

Let's Dance

DECEMBER 1994 • \$1.50



THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING



The spirit of Christmas...

Official Publication of the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

EDITOR &
BUSINESS MGR Genevieve Pereira
DESIGN & LAYOUT Jeanne Bertolina

DECEMBER CONTRIBUTORS TO LET'S DANCE

Ann Garabedian	Bruce Wyckoff
Gertrude Kuhner	Ed Kremers
Toba Goddard	Ruth Ruling
Lucia Edwards	Jean Williams
Duke Edwards	Larry Getchell
Dolly Barnes	Max Horn
Fran Ajoian	Elsa Bacher
Mel Mann	Carol & Bill Wenzel

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Happy Holidays



NEW INFORMATION:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Submission deadline for each issue
is the 25th of 2 months previous
(i.e., March deadline would be
the 25th of January).



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P.O. Box 1282
Alameda, CA 94501
Phone & FAX 510-814-9282

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


It doesn't seem possible that we are looking at a new year, 1995. It's hard to write so far ahead. As you read this we will have had a happy family reunion for Thanksgiving, a successful Treasurer's Ball and will be looking forward to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am looking forward to spending Thanksgiving in Denver, Colorado with my two sons and their wives, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren--my first trip in 2 years.

I am hoping at our Board Meeting we will have a volunteer to head our STATEWIDE 96. HELP! TIME IS FLEETING! PLEASE, SOMEONE MAKE MY NEW YEAR A HAPPY ONE.

Genevieve and I had the pleasure October 30 of attending FOREVER TANGO "The Eternal Dance" at the Theatre on the Square in San Francisco. They are appearing under the patronage of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Argentina. This is Tango beyond all imagination. The music-live- is also from Argentina. They are being held over till the first of the year. If you get an opportunity, don't miss it.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

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1946 - 1995

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For additional information, contact Steve Davis at 805-964-5591

the Folk Dance Federation of California
and the Peninsula Folk Dance Council

PRESENT

STEVE KOTANSKY

TEACHING

Cigánytánc
and other dances from Stockton
plus some new material

(Cigánytánc was voted the most popular dance presented at the 1994 Stockton Camp)

at the

HUNGARIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL INSTITUTE

Saturday, January 21, 1995
1:30 pm

Redwood City Veteran's Memorial Building

Let's Dance Index for 1994

Article	Month/Page	Article	Month/Page
<u>ARTICLES</u>		<u>COSTUME</u>	
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Dancin' Shoes	NOV 23	Patterns for Costumes	NOV 6
Down on the Farm	SEP 5	Romanian Blouses & Shirts	FEB 14
Federation Farwell	J/A 6		
Folkdancers Lost & Found	SEP 6		
Folkdancers Lost & Found	OCT 19	<u>DANCE DESCRIPTIONS</u>	
Folkdancers Lost & Found	NOV 17	Berace, Levendikos, Pusteno	
Folkdancers Lost & Found	DEC 8	(Albania and Macedonia)	MAR 11
International Folkdance Week	SEP 15	Bourrees Bourbonnaises (France)	SEP 11
Int. Folkdance Week at Changs	DEC 21	Cherevichky (Russia)	M/J 11
Int. Folkdance Week in Santa Rosa	DEC 20	Gyimesi Kerekes (Transylvania)	OCT 11
Language of Square Dancing	JAN 10	Hora din campie (Romania)	FEB 12
Mildred Buhler	SEP 8	Igolka (Russia)	FEB 13
Multicultrual Awareness in Fresno	DEC 19	Ini vitui (Romania)	M/J 13
Ragtime Dance Weekend	J/A 23	Kol Nederai (Israel)	DEC 11
Sole of the Matter	APR 17	Koster C'hoad (France)	DEC 13
The Pavelkas	J/A 8	La Valse des Violettes	SEP 13
Vyts and the Kolo Festival	NOV 18	Mishol Hapereh (Isreal)	JAN 11
Vyts Beliajus	NOV 8	Opsa (US Serbian/Croatian)	OCT 12
Why Do We Folk Dance?	DEC 18	Rumelaj (Macedonia)	JAN 13
		Ruskaya Krugovaya Kadril (Russia)	MAR 13
		Stenka (Russia)	J/A 13
		Svetit mesyats (Russia)	NOV 13



