



Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • July-August 2020

Status Report: Dancing

All PCDC dances, both English and contra, and all First and Third Saturday contra dances are cancelled through the end of the calendar year. Contra in the 'Couve is suspended until further notice; Joyride's First Wednesday series is cancelled through November (at least.) Sadly, due to its very nature, the kind of dancing that we do will be one of the last activities to restart when life returns to "normal." The touching, the sweating, the hugging, the dancing with everyone in the room, the exuberance of it all...in other words, everything we love about our dancing means that it would not be a safe activity until there is a safe and effective vaccine. -Editor

Portland English Country Ball

By David Macemon

In normal years, now would be the time that we'd be knee deep in planning the details of the Portland English Country Ball: editing dance programs and instructions, getting emails ready to send out announcing that registration is open, having conversations about who is doing what this year, and of course we'd be starting to preview dances from the ball program at our Friday night dances.

I know that everyone knows the punch line here. It's not a normal year, and none of what would be typical is happening. So...after much consideration, reviewing as much material as possible, gazing into our somewhat cloudy crystal ball, and with considerable sadness, the Portland English Ball Committee has decided to cancel the event for 2020.

So what is PCDC's Ball Committee doing these days? We're getting excited about the 2021 Portland English Country Ball Weekend!

Date: October 22-24, 2021
Caller: Bruce Hamilton
Music: Fine Companions (Betsy Branch, Bill Tomczak, Erik Weberg, Lisa Scott)

We are also looking forward to a better year in 2021 when we can once again gather together safely to dance and enjoy each other's company.

[David is a member of the PCDC Board; he's the Family Dance Coordinator, a member of the ECD Committee and the chair of the English Ball Committee.]



Board Seeks to Address BLM Movement

By Sue Songer

Black Lives Matter. At our recent meeting, the PCDC Board began a discussion of this straightforward yet complex issue. To be clear, PCDC condemns all racism and supports members' efforts to work towards racial justice. Future board agendas will include ideas about how we will respond as an organization. We are seeking means to amplify the inclusive, welcoming atmosphere at our events and to expand our knowledge of the interracial roots of the dance and music we know and love today. We will consider additional organizational responses to this call to action.

Board members as well as members of our larger community are interacting with this movement in different ways and at different levels. For now, here is a list of resources you can pursue.

From CDSS (the Country Dance and Song Society), their [statements and resource list regarding anti-racism](#).

From the Portland, ME contra dance community, an example of [how one dance community has responded](#), historical background on the many contributions of black artists to our traditions and a resource list.

From an individual in our own community, Noah Grunzweig, opportunities for exploring this issue right here at home. Contact Noah via his Contra Remix website where you can join his mailing list to learn more about how you can become involved: www.contraremix.com.

PCDC Board Co-Chairs Christine Appleberry and/or Sue Songer welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

CDSS on Cecil Sharp, whose work inspired the organization that later became CDSS: "Sharp's racist and anglo-centric worldview impacted the way he told the world about his journeys, and meant that he missed the opportunity to fully understand and document the complex evolution of dance, music, and song on this continent."

PCDC Family Dance

By David Macemon

We're all missing dancing with our families during this time of being safe and socially distanced. With that in mind, there are a number of resources available for families who want to sing, dance and play at home. My favorite resource so far is hosted by the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS).



CDSS has a YouTube playlist called CDSS at Home (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfdaDP_k-SiEZWfS0YJviwo13YybWqa6a). This is a collection of videos with kid-friendly dance and song activities. The "Families" section of the CDSS Resource Portal (<https://www.cdss.org/resources/resource-portal/families#resources>), features even more activities for families! Have a look, enjoy the activities, and join us in looking forward to dancing when it is safe.

As a reminder, we have cancelled PCDC's Family Dance through the end of 2020. As we learn more about the world toward the end of this year, we will make decisions about dancing in 2021.

[David is a member of the PCDC Board and the Family Dance Coordinator.]

Spotlight on PCDC Volunteers

Submitted by Christine Appleberry, Co-Chair, PCDC Board

In this issue: **Rich Goss**, a founding member of the Contra Committee, former NWP Committee Chair, former PCDC Board Chair, dancer, caller, sound engineer and musician.

