



# Bay Area Country Dancer

No.112– December 2017

[www.bacds.org](http://www.bacds.org)

## American Dance and Music Week 2018: A Week of All Things Contra

By David Buesch



July 2018 sounds like a time far away, but you should start planning now for an incredible week of contra dancing and music in the coastal redwoods near La Honda, California, at the 37<sup>th</sup> *American Dance and Music Week* (a.k.a. *AmWeek*). The camp is July 1-6, 2018, beginning Sunday afternoon and ending with the Friday Night Gala. There will be some of the top bands and callers, and then there will be the dancers. The schedule offers full days of dancing and music sessions mixed in with special sessions where you can hone your musical, calling, traditional art & crafts, and dance photography skills, and there will be plenty of time to relax and wander the woods.

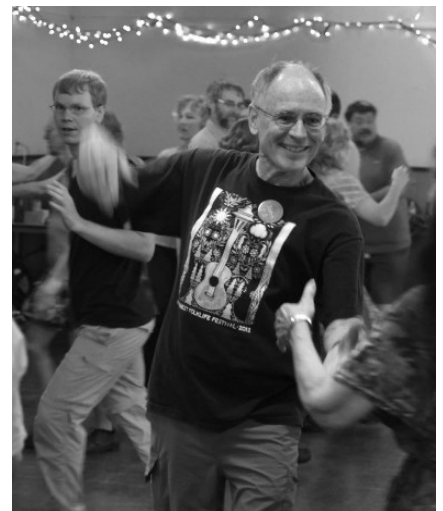
The bands will be the *Syncopaths* (Ryan McKasson, Ashley Broder, Jeff Spero, and Christa Burch), *Uncle Farmer* (Ben Schreiber and Michael Sokolovsky), and *The Whoots* (Shira Kammen and Jim Oakden). They will play for the morning, afternoon, and evening dance sessions. Band members will offer small group sessions including music jams. Waltzes Before Breakfast is a camp favorite. *The Whoots* will help lead the camper band, and the camper band plays the Wednesday night dance.

Gaye Fifer and Sarah VanNorstrand will be calling the evening dances and leading differently themed dance sessions each day. There will be a Callers' Workshop where new callers can find out if they like it, and experienced callers can hone their abilities. Participants will be guest callers at the Wednesday night dance.

The weekend culminates with the Friday Night Gala featuring all three bands, both callers, and lots of camper dancers. The Gala will be held from 8-11 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, California. The Gala is open to the public, so if you cannot attend *AmWeek* itself, you can enjoy the wonderful music and calling that we experienced. Also, *AmWeek* callers and bands will be at the San Francisco and Palo Alto contra dances the Saturdays before and after *AmWeek*.

Registration opens January 5, 2018. Full registration is \$695, but we will be using an inclusive and flexible camp fee, and there are a limited number of scholarships available.

*AmWeek* is held at Jones Gulch YMCA Camp with sleeping in cabins or tent camping in a meadow. For more information, visit [www.AmWeek.org](http://www.AmWeek.org).



## Think of the Children!

By Julie James, Co-manager, BACDS Family Week

A concern widely voiced throughout the dance community is that the general population of dancers is aging: that the groups many of us joined in our twenties and thirties now boast an average age of 55+. Not that I mind my "senior dancer" status; I do love dancing with people of all ages. But having youth in a dance brings vitality and spring and energy like nothing else.

In conversations with dancers in contra groups, ECD, and Morris, I hear it over and over again: we want younger dancers to join us. We know that the best way to create dancers and musicians is to expose our children to dance and music. And we know, too, the uncountable additional benefits that music and dance bring to young and old minds and bodies. But when we look at our cities, we see a lack of the resources that create young dancers, as music and arts in schools is being defunded, and movement opportunities for children and youth decrease.

Enter *Family Week*, BACDS's family dance and music camp.

*Family Week* is entering its 26<sup>th</sup> year of providing a welcoming, creative, thriving dance camp that was created with the express intent of nurturing those young minds and bodies, offering a wide range of dance (Irish, English Country, Morris, American, Scottish, and more) and music of every sort, along with arts, folk crafts, and the inexpressible joy of camp culture.

