

Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • March-April 2020

Northwest Passage 2020

By Richard Scher

No Brexit here in the Pacific Northwest! English country dance remains one of the foundations of our vibrant Northwest dance scene, and we are eagerly looking forward to featuring it at this year's Northwest Passage Dance & Music Camp.

This summer's camp happens over Labor Day weekend, September 4-7 at the Kiwanis Camp on the beautiful slopes of Mount Hood. We've assembled an Alist lineup of musicians and callers: Alchemy (Rachel Bell, Karen Axelrod and Eric Martin) and The Whoots (Shira Kammen, Jim Oakden and Charlie Hancock) with dance leaders Susan Kevra and Melissa Running.

Flyers are available at local dances and have been emailed to PCDC members and past Northwest Passage attendees. Registration is online only, opening around March 7. To register and for further information go to: www.NWPassageDanceCamp.org. Partial grants are available for PCDC members. To apply for a grant please go to: www.portlandcountrydance.org/pcdc-grants.

This year's offering of zesty English country dance and music includes a wide range of high-quality workshops in instrumental music, singing and calling, and generally takes advantage of the marvelously versatile talent we have on staff.

As always, camp features the famous cuisine of Beth Gibans, as well as the spacious dance floor and rustic but comfortable accommodations of the Kiwanis Camp. John Oorthuys will provide his excellent sound reinforcement.

In this issue of Footnotes we showcase Alchemy and Susan Kevra.

Alchemy brings together three dynamic players steeped in traditional English country and contra dance music. Individually, they have performed across the United States, Canada and Europe. As a trio, their improvisatory style brings a contemporary and innovative feel to both

traditional and newly composed tunes and songs. From driving Scottish reels to French mazurkas and everything in between, Alchemy delights the listener with heartfelt performances with a touch of whimsy.

Rachel Bell is an accordion player, tunesmith and music teacher from the wilds of Pennsylvania. She is in demand throughout the United States and beyond for concerts, contra dances, English country dances, French dances and workshops. Over a decade of musical travel has landed her smack-dab in the middle of some very exciting projects: a vibrant and versatile collaboration with Karen Axelrod, a rich and energetic contra dance band called Seaglass, a slew of French-focused music and dance adventures with Susan Kevra and most recently, a joyful partnership with Becky Tracy. And that's just the tip of the iceberg!

Equally at home on violin and viola. Eric Martin is a traditional dance and folk musician with a background in classical music and music education. Eric enjoys the freedom and improvisation inherent in traditional music and has played for English country dances, contra dances, festivals, balls and concerts with numerous groups including Bottom of the Bucket, The Flying Garbanzos, Coincidance and Common Thread. Eric has been a staff member at CDSS (Country Dance and Song Society), the Folk Arts Center of New England and Pinewoods Camps, and will be on staff at Ashokan Northern Week this summer teaching English country dance fiddling. Eric holds performance degrees from Ithaca College and the University of Limerick, Ireland. With his family, he lives and works at Gould Farm, a therapeutic farming community in the Berkshires.

Karen Axelrod left the world of classical music over 25 years ago, and has found her home in the folk world. She is highly regarded for her creative piano playing at English, American and Scottish dance events around the country (including Pinewoods, Ogontz, Buffalo Gap, Berea Christmas Country Dance Week, The John C. Campbell

(cont. on page two)



Northwest Passage 2020 (cont. from page one)

Folk School and various BACDS events) and abroad. Her improvisational playing is lyrical, yet touched with humor and whimsy. Karen is a member of the band Foxfire, with Daron Douglas. She also plays accordion for the renowned longsword team, Orion. In addition to her life as a musician, Karen is a dog-walker. She is trying to complete a marathon in every state and not come in last. Karen used to perform comedy improv with The Villa Jidiots, and loves to teach improv to adults, children and her canine clients.

Susan Kevra is noted for her warmth, clear teaching, and lovely voice. Dancers on both sides of the Atlantic



appreciate her diverse repertoire of singing squares, western patter calls, contras and English country dances, all delivered in dulcet tones and without pretension. She has choreographed a number of well-loved contra, square and English country dances.

Next issue: The Whoots and Melissa Running.