"Living in Austin, Texas, I used to go out to hear live music. One night I went to listen to some Scottish music at a local watering hole. All the tables were taken but two women invited me to share their table and they spent the evening talking about how much they loved contra dancing. Austin has a Wednesday night dance: after the

first dance I was hooked! I never looked back.

"I started calling and playing music, I was even in a band that performed in clubs around Austin. I got into a contra dance band, Mockingbird, with Mike and Bonnie Voss, and we played for contra dances. We even played one year at Folklife!

"While in Austin I was involved in organizing their dance weekend, Fire Ant Frolic, and was a volunteer with the Austin Friends of Traditional Music (AFTM), which became the Traditional Austin Area Dance Association (TAADA), an organization not unlike Portland Country Dance Community.

"In 2004 Sarah and I moved to Portland and soon after we arrived, we started going to local jam sessions. This is how Cascade Crossing was started. I became more involved with PCDC when Elinor Preston asked me to join the NW Passage Committee. Then Kim asked me to be on the Contra Committee. This was a good way to contribute to the community. And then, because of my experience with Fire Ant Frolic, I joined the Portland Raindance Committee. By the way, quite a few of the people I knew in Austin have ended up moving to Portland: William Watson, Rick Piel, Mike and Bonnie Voss."

Kim Appleberry, Portland Raindance organizer, has a wonderful story about Rich's contributions to Raindance. In 2011 Big Bandemonium was one of the bands, a 9-piece, East Coast band with a horn section, led by New Yorker, Lisa Brown. Lisa is a saxophone and flute player of some renown. A spring broke on her saxophone Friday night and she was upset, like only New Yorkers can be, about being in this backwater town and needing "the best" saxophone repair person on the planet. It had broken several times in New York and thus was not a simple repair. Kim called Rich, who knew exactly what to do. He took Lisa to a repair shop in Vancouver, WA, on Saturday, where not only did the owner fix her saxophone (the repair has held for years), but, she almost bought one of the saxophones in the shop for her collection. She was a changed person after that—much calmer and at ease. Portland wasn't such a backwater place after all. This is typical Rich—knowing exactly the right thing to do in any situation, then quietly getting it done.

Rich has been involved as a volunteer with dancing and music in our community since 2004 when he first arrived here. He joined the PCDC Board as the Family Dance Rep and eventually became board chair. He has just retired from his day job and from the board but continues to make music for us in his bands, Cascade Crossing and Hands4. Rich is also a longtime member of the Portland Megaband. So many parts of our community have benefited from his calm, steady, wise guidance!

"I just love dancing. I contribute what I can and have made a lot of good friends who I love. Sometimes, as a volunteer, you deal with hard things but you make the best decisions you can and try to do the right thing. It's just a good thing to do. When you go to a dance, you don't really get to know people but if you serve on a committee, you get to know people and make good friends. Even though I'm no longer on the board, I'm not going away. When our dances start up again, I'll be back, doing sound, playing and calling."

Thank you Rich for all the years of helping things run smoothly and of Making Good Friends!

Board Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Ric Goldman

May 19, 2020. Present: Christine Appleberry, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Jody Odowick, Sue Songer and guest Kathy Story.

Treasurer: Ric and Jody met to transfer treasurer information. Jody is reviewing material and plans to get financial reports out monthly. Ric is getting PCDC set up with Tech Soup and requesting current non-profit documentation from CDSS and the IRS.

English Country Dance: Dances are still on hold through July. Fortunately, the hall is not asking for rent while we're not dancing. Committee will meet June 26 to determine whether to cancel additional dances. ECD series are up \$475 for the year. Last year's ball lost \$427, so the net is \$48. The Ball Sub-Committee has not yet decided whether to cancel this year's ball, but will hopefully do so before registration opens in mid-July.

Family Dance: Dances are cancelled for 2020, but booking for 2021. The board invested \$720 in the series this year.

Contra Committee: The committee is looking into holding a series of one-hour Zoom waltz events with live music from local musicians. This will keep the community connected, increase PCDC visibility, and showcase local talent. A PayPal tip jar is planned for the musicians. It is hoped that the first one will happen in June. PCDC may need to invest in new microphones and mixers for these. There's a lot of excitement about putting these together.

Raindance: Kim Appleberry is in the process of reconciling 2020 in QuickBooks. This year's Rose City Dance-A-Rama is cancelled.

