



Bay Area Country Dancer

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www.bacds.org

There is room for you at American Week (July 1-6, 2018)

By David Buesch

The American Dance and Music Week (a.k.a. American Week) is in the 37th year of providing fabulous contra experiences, and you can be part of it. I have been fortunate to attend AmWeek for the last five years, and I'll be going again this year. A common thread for AmWeek is that it routinely assembles outstanding staff (the list is way too long for an article such as this), and these are joined with enthusiastic dancers. This year, music with the Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer, and The Whoots will team up with callers Gaye Fifer and Sarah VanNorstrand to offer a highly varied schedule of dance and musical tracks, and there will be special sessions with Kelsey Hartman and Jean Gorrindo.

I really appreciate the week at AmWeek because it provides a relaxing time in the redwoods, and the daytime schedule has four 75-minute sessions, each with as many as 5 topical workshops. This schedule means one can choose from 17 workshops, each meeting 4-5 times during the week, and includes dancing, calling, choreography, playing music (including being in the camper band), composing music, singing, traditional crafts, photography, and stretching/Pilates. The ability to focus 5-6 hours in small groups allows a pretty unique exploration of the topic with some of the leading talent in the contra community. Days are bookended by Waltzes Before Breakfast, evenings (7-10 pm) of contra dances and music workshops, and late nights with different types of dances, music jams, socializing, or games.

The week 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. Additionally, AmWeek callers and bands will be at the San Francisco and Palo Alto contra dances on the Saturdays before and after AmWeek.

Although camp is rapidly approaching, still there is room at what will be a memorable camp, and we look forward to joining us. Full registration is \$695, but we are using an inclusive and flexible camp fee, and there are a limited number of Scholarships available. AmWeek is held at Jones Gulch YMCA Camp, in the mountains west of La Honda and between the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean. Lodging is in cabins, or tent camping in a meadow. For more info visit AmWeek.org.

Morris Dance Workshops

By Beth Bergen

Every year Berkeley Morris hosts a series of FREE workshops in morris and related dance traditions. No experience is needed, and all are welcome! Workshops are taught by members of Berkeley Morris, or friends of ours from the local (or not so local) dance community. Come to one, or attend them all. Join us afterwards at the [Jupiter Pub](#) at 2181 Shattuck Ave. in downtown Berkeley.

Each workshop will teach a particular style or tradition of Morris, and you don't have to have attended an earlier workshop to attend a later one (but of course you'll want to!). The particular styles and dances taught vary from year to year, so if you attended last year, come back for something new!.

Workshops for 2018 will be held on the following dates (all are Tuesdays beginning at 7:30pm):

- September 18
- September 25
- October 2

at Christ Church Berkeley, at [2138 Cedar St, Berkeley, CA 94709](#)

Interested in Morris Dancing after the workshops are over?

Morris dancing is a lot of fun! If you think you might be interested in joining a team, talk to us. Performing with us is a big commitment, but is also quite rewarding*. [Send us a note](#) if you'd like to come check out one of our weekly Tuesday practices.

*We practice year-round, perform almost every weekend during Spring and early Summer, and wear an outfit that's sort of silly (but really, it's quite fetching).

Even if you aren't interested in a team commitment, we look forward to dancing with you at a workshop.

Teen Contra Dance in San Jose

By Claire Takemori

Sunday May 6th was the start of the Teen Dance, at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose. 26 teens showed up at 7pm to eat pizza & snacks, and decorate with glow sticks, tattoos, and black light-reactive glitter paint. We started with ice breakers at 7:30pm which had them working together & getting to know each other. When the sun set at 8pm, we dimmed the lights and started simple "barn dances". There were smiles and laughter the whole night. The teens learned dances quickly, were inclusive & respectful of all, and had a great time.

The dance was sponsored by First Unitarian Church of San Jose, BACDS, and private donations. The exit poll showed most of the teens were interested in future dances and we are hoping to start a monthly Teen Dance. The dances rely on several volunteers to plan and run. If you have an interest in supporting the next generation of dancers & musicians, please contact me. We need help with organizing, publicity, helping at the dance, running sound, etc. We would especially encourage teens who would like to take a part!

BACDS Has A New President

As we bid good-bye to long-time BACDS President Jens Dill, let us welcome his successor, Kevin Goess. Although Jens left big shoes to fill, there is no doubt that Kevin will be up to the tasks ahead.

One such task is finding new members for the BACDS board. If you are interested in having a say about BACDS's present and future, or any ideas that can make our organization thrive, your input is welcome. Please feel free to contact Kevin if you'd like to help.

VOLUNTEER THANKS

- ♪ Thanks to Claire Takemori for her innovative outreach ideas, including the Teen Dance on May 6.
- ♪ Thanks to David Buesch for planning another great Contra College.
- ♪ Thanks to the Balance the Bay committee for putting together a really wonderful program on time.
- ♪ Thanks to Mary Luckardt for organizing the 1718 Ball, and to all her co-conspirators.
- ♪ Thanks to Jens Dill for his 14 years as BACDS President.
- ♪ Thanks to everyone who has helped keep BACDS running strong

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 6	Special Berkeley Contra	Andrea Nettleton w/Rex Blazer, Jeff Spero, Chris Knepper
Saturday, June 9	Special Palo Alto Contra	Andrea Nettleton w/Rex Blazer, Jeff Spero, Chris Knepper
Saturday, June 23	Hambo Workshop in Palo Alto, 5pm	Erik Hoffman
Saturday, June 30	Special Palo Alto Contra	Gaye Fifer with the Syncopaths
Sun-Fri, July 1-6	American Dance and Music Week	Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer
Friday, July 6	AmWeek Gala Dance (open to all)	Gaye Fifer, Sarah vanNorstrand, Syncopaths, Uncle Farmer
Sun-Fri July 1-7	BACDS Family Week	
Fri-Sun August 10-12	Balance the Bay Contra Weekend	Seth Tepfer, Sue Rosen, Hotpoint, Nova
Sun-Sun August 19-26	Hey Days English Dance and Music Week	Brooke Friendly, Joanna Reiner, Gaye Fifer
Fri-Sun October 19-21	Fall Frolick English Weekend	Beverley Francis, Brad Foster, Kalia Kliban, Sharon Green
Fri-Sun November 2-4	Foggy Moon Contra Weekend (MCDC)	Cis Hinkle, Yoyo Zhou, Elixir, DynaMix
Saturday November 17	1718 Ball (limited enrollment)	Mary Luckhardt, Sharon Green, Kalia Kliban
TBA in December	No Snow Ball	TBD
Monday, December 31	New Year's Eve at the Palo Alto Contra	Kalia Kliban with StringFire

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

This issue was edited by Chris Folger. Send corrections to TheDancer@bacds.org. Deadline for the Fall *Dancer*: August 20, 2018. Send submissions to cjfolger@yahoo.com. Please join the conversation.