Not only children thrive here. Families of all types are welcomed and nourished, as are single adults who enjoy being around families. Grandparents dance with grandchildren, parent and child sing and play together, intergenerational connection is strengthened and nurtured, and attachments are formed that last a lifetime. The talent, musicians and callers and teachers and storytellers, are all top shelf, because as Emily Flouton, founder of *Family Week*, says, "In Fred Park's memorable advisory words as we were launching Family Week, "Good taste has no age limit." That is, don't "save" your top talent staff for the adults, because children of any age respond, just as immediately and wholeheartedly as any one of us, to real live talent. Popular, talented musicians such as Jim Oakden and Craig Johnson, callers like Carol Ormand, Susan Michaels, and Kalia Kliban have graced our staff, and children love them as much as adults do.

(Family Week, continued)

If you are one of those who sees the need for young people in our dance community, could you do us a favor? Share the story of *Family Week* with one family you think would appreciate it. Share the website, [www.bacds.org/familyweek](http://www.bacds.org/familyweek), on your social media pages. Come to one of the family dances, and invite a new family along. Let's plant the seeds of future dancing, singing, connected generations now, in the fertile soil of our loving, talented community.

We at *Family Week* are pleased to announce that we are going back to our SIX-day camp in 2018, to allow the full experience and rhythm of camp to develop in a more relaxed yet joy-filled manner.

## Goat Hill Morris Invites New Dancers and Musicians

By Heather MacKay

Perhaps you long to caper about, making a cacophonous din? Maybe you've seen Morris dancers and secretly hoped you could be so awesome? Perchance you want to whack something with a stick? Or think it would be cool to be a musician who inspires the dancers? If so, check out Goat Hill Morris. We are inviting new folks (of any gender) to join us at our Thursday night practices starting in mid-January 2018. We meet from 7:30-9:30 in the St. Teresa's Church basement, on Connecticut St. (just down from the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> St.) on Potrero (Goat) Hill in San Francisco. We can arrange carpools from various locations. Contact Heather at [hmackay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hmackay@sbcglobal.net) or (510) 653-7507 or look for updates on [www.facebook.com/goathillmorris](http://www.facebook.com/goathillmorris).

## Contra College 2018: Becoming a Comfortable and Responsive Dancer

by David Buesch

Regardless of how long you have been dancing, there is always something to learn about how you dance and how communication and responsiveness with your partner adds to the satisfaction of the dance. *Contra College* is a teaching and learning environment for new, intermediate, and experienced dancers that is taught by two experienced callers with support of four respected musicians. During the college, teaching sessions will focus on many of the elements of a dance, with time for deliberate walk-throughs and questions. You will learn the best (and ergonomic) way to enjoy the figures (and your partner), and finish the dance with a discussion of what went well (or not) and why. The teaching sessions are about 90 minutes each, so there is plenty of time to use a variety of dances with different choreography to practice, integrate, explore, and learn what is it about that dance and those you dance with that make it an enjoyable experience.

*Contra College* is for dancers of all skill levels. New dancers have the steepest learning curve, but through practice and encouragement from more experienced dancers, they can become more confident in their abilities. Intermediate dancers have become more comfortable with the figures and choreography, and can appreciate how the flow of the dance can be enhanced by how they interact with their partners. Experienced dancers can offer direction, encouragement, and guidance (verbally and nonverbally). Many dancers, of all levels, have found that learning to dance both roles offers a broader understanding of the dance and the connection with other dancers. There are many opportunities to better understand the nuances of a gesture or figure, or why a particular tune takes a dance to a whole other level.

*Contra College* will be two days: Saturday and Sunday, 10-11 March, 2018. There will be 11 hours of instruction sessions, and 6 hours of regular contra dancing on Saturday evening and a special Sunday afternoon dance. This year, the *College* will be held at two venues:

- Saturday will be at the First United Methodist Church (625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, in the same hall where Palo Alto Contra is held). The College opens at 9:00 am (sign in at 8:30 am), includes 6 dance sessions and a Callers' Workshop, and ends at 7:00 pm in time for attending the Saturday evening (8-11 pm) Palo Alto Contra dance.
- Sunday will be at the Masonic Hall in Menlo Park (651 Roble Avenue, Menlo Park). The College begins at 10:30 am, includes two dance sessions, and ends at 3:00 pm in time for the afternoon Graduation dance from 4:00-7:00 pm (which will be open to the public).

