Southern California Skandia Festival

Nov. 25-28

Inger Birgit Larsen and Tor Magne Tangen
Dance Teachers

Marit Larsen Westling
Thomas Westling
Karin Loberg Code
staff musicians and music teachers

The Southern California Skandia Festival, which occurs over Thanksgiving weekend near Julian, California, will be presenting dances from eastern Norway this year, including Runnom, Elverumspols, and Rendalspolsk. The dance teachers will be Inger Birgit Larsen and Tor Magne Tangen, who have been teaching together for ten years. They are both from Hedmark County where they lead and teach several of the local dance groups.

Inger Birgit has been a judge for the national dance competition, the Landskappleik, and several district competitions. She has taught Norwegian dance since 1969, and in recent years has taught mostly the regional dances (bygdedans), turning dances (runddans), and a few of the figure dances (turdans).

Teaching fiddlers and playing for dancing will be Thomas and Marit Westling. This duo has become well-known among folk music experts, and bring a rich background in both Swedish and Norwegian music. Thomas Westling is from Bollnäs in Sweden, where he grew up in a musical family. (His father is one of Sweden’s best known musicians.) In 1999 he was awarded the coveted title ”Riksspelman” (or Master of Swedish Folk Music) which is the highest award a Swedish fiddler can attain, just 30 years after his father.

Marit Larsen Westling is from Hamar, Norway. She is also from a musical family, (and is daughter of Inger Birgit) and has a Masters Degree from the Norwegian Academy of Music. She has also been awarded a bronze Zorn Spelmansmärke from Sweden. Thomas and Marit met each other in the United States in 1997 and since have worked to learn each others music traditions, making them a very attractive pair for dancers. They both are actively involved in teaching young fiddle groups. They also have recorded CDs which feature some of both their Norwegian and Swedish traditions.

Karin Loberg Code will return to Julian this year to play hardingfele for springar dancing at the evening parties, and will teach hardingfele students. She has been a lifelong string player. She began intense study of the hardingfele in 1990 and soon traveled to Norway. Today Karin is a respected dance fiddler who has lived two years in Norway, playing weekly for dance groups in Oslo and meeting with master fiddlers. As an American fiddler, she has been on staff, along with Norwegian-born artists, at numerous festivals and workshops in the US and at Folk Music Week in Hallingdal, Norway. Her first CD, Norsk Spring Dance, is widely used in this country and in Norway for folk dance accompaniment.

The festival is held at Cedar Glen Camp. The camp facilities include cabins that house varying numbers of people and a large dining and dance hall with a very good wood floor. Most people arrive Thursday late afternoon or evening. Workshops begin Friday morning

(Continued on page 2)
after breakfast and the festival concludes Sunday after lunch. The evenings usually include some entertainment and culture, as well as dance parties as late as the dancers and fiddlers have energy. This year will be the 24th festival at Cedar Glen.

Festival Fee: $310.00.
Contact: Ted Martin, <tedmart@juno.com>, (714)893-8888, 13391 Danvers Way, Westminster, CA, 92683, Darlene Martin, (562)732-4990, <darlene.l.martin@gmail.com>, 5140 Keynote St., Long Beach, CA, 90808

Andströms

Be on the Lookout!

The need to make music is a serious addiction! Andströms has a very bad case of polska obsession—and they’re coming our way. You may already know them individually as they’ve all been to the Bay area before. Andströms is Mats, Ulf, and Nils Andersson plus Anders Hällström.

Andströms’ music is the traditional dance music of northern and central Sweden, mainly from the provinces of Jämtland, Medelpad, and Norrbotten. The music is lively, intricate, and just plain fun to hear and dance to. Their instrumentation is two or three fiddles, bass, and sometimes accordion.

Andströms is coming to the Bay area in late February/early March. They’ll start their tour at the Scandia Festival in Petaluma (Feb. 18-20) and end with a day of workshops followed by a mini-concert and dance party on March 5 in Palo Alto (1st Saturday). In between, will be a variety of house concerts and other events. Details are TBD, so watch for announcements.

If you want to sponsor something, contact Jeanne Sawyer, <jsawyer@sawyerpartnership.com> as she’s booking their tour.

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’s being taught at the regular 1st Saturday dances, get the details about special events; get directions/maps if you’re not sure where we’re meeting, etc.

For musicians, you can get the active tune list that we chose from for the dance, and 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.
A Fiddler's First Time Experiences at Scandia Camp Mendocino

– So I went away to what seemed to be a far corner of the earth, to spend a week with people who share a passion for Scandinavian folk music and dance. When it was nearly over, the editors, asked me to tell of my experiences as a first time participant.