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Talgoxen II (Finland)	J/A 12	Dance Description Order Form	J/A 15
Three-Hand Fling (Ireland)	APR 19	Dance Popularity List	J/A 20
Voronezhkaya Matanya (Russia)	NOV 11	Federation Pins	M/J 22
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		Let's Dance Index	DEC 6
		Nina Kavardjikova	M/J 21
		Nora Dinzelbacher	M/J 19
		October	OCT 7
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Cherry Blossom Time	APR 4		
Easy Does It Festival	MAR 10		
Fiesta de Sonoma	SEP 4		
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Greek Festivals	J/A 10		
Harvest Festival	OCT 4	<u>STATEWIDE</u>	
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Sweetheart Festival	JAN 6	Housing Registration	APR 11
Treasurer's Ball	NOV 4	Ojai Odyssey	DEC 4
Laguna Festival	JAN 21	Tango at Statewide	JAN 24

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Austria	NOV 19
Mexico	SEP 22
Rumania	APR 25



Folk Dancers - Lost & Found

Vi Dexheimer

Our continued search for worthy missing folk dancers centered on a candidate who while recently missing from the public view, has surfaced in some quarters and still takes more than a casual interest in folk dance matters. We have reference to Vi Dexheimer, who for several decades served the Federation in various capacities.

In 1958 President Don Spier appointed Vi Let's Dance Editor and the following year, President Millie von Kinsky appointed her Office Secretary, jobs she held with distinction until 1977. Her husband, Walter, served as Business Manager for several years. Vi lost her partner of 38 years in 1979. As to her present activities, here is Vi's story:

Vi Dexheimer at present resides on top of Mt. Veeder, a 25-minute drive to the town of Napa. She is surrounded by vineyards, madrone and redwood trees, and her house is secluded from the highway. When Vi is asked how she can stand living in this area, she explains that, even though she is alone, she is never lonely.

A year after husband Walter passed away, Vi decided to travel. Her first trip was a Caribbean Cruise through the Panama Canal. A year later she traveled to Spain, Portugal and Morocco. A few months later she took a Mexican cruise. This was followed by a tour to the Tetons, Yellowstone and Salt Lake City. Of course she could not overlook Hawaii, visiting all the islands.

Europe tempted her again. This time it included England, France, Switzerland and Italy. Then followed a cruise via the Inland Passage to Alaska.

Vi says the cruise she enjoyed the most was the one to South America, which included Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. While in Buenos Aires she took a helicopter ride into and around Iguassu (larger than Niagara Falls) which, according to Vi, was worth the entire trip. Vi days later she was tempted to visit Scandinavia, which included Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Her parents came from Denmark, which made the trip more interesting. She says she wouldn't mind visiting Denmark again.

A year or so later, with a group from Napa, Vi went to Hong Kong. This trip also included Macau and the border of China. It was a most fascinating tour.

Her last trip was a cruise from New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico., via Key West and the Mississippi river.

Vi admits her visa says she traveled to Australia and New Zealand, but because of a Brown Recluse Spider bit, putting her in the hospital, the trip was cancelled.

Her Hammond organ Vi admits is smarter than she is. When she

plays it she has a full orchestra accompanying her. She loves to needlepoint. It's an expensive hobby and she spends many hours working on various designs and figures. She says her walls are covered with so many pictures she may have to add another room to her house to take care of future pictures.

Vi admits to being a frustrated cook. For a number of years she collected cookbooks, saying she has some 350 books and 3 card files of recipes. During her 38 years of married life with Walter, he did most of the cooking. Now she is making up for lost time by trying out gourmet recipes.

Once a month Vi attends a meeting of the Hill and Dale Club of Napa (all women). Although she was president of the club for one year, she has been club treasurer for over ten years.

Vi says her traveling days are now over and she is content to stay home and needlepoint. As to that last remark, we are not too sure. We miss her, especially at Statewide. Possibly we can coax her back.

Larry Getchell

Larry must not have known about the cookbook which Vi financed and gave to the Federation. We only have 30 left from the second printing. It is called COOKING WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR. Included in this cook book are favorite recipes of folk dancers. Some have appeared in LET'S DANCE Magazine; some are in a foreign style; many are just plain American style. It sells for \$12.50.

