



A publication of
The Committee for Community Dance
of
CALLERLAB

The International Association
of
Square Dance Callers

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Merger of the Community Dance and the Contra/Traditional Committees

By a vote of 31 to 0, the Committee for Community Dance and the Contra/Traditional Committee approved the merger of the two committees into one single committee. The Executive Committee of CALLERLAB will discuss and propose a name for this new committee in the near future.

Furthermore, the EC has selected and approved the choice of Calvin Campbell as chairman of this new committee, and Yona Chock and Bob Riggs as the two Vice-Chairpersons.

The following actions are planned now that the proposed merger has been approved:

- 1) The members of the combined committee will review the EC's proposed committee name and may propose another name change which will have to be approved by the EC.
- 2) The Contra/Traditional Dance that has been held after one of the banquets at the CALLERLAB convention will continue as before, if the Convention Planning Committee schedules it.
- 3) The CD Journal was charged with publishing "traditional" material when the traditional/contra quarterly dance publication was discontinued. Hopefully the merger will encourage more "traditional" material to be submitted for publication.
- 4) The Community Dance on Sunday afternoon prior to the CALLERLAB Convention will continue as before. This dance has been hosted by the CCD, but it is held at the pleasure of the EC, who also decide who will serve as MC for the dance. The format will continue to allow traditional material.

CD Presentations Planned at the 2005 NDA Convention

Calvin Campbell and Yona Chock have each been asked to present dance seminars to teachers of elementary school age children at the April 2005 National Dance Association Convention to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

Cal's 2-hour presentation will be on easy dances for grades 4 and up that can be taught using only a few basics. The goal is to provide teachers with a package of dances that can be learned by their students in a very short period of time. Dance formats will include squares, contras, trios, Sicilian circles, big circles and solo dances.

Yona's subject will be "Dance Through Colonial American History". This 1.5-hour session will cover selected dances of historical importance. Dances will be presented for all grades and will include historical information about where and why the dance originated. This will be Yona's third presentation at the National Dance Association Convention. She has been a very active member of the NDA for several years including serving as a committee chairperson.

Both sessions represent a very important introduc-

tion to a style of dancing new to many of the dance teachers attending the convention. Most attendees have excellent backgrounds in modern, tap and ballet, but have had little or no experience in either the formations or the music of called or prompted dances done in teams such as squares or contra lines. If Yona's past experience holds true, then both sessions will be showing material that will be enthusiastically received.

The NDA mission is "to increase knowledge, improve skills, and encourage sound professional practices in dance education while promoting and supporting creative and healthy lifestyles through high-quality dance programs". The NDA is a sub-unit of AAHPERD, which stands for American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Their goal is "Promoting healthy lifestyles through high-quality programs in health, physical education, recreation, dance and sport". Cal will also be attending the AAHPERD Convention as the first official representative of the CALLERLAB Board of Governors.

Past, Present and Future of the CD Journal

Editorial by Calvin Campbell
Castle Rock, CO

In 1992, I proposed that the Community Dance Program Committee publish a newsletter available to the members of CALLERLAB. It would include articles, editorials, reviews and dance material suitable for use in the Community Dance Program. The first newsletter was published in August of 1992. For the past 12 years it has been my task, and usually pleasure, to edit and publish this newsletter.

Over the years, the mission of the host committee has changed as we have discovered what works and what does not. The focus has moved from the Community Dance Program to beginner dance parties and we have enjoyed great success in hosting a Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar and a Sunday afternoon dance held just prior to the national CALLERLAB convention for the last several years. I feel most of this has been possible because we have been very successful in maintaining lines of communication among the members of the CDP Committee/Committee for Community Dance. The main organ of this communication has been the Community Dance Journal.

During the last 12 years, we have published 36 editions of the CD Journal. It has carried news and announcements of committee activities, numerous articles and editorials, reviews of books, videos, and other related products, and lots of dances suitable for community dancing. I tallied the editions of the CD Journal published to this point. Over the past 12 years we have published 79 square dance routines, 21 contra

dances, 9 trios, 13 mixers, 18 solo dances, 7 quadrilles, 6 Sicilian circle dances, 1 mescolanza and 10 dances that fit into other categories. These 164 dances can be done with little more than the skills possessed by people who have never danced before or have danced only a few times. All the dance routines use only the 24 basics recommended for use in the Community Dance Program or fewer.

