

The CD*NY Contra Repertoire

Compiled by Bob Isaacs

Dance

3,33-33
Al's Safeway Produce
Alternating Corners
Awesome Double Progression Dance
The Baby Rose
Becket Reel
Broken Sixpence
The Carousel
Centrifugal Hey
Cherokee Shuffle
Chorus Jig
Delphiniums and Daises
Ease of Circles
Frederick Contra
Fun Dance for Marjorie
Good Friday
Happy as a Cold Pig in Warm Mud
Hay in the Barn
Haymaker's Jig
Heartbeat Contra
Judah Jig
La Bastringue
Love and Kisses
Maliza's Magical Mystery Motion
Marian's Delight
Mary Cay's Reel
Midwest Folklore
The Nice Combination
Pearls of Wisdom
Pedal Pushers
Petronella
Poetry in Motion
The Reunion
Rockin' Robin
Roll in the Hey
Rolling and Tumbling
Rory O'More
Scout House Reel
The Second Time Around

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Robert Cromartie
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Donna Calhoun
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Herbie Gandreau
Don Armstrong
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David Kaynor
Traditional
Tanya Rotenberg
Gene Hubert
Tom Hinds
Bob Golder
Kirston Koths
Mike Boerschig
Chart Guthrie
Traditional
Don Flaherty
Charlie Fenton
Traditional
Ted Sannella
Cary Ravitz
Carol Kopp
David Kaynor
Orace Johnson
Gene Hubert
Bob Isaacs
Bob Dalsemer
Traditional
Lisa Greenleaf
Gene Hubert
Rick Mohr
Roger Diggle
Cis Hinkle
Traditional
Ted Sannella
Jim Kitch

Dance

Shadrack's Delight
Simplicity Swing
Spring Fever
Star Trek
Turning in Turn
Weave the Line
Weeks on the Road
With Thanks to the Dean
You Can't Get There From Here
You're Among Friends
The Zombies of Sugar Hill

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3, 33-33

Improper

Steve Zakon-Anderson

- A1. 4,2,2 w/Neighbor #1 balance, pull by R, w/#2 pull by L
4,4 w/#3 balance, box the gnat
- A2. 2,2 w/#3 pull by R, w/#2 pull by L
12 Swing #1
- B1. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
10 Partner swing
- B2. 8 Long lines
8 Ladies do-si-do $1\frac{1}{2}$

Simply one of the best contras ever. It's possible to finish with a ladies chain instead of the do-si-do. But the beauty of this dance is that during the do-si-do the ladies won't go all the way across the set, and that sets up the pull bys in A1 perfectly.

Al's Safeway Produce

Improper

Robert Cromartie

- | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------------|
| A1. | 8 | Star L |
| | 8 | Neighbor allemande L 1½ |
| A2. | 8 | Ladies allemande R 1½ |
| | 8 | Partner swing |
| B1. | 6 | Circle L ¾ |
| | 10 | Neighbor swing |
| B2. | 8 | Long lines |
| | 8 | Star R |

A popular, very smooth-flowing dance, even though the author no longer remembers what the title is for. Compare this with You're Among Friends.

Alternating Corners

Improper

Jim Kitch

- | | | |
|------|------|-------------------------|
| 1A1. | 8 | Circle L |
| | 8 | Neighbor swing |
| 1A2. | 8 | Long lines |
| | 8 | 1's ½ figure 8 above |
| 1B1. | 16 | 1's turn contra corners |
| 1B2 | 4,12 | 1's balance, swing |
| 2A1. | 8 | Circle L |
| | 8 | Neighbor swing |
| 2A2. | 8 | Long lines |
| | 8 | 2's ½ figure 8 below |
| 2B1. | 16 | 2's turn contra corners |
| 2B2 | 4,12 | 2's balance, swing |

One of the seminal modern contras in the way it alternates the actives so everyone can be equally active in today's long contra lines.

Awesome Double Progression Dance

Improper, double progression

Donna Calhoun

- A1. 8 Down hall in line of 4 – turn alone
- 8 Up hall and bend line

- A2. 8 Circle L
- 8 Star L

- B1. 4,12 Next neighbor balance, swing

- B2. 8 Long lines
- 8 1's swing – face down and form lines/4 w/next

It's not exactly awesome, but a solid, very accessible double progression dance.

