



Footnotes

PORTLAND COUNTRY DANCE COMMUNITY

September – October 2022

Our Journey to Nongendered Role Terms

By Sue Songer & Kathy Story

Introduction

As PCDC members are well aware, the decision to move to nongendered role terms for the 2nd, 4th, and 5th PCDC contra dances at Fulton brought about a wide range of reactions from our dance community. Happiness, relief, disappointment, anger, and confusion have all been a part of that mix. Kathy Story, chair of the contra committee, and I (Sue Songer), PCDC chair, have collaborated here to explain in detail the contra committee work that preceded the decision and then the content of the discussions in the many meetings in its aftermath. We start with the time that the idea was first proposed and arrive at the present—a description of where we are now and what we would envision for the future of our dance community.

PCDC Contra Committee process before decision—by Kathy

Beginning in 2015, the contra committee began discussing the movement towards nongendered calling that was happening around the country. Younger dancers and dancers who are queer (a self-affirming umbrella term for some persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, nonbinary, transgender, and/or the other identities our dance community members hold) consistently were giving feedback that gender neutral dance terms were crucial to creating a welcoming and inclusive community for them. There was concern that as more dancers chose to dance both roles, gender presentation often did not match ladies and gents role terms, resulting in confusion to both new and experienced dancers, and dancers being told they were in the “wrong” place or even forced into the “right” place. And there was hope that nongendered calling offered a more neutral space that might reduce unwanted or inappropriate sexualized dance behavior.

After several years of conversation, and experiencing nongendered calling ourselves, we decided to try nongendered calling at two dances in May 2019. Before the dances, we wrote a [Footnotes article](#) discussing nongendered role terms, announcing the dances, and inviting feedback through surveys, email, and personal conversations. The dancer survey was available at a larks and robins dance and at a subsequent ladies and gents dance, as well as online. 141 responses were received. The survey results are available in the [July 2019 Footnotes](#).

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The Annual Portland English Country Dance Ball *by David Macemon*

The annual English Ball weekend will be held on October 28th and 29th. The weekend events will be held at the Oaks Park Dance Pavilion in Portland. Registration is \$50 per person. Go to www.PortlandECDBall.info for all the details about registration and all the Ball related weekend events.

We're very happy that Bruce Hamilton is calling the Ball this year. Bruce is a respected, thoughtful, and energetic teacher of English and Scottish dancing with 45 years of experience. He has launched dance classes, trained teachers, coached performing groups, and adjudicated festivals. He is always looking for new ways to understand and present ideas for the dancer. Bruce has taught workshops all around the United States and in the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, and Australia.

Music will be provided by Fine Companions. The band features Betsy Branch on fiddle, Lisa Scott on piano, Bill Tomczak on clarinet & saxophone, and Erik Weberg on flute. John Oorthuys will be providing sound reinforcement for all the Ball weekend events.

Opportunities to become familiar with English Dance and to learn the dances on the Ball list include the weekly PCDC English Dance and three Ball specific workshops. You may read more about English Dance on the PCDC Website: <https://portlandcountrydance.org/english-country-dance/>

The PCDC Friday Night English Dance is held from 7:30pm – 10:30pm, Friday nights at the Burlingame Water Tower Dance Hall (8936 SW 17th Ave, Portland).

The Ball workshops will be from 3pm – 5pm at A Renaissance School of Arts and Sciences in Portland on October 2nd, 9th and 23rd. Music will be provided by members of Fine Companions. A suggested donation for each workshop is \$10. You do not need to be registered for the Ball to attend these workshops. Come enjoy learning the Ball dances!

The weekend will kick-off with Laura Hatch calling our Friday night dance on October 28th. Everyone is welcome to attend this dance even if you are not attending the ball. The dance will be held at the Oaks Park Dance Pavilion, 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, in Portland. Admission for this dance is \$10. We're thrilled to have Oaks Park as the long-term location for English Ball weekend.

David is Chair of the Ball Committee, a member of the PCDC Board, and ECD Committee



The Appleberries Retire *by Kim Appleberry*

You may have already noticed—a good amount less of the mark of Kim and Christine is on the PCDC goings-on. If not, you likely will. We are retiring. We retired from our working world in 2015, and now from the contra volunteering territory.

In the beginning, we knew that there were people who did the work to put on the dances and all we had to do was show up. So when we got tapped on the shoulder in 2004, we answered, Yes, we will take our turn—it's only fair. We are all in this together.

At that time, the board members ran all the contra dances. Then, in 2006, the Contra Committee was created and we took the lead. In 2007, Portland Park & Rec did their first attempt at closing Fulton. We man & womaned the battle stations. It was five more times over twelve years, that we used gorilla warfare to defend Fulton. One of our proudest moments was when the Red Army—over 100 contra dancers, dressed in red—turned out at a city budget public meeting. They had not seen the like. This all concluded when we negotiated a 10 year lease with L'Etoile French School—celebrated by all parties with French Champagne at our house. (As part of the arrangement, I am the one that the alarm company calls at 4:00 in the morning when the alarm goes off at Fulton.)

