



Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • September-October 2021

Update from the Portland Contra Committee

By Kathy Story

Let me begin by saying how much we all miss everything about contra dancing: the fabulous music from our beloved musicians, the expert calling and teaching, the flow of the choreography of each dance, all of our well-known and new partners and neighbors, the exhilarating swings and the mesmerizing heys, the smiles, the laughter, the hand-holding, the hugs. They all add up to a deep sense of connection and of community, one filled with joy, movement and energy. In other words, earthly delight. So we are yearning to get back on the dance floor and celebrate!

We had hoped to begin contra dancing in September but we have decided it is not responsible to do so because of the rise in cases due to the Delta variant. We don't know when it will be safe to begin dancing again because contra dancing is uniquely problematic when there is a potentially deadly, highly contagious disease spread through airborne particles. For details about the spread of Covid as it relates to dancing, check out the article on page two. When we do begin to dance again, we expect that it will be limited to folks who are fully vaccinated (which at some point will probably include booster shots) and possibly masked. Whenever it is, Fulton Hall will be ready with new bathrooms (yippee!), a newly refinished floor (hallelujah!), a seismic retrofit of the classrooms, fresh paint on the exterior and a functional playground!

We loved seeing so many of you at Fulton Park on July 10th, listening to the jam session, swapping clothes, catching up on the lives of dance and music friends. We had thought we could gather outdoors there again on August 21st but construction work inside and outside of Fulton prevented that, and with the Delta variant having arrived in full force by then, we might have decided the prudent action was to cancel anyway. At this point, we are tentatively planning to gather outdoors at Fulton Park on September 25th, depending on the Covid situation. The Contra Committee is closely watching Oregon Health Authority reports, state regulations and CDC recommendations, for guidance on whether we can hold a safe event. Whatever happens, we will send an announcement out to our email list and post it on the PCDC Facebook group page and the PCDC website.

In the meantime, take care of yourself and each other. Get out there and enjoy the rest of our summer. Join us on Zoom for the NBACD Saturday Evening Waltz Party or other online music and dance event (see the CDSS.org calendar for a comprehensive list). Someday in the hopefully not-too-distant future, we'll see you on the dance floor!! Virtual hugs all around!!

[Kathy is the Chair of PCDC's Contra Committee.]

A Brief Re-entry into Dancing

By David Macemon

We were very excited at the end of May. The CDC told us that groups of vaccinated people can gather indoors without masks and Governor Brown removed the state's mandates on gatherings.

In June the English Dance Committee started planning for restarting the Friday night dance. We asked our community about masking, vaccinations and what conditions at the event would make individuals most comfortable. Based on those answers we developed and published policies and procedures that could be sustainable for ECD and perhaps for other dances run by PCDC.

Our first dance was held on July 2nd. Everyone attending was pre-registered, all brought their vaccination card and signed the waiver. Everyone showed up early so all the intake processing was done before the start of the dance. The hall was electric. We saw friends we hadn't seen since all this started and we checked in with each other about what used to be simple things, like, "Are you still OK with being hugged?" Before the first dance, we welcomed everyone and the dancers' reaction was heartfelt. After the first dance, there were some tears of joy. This was feeling so wonderful. During the dance you could see the joy in the dancers and musicians. There was joy in the air all around us. What a glorious evening of dancing and being back together. What a wonderful thing to be able to do something that felt normal.

However, as we are all aware, conditions have changed, recommendations from the CDC and the state have changed and the English dance has paused until it is once again deemed safe to gather together and dance in person.

But... Oh. My. Goodness. Those few weeks of dancing were soul lifting!

[David is a member of the PCDC Board, the English Country Dance Committee and is Chair of the ECD Ball Committee.]



Photo by K. Story

Public Health Expert Tapped by PCDC

When it comes to making decisions on when, if and how to proceed with its activities, PCDC is facing the same difficulties as clubs, schools, restaurants and businesses across the country: a rapidly evolving situation, conflicting information from a variety of sources and the challenge of reaching consensus amongst a diverse group of people who may have differing opinions.

