
Melissa Running calls
to music by
Liz Donaldson on piano &
Elke Baker on fiddle.


Ball: 7:30 – 11 pm
Music by **Hijinks** featuring
Miranda Weinberg on violin,
Carrie Rose on flute &
Kathy Talvitie on keyboard.

Come have a ball with us!

**Early Bird
Registration
...till April 1**



Registration / Info:
fsgw.org/washington-spring-ball


The 4th Annual Connecticut Sea Music Festival

June 6-9, 2025
in historic downtown Essex, CT

Weekend festivities include a Symposium on the Music of the Sea, daytime music workshops, sailor skills demonstrations, sails on the CT River, family stage, hymn-sing, evening concerts, and late-night pub sings.

www.ctseamusicfest.org

The Festival is a project of the Maritime Music & Tradition Society Corp., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



SCISSORTAIL TRADITIONAL
DANCE SOCIETY PRESENTS

FLAMINGO FLING

CONTRA DANCE WEEKEND
Alex Deis-Lauby,
caller
River Road, band
Jesse Ball
Kristen Planeaux
Sarah-Hadley Yakir

JUNE 13-15, 2025
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK





SCAN ME



Registration form, schedule, more:
www.burlingtoncountrydancers.org

Across the Lake

June 13 & 14, 2025

English Country Dancing on the
 Vermont Side of Lake Champlain

**BARE NECESSITIES
 & CALLER JOSEPH PIMENTEL**

Elley-Long Music Center
 Colchester, VT (near Burlington)

Info: acrossthelakeregistrar@gmail.com

Masks optional
 (subject to change if conditions warrant)

**Balance
 the Bay**

San Francisco
 Contra Dance
 Weekend

August 15-17, 2025

LATTER DAY LIZARDS



Dave Langford
 Kate Barnes
 Bill Tomczak
 Mark Murphy

Callers: Will Mentor & Alex Deis-Lauby
 (gender-neutral calling)

Kristen Planeaux
 Sarah-Hadley Yakir
 Jesse Ball



RIVER ROAD

Registration Opens May 11 ~ BACDS.ORG/BTB



A Weekend of English Country Dances

Caller: Joanna Reiner Wilkinson

Band: MARBelous

(Martha Edwards, Alyssa Catlin,
 Rinn Netherton, & Bill Boyer)

Labor Day Weekend 2025, August 29-31



www.childgrove.org/hightea

Early Bird pricing until August 1st: \$110
 During August: \$120

Presented by:
 Childgrove English Country Dancers
 of St. Louis, MO

BAY AREA

Hey Days English Dance & Music Week ♦ June 15–22

Green Mountain Retreat near Los Gatos ♦ bacds.org/heydays

Brooke Friendly, program director ♦ **English Country Dance:** Joanna Reiner Wilkinson, Andrew Swaine, Rachel Pusey ♦ **Longsword and Border Morris:** Jan Elliott, Daisy Black
Singing: Chris Bracken ♦ **Storytelling:** Daisy Black

Fabulous Music by: Shira Kammen, Jim Oakden, Chip Prince, Lisa Scott, McKinley James, Michelle Masek, Rebecca King ♦ **Sound Engineers:** Christopher Jacoby, Alicia Cover

Music Workshops, Open Mic, Daily Gathering & more!

COUNTRY

BACDS Family Week ♦ June 22–28

In Monte Toyon's redwoods near Santa Cruz, it's a camp for families of all ages & sizes. Registration is open at:
bacds.org/familyweek.

In addition to contra & ECD, 2025's "third-track" is English ceilidh and family morris with Alex Cumming & Alice Kaufman.

During a full week of traditional music, art, dance, play, meals, and camaraderie, a community grows, unlike any other. Come join us!

Check out our website for staff, site, daily structure, a video, many more details & answers to common questions.



