

Sue Hulsether suggests that they: "...call up a plumber and ask them what they'd charge to work six hours on a Saturday night. Each of the 5 of us (band/caller) will gladly take half that plumber's rate."

## Recognize diversity

In case you haven't noticed, traditions and social norms are changing rapidly in the 21st century, and this is especially true with weddings. The wedding couple, as well as their guests may represent widely disparate social and political backgrounds and it is our ongoing responsibility to be aware of that reality. There are likely to be people in attendance who would react negatively to being asked to always dance in man/woman couples (others may insist on it) and we can no longer assume that the married couple will be a man and a woman. Many community dance leaders are used to presenting gender-free dances, so that should not be a stretch. However, the same may not be true for the families attending. It is worth your while to mention this in your early conversations with the organizers and be extra sensitive about it on the day.

Even if the couple in question is young and heterosexual, we can't necessarily assume that they are planning to set up house and produce a troop of children. Wishing a couple health and fertility may seem like a generous thing to do but given that many couples already have as many children as they want, or are struggling with fertility issues, it may be more sensitive to avoid the issue or to simply wish them abundance.

## Remember – it's a party! Have fun!

Unfortunately, it is not within the scope of this article to describe the moves of individual dances mentioned in this article. Look for great resources in the Children and Community Dances section of the CDSS Store.

As I write this, community dance leaders are gathering in San Antonio, TX for Pourparler, sharing dances, songs, laughter and experiences that they have had spreading the joy of dancing. It is a wonderful, life-affirming event that is great for learning repertoire and tools of the trade. For more info: [nfo-usa.org/pourparler/](http://nfo-usa.org/pourparler/)

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# Contra Dance: Come With Me

*by Rick Mohr*

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Duple Improper

Level: Intermediate

Suggested Tunes: Smooth jigs like "Maison de Glace" and "The Orphan"

- A1 Half hey (gents pass left shoulders to start) (8)  
Right shoulder gypsy with neighbor (8)
- A2 Circle left 3/4 (gents lead neighbor) (6)  
Swing partner (10)
- B1 Half hey (ladies pass right shoulders to start)(8)  
Left shoulder gypsy with partner (8)
- B2 Broken circle right 1/4 (ladies lead partner) (2)  
Zig right with partner to pass neighbors (2)  
Zag left to meet new neighbors (2)  
Swing new neighbor (10)

Gypsy-to-circle is a rare and fine transition. This dance offers it with contrasting symmetries — clockwise with neighbor (led by the gents), and counter-clockwise with partner (led by the ladies).

In the walkthrough I suggest stopping after the A1 gypsy with ladies back-to-back in the center facing neighbors. Then neighbors join "side hands" — gent's right and ladies' left — making a nice connection as the gents lead into circle left. Likewise stop after the B1 gypsy, when the gents are back-to-back in the center and partners can join those same side hands. Now have the ladies lead just a few steps right and across the set, stopping with everyone in original positions (across from partner, facing neighbor up and down). From there, walking the zig-zag progression is straightforward. Now everyone is on board for a second walkthrough without stops, with the ladies leading the novel B2 transition smoothly.

Technically this dance doesn't start in "improper" formation, but don't tell the dancers. Begin the first walkthrough with a neighbor swing; then when you're ready to start the dance leave everyone next to the neighbor they've just swung rather than backing up to original places.

Thanks to Kathy Anderson for pointing out how to connect the gypsy-to-circle transition years ago in Jim Kitch's dance "Bees in the Shower." I've been trying to double it up for years, finally arriving at this satisfying version after many attempts.