



Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • May-June 2020

Northwest Passage 2020

By Richard Scher

"*Hope springs eternal*" – and we do hope that the coming months will see the return of our joyous world of music and dance. Northwest Passage 2020 is still on the calendar for Labor Day weekend, September 4-7 at the Kiwanis Camp near Mount Hood. Registration is open NOW, online only, along with all you need to know about the camp, at <http://NWPassageDanceCamp.org>.

The Northwest Passage Committee is closely following our current health crisis, and will make a determination by the end of June if it becomes clear that we need to cancel the camp. All registration fees would of course be refunded. Meanwhile, here is our flyer for the camp: http://NWPassageDanceCamp.org/2020color_flyer.png. Partial grants are available for PCDC members, see <http://portlandcountrydance.org/pcdc-grants> for details.

Our all-English country dance line-up this year features the great talents of **Alchemy** (Rachel Bell, Karen Averoid and Eric Martin) and **The Whoots** (Shira Kammen, Jim Oakden and Charlie Hancock) and dance leaders **Susan Kevra** and **Melissa Running**. The weekend will also offer a wide range of high-quality workshops in instrumental music, singing and calling, taking advantage of the marvelously versatile talent we have on staff.

Beth Gibans will be on hand again with her remarkable cuisine, and **John Barthuis** will provide his excellent sound reinforcement. As always NWP 2020 will feature the spacious dance floor and the rustic but comfortable accommodations of the Kiwanis Camp.

In the previous issue of *Footnotes* we featured Alchemy and Susan Kevra. Here's the scoop on The Whoots and Melissa Running.

The Whoots play a blend of English country, Irish, Scottish, French Canadian, old-time and contra dance tunes.



Multi-instrumentalist **Shira Kammen** has spent well over half her life exploring early and other intriguing styles of music. A member for many years of countless early music ensembles, she also is the founder of Class V Music, a group dedicated to providing music on river rafting trips. Shira now performs with several bands,

playing both ECD and contra, including Roguery and The Whoots, and collaborates with performers such as storyteller/harpist Patrick Ball, poets Jane Hirshfield and Kay Ryan, clown Jeff Raz, and performs in many theatrical and dance productions, including the California Revels and the Oregon, California and San Francisco Shakespeare Festivals. The strangest place Shira has played is in the elephant pit of the Jerusalem Zoo.

Jim Oakden went to college on a music scholarship, but ended up in grad school for marine biology. However, he continued to avidly pursue an interest in early music and then later became a dance musician. He performs with many bands in a host of genres on an absurd array of instruments. He is very dedicated to passing on his knowledge at symposia, workshops, and dance and music camps all over the country as well as abroad. He runs community bands, jam bands, does individual and small group instruction and has been an instructor at Lark Camp for many years. He appears on twenty or so CDs. Plus, he loves to dance in many different styles.

Charlie Hancock, pianist and accordionist, is equally adept playing for English country, Scottish country, contra, and display dancing, and has been a welcome and familiar sound at West Coast dances and camps for over twenty years. With a checkered past of playing rock, classical, punk and disco, it's no wonder that his playing is an incredible infusion of high energy improvisation with jazz, swing and Irish themes. Charlie has appeared at numerous camps and festivals, including the New England Folk Festival, Pinewoods, and the Portland English Ball. He's a member of the Bay Area folk ensemble Euphonia, has recorded with Sylvia Herold, Holly Tannen, Cathie Whitesides, Shira Kammen and others. Besides playing music with brilliance, drive and clarity, Charlie suffers from being an incredible friendly and nice guy.

Melissa Running discovered she could take folk dance for PE credit in college in the early '90s, and hasn't looked back since. A few years later she started playing for dances and then calling English in the Philadelphia area. She now lives in Silver Spring, MD, calls nationally, plays piano for English and Scottish country dancing, and plays the nyckelharpa for Swedish, Norwegian and English dancing. In the last several years she's taken to writing tunes and composing dances to go with them. In addition to her music and dance activities, she works at linguistic precision in her job as a technical writer and editor, and knits with the zeal of the newly converted.