The Baby Rose

Improper

David Kaynor

A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing

A2. 8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
8 Partner do-si-do

B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing

B2. 8 Ladies chain to neighbor
8 Star L

One of the basic building blocks of every contra caller's repertoire.

Becket Reel

Becket, double progression

Herbie Gandreau

- | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------------------|
| A1. | 4 | Shadow allemande L |
| | 12 | Partner swing |
| A2. | 8 | Ladies chain to neighbor |
| | 8 | Ladies chain to partner |
| B1. | 8 | On L diagonal R and L through |
| | 8 | R and L through across |
| B2. | 8 | Star L |
| | 8 | Star R |

Written in 1953, this is the very first Becket dance, and it is still quite usable. Named for the town of Becket, MA, which has long been home to a dance camp.

Broken Sixpence

Improper

Don Armstrong

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|
| A1. | 8 | Neighbor do-si-do |
| | 8 | Ladies do-si-do |
| A2. | 8 | Gents do-si-do |
| | 8 | 1's swing – face down |
| B1. | 8 | Down hall in line of 4 – turn alone |
| | 8 | Up hall and bend line |
| B2. | 8 | Ladies chain to partner |
| | 8 | Ladies chain to neighbor |

A very forgiving dance, this has long been a common first contra of the evening for many callers.

The Carousel

Improper

Tom Hinds

- A1. 8 Long lines
8 Ladies allemande L 1½
- A2. 16 Hey (PR, GL, NR, LL)
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B1. 6 Circle L ¾
10 Neighbor swing

Named for the monthly dance in merry-go-round at Glen Echo Park in Glen Echo, MD, the site of the big Washington, DC dance. Tom Hinds, from Faber, VA, has for over a decade been one of the best caller/choreographers around, with many creative contras and squares to his credit.

Centrifugal Hey

Improper

Gene Hubert

- A1. 8 Neighbor allemande R 1½
8 Gents allemande L 1½
- A2. 16 Hey (PR, LL, NR, GL)
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B2. 8 R and L through
8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, pass through

One of Gene Hubert's best, which is really saying something. The (PR, LL, NR, GL) means partner pass R, ladies pass L, neighbor pass R, and gents pass L. As good a full hey dance as any ever written.

Cherokee Shuffle

Improper

David Kaynor

- A1. 8 Neighbor do-si-do
8 Circle L
- A2. 4,12 Balance ring, swing neighbor
- B1. 4,4 Gents allemande L $\frac{1}{2}$ to wave/4, balance
8 Partner swing
- B2. 8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
4,4 Balance, California twirl

Normally is a very fine dance. It can also be called with a “crooked tune” – a version that runs 72 beats. As a result, the partner swing is 4 beats longer, and there are two consecutive balances in B2.

Chorus Jig

Proper

Traditional

- A1. 8 1's down outside – turn alone
8 1's return
- A2. 8 1's down center – turn alone
8 1's return and cast around same-sex neighbor
- B1. 16 1's turn contra corners
- B2. 4,12 1's balance, swing

This chestnut is usually danced to the tune of the same title. Another tune commonly used for it is Opera Reel. Clearly the most popular chestnut, in part because the inactives can sneak in a swing during A1.

Delphiniums and Daisies

Improper

Tanya Rotenberg

- A1. 8 Neighbor allemande L 1½
- 8 Ladies chain to partner

- A2. 16 Hey (LR, NL, GR, PL)

- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing

- B2. 8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
- 8 Neighbor allemande R 1½

One of the standard hey dances. It flows well, has a nice balance between neighbor and partner action, and a pleasant title. Tanya Rotenberg, who specializes in English calling, hails from a family of callers in Philadelphia which include her father Sam and her husband Ted Rudofker.

Ease of Circles

Circle Mixer

Gene Hubert

- A1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- A2. 16 Partner promenade
- B1. 8 Gents stop, ladies weave past two
8 Ladies stop, gents weave past two
- B2. 8 All forward and back
8 Partner allemande L 1½ and on to new partner

In the weaves, those moving go inside one neighbor, then outside the next to form a big circle.

Frederick Contra

Improper

Tom Hinds

- A1. 8 Gents do-si-do
8 Ladies allemande L 1½
- A2. 4,12 Partner balance, swing – face down
- B1. 8 Down hall in line/4 – turn as a couple
8 Up hall and bend line
- B2. 6 Circle L ¾
10 Neighbor swing

Named for the monthly dance in Frederick, MD, this is a very popular down-the-hall contra. At the end of the neighbor swing, the gents may anticipate the do-si-do and finish facing somewhat on the L diagonal, which exposes the lady to being bumped by the next gent in line. The gents need to end the swing with their neighbor secure on the side on the set.

