



THE TFTM DANCE CARD

Spring
1994

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

SPRING BRINGS SPECIAL CALLERS

Warm up your dancing shoes for some exciting dancing this spring. Two more out-of-town callers will be brought to the mike in cooperation with the other contra dance communities in Arizona (more below). The Gem and Mineral show brings PENN FIX, of Spokane, Washington, back to us for the February 5 dance. On April 2, local dancers Bobb Head and Nancy Nelson will be inviting the dance community to dance in celebration of their wedding: see upcoming newsletters for details.

The Arizona Dance Cooperative brings KATHY ANDERSON, from Dayton, Ohio, to call in Tucson on February 19. Kathy started calling in 1982 with squares, and now adds

contras, circles, and "odd-formation dances" to create a mixture of styles through the evening. A regular caller in the Midwest, Kathy has been a featured caller at dance weekends and camps all over the country and in Canada. Always described as "energetic," Kathy enjoys dances with flowing movement and unusual figures. Look for some challenges from her!

On March 19, BOB DALSEMER will return to Tucson. With more than 20 years calling experience, Bob is especially skillful at making newer dancers feel welcome while calling dances with enough interest to please even the most jaded "experts." Bob is from western North Carolina, and

serves as the president of the board of the Country Dance and Song Society, as well as the coordinator of music and dance programs at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown. Bob has called around North America and overseas.

Both Kathy and Bob will call at our regular third Saturday dances at Armory Park. Ask us closer to Kathy and Bob's appearances for information about special workshops with them. Kathy will also call in Phoenix and Flagstaff, and Bob will call in Phoenix, Prescott, and Flagstaff. Contact me for workshop updates and carpooling information (327-1779).

— Becky Nankivell

SWINGING FINE POINTS: Some frank thoughts from a dancer who swings both ways

Just a few thoughts on swinging during contra dances. A good swing is one of the most difficult steps to master in contra dancing, but it is also one of the most enjoyable parts of the dance. Swinging is not a bouncy step. When done well, you spin together with an smooth gliding motion. You can achieve the "glide" by holding your back straight (not arched), bending a bit at the knees, and supporting each other's weight. Here are a few more tips to send you on your way to centrifugal bliss.

"Men" (especially tall, strong men with shorter partners!): It's more comfortable for the woman if your right hand is up at the level of her shoulder blade. Otherwise, with your hand low, the centrifugal force of a good swing puts some nasty torque on her spine. It's truly torture if you have a low hand and lift upward on your partner's back.

"Women": Trust your partner, don't clutch with your left arm, bending your elbow and exerting a downward force. It's rough on the man's right arm. Lift your elbow, open your arm up, and trust him to support you even as you support him. If your arm is nice and open, you'll support him, with your hand behind his shoulder blade. If his weight is reasonably close to yours (such as when "he" is another woman!), you really should be sharing each other's weight about equally.

Everyone: Except when there is a great discrepancy in size between dancers, the support arms that go to each other's backs (his right, her left) should be nice and open, and slightly rounded (elbows neither locked nor bent at a strong angle). Ideally, both of those arms should be

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WAILA DANCE & WORKSHOP

Look in your March newsletter for information about a TFTM Waila dance & workshop. It will probably be on the evening of Saturday, March 26th. In preparation for Tucson's annual Waila Festival on April 16, TFTM will present this workshop to get you ready to dance. Waila music (also known as "chicken scratch") is a unique Tohono O'odham form of western couple dance music. The best way to show your appreciation of the music is to get up and dance. Info: 312-0810.

IRISH DANCER IN FEB. 4TH CONCERT

The Friday, February 4th, Irish concert with Mick Moloney, Eugene O'Donnell, and Tommy Sands will also feature Irish step dancing champion REGAN WICK. This precise, solo dancing style is amazing to watch, don't miss it!

SWINGING *Continued from front of DC*

about horizontal and in contact (sweat and all). This also implies that no part of your torsos (especially not your hips) are close together — your bodies should be vertical, parallel, and, as much as possible, facing each other.

Another thought: Have you tried a walking swing? It can be just as satisfying and less fatiguing than a buzz-step swing, and it's easier to learn. You can do it even if your partner is doing the buzz-step. Give it a try! As always, you want to stay with the beat and give weight. Everything else is the same.

