



Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • Winter 2021

Portland Live!

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

January 17: Audrey Knuth & Ben Jaber

February 21: TBA

PCDC's Portland Live concert series, having survived 2020, inaugurates 2021 with the electrifying duo of Audrey Knuth and Ben Jaber. Now living in California, **Audrey Knuth** is a talented fiddler who cut her folk teeth in the Boston area, attending Berklee College of Music and spending years exploring the thriving New England folk scene. She has played with bands such as The Free Raisins, The Gaslight Tinkers and Wake Up Robin in dance and concert halls all over the U.S. and Europe. Specializing in New England, Celtic and old-time, her playing is rhythmically lively and spontaneous – guaranteed to get you up and dancing!

Benjamin Jaber has been Principal Horn of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra since 2008, but he is *also* an accomplished performer of traditional Irish music, completely self-taught on the Irish wooden flute, tin whistle and uilleann pipes (Irish bagpipe). Ben has been active as a session player all over the country (you know, in pre-pandemic times) and has been fortunate to get to play with some of Irish music's biggest names along the way, including the legendary Irish band, The Chieftains.

Audrey and Ben make lovely music together and will be playing for you live from their home in San Diego. Tying it all together is our own homegrown Zoom Host Extraordinaire, Kathy Story. As always, the Zoom will open at 5 pm for a half hour of chatting and catching up with dance friends, then music from 5:30-7 pm, and then another half hour of chatting after the music. The concert part of the event will be on YouTube Live in addition to Zoom. (See page 3 for some Zoom tips.) If you have received email invitations with the Zoom instructions for these events in the past, you're on our list and you'll get one for each 3rd Sunday Portland Live event. If you have



not previously received an invite, email **raindance.pdx at gmail.com** and we'll add you to the list. (The Zoom instructions are not posted on social media due to security concerns.) These Zoom events are free of course but if you wish to donate to the musicians, links will be provided in the chat section during the concert. You can find these same links in the email invite. Join us on Sunday for great music and community bonding!

– Editor

Portland Megaband 2021? You Betcha!

By Sue Songer

Have you ever wished you could experience the Portland Megaband without having to be crushed on a crowded dance floor? Or tried to identify those musicians in the back (9th!) row? Or hoped for a closer look at some of the instruments? Or struggled to decipher the conductors' signals to figure out how the hand motions relate to the music? Or wanted to see the conductors from the front rather than the back, for that matter? Or liked a set so much that you lamented not being able to hear it one more time? Or wanted to turn down the sound altogether?



All of these things will soon be possible!

The PCDC Board has generously voted to provide funding for a videographer, who will use his technological magic to sync up to 75 separate videos of Megaband members playing Megaband tunes recorded in the privacy of their own homes. We'll be playing to 'reference recordings' created by Betsy Branch and me (Sue Songer) that will keep us all together. Musicians will listen to these reference tracks through headphones and put out their own sound for the videos. There is a roadmap through all the music so everyone will know when to play and when to sit out. We will end up with a set of jigs, a set of reels and a waltz. The final product will have our big Megaband sound, complete with arrangements, harmonies, horn parts, section solos and more.

We are aiming for release of the video on **March 13th**, which would have been the date of the 2021 dance. We are grateful to have a Megaband music project to work on and we are really excited about seeing the result and sharing it with you, our wider community. The Portland Megaband—playing with precision and enthusiasm—even now!

[Sue Songer is Co-Chair of the PCDC Board.]

Online Games Night!

January 31, 3-6 pm (PST)

Hosted by Georgia caller Seth Tepfer, this fabulous and fun event will include party games, card games, word games, puzzle games, escape room and more.

Pièce de resistance? Contra Jeopardy!

Register at: [http://contradance.link/
RegisterWinterGames](http://contradance.link/RegisterWinterGames)

A New Year's Eve unlike any other (or at least I hope so!)

By Kathy Story

On December 31, 2019, we were dancing to Joyride in Fulton Hall. On December 31, 2020, I was listening to Joyride at Fulton Hall as they were streamed live via Zoom to adoring fans. It was the beginning of my experience at "New Year's Eve Sea to Sea", a 12-hour extravaganza thrown by 28 dance groups from the North Sea to the Pacific Ocean, from Warwickshire, England to Portland, Oregon.

