



Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • January-February 2022

A Look Back at the Last 21 Months

By Christine Appleberry

January 17, 2020 the first known U.S. case of Covid-19 was confirmed in Snohomish County, Washington. By February it was spreading rapidly all over Europe, and many countries imposed lockdowns to try and contain the spread. Here in the U.S. things were going along pretty much normally; many dancers enjoyed the West Coast contra dance weekends: Carnivale, Super Sonic, the Corvallis Weekend, Harvest Moon, Epicenter and Fiddling Frog. PCDC held a 5th Saturday dance at Fulton Hall on February 29th with Laurel Thomas hosting new callers and Dave Hamlin & Lanny Martin leading an open band of aspiring dance musicians.

But just a few days later there were serious debates among dance organizers about whether to cancel upcoming events. And so it began: the second weekend of March, Portland Megaband and Roadhouse were cancelled. Portland Raindance was cancelled as were all other dance weekends, festivals, fairs and large public events along the West Coast and across the country. On St. Patrick's Day, the governor of California declared a lockdown for the City of San Francisco and on March 23rd, Governor Brown issued a statewide stay-at-home order for Oregon. Schools closed, sporting events stopped, offices closed and those who could, set up to work from home.

All of our lives changed significantly.

As all PCDC's dances were cancelled, impacting greatly our community of musicians, callers and sound technicians, we paid all those who had been booked for these events what they would have earned. Not knowing how long this would last, we arranged to pay half our rent for Fulton Hall until we were back to dancing. We paid our Portland Raindance talent full compensation as well.

Soon various dance communities around the country began hosting Zoom concerts and virtual dances with live musicians and callers. These regular Zoom events all included "tip jars" to help out the musicians now out of work. The Portland Megaband had an amazing virtual concert (from March 2021) that is available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeCeCp5lvXeCu6k5XEfOgA>. PCDC and the Portland Contra Committee began a third Sunday of the month broadcast called "Portland Live" in June 2020 and continued through to June of 2021. These were sent out on Zoom but also on YouTube Live (as the sound there was much better than on Zoom) and these sessions are also available to watch anytime on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcOq8LMzAliCtSob4A-arZw>. The Zoom music and dance events were no replacement for in-person dancing but they did bring people together and not just local communities. World-wide communities of participants were created; people from England and Australia attended and played, adding an unanticipated and delightful dimension to our community.

By the end of 2020, Pfizer and Moderna had vaccines approved by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorizations. In February Johnson & Johnson also had an Emergency Use Authorized vaccine. These vaccines are very effective in preventing infection but also in preventing severe disease and death. Early in 2021 and through the spring millions of people were vaccinated and in March, the CDC announced that fully vaccinated people can gather indoors without masks! Slowly, people began gathering in larger groups than their close family and friends and in June PCDC decided to hold in-person English country dances. The first of these was held on July 2nd. PCDC and the other dance organizers formed a group to collect vaccination and contact information so that an individual need only confirm their information once and then that was on a shared spread sheet, facilitating admissions to events.

On July 7th, a new variant of Covid-19, Delta, had become the dominant strain in the U.S. Delta is three times more transmissible than the Alpha variant it replaced and was of much concern throughout the country. On July 27th, the CDC recommended that people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high virus transmission. In August, PCDC again cancelled upcoming dances. We all were so primed in late June and July to be dancing again. Recognizing the risk to our community from Delta and putting our community's health over the desire to continue dancing was very difficult indeed. As response, the Contra Committee held outdoor gatherings for vaccinated dancers in July and again in September.

In October the U.S. surpassed 700,000 deaths due to Covid. In early November, Joyride and the PCDC Contra Committee each held in-person, indoor concerts. Participants had to be fully vaccinated, wear good fitting masks and chairs were social distanced. All of these community gatherings were greatly appreciated by our community.

On Thanksgiving, November 25th, a new variant was discovered in South Africa, Omicron. Not much is known about this variant except that it is much more transmissible than Delta. As of today, December 21st, Omicron now accounts for 73.2% of the total number of Covid-19 infections in the U.S. with cases currently doubling every 1.5 to 3 days.

It feels like we are back to square one except that unlike in 2020, we have vaccines, we have good masks and while there is much we don't know about Omicron, we have lived with the coronavirus for 21 months. The future of Omicron (and the next variant) and its impact on our lives is not knowable now, all we can do is wait for more data to be gathered.