The *College* will have the same exceptional staff of teachers and musicians as in 2017:

**Jacqui Grennan** is a contra dancer, caller, and choreographer from Los Angeles. Jacqui will be co- and solo-teaching several of the sessions. She likes to break down dance figures in a way that is easy to grasp for newer dancers. She teaches through movement so dancers can immediately feel the connection with other dancers.

**Susan Petrick** has participated in most of the *Colleges* since the first one in 2010. This year, she will be co-teaching several of the sessions, teaching the Waltz session, leading a Callers' workshop, and will be the lead caller for the Grad Dance on Sunday evening.

**Jim Oakden** will be teaching a session on how to hear and dance to contra music. Jim focuses on how integral the music is (and musicians are) for giving that great live sound, how the music and phrasing of the music can help dancers (and callers) keep track of where they are in the dance, and how it can inspire movements and nuances within the dance.

On Saturday, **Jim Oakden** and **Shira Kammen**, who perform together in *The Whoops* and *Roguary*, will team up to provide music for the teaching sessions.

On Sunday, **Ben Schrieber** and **Michael Sokolovsky**, who perform together in *Uncle Farmer*, will provide music for the teaching sessions.

For the *Contra College* Grad Dance (Sunday, 4-7 pm), music will be provided by **Uncle Farmer**. Susan Petrick will call with guest calling by graduates of the Callers' Workshop.

For more information: visit [www.bacds.org/cc](http://www.bacds.org/cc).

This year's *Contra College* will be building on a strong tradition of learning how to be a better contra dancer. It is our goal that each attendee, from the newest to most experienced dancer, has the opportunity to gain skills that enable him or her to better enjoy the dance and enrich the dance community.

# Fire Relief Benefit Dance with the Syncopaths

By Chris Knepper

On Saturday, November 18, an unusual series of unfortunate events culminated in a wonderful opportunity to bring our contra community together for a spectacular night of music and dance, all while helping a good cause. First, our regularly scheduled band had to cancel because of a shoulder injury. Then, the fires that ripped through the North Bay in October burned down the house of beloved Contra dancer and fiddler Howie Booster. Howie, who loved giving back to community with his house concert series, was scheduled to have the Syncopaths play that night. Suddenly freed up, the *Syncopaths* (with caller Jacqui Grennan) agreed to play for a fire relief benefit at the San Francisco Contra Dance, and BACDS agreed to sponsor the event and put up a \$1,000 matching fund. The result: 150 people joined in for an unforgettable evening of dancing, and raised a total of \$6,788 for North Bay fire relief! Sometimes, you have to be impressed with the value of being part of a community, and of ingenious people's ability to turn lemons into lemonade. Thank you, Jacqui Brennan and The *Syncopaths*, thank you BACDS, and thanks to all the dancers who made generous contributions that night.

## Contra Waltz Dance: Advance Notice!

By Scott Gamble

From our friends at Friday Night Waltz comes news of an event we think may be of interest to our readers:

Returning for the seventh time is our annual Contra Waltz dance, on May 4, 2018. Contra Waltz is a dance mashup of contra dances alternating with social couples dances. The format is a called contra dance, a waltz, then either a One-Step or a mixer dance. Repeat 8 times.

Featuring: Susan Petrick, Richard Powers, and the *Offbeats*, (Ben Schreiber, Jeff Spero and Ashley Broder).

Very many social couples dancers from Friday Night Waltz attend as well as very many contra dancers from local contra clubs. The contra dancers benefit from the skill of the experienced social couples dancers and the social couples dancers benefit from experienced contra dancers. Everyone gets to meet some new dancers! Much fun by all!

### First Half

Beginning Waltz

Contra dance, waltz, One-Step

Contra dance, waltz, t'smigde mixer

Contra dance, waltz, One-Step

Contra dance, waltz, circle waltz mixer

### Second Half

Contra dance, waltz, One-Step

Contra dance, waltz, waterfall One-Step mixer

Contra dance, waltz, One-Step

Contra dance, waltz, mixer

Ending waltz

### Classes:

7-8 pm: One-Step with Richard Powers

8-9 pm: Rotary Waltz with Richard Powers

8-9 pm: Contra Dance with Susan Petrick

The One-Step is the easiest of all the social couples dances to learn. The One-Step also can include nearly all of the additional steps from other traveling dances: outside, hesitation, shadow, yale, inside turns, outside turns, grapevine, pivots, spins, etc. a great way to start learning how to dance The One-Step easily leads into learning polka, Two-Step, tango, foxtrot, rotary waltz, cross step waltz, and Viennese waltz.

