

Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • March-April 2021

Portand Live!

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

March 21: Turnip the Beet

April 18: Ann Percival, David & Gus Cantieni

PCDC's Portland Live concerts continue into spring with Turnip the Beet in March and a bite-sized portion of Wild Asparagus in April.

Turnip the Beet is a dance band duo from Nashville, TN consisting of Kelsey Wells on fiddle and banjo, and Jeremy

Lekich on guitar and percussion. Rooted in the traditions of Southern Appalachia and their local contra dances, Kelsey and Jeremy combine their various instruments in an innovative and jubilant musical harvest. Expect to hear an organic mix of eclectic tunes from the American South, Ireland, Cape Breton, Quebec and Scandinavia, as well as a half-bushel of grooving, homegrown originals.

In April, we've snagged a couple of Asparagi (Ann Percival & David Cantieni) along with seedling Gus Cantieni (their son.) Ann is a pianist, guitarist and singer, the heartbeat of the nationally known band, Wild Asparagus. Her playing is highly inventive while still maintaining an irresistible rhythm. David, also a member of Wild Asparagus, is a woodwind wizard who pours forth lively melodies and liquid harmonies on his flutes, tin whistle, oboe, saxophone and bombard. Gus plays tenor banjo, guitar and mandolin, and will be joining the 'rents for our concert.

Portland Live Concerts are held via Zoom and YouTube Live. Join us at 5 pm on Sunday for chatting and

announcements on Zoom. Music from 5:30-7 on both Zoom and YouTube. After the concert, we have an opportunity to chat with the musicians on Zoom until around 7:30. If you have never joined us for a concert before, request an invitation from raindance.pdx at gmail.com. All Zoom events are free but donations to the musicians are encouraged. Information will be available in the chat section of the Zoom. Join us for great music and community bonding!





In case you were wondering...

No Raindance this coming April; no Westwind in May, but Lady of the Lake is holding a scaled down, shortened version of their June dance week complete with maskwearing, social distancing, proof of vaccine cards and a you-can-only-swing-with-your-bubble-partner/spouse policy.

Portiand Roadhouse Online

By Gordy Euler

Mark your calendars for the 2021 Portland Roadhouse Pi-Day Virtual Party! The date is Sunday,

March 14, 2021, from 2-5 pm. (Remember to 'spring ahead', as daylight savings time starts on the 14th).

Because of the pandemic, this year's Roadhouse will be a virtual event. The Roadhouse Committee decided on a format of concerts from pod bands (folks who live in the same household) and a



series of breakout rooms that will have jamming, singing, games, discussions, storytelling and the like.

Advance registration is required, although there is no cost to attend. To register, go to http://portlandroadhouse.org and click on the **Registration** tab.

If you want to contribute to the Roadhouse, click on the **Donate** button. Donated funds will be passed along to two Northwest food banks after our (minimal) expenses are met.

Portland Roadhouse Committee members are: Woody Lane, Sue Songer, Dave Hamlin, Gordy Euler and Mike Richardson.

[Gordy is (also) the talent booker for PCDC contra dances.]

Dancing in the Time of Covid

By Libby Wentz

Facebook memories of our last live contra dances have been popping up this week. It's hard to believe it has been a year. It feels like yesterday and it feels like a lifetime ago since we held hands, shared smiles and gave weight with one another. I can check my Google timeline and say with certainty that my last live dance was March 7, 2020 from 7:41-10:52 pm at Fulton Park. Why in the world wasn't I there at 7:30 for the beginners' lesson?!

My phone's calendar was color coded, and March started off a very colorful month: Cascade Promenade, Megaband and Roadhouse were near...so exciting! Then the specter of Covid-19 materialized. Dance events changed to gray as they were cancelled. April 2020 looks as desolate and gray as a winter's day. But May 14th has a pop of purple, a Zoom contra. A link to Lake City Virtual Contra – the first one! Then Zoom dances from South Carolina, Maryland, Philadelphia, Toronto, Indiana, Georgia and Great Britain, then toss in a Zoom square dance and a couple of English country dances. I was searching all over for dances. We'd realize a dance was happening as we were running errands, and stop to find a park in which to Zoom dance with a cell phone.