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The Portland Megaband 2022

By Sue Songer

Since our first gig on New Year's Eve 1996, Portland Megaband members have been enthusiastic, energetic, willing to stretch themselves musically, and mutually supportive along the way. This year another trait has come to light: Megabanders are flexible, willing to go with the flow. The 2022 Portland Megaband has only a few certainties: we will have an event on Saturday March 12th, and the event will be held in the Oaks Park Dance Pavilion. (These two "certainties" are not cast in concrete. They can't be—too much is unknown about where Covid is taking us.) We are sure of what we will be playing, however. Band members overwhelmingly voted to revisit the set list we ended up abandoning at the last minute in March 2020. And we will play the music that we recorded on our 2021 video production.

As of this writing at the end of December 2021, around 60 band members have answered either Yes or Maybe to participation in the 2022 Portland Megaband. Firmer decisions will be made along the way. We are planning on presenting a concert. But if dances have re-opened safely by mid-March, it could be a dance. We are aiming for in-person rehearsals to begin on January 23rd, a few weeks later than usual. We hope that will happen. We don't know.

The 60 or so band members who have tentatively signed on are all OK with the uncertainty about how this season will play out. They are signing on in good faith that whatever we end up doing, it will be both musically satisfying and fun. And with hopes that our performance will lift the spirits of all who attend. Stay tuned for the details as they emerge.

[Sue is the director of the Portland Megaband and PCDC Board Co-Chair.]

Northwest Passage Planned for 2022

By Ethel Gullette

Calling all English Country Dancers—PCDC's Northwest Passage Dance Camp will be back to thrill you Labor Day weekend 2022, with the musical magic of Alchemy and the Whoots. The NWP Committee is asking for your help. We would very much welcome a couple of new committee members, as soon as possible, as well as volunteers at camp. We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact Ric Goldman at: letsdance at rgoldman.org or 650-906-8707.

[Ethel is the Chair of PCDC's NWP Committee.]



At least the birds are still dancing...

Portland Roadhouse Goes Celluloid

By Gordy Euler

The Portland Roadhouse Committee invites you to save the date for a special event on March 13, 2022. Please join us for an afternoon film festival, featuring several hours of short films from the Pacific Northwest and beyond to help celebrate what we all love so much about folk music and dance.

At this time, no one can predict how well the Pacific Northwest will weather the current phase of the pandemic. However, our best estimate is that it will not yet be safe to dance together in March. In 2021, we hosted a virtual music and dance festival with all proceeds donated to food banks in Portland and Seattle. Our film festival in 2022 will likewise donate all proceeds to folks in need.

The schedule of the Portland Roadhouse Film Festival is still under construction. However, full details will be posted on our websites: www.portlandroadhouse.org and cascadepromenade.org as soon as they are available.

[Gordy is a member of the Portland Roadhouse Committee.]

Joyride Hopeful for February

By Erik Weberg

We in Joyride so very much enjoyed playing a concert for our friends in December. But as a dance band, we're looking forward to playing for dancers once again.

We're not planning an event for January, but we are eyeing February 2nd as our next event at Polish Hall. We're hoping it can be a dance, but if not, another concert will likely be offered. It will depend on the trajectory of Covid in the area and whether we feel we can host a contra dance safely. Please consult our website for the most up-to-date information on what we have planned.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

[Erik is a member of Joyride and the coordinator of the band's First Wednesday series.]

**Third Saturday Contra News from
George Penk: No dance in January.
February? We shall see.**

21 Months

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Throughout these 21 months, PCDC has paid cancelled performers, paid rent on our dance hall, created multiple virtual events that are available to enjoy on YouTube anytime, hosted two in-person outdoor gatherings and one indoor concert and continued to publish our community newsletter, *Footnotes*, all focused on holding our community together. The board and the committees continue to monitor all the available science and regulations to evaluate when we can resume live events.

The future is unknown but we are still a community of wonderful, creative and vibrant people, putting one foot in front of the other until we can dance and meet again in person! I, and we, wish you and us all a better New Year!

[Christine is PCDC Board Co-Chair.]