From PCDC Board Co-Chair Christine Appleberry: "What follows is information that is informing board and committee members as we navigate the rough waters of the Covid-19 Delta variant and its impact on all of our lives. Sue [Songer] and I contacted Kimberly Hagen, EdD, an assistant professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, and the Director of the Vaccine Dinner Club, for information. Kimbi is also a longtime contra dancer and dance organizer. She and her husband Karl have been to Rairdance and Northwest Passage a number of times. This is her reply from August 14, 2021."

Kathy Story, Chair of PCDC's Contra Committee notes that, "the board and the committees are engaged in this ongoing, in-depth conversation and it's important to let our community know what factors we are considering. Kimbi's email has informed much of [our] thinking about why it's not safe to dance."

From PCDC Board Co-Chair Sue Songer: "Board and committee members are monitoring messages from the Oregon Health Authority and other sources knowledgeable about Covid and Delta on a daily basis. Kimbi's information as well as that of Dr. David Norton, a public health professional who has consulted with CDSS (PCDC's parent organization), is especially relevant because it applies the more general [Covid] guidelines to dancing." To watch (or read the transcript of) the web chat featuring Dr. Norton, entitled "Let's Talk About Re-entry Part 5," go to: www.cdss.org/community/web-chats. For now, here is what Kimbi Hagen had to say:

Big sigh. This has been **such** a hard 18 months for all of us and it is difficult to take on board the fact that it simply isn't over yet despite how diligent so many of us have been in following all of the public health guidelines, including getting vaccinated. The reason that Multnomah County can find itself in the seemingly paradoxical position of having both high rates of vaccination AND high rates of infection is due entirely to the Delta variant, which has been determined to be as contagious as chickenpox, which means that if **one** person has the delta variant **up to 90% of the people who come into close contact with that person will also become infected.**

What does 'close contact' mean?

1. Being close enough to breathe in the air that someone else is breathing out. For contra dancers that means the danger will always be highest during swings, right shoulder rounds, hey for four in tight quarters, balance toward your partner/neighbor, etc. It also means that the cone of danger will get bigger and bigger the harder an infected person is breathing out, and/or an uninfected person is breathing in. To more easily visualize this, imagine contra dancing with various rates of vigor in a room cold enough for everyone to see their breath. When dancers are breathing hard, and depending on direction of airflow, the danger posed by an infected dancer could extend to the people in the next hands-four. In addition, because the aerosols that an infected person breathes out are capable of hanging invisibly in the air for anywhere from several minutes up to several hours (depending on how much air circulation there is), they can also pose a risk to any dancers coming up and down the line who pass through the airspace an infected dancer recently occupied.
2. Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with whatever someone else breathed/coughed/sneezed on a moment ago. For dancers, that means touching your face after holding hands, even briefly, with an infected person who has recently had their own hand near their face when they coughed, sneezed, talked, cleared their throat, muffled a yelp of delight, sang along with the band or did anything else that put that hand in contact with whatever is emanating from their mouth and nose. Note: Covid is a respiratory disease so a contra dancer is **not** at risk [...] by touching someone else's sweat-soaked back or shirt.

Am I at risk for being part of the 90% even though I am fully vaccinated?

Yes. Because although the current crop of vaccines seems to be quite good at keeping fully vaccinated people from getting seriously sick, ending up in the hospital and dying from all the currently known types of SARS-CoV-2 (including the Delta variant), they are not as good at the very much harder job of keeping a vaccinated person from becoming infected – and therefore infectious – in the first place. Particularly from the Delta variant.

But isn't there a way to tell when someone is contagious?

Not always. Respiratory diseases are famous for making people super infectious while asymptomatic (no sign of illness) or pre-symptomatic (no sign of illness *yet*). For example, most people who catch the flu, chickenpox or measles out in the community do so from someone who has *no idea* that they are even sick yet because they are still pre-symptomatic. Thus most fully vaccinated dancers will NOT know that they may be shedding infectious virions [virus particles] of the Delta variant up and down the line with each exhaled breath because: a) they don't feel sick, b) vaccinated people are not routinely tested and c) everything in their prior personal experience has taught them that vaccinated = uninfected.

Does wearing a mask help?