Although I write this anonymously, the other participants will certainly recognize me – a 63 year old male, a still-aspiring fiddler, and a non-dancer (so far).

History: How I got to the right place at the right time –

I have been playing American folk music all of my adult life. I got hooked on Norwegian-American gammeldans music in 2003.

In 2006 I recognized that bygdedans tunes might be in my future. A Tom Paley album that I listened to on a long drive back to from a distant house concert of his is what hooked me. I recognized a cover of “Hjortingen's” which I knew from the Björn Ståbi/Ole Hjorth album of 35 years earlier. That earlier album was one I had revisited every couple of years, never imagining that I would ever understand or even play fiddle rhythms like that.

In 2008, Steinar Johansen brought up “Steffa Leken” at a workshop. I recognized this Røros pols from the Paley album, and it kind of fell together. Steinar taught the tune in C on a two-row accordion. A month later, when I got together with my friends who had also attended the workshop, I tuned my fiddle down a whole step and fingered the tune in D – the music was actually coming out in C. My friend Tom, who had been struggling with it on the fiddle, playing from the page, in C, paused in amazement. I had to explain to him what I was doing, and that I had already been familiar with the tune when Steinar brought it, and no, I did not walk on water, either. I think this event was my arrival to playing bygdedans. From that point, I started to stretch for more repertoire.

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Back to the present - when I saw that Björn Ståbi was teaching here this year, I decided that Scandia Camp Mendocino would be my fiddle camp this summer. I was curious as to what Björn was up to now, but I also knew that I would be satisfied if he just showed the tunes that I heard 40 years ago, at that Saturday afternoon Newport Folk Festival workshop.

And I recognized that this time, I would make better sense of what Ståbi was playing and maybe even play those reasonably well myself.

My experiences at camp this year –

Johan Nylander was also teaching, but I did not know of what Johan was about until he showed up for class. We got about a half-dozen great tunes from Johan. Rättviks tunes. But also for me, what will be quite noteworthy, is coming to understand a technique of double stops that I sometimes hear in fiddling, but until now have glossed over because it was beyond what I was doing. Johan showed me (us) what was going on. I am delighted to have added that to my palette.

What I took away from Björn's classes, besides a dozen and a half great Orsa tunes, was a good foundation and understanding of Orsa fiddling, and that style's lineage.

I also took home a short stack of CD's. Listening to them, and in hearing three different renditions of Orsa “Systerpolska Nr. 1,” I recognized that the rhythm that I had been playing in “Steffa Leken” was just what was going in in that Orsa polska. I had absorbed the rhythm, although not consciously, over 30 years, from Björn's playing on that folk fiddling from Sweden album. Yes, I was playing Røros pols different from most others, but I may have been applying the folk process out here in California.

Also important to me was that Björn gave us permission to not be so rigid, both in bowing and in ornaments.

My third “course” was the Allspel sessions. These comprised daily one hour's review in class, then practicing on my cabin's porch during the free hour, and finally playing about 8 tunes for the dancers in the evening.

The allspel was led by Peter Michaelsen, not only a capable leader, but a great player and teacher. He brings a huge number of tunes – and and one could say he knows how to use them.

The tunes that Peter chose for the group were based on dance requests submitted by the dancers on the previous night. In the packet of notes that was handed

(Continued on page 4)
out at camp check-in was a page listing 147 different dances, named from 16 different regions, plus “Other.” This list served as a reminder to the dancers, something like a menu from which to make requests. Based on the previous night's requests, Peter chose tunes from the allspel packet that would work for those dances. The packet was substantial, 177 tunes assembled over 10 years. Peter also chose a few other tunes not in the packet, pulled out ad hoc. When I first saw this list of dances, I asked, “How many ways are there to promenade then turn, really?” But the other night, at a fiddle jam, there was a list of tunes that matched in number the dance list, so I can no longer be surprised at such counts.

Even though the allspel is billed as “All Instruments Welcome,” the nyckelharpe players who showed up for practice seemed to have been left behind in the dust, and with one or two exceptions dropped out for all but a very few tunes. Instruments tuned for just intonation in G and D, may be noticeably different when playing in A.

I think in the future, some gammeldans tunes might be welcome by a few of the musicians for the allspel. But I also recognize that quite a number of folks traveled 1000 miles or more for bygdedansar.

The large number of tunes here forced me into a new approach to learning and playing. I do not read printed music in real time, and my preferred method of learning is an aural one.