Northwest Passage: Camp is cancelled for 2020. Staff have been notified. The committee offered to pay their full salaries but they only accepted partial payment to help out camp. Refunds and donation letters will be sent out as appropriate. Almost all staff signed up to perform at camp for 2021 (which will be another ECD year).

Annual Meeting: Ric has set up an online ballot in Survey Monkey. Christine, Sue and Ric will figure out logistics. As ballots will only go to members, now is a good time to join or renew membership with PCDC. The website now supports online sign-up via PayPal or credit card (checks are still ok). Go to <https://portlandcountrydance.org/membership>.

Website and Online Records: Ric sent in his list of PCDC webmaster-managed online resources to Sue & Christine. Credentials for Raindance, Megaband, etc. are also being collected. Ric & Stewart Hall continue digitizing boxes of financial and other materials for the PCDC archives. The board discussed issues for an organization-wide DropBox account (vs Google Drive or other tools). Christine, Sue and Ric will prepare a proposal to the board regarding the management of credentials and records.

Term Limits: After review and discussion of the board's April decision to eliminate term limits, the actual motion to revise the bylaws failed for lack of a second, which means that term limits will remain in effect.

June 16, 2020. Present: Christine Appleberry, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Jody Odowick, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guests

Patricia Donohue, Marianne O'Doherty and Kathy Story.

Grants: The board discussed other possible uses for grants given that workshops and dance events are not currently happening. It was decided that the existing language on the website ("If you have a different or special request") allows folks to be creative in what they ask for (e.g. equipment for Zooming, music lessons, etc). The board will deal with requests on a case by case basis. Ric Goldman and Marianne O'Doherty will meet to review the procedure for processing grant requests.

Treasurer: Jody now has access to the documents she needed. She will hold meetings to go over "pain points" dealing with QuickBooks uses, and provide training to any new bookkeepers for our various activities. Ric confirmed that PCDC has been approved as a non-profit by Tech Soup and has ordered a new multi-user QuickBooks subscription. Ric gave our CPA info to file our FY18 taxes. FY19 taxes are due July 15 this year. Jody wants to get our financial reporting current so we can avoid having to file extensions.

Co-Chairs: PCDC will hold its annual member meeting online. Ric set up a SurveyMonkey poll to accept the slate of new and returning board members. Votes are due by June 30th. Jon Neff will now forward donation notices on membership signups to Christine for processing acknowledgements. Sue and Christine met with Eliza Romick and an attorney regarding dancer behavior issues. They will develop procedures, policies, and material to document how to make a complaint, who to talk to and who we get back to. This is a work in progress. We received an offer from Bill Tomczak to take over as webmaster. There was a discussion about reviving the old web subcommittee. Ric will reach out to Bill to discuss.

Contra Committee: A group is working to present a Zoomcast with Campaign for Reel Time, and then Joyride, to be presented from Fulton in June and July. These events won't be just a waltz or a contra dance but rather an eclectic mix of music and chatting. Things may change rapidly as planning for the event proceeds. The series may be called "Portland Live."

English Country Dance: No committee meeting since the last board meeting. The committee will meet in June to discuss when or whether to reopen dances. The English Ball has been cancelled for 2020. All performers were offered full compensation, but only some accepted it. The 2020 staff will roll over to 2021.

Northwest Passage: The committee has about \$9000 in its account. Paid registrations were refunded, less \$2788 donated by our generous campers. Both 2021 and 2022 will be ECD years. We might have contra in 2023 if the Contra Committee (or others) are willing to provide support to the NWP Committee. A final decision on 2023 will be made in March 2022. The 2020 staff rolled over to 2021, except that Charlie Hancock will be replaced by Jonathan Jensen.

Membership: Counts are up 20 compared to the previous month, but down 14 from this time last year.

Archives: Stewart Hall completed 100 hours of scanning and digitizing six boxes of PCDC archive materials. Ric will put these on the PCDC Google Drive, along with a set of available board meeting minutes. Cloud storage alternatives are still being evaluated.

New Business: The board discussed paying all callers
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Board Meeting Summaries

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and bands for series dances hired through the end of the year. Cost might be several thousand dollars. There was also discussion of drafting a new budget to address the new financial realities of reduced income, ongoing rental costs, and whether PCDC should do more fundraising. Patricia Donohue offered to look into possible government grants sources.