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

Are You Staying Happy, Healthy and Hugged?

By Kathy Story

During our hiatus from dancing, your Contra Committee (we bring you the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Saturday PCDC contras at Fulton) is meeting regularly so that when we are back on the dance floor, we will have laid the foundation for an even stronger, more inclusive, more sustainable dance community. We're asking ourselves, "What should our role be during this time? What can each of us be doing now?" One thing for sure, we're here to support you: the dancers, the musicians, the callers and choreographers, the sound folks and the volunteers. And we want to stay connected to you and be creative in our connections (via *Footnotes*, Facebook, YouTube, the PCDC website, etc). We want to hear from our community about what you want to see at regular dances, your concerns, your big dreams for our reunion dance, your ideas so that can we grow together. Email me at contra-chair@portlandcountrydance.org with your wishes, hopes and ideas.

Deciding to cancel all dances through the end of 2020 was a very tough decision. But we felt we needed to be realistic about when it will be safe for us to be back in each other's arms. As soon as we are confident that our way of dancing, with its constant touching of hands and very close proximity to 100 people in the room, doesn't pose a threat to our health, we will be on it. And since we have so much amazing talent right here, we can gear up quickly. I miss dancing with y'all so much. For me, contra dancing and waltzing are pure joy, creative self-expression, playfulness and darn good exercise for your body, brain and soul.

I hope you are all staying happy, healthy and hugged (literally or virtually) during this difficult time when we are not dancing together. Because we have several new members on the committee (including me!), I decided to ask them what they are doing in this regard, so I could learn from them. Here are their responses. I hope you enjoy getting to know a little about them. And I hope you know that we are joyously committing our time, energy, and talent to the future of our dance community.

Bryce Holt, Outreach. I'm staying busy with all kinds of projects around the house and getting exercise with walking, running, cycling and kayaking, the latter occasionally with friends as it's very possible to stay quite far from one another. Gardening and yard work also occupy a fair amount of time as I continue to shift to more native flora. Lastly, chatting with my dad and aunt regularly and a few close friends rounds out my pretty darn full days.

William Watson, Outgoing Chair. Like others, I'm keeping in touch with dance friends via Zoom, with an average of two calls a day, and also with family members, much more than previously. While we've had such lovely weather, I'm trying to get out walking or bicycling daily, and with days getting longer and weather more reliable, I expect to continue that and hope to expand my range. I've also joined a number of live streaming sessions by dance musicians, though living alone, the dancing hasn't been *quite* what I might want.

Jessica Nesseler-Cass, Secretary. I'm staying

healthy and happy by exercising almost every day, volunteering at the food bank and watching movies with my family in the evening. I was enjoying baking bread and desserts for my family to enjoy, but we are all feeling like maybe that's not so healthy anymore. I'm lucky to receive lots of real hugs from my family, especially my youngest daughter, but I also savor the "hugs" that I receive from friends over text when we are checking in with each other.

Curtis Roth, McMenamins Contact and Door Duty. I'm walking a lot, looking forward to moving to a new home next month, spending time with my son, and using Zoom each evening with a few contra friends. Watching funny YouTube videos. Playing chess online. Practicing my alto sax and fiddle. Daydreaming about romance. Looking through old photos. Visiting my sister in Forest Grove once a week. Wearing my face mask when I shop for food (just got a nice patterned one my niece made). Something I'm not doing—hugging dancers.

Ann Nokes, Bookkeeper. During weekdays, I continue to work as an "essential worker" in a mail order pharmacy near my home. With my now free evenings, I've been working on projects around my home and meeting with dance friends on Zoom.

Kelly Taber, Media Librarian. I've been getting to know my new neighbors (from across the yard!) and visiting some of my favorite types of trees as they bloom. I've also been slowly learning to play piano and fiddle, much to the displeasure of my cat.