PCDC kicked off the concert track with Joyride. What a fabulous concert! Because I was introducing the band and making the announcements at the end, I decided to wear party clothes for the occasion, something I haven't done since March. I even put on my best rhinestones! I laughed at myself when I took my lipstick out of my bag – with my mask on, no one would see my lips! Being in the same space with four of my favorite musicians playing live (with masks and socially distanced) was such a special treat. I promise to never take live music for granted again.



After the concert, I ran home to get online before the party was "too crowded." The evening had 2,455 registrants from at least six countries, but because of Zoom's limitations, only 1,000 participants could Zoom in at any one time. I had some hard decisions to make because there were 11 tracks (including concerts, contra dances, ECD, family dances, Scandi, jams and games) with 59 events. I contra danced to bands and callers from all over, waltzed with my imaginary partners, sang along on Beatles songs, jammed from the Portland Collection and toasted the New Year across four time zones with four renditions of Auld Lang Syne.

I also chatted with dance friends from Toronto, Memphis and Boston, and met a longtime friend in the "Kitchen" social room for a private conversation. Twice, other folks poked their heads in to see if any

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Board Meeting Summary

Submitted by Ric Goldman

November 17, 2020. Present: C. Appleberry, P. Donohue V. Fiore, R. Goldman, N. Grunzweig, D. Macemon, S. Munz, S. Songer, M. Swan, and guests Kathy Story and Tarka Ayres.

Treasurer's Report: We still need a new treasurer. Monthly reports and a revised budget were presented.

English Country Dance: Committee met to check in. Dances cancelled indefinitely.

Family Dance: We still need a board rep and committee organizer. Spring 2021 dances cancelled. Earliest possible dance would be October, 2021.

Raindance: All event monies finally moved to PCDC bank account at Chase. No decision yet about a 2021 event. *[Editor's note: Raindance 2021 has since been cancelled.]*

Portland Contra: The October Portland Live event was the least attended so far, but we're getting after-the-event views now. The November event with Joyride had 253 attendees, mostly on YouTube due to Zoom sound issues. The next concert is in December with The Russet Trio. PCDC will be part of a rolling contra/ECD/family dance event for New Year's Eve with Joyride kicking off the event with a concert at 4 pm local time. We're looking into the possibility of creating some instructional videos. The board recommended to the Portland Contra Committee that it reimburse Kim Appleberry for costs associated with using his Zoom account for the Portland Live events.

Membership: Some memberships and donations have come in since the last meeting. Counts are down 16 compared to the previous month and down 31 from this time last year.

Safety procedures: Sue and Christine will set up another meeting with Eliza Romik to discuss safety issues and procedures.

New organization policies: The board formed a committee to generate a list of community values. New content for the website (or elsewhere) will include a Statement of Community Values, Code of Conduct, Dance Etiquette, Complaint Procedures and more.

Board job descriptions: Board officer and director position descriptions are being reviewed and revised, and should be complete by the next board meeting. Organizational level jobs will be next.

Online storage: The board decided to begin using Dropbox. There will be an archives section of reference materials, and a working storage section for use by event and activity committees and specific job coordinators. Ric is reaching out to previous board members looking for copies of any documents from 2005 to 2012 to fill in gaps in our records.

Megaband: Sixty-nine Megabanders have signed up for the virtual Megaband video. Next steps are to create a road map of how this will work and discuss options with a videographer.

[Next board meetings: 1/19 and 2/16 via Zoom.]

New Year's Eve continued from previous page

of their friends were there, excused themselves, and left for another room. That almost felt like being at a real party!

Registration was free and the tips were shared among the musicians, callers and sound wizards. Big shout out to the NYE Sea to Sea organizers: Kimbi Hagen (GA), Donna Rogall (MD), Kerry Siebein (MD), Janine Smith (MD), Claire Takemori (CA), and Seth Tepfer (GA). Without their vision, creativity, perseverance and planning, I and hundreds of other folks might have been sitting at home alone. Instead I had one of the most fun New Year's Eves I can remember.

