Northern California Spelmanslag Seeks New NCS Newsletter Editor

Can you help? We're searching for a new volunteer Northern California Spelmanslag Newsletter editor. NCS would like to bring more people into the guidance of the organization. This would be a very good place to get first-hand information and impressions of what's going on at NCS and around the area. Curiosity and enthusiasm are of course the first requirements.

The Northern California Spelmanslag (NCS) has published a quarterly newsletter since 1990 to keep musicians, dancers, and members of the Scandinavian community informed regarding regional activities. The newsletter includes news about the Spelmanslag organization and activities, and articles of interest. The newsletter is now electronic only.

If you’re reasonably organized and like talking to people, you could have a lot of fun and help the community with this key activity. Writing is optional! The editor is the organizer and coordinator. The current editor and other board members are available and willing to help. If the idea intrigues you, please contact Linda (perssonlk@aol.com) or Jeanne (jsawyer@sawyerpartnership.com) for more info about what’s involved.

San Francisco Bay Area Scandia Festival
February 13-14, 2016
featuring Swedish dance teachers
Torbjörn and Yvonne
with music by
Sarah Kirton

To simplify Scandia Festival we will limit teaching to dance classes only and not music.

Dancers of all levels are welcome. However, prior knowledge of the fundamentals of Scandinavian couple turning dance is essential for full benefit.

For more information see the festival home page https://sites.google.com/site/scandiafestivalpetalumahome-1 or search for SF Bay Area Scandia Festival.

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Other Upcoming Events in Northern California

**Camp Norge Folkedans Stevne**, Camp Norge, Alta CA. April 8-10, 2016 Details TBA. For more info contact Zena Corcoran zmcorcoran@aol.com or Meg Laycock meg@jstub.com


NCS Annual Report Published

The Northern California Spelmanslag’s Annual Report for the fiscal year 10/1/14-9/30/15 is posted on the NCS Newsletter webpage at: <www.norcalspelmanslag.org/ncsnewsletter.html> as part of the Fall 2015 newsletter.

This report includes the organization’s statement of purpose, a description of our member groups, a list of officers and how to contact them, the year’s financial statement, and a list of the year’s activities. The Northern California Spelmanslag was founded in 1990. This NCS Newsletter goes nationwide and abroad. The Spelmanslag itself serves primarily those in the San Francisco Bay Area and northern California who are interested in Scandinavian Music and Dance.
Peter D’Angelo has volunteered to write a series of articles on his thoughts and observations of Scandinavian music and dance, learning and teachers. Some of them previously appeared in the Berkeley Folk Dancers Bulletin. Welcome, Peter. Here are two more articles.

Frustration
by Peter D’Angelo

This past September we had a new member join us. She obviously had done a lot of Balkan dancing at one time. She wore those thin brown “shoes” with turned up toes I associate with Balkan dancing, shoes that were very popular back in the 60’s and 70’s. She had also obviously not done much Scandinavian dancing as it was very difficult for her. We constantly change partners during the teaching portion of our class. When my turn came to dance with her I would smile and do my best. If I said anything to her it was to try to encourage her. I tried to reassure her that Scandinavian dancing is not intuitive, that given enough time she could learn how to do the dance. I told her that in my case it took me four years to feel comfortable.

Strange as it may sound, I did not find dancing with her frustrating. Indeed, I felt very sympathetic to her plight. My frustration stemmed from my being a male. As a male, I want to fix things. I don’t care what the “thing” is – a house, a car, a dance partner. I wanted to help her and I couldn’t. The fact that I couldn’t I found frustrating.

While I could do the dance, I realized that I didn’t know it well enough to help someone do it. That is understandable when the woman’s part is completely different from the man’s part. I never really pay attention when our teacher Jane Tripi takes the women aside and goes over their part. What I am interested in is when our teacher Frank Tripi takes the men aside and goes over our part. It is less understandable when the men and women’s parts are mirror images or when the women’s part is identical to the men’s.

When I dance with her I once again realize that Scandinavian dancing is not easy. To learn a dance requires a lot of dedication and practice. I also realize that I have not truly mastered the dance until I can help someone do it. I am a much better dancer than I used to be; however I still have a long way to go.

On Being a Teacher
by Peter D’Angelo

I have never taught Scandinavian dancing, or any other kind of dancing. I have taught junior college; I have taught kindergarten. While teaching Scandinavian dancing is somewhat similar to teaching junior college in that you are working with adults, it has much more in common with kindergarten.

In kindergarten you start the school year with some students who can read while others have little or no concept of the alphabet; some students write not only their names but also complete sentences while other students have problems holding a pencil.