Kim Appleberry, Chair Emeritus. Processing refunds and payments to 350 Rainedancers and Rainedance talent. Undertaking the annual butchery of the wall of laurel hedge—so the garden can get some sun. Perfecting our Zoom chops. Addressing the project piles. Thrashing about with the controls of the video editing software to get some of those contra videos up on YouTube. Dinner and a movie every night. Hugging and appreciating Christine.

Kathy Story, Chair. I'm enjoying the dance videos and live concerts that y'all are posting on our Portland Country Dance Community Facebook page, hula hooping in my living room, dancing to James Taylor's *American Standard* album in my kitchen, taking fiddle lessons via Zoom with Betsy Branch, and evening walks along the Willamette—the ospreys have returned!

Also on the Contra Committee are: Mark Swan, Board Rep, Libby Wentz, *Footnotes* Contributor and Mike Goren, Adjunct Member (and technology wizard).

Not Cancelled Yet!

Harvest Moon Dance Festival in Santa Barbara, CA is still set for October 9-11!

Our incredible talent ➡

**• Stringrays • Eloise & Co.
• Will Mentor • Jacqui Grennan**

Registration opens 7/6. No cancellation fees.

More info [at the website.](#)

Board Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Ric Goldman

March 17, 2020. Present: Christine Appleberry, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Rich Goss, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer.

[Meeting held via email.]

Behavioral issues: The board is consulting with legal/HR experts to help establish policies and procedures.

Pandemic: The board advised the Contra Committee to cancel all dances in April for the health and safety of the community, and per Oregon government instructions. Rental agreements on Fulton Hall are being renegotiated.

Organization: The board is interviewing a potential treasurer candidate. In the meantime, Ric Goldman is filling in as acting treasurer. Rich Goss will continue handling tax deduction acknowledgements for donations.

Retreat: The annual retreat is planned for June 13, 2020.

April 21, 2020. Present: Christine Appleberry, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Rich Goss, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guests Kim Appleberry, Jody Odowick, Kathy Story, Tarka Ayres.

[Meeting held via Zoom.]

Contra Committee: The newly re-named Portland Contra Committee submitted an updated committee charter, which was accepted by the board.

Term Limits: There was a motion to amend the bylaws to remove term limits for board members (similar to last month's change allowing PCDC committees to remove term limits from their charters). This will be finalized at the May meeting, after members have had an opportunity to comment. Comments can be submitted to any board member or via the Contact Us link on the PCDC website.

Annual Meeting: Due to COVID-19 social distancing, this year's annual meeting and board election will be held via email using Survey Monkey. Rules & procedures are being put together.

Organization: Rich Goss has stepped down as chair and from the board. We shall surely miss him, and we thank him for his years of service to PCDC! Christine Appleberry and Sue Songer will take over as co-chairs. Jody Odowick was appointed to the board and accepted as the new PCDC Treasurer. We are still looking for someone to run the Family Dance Committee for the 2020-2021 season.

Pandemic: The Portland Contra Committee has cancelled dances through the end of the year. Family Dance is also cancelled through the end of the year, but is booking talent for Jan-Apr 2021. The Hillsboro Contra is suspended until further notice. English dances are cancelled through the end of May and they will review each month to determine if/when to resume. Tune Sessions continue via online meetings and plan to continue for the 2020-2021 season, whether in person or online.

Northwest Passage: Camp is still planned for Labor Day Weekend. The committee is actively monitoring the health situation and will send out early notice if it becomes necessary to cancel the camp, in which case full refunds will be offered. [Editor's note: this event has been cancelled.]

Raindance: Despite cancellation, volunteers and donors came forward to help minimize costs while continuing to support our talent and meet our obligations. A big thank

you to the community! Meanwhile, 2021 talent has been chosen: the bands will be Stringrays and Drive Train, and Cis Hinkle & Gaye Fifer are being brought back as callers.