Even though it was amazing, I hope it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Next year I want to be back at Fulton Hall (and Norse Hall) hugging my dance friends to celebrate the New Year! May your 2021 be filled with music, dance, laughter and love.

[Kathy is PCDC's Contra Committee Chair.]

As if you needed...more Zoom tips!

We've all come to depend on Zoom to help us stay connected with family and friends. While most gatherings tend to be small and fairly manageable, the "chat" section of the Portland Live Concert series is quite a bit more populated and thus trickier to navigate. Here are a few tips for Big Zooms with multiple pages of attendees.

During the chat session, remember to mute yourself unless you are speaking. You can change the settings for Zoom so that you are always muted when joining a Zoom or you can click the microphone icon to mute/unmute yourself during the Zoom. When muted, you can press the space bar while you talk and that will unmute you while the space bar is held down. What happens if you're not muted during the chat? Other attendees will hear your TV if you have it on, your kids playing, your side remarks to the person sitting next to you, your laughter or exclamations in response to whoever is speaking...or worse—(but let's not go there.) Because there can only be one speaker at a time on Zoom, if you are not muted and you happen to laugh or make even a very brief comment while someone else is speaking, or even if your fork clinks against your plate for a moment, that will serve to interrupt the speaker and temporarily make you (and your fork) the speaker.

Many people choose not to show themselves on video during the concert and that's fine, but you might consider turning your video on during the chat, especially if you are planning on contributing to the conversation. Another option is to upload a still photo of yourself. To do this, open Zoom on your device, click "profile" on the toolbar and follow the instructions to add a photo. Instead of a black box, folks will see a picture of the lovely you. Or your cat. It's all good.

—Editor

Spotlight on PCDC Volunteers

By Christine Appleberry

My first experience dancing was in high school at a local community center learning Greek folk dancing. I loved it! I loved the camaraderie, I loved everyone moving together to the music and working up a sweat.

Many years and lifetimes later, I discovered bluegrass music and clogging.

Clogging and music that got me out of my seat became my passion. Soon after my discovery I was a member of two performing clogging groups, each with regular rehearsals. I was dancing several days a week! Clogging led to square dancing and contra dancing. As clogging in Portland faded, contra dancing took its place. These were such happy times!

I met Kim Appleberry at a Fulton contra dance in 2000 and we married in 2003. In 2004 he was asked to join the PCDC board and I became involved as an unofficial volunteer. Soon I took on various tasks of my own like getting *Footnotes* addressed and out to our members. (I have done the mailing for about 14 years.) In 2007 Kim and I started Portland Raindance. In 2015, I was asked to join the PCDC Board as the Portland Raindance representative.

As a board member, I had the opportunity to create our summer picnic, participate in board retreats, learn the history of our organization, create plans for the future and form closer friendships with my fellow board members and other event volunteers. More recently, I've helped figure out ways to stay connected to each other while our weekly dances are on hold.

The wonderful thing volunteering provides is the opportunity to give back at any level of involvement and commitment of time—from flipping burgers at the picnic, to sitting at the door of a dance, to helping set up or close down an event, to joining a dance weekend or special event committee. Becoming a volunteer is an occasion to share your special skills as part of a team of volunteers creating opportunities for all of us to dance and enjoy each other's company.

One of my tasks is to invite other dancers and/or musicians to join me in volunteering. While we are not regularly dancing, talking face to face to invite others is difficult. But right now we do need someone to take the lead on making sure the PCDC

family dances continue. We have some time before we will be dancing together again, so please give this opportunity some thought.

I have had such wonderful times not only enjoying the music and dance events themselves, but the connection with other dancers—so much so that the organizing tasks seem well worth the effort. Volunteering gives me the chance to express my gratitude...*and* get the floor swept!

Thank you all for the years of smiling 'til my cheeks hurt!

[Christine is Co-Chair of the PCDC Board.]



PCDC FAMILY DANCE:

ACTIVITIES AND AN ASK FOR HELP

By David Macemon

As you are no doubt aware, the PCDC family dances have been cancelled until the Fall of 2021. We are hoping that with vaccines becoming available, and the community taking them, we will be able to dance together in the Fall. More on that in the coming months.