BACDS American Week ♦ June 29–July 4 ♦ Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Gender-neutral calling by Cis Hinkle and Jacqui Grennan

Musicians include The Syncopaths—Ryan McKasson, Jeff Spero, & Christa Burch, and Lissa Schneckenburger and friends

In the redwoods north of Santa Cruz ♦ Details at bacds.org/amweek.

DANCE

**Balance
the Bay**

The coolest place to be in the
heat of the summer

A contra dance weekend in San Francisco—August 15–17

Music by **LATTER DAY LIZARDS**

[Dave Langford, Kate Barnes, Bill Tomczak, Mark Murphy] &
RIVER ROAD [Kristen Planeaux, Sarah-Hadley Yakir, Jesse Ball]

Gender-neutral calling by Will Mentor and Alex Deis-Lauby.

Registration opens on May 11. Info at bacds.org/btb.

SAVE THE DATE!

BACDS' Fall Frolick ♦ November 14–16, 2025 ♦ bacds.org/fallfrolick

SOCIETY

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>.

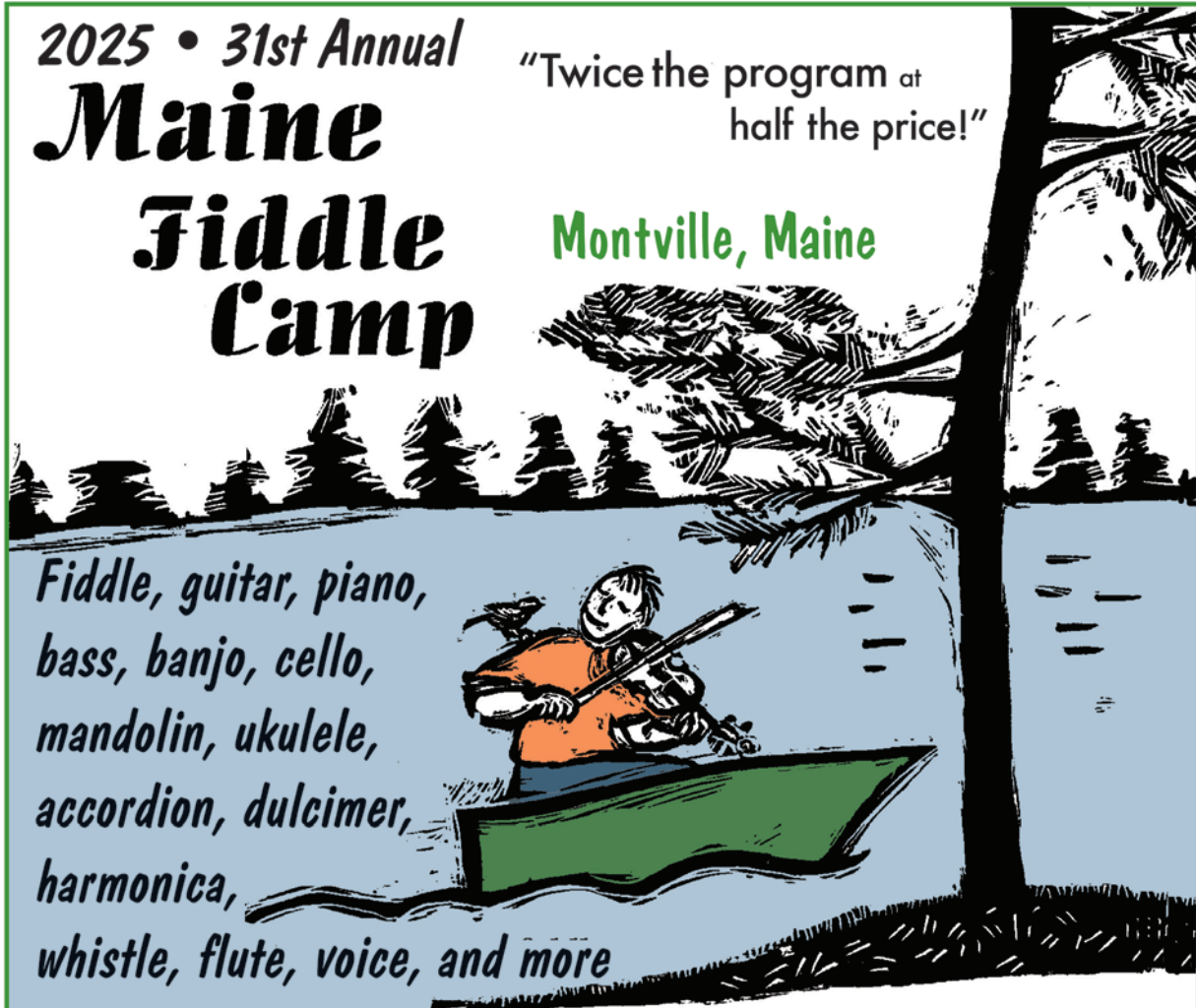
BACDS is a completely volunteer-run 501(c)3. Your donations are always welcome.