It was in 2004 that Melanie Wilson suffered an accidental collision on the dance floor at Fulton. She was taken off to the hospital in an ambulance. We had been very (dance floor) friendly with her



for over a year but we realized we didn't know anything about her—where she lived; her family; what to do. (After a day of recovery, Melanie was fine.) We determined to make opportunities for personal connections, greater than the dance floor relationship. We started a monthly brunch at our house. In the beginning it was, Y'all come and bring others. Unfortunately, we had to cool it on the wide openness when the email invite was going out to 200 people. If you never got an invite, we

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Seeking Apprentice Sound Techs!

- Have you ever noticed how the sound tech makes dancing fun by helping the band sound their best and helping everyone hear the caller clearly?
- Have you ever wished you could fill this pivotal role at the dance, but didn't know how?
- Are you baffled, but strangely fascinated, by the complex array of wires, microphones, and other mysterious devices on the stage?
- Are you comfortable with technology and learning new skills?
- Do you enjoy listening to live music, do you like to fraternize with musicians, or are you a musician yourself?
- If you answered "Yes!" to any of the above questions, then read on because we are looking for you!

You may have noticed that the sound at most Portland contra dances is handled by one of four people. While we all enjoy the accolades from the dancers and the eternal appreciation of the bands and callers we work with, you may have also noticed that none of your sound techs are getting any younger. Some of us may even be starting to dream of [gasp!] retiring from the gig. PCDC has a plan to begin training up a few folks who can begin taking on the contra dance sound tech duties over the next few years. The board has approved a plan for trainees to begin learning the ropes (cables?) while shadowing and helping the sound techs at the regular PCDC dances. Sound engineering workshops are also in the plan, to help accelerate the learning in a more forgiving environment than a Saturday night dance.

If this interests you, please contact Carl Thor to get the ball rolling. Don't worry if you don't have

JOYRIDE!

September 7, 2022: caller Eric Curl

October 5, 2022: caller Woody Lane

Website: <https://joyride.erikweberg.com>

experience or sound gear (but even better if you do!). You're not making a firm commitment at this point. We'd like the chance to help you determine if being a sound tech would be a good fit for you.

by Carl Thor

Email: cthор@TalismanMusic.com

Phone: (360) 904-7190



Callers Workshop Report *by Laurel Thomas*

Ten people attended the PCDC callers training session and workshop on August 2nd. We covered some basic topics such as: the structure of the dance and how that relates to the music, how to teach a dance, timing your calls, The Four Potatoes (hmm, band name anyone?), communicating with the band, choosing a dance, programming an evening, dealing with common hiccups, and more. We practiced calling to recorded music and everyone got to do a walkthrough with our veteran callers acting as guinea pigs.



On open mike night (August 6th) Kelly Taber, a member of PCDC's Contra Committee, called her first (and second) dance ever. Both went really well! No hiccups at all!

PCDC's open mike night happens on fifth Saturdays, and the next one falls on October 29th. If you would like to call a dance and need help choosing one, contact any local caller—we'll be glad to help!

Laurel's handout was packed with valuable information and she was very encouraging as we practiced what we learned. You can tell she's a professional teacher! Really brought home to me how important it is for the caller to be clear, precise, and succinct in the walk-thru (and how hard that is!) and why certain tunes and dances go together so well.

—Kathy Story



Contra in the Couve! Bids Farewell

by Carl Thor

Organizers for the 2nd Friday contra dance in Vancouver have come to the conclusion that it is not feasible at this time to try to restart the dance series. We only missed reaching our 10 year anniversary because of the Covid pandemic, but the loss of our dance hall, a 2.5 year shutdown, the need for Covid protocols, potential liability issues, a shortage of organizer energy, and other uncertainties, have combined to drive our decision to let it go.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2022

Save the date for dancing, and to bring 2023 in with the contra folks!

December 31st: caller Bruce Hamilton

Fiddle Hellions: Betsy Branch, George Penk, and Sue Songer

Location: Fulton Hall
68 SW Miles St,
Portland, OR 97219

The Contra Committee is seeking volunteers to help plan this holiday event with Heather Tillotson. Please contact Heather at hbtillotson@gmail.com if you're interested in helping.

We hope to see you at the 2022/2023 NYE Contra Dance this year!