The rotary waltz is the simplest, most basic and most straight-forward waltz, danced at very many local dances: Peers, Gaskells, Friday Night Waltz, East Bay Waltz, Vintage Invasion, Jammix, Stanford Viennese Ball, San Francisco Waltzing Society Autumn Ball, CSC dances, and Dickens Xmas fair *Fezziwig's* warehouse.

Richard Powers will teach One-Step from 7pm to 8pm and introductory rotary waltz from 8 pm to 9pm for our contra dancer friends in the Main Fellowship Hall upstairs. He is one of the world's foremost experts in American social dance, noted for his choreography in dozens of stage productions and films, and for his workshops across the country, in Paris, Prague, London, Rome, Geneva, Russia, and Japan. He has been researching and reconstructing historic social dances for twenty-five years and is currently a full-time instructor at Stanford's Dance Division. He was selected by the Centennial Issue of Stanford Magazine as one of Stanford University's most notable graduates of its first century. He was also awarded the Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for distinctive and exceptional contributions to education at Stanford University. (1999). He teaches social dance forms of North America, and directs the 70-member Stanford Vintage Dance Ensemble. He is the Faculty liaison to Friends of Dance at Stanford. He joined the Dance Faculty in 1992.

Susan Petrick will teach Introduction to contra dance from 8 pm to 9pm for our social couples dancer friends in the lower level Kohlstedt Hall. She will review most basic steps, including four hand star, back to start, do-si-do, courtesy turn, hay for 4, balance and swing, pass through, and many other basic steps. Susan has been calling contra dances for ten years. Her greatest pleasure is to program interesting, varied dances with great flow, and to teach them clearly and concisely. She has enjoyed working with wonderful bands, traveling and calling throughout the country in addition to up and down the West Coast. Susan is known for her exceptionally clear teaching, expert pacing, and her gracious manner. Her efficient guidance makes even complex dances accessible to all.

Our Contra band, *The Offbeats* (Ben Schreiber, and Jeff and Ashley from the Syncopaths) is a stellar group of musicians you are not likely to see again soon!

Cost: \$15 for dance and classes. Sorry, no separate pricing for dance only. \$10 for students under 25 with ID.

No partner necessary. We rotate rapidly in class. All ages welcome. Casual, comfortable attire recommended.

Plentiful refreshments included: chocolate cake, raspberry cheesecake, cherry pie, rocky road ice cream, french vanilla ice cream, shrimp platter, cold cut platter, veggie platter, grapes, all kinds of chocolate, more.

Location: First United Methodist Church 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto CA. x Byron, Upstairs Fellowship hall.

# *In Memoriam*

## **Michael Siemon, 1945 - 2017**

*By Sharon Green*

Sharon and David Green are sad to report the death of Michael Siemon in the early hours of Wednesday, November 1. He died peacefully in his sleep.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 11, 1945, Michael moved with his family to Omaha later that year. After his graduation from high school in 1963, he “studied math and dabbled in philosophy” at the University of Chicago, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1967. He then entered UC Berkeley as a graduate student in math, but left after a year to join the Peace Corps. Michael taught math in Malaysia, where he fell in love with Southeast Asia. After leaving the Peace Corps in 1971, he resumed his studies at Berkeley, receiving his Master’s Degree in Mathematics in 1975.

While at UC, Michael fell in with a group that formed a choir at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire, and was introduced to the world of the Society for Creative Anachronism; in that context he joined our household as Johann Heinrich Michael Simon of Wernigerode (the Siemon family’s ancestral home). He served as dancing master, wrote poems for the College of Bards, explored calligraphy, and played a variety of early instruments. During this time he began working as a systems programmer in San Francisco and in Silicon Valley.

Michael lived with our family in Oakland until 1982, when the three of us, together with our friend Jody Lee, moved to General Theological Seminary in Manhattan. While there, Michael worked for Bell Labs in New Jersey and for the New York Stock Exchange.

In New York, we all soon became actively involved in the world of the Country Dance and Song Society, especially English country dance. Michael joined Christine Helwig’s Chelsea English Country Dancers demo team and New World Sword. He took up the concertina, learning how to play for dances from Leah Barkan, band leader of Country Dancers of Westchester, and played regularly for the North Jersey English Country Dancers.