Many dancers like to gaze into each other's eyes when they swing. It's really a matter of dancing style. Locking eyes helps with the dizzies and also makes for a nice connection between people during the dance. If you find someone looking into your eyes, just look back and let yourself enjoy a moment of recognition. If it makes you feel uncomfortable, just look over their shoulder.

One of the easiest ways to improve your swing is to practice with someone. If you see someone with a swing you admire, don't hesitate to pull them aside and ask for a few tips. They will probably be flattered and more than ready to help. Happy swinging!!

— Becky Nankivell & Claire Zucker

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE MUSICIANS WORKSHOP

Workshop will be with renowned California musicians Taylor and Imbrie. April 8th, 9am-4pm. Don't miss it—call Julia Huestis (323-2927) for reservations.

ARIZONA DANCE SCHEDULE

FIRST SATURDAYS First Congregational Church, 2nd Avenue and University, 7:30-10:30 p.m., park in lot at 2nd Ave. and 2nd St. April 2nd at Temple of Music and Art Cabaret Theater.

THIRD SATURDAYS Armory Park Center, 5th Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets, 7:30-11p.m., Beginners introduction 7:30 to 8p.m.

MONDAY NIGHTS, 4th Avenue Social Club (424 N. 4th Ave.), 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Live music on a wooden floor. Beginners and band members welcome!

PHOENIX-SECOND FRIDAYS- Grace United Methodist Church, 2024 E. University, Potluck 6:30, dance 8:00. 893-3328.

PRESCOTT-FIRST and THIRD FRIDAYS, Prescott Armory, 778-5118.

FLAGSTAFF-SECOND SATURDAYS Marshall School, 840 N. Bonito. 774-7261.

We have three special callers scheduled for upcoming dances: Penn Fix (Feb 5th); Kathy Anderson (Feb 19th); and Bob Dalsemer (March 19th). Both Kathy and Bob will be touring Arizona, see the article on page 1 of this *Dance Card* for details.

To contribute to the next *Dance Card* call Claire (882-3068) by early April.

DANCE PHOTO/ART CONTEST

We need to let people know about the joy of contra and square dancing. Therefore, we are having a TFTM *Dance Art/Photo Contest*. We are offering prizes for the best black & white photos or artwork showing our style of dancing. All the contest details are in the February newsletter, page 4. The deadline is March 4th, so don't hesitate. We could set up a photo shoot with dancers and band members if you are interested. Call Claire at 882-3068 or Becky at 327-1779 for more info.

OUT-OF-TOWN DANCE EVENTS

Feb 25-27 Fiddling Frog Dance Weekend, Culver City, CA (Los Angeles). Steve and Leda Shapiro, 818-785-3839.

March 25-27 Camp Wannadance, Marrowstone Island (Seattle) 206-784-3477.

March 18-20 Monte Toyon, Sante Cruz, CA, Bay Area Country Dance Society. Contras, squares, English country, & ritual (Morris) dance. Fred Persner, 415-856-3038.

April 9 Bay Area Country Dance Society Playford Ball (Historic English Dance), San Francisco, CA. Karen Wetmore, 510-653-6758.

May 13-15 Planters Moon Festival, Gold Hill, Colorado. 303-733-0614.

June 10-12 Buckhorn American Dance Camp, Fort Collins, Colorado. Footmad, 303-449-5962

1994 SUMMER DANCE CAMPS!

Dance Week, Colorado Springs, CO. Lloyd Shaw Foundation, Diane Burton, 816-453-0157.

Lady of the Lake Music & Dance Camps, Lake Coeur d'Alene, ID. Weeklong camps (Family week is in August) run by the Spokane Folklore Society, Spokane, WA. Penn & Debra, 509-838-2160.

Mendocino Dance Weeks. Bay Area Country Dance Society. Judy Rose Dornbush, 415-456-4602; or Allison Delugach, 510-465-2568. Week 1 - English/American Dance Week, Week 2 - (July 17-24) Family Week Emily Flouton and Jerry Allen 707-765-6559. Mid to late July.

Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth Massachusetts. Weeklong camps run by the Country Dance & Song Society, 413-584-9913.

July 9-16 Family Week, July 16-23 English/American Week.

Buffalo Gap, Capon Springs, West Virginia. Weeklong camps run by the Country Dance & Song Society, 413-584-9913. These start July 16 and run through September 3. They are (in order) Early Music Week, Folk Music Week, American Dance Week, Family Week, English Dance Week, English/American Dance Week, Campers' Week.