



PCDC Footnotes

November–December 2025

From the Editor

We had a long summer, rolling into a lovely fall, with our wet weather on delay. But now that the rain and cold are here, will you be moving your exercise indoors to...the treadmill in your garage? Machines at the gym? If you want something more social, joyful, musical, and creative, buckle up, because November is a great month to be a dancer! On top of our 10 or so regular monthly dances, November brings us special dances, with the [Portland English Ball](#), the mid-week [George Marshall/CounterCurrent dance](#), and the [Rose City Dance-a-rama weekend](#) with Wild Asparagus and Engine Room. And the Dance-a-rama weekend comes with an [open public dance on Sunday](#), to which all are invited!

In this issue...

- In her [President's Corner column](#), Kathy Story talks about PCDC's new Community Grants program and how these grants can be used to develop local programs and events.
- It is a truth universally acknowledged that PCDC is celebrating Jane Austen's 250th birthday with a special Regency-era English dance on December 12! Get [details here](#).
- It's not too late to register for the English Ball (but do hurry). Get [details here](#).
- Come to the [November 11 contra dance at Polish Hall](#) with George Marshall and CounterCurrent.
- [No contra dancing at Fulton on Saturday, November 15](#)—come instead to Norse Hall on **Sunday**, November 16, for Wild Asparagus and Engine Room!
- This year's special [New Year's Dance](#) will be held on January 3, 2026. See the [lineup](#).
- [Community jam sessions continue](#): Meet people and build musical skills, whatever your level. Find the (free, PCDC-sponsored) jam session that's right for you!

Stay dry—come dance!

Lori Shaffer, *PCDC Footnotes* Newsletter Editor

About PCDC Footnotes

PCDC Footnotes is a bimonthly publication of the Portland Country Dance Community. Article submissions are due one month prior to the publication date—the first day of even-numbered months (such as February 1st for the March–April issue). For more information, contact Lori Shaffer at newsletter@portlandcountrydance.org.



President's Corner: New Community Grant Program

By Kathy Story

Got a great idea for a dance or music event but need some funds to get it going? Is an amazing musician coming to town for a concert and you'd love to have them lead a workshop? Dreaming about a program that could make our organization better? Been to another dance community and experienced something amazing that you'd like to bring here?

PCDC may be able to help. Our board recently adopted a new Community Grants Policy that makes funding available to members for events and other activities that would benefit our community. The grants can provide opportunities for folks to learn and improve skills or to experience something special that isn't currently available.

Why are we doing this? Our committees are very busy with our regular dance series, special dances, and weekend camps. We don't have the bandwidth for other events, but still want to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. We know that our members have great ideas, contacts, and passion for organizing other programs and events, and we want to jump-start that process by providing funds for those initiatives.

So what can community grants help do?

- Create new participatory music and dance events and workshops, including series, weekends, and week-long programs
- Boost existing participatory series or events
- Train callers, musicians, dancers, sound techs, and organizers
- Encourage involvement of those under 30 years old
- Publish instructional materials (print, web, audio, video)
- Start related endeavors that will have a lasting positive outcome for our dance and music community

Community grant applicants must submit an application, acknowledge PCDC support in publicity and at the event, and provide a follow-up report. If you're interested in applying or want to learn more about this opportunity, please contact me at board-chair@portlandcountrydance.org or talk to me at a dance or jam. 🦃

Calendar listings and PCDC board and committee info

For a calendar of upcoming dances and events, go to the [PCDC calendar](#), plug in the month you want to see, and click **Go**. You can customize your view by choosing the category of events you want to display.

For info on the PCDC board and committees:

For a peek into the goings-on of the PCDC Board, see the [PCDC board meeting summaries](#). For a list of board and committee members, see portlandcountrydance.org/board-members.

English Regency Dance to Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th Birthday

By Sara Munz

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jane Austen loved dancing. Dancing certainly plays an important role in her novels. As Elizabeth Bennett says in *Pride and Prejudice*, "To be fond of dancing was a certain step towards falling in love."

The PCDC English Country Dance committee invites you to join us in celebrating Miss Austen's milestone 250th birthday on Friday, December 12, at 7:30 pm (beginners' lesson at 7:15 pm). The dance will be held at the Burlingame Water Tower, 8936 SW 17th Avenue in SW Portland. A selection of Regency-era dances will be called by the talented Laura Hatch, set to delightful music played by Sue Songer, Ben Blechman, and Lori Shaffer. All dances will be taught and prompted.

The dance includes a beginners' lesson at 7:15 pm, and no dance partner or experience is needed. First-timers get in free!

Costumes are admired but not required. Many dancers enjoy wearing Regency, Georgian, or Victorian clothes and accessories. Tea and refreshments will be available at the break. Please bring any special treats that you'd like to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

Space Still Available for 2025 Portland English Ball Weekend

By David Macemon

PORTLAND ENGLISH BALL WEEKEND:
November 7, 8, 9 at Oaks Park Dance Pavilion

Space is still available for the Portland English Country Dance Ball weekend! You must be pre-registered for the Saturday and Sunday events; register at portlandecdball.info.

