

**ELIOT INSTITUTE
DANCES**
(Created February 2017)

BARN DANCE (CONTRA DANCE) JULY 2015

We held a “barn dance” on Sunday from 8-10 PM in the Meeting Hall. It seemed to be a great success, with lots of people participating. We used the term “barn dance”, again this year since in previous years no one seemed to know what a contra dance was. It could also be called a “community dance” or “traditional dance”.

Book a caller in fall or by January at the latest. We hired Amy Carroll, who had a good sense of the beginning crowd and kept even the smallest dancers involved all night. This was her fifth year as our caller and she seems to know our dancing level well. We highly recommend trying to book her again. If she is not available, another good option would be Sherry Nevins, who called the dance six or seven years ago. We offered \$150 to cover the calling fee and transportation expenses. If a new caller is hired, stress to them beforehand the intergenerational nature of the crowd and the need to keep people engaged with simple, active dances. A Grand March is a good way to start the evening. Some previous callers have progressed too soon to more complicated dances and lost participation as a result.

Amy Carroll, amy@calleramy.com , (206) 634-3224

Sherry Nevins, sjnevins@gmail.com

Marlin Prowell has also called in the past

In the pre-camp newsletter, advertise the dance and, if you are going to have live music, let musicians know they can join the band. Offer to send them the music ahead of time if they contact you. Ask the Volunteer Coordinator for the names of people who might be willing to organize the group. The band rehearsed just once from 2:15 to 3:30 Sunday, so this isn't for beginning players. The sound system was set up during the rehearsal. Contact the Audio Visual Coordinator in advance to make sure a sound system will be available, and contact the Volunteer Coordinator to reserve this time and the evening time in the meeting hall. Also, ask the VC to order from Seabeck TWO large water coolers (or one water and one lemonade) plus cups for the dance.

A few weeks before camp, let the registrar know the caller's name so that they can prepare a nametag. Also have them cut a check so that you can pay the caller directly. Ask for permission for the caller to eat dinner in the dining hall if s/he will be arriving by 6 PM (the dining room was full this year so we reimbursed her \$25 for dinner).