Fun Dance for Marjorie

Becket

Bob Golder

- A1. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
10 Neighbor swing
- A2. 8 Long lines
8 Gents allemande L $1\frac{1}{2}$
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B2. 4,4 Gents pass R, ladies pass R and take R hands
8 Hands-across star R and slide L to next

After the partner swing, gents need to

Good Friday

Improper – wave/4 Kirston Koths

- A1. 4,4 Balance R and L, slide/spin R
4,4 Balance L and R, slide/spin L
- A2. 2,2 Neighbor allemande R $\frac{1}{2}$, gents allemande L $\frac{1}{2}$
12 Partner swing
- B1. 8 Long lines
8 R and L through
- B2. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
10 Neighbor do-si-do $1\frac{1}{2}$ and step forward to new wave/4

This dance begins in a wave of four with ladies taking L hands and neighbors taking R hands. This dance is one of the best applications of the signature move from the dance Rory O'More, as the spins in A1 flow into the allemandes in A2. In B2, callers who consider the do-si-do $1\frac{1}{2}$ awkward can substitute;

- B2. 6,2 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, pass through
10 New neighbor do-si-do $1\frac{1}{4}$ to wave/4

Happy as a Cold Pig in Warm Mud Improper Mike Boerschig

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 8 Gents allemande L 1½
8 Partner allemande R 1½
- B1. 8 W/shadow star L
8 Partner swing
- B2. 8 Circle L ¾
4,4 Balance, California twirl

After the partner allemande, partners split up and join different stars – the #1 gent and #2 lady look up the set for their star, and the #1 lady and #2 gent look down for theirs. Everyone has a shadow in their star if done correctly, but part of the fun in this dance are the weird stars of 3 or 5 people created when dancers go the wrong way. It all gets corrected after the partner swing. Mike Boerschig is a fine caller from Cincinnati, home of the Pigtown Fling dance weekend held in March. He used a little local flavor to concoct one of the more memorable contra dance titles.

Hay in the Barn

Improper

Chart Guthrie

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 8 Ladies chain to partner
8 ½ hey (LR, NL, GR, -)
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B2. 8 Ladies chain to neighbor
8 ½ hey (LR, PL, GR, -) and face the next

Long Island's Chart Guthrie is not only a outstanding caller, but has also written some fine dances. The pure symmetry of this dance has made it one of the most popular modern contras.

Haymaker's Jig

Improper

Traditional

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 4,12 1's balance, swing
- B1. 8 Down hall in line/4 – turn alone
8 Up hall and bend line
- B2. 16 Ladies chain over and back

A chestnut usually danced to the tune Lady of the Lake, which it is also known as.

Heartbeat Contra

Improper

Don Flaherty

- A1. 4,4 Balance, Petronella turn
4,4 Balance, Petronella turn
- A2. 4,12 Balance, neighbor swing
- B1. 8 Ladies gypsy R 1½
8 Partner swing
- B2. 8 Circle L ¾
4,4 Balance, California twirl

Don Flaherty of New Jersey is a prominent and prolific choreographer, and this contribution ranks as one of the classic dances using the Petronella move. In B1, the ladies gypsy R 1½ can take a little longer than 8 beats, and some callers substitute ladies allemande R 1½.

Judah Jig

Improper

Charlie Fenton

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
10 Partner swing
- B1. 8 Circle L
8 Hands-across star R
- B2. 8 Gents drop out and ladies chain to neighbor
8 Star L

Charlie Fenton, of San Francisco, named this dance for the street on which the local contra dance was located. The B1/B2 flows very well together, and the star L can be either hands-across or wrist-grip.

La Bastringue

Circle Mixer

Traditional

- | | | |
|-----|------|-------------------------------------|
| A1. | 8 | All forward and back |
| | 8 | All forward and back |
| A2. | 8 | Circle L |
| | 8 | Circle R |
| B1. | 4,12 | Corner balance, swing – new partner |
| B2. | 16 | Partner promenade |

This super-simple circle mixer is danced to its own French tune. A dance that is very handy for those “busload-of beginners” evenings.