I am very lucky that Sam lugged his work monitors over to my place as the world shut down, so we usually

[continued on page five]

Fingers Crossed for 2021 Northwest Passage

By Rich Scher

Northwest Passage 2021 is just around the corner, and a million miles away! We are hoping to be able to

gather in person for a fabulous weekend of English country dance and music, but, with so many pandemic question marks filling the air, we're not ready to make the call about whether or not camp will happen in person. We are planning to make the decision by early April.



This summer's dance and music camp is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, September 3-6 at the Kiwanis Camp on the beautiful slopes of Mount Hood. We were fortunate that with one exception, the musicians and callers scheduled for last year's canceled camp will be back for 2021.

We've assembled an A-list line-up of musicians and callers: **Alchemy** (Rachel Bell, Karen Axelrod and Eric Martin) and **The Whoots** (Shira Kammen, Jim Oakden and Jonathan Jensen) with dance leaders **Susan Kevra** and **Melissa Running**.

Registration will be online only; partial grants are available for PCDC members. Go to http://portlandcountrydance.org/pcdc-grants for details..

Northwest Passage 2021 will offer zesty English country dance and music, along with a wide range of high-quality workshops in instrumental music, singing and calling, taking advantage of the marvelously versatile talent we have on staff.

As always, camp will feature 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.

For updates and more information, go to http://nwpassagedancecamp.org

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

A Celebration of David Kaynor

The Country Dance and Song Society invites you to an online celebration in honor of musician, caller, composer, choreographer and organizer David Kaynor, recipient of the 2021 CDSS Lifetime Contribution Award, taking place on Saturday, April 17 at 11 am.

All are welcome.

RSOP for the Zoom link.

More info here.

Perseverance, Megaband-style

"Creating this video for the Megaband involved many skills honed during the year of Covid: imagination, embracing imperfection, acceptance, and a willingness to try something new. Recording from separate spaces, we used imagination to channel the joy of playing together, and the imagined outcome of the final product carried us through our stumbling. Embracing imperfection was taken to a new level as every missed beat was recorded, so this was an exercise in "good enough," and acceptance of what is. If there is a sense of order in the final product, it is an illusion: there is a mess of wires and gadgets hidden behind, around, and below our screens, and the people in those tidy squares needed many hours of coaching to get every step right. In that way, it was like any other year — full of (virtual) gatherings, practice, and ultimately, a final night where it all comes together. We're looking forward to watching and listening together and continuing to find ways to make the most of a difficult year!"

—Jeannie Songer (percussion)

"It seemed a bit surreal to be at home, rehearsing and then recording myself for the Virtual Megaband. But in the end I was glad I went through the process, and I hope that watchers and listeners will enjoy our assembled efforts. Kudos to Sue Songer for shepherding us through this journey."

-Anne Duston (fiddle)

"I felt a musical connection and continuity that had been missing since we holed up just after Megaband 2020. Recording was also a good opportunity to really focus on my own playing, and to practice those tunes so much that I'll now avoid them for a while."

—Dave Hamlin (mandolin)

"The 2021 Megaband video project helped me feel connected to my music and dance community in a way I haven't felt for a long time. As I listened to the tracks while making my recording, I could almost hear everyone else playing their parts along with me, and it brought me so much joy to be part of something special. I can't wait to see how it all comes together!"

-Shell Stowell (fiddle)

"I found the experience really satisfying, in a very different way from playing live in the band. What I enjoy most about the band is playing with others, hearing the big sound we all make together, the energy we get from each other. With the recording, when it wasn't my turn to play I imagined hearing the horns or plectra or whoever's turn it was. What I found most rewarding about the video project was the opportunity to watch the video of myself and re-record when I made too many mistakes. Focusing on a small subset of the music and working on it intensively really helped me learn these tunes well. And listening to myself helped me improve my playing a lot. I'm anxious to see the finished product!"

-Sharon Allen (fiddle)



Adventures in Zoom Dancing

By Carmen Doerge

One of the many losses this pandemic has brought is the end of in-person dancing and music. Fortunately we have Zoom and other online platforms.

The online world has exploded since the pandemic changed everything. If you haven't tried online music and dancing, I encourage you to do so. There are so many options available. The investment is so low – no traveling, usually no pre-payment, you don't even have to comb your hair or wear a mask and it's easy to leave the meeting if it's not satisfactory. No one will see you skulk out the back door.