The CD Journal is now at a turning point. I am probably serving my last year as the editor. The production of the Journal is being moved to new hands starting with this edition. Kit Galvin and Dottie Welch are learning the fun of looking for news, hunting for books, videos and music that have not been covered in the past, and searching for dances waiting to be shared.

I can assure you that they are not facing an easy task. Much of the material that we all use has already been published. We can take some of the material from the early editions and recycle the dances because many of the current readers of the CD Journal have never seen the early editions. However, we know that there are lots of dances being used that have never been published in the CD Journal. Also, there are dances we all invent that have never been shared through this publication. I encourage you to send them to Kit or Dottie.

There is a second event that is going to strongly affect the content of the CD Journal. The Committee for Community Dance and the Contra/Traditional Committees have voted to merge into one com-

mittee. The reason behind the merger was the fact that the same people were attending both committee meetings and the membership list of both committees was largely the same. The CD Journal has published traditional dance material for several years. Now we will probably have a section of the Journal devoted to "traditional" dances. We can also review books, videos and other literature related to "traditional" dancing. What can some of you tell us about these?

I hope I am making my point: the success or failure of the CD Journal and the merger of the two committees is going to take a lot of communication. We need your input. If you have a collection of CD Journals, take a look and see if we have missed some important or useful dance. If you find a book or video we haven't reviewed, let us know. If you invent a routine for a special dance, share it. If you feel the urge to express an opinion send us a written article. Committees are successful because their members contribute. **Please, let's hear from you!**

Contact Us

Our goal is to publish three issues of the Community Dance Journal each year. Please send suggestions and articles to:

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**Beginner Dance Party
Leaders Seminar 2005**

Our first BDPLS was held before the 2000 Las Vegas CALLERLAB Convention. It has long outgrown the original small room and has now become a permanent yearly event. Plan now to join the 50 or more leaders who come to hear the many wonderful ideas for Beginner Dance Parties presented by the knowledgeable staff. Suggestions for desired topics are still welcome. Look for more details in future CD Journals. **To register see the advertisement below.**

**BEGINNER DANCE
PARTY LEADERS
SEMINAR**

March 19 & 20, 2005

Galt House

Louisville, KY

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Learn to teach and lead parties for people of all ages who have never danced before.

Easy

Square Dances. Contra Dances
Line Dances. Mixers and more

For More Information

Contact: Calvin Campbell
343 Turf Lane
Castle Rock, CO 80108
cal@eazy.net

Send Registration Fees to:
CALLERLAB

467 Forrest Ave, Suite 118
Cocoa, FL 32822

Partners attending with a caller do not pay, but still need to register.

Contra Dance

This contra dance introduces a somewhat new concept we have not used in this publication before. The progression is accomplished by having the whole formation rotate one position to the right using the command "Slide right, face a new pair". This is a very popular way for contra dances to progress in the "traditional dances" held today. It also works very well with modern western square dancers.

Shelter from the Blizzard

by Susan Elberger

Formation: Couples facing couples in long lines

- Intro* - - - -, *Long lines go Forward & Back*
- 1-8** - - - -, **Ladies Chain & 1/4 more**
- 9-16** - - - -, **-- Promenade**
- 17-24** **-- Wheel Around, -- come back**
- 25-32** **-- Face same two, Ladies cross over & Swing**
- 33-40** - - - -, **-- Circle Left**
- 41-48** - - - -, **-- Circle Right**
- 49-56** - - - -, **-- Slide Right**
- 57-64** **-- Face a new pair, Long lines Forward & Back**

Description:

- 1-8 Long lines go Forward & Back.
- 9-16 Two Ladies Chain across and the couples continue the Courtesy Turn action an extra quarter turn until the ladies are right shoulder to right shoulder.
- 17-24 In the direction couples are facing (maintaining the Courtesy Turn position), all march up or down the set for 4 steps. In 4 steps couples Wheel Around (turn counterclockwise) to face the opposite direction.
- 25-32 All march in the new facing direction down or up the set 4 steps back to the same couple (each dancer should be looking for their original partner), turn as a couple to face the other couple.
- 33-40 Ladies pass right shoulders as they cross over to their original partner. Partners Swing ending facing the center of the set, with the ladies on the right. The timing here is a bit flexible: "couples face and ladies cross over" can be completed in 4 beats, leaving 8 beats for the Swing. Less energetic dancers will use 6 to 8 beats to face and cross over and then Swing only once around.
- 41-48 Same 4 dancers Circle Left for 8 beats.
- 49-56 Same 4 dancers Circle Right for 8 beats.
- 57-64 All couples slide one position to their right to face a new couple. Note that each couple will be sliding past one couple and that this will require the couple on the right end of each long line to move around to the opposite line.