We thank the many dancers, callers, and musicians who supported us and helped keep Contra in the Couve! humming for so long. We also thank the many volunteers who took on the tasks, large and small, necessary to support an ongoing dance. And we thank the Hazel Dell Grange for providing such an ideal space in which to dance. Finally, special thanks to the late David Kaynor, our very strong supporter and caller for our December anniversary dance every year until he was no longer able in 2019.

We did a good thing and had a lot of fun together here in "the Couve!" Who knows? There may one day be contra dancing again in Vancouver. But for now, at least, we say "Farewell! We'll see you on another dance floor."



Our Journey to Nongendered Role Terms *Continued from page 1*

The overall results showed that over 69% of the respondents either preferred nongendered terms (47%) or had no preference (22%) and that 74% of the community would attend dances regardless of the role terms. But there was a sizable group (31%) who preferred ladies and gents. There were more dancers who would avoid dances with gendered calling (17%) than would avoid dances with nongendered calling (9%).

Of dancers under 45 (the future of our community), 73% preferred nongendered calling, more than half of those having a strong preference. Only 10% preferred ladies and gents and less than 2% had a strong preference in that direction.

Based on these responses, the Committee decided that beginning in July 2019, we would book one caller a month who used nongendered role terms. (This continued until we shut down for COVID in March 2020.)

In the fall of 2019, the Committee sent out a survey to 52 callers who had called for us regularly, including 12 local callers. The other callers were primarily from elsewhere in Oregon and Washington, with a few from California and beyond. A reminder was sent to those who had not completed the survey. A total of 36 callers responded. All but two callers responding were already comfortable, or wanted to become comfortable, with nongendered role terms. Specifically:

- 10 preferred larks and robins

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THIRD SATURDAY CONTRA

Sep.17, 2022: Music by Heather Pinney, George Penk, and Jesse Schafer, with Lindsay Dono calling (larks/robins)

Oct.15th, 2022: Countercurrent Plus, with Jesse Partridge calling (larks/robins)

Location: Fulton Hall

68 SW Miles St, Portland, OR 97219

Time: 7:30pm - 10:30pm Dance

7:00pm Newcomers' teaching session

Admission: \$6 - \$20 sliding scale

Preregistration encouraged:

george57penk@gmail.com

Our Journey to Nongendered Role Terms *Continued from page 7*

but were also comfortable calling ladies and gents

- 16 had no preference and were comfortable calling both role terms
- 4 had no preference and hoped to become comfortable with larks and robins
- 4 preferred ladies and gents but were already comfortable with larks and robins or hoped to become so
- Only 2 both preferred and were only comfortable with Gents and Ladies

2022 decision— Why Now?

In March of this year, as we were preparing to hold dances again, we decided to only book callers who would use nongendered role terms. We did not require that the terms larks and robins be used because we knew there were callers in our community who preferred positional calling over larks and robins. We considered and discussed these factors before we made our decision to go to nongendered calling:

- During the two years we weren't dancing, we talked extensively about safety, consent, and etiquette. We approved a [new policy](#) and distributed it at the two outdoor gatherings in the summer of 2021 and posted it on the website and Facebook. We wanted a community that was safe, inclusive, welcoming, and fun.
- We had been working on COVID policies and procedures regarding safety and health of our community and this felt like another move in that direction. Switching to nongendered calling follows the same logic as requiring vaccination, boosters, and masks: We can't have a dance if people don't feel safe/comfortable enough to show up, so we need to put practices in place to help people feel as safe/comfortable as possible.
- We believed that the decision to move to nongendered calling would advance our value of inclusivity especially of younger and queer dancers and would send a strong message of welcome to queer folks and their allies. We recognized that younger dancers are the future of our community. Without them, our community would not grow, let alone be sustained, and younger dancers were overwhelmingly asking for nongendered calling.
- It seemed the perfect opportunity to start fresh after time away, since everyone was already adjusting to dancing again. To call ladies and gents now and try to switch to larks and robins later would be harder on the dancers.
- Many dance communities in the PNW, California, and across the country had already switched to nongendered role terms or were planning to do so soon when dancing reopened. Almost all dance weekends and other big events used nongendered calling and we wanted our dancers to be familiar with that before going to such an event. Zoom dances almost exclusively used nongendered terms. We didn't want the reputation of being out of sync with our region or behind the times.
- Switching all our dances would create consistency for 2nd, 4th, and 5th Saturdays at Fulton. Dancers who strongly prefer nongendered calling don't have to check the schedule each

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Our Journey to Nongendered Role Terms *Continued from page 8*

time to see the role terms being used.

- Switching all dances gives more opportunities for dancers to become proficient at dancing to nongendered calling. We knew it might be intimidating to have to learn new role terms, but the more practice dancers get with them, the more natural they'll feel - and that happens faster if they're used regularly.
- Some of the callers we surveyed wanted to switch to nongendered calling in 2019. Virtual callers' workshops and practice sessions used larks and robins.