I attend many Zoom dances and events every week. They are not dances as we know them – we are all alone or with a partner in our homes – but I find them surprisingly satisfying. I can hear music, see my friends (and make new ones) although their faces are in tiny boxes, and I dance alone. No one sees me – I dance as and when I wish. Sometimes I follow the calls, sometimes not – it doesn't matter. My goal is have fun and move and enjoy the music. There are no Zoom dancing police.

Zoom dancing has introduced me to callers and musicians I might never have met. The most noteworthy of these has been the Canberra (Australia) Contra Club with Jeanette Mill calling. Large band which sounded like they were next door, and after the dance they gave a tour of the garden.

Our contra and ECD choreographers are actively creating new dances which work well for one or two persons dancing in their living rooms, or home dance halls. Most weeks there is at least one brand new pandemic dance.

Our musicians, callers and sound people are out of work, and they are so touched to be able to actually perform and to see people dancing on their screens. As community members who want dance and who wish for music to resume in person as soon as it is safe, we have a responsibility to support our talent as we are able. I've been to some fundraisers for the halls too. Although donations are not required, attendees are generally asked to donate as much as they would to attend an in-person dance. Pro-tip: you can make donations without attending the event!

CDSS keeps a list of online events: https://www.cdss.org/community/events-calendar. The scope and number of events is stunning and constantly growing. Seth Tepfer emails an events list twice a week. Email him if you'd like to be on the mailing list: labst at emory.edu.

Initially I chose events to fit my schedule. Now I leave work early on Fridays to get to the AtlantaDistDance in time for Cis Hinkle's 4:10 pm Tai Chi warm-up before the 4:30 dance. Aside from our Portland Live concerts, here are some of the events I attend regularly:

Seattle's Lake City Contra on Thursdays: http://seattledance.org/contra.lakecity

Atlanta DistDance (ECD & contra) on Fridays: https://www.cdss.org/community/events-calendar/eventdetail/41676/-/atlanta-distdance-every-friday-english-american-dance

Glen Echo Friday Night Dance (twice a month contra): https://www.fridaynightdance.com/dances

North Bay Waltz on Saturdays: email sarah at nbcds.org for the meeting link. (Joyride played on 2/27.)

All Hands In (2nd & 4th Saturday contras): https://www.facebook.com/allhandsincontra (organized by a collective of North American dance communities based in Toronto).

Wooster Dance with Susan English (mixed dances) on Saturdays: email senglish at umich.edu for the link.

Odd Sundays ECD with Sharon Green or Kalia Kliban calling: email: sharon at bacds.org for the link.

Sacramento Country Dance Society online concerts, usually on 2nd Sundays: sactocds.wordpress.com

Bay Area Country Dance Society: dances, concerts and workshops collected into a calendar: www.bacds.org

Zoom Dancing – give it a try. It's safe, it's fun, and it's what we have now! [Carmen is a former PCDC Board Co-Chair and Northwest Passage Rep.]

Tips from caller Claire Takemori for anyone new to online dancing...

There are no expectations about how you should interact. It's okay to just listen, or watch or chat, and many of us do all of these on different days. Others dance with video on or off, some interact on the video camera (pinning videos with a friend), others dance with a pillow or stuffed animal and some play along with the tunes (while muted). Feel free to do whatever is comfortable for you. Most are so happy to see friends and meet folks from around the world. We hope it brings you some joy, but tears are normal too. We realize online dance will never replace in-person dance and community, but for many of us, it's better than nothing!

Dancing in the Time of Covid

[continued from page two]

danced together. But I often dance by myself and after accepting the humility of probably looking goofy, I totally enjoy it! Many dances are now designed for singletons and a few for sitting in a chair clapping hands with the neighboring square. There's little as lonely as three nights out of town for work in Covid times... Zoom dance sure helped, and being alone on the entire hotel floor meant not having to keep the sound and stomping down.

Zoom dancing was sad at times – it sometimes felt odd, wrong and a poor substitute, but it was always better than not dancing. In the beginning, dances were sometimes a bit stilted, but callers figured out how to tweak them: progression was no longer important, but being mindful of too many turns in one direction causing dizziness was. Left allemande/right allemande, swing your partner/neighbor/ghost/self became more fluid too – since you aren't going to mess up anyone else in the set, you can go with your flow and do what feels right even if it's wrong. Added bonus: In Zoom contra corners, you always have an attentive corner waiting to allemande you!

One time last November there was a Zoom contra with limited live, socially distanced dancers and musicians in a parking lot in Oklahoma. Despite the technical challenges parlaying that over Zoom, it was an interesting experience.