In a Scandinavian dance class you have students who know the dances as well as the instructor while a few students have problems with motor skills. The art of teaching whether in kindergarten or Scandinavian dancing is to make those who don’t need instruction comfortable and interested while comforting those who have problems; to engage those who don’t need encouragement while encouraging those who are discouraged so they don’t drop out.

The majority of Scandinavian dancers have no problems doing a two measure (6 step) bakmes. To keep them engaged you have to work on fine details such as a slight hesitation or pause on step 4 of the men’s bakmes in Rorospols. With some of the more challenged students you are happy if they get around in time with the music.

In our dance group there is a half-hour “workshop” before class starts. I remember when my wife and I were just starting; at our request we spent the half hour “workshop” working on pivots. Very patiently our teacher, Jane Tripi, went over and over the same step. Little by little we improved. Going over this step during class would have bored most people; the “workshop” was just what we needed.

(continued on page 4)
Teaching whether it is Scandinavian or kindergarten can be discouraging, and frustrating. You may think that you have your lesson planned out and what seems perfectly reasonable to you, until your students don’t get it. At the same time it can be rewarding as you see people grow and begin to change – the kindergartner who finally learns to hold the pencil and write his or her name; the Scandinavian dancer who can do pivots without spiraling in.

Another similarity between teaching kindergarten and Scandinavian dancing is the end product. When you finish the year with kindergartners you have just finished the first step in a seventeen year process that ends in graduating from college. Over the coming years you may bump into your students in the play yard or hallways and be able to see them grow. Likewise in teaching Scandinavian dancing you hope to see your students over a number of years and watch them develop. In both cases it is a very rewarding experience.

As an aside, it is much easier to teach junior college than kindergarten.

*Thank you, Peter.*

*More articles by Peter D’Angelo will appear in subsequent issues.*
...And a good time was had by all!

This space is to be available to attendees at any Scandinavian music or dance event who would like to comment on their experiences. As an introduction several people directly involved with their events have been asked to comment. The idea is to learn what other participants have "taken home": dances learned, music, cultural insights, fond memories. There will be an outline of suggested topics for these comments posted on the NCS website soon.

Camp Norge Folkdans Stevne Fall 2015
held at Camp Norge, Alta CA
sponsored by Nordahl Grieg Leikkaring og Spelemanslag

Mikkel Thompson assisted by Zena Cocoran taught Jolster springer and Fandango frå Stor-Alven (Auslandet) and reviewed other dances. Mikkel also taught a torader (2 row button accordion) workshop. Toby Weinberg played for teaching and taught fiddle and seljefloiet workshops.

Musicians for parties:
Toby Weinberg - hardingfele, seljefloiet, fiddle
Mikkel Thompson- torader (two-row squeeze box)
Fred Bialy - fiddle and nyckelharpa
Jim Little- fiddle and sackpipa
Gail Halvorsen - torader and nyckelharpa
Ellen Moilanen singing some beautiful Valdres springer

A Brief Review of Southern California Scandia Festival 2015 (Julian) by Jim Little & Linda Persson

We had a great time. Good teaching, good parties and music, good food, mostly good mild weather, (It snowed Thursday night.)

Dance classes:

Berit B and Jens H taught dances from Föllinge, building on dance skills learned with one dance to approach the next:
Gammal Annerssa Schottis
Gammalpolska
Hambopolska
Hyfs
Jås’n
Löuvnässchottis
Norskleitjen
Rupolska
Shlakapolska
Åtabakspolska

Inger K with the assistance of Berit and Jens taught Gammalvänster från Öviken

Fiddle classes

Ulf A taught
Polska från Haverö (after one of the Lång brothers)
Polska efter Oskar Hyttsten efter Erik Larsa
Polska från Haverö efter Per Jonas Lång (SvL 142)
Åtataktern - Polska efter Kristian Oskarsson

Mats A taught
Polska av Gustav i Backen
Polska efter Olle Falk
Polska efter Sellberg
Schottis efter Pe Ersa

.........................................................
Scandinavian Dance Parties
in Oakland

Nature Friends Clubhouse


Dance teaching: 7:30 - 8:10 pm
Dance with live music, 8:15 -10:50 pm
Musicians encouraged to play in the allspel!

Cost: $7.00. For less than the price of a movie you can enjoy an evening of music and dance amongst new and old friends! Feel free to bring snacks.

