



Hands Across The Water — 2024

An English Country Dance Weekend  September 6–8

Victoria Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara Street, Victoria BC

Dance Leader — **Gene Murrow**

Musicians — **The Dancehall Players & Friends**



Gene Murrow (New York) is an accomplished and long-time English Country Dance leader and musician. He's danced, taught, led workshops and balls, called at clubs, and performed at festivals throughout the US, Canada, England, Europe, and Japan. He's been involved with the iconic *Pinewoods Dance Camp* as a CDSS staff member since 1965; he's chaired a number of dance weeks over the years (Early Music, English, and English/American), and in 1996 he created what is now known as the *New London Assembly*—a week-long conference focusing on both the scholarly and practical aspects of English Country Dance as part of the *Amherst Early Music Festival*. In 2001, Gene was invited to present a paper examining the history of English Country Dance at a conference held to mark the 350th anniversary of Playford's *English Dancing Master*, and in 2004 Gene was honoured to lead the dances for the 50th anniversary gala of the Sidmouth International Festival. Gene comes to us not only as an experienced dance leader and a scholar versed in the history of English Country Dance, but also as a classically trained musician who's recorded music for the dances of Fried Herman and Gary Roodman, and who's produced a 15-disc series of ECD recordings for *Bare Necessities*. As a teacher, he's also developed a resource guide and training curriculum on musicianship for ECD teachers (courses offered at Pinewoods, Mendocino, and Berea). We look forward to welcoming Gene to Victoria.



The Dancehall Players (Victoria, BC) have been playing together since 2001—when Ann Schau and Dan Page first began to play regularly for the local English Country dances. They are now a five-member English Country Dance ensemble (piano, violin, flute, recorder, guitar, banjo, mandolin, cello, and percussion), and are often called upon to play for dances in Victoria, Vancouver, and the BC Gulf Islands.

Over the past 14 years, this ensemble of musicians and composers has recorded eight albums of original and traditional dance music — featuring collaborations with international dance callers. Links to their music can be found at thedancehallplayers.com

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER 2024

VECDS is an affiliate of the Country Dance & Song Society: <http://www.cdss.org>

NOTE: All workshops and dances are *fragrance free*. There will be vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available for *lunch*. If you have additional dietary concerns let us know and/or please make adequate provision for yourself.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY EVENING

7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. DANCE (VECDS CALLERS)

Included with your registration, and open to those not attending the weekend (\$10-\$15 recommended donation).

SATURDAY MORNING

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. A CHALLENGE, BUT WORTH IT

We'll do *Cupid's Garden* and *A Trip to Macclesfield*—Two dances that are too complex to attempt at regular sessions because they require concentrated attention for an extended time to learn, but reward the effort with beauty and a real sense of accomplishment.

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PREPARATION FOR THE EVENING DANCE

This workshop will review some of the more complicated dances on the Saturday evening program so that we can enjoy the dancing without teaching and a minimum of prompting.

LUNCH 12:30- 1:30 CATERED LUNCH (SANDWICHES/SALAD/FRUIT & SWEET TREATS)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. TIMING

Some dances particularly reward careful and artful timing, and the phrasing of one's movement. Some don't. We'll enjoy some of the ones that do.

SATURDAY EVENING

7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. EVENING DANCE: CELEBRATING THE CLASSICS

A program of wonderful dances that have stood the test of time, that are familiar to many, and can be enjoyed without straining the brain.

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. COLLABORATIONS

Dancers have benefited from some remarkable collaborations between dance choreographers and musical composers that have resulted in dances with a unique aesthetic. We'll enjoy the outcome of two such collaborations: Gary Roodman & Jonathan Jensen, and Susan Kevra & Rachel Bell.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. REQUESTS

Requests by participants for dances that weren't done (but they'd like to do), or repeats of dances that were particularly enjoyed.

REGISTRATION & WAIVER — HANDS ACROSS THE WATER 2024

REGISTRATION FEE: Workshop, Evening dances, and Saturday lunch included: **\$120** Canadian and **\$95** US.

\$ Please mail cheques *made out to* **VECDS: c/o Registrar**, 2583 Thompson Avenue, Victoria BC, Canada V8R 3L2

NOTE: Payments in Canada can also be made via Interac e-Transfer to **VECDS.helpers@gmail.com**.

CANCELLATIONS: **\$25** CDN after August 16th (catering deadline) to cover the cost/person of catered lunch.

LIMITED BURSARIES to offset registration fees are available. Apply through our registrar— chaagen@telus.net

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____ e-mail _____

A few of our dancers are able to offer ACCOMMODATION but space is very limited—first-come, first-served basis, according to postmark. A number of dancers like to stay near the venue at the *The Surf Motel*

° Do you need housing? no yes for ___ people. Will you have your own car? yes no

° Do you have any allergies? no yes to _____

LUNCH — Please indicate your preferences:

Omnivore Gluten-Free Vegetarian Vegan _____

FEE for # of people _____ Total \$ _____ CHEQUE IS ENCLOSED Will send E-Transfer

2024 WAIVER

The Victoria English Country Dance Society (VECDS) requires participants in *Hands Across the Water 2024* to sign a waiver—to be kept on file for this event only, and for the sake of ease of administration.

Note that the Victoria English Country Dance Society (VECDS) is comprised of individuals who practice, teach, share, and enjoy English Country Dancing. The Society hosts weekly dances and occasional special events that may include workshops, dances, and related social activities.

In consideration of my participation in VECDS activities and special events, I hereby release and discharge the Victoria English Country Dance Society (jointly or severally), and its representatives, successors, and assigns, from any and all liability arising from accident, injury or any illness that I may suffer as a result of my (our) participation in any of these activities.

Name (please print): _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Mobile: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (2nd dancer if at same address): _____

Email: _____

Signature: (2nd dancer): _____ Date: _____