Love and Kisses

Circle Mixer

Ted Sannella

- A1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- A2. 8 Ladies to center and back
8 Gents to center and return to form wavy ring
- B1. 4,4 Balance, partner allemande L
8 Corner do-si-do – give R to corner (#1)
- B2. 16 W/#1 pull by R, w/#2 pull by L, w/#3 pull by R, w/#4 allemande L, w/#3 pull by R, w/#2 pull by L

At the end of A2, the wavy ring is formed by taking L hands with partner and R with corner, with ladies facing in and gents facing out. The grand R and L is particularly effective as it introduces dancers to their future neighbors.

For several decades until his passing in 1995, Ted Sannella was a top caller, teacher, and choreographer. His series of Ted's Triplets redefined that dance form.

Maliza's Magical Mystery Motion

Becket

Cary Ravitz

- A1. 8 Gents allemande L 1½
8 Neighbor swing
- A2. 8 Neighbor promenade across
8 Ladies chain to partner – form ring
- B2. 4,4 Balance, Petronella turn 1½ to face next
4,4 Balance, Petronella turn
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing

The motion in B1 does seem magical – while the ladies Petronella over and back across the set, the gents do consecutive Petronellas along the side, in effect progressing behind his partner's back.

In recent years, Cary Ravitz of Lexington, KY has emerged as one of the most innovative composers of modern contras. This 1996 gem was written for a young local dancer named Maliza when he found out her favorite move was a Petronella turn.

Marian's Delight

Improper

Carol Kopp

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 8 Long lines
8 Ladies do-si-do 1½
- B1. 16 Partner gypsy and swing
- B2. 8 Gents allemande L 1½ – scoop up neighbor
4,4 Star promenade, butterfly whirl and face next

Carol Kopp of Cleveland, a longtime top caller, wrote this for dancer Marian Hepburn, who has since moved to New Jersey. This use of the star promenade nicely sets up the neighbor swing.

Mary Cay's Reel

Becket

David Kaynor

- A1. 8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, pass through
8 Next neighbor allemande L
- A2. 4,12 Neighbor #1 balance, swing
- B1. 8 Long lines
4,4 Ladies allemande R $\frac{3}{4}$, w/next lady allemande L $\frac{3}{4}$
- B2. 4,12 Partner balance, swing

Written by one contra great for another, pianist/accordion player Mary Cay Brass, both of whom are longtime stalwarts of the thriving Greenfield, MA dance scene. This was revolutionary when introduced in 1987, and it's still popular today. In B1, while the ladies allemande, the gents need to take a step to their L so dancers will be correctly aligned after the partner swing.

Midwest Folklore

Becket

Orace Johnson

- A1. 8 Slide L and circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
8 Neighbor do-si-do
- A2. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- B1. 8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
8 Partner do-si-do
- B2. 4,12 Partner balance, swing

Hailing from Urbana, IL, Orace Johnson was a pillar of the Midwest contra community until his passing in 1991 while contra dancing. This simple dance is as pure as it gets. It also inspired one of the best contra books, Midwest Folklore, a collection of the best dances from the Midwest's best choreographers.

The Nice Combination

Improper

Gene Hubert

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 8 Down hall in line of 4 – turn as a couple
8 Up hall and bend line
- B1. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
10 Partner swing
- B2. 8 Ladies chain to neighbor
8 Star L

Considered by many the best contra ever, this dance has perfect flow and a very modest title. It works well anywhere on a program.

Pearls of Wisdom

Improper

Bob Isaacs

- A1. 8 Neighbor allemande R $1\frac{1}{2}$
8 Gents allemande L $1\frac{1}{2}$
- A2. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B1. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
10 Neighbor swing
- B2. 4,4 Balance, Petronella turn
4,4 Balance, Petronella turn $1\frac{1}{2}$ to face next

Written on December 7, 2002, the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The relative simplicity of this dance makes it a good Petronella dance for a wide variety of audiences. On this second Petronella turn, dancers may want to think twice about clapping twice. The point of this dance is to flow into the allemande R, and clapping not only slows a dancers' momentum, but also puts her/his R hand out of position.