Yes, a lot! But, in the Delta variant world we have all suddenly found ourselves plunged into, it only helps if everyone – including vaccinated people – wear them while in close contact with other people. And a lot of people find it really difficult to dance for more than a short time while wearing a mask. Dancers seem to particularly dislike the N95 masks currently being advocated because they have a very close fit (thereby making them safer than standard masks), which makes it

(continued on next page)

more difficult to breathe hard (thereby making them a bummer). A good alternative is to double mask with a “surgical” type mask under a cloth mask. That combination increases safety while, inexplicably, also making it easier to breathe than through a cloth mask alone *and* reduces glasses fogging. Win-win!

What does all this mean for Multnomah County?

Because of the Delta variant, Multnomah County has a large population of fully vaccinated people who have become unwitting, asymptomatic transmitters of Covid-19, causing cases to surge.

What does all this mean for contra dancing?

Pragmatically, due to the Delta variant it will be very difficult to hold a risk-free contra dance right now, **even at vaccinated-only events**, since a single vaccinated person who unknowingly has the variant could unwittingly pass it on to an entire roomful of other vaccinated dancers over the course of the evening for all of the reasons delineated above. Those newly infected dancers could then unknowingly take it home to their children, grandchildren, non-dancing family members, immunocompromised dinner guests and anyone else who is unvaccinated, under-vaccinated or even fully vaccinated.

What if we asked for proof of negative test results at the door?

Testing is super helpful in identifying infectious people but it is not completely protective because it's all about the timing. A negative test result from 24 hours ago just means a person's test results were negative 24 hours ago. It DOESN'T mean they didn't get infected 23 hours ago nor does it prove that they weren't infected up to several days ago but had not yet mounted a measurable response by the time the test was conducted. In both scenarios, a person with a negative test result from 24 hours ago may very well be infected and at risk for passing their infection on to all of their partners, neighbors, shadows and trail buddies without anyone knowing it. Some dance organizations are paying for test kits to do on-site testing. This would eliminate the 'got infected 23 hours ago' possibility but not the 'got infected too recently to have mounted a measurable test response' possibility.

What about people who had Covid and are over it now? Can they safely dance/play/call?

The jury is still out on that. Since the beginning of the pandemic there have been reports of people becoming sick more than once, but it seemed to be rare. Delta is so new that the data are still limited on whether people who have had Covid are any more or less susceptible to becoming asymptotically infected—and infectious—if they run into the Delta variant. Given how rapidly this variant is surging, epidemiological reports on this subject should appear reasonably soon. Stay tuned.

Is English safer than contra for dancers?

Yes, it is safer albeit not actually *safe*.

Is English safer than contra for musicians, callers and sound technicians?

No. Particularly in the case of flute or clarinet players and anyone else who can't realistically wear a mask while playing or calling. In addition, I have also been hearing from musicians, callers and sound techs that it is hard on their mental health when they start feeling trapped in place by lines of dancers or people out at the top who stray closer and closer to them and that they experience schizophrenic moments of joy mixed with panic when dancers start cheering (thus exhaling harder) in their direction after a dance, particularly if the dancers are also crowding around them while vocally expressing their enthusiastic appreciation.

Many thanks to Professor Hagen for taking the time to provide PCDC with her thoughtful and thorough analysis of the Covid situation as it relates to dancing. In the meantime, the board and its committees will continue to meet – most likely via Zoom from this point forward—keeping tabs on the situation, discussing, analyzing, brainstorming and making the tough decisions, always with the underlying confidence that we will dance again someday.

Pizza Jam Update

By Rick Piel

Before Covid hit, the Pizza Jam met in people's houses twice a month. We ceased meeting altogether at the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020. A few months later when the weather turned nice we started meeting weekly outdoors – socially distanced and prepared to wear masks, though most of us ended up not doing so. At first we met in Willamette Park, thinking it would be more centrally located, but parking became an issue so we moved to Wilshire Park, where we continued to meet weekly until the weather turned colder in the fall. We started up again sporadically this spring, responding to the changing weather. Jessica Nessler-Cass offered her house to us the next time the weather turned bad, and thanks to vaccinations most of us felt safe enough to take

her up on it. After making music outdoors for several months, we re-discovered how wonderfully helpful indoor acoustics are in enabling us to hear each other and maintain some semblance of cohesion, so we have continued meeting at her house during the summer. We continue to meet without masks, despite the virulent variants which have forced the CDC to tighten their recommendations. Some of our more cautious participants have understandably backed off, but the rest of us feel sufficiently safe to reap the beneficial effects of music-making and camaraderie on our immune systems.