[Rich is a member of PCDC's Northwest Passage Committee.]

More Northwest Passage News

In recent years PCDC's NWP dance and music camp has alternated between all-contra and all-English, with 2020 being an all-English year. However, for reasons both financial and logistical, the committee has opted to maintain the all-English format for next year (2021) as well. If volunteers can be found to help plan and implement a contra-centric camp for 2022, and with the PCDC board's approval, we may see an all-contra Northwest Passage for 2022. Stay tuned.



Spotlight on PCDC Volunteers

By Christine Appleberry

In this issue: **Ethel Gullette**. "My passions are social justice, dancing, singing and writing," says Ethel. "Rich Scher and I moved to Portland from the LA area almost five years ago. We arrived on a Saturday and went to the local dance that night. Rich had introduced me to contra dancing several years prior. He was in one of LA's hot contra bands at the time, Bonfire.

"Soon after moving to Portland we were asked to be on the NW Passage Committee and we said 'yes.' It seemed like a great way to become part of the community, get to know people and give back. One challenge was that I had never done any English country dancing so we began going to the regular English dances and learning. I discovered I really love English county dance! I also love swing, contra and ballroom – I just love dancing!

"I've been Chair of the NWP Committee since joining: I'm good at organizing and Rich does the publicity, something he is good at. There are really nice people on the committee whom we have taken great pleasure in getting to know better and we enjoy the weekend itself very much. My most memorable experience has been finally feeling fluent in English dancing, so that I can be playful with it and not focus so much on learning. I also really enjoyed a singing workshop Rich and I led at last year's camp.

"Along with our dance community, I am very involved with the First Unitarian Church. Rich and I both sing in one of the choirs and I am on the editorial team of the Speaking of Justice e-magazine. I was a teacher before retiring and now teach a life skills class called "Threshold" at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. My political and social justice work is very rewarding but at times intense and serious; dancing and singing get me out of my head and into my body in a joyous way."

"There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward" – Khalil Gibran. Thank you, Ethel for all that you give to our community!!

[Christine is a member of the PCDC Board.]

Special Appearance at Portland's ECD...

Elke Baker, a fantastic East Coast fiddler, will be playing the Friday night English Country Dance on March 13. Elke isn't in Portland often so this is a rare opportunity to dance to her wonderful playing. Our own Lisa Scott will be at the piano. The dance is at the Burlingame Water Tower from 7:30 to 10:30 pm with an introductory session at 7:15. All are welcome!



Board Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Ric Goldman

Jan. 21, 2020. Present: Christine Appleberry, Ric Goldman, Rich Goss, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Marianne O'Doherty, Sue Songer and guest Mark Swan.

Chair's Report: The board went into executive session to discuss a sensitive behavior issue. Appropriate follow-up actions are being taken.

Secretary: We are responding to State of Oregon inquiries about our Charitable Activities status.

Hillsboro Dance: The Hillsboro contra dance has indicated they are ready to join PCDC. A formal offer will be extended.

ECD Committee: The English Country Dance Committee is discussing whether to allow photos/videos to be taken at dances. A final decision is expected at the March 6 meeting. David is working on creating some new ECD content for the website. There may be a Community Band event in May or June.

Megaband: Mark Swan will coordinate housing. No online t-shirt sales, but some will be for sale on site. PSU will allow entry only via main doors on Broadway (they are trying to mitigate overnight "camping") and access is restricted after 4 pm, so dancers will not be able to enter via the skywalk. Signage to this effect will be put up. The schedule has been moved 45 minutes earlier so we can make the hard exit by midnight.

Contra Committee: Jessica Nessler-Cass, Bryce Holt, and Kathy Story are joining the committee. Marianne is leaving the committee and Mark Swan was sworn in as the new committee representative to the board.

Raindance Committee: 520 flyers went to 24 dance groups. Registration opened January 1 at midnight. It closes February 1 and any registrations after that date will go on a waiting list.

Northwest Passage Committee: Patricia Donohue and Meg Green are joining the committee. The committee reached out to the Next Gen Contra Dance Camp about partnering with NWP for its contra year camps, but they declined. Due to an increase in rent for the Kiwanis Camp, admission will go up \$10, the first increase in 5 years. To help get the word out about camp sooner, registration will open this year in March instead of May.