It has been so nice to hear fabulous musicians and callers from across the country and globe, and from our own community. It is even better to see the familiar faces of Portland Country Dance Community dancers attending dances all around the country. Never in a million years did I think I'd be able to go to a dance in Philadelphia, PA and one in Seattle, WA on the same night; now I do regularly. This Saturday I'll be in London in the afternoon and Ohio in the evening. Hope to see you out there in your living room until we can all meet again at Fulton!

[Libby is a member of PCDC's Contra Committee.]



Libby and Sam used to dance with other people in a big, big room with live musicians! Imagine it...

Ore Year Ago...

By Carl Thor

A year ago today (February 29, 2020, to be exact) was the last time I danced with anyone, other than at home with my spouse. Just days later, common sense — and then mandated restrictions — caused all in-person music and dance events to be canceled. Who knew we would still be waiting to dance a year later? Thank goodness for the internet and the ways technology enables us to stay in touch and even share music and dancing.

In the past year, Sara and I have "attended" dances in Toronto, California, Seattle, Missouri, Kansas and Atlanta. And we could have been to many more. We have also participated in music sessions, camps and workshops, and listened to concerts, involving people from all over the world. We've been part of several composite music video projects, including with the Portland Megaband 2021. All this without leaving the house, and with zero travel expense. Not only that, I have kept up with teaching music over Zoom. Such activities will be with us for at least several more months, and I suspect many will even continue after the pandemic, so If you haven't yet explored the online options for dance and music, now is a good time.

Start local with the 3rd Sunday Portland Live events (see https://portlandcountrydance.org/portlandlive/) and the Lake City Virtual Contra Dance every Thursday, (see http://www.seattledance.org/contra/lakecity). Don't miss the Virtual Pi Day Party, taking the place of Portland Roadhouse on March 14 (www.portlandroadhouse.org). Looking further afield, the Country Dance and Song Society maintains a calendar of virtual events all over the country (https://www.cdss.org/community/events-calendar). If you're a musician with time for extra study, don't be afraid to look up a player you admire. No matter where they live, they are probably teaching one-on-one lessons over the internet. If you'd like lessons on hammered dulcimer or piano, feel free to get in touch with me

[Carl is a musician, dancer, sound engineer and the founder and organizer of Contra in the 'Couve.]

Carl and Sara at a dance from yesteryear.



Board Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Ric Goldman

January 19, 2021. Present: Christine Appleberry, Patricia Donohue Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer and guests Kim Appleberry, Tarka Ayres and Kathy Story.

Fulton Hall: The French School asked for our help moving furniture from the gym to the classrooms. Five volunteers rose to the occasion, making it easier for us to host Portland Live events and continuing to build good will with our landlords.

Treasurer's Report: PCDC still needs a new treasurer. Covid-19 has reduced staff payments, so no 1099's are needed for 2020.

Northwest Passage: No decision yet whether there will be a 2021 camp.

English Country Dance: No decision yet on a 2021 event.

Family Dance: We still need a board rep and committee organizer. Article will go to *Footnotes* and the Family Dance email list looking for volunteers.

Raindance: Cancelled for 2021, hope to be up for 2022.

Portland Contra: December Portland Live talent changed at the last minute to Glen Loper and Bethany Waickman. January was Audrey Knuth & Ben Jaber, so we had two good events with over 100 people on Zoom and YouTube. Zoom sound has improved, but YouTube is still better. For the News Year's Eve Joyride event we had 220 attendees. The talent scheduling job description has been updated and will be sent to the board. A subcommittee is working on rolling out new etiquette guidelines for when we start dancing. Committee approved reimbursing Kim Appleberry for use of his Zoom account on Portland Live events.

Megaband: Videos from performers are due by 2/1. There were 75 participants at the first Zoom practice and 50 at the second. Band members are working hard to perfect their videos and coordinate with the reference recording. All of the layering, working out who drops in and out and when, is still being coordinated by the videographers who are trying to replicate the live music experience as much as possible. There will be 30 minutes of music and a launch "party" in addition to the formal release on the normal March 13 performance date. This has been an incredible learning experience for everyone both technically and musically, and it's amazing to seeing everyone's enthusiasm at making this wonderful event come together. [Editor's Note: formal release is now 3/27.]