Financial pressure: Even as dances are cancelled, PCDC has been working hard to help renegotiate or cover hall rent in order to help retain our hall and site reservations. We are paying rent where possible and compensating musicians and callers for our larger events, also when possible. We continue to appreciate community support. We will be adding a donation button to the website and encourage the community to help us help those who make our activities possible.

[Next board meeting: May 19. The June retreat will be rescheduled.]

Spotlight on PCDC Volunteers

Submitted by Christine Appleberry, Co-Chair, PCDC Board

In this issue: **Jessica Nessler-Cass**, new member of PCDC's Contra Committee.

"I have always loved dancing. At our wedding in 2000 we had a Ceili dance. Not everyone at the wedding was a dancer but we wanted dancing and knew everyone could participate in a called dance. Then we had children and when they were little, I didn't do much dancing. We did go to a family dance a few times, but it didn't work out for some reason. It didn't occur to me that there were adult dances.

"When our daughter was in fifth grade, she went to the Renaissance School where we met Dave Macemon who was teaching contra and Morris dancing. Through him, I learned that there was contra dancing for adults and so I started coming to the weekly dances in the summer of 2018. My husband plays rock music on Saturday nights and our children are now teenagers with their own activities. Dancing on Saturday nights is for me and is so much fun.

"I especially enjoy the weekend dance camps where I can learn new moves. The change from 'leads' and 'follows' to 'larks' and 'robins' got me into learning to lead at Raindance 2019. Initially, learning to lead was awkward but now it's great. I don't ever have to sit out a dance! I enjoy the challenge of learning new things about dancing. Then when I broke my arm, I was really glad I could lead as I couldn't dance the follow's part for a while.

"I met Mike Goren and Lindsey Grayzel at the Fulton contra dances and then got to know them better at last year's NW Passage and Cascade Contras dance weekends. They both were talking to me about joining the Contra Committee. I attended a meeting and helped at the door. I have the time and like to give back, and it's a way to get to know people better.

"I've only been on the committee a couple of months and initially my job was to do outreach, but the positions were juggled around and now I am the secretary. I've never held a position like this before and I'm not sure I'll be good at it but I'm happy to take it on. As a member of the committee, I look forward to being able to help Kathy Story, our new chair. Being on the committee gives me the opportunity to learn more about our callers and musicians.

"What I love about contra dancing is becoming part of a new and nice, multigenerational and diverse community of people. Basically, I just love to dance. It's a happy place in my life."