We were concerned that some callers would find it difficult to switch to nongendered role terms and planned to offer practice dances for those wanting to do so. We were also concerned that some would no longer call at our dances because of this change. We hoped this would not be the case.

Several folks at the meeting advocated for continuing on the path we had begun--half of our dances with gendered role terms and half with nongendered calling. Others believed we should let each caller decide which terms to use. Everyone agreed that nongendered calling was inevitable and necessary for the sustainability of our community, but there was not unanimity on how and when to get there. Ultimately, considering all the points above, we decided on the policy now in place.

The PCDC Community-wide Meeting—by Sue

Shortly after the contra committee decision was announced, the PCDC board was inundated with email from our dance community expressing strong opinions pro and con nongendered role terms and the way the decision was made. As PCDC co-chairs, Christine Appleberry and I set up a community forum for people to voice their opinions in person and listen to the viewpoints of others. (The format of this meeting was detailed in the [previous edition](#) of Footnotes.) Seventy people attended, and more than fifty spoke. The meeting was respectful throughout. Many participants came away with new thoughts and ideas; many said it was a valuable experience. The majority of spoken comments and comments written after the meeting favored or fervently supported nongendered role terms. However, a sizable minority had reservations or outright objections to allowing only nongendered calling. (No one asked for the elimination of nongendered terms.) These comments centered around the three themes below:

Process: The PCDC community was not consulted prior to this decision and should have been. (The contra committee did survey both callers and the wider community in 2019 as discussed above.) As an evolving tradition, change is necessary, but why not let role terms evolve naturally rather than mandate a change?

Retention of some gendered role terms: The inclusivity that we value means including the callers and dancers who prefer gendered calling. Nongendered calling makes some people feel unwelcome. Gender is an important part of identity for some dancers. Bird names are objectionable and “juvenile.” Gendered terms contribute to the visual cues that make it easier for callers and some dancers.

Support of all nongendered role terms: Nongendered role terms is the way of the future—other communities are moving in this direction, and this is what our younger dancers are asking for.

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Our Journey to Nongendered Role Terms *Continued from page 9*

Nongendered terms make our dances a safer experience for queer dancers. Gendered terms no longer describe what is actually happening on the dance floor with many dancers choosing a different role than their presenting gender. Nongendered terms give even more explicit permission for anyone to dance with anyone, creating more choices of partners. Nongendered calling hopefully will reduce some of the unwanted behavior on the dance floor.

After some follow-up written comments from participants in the meeting, the role terms issue went back to the contra committee and the board for further discussion. With so many strongly held, divergent opinions, it was clear that there would be no way any decision about role terms would satisfy everyone.

Contra Committee Response to the Community Meeting—by Kathy

We felt the meeting was well-run and that many diverse community voices were heard. Strong emotions were expressed. We were saddened that there are members of our community who feel excluded by a change in terms meant to be more inclusive of other members of our community. We learned that some community members had a very strong connection with ladies and gents role terms as part of their gender identity.

We regretted that we did not re-engage the larger community before we made our decision in March. We also recognized that our communication with the larger community about our decision was very poor. We wondered how we could improve and expand our communication to the community before, during, and after we make important policy decisions. We need to be more timely in our communication and provide more opportunities for input from others. Neither the contra committee nor PCDC board have a community input process in place, which we need. Our historical communication channels aren't always helpful: the comment box is rarely used, Footnotes is not timely and not everyone reads it, communicating at our dances reaches fewer folks now because our attendance is down due to COVID, and many members of our community are not on Facebook.

We realized that there was confusion about things that we had not made clear. Gender identity as a man or a woman or a nonbinary person is separate from our dance role and that identity is still valued and recognized. We are all free to dance the role(s) with which we are most comfortable and no one should feel they need to dance both roles or change roles. Also, that the terms lark and robin were meant to remove, in a clear and playful way, assumptions about who is, or should be, a "lady" or a "gent".

We were reminded that in our decisions, we should try to represent all community members, especially those who don't have the same opinions as members of the committee. And we realized that dancers who didn't feel welcome and have left our dance community should also be taken into account.

We identified our two most vulnerable groups as queer folk and long-time dancers/traditionalists. Both felt that they were losing something valuable depending on the final decision, and we didn't have a good solution for meeting the needs of both. We were concerned that if we reverse our decision, we could risk losing dancers, particularly younger and queer dancers, who are the

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future of our community; and that if we held to our original decision, we could risk losing some long-time, valued members of our community.

Going forward, we would like to stay with our decision for a year, during which time we will survey dancers and callers regarding their experience with nongendered calling at our dances. We will survey soon for a base line and survey again in a year (or after 25 dances since COVID may interfere again). We will also collect and evaluate dance incident reports and attempt to document the number of newcomers who have stayed and contact regulars who have left. And most importantly, we will keep communication lines open as we do this.