3115 Butters Dr., Oakland, CA 94602. From Highway 13 take the Joaquin Miller exit. Drive East (up the hill) on Joaquin Miller about a mile. Take the second Right onto Butters Drive. Follow Butters 0.4 mile. On the Right is a sign reading SCANDIADANS (3115 on a post also). Turn into the driveway and go down into a large parking area.
The clubhouse is just ahead on the Right.

Contact: Frank Tripi or Jane Tripi
(510)654-3636, <fjtripi@juno.com>.

Scandiadans
Thursdays, in the hills of Oakland

New season started Thursday, September 4. Frank and Jane are very encouraging and helpful teachers! They have been teaching this class for many years. If you have some dance experience or are fairly well co-ordinated, this class will work for you.
Every Thursday, new dance is taught and old ones reviewed. The cost is 3.00 per class. Thursdays, 7 - 10 pm.

Oakland Nature Friends Clubhouse,
3115 Butters Dr., Oakland, CA, 94602. See above article for directions. Contact: Jane Tripi or Frank Tripi at (510)654 - 3636, <fjtripi@juno.com>.

South Bay
Monthly Dance
“1st Saturday Dance” and Teaching Session


Contribution: $8.00 for dances. The teaching session is the hour before the dance party, from 7:30-8:30. Jan. 2 party is our holiday party: No teaching, starts at 8 pm. Everyone is welcome! It's also an opportunity for teachers, experienced, and otherwise! All musicians are welcome to play in the allspel or have your own set.
Talk to Jeanne to get a time slot. Our regular place is St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, California 94025. Check for current month’s venue online or: Contact: Jeanne or Henry, (408)929-5602, <jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com>, <http://sites.google.com/site/nordicfootnotes>, or Linda or Jim, (650)323-2256. Sponsored by Nordic Footnotes, and Northern California Spelmanslag, non-profit organizations.

Nordic Footnotes Website
Nordic Footnotes, aka the Friday Fiddle Group, aka the 1st Saturday Scandinavian dance, has a website:
<http://sites.google.com/site/nordicfootnotes/>. You can link to it from our parent organization, the Northern California Spelmanslag, <http://norcalspelmanslag.org/>.

Find out what dance is being taught at the regular 1st Saturday dances, get details about special events; get directions and meeting places.

Get the active tune list that we chose from for the dance. Find links to the sheet music for those tunes. Musicians are welcome to join us at our regular Friday rehearsals, as well as to play with us for dancing at the first Saturday dance parties. We’re fiddle/nyckelharpa oriented, but all instruments/levels welcome.
Tuesdays in Petaluma
Scandia Dance Class
We meet Tuesdays from 7:15 to 9:15pm at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. We encourage anyone interested in Scandinavian dancing to come, beginners especially. No partner needed.

The teaching is by Vince Taylor and Emma Charlebois. Dave Charlebois will also be teaching when Vince is not able to. We will meet with only a few breaks when we’re all out of town.

Contact: Vincent Taylor, <vtglass@vom.com>, <www.vtglass.net>, (707) 996-8300.

Scandi-Dance
Santa Cruz Scandinavian Dance
Dance an evening of mixers, couple, and figure dances from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Most dances require leather or smooth-soled shoes for easy turning.

Newcomers are welcome, as well as experienced dancers.
Instructor: Ellen Moilanen. We meet on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of each month from 7:30 to 10:00pm at: Market Street Theater/SCO Clubhouse, 222 Market St., Santa Cruz, CA.
Contact: Michael or Ellen at <mikelblock@gmail.com>
(831)336-9972, or visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/scandsantacruz>.
Scandinavian Music and Dance Internet Sites

Northern California Spelmanslag:
  http://www.norcalspelmanslag.org/
Nordic Footnotes, South Bay Area, California :
  https://sites.google.com/site/nordicfootnotes/
Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelemannslag:
  http://www.ngls.net/
Scandi Dance, Santa Cruz:
  https://sites.google.com/site/scandsantacruz/
Sacramento, California Area:
  http://www.folkdance.com/scandi/
Scandia Camp Mendocino:
  http://www.scandiacampmendocino.org
Los Angeles area Scandinavian Dance & Music:
  http://www.dancin-fool.com/scandia.html
American Nyckelharpa Association:
  http://www.nyckelharpa.org/
Austin Scandinavian Dancing:
  http://www.austinscandi.org/
Bellingham and Burlington, WA:
  http://www.nordicdancersnw.org/
Bethesda MD, Scandinavian Dance Classes:
  http://www.hambodc.org/
Blue Rose, Karen Myers’s Scandinavian WebSite:
  http://www.bluerose.karenmyers.org/
Hardangar Fiddle Association of America:
  http://www.hfaa.org/
Ingevalds Spelmän- Lawrence, Kansas:
  http://ingevald.wordpress.com/
Listserv, Scandinavian “Scand Digest”:
  http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/scand/
Mid-Atlantic Norwegian Dancers:
  http://mand.fanitull.org/

