



PCDC Footnotes

July-August 2024



From the Editor

For the summer issue, we're giving you the scoop on upcoming summer events.

In this issue...

- **[PCDC Turns 40!](#)** (And some say we don't look at a day over 39.) But what's truly important is...**there will be cake!** Come to the [PCDC picnic](#) and get your cake. And falafel. And jamming, games, new-to-you clothing, ECD sampler dances, and more—because...
- **[The PCDC Annual Summer Picnic is upon us!](#)** It's this Saturday, June 29, at Fulton: Join us for those aforementioned cakes and sweet fun. Get the details [here](#).
- It's the sweetest-smelling dance in all of Portland! **[The 10th annual flash waltz in the Peninsula Park Rose Garden](#)** falls on August 11th this year. Drop in for a dance or a tune and come out smelling like a rose! See [here](#) for details, including the rain date and musician info.
- It's not too late—**[there's still room for you at Northwest Passage, the superb English Country Dance Weekend over Labor Day](#)**. Come to Northwest Passage and find out what many dancers from near and far already know: PCDC is really good at putting on this amazing event!
- Speaking of special ECD events, it's almost **time to [register for the Portland English Country Ball!](#)** Registration opens in mid-July.
- **[Old jams, new jams:](#)** The **[Official PCDC backyard jams](#)** are only in their second year, and there are already some **[new jams](#)** in town, at the **Kennedy School!**
- And last, but certainly not least, we'd like to congratulate our **[new and returning PCDC board members!](#)**

Happy dancing, playing, and eating cake!

Lori Shaffer, *PCDC Footnotes* Newsletter Editor



PCDC Event Calendar

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



The PCDC Summer Picnic is Here!

By Lindsey Grayzel

Come celebrate the 40th anniversary of PCDC at the annual PCDC Summer Picnic! PCDC is providing falafel, hummus, pita, and drinks—and there will be birthday cakes! Bring a potluck side dish to share.

You can also expect a jam session, an English dance sampler, a clothing exchange, and games. This is a great way to get to know your fellow dancers and musicians off the dance floor. Please join us!

When: Saturday, June 29, 3–6 pm

Where: Fulton Park

What to bring: Potluck side dish, instruments for jamming, items for the clothing exchange, a chair, and good cheer

NOTE: I-5 will close for 4 miles south of downtown Portland from 9 pm Friday, June 28, to 5 am Monday, July 1. The closure may impact your route to Fulton Park. Drivers taking I-5 South will be able to exit at Terwilliger, however those taking I-5 North will be rerouted to Barbur Blvd. You can check details of the closure [here](#).

40 Years and Better than Ever!

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President



This year is the 40th anniversary of the founding of PCDC, the Portland Country Dance Community. Although folks in Portland were organizing contra and English dances prior to that, 1984 is when our articles of incorporation were filed and Oregon recognized us as a nonprofit organization. To mark this milestone, we will be celebrating at our annual PCDC membership picnic on June 29 with birthday cakes (plural intended!). Later in the year, Sue Songer, our own music and dance historian, will share some highlights of the origins and growth of contra dance in the Northwest.

Many volunteers have put in countless hours to keep our community vibrant and healthy over the years. Many musicians and callers have graced our stages, and many sound engineers have ensured we could hear the talent. Our dance venues have changed. Board and committee members have come and gone (and often, come back again). The music has expanded, dance terms have changed, and some dances and figures have fallen out of fashion. But one thing remains: together, and only together, we create magic on the dance floor, in the jam session, at our annual picnic, and wherever we gather together!

Happy Birthday, PCDC!



Congratulations to New and Returning PCDC Board Members

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's PCDC Board election. The voting turnout was 41% of the PCDC membership. All candidates received greater than 50% of the votes cast.

The results: Bill Tomczak is joining the board as a new member. Ash Goren, Lindsey Grayzel, Victor Fiore, and Rick Kimball were re-elected as returning board members. They joined Dave Colpo, Jody Odowick, Kathy Story, and Mark Swan on the board at the June meeting. Also at the June meeting, Kathy was re-elected president, Rick re-elected treasurer, and Lindsey elected secretary.

The 10th Annual Flash Waltz in the Rose Garden



What: This 90-minute community event is free and open to anyone who wants to dance, play, or listen to lovely waltzes in the shady lanes between the fragrant roses of Peninsula Park.

When: Sunday, August 11 at 5 pm for dancers, or 4:15 for musicians (*Rain date: 5 pm, Sunday, August 18*)

Where: Northwest corner of the Portland Peninsula Park Rose Garden.

What to bring: Instruments, music stands, music (setlist available [here](#)). *Please don't bring alcohol or amplifiers.*

For more info: See <https://randomwaltz.org/flash-waltzes/2024-flash-waltz> or email Will Simpson at wcsimpson@mac.com

Northwest Passage ECD Weekend: Space is Still Available!

By Cynthia Stenger

What: Northwest Passage English Country Dance Weekend

When: Labor Day weekend, August 30–September 2, 2024

Where: Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp, near Sandy, OR

Featuring: Separate dance and music tracks with workshops, concerts, and dances provided by two fabulous callers (Graham Christian and Jenna Simpson) and two fabulous bands (Trio Con Brio and Night Heron). Sound reinforcement by John Oorthuys. Additional performers include Laura Kuhlman and Tamara Caulkins.

Additional details: The weekend includes workshops on Historical Settings in English Country Dance Music; Reading 18th Dance Notation; and Jane Austen and the Dance.

See the [Northwest Passage website](#) for registration and more details.



Registration Opens in Mid-July for the Portland English Ball

By David Macemon



Registration for the Portland English Country Ball opens in mid-July!

What: Portland English Country Ball

When: November 1, 2, and 3, 2024

Where: Oaks Park Dance Pavilion

Performers: Gaye Fifer from Pittsburgh will be calling, with music by Betsy Branch, Bill Tomczak, and Lisa Scott. John Oorthuys will provide sound engineering.

Additional details: Registration opens in mid-July; see the [Portland ECD ball website](#) for more information as it becomes available.

Mondays at the Kennedy School: New Music Jams for Contra, ECD, and Waltz Tunes

By Kathy Story, PCDC Board President

What: Jams for all acoustic instruments and all levels of musicians, whether you play by notes or by ear. Come make music with us!

Where: McMenamins Kennedy School, 5763 NE 33rd Ave., Portland

When:

- Contra and waltz jam: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm
- ECD jam: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7–9 pm

Additional details:

- At the contra and waltz jams, we play tunes from the *Portland Collection* books and Bill Matthiesen's waltz books.
- At ECD jams, we play tunes from the Barnes books.
- If you don't have the books, we're happy to share.

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

Summer Brings 2nd Thursday Tunes Sessions Backyard Jams!

By Sharon Allen

PCDC's 2nd Thursday Tunes Sessions will continue through the summer with two backyard jams (by ear; no written music necessary). All instruments, all levels welcome!

What: Contra tunes jam sessions

When: July 18*, 7–9 pm and August 8, 7–9 pm

*Note that the July jam falls on the 3rd Thursday in July, rather than the 2nd

Where: Private residence in SW Portland (email Sharon Allen for the address)

Cost: FREE!

For more info and to RSVP: Email sharonjeanallen@yahoo.com. See also the [Tune Sessions website](#) for music and playlists.