Pedal Pushers

Improper

Bob Dalsemer

- A1. 8 Gents allemande L 1½ – scoop up partner
4,4 Star promenade, butterfly whirl
- A2. 8 Ladies do-si-do (or gypsy)
8 Partner swing – join hands in a ring
- B1. 4,4 Balance, pass through across
8 Single file promenade 3 places
- B2. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing

Formerly of Baltimore and now from Brasstown, NC, Bob Dalsemer is not only a top caller, but also regularly teaches new callers as well. The unique B1/B2 here allows for some flirting before the swing. At the end of the neighbor swing, the gents may anticipate the allemande and finish facing somewhat on the L diagonal, which exposes the lady to being bumped by the next gent in line. The gents need to end the swing with their neighbor secure on the side on the set.

Petronella

Proper

Traditional

- | | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| A1. | 4,4 | 1's turn clockwise to form diamond, balance |
| | 4,4 | Petronella turn, balance |
| A2. | 4,4 | Petronella turn, balance |
| | 4,4 | Petronella turn, balance |
| B1. | 8 | 1's down the center – turn alone |
| | 8 | Return and cast off w/same-sex neighbor |
| B2. | 8 | R and L through |
| | 8 | R and L through |

This chestnut is danced to the tune of the same title. This originally was a Scottish dance (the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society list it as Dance #1 in Book #1) – except that contra dancers have replaced the original pousettes with R and L throughs. To form the diamond in A1, the #1 gent goes into the center below the 2's to face up and the #1 lady stays above the 2's and faces down. Unlike the many contra adaptations, here the balances occur in the second half of the 8-beat phrases.

Poetry in Motion

Improper

Lisa Greenleaf

- A1. 8 Star R
8 W/neighbor #1 allemande R 1 ½
- A2. 6 W/neighbor #2 gypsy L
10 Swing neighbor #1
- B1. 8 Give and take to gent's side
8 Partner swing
- B2. 8 Ladies chain to neighbor
8 Star L

The give and take figure originated from Larry Jennings, the great caller and writer from Boston. End the neighbor swing in shoulder/waist position, take two steps forward, and the gents take their partner's hand and lead her to his side for a swing. Some "hard-to-get" playfulness usually goes along with this. In this dance the figure is a good alternative to circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, and in other dances can go to either side of the set.

This smooth-flowing dance was written by one top caller for the marriage of two other outstanding callers, Linda Leslie and Bob Golder, all of whom are from eastern Massachusetts.

The Reunion

Becket, double progression Gene Hubert

- A1. 8 On L diagonal ladies chain to neighbor
8 Ladies chain across to shadow
- A2. 16 Hey (LR, NL, GR, ShL) – look away to partner
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B2. 6,2 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, pass through
8 W/next circle R $\frac{3}{4}$

An enduring theme in modern contra is dances where partners are separated and then reunited. This 1984 classic set the standard for such dances, and also includes an innovative B2.

Rockin' Robin

Improper

Rick Mohr

- A1. 8 Circle R
4,4 Neighbor allemande L, gents pull by R
- A2. 16 Hey (PL, LR, NL, GR)
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B2. 10 Circle L 1¼
6 W/partner zig L and zag R to meet next

After the circle L, dancers are back where they started. There is plenty of time for the zig and zag, so dancers are encouraged to zig/zag as wide as needed to use it up. Rick Mohr is a prominent caller, choreographer, and Morris dancer from the Boston area.

Roll in the Hey

Improper

Roger Diggle

- | | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------|
| A1. | 8 | Circle L |
| | 8 | Neighbor swing |
| A2. | 6 | Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| | 10 | Partner swing |
| B1. | 8 | Long lines |
| | 8 | Ladies chain to neighbor |
| B2. | 16 | Hey (LR, PL, GR, NL) |

This was the first dance to use the hey/circle transition, and will always be one of the standard hey dances. Roger Diggle, from Madison, WI, is a top caller and choreographer who has written many other fine dances.

Rolling and Tumbling

Improper

Cis Hinkle

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 8 Long lines forward and gents roll neighbor in front
8 Long lines forward and ladies roll neighbor in front
- B1. 8 Ladies allemande R 1½
8 Partner swing
- B2. 8 Ladies chain to neighbor
8 Star L

The dual long lines with a rollaway sets up a nice transition into the ladies allemande. In recent years Atlanta's Cis Hinkle has taken her place as one of the country's top contra and square callers.