Board Response to the Community and Contra Committee Meetings—by Sue

On June 28, we held a special board meeting dedicated to role terms, so that all members would have a chance to respond to some of the thoughts presented at the community forum and the contra committee reports, ask questions of one another, and state personal opinions about role terms and the best direction forward for PCDC. Because there is a wide range of age, dance experience, and role term preferences among board members, different viewpoints were represented.

At the end of the discussion, we easily agreed on our visions for a PCDC future. A fostering of community, inclusiveness, and talent; a vibrancy that will last many years; and transparency that leads to increased participation were among the qualities hoped for in our dance community.

With these visions in mind, we created a list of potential gains from exclusive use of nongendered role terms at PCDC dances. We believe that nongendered role terms will: ensure the longevity and growth of the community since these terms have a lot of appeal to younger dancers and the queer community; make gender balancing irrelevant; and create an atmosphere in which more dancers are comfortable choosing either role to dance.

Contra Committee Response to Board Response—by Kathy

We do not want anyone to feel alienated and we recognize that our decision is not the preference of an important and valued part of our community. But we believe that the benefits of the change to nongendered calling outweigh the concerns. We are looking to a sustainable future for our dance community. We have a renewed commitment to transparency in our decision-making process going forward and to actively seeking input from the broader community.

And Finally—by Sue and Kathy

To our contra dance community members: We thank you for your input, for letting us know how this change feels for you. We realize that it is a difficult adjustment for many dancers and callers. We will endeavor to create opportunities for dancers with differing opinions about role terms and other aspects of PCDC to get to know each other better and learn from each other. We value everyone's participation in our community and hope that it continues. We hope that you will enjoy the benefits that accompany this change in our tradition.



The Appleberries Retire *Continued from page 3*

are very sorry—we wish we had a bigger house. We did the brunch at our house (almost) every month for 16 years. It was ended by COVID and will not be back. But it worked—there was an observable increase in personal connections. an invite, we are very sorry—we wish we had a bigger house! We did the brunch at our house (almost) every month for 16 years. It was ended by COVID and will not be back. But it worked—there was an observable increase in personal connections.

In 2008, we put on the first Portland Raindance. It was Hotpoint, the McKasson; Susan Kevra and Marlin Prowell. On Saturday afternoon, there was a misunderstanding that lead to a band revolt. We had five other weekend organizers there and we got them together and said, “What do we do?” They said, “We don’t know; we’ve never seen anything like this.” But reasonable people and goodwill worked it out and the weekend was the first of many great Raindances.

In those days, it seems like there were more special dances; more traveling bands passing through. Dusk till Done, Valentines day, Techno contra dance, Halloween... We regularly got 80 to 125 dancers at Fulton. Once we put on a special out-reach dance at a Christian singles club—18 of our best dancers, band, caller, sound; 150 of the club regulars. It was great; some of them started coming to our regular dances at Fulton.

In 2010 we started the big New Year’s dance at Norse Hall—partnering with Dennis Myers of Dance Eclectic to take over the whole of Norse Hall. Every year we got about 400 dancers for a great cross-pollinating blow-out.

Norse Hall...now there’s a situation. Early on we found out that contra dancers were held in VERY low regard by the powers at Norse Hall (for no real reason). We determined to correct that. Overcoming prejudice is a long slow process. I started fixing thing there. I know a lot about fixing buildings; they do not. So slowly, over the years, it has had its desired effect. The stink is off the contra dancers at Norse Hall.

In 2010 we invited Megan Emerson to be on the Contra Committee. We were determined to bring “young people” into the community and have them join us in running the dances. Megan brought the idea of a Techno Contra to the committee. We said, Great, you’re in charge. How can we help you? She was a powerhouse of ideas, enthusiasm, kindness and encouragement for new, young people.



When the world ended, we and the other members of the Portland Live team scrambled and stretched to learn a whole new skill. We did 15 broadcasts on Zoom and YouTube Live of fabulous bands from all over the country—one of the best being our very own Joyride, with whom we did four live broadcasts from Fulton (two for Portland Live and two for other broadcasts). BTW, the music part of those broadcasts is still available on the Portland Live channel on YouTube.

FOR 2ND, 4TH & 5TH SATURDAY P.C.D.C. DANCES:

THIS IS YOUR CONTRA COMMITTEE

Working for your dancing pleasure-

Any questions or suggestions—talk to one of us



In 2010, we kept this on the table in front of the cashbox

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The Appleberries Retire *Continued from page 12*

So many wonderful memories, of great bands, callers, dancers, friends, challenges overcome, peak moments... The time we had FOUR generations of a family all on the floor dancing at Fulton. The time we had Perpetual Emotion with Will Mentor calling for a regular dance at Fulton (We signed them up for Raindance that night). The time we had to make the decision to cancel



the big New Year's dance at Norse Hall at 4:00 pm the day of, because of an ice storm. The dedicated contra committee team, on hands and knees, with rags and spray bottles going over every one of the 6,000 square feet of dance floor for the Megaband dance at PSU—then mopping the whole thing.