[Rick is a Portland area dancer and musician, currently handling scheduling for the Pizza Jam. All are welcome but participants must be fully vaccinated to attend. While many attendees are PCDC members, the Pizza Jam is not an official PCDC activity.]

Dan & Fran

By Tyler Robinson

After decades of organizing and providing music for Portland area contra dances, Fran Slefer and Dan Compton, two musicians with deep roots in our community, have relocated to Amsterdam.

Originally from Limerick, Ireland, a place with a deep well of traditional music, Fran studied piano as a child and had many musical friends both growing up and in college at the University of Limerick. Dan grew up following his family around the U.S., eventually landing in Portland. After playing electric guitar in high school, he took up old-time fiddle, and then, inspired by John Renbourn, he began to delve into classical guitar and early music.

As young adult in the 1980s, Fran lived in Luxembourg, Brussels, Amsterdam and Dublin, working as a translator and interpreter using the five (!) languages she speaks. Various traditions of folk music were everywhere she went—in pubs, dance halls and festivals. In Dublin, she started playing tin whistle, bouzouki and fiddle. Dan moved on to study music at Lewis & Clark College, ending up with a master's degree in classical guitar. While at L&C, he met fellow students Heather Pinney and George Penk. After college, in the early '80s, Dan worked as a musician teaching privately and volunteering his skills with local school programs while continuing to study classical guitar, and taking fiddle lessons from Irish master Kevin Burke. He also played gigs with local musician friends, including for the Stumptown Cloggers' square dances and then for the early PCDC contra dances.

In the late '80s Dan was in Ireland following the music when he met Fran at a festival. She moved to Portland around 1990 and they got married. Soon kids (two) and bands (many) started happening. Between them, Dan and Fran have played, together or individually, in more Portland bands than you can shake a bow at: Compton, Einhorn & Doherty; The Whammadiddle Dingbats; Foolish Consistency; Twisted Shamrock; Full Moon; Rad Francine and Pied à Terre, to name a few. In the early '90s, college pals Dan, Heather and George started playing together as a quartet with multi-instrumentalist Clyde Curley. They became regulars in the burgeoning Willamette Valley contra dance scene, playing under the perfect contra dance band name, Jigsaw, coined by Dan.

Around 1994 Jigsaw became the house band for Portland's Third Saturday contra dance when founding caller Paul McCullough realized they were making some of the best contra dance music in the Pacific NW. After Clyde moved north, they continued as a trio. Underpinning George's expressive fiddle tune interpretations, and paired with Heather's solid rhythmic foundation on piano, Dan's percussive chordal guitar work and perfectly-timed flat pick runs knitted Jigsaw's playing together into delightfully danceable music.

More recently, teaming up with fiddler Betsy Branch, Dan and Fran became two thirds of The BFD. The trio started playing together informally about ten years ago at the occasional gig and pickup spot. Before long, they began alternating with Jigsaw as the second house band for the Third Saturday dance. Dan played guitar and 4-string tenor banjo and experimented with a looping recorder, laying down a rhythm track with the guitar that



Photo by R. Hoffman

repeated hands-off while he picked up the banjo, making their trio sound like a quartet. Fran played button accordion and 5-string banjo, sharing tight melodies and harmonies with Betsy. (Rumor has it Fran learned to play the accordion on a cross-country drive with Dan, in an old VW bus without a radio.) The BFD played Irish, French Canadian and old-time fiddle tunes faithful to those traditions, and with the rhythmic consistency of a metronome, making dancing seem effortless. Betsy says, "My favorite thing about playing with Dan and Fran was the friendship and camaraderie. It always felt relaxing and fun...and they taught me loads of terrific tunes too!"

Dan has been involved in many other musical projects over the years including recordings, accompanying concert musicians, playing with the Portland Revels and giving private lessons. Since 2001 he has been teaching Irish group session classes where students learn to play by ear, and with each other. He has recorded over sixty instructional CDs over the years to be used for home study. Many budding Portland dance musicians have taken up picks and bows and gained musical confidence in the monthly PCDC Tune Sessions which Dan has co- led with George Penk since 1991. Fiddler Sharon Allen says, "Dan's calm demeanor and gentle sense of humor made me feel comfortable even as a rank beginner." Transcriptions of the sessions' early tunes made by Sue Songer for her fellow students became so popular that demand for them led to the now internationally distributed and much loved Portland Collection series of contra dance music books.