Portland English Country Ball

(a non-PCDC event)

While we await the return of our weekly PCDC dances, please join us for vaccinated + masked balls on the following Saturdays:

January 22nd

February 26th

Caller: Laura Hatch

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

Sliding scale contribution: \$15-\$30

Pre-registration is required. For more information go to:

PortlandEnglishCountryBall.com

Concert at Fulton Hall

By Kathy Story

It felt so good to gather again inside Fulton Hall on December 11th to enjoy the fabulous music of Campaign for Reel Time. Betsy Branch on fiddle, Bill Tomczak on clarinet



and sax and Mark Douglass on piano entertained the enthusiastic crowd with jigs, reels, waltzes and other tunes, some familiar to our ears from hearing them at dances, and some new, including tunes that don't fit the exactness of our dance form. The band sounded great thanks to the sound wizardry of John Oorthuys.

Folks had a chance to catch up with friends, check out the new restrooms, and admire the refinished floor. Thanks to everyone for cooperating with our Covid protocols including contact information for contact tracing, proof of vaccination, waivers, masks and distanced seating. Special thanks to Contra Committee members Mark Swan, Ann Nokes, Kelly Taber, Bryce Holt and Yosef Trachtenberg, and volunteers William Watson, Mike Goren and Bette Laucks for helping with online pre-registration, setup, check-in and cleanup.

[Kathy is the Portland Contra Committee Chair.]

Tune Teaching Sessions: Update

By Sharon Allen

Since Dan Compton has sadly left us to move to Amsterdam, Betsy Branch is now alternating with George Penk to teach PCDC's monthly Second Thursday Tune Sessions. Vaccinations and masks allow us to feel safe meeting in person, and what a delight it is to play music together in the same room! We alternate which side of town we meet on: even months on the East Side, odd months on the West Side. We also offer a Zoom option for folks who might want to join us from the comfort of their own homes. Tunes are taught by ear, generally about three tunes per session. For more information or to receive monthly announcements, contact Sharon at: sharonjeanallen at yahoo dot com.

English Country Balls

By Sharon Allen

Since the cancellation of PCDC's annual October Portland ECD Ball, and while we await the return of our beloved weekly Friday evening English dances, a group of us have been holding smaller balls unaffiliated with PCDC. What a delight it is to dance in the same room with vaccinated and masked friends in a safe and festive environment! We are joined by dancers not only from the Portland area, but from further up and down the I-5 corridor and from Eastern and Central Oregon as well.

Our caller is the fabulous Laura Hatch, and live music is provided by the incomparable Fine Companions (Betsy Branch, Lisa Scott, Bill Tomczak and Erik Weberg). The dances are accessible and fun for those new to ECD, and the graceful fit of the dance to the music is gloriously satisfying for new and experienced English dancers alike.

Dances are held at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in SW Portland. Pre-registration and proof of vaccination is required, with a maximum of fifty attendees.



Tune Teaching Sessions:

2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm

Learn contra dance tunes by ear!

Jan. 13 with George Penk in SW

Feb. 10 with Betsy Branch in SE

Zoom option available.

\$10/PCDC members; \$15/non-members



For location details and to get on the email distribution list, contact Sharon at: sharonjeanallen at yahoo dot com

Board Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Ric Goldman

Sept. 21, 2021. *Present: Christine Appleberry, Patricia Donohue, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guests Tarka Ayres, Mike Goren and Kathy Story.*

Covid: Due to current government guidance, all PCDC indoor, in-person dances are cancelled indefinitely. The board is drafting a more complete summary of the PCDC situation and policies vis-à-vis Covid, the guidelines we are following and the considerations behind the policies. These will appear on the website shortly.

Secretary: The board was reminded that while straw polls can be done by email, actual binding decisions must be made at a meeting or using a designated Doodle Poll and documented as per PCDC policies.

Northwest Passage: The committee has started 2022 camp plans and is creating a budget. A major issue is replacing camp kitchen wizard Beth Gibans who recently passed away. NWP donated \$500 towards Beth's memorial fund with SLO Foods Wallowas. We're looking for cook/catering replacements and welcome suggestions. We also plan to add new members to the committee.