Rory O'More

Proper

Traditional

- A1. 8 1's pull by and go below one couple
8 1's cross through center, cast around same-sex neighbor, and form a long wave of 1's in center
- A2. 4,4 Balance R and L, slide/spin R
4,4 Balance L and R, slide/spin L
- B1. 16 1's turn contra corners
- B2. 4,12 1's balance, swing

This chestnut is danced to the tune of the same title. The first wave is formed by the 1's taking R hands with their partner and L hands with a shadow. In the second wave it is L to partner and R to a second shadow. While the active role is as good as contra dancing gets, the extended inactivity for the 2's has unfortunately made this dance less popular among modern contra dancers.

The Second Time Around

Improper

Jim Kitch

- A1. 16 Neighbor gypsy and swing
- A2. 8 Gents allemande L 1½
8 ½ hey (PR, LL, NR, GL)
- B1. 16 Partner gypsy and swing
- B2. 8 Long lines
8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, pass through

The master of the gypsy meltdown into a swing, Jim Kitch of Philadelphia likes writing dances with English Country figures like heys and gypsies.

Scout House Reel

Improper

Ted Sannella

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| A1. | 8 | 1's between 2's down hall in line/4 – turn alone |
| | 8 | Up hall and bend line |
| A2. | 8 | Circle L |
| | 8 | Ladies chain to partner |
| B1. | 8 | Ladies do-si-do 1½ |
| | 8 | Neighbor swing |
| B2. | 8 | Long lines |
| | 8 | 1's swing – face down and pick up next |

This dance honors one of the classic contra dance halls, the Scout House in Concord, MA. In addition to weekend dances there, for a generation on every Monday the house band Yankee Ingenuity has played to a packed house, and shows no signs of letting up. When written in the 70's, the do-si-do 1½ was a new idea; nowadays modern contra dancers twirl on every do-si-do, and some callers feel the need to substitute an allemande R 1½ to keep dancers on time.

Shadrack's Delight

Improper

Tony Parkes

- A1. 8 Neighbor do-si-do 1¼ to wave/4
4,4 Balance, neighbor allemande R ½
- A2. 4,4 Balance, gents allemande L ½
8 Partner swing – face down
- B1. 8 Down hall in line/4 – turn as a couple
8 Up hall and middles cast around ends
- B2. 8 R and L through
8 Ladies chain to neighbor

The wave forms with ladies taking L hands in the center and neighbors taking R hands on the side. Dating from 1969, this is the first dance to use a do-si-do into a wave, a feature copied in many dances since.

Simplicity Swing

Improper

Becky Hill

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
10 Partner swing
- B1. 8 Long lines
8 Ladies chain to neighbor
- B2. 8 Star L
8 New neighbor do-si-do

Cleveland's Becky Hill is as good a combination of caller and choreographer as there is. This dance was designed to be the first dance of an evening, and it may be used for that purpose more than any other dance.

Spring Fever

Improper

Tony Parkes

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| A1. | 8 | Long lines |
| | 8 | Neighbor swing |
| A2. | 8 | Gents allemande L 1½ |
| | 8 | Partner swing |
| B1. | 8 | Circle L |
| | 8 | Star L |
| B2. | 8 | Partner promenade |
| | 8 | Ladies chain to neighbor |

Tony Parkes of Massachusetts has long been one of America's best callers of contras and squares, and this glossary dance is a fine way to start an evening.

Star Trek

Becket

Mike Richardson

- A1. 8 Hands-across star R
- 8 Gents drop out and ladies chain to neighbor

- A2. 16 Hey (LR, PL, GR, NL)

- B1. 4,12 Ladies pass R, partner swing

- B2. 8 Long lines
- 8 Hands-across star R and slide L to next

The star-slide-star sequence is unique to this dance and flows particularly well. The hey is one pass more than a full hey, which must be called separately, but it also fits nicely.

Turning in Turn

Improper

Bob Isaacs

- 1A1. 8 2's between 1's, go up hall in line of 4
8 Turn alone and go back
- 1A2. 8 Bend line and circle L
8 1's ½ figure 8 above 2's
- 1B1. 16 1's turn contra corners
- 1B2. 4,12 1's balance and swing – end facing down
- 2A1. 8 1's between 2's, go down hall in line of 4
8 Turn alone and come back
- 2A2. 8 Bend line and circle L
8 2's ½ figure 8 below 1's
- 2B1. 16 2's turn contra corners
- 2B2. 4,12 2's balance and swing – end facing up

Written in December 1999, this dance is based on two dances; Tamarack Reel by Penn Fix, and, of course, Alternating Corners by Jim Kitch. Average dancers appreciate the symmetry here – unlike Alternating Corners, it indicates who the actives are. It's also easier for the caller to keep track!