Dan and Fran have been key players in the Portland traditional music and dance scenes for a very long time. They have made many significant contributions to the wonderful dance music and abundance of dance musicians that our community enjoys. Now they're embarking on a big change of residence, lifestyle and social structure with a move to Amsterdam. It's another city where they have roots, friends both old and new, and now, an apartment on a harbor in a quiet part of town. Their legacies and friendships here will continue, as will their music-making over there. Dan plans to continue teaching online. And...they're describing the move as a "test run" for a new life, so who knows, maybe we'll hear their music again at a dance near us.

[Tyler is a Portland dancer and former member of the Danceable Feast Committee.]

Postcard from Amsterdam

Hello Portlanders and Greetings from Amsterdam.

On July 18, we got into a plane with our two cats, a couple of fiddles and an accordion, and the next day found ourselves here. The cats really loved the flight. Just kidding. We'd been thinking of this move for quite some time, as Fran lived here some years ago and we've come together to visit often. Over time we've made a lot of friends locally, many of whom thought we were all talk and no action on the moving thing. Well, we took the plunge, and now we're settling in.

If you're fond of riding a bicycle, then this is the place for you. Just about everything is done by bike: shopping, visiting, erranding, going out and about, etc. Cars are just too big and awkward, there's never a place to park, and you'll get stuck forever behind a delivery van in a one-lane street. Since everyone rides a bike, finding a place to chain yours up can be a challenge, and you've probably seen photos of three-level bike parking garages and the like. Never seems to be enough. The typical Amsterdam bike (ours included) is rather beat-up looking, rattly, and a bit rusty. Nonetheless, you're just as likely to see a bank executive riding such a one as anyone else.



Photo by L. Thomas

We live in an old grain silo converted into apartments. It's just on the edge of the city center, and is more or less surrounded by water. The cats have never seen this much water in one place, and clearly can't figure it out. Is this some strange ground that moves? And then there are these seagulls flying by – very big and very noisy. All given a wide berth.

We'll miss playing music for all of you, but we plan to resume our online shows through the Muddy Rudder Down Home Music Hour (via Facebook Live). That's one of the things that kept us sane in this pandemic year-and-a-half, so we'll soon be playing on Sundays every

other week or so at noon Portland time. We'll send out announcements via Facebook beforehand. Dan has already returned to teaching fiddle and guitar lessons over Zoom – just like before in pandemic Portland, but with a nine-hour time difference! This fall, he'll teach his Irish Session Class online through Artichoke Music. While this virtual music-making is all well and good, we look forward to the pandemic abating and making some local music connections.

So, life continues in a new/old place. The cats will be less confused as time goes on.

Dan & Fran

The First Saturday Dance

By Sue Songer

Once upon a time, there was no contra dance in Portland on first Saturdays. That changed in 1994 when two bands looking for more local opportunities to play joined together to organize their own contra dance on that Saturday. Those bands were Moondog (Kathleen Towers, Dave Goldman, Rick Macquoid and Eliza Romick) and Cats Cradle (Sue Songer, Lanny Martin, Maria Falasca and Mark Bautista). Because of the band names, this dance was dubbed the Cats and Dogs Dance. The bands played on alternate months and took care of the door and the hall when the other band was playing. Fulton was occupied by English dancers on first Saturdays then, so this dance was held at St. Andrew's Church in SW Portland.

There have been several transformations over the years. The dance moved from St. Andrew's to Fulton in the late '90s. Mark and Maria left Portland, so Sue and Lanny joined up with Todd Silverstein to form the Wildcats, which held down their end of First Saturdays. Jim Bell and Fred Nussbaum took over from Todd around the year 2000, and that band, Calico, played every other first Saturday until 2016. Then Jim developed health issues and Fred moved away, so Lori Shaffer joined Sue and Lanny in yet another first Saturday configuration – The Stage Crew. Meanwhile, around that same time, the Moondog personnel changed too with Jocelyn Goodall replacing Kathleen, resulting in a new band name – UnLeashed! Some years later, Rick Piel took over keyboard from Dave Goldman.