Nattergal Scandinavian Folk Music Band SF Bay Area
  http://www.Nattergal.org
Nisswastämman Scandinavian folk Music Festival:
  http://www.nisswastamman.org/
Nordic Fiddles & Feet Camp:
  http://www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org/
Nordic FolkDance Society of Calgary:
  http://nordiefolkdance.ca/
Norsk Folkedans Stemne in Washington State
  http://www.seattlestemme.org/
Portland Scandinavian dancing, Norske Runddansere:
  Oregon:  http://www.norskerunddansere.org/
Salt Lake Scandi Dance
  http://www.saltlakescandidance.org/
Scandia D.C., Washington D.C.:
  http://www.scandiadc.org/
Seattle, The Skandia Folkdance Society:
  http://www.skandia-folkdance.org/
Speledans: Boston's Scandinavian Dance Group:
  http://jc.tzo.net/speledans/
St. Louis Spelmannslag
  http://www.folkfire.org/groups.cgi?Category=Music
Twin Cities Hardingfelelag:
  http://www.tchardingfelelag.org/
Vancouver B.C., Scandinavian Dancers of Vancouver:
  http://www.vcn.bc.ca/scandi/welcome.html

Dance videos:
  http://www.nordicdancersnw.org/
  http://www.acla.se/kultisdans/dansvideo.htm
  http://dansglad.se/en/

Munte Music, A blog and weekly audio show:
  http://multemusic.com/

Tune names /sheet music
  http://www.folktunefinder.com/
  http://www.folkwiki.se/
Calendar Regular Events — Northern California

Mondays  Weekly  **Sacramento. Scandinavian Dance Class.** Look for this season’s details on the website. 7:00-9:30pm. Contact Marida Martin: (916)358-2807, or: <http://www.folkdance.com/scandi/>.

Tuesdays  Weekly  **Petaluma Scandia Dance Class.** Tuesdays from 7:15 to 9:15pm. At Hermann Sons Hall. We encourage anyone interested in Scandinavian dancing to come, beginners especially. No partner needed. The teaching is by Vince Taylor and Emma Charlebois. Contact: Vincent Taylor, <vtglass@vom.com>, (707) 996-8300.

Tuesdays  Weekly  **El Cerrito. Weekly Scandinavian Session for Fiddlers and Nyckelharpers.** 8 - 10:30pm at the home of Fred Bialy and Toby Blomé, 1925 Hudson Street. Mostly on Tuesdays. Contact ahead of time for updated schedule of gatherings or to be put on Fred's list. Contact: Fred or Toby, (510)215- 5974, <bialy10@comcast.net>.

Wednesday Weekly  **Mountain View. Nordahl Greg Leikarring dance class and performance group.** Everyone welcome. Masonic Hall, 980 Church St., 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Contact: Anne Huberman or Greg Goodhue: (408)259-9959.  <http://www.ngls.net>, <goodhue@hotmail.com>.

Thursdays Weekly  **Oakland. Scandiadans.** Teaching and open dancing, 7 - 10 pm. New season started Thursday, September 4. At Oakland Nature Friends, 3115 Butters Dr. Contact: Jane Tripi or Frank Tripi at: (510)654-3636, <fjtripi@juno.com>.

Fridays Weekly  **Mountain View. Scandinavian Fiddle Session.** 7:30 - 9:30 pm, often at Anita Siegel's, but location varies. Contact: Jeanne Sawyer, (408)929-5602, <jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com>, <http://sites.google.com/site/nordicfootnotes/>.

1st, 3rd, 5th Mondays  **Santa Cruz. Scandinavian Folk Dance Class.** 7:30 — 10pm. Market Street Theater/SCO Clubhouse, 222 Market Street, Santa Cruz, 95060. Instruction in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and Finnish folk dance by Ellen Moilanen. $5/session. Everyone welcome. Contact: Michael or Ellen at <mikelblock@gmail.com>,(831)336-9972, or <https://sites.google.com/site/scandsantacruz/>.

1st Fridays  Monthly  **Santa Cruz. Cultural Evenings.** Usually at Viking Hall, Plymouth, at Button St., Santa Cruz. 7:30 pm. Contact: Michael or Ellen: (831)336-9972, <mikelblock@gmail.com>, or <http://www.scc-santacruz.org/>.