Our queen of the old folks, Betty Stewart, who came and danced as she was able. She knew just where she needed to be but had trouble getting there in time. Our generous dancers just adjusted everything around Betty so she was always in the right place. As she became more frail, she would just come and sit on the side and watch. People would sit with her and Lanny or Gary would get her up to just sway back and forth for the waltz.



The time we had a special Monday dance in the upstairs dance hall at Norse Hall. We had InTent-City with Jacqui Grennan calling. It was the only space we could find for the short notice event and we knew it was going to be a big draw. We figured the space could hold 100 contra dancers. We had 158. Christine and I were doing the door and when people came we said, "Before you get out your money, go look at the hall." Everyone came back and said, "It's REALLY crowded...but everyone is having so much fun. Here's my money."

So many good times. Dancing to wonderful music and calling with a room full of great friends, some of whom you just met, has to be better than all of Elon's riches or Beyoncé's celebrity.



We tried to encourage a contra dance community that was welcoming to all; that accepted individualities or at least tolerated with good cheer. A place for those who didn't have a date for the Prom. And the best kick-ass dancing in town. Sometimes it was a lot of work; but it was that good kind of work—the kind we wouldn't do for money...but we'll do for free. Now we will stand down and let others do the work. They will do things as they see fit and it will have some differences. Life moves on.

Christine and I met on the dance floor at Fulton 22 years ago. Our first "date" was going to the pub with everybody else. Now we will go live on a farm and frolic with other old dancers.

Kim & Christine

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY—JULY

submitted by Ric Goldman, Secretary

Attending: Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman (recording), Lindsey Grayzel, Rick Kimball, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer (presiding), Mark Swan. **Absent:** Mike Goren. **Guests:** Christine Appleberry, Kathy Story, Yosef Trachtenberg

Secretary Report: PCDC renewed its Directors & Officers insurance at the same price as last year. New liability insurance certificates went to all event organizers. The new Covid follow-up policy went out to the new "community" email list of people who have registered at PCDC events. The Board Picnic flyer went out to the new "membership" email list of current PCDC members. The Board authorized \$1600 to purchase/construct a cabinet to hold PCDC items at Fulton Hall.

Summer Picnic: The taskforce has set up volunteers, games, a clothing exchange, and a music jam. Setup is 2:30p. Event runs 3:30p-6:30p.

Marketing: The board is researching new ideas for images, materials, designs, for letterhead, t-shirts and other swag. In-reach and out-reach projects put on hold during the pandemic are being restarted.

Sound Engineer Training: The Board authorized a \$25 stipend/dance for apprentices willing to learn to do sound at dances. Carl Thor will write an article for Footnotes to describe the program.

Portland Contra: Committee is planning New Year's Eve at Fulton Hall. There will be no Christmas Eve dance. Covid is still a concern as far as numbers at the dance. Christine Appleberry will check with Norse to find out how PCDC can get "regular renter" discounts. There is no Dance-a-Rama this year. We are hoping for a special November dance on the 3rd Tuesday.

ECD & Ball: Committee is looking into ways to improve new dancers' experience. Ball registration is imminent.

Northwest Passage: Camp is full with 12 on the waiting list. Committee is looking into requiring Covid tests before and upon arriving at camp. A policy proposal will be sent to the Board.

Membership: Counts are down 14 for the month but up 69 compared to last year.

Website: After-dance Covid reports have been added to the website and a new "igotcovid" email address is available for dancers to report if they test positive after a PCDC event (even if not a result of the event itself). New "community" and "membership" email lists have been created and Portland Contra committee is now using its new contra-announce list. Still need to update Covid outdoor policy on website, and fix the online Grants web form.

Next Meeting: August 16, 2022

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY—AUGUST

submitted by Ric Goldman, Secretary

Attending: Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman (recording), Mike Goren, Lindsey Grayzel, Rick Kimball, Sara Munz, Sue Songer (presiding), Mark Swan. **Absent:** David Macemon. **Guests:** Christine Appleberry, Kathy Story, Carl Thor, Yosef Trachtenberg

Treasurer Report: PCDC will apply for an ARPA grant thru Business Oregon to help companies involved in live events that experienced financial losses due to Covid.