Weave the Line

Improper, double progression

Kathy Anderson

- A1. 8 Star L
8 Circle L
- A2. 8 W/partner weave the line past two neighbors
8 Neighbor #3 do-si-do
- B1. 4,12 W/#2 balance, swing
- B2. 8 Long lines
8 1's swing

In the weave the line, couples weave first with ladies passing R shoulders, then gents pass L shoulders with neighbors #2. The hardest part is that after the do-si-do, dancers need to turn around to swing with #2. Kathy Anderson of Dayton, OH is not only one of the very best callers, but as nice a person as you will ever meet.

Weeks on the Road

Becket

Bill Olson

- A1. 8 On L diagonal ladies chain to neighbor
8 ½ hey across (LR, ShL, GR, -)
- A2. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- B1. 8 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
4,4 Balance, California twirl
- B2. 4,12 Partner balance, swing – face on L diagonal

In addition to being a top caller/choreographer, Bill Olson of Maine is the bass player for the band Scrod Pudding, and this dance was written for that band's fiddler, Pam Weeks. This dance features a rare California twirl with a neighbor.

With Thanks to the Dean

Steve Zakon-Anderson

Improper, double progression

- A1. 8 Neighbor allemande L 1½
8 Ladies chain to partner
- A2. 6 Ladies allemande R
10 Partner swing
- B1. 8 Circle L
8 Slide L and w/next circle L ¾
- B2. 8 Neighbor do-si-do
8 Neighbor allemande R 1½

This dance written for the longtime dean of contra dance calling, Ralph Page of New Hampshire, who for many years helped keep contra dancing alive in rural New England in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. It's appropriate he is honored here with one of the best-flowing dances ever written.

You Can't Get There From Here Improper – wave/4 (1)
Carol Ormand

- A1. 4,4 Balance, neighbor allemande R $\frac{3}{4}$ to long waves (2)
 4,4 Balance, neighbor allemande R $\frac{3}{4}$ to wave/4 (3)
- A2. 4,12 Balance, neighbor swing
- B1. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
 10 Partner swing
- B2. 6 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$
 10 Neighbor do-si-do $1\frac{1}{2}$ and step forward to new wave/4

(1) – Wave No.1; with ladies taking L hands and neighbors taking R hands.

(2) – Wave No.2; with neighbors keeping R hands and previous neighbors taking L hands, gents facing in and ladies facing out.

(3) – Wave No.3; with gents taking L hands and neighbors keeping R hands.

In addition to a catchy title, this dance features a variety of waves and dramatically different A's and B's. Now hailing from Springfield, OH, Carol Ormand calls and writes wonderful contras and squares when she isn't working as a geology professor. In B2, callers who consider the do-si-do $1\frac{1}{2}$ awkward can substitute;

- B2. 6,2 Circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, pass through
 10 New neighbor do-si-do $1\frac{1}{4}$ to wave/4

You're Among Friends

Improper

Bob Isaacs

- A1. 8 Star R
8 Neighbor allemande R 1½
- A2. 8 Gents allemande L 1½
8 Partner swing
- B1. 6 Circle L ¾
10 Neighbor swing
- B2. 8 R and L through (or ½ promenade)
8 Star L

This is the L/R inverse of Robert Cromartie's A1's Safeway Produce, with the only difference that long lines forward and back is replaced by the R and L through.

The Zombies of Sugar Hill

Improper

Gene Hubert

- A1. 4,12 Neighbor balance, swing
- A2. 4,2 Circle L $\frac{1}{2}$, w/neighbor slide L
6,4 W/shadow circle L $\frac{3}{4}$, w/neighbor California twirl
- B1. 4,12 Partner balance, swing
- B2. 8 Ladies chain to neighbor
8 Star L

The A2 in this 1985 dance is particularly zesty, and is not suitable for beginners. Even experienced dancers can go too far on the circle L $\frac{1}{2}$. It also contains a rare California twirl with a neighbor. Sugar Hill is one of the best dance weekends, held every August near Bloomington, IN. The Saturday night dance there usually goes all night, and this dance was dedicated to those late-night dancing zombies.