When the household returned to Oakland in 2002, Michael joined two display dance teams – Goat Hill Morris and Ring of Cold Steel (longsword)—both dancing and playing concertina. He also played concertina at BACDS dances and helped organize Fall Frolick English Dance Weekend as well as two Mendocino English Weeks.

Michael loved mathematics, dance, and music, both listening and playing. He also loved archaeology and travel, bringing back wonderful photos – from China, from Turkey, from a return visit to Southeast Asia, and most recently from Oregon, for the total eclipse. He was an excellent cook, and prepared most of our household dinners, as well as feeding various groups at the house.

Michael is survived by his Nebraska family—his brother Karl Siemon, sister-in-law Kathy, and nephew Craig; his sister Chris Wallace, and brother-in-law Bill; niece Emily, her husband Walt Ring, and sons Vince and Jordan; and niece Nancy and her husband Brian—and by his California family—David and Sharon Green, their children Lexy and Philip Green, their children’s spouses John Seal and Monica Avila, and grandchildren Johnny Seal, Morgan Avila-Bouldin, and Santiago Avila-Green.

He was a member of our family for over forty years.

## **Craig Fixler**

Beloved old-timey musician, contra dancer, and Family Week stalwart Craig Fixler passed away Thursday November 16 after a 6 ½ year struggle with leukemia. He was blessed with the self-described “happy gene” and is greatly missed by all who knew him.

There will be a Celebration of Craig’s Life on Sunday, January 7, 2018 from 12 noon until 7pm at the Albany Veteran’s Building (1325 Portland Avenue, Albany.) All are welcome, but we are asking for RSVP’s so we know how many people to plan for. Details will be going out in an e-vite that can be shared with anyone who is interested, so spread the word. Craig’s wife, Rae, is looking for volunteers to help with the preparation and set-up.

*Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That’s how the light gets in.*

– from "Anthem" by Leonard Cohen

## **Bur McAllister**

The dance community was saddened by the loss of Bur McAllister in September. Bur is warmly remembered as funny, gentle, charming, quirky, and a good partner. Dancer Phyllis Meshulam wrote the following poem about Bur several years ago; it is printed here with her permission:

### **“Turn of the Tides,” and Other English Dances**

*for Bur McAllister*

The guy in the pink shirt  
– and orange sneakers with purple laces –  
sure can dance.  
Clear-eyed,  
he doesn’t smile too much,  
just enough,  
while concentrating  
on navigating the sky.

The caller explained,  
“Number two couples,  
cast outward; leave a wide  
berth. Number one couples,  
you will fly.”

Which, once music is added,  
we all do in turn,  
promenade-holding each other.  
Wings of violin, turn to invert,  
tremulo again, turn to return,  
down and up a piano run-way  
up and over the moon.

That’s a try at what  
dancing with the guy  
in purple-pink-orange  
is like.

# South Bay Contra presents: Next Steps

You tried contra & like it, but.....

- How do you swing better?
- Some things are confusing...
- How do you twirl?

Your contra dance questions will be answered at the NEXT STEPS Contra Workshop!

DATE: Sunday, December 17th

TIME: 1-2:15pm (followed by the contra dance 3-6pm)

LOCATION: First Unitarian Church, 160 N. 3rd St, San Jose

TEACHER: Susan Petrick

LIVE MUSIC: Pepperjack band (Jess Newman, Scott Jespersen)

COST: Free! Donations welcome.

REGISTRATION: <https://goo.gl/forms/1AeYg3ZCwuwfKmlQ2>

QUESTIONS: [SouthBayContra-info@bacds.org](mailto:SouthBayContra-info@bacds.org)

\* Potluck snacks follow the workshop \*

Sponsors: First Unitarian Church of San Jose, Bay Area Country Dance Society

## The President's Corner



**From the President:** In the last issue, I called attention to the ongoing discussion about the use of the word “gypsy” as the name of a dance move. I concluded by saying that the discussion was ongoing, and it was too soon to reach a conclusion. We still have not reached a conclusion, but there has been further progress. This fall, some of our dancers petitioned the BACDS Board to take a stand on the issue. It is worth quoting their letter in full:

We are writing to request that BACDS stop using the term “gypsy” at all of its dances. We would never say “Latino by the right”, “Chinese by the left”, “Black once around”, “Jew once and a half”, or “neighbor Cherokee”; why do we accept “partner Gypsy”? And the word that we use is even more offensive than these examples because it is a racial slur and draws on stereotypes of a whole ethnicity. This does not fit at all with BACDS’s aspiration of creating a welcoming and respectful community.