2025 • 31st Annual
**Maine
Fiddle
Camp**

"Twice the program at
half the price!"

Montville, Maine

*Fiddle, guitar, piano,
bass, banjo, cello,
mandolin, ukulele,
accordion, dulcimer,
harmonica,
whistle, flute, voice, and more*



Workshops, concerts, surprise guests, dances, songs, and loons!

**Musical fun for the whole family
in a traditional Maine summer camp setting**

All Ages • Individuals • Families • Beginners to Advanced Musicians

JUNE: Weekend 13-15 • Week 15-20

AUGUST: Week 3-8 • Week 10-15

Wholesome meals, cabins, tent/RV sites, swimming, campfires

www.maine-fiddlecamp.org

Magic awaits...



Photo by Alan Duffy

Save the date for our 2025 summer dance, music,
and song camps for adults and families

June 14-21, 2025	Dance, Music & Spice (LEXINGTON, MI)
July 12-19, 2025	Family Week at Pinewoods (PLYMOUTH, MA)
July 19-26, 2025	American Dance & Music Week (PLYMOUTH, MA)
July 26-Aug 2, 2025	Harmony of Song & Dance (PLYMOUTH, MA)
August 2-9, 2025	English Dance Week (PLYMOUTH, MA)
August 9-16, 2025	Early Music Week (PLYMOUTH, MA)
August 11-17, 2025	Family Week at Agassiz Village (POLAND, ME)
August 11-17, 2025	Cascade of Music & Dance (SCHWENKSVILLE, PA)
August 16-23, 2025	Campers' Week (PLYMOUTH, MA)



cdss.org/2025

Country Dance & Song Society

September
19-21, 2025

Decatur, GA



Fandango! English Country Dance Weekend

Susan Kevra

with

Alchemy

Eric Martin (violin), **Karen Axelrod** (piano)
Rachel Bell (accordion)

ecdatlanta.org/fandango/2025/



BEAR HUG CONTRA DANCE
WEEKEND
SEPT 5-7 2025



DANCING, CANOEING, FOOD, CABINS
FLATHEAD LAKE, MT



COUNTERCURRENT

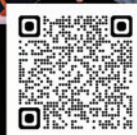
BANNA DAMHA

MICHAEL KARCHER

EMILY FAULKNER

MISSOULAFOLK.ORG

406-282-1746



Want more dance and music in your life? Please join us on Zoom at



The joy of **English Country Dance** music and instruction delivered to you!

Get to know UK and US callers and dancers from around the world.