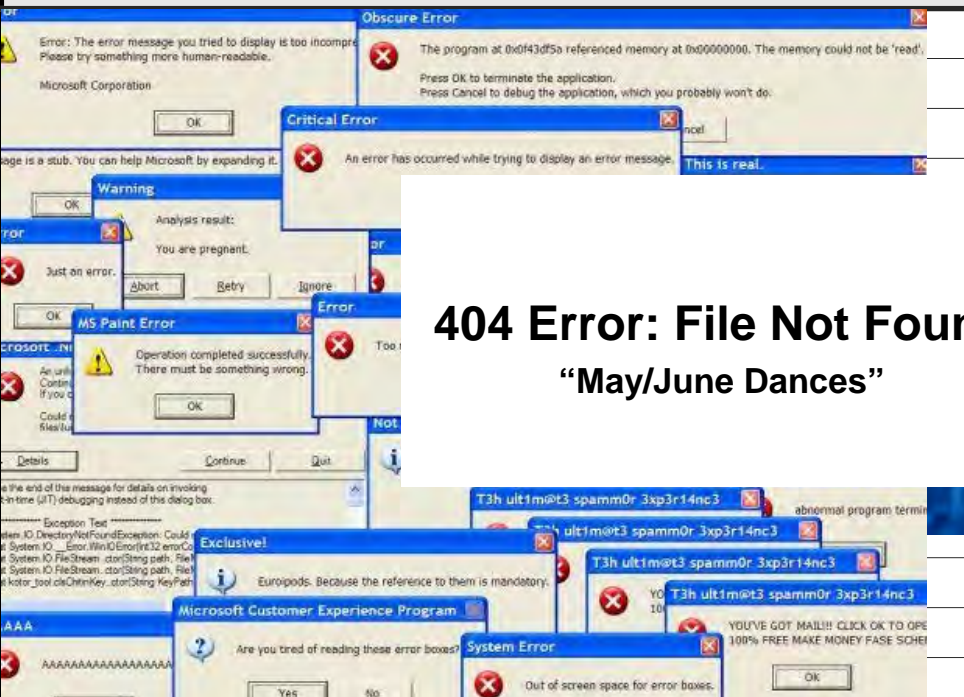

Calendar • May-June 2020



Unless otherwise noted all contra and English country dances will be held in your living room attended only by those in your household. Music can be found online, with many contra and ECD musicians performing regularly on Facebook. Flexible beginning and end times! Free admission! Role terms are dancers' choice!

Editor's Note: Footnotes will be digital/online only while dancing is on hiatus.

May/June

Date	Dance	Caller	Music
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Status Report: Dancing

All English dances are cancelled through July. The ECD Committee is meeting on 6/28 to consider whether to hold dances in August. All PCDC contra dances are cancelled through the end of the calendar year – unless the situation improves significantly. Joyride dances are currently scheduled to resume in September. Contra in the 'Couve is listing a free dance for July 10th but...that may change. Stay tuned.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

Be it known that PCDC's annual meeting at which our Board is elected, normally transpiring during the 2nd Sat. June contra dance, will instead take place via Survey Monkey.



Portland Country Dance Community



CANCELLED

Latter Day Lizards * Faux Paws * Susan Michaels
 Cascade Contrás Week
 October 16-18, 2020
 Sponsored by the Eugene Folklore Society

PCDC Board Discusses Term Limits for Board Members

By Ric Goldman

A proposal was presented at the April PCDC Board meeting to amend the bylaws, changing the length of director terms and removing term limits. Currently directors are elected for a two-year term. A director may serve up to three consecutive terms, but then must be absent from the board for a year before being eligible to serve another set of up to three terms. The proposal would change director terms to a single year and remove the limit on the number of terms that may be served.

PCDC Board Directors are elected at the annual membership meeting in June (usually at the 2nd Saturday Contra and closest Friday ECD). Normally, a slate of all directors is presented for approval by the membership, whether or not any specific director's term is up or not. The proposed change amends our rules to match our actual practice.

The second part of the change eliminates term limits. Term limits were originally implemented in order to comply with Oregon law. However, current law does not require this. The reasoning behind the proposal is that it is to PCDC's benefit to allow volunteers to serve for as long as they are willing.

The proposal was modified to retain the two-year term while removing the term limits, and will be voted on at the May 19th meeting. PCDC members are welcome to provide feedback on the proposal via the PCDC website <http://portlandcountrydance.org/contact/> or by sending a message to board@portlandcountrydance.org.

[Ric is the PCDC Board Secretary.]

PCDC's "Pizza Jam" is off the menu for the moment but there are many opportunities to play with others on Facebook. Check out Noony Tunes, where everyone plays a certain tune at noon. If you have other suggestions, write to the editor and I will post them here.



Tune Sessions with George Penk and Dan Compton are still happening via Zoom! Next session May 14. Pay by check, Venmo or PayPal. Contact DelonaLang at gmail.com for details.

PCDC Board Members

Co-Chair/Raindance Rep: Christine Appleberry
(ceappleberry at yahoo.com)
Co-Chair/NWP Rep: Sue Songer (songer at portcoll.com)
Treasurer: Jody Odowick
(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)
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)

PLEASE let us know immediately if your address changes. We get charged 59¢ for each returned newsletter. And worse yet, you won't get your newsletter. Please provide your old and new address to: Jon at JonNeff dot net, or call 503-893-2102. You can also opt to receive your newsletter electronically.

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.

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.