Family Dance Committee: After a review of finances, it appears that the Family Dance does not currently cover costs on a regular basis, however the board enthusiastically agreed that an ongoing investment is well worth the community benefit.

Marketing: The board reviewed the latest outreach brochure text. Next steps involve securing more photos and finalizing the graphic layout.

Grants: Although leaving the board, Marianne O'Doherty will stay on as grants manager. We appreciate both her past service, and her continued support of PCDC.

Memberships: We are showing an ongoing improvement in membership counts vs last year. Congrats and thanks to all who are helping encourage folks to join PCDC.

Picnic: The 2020 PCDC picnic will be held Saturday, July 25. Tentative schedule is from 3 to 6:30 pm, with an evening contra to follow. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Christine Appleberry.

Board Retreat: The next retreat to go over strategic issues will be held on June 13 before the 2nd Saturday contra.

Feb. 18, 2020. Present: Christine Appleberry, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Rich Goss, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Jaydra Perfetti, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guest Kim Appleberry.

Term Limits: The board voted to allow PCDC committees to remove term limits in their charters. Committees may also revise their own charters as long as the changes are communicated to and approved by the board.

Hillsboro Dance: Hillsboro is now officially part of PCDC and we're taking steps to fully integrate them into the organization. Victor Fiore has joined the board as their representative.

Northwest Passage Committee: Cynthia Stenger has joined the committee.

Community: The board held extended discussions regarding the challenges and our handling of behavioral issues over the last year. It was agreed that PCDC needs to (and now will) formalize policy describing how and to whom dancers can come forward when there is an issue. what PCDC can and cannot do and how it will help dancers care for themselves or seek resources to do so.

Organization: Our treasurer, Jaydra Perfetti is leaving the board. We thank her for all her many contributions to PCDC. A new treasurer is being sought. David Macemon has been acting coordinator of the PCDC Family Dance but can no longer continue to do so. A new coordinator is needed to take over this series which starts up in October. Rich Goss is leaving the board in June due to term limits.

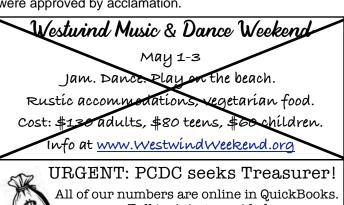
[Next board meetings: March 17, April 21.]

Interested in becoming a member of the PCDC Board? Contact any board member!

Membership Meeting Summary

Submitted by Ric Goldman

Feb. 8, 2020. PCDC Chair Rich Goss presided over a brief meeting of the membership at the contra dance at Fulton during which motions to allow the Hillsboro Contra Dance to become a PCDC dance series and for Victor Fiore to be Hillsboro's representative to the PCDC Board were approved by acclamation.



Full training provided.

For more information contact Rich Goss (rich at richgoss dot com). Here is a link to the full job description.



Calendar • March-April 2020



Unless otherwise noted all contra dances run from 8-11 pm and are preceded by a half hour lesson at 7:30. English country dances run from 7:30-10:30 pm and are preceded by a 15-minute lesson. All dances feature live music. Contra callers using gender neutral role terms are noted with an asterisk *.

March

Date		Dance	Caller	Music
4th	Wed.	First Wednesday Contra at PH, 7:30-10 pm	Sue Hulsether	Joyride
6th	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	David Macemon	Flummery (Marjorie Millner, Brooke Bubna, Sean Nolan)
7th	Sat.	First Saturday Contra at FCC	William Watson	UnLeashed!
8th	Sun.	PCDC Advanced ECD at RS, 4:30-6:30 pm	David Macemon	Betsy Branch, Bill Tomczak, Lisa Scott
11th	Wed.	PCDC Hillsboro Contra at OFL, 7:30-10 pm, lesson at 7	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
13th	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
13th	Fri.	Contra in the 'Couve at HDG, 8-10:30 pm	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
14th	Sat.	PCDC Family dance at FCC (4:30-6:30 pm)	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
14th	Sat.	Megaband Contra Dance at PSU, 7:15-10:30 pm	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
15th	Sun.	Portland Roadhouse Contra at MCC, 11 am-9 pm	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
20th	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
20th	Fri.	PCDC Hillsboro Contra at OFL, 7:30-10 pm, lesson at 7	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
21st	Sat.	Third Saturday Contra Dance at FCC	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
27th	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.
28th	Sat.	PCDC Contra Dance at FCC	Canceled due to	Coronavirus.