Restarting after the pandemic will bring yet another change. UnLeashed! (see photo page 6) is bowing out of dance organization after a 26-year run for Rick Macquoid and Eliza Romick. These two musicians, as well as their other band members deserve much thanks for arranging their lives to either play or welcome dancers at the door on every first Saturday for all these years. The Stage Crew will miss this longstanding, dependable partnership!

Going forward, The Stage Crew (Lanny, Lori, Sue) will manage all the First Saturday dances. We will play about half the time and will invite other bands to play the rest of the time. When we are hosting another band, you will find us at the door ushering in dancers. And we can hardly wait to get back!

[Sue is a member of the PCDC Board and manages both The Stage Crew and The Portland Megaband.]

English Country Dance Cancelled thru September

By Cynthia Stenger

At its August 16th meeting, the English Country Dance Committee decided to pause its Friday night series. That meant cancelling the two remaining dances in August and suspending plans for September. It was a difficult decision, reached after a long and thoughtful discussion. While we do not have specific metrics in place for restarting the dance, we know that we would like to see the level of community transmission at least back to 'moderate' as reported by the [CDC](#). Click on the "County View" tab then select Oregon to see the data.

Many people have expressed their thanks to the committee for getting ECD going again, remarking how important dancing is to their mental health, so we know this decision will come as a disappointment. As individuals and as a community we have experienced much joy since the return to dancing in July. Organizers have worked hard to create a safe space for dancing: requiring everyone to be vaccinated, collecting contact tracing information, and then following up with the mask mandate as conditions changed. One member related that they actually felt safer at the dance, than say going to a grocery store, since we know everyone is vaccinated. Governor Brown's state-wide mask mandate seemed to increase our feeling of safety. While everyone attending ECD is vaccinated and wearing a mask, it is the unvaccinated population (those *choosing* not to be vaccinated as opposed to those *unable* to be vaccinated) that is most responsible for the current surge of cases and hospitalizations.

In addition, many raised concerns about the Delta variant—the fact that it is so contagious, that breakthrough cases are occurring and even that asymptomatic, vaccinated people can carry and spread the virus.

One point that seemed to resonate with many committee members is the [recent statement from OHSU](#) predicting that the state will be short 400-500 staffed hospital beds by Labor Day.

They go on to recommend that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people do at least two of the following: wear masks indoors in all public spaces or with people outside of your household; limit gatherings and if you do gather, do it outside; physically distance whenever possible.

It makes sense not to gather, even if it's just 25 of us on a Friday night. We need to put our responsibility to the greater community ahead of our individual comfort levels.

This is not what we hoped for when dancing resumed in July. The recent roller coaster of changing conditions and mandates has caused stress for many people. The rise of Delta and the mask requirement led to a drop in attendance and some difficulty in booking staff. Hopefully the pause will allow everyone to breathe a little easier, as we remember the good times and the joy of community, and look forward to safe dancing in the future.

[Cynthia is the Chair of PCDC's English Country Dance Committee.]



Joyride Still Hopeful for November

By Erik Weberg

We've had to cancel our opening gig on September 1st as well as our second gig on October 6th due to Covid concerns and the daunting logistics involved with producing a safe dance event at this time. November 3rd is still on the books. We're watching closely what the Delta variant is doing in our city and what federal, state and local authorities are recommending. We are committed to following the lead of PCDC so that all Portland contra dances are on the same page. As we know more about what we can and can't do, we'll post that information on [our website](#). We miss you all and look forward to playing music for you as soon as we can.

[Erik is the organizer of the First Wednesday Joyride Contra Dance as well as the booker for ECD callers.]

Outdoor Gathering at Fulton

* 9/25, 2-4 pm *

Bring: instruments, clothing for swap, a chair, and a MASK!

No potluck this time.

Flyer on page 9.



The Portland contra dance band, **UnLeashed!** (from left: Eliza Romick, Rick Macquoid, Jocelyn Goodall and Rick Piel) has retired from the First Saturday/Cats & Dogs Dance (see article on page 5). On behalf of Portland contra dancers, thank you for the great tunes and good luck to all in your future musical endeavors!



GATHERING
P C D C
July 2021



Board Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Ric Goldman

July 27, 2021. Present: Christine Appleberry, Patricia Donohue, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guests Tarka Ayres, Mike Goren and Kathy Story.