THE BALL: Saturday, November 8

(Ball registration required)

Caller: Laura Hatch (using a mix of positional and gendered calling)

Music: Fine Companions (Betsy Branch, Bill Tomczak, Erik Weberg, and Lisa Scott)

Sound: John Oorthuys

PRE-BALL DANCE: Friday, November 7 (Open to all; admission not part of Ball registration)

Callers: Dilip Sequeira & Rachel Pusey (calling positionally)

Music: Laura Kuhlman, George Penk, Jenny Peterson

SUNDAY BALL BRUNCH: Sunday, November 9 (Ball registration required)



Special Contra Dance Tuesday, November 11, at Polish Hall: CounterCurrent and George Marshall

PCDC presents a special contra dance Tuesday, November 11, with contra dance favorites CounterCurrent and George Marshall.

Where: Polish Hall, 3832 N. Interstate Avenue, Portland, OR

When: Tuesday, November 11, with intro and warmup at 7:00 pm and dancing at 7:30 pm

Admission: Sliding scale; \$10 to \$25 as you are able

Additional info: George will use gender-neutral terms. Masking is admired but not required.



CounterCurrent (Brian Lindsay & Alex Sturbaum) is a powerhouse acoustic folk duo based in Olympia, WA, featuring driving guitar, lyrical fiddle, harmony vocals, and foot percussion. Bringing the deep drive of dance music to every performance, their arrangements blend both traditional and modern influences with astounding musicianship and fluency. CounterCurrent is a genre-bending experience rooted firmly in the traditional music of the Celtic Isles and America: music that lifts you up and charges fearlessly into the future of folk music.

George Marshall (Western Massachusetts) has been calling dances since 1978. He shares his passion for contra dance while touring nationally as well as internationally. George's specialty is teaching and calling New England-style contra dances. He is renowned for his knack of working with bands to match music to dances and for his humorous, smooth, concise teaching and warm presentation.



No Fulton dance Saturday, Nov. 15: Dance to Wild Asparagus and Engine Room at Norse Hall on Sunday, Nov. 16, instead!

There's no dancing at Fulton on Saturday, November 15, because many of us will be at the Rose City Dance-a-Rama weekend at Norse Hall. But never fear—even if you're not signed up for this awesome weekend featuring Wild Asparagus and Engine Room (George Marshall and Lisa Greenleaf calling), you can still get a good taste of the weekend by coming to the public dance at Norse Hall on Sunday night, November 16! For more details, see dancearama.org. Hope to see you there!

Rose City Dance-a-Rama

An In-town Contra Dance Weekend



November 14 - 16, 2025

Norse Hall, Portland, Oregon
111 N.E. 11th Avenue



Wild Asparagus



Engine Room



George Marshall

www.DanceaRama.org

413-575-6283

DAR@wildasparagus.com

*We saved a place
for you*



Lisa Greenleaf

Kennedy School and Second Thursday Sessions Continue

Calling all musicians! PCDC sponsors some great jam sessions sure to lift your spirits with tunes and camaraderie. The Kennedy School jams are a lot of fun, with a restaurant on the premises for food and drink afterward. If you're in the mood for something a bit cozier, try the 2nd Thursday tune teaching sessions and jams with Betsy and George. These warm, welcoming sessions take place in snug, intimate settings. (Cookies are often involved.) Whichever session you choose, you'll find like-minded folks in a supportive environment!

Second Thursday tune teaching sessions include quarterly jams

Learn contra dance tunes by ear the second Thursday of each month with George Penk and Betsy Branch! These sessions are free, thanks to the generosity of PCDC. (To become a member or renew, see portlandcountrydance.org/membership.) Once each quarter, instead of learning new tunes, the session turns into a community jam. All acoustic instruments, all levels, are welcome! To see current and past tunes, check out the recordings on our [webpage](#). For location and other info, email sharonjeanallen@yahoo.com.

Kennedy School jams feature contra, waltz, ECD, and Quebecois

The Kennedy School Monday night slow jams continue! These jam sessions draw musicians at all levels. Whatever your level, there's always room for more—come make music with us!

What: Jams for all acoustic instruments and all levels of musicians, whether you read music or play by ear

Where: McMenamins Kennedy School, 5763 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland (off-street parking available)

When: Contra and waltz jam: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm

ECD jam: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7–9 pm

Quebecois jam: 5th Mondays, 7–9 pm (other months, location TBA: email pdxqjam@gmail.com)

Additional details: Contra and waltz jams feature tunes from the *Portland Collection* and Bill Matthiesen's waltz books; ECD jams, tunes from the Barnes books. If you don't have these books, we're happy to share.

Questions? Contact Kathy Story at board-chair@portlandcountrydance.org.

Multnomah March: The tune Bob McQuillen wrote for Portland in 1989



New Year Contra dance

**CALLING BY
KOREN WAKE & SHELL STOWELL**

MUSIC BY

**COUNTERCURRENT
&
PETER AND THE WOLF TONES**

**BRING A DESSERT FOR THE
DESSERT POTLUCK!**

**NORSE HALL 111 NE 11TH AVE
PORTLAND, OR 97232**

**\$15-35 SLIDING SCALE
NOTAFLOF**

BEGINNER LESSON

7:30PM

DANCE

8PM-12:15AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD 2026