English Country Dance: ECD is currently not holding dances. Ball registration opened on 9/1 with the goal of determining whether it would be financially feasible (\$7K goal by 9/15) to hold the event. The community was incredibly generous with \$2.5K in registrations and \$2K in donations. Meanwhile, the local counties said "don't hold inside events," which meant that PCDC could no longer hold the event. There is a privately sponsored alternative dance on the day of the cancelled ECD Ball using the same name. There has been some discussion about making it clear that the alternate dance is not a PCDC event, and to better differentiate it from the ECD Ball.

Raindance: It has not been decided whether or not to hold the event for 2022.

Portland Contra: The committee met and put together plans for an outdoor gathering on 9/25. Safety considerations were submitted to the board for review. It was decided to discontinue the Portland Live events; the committee will look into other outdoor events, or possibly local concerts.

Membership: Counts are down six compared to the previous month and down six compared to last year.

Website: The new PCDC calendar is up on the website. More and more PCDC web, email and other online content is being moved from various personal or third party servers to PCDC's own hosting site so that all materials and support can be centralized where possible. Ric has asked committees and board members to review portions of the website and give feedback on or suggest new content or functionality; members are welcome to send in suggestions as well.

Board meetings: The board is looking into the advisability and impact of recording PCDC Board meetings.

Publicity: The board is informing committees to include the board on any public mass email notifications and while under Covid, to run them by the board for a quick proof-read before publishing.

Oct. 19, 2021. *Present: Christine Appleberry, Patricia Donohue, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guests Tarka Ayres and Mike Goren.*

Fulton Hall Funding: The board received a request from the Third Saturday Contra series to help underwrite its Fulton Hall rent (we pay half rent while not dancing). The board agreed to cover this cost for up to six months or until dancing resumes.

Northwest Passage: The committee is still working on a 2022 budget and a new catering source. Volunteers and more committee members are needed. Contact the committee at info@nwpdancecamp.org if interested. (You will gain untold glory and the envy of your peers.)

English Country Dance: The committee next meets on 11/11 and will discuss ECD content for the website. Final accounting for the ball is complete and all refunds have been processed. Community generosity and support was simply incredible.

Raindance: Still undecided whether to hold in 2022.

Portland Contra: The social gathering on 9/25 was very successful with 60 attendees. Some, however, were unmasked. We slipped this in before the weather turned rainy. Thanks to the Appleberry's for providing gazebos for the event. The gazebos were torn during repacking and there may be a \$350 request to cover repairs. The committee is refining etiquette rules and reporting processes, and wants to arrange ongoing training for anyone helping to respond to issues/complaints from dancers. We are also looking into a possible gathering on 12/2, either a concert or social event.

Megaband: We are not sure how to proceed this year as Covid restrictions may affect the size of the band and whether/how rehearsing can be done. Sue is contacting band members about music and availability. We may even consider a one-time, unrehearsed performance. If you are interested in being part of Megaband 2022—and we're hoping there is one—contact Sue Songer.

Membership: We currently have a total of 186 members. Counts are up five compared to the previous month but down three compared to last year. Now is a good time to [join and support PCDC](#) if you haven't already.

Website: There's a new expanded and more mobile-friendly menu, including many topics that were "hidden" links inside other pages. Meanwhile, the board email list, ECD callers email list, Northwest Passage website and ECD Ball website have all moved to the PCDC servers which host our portlandcountrydance.org domain. Ric is still looking for feedback/requests for website revisions and improvements. Just use the website [Contact Us](#) form.

Nov. 16, 2021. *Present: Christine Appleberry, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guest Kathy Story.*

Covid: PCDC indoor in-person dance events are still suspended (see our [PCDC COVID-19 policy and info](#) on the website). The board continues monitoring current risk level observations and reviewing best practices for holding events within our policy guidelines. A number of community (non-PCDC) dances or concerts are being planned through the end of the year. We will re-evaluate both policy and practices each month.

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Northwest Passage: The committee continues to look for a new caterer and is investigating a possible urban camp format. Jody Odowick has joined the committee.

English Country Dance: The committee met and reviewed proposed new content for the [ECD info webpage](#).

Family Dance: Children as young as five years old can be vaccinated. We still need an organizer to make the family dance happen. If interested, contact Christine Appleberry or Sue Songer.

Raindance: Still no decision for a 2022 event. Fiddling Frog (normally held just before Raindance) has been cancelled. Air circulation is a big concern with the halls used at Raindance.