- ♦ Dance solo or with a partner
- ♦ Live music twice a month with Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer
- ♦ Music provided to play along
- ♦ Sunday & Tuesday 2 pm Eastern
- ♦ 1st Thursday 7 pm Eastern
- ♦ Check your local time zone

Details and dance link at symmetryecd.com



Music & Dance Weekend

October 3-5, 2025

Registration Opens April 1, 2025

For more information:

ladyofthelake.org/fallwend

Now in its 45th year, Lady of the Lake's Fall Music and Dance Weekend features multiple workshops and evenings of contras led by Susan Petrick and William Watson. The formidable band The Stringrays, with Rodney Miller, Stuart Kenney, and Max Newman, is known for its dynamic and lyrical improvisation and dance inspired interplay. Sharing the weekend is Dog Paw, a talented, multigenerational trio, with Sally and Eugene Jablonsky, and Liz Dreisbach. Workshops include contras, caller's forum, band and instrument, singing, and balfolk. Role terms: Larks and Robins.

- **Susan Petrick - William Watson**
- **The Stringrays** - Rodney Miller, Stuart Kenney, and Max Newman
- **Dog Paw** - Sally Jablonsky, Eugene Jablonsky, and Liz Dreisbach



Lady of the Lake

2025

**Overlooking Coeur d'Alene Lake,
50 miles from Spokane, WA**

Music & Dance Week

June 22-28, 2025

Registration is now open.

For more information:

ladyofthelake.org/june-week

The Lady of the Lake June Music and Dance Week features a wonderful blend of contra and English country dance with workshops in dance, calling, and playing, as well as concurrent evening dances of contras and English country. Also offered are workshops in singing and art. Enjoy being part of our welcoming community.

Transportation can be arranged from the Spokane Airport. Role terms: Larks and Robins.

- **Gaye Fifer - Lindsey Dono - Luke Donforth**
- **Root System** - Audrey Jaber, Anna Patton and Amy Englesberg
- **Fiddle Hellions** - Betsy Branch, George Penk, and Sue Songer
- **Dam Beavers** - Ben Schreiber and Scotty Leach



Current Covid protocol: Negative test result at check-in. Check our website for updates.

4th Annual Save the Date!

Raise The Rafters

An intergenerational traditional singing camp based in the Pacific Northwest!

Oct 3rd-5th, 2025

Social Singing
Workshops
Community
Fun!

www.RTRSONG.org




English Country Dance
St. Charles, Illinois

October 3 - 5, 2025

Orly Krasner, caller
Mara Shea, violin
Jonathan Jensen, piano

www.ChicagolandECD.org
ChicagolandECD@gmail.com



Columbus English Country Dance Weekend

October 17-19, 2025

with Bare Necessities
and Beverly Francis and Dan Blim

www.columbusenglishcountrydance.org/CCDW/

Planning some fun trips soon?

Check the Community Calendar to see what song and dance events you can work into your travel plans!

cdss.org/events



Photo by Martin Kalin and Unsplash



AN ENERGIZING DANCE WEEKEND IN THE CULINARY HEART OF TORONTO!