I already had the melodies of a not small fraction of the tunes in my head, from having listened to a lot of music while driving. Consequently, I was able to fake my way along with those tunes without killing the music.

It was nice to find that many of the tunes that had been “on my list” to work up (aurally), that those tunes had printed transcriptions in the packet, and that with that information I did ok. And my process of really finishing these tunes will go quicker with the printed transcriptions.

The second technique that having to deal with a large number of tunes drew from me was one of my making the best of reading from the page. I found it pretty easy to identify a key note or two in each measure. Those notes stand out either in their duration or their pitch or being in an important location in a phrase or by virtue of their being on the down beat. For those, I was able to play along with the skeleton of the tune. Further, by the middle of the week I was getting a good feel for the some ornaments in each individual tune.

As I reflect on the allspel repertoire, four weeks later, I realize that the allspel experience broadened my repertoire with many delicious tunes that will keep me in good music for decades to come. I am grateful to Peter and to all the others who came before him for opening this repertoire up to me.

So I came home with lots and lots of tunes, most of which I like. And I realize it will take a good deal of practice to finish working them all up by next year. And I'll have a great time trying to do that.

Other aspects –

Eighty great folks to spend a week with. And I likely started new friendships for years to come. There was decent weather for the coast. Very good food. Bitter coffee. On Wednesday night, I got started dancing some easy ones, prompted in turn by two of the best dance teachers from America's heartland, as well as by some bay area friends. Also one evening, Laurel, a good guitarist and very fine singer, got started playing rhythm for three new (for her) gånglåtar that I showed her. Who would have imagined Swedish rhythms from a flat top guitar?

One of the new CD's that I brought home was of fiddle and keyed accordion duets, bygdedansar tunes. I have already stared to work a couple of those up with my gammeldans music partner Jan. This, for the first time, is moving Jan into the bygdedansar repertoire.

I was touched by the generosity and spirit of the auction participants. And it seemed that most of the folks who were not on work-scholarship still volunteered for dozens of odd jobs making the camp run smoothly and making it such a wonderful experience.

It was a great week! And thanks to all!

Dance teacher Brit Totland

Dance teacher Knut Arne Jacobsen

Nyckelharpa class with teacher Cajsa Ekstav.
Dance teachers Brit-Mari Dahlgren Westholm and Bengt Mård

Fiddle teachers Johan Nylander, Björn Ståbi with allspell.

Singers led by Cajsa Ekstav.

Tore Bolstad, hardingfele

Dance all night!
Scandia Camp Mendocino
June, 2010
Review

Valdresspringar Dance taught by Brit Berthelsen and Knut Arne Jacobsen, music by Tore Bolstad

Dances from Dalarna taught by Britt-Marie Dalhgren Westholm and Bengt Mård, music by Johan Nylander and Björn Ståbi

Bingsjö polskor
Orsa polska
Boda polska
Polska fr. Rättvik
Polska I turer fr. Idre
Sväv fr. Bergslagen

Nine Songs were taught by Knute Arne Jacobsen

Twenty one Songs were taught by Caisa Ekstav

Fiddle tunes taught by Björn Ståbi

Polska e.Bleckå och Gulis Erik
Hårgalåten e. Bleckå
Brudhisståt
Vals e. Dalfors, Ore
Långton polska av Lars Hökpers, Dalaflooda
Lorich’s polska e. Lorns Anders, Orsa, #1
Lorich’s polska e. Lorns Anders, Orsa, #2
Lorich’s polska e. Lorns Anders, Orsa, #3
Mariannas vals av Björn Ståbi (to daughter of Pers Hans)
Polska e. Minu Per
Mors Vals av Lars Hökpers
Måndagsläten, Långdans, with Våmhus, Långdans
Orbergs-Kerstis polska
Storpolaska e. Björn Ståbi e Gössa Anders
Tyska Polskan Schottis
Vallåtstoner e Gössa Anders

Fiddle tunes taught by Johan Nylander

Schottis e. Cykelreparatör Holm e. Nils Agenmark
Polska til Elise av Johan Nylander (to his daughter)
Gamla Orsa brudmarsch e. Maklins Anders e.
Gössa Anders
Pillesnutten polska e. Pekkos Gusta
Rättviks Polska e.. Peters Erik

Hardingfele tunes taught by Loretta Kelly

Vera Lauskar Valdresspringar
Ola Bøe Nr. 2 Valdresspringar
Pols av Bernt Jakobsen
Ore Vals

Hardingfele tunes taught by Tore Bolstad

Valdresspringar
Rull
Springar

Nyckelharpa tunes taught by Caisa Ekstav

Österbypolska e. Gubbo-Alan
Isbrytar’n e. Byss-Calle
Storres Schottis av Sture Sahls
Brudmarsch fr. Ärentuna
Polska e. Lump-Janne
Mördar Cajas polska av Olov Johansson
Västergarnspolskan
Vångshus Vals

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


The teaching session is the hour before the dance party, from 7:30-8:30. 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 new regular place is St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, California 94025.