Secretary's report: Ric confirmed that PCDC can register as a 'foreign corporation' in Washington state in order to hold events or support activities in Washington, should the need arise. Our 2021 CDSS affiliate survey was completed and submitted. The ballots for board positions were sent out to members. We received 77 responses and the proposed slate was approved. PCDC renewed its directors and officers insurance for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. We continue looking for old hard copy documents from our founding for scanning into the PCDC archives.

English Country Dance: Dances are going very well. Average attendance is 36 dancers (vs 25 pre-pandemic) and more stay until the end instead of leaving at the break. Pre-packaged snacks have been well received. We have welcomed Cynthia Stenger as our new committee chair. The ECD Ball is still on track and publicity announcements are almost ready to go out. The fluid Covid situation continues to be a concern.

Family Dance: The series is on hold until at least January, 2022.

Portland Contra: We are planning to start contra dances in September, focused on using mainly local talent. The committee is trying to plan for a New Year's party, and looking for another possible outdoor no-dancing/no-food gathering in August; the gathering in July had about 73 attendees. Bookers have been experiencing challenges regarding local band availability.

Hillsboro Contra: We expect no dances in 2021.

Membership: Counts are up 36 compared to the previous month but down 12 compared to last year.

Website: There have been lots of content and news updates regarding ECD reopening, Portland Live wrap-up, the Contra Committee gathering, a new contra etiquette policy, the tune session classes and the latest *Footnotes*. The links section of the site was completely reviewed and updated. We are looking into better ways to integrate membership and mailing list management. There's a bug in the "hamburger menu" when viewing the site from a phone. We hope to have the new calendar in place by August 22nd.

Covid: The board again reviewed concerns about restarting and continuing events. All PCDC indoor events must comply with county, state and CDC guidelines. For now, that means participants must show proof of vaccination and wear effective, properly fitting masks. The board recommends that members keep checking the website and our Facebook Group for updates on this rapidly changing situation. We appreciate everyone's patience while we figure out how to stay safe while gradually returning to normal operations.

August 17, 2021. Present: Christine Appleberry, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guests Tarka Ayres and Kathy Story.

English Country Dance: Dances are cancelled through the end of September. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

dances are cancelled for this year. The Ball Committee is still hopeful for the October 22-24 event. Registration opens September 1st. Based on how many registrations we receive by September 15th (and the health situation), we will make a final go/no-go decision before we commit to the hall rental payment.

Portland Contra: September plans have all been pushed to October and will continue to focus on local bookings. We hope to hold a possible outdoor gathering in mid-September. We hear that the First Saturday and Joyride series are ready to cancel for October.

Megaband: The Smith Memorial Ballroom at PSU is no longer available for the Megaband dance in 2022 and probably won't be in 2023 either. We're looking into alternative locations. The event itself is still tentative as to participants, rehearsals and logistics due to Covid.

Membership: Counts are up 5 compared to previous month and up 3 compared to last year.

Covid: The board continues to monitor and discuss the impact of the Covid-19 Delta variant.

Next board meetings: 9/21 & 10/19 via Zoom.



Was it all a dream?

PORTLAND FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY

Fall Song Festival

Portland Folklore Society presents its first ever Virtual Singing Festival, September 24-26, on Zoom, featuring concerts, song circles and workshops from a wide variety of singing traditions.

The event is free but donations are welcome. More info at: [portlandfolkmusic](http://portlandfolkmusic.com)

ANOTHER GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

2:00-4:00

FULTON HALL - OUTSIDE

(Bathrooms will be available-through the back door)

We had a wonderful time gathering together in July and are eager to do so again.

- Music Jam
- Clothing exchange—bring some, take some
- Mingling, chatting and exchanging tales of joy and tribulation
- Attendees need to bring their own lawn chairs, blankets, beverage, and acoustic instruments
- (Note this is not a picnic or potluck)
- Folding chairs will be available for those wanting to participate in a music jam.