October 3rd-5th, 2025

Calling by Joanna Reiner-Wilkinson

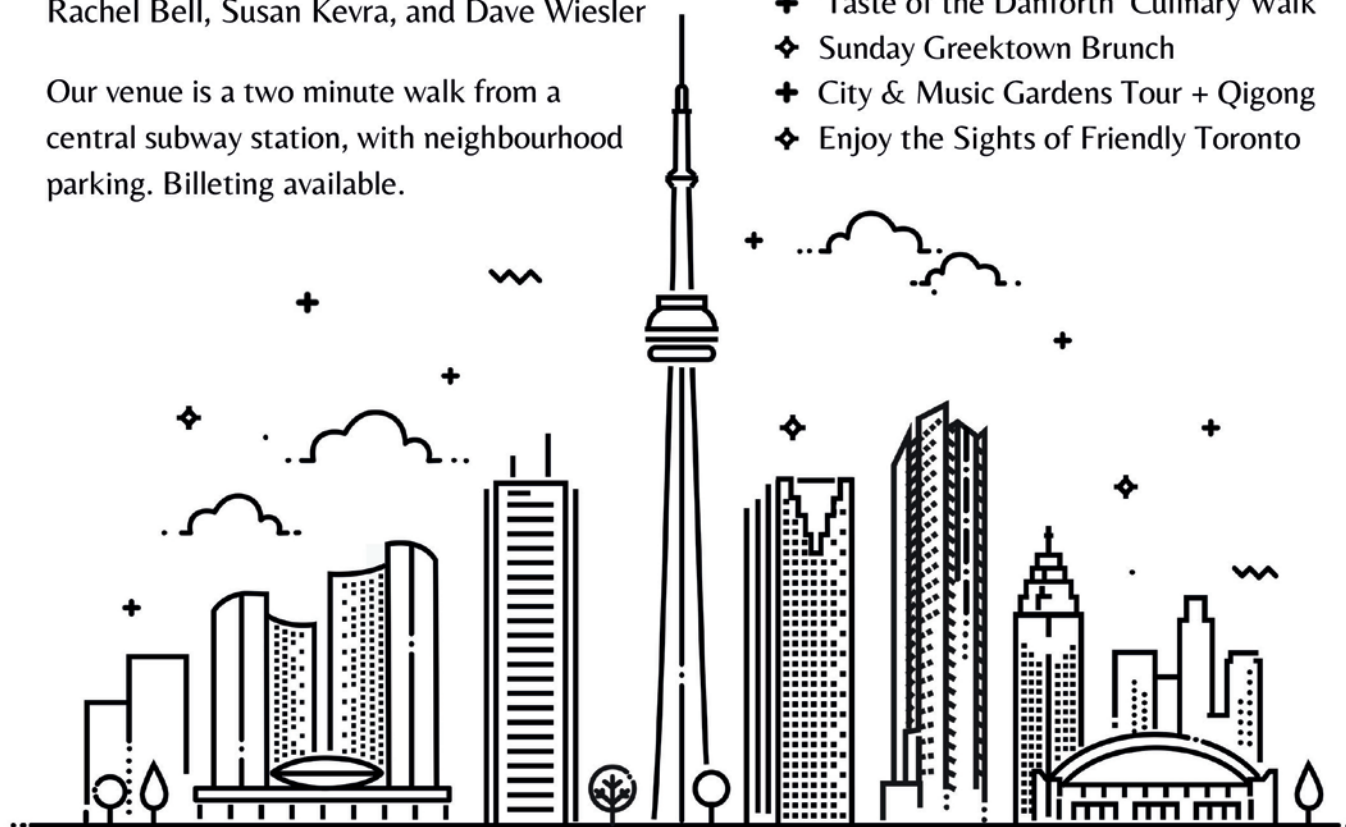
Music by Constellation:

Rachel Bell, Susan Kevra, and Dave Wiesler

Our venue is a two minute walk from a central subway station, with neighbourhood parking. Billeting available.

It Will Be a Weekend to Remember:

- + Five Invigorating Dance Sessions
- ✦ The Starlight Ball on Saturday Night
- + 'Taste of the Danforth' Culinary Walk
- ✦ Sunday Greektown Brunch
- + City & Music Gardens Tour + Qigong
- ✦ Enjoy the Sights of Friendly Toronto



ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CELEBRATION · TORONTO · CANADA
LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT: [ECDC.DANCE](https://ecdc.dance)

LOVINGLY PRODUCED BY THE TORONTO ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE ASSEMBLY (TECDA.CA)