Contact: Jeanne or Henry. (408)929-5602, <jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com>, Linda or Jim, (650)323-2256, <http://sites.google.com/site/nordicfootnotes>, Sarah, (650)968-3126, <sarah.kirton@sbcglobal.net>

Sponsored by Nordic Footnotes, and Northern California Spelmanslag, non-profit organizations.
Scandinavian Dance Class
Sacramento

Scandinavian Folk Dancing is taught in the greater Sacramento area in six week sessions. The classes cover basic and some intermediate level dances, as well as good dance technique. Advanced dances may be requested during the request period. No previous experience is required. Singles & couples are welcome.

In Sacramento—Monday evenings starting September 13th, 7:00—9:00 pm, at the Hamilton Street Park Community Center, 4855 Hamilton Street, Sacramento, CA 95841. (916) 482-8377.
Cost is $36 for six classes or $7.00 each for punch cards. Punch cards are available for two or four class options. For online registration visit the Arcade Creek Recreation & Park District at: <www.arcadecreekrecreation.com>.

Bring smooth soled shoes; low heels with arch support are best. For men, a broken-in pair of leather dress shoes with a smooth sole works well. For women, a sturdy leather shoe with a low heel and smooth sole will work. Avoid wearing shoes with all-rubber soles, as they don't allow for easy turning.

Scandinavian Dance Class
Oakland

New season starts September 2nd! Start at the beginning and come regularly!

Frank and Jane are very encouraging and helpful teachers! They have been teaching this class for many years. Every Thursday, one new dance is taught and old ones reviewed. The cost is $3.00 per class.

Thursdays, 7 - 10 pm.
Oakland Nature Friends Center,
3115 Butters Dr., Oakland, CA.

Take Hwy 13 to Joaquin Miller Rd, go east (up the hill) ~ 1/2 mile, second right onto Butters Dr., go another 1/2 mile. On the right, look for post with 3115 on it (also “Scandiadans” sign). Take driveway down to a large parking area. Contact: Jane Tripi or Frank Tripi at (510)654-3636, <fjtripi@juno.com>.

Scandinavian Dance Parties
in Oakland

Nature Friends Clubhouse

Second Saturday dance schedule for 2010:
October 9 and December 18.
Check closer to the date to confirm these are accurate.

Dance teaching: 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Dance with live music, 8:30 -11:00 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.

Directions to 3115 Butters Dr., Oakland, CA, see “Scandiadans” column on page 6.
Contact: Jane Tripi at (510)654-3636, <fjtripi@juno.com>, or Brooke Babcock (415)334-3455, <forbrooke@juno.com>.
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.
## Calendar Regular Events — Northern California