1st Saturdays  Monthly  **Menlo Park. Nordic Footnotes 1st Saturday Scandinavian Dance Party.** 7:30 p.m. -12:00. Next few dances: Jan 2 (Holiday Party, no teaching, starts at 8 pm), Feb 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, 2016. For directions, email <NordicFN@gmail.com>. There is a teaching session before the dance party, from 7:30-8:30. Our regular place is St. Bede's Episcopal Church , 2650 Sand Hill Road, 94025. Always check for the current dance location! Cost: $8. Contact: Jeanne or Henry, (408)929-5602 <jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com>; <http://sites.google.com/site/nordicfootnotes/>.

2nd Sundays  Monthly  **Los Gatos. Barneleikkaring.** (Children's Norwegian Dance) classes, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, at Nordahl Hall, 580 W. Parr Ave. Both location and day may change, so call ahead! Contact: Ginny Hansen (408)745-1595.
Calendar, Special Events — Northern California

February 13-14, 2016
San Francisco Bay Area Scandia Festival, Albany CA. Featuring Torbjörn and Yvonne as dance teachers. There will be no music instruction. For more information and registration see https://sites.google.com/site/scandiafestivalpetaluma/home-1

April 8-10, 2016
Camp Norge Folkedans Stevne, Alta CA. Teachers TBA. For more info see http://ngls.net or contact zmcorcoran@aol.com

June 11-18, 2016
Scandia Camp Mendocino, Mendocino CA. Dance & Music from Hallingdal, Norway and Dance & Music from Sweden. For more info and registration see www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org
The Northern California Spelmanslag News has gone paperless. The newsletter is available on the NCS website.

You can sign up to get e-mail notification of the newest NCS Newsletter. If you do, you will get an email stating that the newest issue is ready to view on the website. The email list is only intended only for sending out notifications that a new edition of the newsletter is available at a link to be included in the message.

If you wish to be notified of new online editions, please fill out the form on page 13 and send in, or email your request to: <webmaster@norcalspelmanslag.org>. Jim Little is our webmaster and moderator.

The PDF version of the newsletter can be viewed online, or it can be downloaded to your PC or MAC for later viewing and/or printing. You will find it at our website: <www.norcalspelmanslag.org/ncsnewsletter.html>.

Calendar, Special Events — United States
January 28-31, 2016
Ski Dance Weekend, Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee VT. Workshops will feature dances from Telemark and Numedal and music from Telemark and Valdres. Dance parties will include sets with music from Telemark, Numedal and Valdres, traditional Gammaldans and music from Sweden. For more information and registration see http://skidance.us

March 18-20, 2016
Spring Scandinavian Music & Dance Weekend, Folklore Village, Dodgeville, Wisconsin
See: http://folklorevillage.com/t1/calendar for more info.

March 25-27, 2016
Boulder Scandinavian Dancers Music and Dance Weekend featuring Slångpolska from Southern Sweden.
Contact Sheila Morris (303) 469-2484 or spmorris@ecentral.com for more information and application.

April 29-May 1, 2016
Spring Springar Spree, Takoma Park, MD. See: http://mand.fanitull.org/

May 13-16, 2016
Springdans Northwest (Seabeck, WA) Info and Application at www.skandia-folkdance.org. The May dates are for 2016 only.

June 10-11, 2016
Annual Nisswa-stamman, Nisswa, MN. See: www.nisswastamman.org

June 26-July 3, 2016
Nordic Fiddles and Feet, Camp Ogontz, Littleton NH. www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org/

July 21-24, 2016
HFAA Annual Meeting, Folklore Village, Dodgeville WI. www.hfaa.org
Northern California Spelmanslag Email Form

Name(s) and Address:

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

Phones  ________________________________________________________________

Email  ____________________________________________

☐ musician, ☐ dancer, ☐ audience ...

To Receive the quarterly newsletter: Notification of a new newsletter edition is sent by email. You will receive an email with a link to the newsletter when a new edition is available.

Donation: Your tax-deductible donation helps the Spelmanslag bring over instructors from Scandinavia. It also covers the cost of publishing and mailing fliers. Any amount you can contribute is greatly appreciated! Donation is not necessary to receive the newsletter.

☐ $15.00 ☐ $25.00 ☐ Other amount _________

Please make checks payable to Northern California Spelmanslag. Thank you very much!

Send to: Northern California Spelmanslag, 560 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto CA 94301-3224

You may also send the information on this page to: webmaster@norcalspelmanslag.org.
See our web page at: <www.norcalspelmanslag.org>.