Activities: Until we can dance together, our friends at the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS) have put together a wonderful multi-generational dance video series that they are calling "Dance it Yourself." The series features well-known traditional dance callers, musicians and a wide variety of dance styles, all of which can be done solo or in a couple. Dances are demonstrated for you and your children/students dancing both singly and in pairs. All dances are done in small spaces, showing you how it can be done in your own home.

The first three videos are available now! Go to: <https://www.cdss.org/resources/resource-portal/educators#dance-it-yourself>.

The Ask: In order to start dancing again, we need to have someone volunteer to coordinate and organize PCDC's family dance program. The volunteer(s) will book callers and musicians for the monthly dance series and make sure that the dance hall is managed and performers are paid. There are detailed job descriptions available and a contact list of callers and musicians. Family dances take place in the months of October & November, then January through April (we skip December.)

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please feel free to contact me at macemondavid@gmail.com.

[David Macemon is a member of the PCDC Board, an ECD Committee Member, Chair of the English Country Ball Committee and the Interim Family Dance Coordinator.]



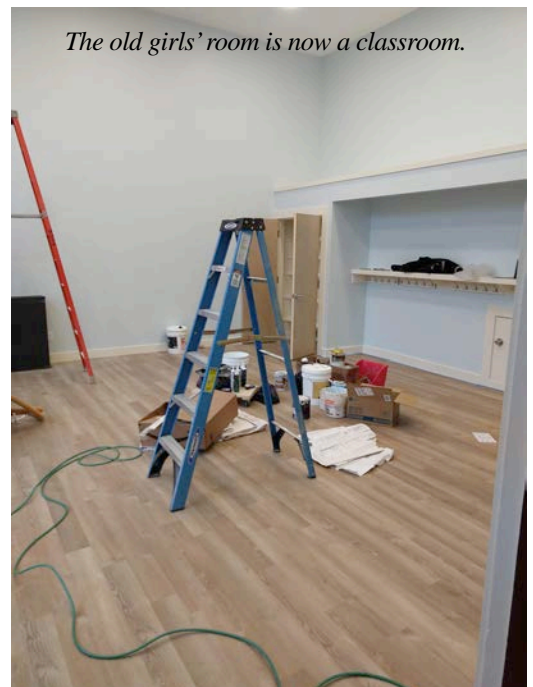
The old boys' room has been divided into two bathrooms.

News of the Loos

That's right *Footnotes* readers, we are scraping the bottom of the barrel here for "news" as the pandemic continues to ensure no in-person dance or music events for the foreseeable future. The last time we had a black hole in the newsletter we sent one of our investigative reporters to Switzerland in an attempt to uncover the truth about what was going on at CERN, the giant particle accelerator outside of Geneva. (Don't ask, you don't want to know.) Sadly, due to pandemic related travel restrictions, this time we were only able to send our agent to the Fulton Community Center where a vast plot to improve the lavatory facilities there was uncovered. As you may know, Portland Parks has leased our beloved dance hall to the L'Etoile French Immersion School and these francophiles are apparently 'taking care of business' in a big way. Our agent reports that "the old boys' room was completely demolished, including jackhammering out the floor...it was divided [into two bathrooms], with a floor added above for a new classroom. The old girls' room was also remodeled, into a classroom." Et bien, c'est formidable!

-Editor

The old girls' room is now a classroom.



Online Concerts, 5:30-7 pm

Jan.		
Date	Platform	Band
Sunday, 1/17	Zoom, YouTube	Audrey Knuth & Ben Jaber
Feb.		
Sunday, 2/21	Zoom, YouTube	TBA

*Join the Zoom at 5 pm for
announcements and conversation!*



PCDC Board Members

Co-Chair/Raindance Rep: Christine Appleberry
(ceappleberry at yahoo.com)

Co-Chair: Sue Songer (songer at portcoll.com)

Treasurer: Open
(board-treasurer at portlandcountrydance.org)

Secretary: Ric Goldman (letsdance at rgoldman.org)

At-Large: Noah Grunzweig (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
(macedmondavid 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 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)

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. **Please note that Footnotes will be online only while dancing is on hiatus.**