Book & CD Review

Step Lively Series

by Marian Rose

This series offers a delightful collection of dances that fit well into the Community Dance setting. At this time there are three books, each with an accompanying CD of appropriate music:

1) Dances for Schools and Families—Mix of musical games and dances for kindergarten to adult.

2) Canadian Dance Favorites—Some wonderful music and interesting Community Dance ideas.

3) Primary Dances—Mostly singing games including Bluebird, Shoo Fly, and Pop Goes the Weasel.

The music is mainly toe tapping jigs, reels and polkas played by a mix of accordion, fiddles and piano. Some of the music is dance-specific and includes vocals. The books describe each dance including prompts, diagrams, light-hearted sketches of the action and music information. The dances include several long ways sets (all proper contras), Sicilian circles, trios, and various circle dances and games. There are no squares because they are being saved for a future book.

These are produced by the Community Dance Project, which is the brainchild of Marian Rose—musician, caller and dance educator from Vancouver, BC, Canada. For the past 2 decades Marian has been bringing the joy of traditional dance into schools, communities and groups and back into the lives of people across Canada and beyond. She created the Community Dance Project to preserve and revive the tradition of community family dances and the rich musical traditions that surround them.

See www.marianrose.com for more information. These books are also available through Supreme Audio and other sources.

Mixer

The Gate Mixer

Type: Suggested for a University Get-Acquainted dance

Formation: Several circles of 3 to 6 couples

Music: Golden Slippers, or other 64 beat music

Intro ----, -- *Circle Left*

1-8 ----, -- **Forward & Back**

9-16 ----, -- **With partner, Gate in 8**

17-24 ----, -- **Forward & Back**

25-32 ----, -- **With corner, Gate in 8**

33-40 ----, -- **Ladies Promenade Inside**

41-48 ----, -- **Swing corner**

49-56 ----, -- **Scatter Promenade**

57-64 ----, -- **Circle Left**

Description:

1-8 Each group joins hands and Circles Left 8 steps.

9-16 Dancers in each big circle walk in 4 steps toward its center and then back out 4 steps.

17-24 Partners act as a unit and Gate once around in 8 steps. Gate: the couple forms a swinging gate pivoting on the man. Their adjacent hands are joined with forearms tucked between the partner's arm and body. The lady walks forward pivoting the gent one full turn. It is like a Cast Off full around. Since each lady is on the right side of her partner, the turn is to the left and counterclockwise.

25-32 Forward & Back again the same as beats 9-16.

33-40 Corners act as a unit and Gate once around in 8 steps. Each dancer's corner is the person adjacent to them who is not their partner. Again the lady walks forward so this turn is to the right and clockwise.

41-48 Ladies Promenade to their right once around inside the circle, pass by their partner and move on to their corner.

49-56 Corners Swing, thus acquiring a new partner.

57-64 With that new partner, each couple leaves their current circle and Promenades quickly (8 steps) in any direction, joining hands with other couples to form new circles.

Square Dance

Grand Square Singing Round

Here is a Grand Square variation that came out of Clark Baker's notes. Since the music is provided by the dancers' voices, it is a stand-alone bit of fun. Pairs of dancers start the Grand Square on a 4 beat staggered timing, moving progressively from the head of the hall to the foot. Simultaneously they begin singing "Row, Row, Row the Boat". Each pair dances all the way through their part of the Grand Square.

Precue for beat 1: Caller prompts -- "**Sides face Row the Boat**"

Beat 1: Couple #1 starts the Grand Square

Beat 5: #2 man and #4 lady start their portion of the Grand Square

Beat 9: #4 man and #2 lady start their portion of the Grand Square

Beat 13: Finally Couple #3 starts their portion of the Grand Square