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HANDS FOUR



line art by Becky Hill

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BAY COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Holiday Season Festivities

This holiday season provides ample opportunity to socialize, dance and rejoice. Add these dances to your holiday plans:

The annual Halloween dance will be Saturday, October 29. Local favorites, Swing Farm, will play fabulous music to the dancing parade of costume finery. Prizes will be given to best costumes—so dust off your creative instincts or indulge yourself in your alter ego. This is not a challenging contra, beginners are welcome.

The Christmas dance is December 16th. Celtic jammers, Driving with Fergus, are well known for their high energy and brilliant melodies. Festivities include an annual favorite: the dessert potluck. Come one, come all, and to all a good night!

The New Year's Eve Extravaganza will be at Lootens Hall in San Rafael this year. Dance to favorites The Fiddle Rats. This is a rare treat, as the band has moved out of state. We have fond memories of dancing to their vivacious energy and consistent rhythm. Dance in the New Year with a great band and caller, good company, festive décor, and delicious food & drink.

Wischemann Hall Fundraiser

Wischemann Hall users are planning a *Celebration of Dance* the weekend of October 28-30 to raise money for planned ADA improvements to the Hall. English Country Dance and NBCDS are actively involved in supporting this. An anonymous member of the ECD community is offering to match up to \$2,000 in funds contributed by ECD to the Wischemann Hall rehab effort. Contact Tom Spittler, Kalia Kliban or anyone on the Board to get involved or make a donation.

Apple Tree Morris

Morris dancing is a festive seasonal dance that dates back hundreds of years to the farming communities of the Cotswold Hills in Southern England. It's boisterous and colorful, a perfect way to celebrate the change of seasons. Apple Tree Morris offers a four-week series of workshops each fall, open to anyone interested in Morris dancing. You don't need experience, just enthusiasm. You should wear comfortable sneakers and clothing you can move in, and be ready for a workout! Join us for the 2011 fall workshop series: Thursdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; 7:15 p.m. at the Sebastopol Community Center, Morris St., Sebastopol. For directions and further details, contact: Cliff Stevens, (707) 823-6925 or e-mail cliff@kichu.com

Special Dances

The October 2nd Petaluma dance is cancelled to make way for a special dance in San Rafael. We have snagged some of the finest contra dance talent: Dr Groove and caller, Robert Cromartie from North Carolina. Dr. Groove features the phenomenal improvisers, Nat Hewitt on fiddle and lead guitar and TJ Johnson on mandolin. Cooking up the rhythm are Seth Houston on keyboard and guitar, and Mark Hellenberg on percussion. Don't miss this dance!

In November it will be Petaluma's turn to feature a hot new band, the Retrospectacles. They are a young group of contra dance musicians whose natural enthusiasm and powerful playing have torn up dance floors all over the Northwest. Twin fiddlers lead the band and harmonize with infectious piano playing and burning bass lines.

This quarter get ready to experience new heights of contra dance ecstasy.

English in Marin

Come September, English Country Dance in San Rafael is moving both time and place! New location: Pickleweed Community Center, 50 Canal Street, San Rafael. (415-485-3077). New time: Second Sundays, 2-4:30 p.m. We have found a good home with a bouncy floor and Kalia Kliban will continue her exceptional job as caller and programmer. Her musicians are always excellent and fun-loving. We appreciate the support of experienced dancers, as well as the Contra dancers from Marin. We are building our new dancer membership each time and expect that this fall will bring in many more. The San Rafael Recreation Department offers our dances as adult ed classes. We hope all readers of *Hands Four* will tell their friends about our new Sunday afternoon dances, starting Sunday, September 11, 2011. See you there!



End Notes

Nice men marry dancers.
Real men learn to dance!

~ Author Unknown

2011 NBCDS Board of Directors

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North Bay Dance Calendar: Fall 2011

NBCDS email: info@nbcds.org www.nbcds.org

English Country Dances (ECD) meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays, 2–4:30 pm, at Wischemann Hall, 460 Morris St., Sebastopol
Admission is \$8/NBCDS members, \$10 non-members, and \$3 for children.
Call 707-829-0168 for more information or contact kalia@nbcds.org or kwoeltjen@yahoo.com.

Regular dance admission: \$10 adults, \$8 members, \$5 Adults under 25 and FT students with ID, \$2 ages 6–17, under 6 free
Come a half hour early to every dance for a newcomers lesson.