SECOND THURSDAY TUNES TEACHING

The Second Thursday Tunes Teaching sessions are beginning again after a summer hiatus. Taught by well-known fiddlers George Penk and Betsy Branch, who we see regularly on the stage, these sessions have been ongoing for decades and have been the backbone of many local Portland contra bands. They provide a common repertoire of tunes which often show up on 5th Saturday Open Band nights. How wonderful it is to play in Open Band and be able to watch the dancers, without being glued to the sheet music! The traditional folk style of teaching by ear also helps us pick up new tunes more easily at jam sessions. For more information, click on the [Jams & Classes link](#) on PCDC's website.

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Admission: PCDC members \$10
non-members \$15

West side w/George Penk:
September 8th & November 10th

East side w/Betsy Branch:
October 13th & December 8th

For location and other info email:
sharonjeanallen@yahoo.com

Secretary Report: New Covid outdoor policy updates were reviewed by the Board. Board reps will remind committees to send their minutes into the archivist. On August 1, 2022, the Board approved Northwest Passage's proposed revisions to the PCDC COVID Indoor Event Policies to include the camp's rules.

COVID Updates: The Board discussed guidelines for when to make masks optional at events.

Picnic: 50-55 people attended for an almost perfect weekend. Clothing exchange was very successful. There was discussion about how to better include ECD members in the event.

Contra in the Couve: The Couve has run for about 12 years, but as the Hazel Dell Grange is not reopening, the series will be shutting down at least for now. We're sad to see it go.

Portland Contra: Dances are sparse due to heat, but we're covering talent costs. There were no water hazard issues at the last dance. The new PCDC cabinet has been built and William Watson volunteered to paint it.

ECD & Ball: Dance attendance is fluctuating but we have great ventilation. The Ball has 52 registrations (as opposed to 100 normally by September). A go/no-go decision will happen by September 30.

Northwest Passage: Due to cancellations, camp now has openings (sign up at <https://nwpdancecamp.org>). The committee may ask for financial assistance to help with the cost of onsite Covid tests.

Membership: Counts are up 8 for the month but up 72 compared to last year.

Website: PCDC is looking to move from Dropbox to Google Workspace for Nonprofits for online storage.

Next Meeting: September 20, 2022

PCDC BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Sue Songer: songer@portcoll.com

Acting Treasurer David Macemon: board-treasurer@portlandcountrydance.org

Secretary Ric Goldman: letsdance@rgoldman.org

At-Large Mike Goren, Lindsey Grayzel, Rick Kimball, and David Macemon

Portland Contra Committee Rep Mark Swan: mark.swan.portland@gmail.com

English Country Dance Committee Rep Sara Munz: sara.v.munz@gmail.com

Hillsboro Rep Victor Fiore: victor.n.fiore@gmail.com

Northwest Passage Rep Ric Goldman: letsdance@rgoldman.org

Board Email board@portlandcountrydance.org

MAJOR PCDC VOLUNTEERS

Contra Committee Chair Kathy Story: kathystoryconsulting@gmail.com

ECD Committee Chair Cynthia Stenger: cynthiastenger@gmail.com

Contra dance talent booker Gordy Euler: euleromi@pacifier.com

English dance caller booker Erik Weberg: erik@erikweberg.com

English dance music booker Laura Kuhlman: shawm1550@gmail.com

Raindance Committee Chair Kim Appleberry: pdxapple@comcast.net

Webmaster Ric Goldman: letsdance@rgoldman.org

NW Passage Committee Chair Ethel Gulette: effieg47@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator Jon Neff: jon@jonneff.net

Newsletter Barbara Harmon: bhvisualart@gmail.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 digital subscription to the newsletter, 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 and photos are welcome and can be submitted to the editor at: bhvisualart@gmail.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).