April

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Date		Dance	Caller Music	
1st	Wed.	First Wednesday Contra at PH, 7:30-10 pm	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
3rd	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
4th	Sat.	First Saturday Contra Dance at FCC	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
10th	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
10th	Fri.	Contra in the 'Couve at HDG, 8-10:30 pm	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
11th	Sat.	PCDC Family Dance at FCC 4:30-6:30 pm	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
11th	Sat.	PCDC Contra Dance at FCC	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
12th	Sun.	PCDC Advanced ECD at RS, 3-5 pm	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
17th	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
17th	Fri.	PCDC Hillsboro Contra at OFL, 7:30-10 pm, lesson at 7	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
18th	Sat.	Third Saturday Contra Dance at FCC	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
24th	Fri.	PCDC English Country Dance at BWT	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	
25th	Sat.	PCDC Contra Dance at FCC	No dance was scheduled for this date.	
26th	Sun.	Special Raindance Contra at NH, 7:30-10:30 pm, lesson at 7, open to all	Canceled due to Coronavirus.	

BWT Burlingame Water Tower Dance Hall, 8936 SW 17th Ave, Portland • No street shoes permitted on the dance floor.

FCC Fulton Community Center, 68 SW Miles St. (off Barbur Blvd.), Portland • Dance shoes recommended.

HDG Hazel Dell Grange, 7509 NE Hazel Dell Ave, Vancouver, WA

NH Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Ave, Portland

OFL Odd Fellows Lodge, 267 E. Main St., Hillsboro, OR

PH Polish Hall, 3832 N. Interstate Ave, Portland

PSU Smith Ballroom at PSU, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland

RS Renaissance School, 0234 SW Bancroft St. (off SW Corbett Ave), Portland • No street shoes allowed in the building

WA Wayfinding Academy, 8010 N Charleston Ave, Portland, OR

WHC Waverly Heights Congregational Church, 3300 SE Woodward St., Portland

VBVillage Ballroom, 700 NE Dekum, Portland

Regular PCDC Dances

dances are open to everyone—experienced Dance. Fun dancing for kids and families, or not, with or without a partner—and October-April at FCC, 4:30-6:30 pm. Cost:

feature live music. All dances are taught. PCDC encourages sit-in musicians (un-miked) at regular dances at the discretion of the hired band and caller.

Admission for regular PCDC contra dances is on a sliding scale of \$6-\$15; English country dances are \$10 non-members; \$8, members; \$7, seniors or students. NOTE: All PCDC dance events are fragrancefree; please do not wear scented products to a dance!

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. BWT, 7:30-10:30 pm, beginners' lesson at 7:15.

Unless otherwise stated, all PCDC PCDC Second Saturday Family

\$6/adults; \$5/kids; \$20/family max. For information contact macemondavid at gmail.com.

PCDC Second Saturday Contra Dance. The longest continuously running contra dance in the state. Anyone can learn to contra dance! FCC, 8-11 pm, beginners' lesson at

PCDC Fourth Saturday Contra Dance. FCC, 8-11 pm, beginners' lesson at 7:30.

PCDC Fifth Saturday Contra Dance. An open-mike session for callers and musicians. FCC, 8-11 pm, lesson at 7:30 pm. Arrive early to sign up for a calling slot and/or to set up your instrument on stage. PCDC Second Sunday Advanced ECD. More challenging dances, with focus on style & technique for experienced dancers. October-July at RS, 3-5 pm. Cost: \$10.

Other Portland Area Contra Dances

First Wednesday Contra Dance is organized by the band Joyride from Sept-June at PH, 7:30-10 pm with guest callers. No lesson; please do not wear scented products. Cost: sliding scale \$6-\$15.