Black Lives Matter: Noah led a discussion on how PCDC can participate in and support this socio-political moment. Ideas discussed include looking into how to be more welcoming to people of color, educating ourselves as to contribution by African American and Native music to our genre and looking for resources about the black experience to educate ourselves. This will be an ongoing concern for the board; suggestions are welcome.

[Next board meeting: July 21, 2020 via Zoom.]

Portland Live!

By Kathy Story

Are you missing dancing, live music, and seeing your friends? We are too! So we've planned a new series to showcase the wonderful talent we love so much. "Portland Live" debuted via Zoom and YouTube Live on



Sunday, June 28th. It was an evening of amazing music from Campaign for Reel Time: Betsy Branch on fiddle, Bill Tomczak on clarinet, saxophone and percussion, and Mark Douglass on keyboard. They played waltzes and contra tunes streamed live from Fulton Hall.

Over 150 people enjoyed the experience in the comfort and safety of their own homes. They rolled up the rugs and kicked up their heels or pulled up a chair and settled in for a

concert. Some even played along on a jig set, a reel set, and two waltzes. John Oorthuys headed up the sound setup, which was very elaborate for a Zoom event. Many thanks to our volunteers who gave countless hours: Kim Appleberry and William Watson, Zoom and technical; Christine Appleberry, video; and co-hosts Kathy Story, Ann Nokes, Bryce Holt and Curtis Roth.

Thanks to everyone who generously tipped the band that evening: 100% of the tips went to our wonderful musicians. They are donating part of those to the Portland African American Leadership Forum, an organization that has been working for racial justice in our community for over a decade. If you forgot to tip that night or couldn't find the information, tips are still welcome and can be sent to [paypal.me/musaique](https://www.paypal.me/musaique) or by Venmo to @Betsy-Branch-2.

We've got another great "Portland Live" event for you on Sunday, July 19th (see flyer on page six) this time

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Life in the Zoomiverse

By William Watson

Folks around the world have found that live streaming events can help fill the void left by the cancellation of dances and concerts. They certainly don't make up for all that we've lost, but participating in these events can help keep us sane in uncertain times. I'll offer some downsides, some positive attributes, then some suggestions for where to find events.

Negatives:

- Folks may feel saddened by the reminder they can't dance.
- Sound quality through Zoom may not measure up.
- Chatting with 100+ attendees often proves difficult.
- Ne'er-do-wells may interfere with events.
- Putting on an event takes a lot of work!
- Streaming cannot replace the joy of dancing with others.

Positives:

- Gigs for performers who miss playing for dancers (some have been moved nearly to tears to see a screenful of faces they've missed).
- Streaming events can provide visibility for local musicians to a wide audience.
- Gigs can help provide replacement income for full-time musicians via "virtual tip jars."
- Activities may help maintain cohesion between members of a local dance community.
- The events provide an excuse for physical activity – ("Zoom-ba") to live streamed music.
- Attendees can dance safely in isolation, with partners if they have them, or by themselves if alone.
- Attendees have the opportunity to "play along" at home with great musicians.
- Attendees can "see" friends from near and far and can engage with each other in real time via public or private chats.
- Some attendees who dance with a device can interact with other dancers by "pinning" another participant as a "virtual partner." (It's polite to ask first!)
- The events provide opportunities to get to know performers better.
- "Breakout rooms" can allow for conversations with a few dancers from near or far.
- Streaming events remove some distance barriers.
- Dance with London in the morning, Atlanta in the afternoon, San Francisco in the evening!
- Performers can appear at events anywhere, without worrying about travel.
- Attendees can join from anywhere. I've seen folks from London, Helsinki, Israel, Japan and Tasmania!

Some places to find streaming events:

- [PortlandCountryDance.org](https://portlandcountrydance.org): our new monthly streaming series, Portland Live, debuted on June 28th!
- [CDSS.org](https://cdss.org): Streaming events across the country.
- [NBCDS.org](https://nbcds.org): Waltz event on Saturday evenings.
- [BACDS.org](https://bacds.org): Dance events on Sundays.
- [Seattle Dance](https://seattledance.com): Contra dances on Thursday evenings.