CALENDAR

September – October 2022

DATE		DANCE		CALLER	MUSIC
Sep. 2-5		NW Passage at Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp		Gene Murrow, Melissa Running	Alchemy and Roguery
Sep. 3rd	Sat	FH	First Saturday Contra Dance	Laurel Thomas	The Stage Crew
Sep. 7th	Wed	PH	First Wednesday Contra \$5-\$20, 7:30pm	Eric Curl	Joyride, no newcomers' lesson
Sep. 9th	Fri	BWT	PCDC Friday English Dance	Ric Goldman	Fine Companions
Sep. 10th	Sat	FH	PCDC Second Saturday Contra Dance	Greg Frock	Anita Anderson & Dave Bartley
Sep. 16th	Fri	BWT	PCDC Friday English Dance	Cynthia Stenger	Lanny Martin, Leslie Hirsch, Norman Farrell, and Jon Neff
Sep. 17th	Sat	FH	Third Saturday Contra Dance	Lindsay Dono	Penk, Penney, and Schafer
Sep. 23rd	Fri	BWT	PCDC Friday English Dance	Erik Weberg	Richard Sher, Norman Farrell, and Laura Kuhlman
Sep. 24th	Sat	FH	PCDC Fourth Saturday Contra Dance	Gordy Euler	Electrodes
Sep. 30th	Fri	BWT	PCDC Friday English Dance	Laura Hatch	Lisa Scott, Erica Liebert, and Laura Kuhlman
Oct. 1st	Sat	FH	First Saturday Contra Dance	Shell Stowell	The Stage Crew
Oct. 2nd	Sun	RS	ECD Ball Workshop (3pm - 5pm)	Cynthia Stenger	Fine Companions
Oct. 7th	Fri	BWT	PCDC Friday English Dance	David Macemon	Carl Thor, Erica Liebert, Ron Dann, and Jon Neff
Oct. 8th	Sat	FH	Second Saturday Contra Dance	TBA	TBA
Oct. 9th	Sun	RS	ECD Ball Workshop (3pm - 5pm)	Ric Goldman	Fine Companions
Oct. 14th	Fri	BWT	PCDC Friday English Dance	Ric Goldman	Lisa Scott, Leslie Hirsch, and Laura Kuhlman
Oct. 15th	Sat	FH	Third Saturday Contra Dance	Jesse Partridge	Countercurrent Plus
Oct. 21st	Fri	BWT	PCDC Friday English Dance	Cynthia Stenger	Carl Thor, Erica Liebert, Erik Weberg, and Jon Neff
Oct. 22nd	Sat.	FH	Fourth Saturday Contra Dance	TBA	TBA
Oct. 23	Sat	RS	ECD Ball Workshop (3pm - 5pm)	David Macemon	Fine Companions
Oct. 28 - 29	Fri/ Sat	OP	ECD Ball Weekend at Oaks Park	Laura Hatch (Fri) Bruce Hamilton	Heather Pinney, George Penk, Laura Kuhlman (Fri); Fine Companions (Sat)
Oct. 29th	Sat	FH	Fifth Saturday Contra Dance	Open Mike	Open Band

VENUES

- BWT** Burlingame Water Tower Dance Hall, 8936 SW 17th Ave, Portland *No street shoes permitted on the dance floor*
- FH** Fulton Hall, 68 SW Miles St, Portland (off Barbur Blvd.) *Dance shoes recommended*
- PH** Polish Hall, 3832 N. Interstate Ave, Portland
- RS** A Renaissance School, 234 S Bancroft St, Portland (off S Corbett Ave) *No street shoes allowed in the building*
- St. B** St. Barnabus Episcopal Church, 2201 SW Vermont St, Portland

Regular PCDC Dances

Unless otherwise stated, all PCDC dances are open to everyone—experienced or not, with or without a partner—and feature live music. All dances are taught. PCDC encourages sit-in musicians (unmiked) at regular dances at the discretion of the hired band and caller.

Unless otherwise noted, all contra dances run from 7:30-10:30pm and are preceded by a half hour lesson at 7:00pm. English country dances run from 7:30-10:30pm and are preceded by a 15-minute lesson. All dances feature live music. Visit PortlandCountryDance.org for more!

ADMISSION

Regular PCDC Contra Dances

- sliding scale of \$6 – \$20

Regular PCDC English Country Dances

- sliding scale of \$7 – \$15

PCDC FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

This traditional form of dance has been around since the 1600's and it's still thriving! The tunes are hauntingly beautiful and the dances are graceful, elegant, and best of all, fun and easy to learn! Tea and cookies at the break, yum!

BWT 7:30 - 10:30pm Newcomers' lesson at 7:15 pm (upon request)

PCDC SECOND SATURDAY CONTRA DANCE

The longest continuously running contra dance in the state. Anyone can learn to contra dance!

FH 7:30 - 10:30pm Newcomers' lesson at 7:00pm

PCDC FOURTH SATURDAY CONTRA DANCE

FH 7:30 - 10:30pm Newcomers' lesson at 7:00pm

PCDC FIFTH SATURDAY CONTRA DANCE

An open-mike session for callers and musicians.

FH 7:30 - 10:30pm Newcomers' lesson at 7:00pm

Arrive early to sign up for a calling slot and/or to set up your instrument on stage.

Per PCDC Guidelines: For everyone's safety and comfort all must be vaccinated and boosted (if eligible), sign a waiver and provide contact information. **Well fitting masks are required for all, except the caller and musicians when they are on the stage.**

Other Portland Area Contra Dances

FIRST SATURDAY CONTRA DANCE

The band Stage Crew with guest callers

FH 7:30 - 10:30pm Newcomers' lesson at 7:00pm Cost: sliding scale \$6-\$15

THIRD SATURDAY CONTRA DANCE

The band Jigsaw and other guest bands and callers

FH 7:30 - 10:30pm Newcomers' lesson at 7:00pm Cost: sliding scale \$6-\$15