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location/Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td><strong>Scandinavian Dance Class, Sacramento</strong></td>
<td>Six week sessions. 7 - 9:30pm. Hamilton Street Park Community Center, Hamilton Street, Sacramento, CA 95841. Contact Marida Martin: (916)358-2807, or <a href="http://www.folkdance.com/scandi/">http://www.folkdance.com/scandi/</a>.</td>
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<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td><strong>Scandia Dance Class</strong></td>
<td>Tuesdays from 7:15 to 9:15pm. Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. The teaching is by Vince Taylor and Emma Charlebois. Contact: Vincent Taylor, <a href="mailto:vtglass@vom.com">vtglass@vom.com</a>, &lt;www.vtglass.net&gt;, (707) 996-8300.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td><strong>Weekly Scandinavian Session for Fiddlers and Nyckelharps</strong></td>
<td>8 - 10:30pm at the home of Fred Bialy and Toby Blomé, 1925 Hudson Street, El Cerrito. 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, <a href="mailto:bialy10@comcast.net">bialy10@comcast.net</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td><strong>Nordahl Grieg Leikarring dance class and performance group</strong></td>
<td>Everyone welcome. Masonic Hall, 980 Church St., Mountain View, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Contact: Anne Huberman or Greg Goodhue: (408)259-9959,408-259-9959, <a href="http://www.ngls.net">http://www.ngls.net</a>, <a href="mailto:goodhue@hotmail.com">goodhue@hotmail.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td><strong>Scandiadans</strong></td>
<td>Teaching and open dancing, 7 - 10 pm, at Oakland Nature Friends, 3115 Butters Dr., Oakland, CA. Hwy 13 to Joaquin Miller Rd, east (up the hill), second right onto Butters Dr., go about 1/2 mile. On the right, look for post with 3115 on it (also “Scandiadans” sign). Take driveway down to a large parking area. Contact: Jane Tripi or Frank Tripi at (510)654-3636, <a href="mailto:fjtripi@juno.com">fjtripi@juno.com</a>.</td>
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<td>Fridays</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td><strong>Scandinavian Fiddle Class</strong></td>
<td>7:30 - 9:30 pm, often at Anita Siegel's, but location varies. Ask to be on class email list. Contact: Jeanne Sawyer, (408)929-5602, <a href="mailto:jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com">jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st, 3rd, 5th Mondays</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td><strong>Scandinavian Folk Dance Class</strong></td>
<td>Santa Cruz, 7:30 pm, Market Street Theater/SCO Clubhouse, 222 Market Street, Santa Cruz CA. Instruction in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and Finnish folk dance by Ellen Moilanen. $5/session. Everyone welcome. Contact: <a href="http://sites.google.com/site/scandsantacruz/">http://sites.google.com/site/scandsantacruz/</a> or call Ellen M. at 831(336) 9972, or <a href="mailto:moilanen@pacbell.net">moilanen@pacbell.net</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Fridays</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td><strong>Cultural Evenings in Santa Cruz</strong></td>
<td>Usually at Viking Hall, Plymouth, at Button St., Santa Cruz. Contact: Michael Block at (831)336-9972, or: <a href="mailto:sigdalkid@pcumail.com">sigdalkid@pcumail.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Saturdays</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td><strong>Nordic Footnotes 1st Saturday Scandinavian Dance Party</strong></td>
<td>7:30 p.m. -12:00. See page 7 for dates and locations. The dance includes a teaching session just before the dance party, from 7:30-8:30. Our new regular place is St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, California 94025. Always check for the current dance location! Contact: Jeanne or Henry, (408)929-5602, <a href="mailto:jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com">jsawyer@SawyerPartnership.com</a>; Sarah Kirton, (650)968-3126, <a href="mailto:sarah.kirton@sbcglobal.net">sarah.kirton@sbcglobal.net</a>; Jim Little or Linda Persson, (650)323-2256, <a href="mailto:webmaster@norcalspelmanslag.org">webmaster@norcalspelmanslag.org</a>.</td>
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(Continued on page 11)
February 18-20, 2011 Scandia Festival in Petaluma.

March 5, 2011 Andströms (Mats, Ulf, and Nils Andersson, plus Anders Hällström). In Palo Alto.

Workshops followed by a mini-concert and dance party.

Northern California Spelmanslag Mailing List Form

Name ________________________________________ Home phone________________

Address ______________________________________ Other phone ________________

_______________________________________ email __________________________

_______________________________________ Musician___ Dancer___ Audience___

May we publish your name, address, and phone on a Spelmanslag roster? _____

Do you want to receive information?: ___music workshops: Swedish___ Norwegian___ Danish___ Finnish___

___dance workshops: Swedish___ Norwegian___ Danish___ Finnish___

___dance parties; Swedish___ Norwegian___ Danish___ Finnish___

___concerts and performances: Swedish___ Norwegian___ Danish___ Finnish___

How are you able to help? Are you willing to bring potluck snacks and refreshments to Spelmanslag events? Are you willing to house out-of-town participants for Spelmanslag festivals, or entertain overseas visitors before or after a festival or camp? Are you willing to volunteer for various tasks to help organize or run Spelmanslag events (making punch, set-up, clean-up, collecting admission, loaning/operating sound equipment, designing flyers, photocopying, playing for dances)? Are you willing to write an article, take photos, or draw illustrations for our newsletter?

___________________________________________________ _________________________________________________

___________________________________________________ _________________________________________________

Donation:   ___$15.00  ___$25.00  ___$50.00  ___other

Send to:   Northern California Spelmanslag, 560 Kingsley Ave, PALO ALTO CA 94301-3224

Donation is not necessary for membership.

Your tax-deductible donation helps the Spelmanslag bring over instructors from Scandinavia, and covers the costs of publishing and mailing fliers and newsletters. Any amount you can contribute is greatly appreciated!

See our web page at: <www.norcalspelmanslag.org>.