There are several common objections to adopting a different term for the figure:

- *We need to preserve our tradition.*
  - This argument has been used to justify many offensive things, including the recent refusal to remove statues of Confederate war heroes.
- *Replacements such as “right shoulder round” do not convey the sultry feel of the move.*
  - The word is only associated with a “sultry feel” because of harmful stereotypes about Roma people.
  - Saying implicitly or explicitly that the right way to do a move involves flirting sometimes leads to dancers feeling entitled to that kind of interaction. Many people, particularly young women, do not return to contra and English dances or opt to leave the community because of creepy interactions with other dancers, and this kind of expectation is part of the problem.
  - Dancers can choose to dance a move however they like, as long as it is consensual, regardless of the connotation of its name. Many people dance “mad robin” with a flirty sort of feel despite it having an inherently silly name.
- *Nothing has emerged as a frequent replacement, and it is hard on dancers and callers to constantly switch from one name to another.*
  - BACDS is in the unusual position of sponsoring at least 19 contra and English dances each month, which represents a great opportunity to establish a new norm. Just 4 of the Bay Area contra dances switching to Larks and Ravens for role names has caused several dances in other parts of the country to adopt the same terminology.
- *It is hard to choose a new term that everyone likes.*
  - Yes. But a term that not everyone likes is not at all equivalent to one that is actually offensive. To try to maximize the number of people who like the new name, BACDS could ask for community input, for example by polling its members or surveying attendees at its dances for a month.

Several of the Bay Area dances (e.g. Berkeley contra, Hayward contra, South Bay contra, Balance the Bay, BACDS American Week, Circle Left, and Queer Contra Camp) have already moved away from this offensive term. The organizers simply tell callers while booking that it is not used at their dance. We hope that all of the BACDS dances do the same.

The compelling argument here is that the term *does* designate a particular ethnic group, and *does* carry stereotypical connotations. It does not matter if the connotations are positive or negative. Just because the term singles out an ethnic group and focuses on its stereotype, it can be seen as disrespectful at the least. And being respectful is what matters. We consulted with the programmers of each of our dance series, and concluded that we should encourage the search for an alternative. We are instructing our programmers to let callers know that our local community prefers that they avoid using the word “gypsy”. We are not absolutely forbidding the term, nor are we prescribing a replacement, but we are making it known that our preference is for finding a new name.

It is significant that the petition originated with some of the younger people in the community. These are the people who will be carrying our tradition forward into the future, and so it is fitting that they have more say in what it should look like. Tradition is something that changes with the times; and we should remember that the word “gypsy” has been “traditional” in the contra-dance world for much less than a century.

~ Jens Dill, BACDS President, [bacds-president@bacds.org](mailto:bacds-president@bacds.org)