Contra in the 'Couve! is on 2nd Fridays at HDG in Vancouver, WA, 8-10:30 pm; lesson at 7:30. 10 miles north of downtown Portland! Cost: sliding scale \$6-\$15.

PCDC Hillsboro Contra Dance is on 3rd Fridays at OFL, 7:30-10 pm, lesson at 7. Cost: \$5-\$15 sliding scale; under 12 free. First Saturday Contra Dance: The UnLeashed! and Stage Crew bands alternate months with guest callers at FCC, 8-11 pm with a beginners' lesson at 7:30. Cost: sliding scale \$6-\$15

Third Saturday Contra Dance: The bands Jigsaw and The BFD alternate months with guest callers at FCC, 8-11 pm; beginners' lesson at 7:30. Cost: sliding scale \$6-\$15.

More Portland Dances

Norske Runddansere: Scandinavian Folk Dancing (including the Hambo) to recorded & live music. Mondays at Nordia House, 7-10 pm, \$5, all welcome.

Monday Waltz: Couples dancing to recorded music at WHC, 8:30-10:30 pm, lesson at 8. Cost: \$8. Contact eric at smoothwaltz dot com.

PDX Squares 3rd or 4th Sunday, Sept-May at VB with live music and caller, 7-10 pm, \$7-\$15. [11/24; 12/15]

Third Friday Céilí: Irish dancing w/live

Out of Town Dances

VENUES

Ashland: 3rd Saturdays, Sept.-May at The Grove in Ashland. Info at: www.socontra.org

Bend: 2nd Saturdays, Oct.-April at Pine Forest Grange. Info at: www.bendcontradance.org

Coos Bay: 1st Saturdays, Oct-May at North Bend Senior Center, 7 pm. Info: www.southcoastfolksocietv.com

Corvallis: 1st & 3rd Saturdays, Sept.-June at Gatton Hall, 8-11 pm. Info at: www.corvallisfolklore.org

Eugene: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, Sept.-June at Dunn School, 7:30-10:30 pm. Info at: www.eugenefolklore.org

Hood River: 2nd Saturdays, Oct.-June at Rockford Grange, 7 pm; family friendly. For more info: www.communitv.gorge.net

Olympia: 1st, 2nd, 4th Saturdays, 7:30-10:30 pm, at the South Bay Grange in Lacey, WA. Info at: www.olympiadance.org

Seattle: English country on Fri. & Sun.; contra on Thurs., Fri., Sat. Info at: www.seattledance.org

Tacoma: 3rd Saturdays, 7:30-10:30 pm, at Christ Church Wells Hall. Info at: www.tacomacontradance.org

PDX Contra Remix: Gender free contra to recorded music of the funky, slinky variety with a driving beat - and live caller - on most 2nd Sundays, Sept-May at WA, 6:30-10 pm. Cost: \$5-\$15.

music, 7:30-11 pm at Winona Grange. Cost: \$12. Info: www.irishpdx.com.

Kyklos International Folk Dance at Reed College, Sun. 7-9:45 pm. European, Israeli and American line, set and couple dances. Newcomers welcome, \$2.

Portland Country Dance Community

P.O. Box 2189 Portland, OR 97208-2189

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PCDC Board Members

Chair: Rich Goss (rich at richgoss.com)

Treasurer: Open

Secretary: Ric Goldman (letsdance at rgoldman.org) At-Large: Noah Grunzweig (grunzwei at gmail.com)

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)
Raindance Committee Rep: Christine Appleberry

Raindance Committee Rep: Christine Appleberry (ceappleberry at yahoo.com)

Northwest Passage Committee Rep: Sue Songer (songer at portcoll.com)

Family Dance Coordinator: David Macemon (macemondavid at gmail.com)

Major PCDC Volunteers

Contra Committee Chair: William Watson (williamcallscontras at gmail.com)

English Country Dance Committee Chair: Susan Gere (susangere 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)

Newsletter Editor: Laurel Thomas (laureland3 at yahoo.com)

PLEASE let us know immediately if your address changes. We get charged 59¢ for each returned newsletter. And worse yet, you won't get your newsletter. Please provide your old and new address to: Jon at JonNeff dot net, or call 503-893-2102. You can also opt to receive your newsletter electronically.

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.

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, 3600 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.