With the arrival of the Delta variant, the situation has changed. To comply with current Multnomah County Guidelines:

- ▶ We ask that **everyone attending be vaccinated** if they are eligible
- ▶ **Everyone is required to wear a mask** except while actively drinking
- ▶ Physical distancing is encouraged
- ▶ Hand sanitizer and free face masks will be available

Once again, folks at the event will be operating at their own comfort level. Let's try to respect and support each other in this. Here are some things to consider:

- In addition to wearing masks, some of us will physically distance and do other things that will allow us to feel comfortable attending this event. All of that is good.
- This may be overwhelming for some of us. Be sensitive and provide each other the physical and emotional space we need.
- Some of us are huggers, some of us are not, some of us used to be but aren't right now. If you would like to hug, ask the other person first and comply with their wishes. Let's be a community that practices consent in all things, at all times.

If someone's actions make you uncomfortable, please inform a committee member (they'll be wearing a "Committee Member" button). We're here to help us all through these difficult times.



Calendar • September-October 2021

September

Date	Dance	Caller	Musicians
NOPE			

October

Date	Dance	Caller	Musicians
?			

PCDC Board Members

Co-Chair/Raindance Rep: Christine Appleberry
(ceappleberry at yahoo.com)
Co-Chair: Sue Songer (songer at portcoll.com)
Acting Treasurer: David Macemon
(board-treasurer at portlandcountrydance.org)
Secretary: Ric Goldman (letsdance at rgoldman.org)
At-Large: Noah Grunzwei (grunzwei at gmail.com)
Portland Contra Committee Rep: Mark Swan
(mark.swan.portland at gmail.com)
English Country Dance Committee Rep: Sara Munz
(sara.v.munz at gmail.com)
Hillsboro Rep: Victor Fiore (victor.n.fiore at gmail.com)
Family Dance Coordinator: David Macemon
(macemondavid at gmail.com)
NWP Rep: Patricia Donohue (patricia at mwg.org)
Board Email: board at portlandcountrydance.org

Major PCDC Volunteers

Contra Committee Chair: Kathy Story
(kathystoryconsulting at gmail.com)
English Country Committee Chair: Cynthia Stenger
(cynthiastenger at gmail.com)
Contra dance talent booker: Gordy Euler
(euleromi at pacifier.com)
English dance caller booker: Erik Weberg
(erik at erikweberg.com)
English dance music booker: Laura Kuhlman
(shawm1550 at gmail.com)
Raindance Committee Chair: Kim Appleberry
(pdxapple at comcast.net)
Northwest Passage Committee Chair: Ethel Gullette
(effieg47 at gmail.com)
Membership Coordinator: Jon Neff
(jon at jonneff.net)
Newsletter Editor: Laurel Thomas
(laureland3 at yahoo.com)

About PCDC

Portland Country Dance Community (PCDC) is a consortium of dancers, musicians and callers promoting country dance and music traditions through regular dances, workshops and other events. Everyone is welcome. Our interests include American, English, Scandinavian, Celtic, and related traditions, expressed through live performance and participation. With this newsletter we hope to exchange information and share concerns about traditional music and dance.

Membership in PCDC is \$15 per year for individuals, \$12 for students and seniors (65+), \$25 for households and \$20 for senior households. Membership provides a subscription to the newsletter, either by regular mail or electronically, and eligibility for PCDC grants. Donations in excess of membership fees are tax deductible. Please send membership renewals to: PCDC Membership, 3648 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. #10, Portland, OR 97221. PCDC is an educational non-profit corporation and an affiliate of the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS), a national organization headquartered in MA.

The **PCDC Board** is an elected body of volunteers from the community. Board meetings are held approximately monthly. Community members are welcome to attend. Help, ideas and feedback from the community, in whatever form, is necessary to make PCDC events happen. Your contributions of time and support are appreciated. Contact any board member for further information via email or write to PCDC at: PO Box 2189, Portland, OR 97208-2189.

This newsletter, *Footnotes*, is published every other month beginning with the January-February issue. Dance-related announcements, events, articles or photos are welcome and can be submitted to the editor at: Laureland3 at yahoo.com. The information provided herein is as accurate as possible, however last minute changes and/or cancellations may not be reflected. Check the online version of *Footnotes* and the PCDC website for more up-to-date information. We encourage the submission of letters and articles that might be of interest to the community. All such materials become the property of *Footnotes* upon submission and may be edited. The copy **DEADLINE** for any given issue is the 12th of the previous month. E.g. the deadline for the Jan-Feb issue is Dec. 12.