Portland Contra: Libby Wentz and Jessica Nessler-Cass have dropped off the committee, and Yosef Trachtenberg has joined. The committee held lots of discussions on holding events with current guidelines and is planning a December 11th concert event. The committee's proposed procedure to hold indoor non-dance events was approved by the board. Proposed event notification emails were also reviewed. Committee work continues on training processes for handling complaints and conflict.

Megaband: Potential participants were surveyed. Many band members are willing to make the event happen even without a dance, and even with fewer rehearsals. It is still undecided as to whether this will be a dance or just a concert. The concert format presents different hall logistics and financial considerations. Everyone wants to play and is excited, albeit concerned about risk. A budget for a concert at Oaks Park is being prepared; the response to the December Joyride concert will be taken into consideration. The board voted to invest up to \$3500 to support a 2022 Megaband event if needed.

Membership: We currently have a total of 179 members. Counts are down 7 compared to the previous month but up 8 compared to last year. Now is a good time to [join and support PCDC](#) if you haven't already.

Website: The website had a brief scheduled outage on November 10th while our provider upgraded database servers. A *Footnotes* article will describe new website layout and features. Both the Contra and ECD Committees are submitting new information about their dance series, and a list of website requests. Still waiting on Hillsboro information and working on new tune sessions website integration. The board approved adding a Providence-supplied mask graphic to our Covid webpage, and to remove cancelled dance events from the website calendar to avoid clutter.

Meetings: The board will not meet in December.

[Next board meetings: 1/3 and 2/15 via Zoom.]



PCDC Website Gets Updated

By Ric Goldman

Have you checked out the PCDC website recently? We've been making improvements behind the scenes to make our content more useable and helpful. If you can't remember our portlandcountrydance.org URL, you can always just use pcdc.fun. It'll get you to the same place. Just want an overview? We'll try to keep you up to date with timely info in the **News** section of the home page.

We think our new main menu at the top of each page is a big improvement. It's a lot more mobile-friendly, and you'll see a lot of items that were previously "hidden" inside other pages. We're trying to let you find what you want quickly and easily, and hopefully more intuitively grouped. Our **Activities** tab makes it easy to find out about PCDC and associated activities, with direct links to those activity websites when available. The new **Calendar** tab shows you what's going on when (even for the cancelled stuff), with filters to let you select just contra, just English, just music, etc. The calendar now includes committee and organization meetings dates—all members are welcome (and encouraged!) to participate. You might find a pet project you want to become involved in. Check the **Organization** tab to find out about PCDC itself, who to contact about various activities, as well as lists of policy, etiquette and other items that help keep us going. The **Contact PCDC** tab is a central place to give feedback, renew your membership, ask for a grant or other inquiries.

More features are coming soon, including 'first-timer,' 'new to PCDC,' and 'just what IS this stuff' pages, but we really want to hear what YOU would like to see or use on the website. Can you find what you want easily? Is there something you'd like to see that's not there yet? Use our [Contact Us form](#) to let us know or just email webmaster@portlandcountrydance.org.

[Ric is PCDC Board Secretary and a member of the Northwest Passage Committee.]



Where's my Nov-Dec newsletter??

The PCDC Board decided not to distribute the Nov-Dec. issue of Footnotes. Summaries for the Sept. & Oct. board meetings appear in this issue.
- Editor.

Footnotes Needs YOU!!

After close to sixteen (!!) years of service, the editor of *Footnotes* is retiring and so a new editor is needed. The editor's job is to solicit copy from PCDC volunteers, edit as needed and then lay out the newsletter in preparation for printing, emailing and posting on the website, all of which is handled by other volunteers. *Footnotes* comes out six times a year on the first day of every odd month (January, March, etc.) The new editor can choose to continue using the current format but is welcome to come up with fresh ideas and an updated look. Training will be provided if needed. Contact either of the board co-chairs or the current editor for more information.

PCDC Board Members

Co-Chair/Raindance Rep: Christine Appleberry
(crostini5 at mac.com)
Co-Chair: Sue Songer (songer at portcoll.com)
Acting Treasurer: David Macemon
(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)
ECD Committee Chair: Cynthia Stenger
(cynthiastenger 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)
Membership Coordinator: Jon Neff
(jon at jonneff.net)
Newsletter: 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.