## Volunteer Thanks

My apologies: I didn't have the bandwidth to pull together this quarter's *Volunteer Thanks* list. If you know someone who ought to be thanked, let me know, and I'll put it into the next issue. Oh, and also thank them in person if you get a chance.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 17	<b>Next Steps</b> Contra Workshop	<i>1 pm, before the South Bay Contra</i>
Saturday, December 23	Berkeley English Holiday Party for all	<i>Cavalcade of callers</i>
Sunday, December 24	Hayward Christmas Eve Contra	<i>Alan Winston with Wildcat Canyon</i>
Saturday, December 30	Santa Rosa Challenging Contras (NBCDS)	<i>Jean Gorrindo with Rodney Miller, Chris Knepper, Charlie Hancock</i>
Sunday, December 31	Palo Alto <b>New Year's Eve Contra</b>	<i>Kelsey Hartman with StringFire!</i>
Sunday, December 31	Petaluma <b>New Year's Eve Contra</b> (NBCDS)	<i>Jean Gorrindo with Rodney Miller, Chris Knepper, Charlie Hancock</i>
Sunday, December 31	Sacramento <b>New Year's Eve Contra</b>	<i>TBA</i>
Monday, January 1	Petaluma <b>New Year's Day Contra</b> (NBCDS)	<i>Free for NBCDS members</i>
Sunday, January 7	<b>Celebration of Life: Craig Fixler</b>	
Fri-Sun, January 12-14	<b>Contra Carnivale</b> (SLO)	<i>Cis Hinkle, Frannie Marr, Jeremy Korr w/Jigjazz, Maivish, Riptide</i>
Monday, January 15	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Cis Hinkle with Mavish</i>
Wednesday, January 17	Special Berkeley Contra	<i>Erik Hoffman with InTentCity</i>
Saturday, January 20	Special San Francisco Contra	<i>Yoyo Zhou with InTentCity</i>
Saturday, January 27	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Andy Shore with InTentCity</i>
Wednesday, January 31	Special Berkeley Contra	<i>Erik Hoffman with Hen's Teeth</i>
Saturday, February 10	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Nick Cuccia with Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>
Saturday, February 10	Special Sacramento Contra & Potluck (SCDS)	<i>Joyce Miller w/Ryan McKasson and Eric McDonald</i>
Wednesday, February 14	<b>Valentine's Day Waltzes</b> (free)	<i>Before the Berkeley Wednesday English</i>
Sunday, February 25	<b>Playford Ball Workshop</b> (Peninsula)	<i>3-6 pm</i>
Wednesday, February 28	Special Berkeley English	<i>Kalia Kliban w/New Brew</i>
Friday, March 2	Special Palo Alto English	<i>Bruce Hamilton w/New Brew</i>
Sunday, March 4	Special Petaluma Contra (NBCDS)	<i>Susan Petrick w/New Brew</i>
Saturday, March 3	<b>Playford Ball Workshop</b> (East Bay)	<i>2-5 pm</i>
Sat-Sun, March 9-10	<b>Contra College</b>	<i>Jacqui Grennan and Susan Petrick w/Uncle Farmer</i>
Saturday, March 10	<b>Contra College Callers' Workshop</b>	<i>Susan Petrick</i>
Saturday, March 10	Special Palo Alto Contra	<i>Charlie Fenton w/Frequent Flyers</i>
Sunday, March 11	<b>Contra College Graduation Dance</b>	<i>Uncle Farmer (open to all)</i>
Sunday, March 18	<b>Playford Ball Workshop</b> (Sacramento)	<i>2-5 pm</i>
Friday, March 23	<b>Playford Ball Rehearsal</b>	
Saturday, March 24	<b>Playford Ball</b>	<i>Alisa Dodson with Puck's Deceit</i>
Sunday, March 25	<b>Playford Brunch</b>	
Sunday, March 25	<b>Celebration of Life: Michael Siemon</b>	
Fri-Sun, April 6-8	<b>Epicenter Contra Weekend</b> (NBCDS)	<i>Lisa Greenleaf, Will Mentor with Elixir, Stringrays</i>
Fri-Sun, April 13-15	<b>Queer Contra Dance Camp</b> (QCD)	<i>Will Mentor and the Free Raisins</i>
Friday, May 4	<b>Contra Waltz</b> (Friday Night Waltz)	<i>Susan Petrick with the Offbeats</i>
Sun-Fri, July 1-6	<b>American Dance and Music Week</b>	<i>Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer</i>
Friday, July 6	<b>AmWeek Gala Dance</b> (open to all)	<i>Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer</i>
Sun-Fri, July 1-6	<b>BACDS Family Week</b>	
Sun-Sun, August 19-26	<b>Hey Days English Dance and Music Week</b>	<i>Brook Friendly, Joanna Reiner, Gaye Fifer</i>

See [bacds.org](http://bacds.org) for more information. For events sponsored by our neighbors, see [nbcds.org](http://nbcds.org) (NBCDS), [sactocds.org](http://sactocds.org) (SCDS), [sffmc.org](http://sffmc.org) (SFFMC), [santacruzdance.org](http://santacruzdance.org) (TDSC), [montereycdc.webs.com](http://montereycdc.webs.com) (MCDC), [cccds.org](http://cccds.org) (CCCD), [haywardcontradance.org](http://haywardcontradance.org) (TDOGS), [lafd.org/sf](http://lafd.org/sf) (QCD)

This issue was edited by Chris Folger and Jens Dill. Send corrections to [TheDancer@bacds.org](mailto:TheDancer@bacds.org). Deadline for the Spring *Dancer*: February 20, 2018. Send submissions to [cjfolger@yahoo.com](mailto:cjfolger@yahoo.com). Please join the conversation.