Website and Archives: Jon Neff has volunteered to be the backup webmaster. Ric purchased a DropBox account for PCDC and is populating it. Some previous board members responded to Ric's request for materials from 2005 to 2012 to fill in gaps in the archives.

Membership: Counts are down 9 compared to previous month and down 32 from this time last year.

Safety Procedures: A board subcommittee is discussing logistics and addressing feedback and questions from other PCDC committees. Topics include how to train "point people" to determine the severity level of complaints received at events and how to address these complaints and other requests for assistance from attendees.

Community Values: A board subcommittee is reviewing CDSS materials on the subject, drawing up goals, and determining what resources may be needed.

February 23, 2021. Present: C.Appleberry, P. Donohue V. Fiore, R. Goldman, N. Grunzweig, D. Macemon, S. Munz, S. Songer, M. Swan and guest K. Story.

Northwest Passage: Decision on 2021 camp has been deferred to April. A virtual camp was discussed but decided against. The committee needs and is looking for 2-3 new members.

Family Dance: Still needs a board rep and organizer.

Raindance: The committee is hopeful that they can carry over the 2021 bands to 2022.

Portland Contra: Portland Live just showcased Drive Train and they were really fun! There were 102 folks on Zoom, 70 on YouTube. Discussion whether to continue using YouTube is ongoing. Next month's concert is *Turnip the Beet* from Nashville. A dance culture subgroup is looking into the board's community values discussions.

Megaband: 207 videos from 67 musicians (some with multiple instruments) are in the hands of the videographer who will align and match up rhythms. There will be a t-shirt available via contactless delivery. Official release will be 3/13 on YouTube with a combination of music and talk. Tip jar will be available to cover costs and donate to the Grants Fund. Participants' after-party will be on Zoom.

Membership: Counts are up 3 compared to previous month. The board is discussing how to better present the value of membership and encourage community participation to join up and support PCDC. There's more to PCDC membership than just discounts for English dances or grants for workshops, lessons and camps and we're looking for ways to get the word out about that. Patricia suggested having all memberships renew on the same date of the year vs the current rolling annual renewal based on join date. The Portland Contra Committee has asked about 1) having membership subscriptions that auto-renew and auto-bill (similar to public broadcasting) and 2) giving members the ability to look up their renewal status online (currently, membership information is kept in an offline database). We will check with Membership Coordinator Jon Neff as to current procedure and discussion on improvements will continue.

Website: Some of the older software components on the website are causing parts of the site to "break." A test site has been set up to evaluate new versions of components and determine needed replacements or adjustments. The board authorized \$500 to fund improvements and fixes.

Community Values: The board is looking at finding or creating PCDC Mission, Vision and Priority Focus statements. The hope is to have these developed to present at the annual membership meeting in June.

Archives/Dropbox: The board clarified questions on folder organization and where in the archives to place historical versions of reference documents such as bylaws. As part of this project, Ric went through 20 years of board meeting minutes & summaries, using the minutes published in *Footnotes* where actual documents were missing. Ric is waiting on files from Kim for years 2005 through 2012 to review for inclusion. Tests of migrating files from Google Drive to Dropbox were successful. It will be up to each committee to decide whether to use the PCDC Dropbox or other storage they may already use, but the space will be available to them either way.

List of Policies and Procedures: Ric completed a review of 20 years of board minutes and summaries to compile a list of PCDC Board Policies and Procedures. These will be reviewed, clarified, vetted and generalized as needed to develop a formal set of PCDC Policies and Procedures for reference.

[Next board meetings: 3/16 and 4/20 via Zoom.]

Online Events

March

Date	Event	Platform	Band(s)
Sunday 3/14	Roadhouse, 2 pm	Zoom	W.B. Reid & Bonnie Zahnow; Betsy Branch & Mark Douglass; Brad Reynolds & Valerie Cohen
Sunday 3/21	Concert, 5 pm	Zoom, YouTube	Turnip the Beet
Saturday 3/27	Video Release, 8:30 pm	YouTube	Portland Megaband

April

Sunday 4/18 Concert, 5 pm Zoom, YouTube Ann Percival, David Cantieni, Gus Cantieni



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

(macemondavid at gmail.com)

NWP Rep: Patricia Donohue (patricia at mwg.org) Board Email: board at portlandcountrydance.org

Major PCDC Volunteers

Contra Committee Chair: Kathy Story (kathystoryconsulting at gmail.com)

English Country 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*.