[Many musicians also offer up videos of themselves playing danceable music on Facebook. Look for the "Social Disdance" group for example. – Editor.]

Portland Live!

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featuring Joyride! George Penk on fiddle; Erik Weberg on flute, harmonica and bombard; Sue Songer on piano and fiddle and Jeff Kerssen-Griep on guitar and percussion. Another evening of well-phrased melodies and harmonies set in a danceable groove, with chat before and after. The Zoom will open at 5 pm for a half hour of chatting with dance friends, music from 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by another half hour of chat after the music. Again we will be on YouTube Live in addition to Zoom. Come join the fun! If we can't dance at Fulton Hall, at least we can see and hear some of our favorite musicians playing there.

If you got an email invitation with the Zoom instructions for June 28th, you're on our list and you'll get one for the Joyride event. If you didn't get the Zoom invite, please email raindance.pdx@gmail.com. (Due to security concerns we do not post the Zoom instructions on social media.) See you there!

[Kathy is the chair of the Portland Contra Committee and an accomplished scarf dancer.]

An online vote via SurveyMonkey took place in June and the board slate was approved. See below for the list of new and returning board members.

PCDC Board Members

Co-Chair/Raindance Rep: Christine Appleberry
(ceappleberry@yahoo.com)
Co-Chair/NWP Rep: Sue Songer (songer@portcoll.com)
Treasurer: Jody Odowick
(board-treasurer@portlandcountrydance.org)
Secretary: Ric Goldman (letsdance@rgoldman.org)
At-Large: Noah Grunzweig (grunzwei@gmail.com)
Portland Contra Committee Rep: Mark Swan
(mark.swan.portland@gmail.com)
English Country Dance Committee Rep: Sara Munz
(sara.v.munz@gmail.com)
Hillsboro Rep: Victor Fiore (victor.n.fiore@gmail.com)
Family Dance Coordinator: David Macemon
(macemondavid@gmail.com)
Board Email: board@portlandcountrydance.org

Major PCDC Volunteers

Contra Committee Chair: Kathy Story
(kathystoryconsulting@gmail.com)
English Country Dance Committee Chair: Susan Gere
(susangere@gmail.com)
Contra dance talent booker: Gordy Euler
(euleromi@pacifier.com)
English dance caller booker: Erik Weberg
(erik@erikweberg.com)
English dance music booker: Laura Kuhlman
(shawm1550@gmail.com)
Raindance Committee Chair: Kim Appleberry
(pdxapple@comcast.net)
Northwest Passage Committee Chair: Ethel Gullette
(effieg47@gmail.com)
Newsletter Editor: Laurel Thomas
(laureland3@yahoo.com)

Summer Jamming in the Park

By Rick Piel

The Pizza Jam gathered for the first time in three months at Willamette Park on Monday, June 29th, masked and socially-distanced. (Masks are expected except for wind players who will be positioned downwind.) We had such a good time that we've agreed to meet weekly on Wednesdays from 2-4 pm, weather permitting, starting July 8th. All acoustic instruments are welcome, at any level of expertise. If you're on the Pizza Jam email list you'll continue to receive a reminder a few days before each gathering. If you'd like to be added or removed from the list, write to rick@mr-rick.org.

[Rick plays piano and fiddle and is the co-coordinator of the First Saturday Contra Dance Series.]



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@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. **Please note that Footnotes will be online only while dancing is on hiatus.**

Starring **Joyride**



Sue Songer - piano

George Penk - fiddle

Erik Weberg - flute, harmonica, bombard

Jeff Kerksen-Griep - guitar, percussion

The Joyriders will come careening into your home, sputtering and backfiring with jauntiness and abandon. Firing on all four cylinders, they have the power to transport you into the big city dancehall. With Sue in the driver's seat and Jeff running the pusher engine, George can frisk around the fiddle strings joined tightly by Erik's swift flurry of birdsong on the flute.

Hop in the back; there's plenty of room for you. We're going on a Joyride.

**Sunday, July 19th 5:30 – 6:30
on Zoom**

**Danceable Music in the comfort of your home.
Streaming Live from Fulton Hall in Portland, Oregon**

(30 minutes of chatting before and after the music)

The Zoom invite will be sent out in an email, about one week before.