Key to Hall Locations and Contacts for Contra dances:

PET 1st Sun Petaluma Woman's Club, 518 B Street, Petaluma; 6:30 – 9:30 pm; 707-823-4982, tom@nbcds.org
SRF 2nd Sat Marin Masonic Lodge, Lootens Place @ Fourth, San Rafael; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; andy@nbcds.org
SRO 3rd Fri, 5th Sat Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; 707-545-1274, contrabeet43@gmail.com
SEB 4th Sat Wischemann Hall, 460 Morris Street, Sebastopol; 8:00 – 11:00 pm; 707-569-0565, mike.fynan@gmail.com
UKI* 2nd Sat Ukiah Methodist Church, 270 North Pine, 7:00 – 10:30 pm; Ulla Brunnerberg-Rand, 707-467-0311; \$8 adults, \$6 teens

* dances are not sponsored by NBCDS

Apple Tree Morris dancers meet weekly and welcome new members - no experience necessary. Call or email Cliff Stevens, 823-6925, cliff@kichu.com



October

Sun 2	English	SEB	Alan Winston	Laurie Reaume (piano), Michael Siemon (concertina)
Sun 2	Contra	SRF	Robert Cromartie (NC)	Dr. Groove: Nat Hewitt (fiddle) (NH), Seth Houston (keyboard, guitar) (L.A.), TJ Johnson (mandolin) (VA), Mark Hellenberg (percussion, banjo uke) (OH) Note Special Day and Time—7:30-10:30; Special prices \$10/12/7
Sat 8	Contra	UKI*	Jim Saxe	Skelton Crew: Andi Skelton (fiddle), Rod Skelton (guitar)
Sun 16	English	SEB	Gary Thomas	Chuck Ward (piano), David Barnett (woodwinds)
Fri 21	Contra	SRO	Robin Steen	Erik Hoffman (fiddle, guitar), Dan Engle (fiddle, mandolin)
Sat 22	Contra	SEB	Mavis McGaugh	Flat Earth Stringband: Ron Brunswick (guitar), Esther Brunswick (fiddle), Tom Stiles (bass), Dennis Hunt (mandolin), Elain Elder (fiddle), Carlo Calabi (guitar)
Sat 29	Contra	SRO	TBA	Swing Farm: Ray Bierl (fiddle), Charlie Hancock (piano), Markie Sanders (bass) HALLOWEEN DANCE-COME IN COSTUME-PRIZES
Sun 30	English	SEB		Dance cancelled due to hall conflict

November

Sun 6	English	SEB	Kalia Kliban	Rebecca King (piano), Jon Berger (violin), Maggie Moore (violin)
Sun 6	Contra	PET	Warren Blier	Retrospectacles (WA): Josie Toney (fiddle), Andrew Foster (fiddle), Scotty Leach (piano, fiddle), Ethan Jodziewicz (bass, mandolin, banjo) Special prices \$10/12/7
Sat 12	Contra	SRF	Warren Blier	Driving with Fergus: Vince Wolfe (flute, whistle, guitar, bodhran), Chris Knepper (fiddle, gadulka), Lewis Santer (bouzouki, guitar)
Sat 12	Contra	UKI	Tom Leahman	Ruby Mountain String Band: Darin Smith (fiddle), Julia Landis (guitar), Cliff Landis (banjo, guitar, fiddle)
Fri 18	Contra	SRO	Chuck Galt	Soul Weaving: Jonathon Goodwin (fiddle, concertina) Ehlert Lassen (guitar), Stephen Evans (cello)
Sun 20	English	SEB	Nicolas Broadbridge	Jon Berger (violin), Noel Cragg (piano), Erik Ievins (cello)
Sat 26	Contra	SEB	TBA	TBA

December

Sun 4	English	SEB	Lise Dyckman	Debra Tayleur (piano), Elizabeth Miranda (flute), Jon Berger (violin)
Sun 4	Contra	PET	Mike Fynan	Soul Weaving: Jonathan Goodwin (fiddle, concertina & banjo), Ehlert Lassen (guitar), Stephen Evans (cello)
Sat 10	Contra	SRF	Joyce Miller	Swing Farm: Ray Bierl (fiddle), Charlie Hancock (keyboard), Steven Strauss (bass)
Sat 10	Contra	UKI	Bob O'Brian	TBA
Fri 16	Contra	SRO	Susan Petrick	Driving With Fergus: Chris Knepper (Fiddle, Mandolin), Lewis Santer (guitar, bazouki), Vince Wolfe (flutes, whistle) XMAS GALA-DESSERT POTLUCK; 8 p.m. TO 11:30p.m.
Sun 18	English	SEB	David Newitt	Humuhumunukunukuapua'a and Strathspey Society Band
Sat 24	Contra	SEB		Dance cancelled. Happy Holidays!
Sat 31	Contra	SRF	Susan Petrick	The Fiddlerats: Caroline McCaskey (fiddle, saw) (CO), Eric Anderson (keyboard) (WA), Cole Ingraham (flute, djembe) (CO) New Year's Eve Extravaganza 8 p.m.-midnight; Special Prices: \$18/20/15

Contra dancing and English country dancing are easy, fun, friendly and inclusive. All dances are taught and prompted, and feature great live music. No experience is necessary; come alone or bring a friend. Wear comfortable clothes and low, smooth-soled, comfortable shoes. Scent-free dancing appreciated! New dancers are encouraged to come early for an orientation, and for simpler dances early in the evening. To see what contra dancing is all about before you attend a dance you can go online to http://www.conradance.org/html/what_is.php for video lessons.