Pittsburgh Contra Fall Dance Weekend

OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

Topspin

Owen Morrison
Anna Patton
Emily Troll
Stefan Amidon



Will Mentor, Caller

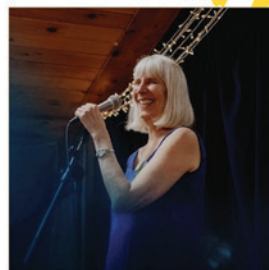


WIGHTMAN SCHOOL COMMUNITY BUILDING
5604 SOLWAY ST., PITTSBURGH, PA 15217



Dam Beavers

Ben Schreiber
Scotty Leach
Ness Smith-Savedoff



Gaye Fifer, Caller

Hanno Meingast on Sound

Registration opens April 1
<https://pittsburghcontra.org>



Star of the North

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE WEEKEND



Caller:
Gene Murrow
with Musicians:
Audrey Leigh Jaber, fiddle
Ben Schreiber, fiddle
Jacob Chen, keyboard



MINNEAPOLIS, MN
OCTOBER 10-12, 2025

International Weekend

November 14-16, 2025
Minneapolis, MN



13th Annual



Contra Dance Weekend

April 10-12, 2026
Minneapolis, MN



Playford Ball

Saturday
March 7, 2026
Minneapolis, MN



English Country Dance

Visit: www.tapestryfolkdance.org | Click the "Special Events" Tab for more.

*Monterey Country Dance Community presents
our 9th Annual*

*Contra
Dance
Weekend
OCT 31-*

NOV 2, 2025



Dance with us to:

The STRINGRAYS!

& Countercurrent!

Calling by:

Lisa Greenleaf &

Alexandra Deis-Lauby

in beautiful Monterey, California

Registration opens July 1st!

montereycontradance.org



TRADITIONAL AUSTIN AREA DANCE ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS THE 26TH ANNUAL

Fire Ant FROLIC

CONTRA DANCE WEEKEND

SAVE THE DATE!!
November 14-16, 2025

Northwoods band
Casey Murray, Molly Tucker and
Sam Zakon-Anderson

Steve Zakon-Anderson caller

Ben Hur Shrine Ballroom, Austin TX



For more details visit fireantfrolic.org

Dance in the Desert 2025

Bands: The Faux Paws
The Free Raisins

Callers: Koren Wake
Steve Zakon-Anderson

November 7-9, 2025

Oracle, Arizona

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music
tucsoncontradancers.org



*Do you want to live in a community that values dance, music,
art and nature, and encourages joyful engagement with your neighbors?*



This is a grassroots project, designed and developed by people who plan to live there. We have 90 acres of wooded land in Orange County, NC, near active dance groups, cultural centers, major universities and top-level health care. We will be a "55+ community," with 80% of the homes including a person over 55.

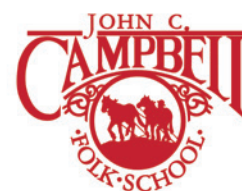
- A variety of **dwelling types** from studio to 2 or 3 bedroom.
- Forested acres for **walking trails** and space for **gardens**.
- A community center with a **dance floor**, kitchen, and music and art spaces.
- Innovative **health care** that includes the fragile final phases of life.

Learn more at fiddlehead.coop and 2TNC.org

GOOD TO BE **TOGETHER** AT THE FOLK SCHOOL



For 100 years, the Folk School has transformed lives and brought people together in a nurturing environment for experiences in learning and community life that spark self-discovery.



[FOLKSCHOOL.ORG/CDSS](https://folkschool.org/cdss)

Brasstown, North Carolina
1-800-FOLK-SCH

800 Classes | 50 Subjects | Weeklong & Weekends

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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. Details at cdss.org/advertise.

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.



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CDSS NEWS

Country Dance & Song Society

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 334

Easthampton, MA 01027-2784

www.cdss.org

Change service requested



CDSS Camp 2025

June 14-21 Dance, Music & Spice	July 26-August 2 Harmony of Song & Dance	August 11-17 Family Week at Agassiz Village
July 12-19 Family Week at Pinewoods	August 2-9 English Dance Week	August 11-17 Cascade of Music & Dance
July 19-26 American Dance & Music Week	August 9-16 Early Music Week	August 16-23 Campers' Week

Photo by Alan Duffy.

camp.cdss.org