



## **Southern New Mexico Music and Dance ~ SNMMD**

**This Friday, April 19 with the Muletones (Amy, Brian, Drew) from West Texas & Lonnie calling. YES, WE ARE DANCING. Plan to kick up your heels and invite your friends.** Details: [www.snmmds.org](http://www.snmmds.org)

**SNACKS are brought by volunteers**, so if you enjoy goodies at the break, think of bringing something to share at one of the upcoming dances - dancers are always grateful.

Thanks to regulars Sandy, Jeffery, Julie and others I might miss. Also, thanks to Lisa for help with decorations and all who take down chairs and tables at the end. We are all volunteers who make it happen each month – it is your dance.

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### **TAKE A LOOK AT LAST MONTH'S CONTRA DANCE -----**

**Click here for youtube video:** <https://youtu.be/14kC-0x9Ang>.

See live video from the **2019 March St. Patrick's Contra Dance with the Big Ditch Crickets** with Carol Fugagli calling this particular dance - great turnout, 52 dancers, including Jaren, a caller from Lubbock TX and dancer Kara from IL.

Carol F. wrote: “Great contra dance in Mesilla on March 15th! Big crowd, good music, lots of smiles, laughs, sweating, swinging. I can't decide which is more fun: playing in the band seeing the dancers whoop it up, or dancing to the great music. I must say: we big ditch crickets have come a long way, and we are lovin' it. And this isn't even all of us!”

And we love Carol's calling! Plan to see her back on stage soon.

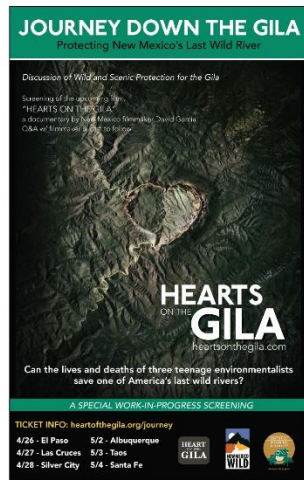
**Next Contra Dance is May 17th with our local favs LITTLE TABLE CONTRABAND. NO DANCES IN JUNE OR JULY. Next dance will be Tropical August 16th.**

### **WHAT'S COMING UP, WHERE TO DANCE and/or LIVE MUSIC:**

**Saturday, April 27, International Day of Dance, 5 - 8 pm, Rio Grande Theatre, Las Cruces**

FREE evening filled with an extensive line-up of various dance groups from within our community, from flamenco through folk, a multi-cultural evening, good for the whole family. Enjoy performances from dancers as they explore the world through movement and music. The International Day of Dance, instituted in 1982 by the International Dance Council, is meant to educate people on the importance of dancing and highlight its cultural significance. Presented by the City of Las Cruces Museums. Doors open at 4 p.m., performance begins at 5 p.m. And did I say it's FREE!!!

**Saturday, April 27, Movie “Hearts on the Gila”** - Fountain Theatre, Mesilla NM, 4:30 pm and



7:30 pm -- We have a special connection to contra musician **Ella Jazz**, a dynamic young teen, one of three, lost in a plane crash after surveying fire damage in the Gila. Come support their family and the wild Gila River, Ella Jazz’s passion.

NM documentary filmmaker David Garcia tells the story of three grief-stricken mothers seeking solace and hope on the waters of one of America’s last wild rivers. Four years and multiple river trips in the making, “Hearts on the Gila” is a lush cinematic river-level journey down one of America’s great natural treasures. As the film nears completion, the filmmaker is taking a work-in-progress cut of the film on the road to share with select Southwestern communities that have a stake in the future of the threatened Gila River. All seats \$10.

View the Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/326463874>,

[www.heartofthegila.org/journey](http://www.heartofthegila.org/journey)

**4/26-El Paso-El Paso Community Foundation-7:00pm. Info & tickets: [El Paso](#)**

**4/27-Mesilla-Fountain Theater: 4:30pm and 7:30pm. Info & tickets: [Mesilla](#)**

**5/2-Albuquerque-Guild Cinema-7pm. Info & tickets [Albuquerque](#)**

**April 25-28 Bob Wills Days in Turkey TX** – if you country two-step, this is a must. Friends of the Texas Playboys, Jody Nix, free day concerts, more bands, BBQ, parade. Best day is Saturday. \$20 evening dance, 5:30 – 11 pm, 2 bands.

<http://www.bobwillsday.net/schedule-of-events/schedule/>



**May 24 – 27, 27<sup>th</sup> FolkMADness 2019 Dance and Music Camp**

Great, fun-filled weekend of music and dancing, including contra dancing, English Country dances, squares, singing, music workshops, jamming, fun parties and more, so friendly and welcoming, whatever your level of dance or musician. Lovely green gem in the desert located at NM Tech in Socorro NM. Talent includes the bands The Latter Day Lizards, The Figments, and national callers Scott Higgs and Deb Comly, plus Val Mindel to lead singing. Click link to get more information and register online at <http://folkmaids.org/events/camps/folkmadness/>. Day passes are possible. Email Julie if you have questions: [julie@snmmds.org](mailto:julie@snmmds.org)

**Check out this cool contra dance video from 2017 FolkMADSness camp – Lonnie and Julie are front and center!!**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL2uddn2nTMxekb9AOKMhXpbPzWRW7FIX\\_&time\\_continue=6&v=QwHnIfL8b24](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL2uddn2nTMxekb9AOKMhXpbPzWRW7FIX_&time_continue=6&v=QwHnIfL8b24)

**JUNE 15, Saturday - ALBUQUERQUE FOLK FEST**

New location and date: Bosque School, 4000 Bosque School NM, Albuquerque NM

<https://www.abqfolkfest.org/index.shtml#>

Also, be sure to watch the 4 minute video of 2013 entertainment, music and dance workshops, audience participation - another good for the whole family event. Worth the drive. There is usually a concert Friday night as well as many stages all day Saturday.

**MORE PLACES TO DANCE in Las Cruces:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays - Country Two-step & Waltzes** at Mesilla Community Center (where we contra dance – 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla NM), 6:30 to 9:30 pm with the band Double Trouble (Neal McCowan and Tracy Turbeville). Nice atmosphere, friendly folks, good country music, sponsored by local dancer Jimmy Hall, for more info call 575-524-4507, \$8

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays – Country Two-step & Waltzes** at Trails West Community Hall, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla NM, 7 to 9 pm, with Mark Coker playing, \$7. (We haven't been here yet but know it is the same dancers so should be fun.)

**Mondays, International Folk Dance**, 4:30 to 6 pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. These are the dances you see in movies, like Zorba the Greek or Fiddler on the Roof, easy and medium dances from everywhere, but especially Greek, Israeli, Balkan countries, Turkish, English, American and more. We are a recreational group and dance for fun, fitness and friendship. Check out website for more info: <http://www.zianet.com/lcludeman/lcfd/lcfdindex.htm>.



**Basic contra move - “California Twirl”**

Coconut Cream Pie written by Lynn Ackerson, is the dance we do regularly with two contra lines combined – take a look at the first minute or two of this video for review, especially the California twirl, where you end up turning 180 degrees to face the opposite direction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cozAaMBQaaE>

That's a Wrap. It was so much fun researching and writing this month's newsletter – so many great activities coming up, I can't wait. I hope you can put some of these on your calendar, and we will see you there.

***REMEMBER THIS COMING FRIDAY'S CONTRA DANCE – see you in a swing.***

***Julie and Lonnie***