Editor



*Season's
Greetings*

from
Let's Dance

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

**FROM
WES TAKARA**

1995 Alaska Folk Dance Cruise May Be The Last

For ten consecutive years Berkeley folk dancers, Mel and Paula Mann, have been organizing and escorting folk dance cruises in the spectacular Alaskan Inside Passage. Hundreds of dancers from all over Canada and the U.S. have enjoyed this unique cruise in the calm waters, many of them repeating two, three, and even four times. It is possible that this will be the last year the Manns will hold an ALASKA DANCE ON THE WATER CRUISE. Activities on most other cruises center around gambling casinos, bars and Las Vegas type entertainment. What makes this cruise so popular is the cultural and educational programs. Five University professors on board (a historian, geologist, anthropologist, botanist and oceanographer) lecture about what you are experiencing and seeing in Alaska. This Alaska adventure has been described by professional travel writers as an awesome and a "once in a lifetime" must experience. The entertainment each night is cultural-- a string quartet, concert pianist, operatic soloist, a pop singer, maybe a harpist, mandolin or dulcimer player. On the lighter side there are game and talent shows, a social dance band and many surprises offered by a gifted, eager and talented program staff. Besides nine interesting ports, the cruise visits Glacier Bay, Hubbard Glacier and other Glaciers along the way. This year popular Sandy Starkman will once again lead folk dancing and the group will meet with local folk dancers. It is also hoped that they will once again enjoy a joint dance event with a local Tlinket Indian dance group. This was a highlight of the 1994 cruise. Mel helps to arrange cabin sharing for single persons. This fourteen day cruise departs Vancouver July 30th, 1995 and persons enrolling prior to February receive a bonus two night stay in Vancouver plus a city tour, before or after the cruise (or a one night stay in Seattle.) Cruise only prices start at \$2495.00 per person.

There is still limited space available on the New Year's Eve folk dance cruise departing Tampa and visiting Mayan Ruins in Belize, Honduras and Mexico. At this writing there are 60 persons enrolled on this cruise. Dancing will be led by Olga Sandolowich.

In June, 1994 Mel and Paula checked out a cruise originating in St. Petersburg and ending in Moscow. They found it delightful and most appropriate for the folk dance group. They have scheduled to escort this group on the 14 night folk dance cruise over the calm rivers, lakes and canals between these two interesting Russia cities while visiting small villages in between. Dancing will be led by Sanna and Mars Longden from Evanston, IL. Depending on gateway city the cost for this cruise begins at \$2598.00.

For more information contact Mel c/o Berkeley Travel Company, 1301 California St. Berkeley, CA 94703, telephone (510) 526-4033 or FAX (510) 524-9906.

Kol Nederai

(Israel)

Kol Nedarai (KOHL neh-dah-RIGH) means "all my vows." It was choreographed by Shmulik Gov-Ari to music composed by Haim Moshe. It was taught by Israel Yakovee at the 1994 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTE: Israel Yakovee, Stockton Folkdance Camp 1994 Side A/6.

FORMATION: Dancers in a closed circle, facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos.

STEPS: Yemenite (R): Step on R to R bending knees (ct 1); step on L toe behind or near R, straightening knees (ct &); step on R across in front of L, bending knees (ct 2); hold, straightening knees (ct &). Yemenite (L) uses opposite footwork.

Counts

PATTERN

INTRODUCTION No action. Begin with vocal.

I. ALONG CIRCLE

- A 1-2 Release hands, step on R to R and spread hands apart (ct 1); step on L across in front of R and snap fingers with wrists crossed (ct 2).
- 3-4 With 3 small steps, RLR move LOD and turn $\frac{1}{2}$ CW to end facing out of circle with R ft over L (cts 3,&,4).
- 5-8 Repeat cts 1-4 continuing in LOD with opp ftwk and turn $\frac{1}{2}$ CCW to end facing ctr.
- 9-12 Join hands in V-pos and dance Yemenite R and L.
- 13-14 Step fwd on R, leaving L in place, and raise hands (ct 13); step back on L, lowering hands (ct 14).
- 15-28 Repeat cts 1-14.
- 29 Step bkwd on R (ct 29); step on L beside R (ct &).

II. TO CENTER

- B 1-2 Step on R to ctr and across in front of L (ct 1); step on L to ctr and across in front of R (ct 2).
- 3-4 Step on R twd ctr (ct 3); close L to R (ct &); step on R twd ctr (ct 4).

- 5-8 Repeat cts 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction moving bkwd away from ctr.
- 9-10 Face LOD and step fwd on R (ct 9); step fwd on L (ct 10).
- 11-12 Step back onto R and turn $\frac{1}{2}$ CCW to face RLOD (ct 11); step on L beside R (ct 8); step fwd on R (ct 12).
- 13-14 Step back onto L and turn $\frac{1}{2}$ CW to face LOD (ct 13); step on R twd LOD (ct 14).
- 15-16 Release hands and turn once CW while moving LOD, stepping L,R (cts 15,&); end by stepping L in front of R (ct 16).
- 17-32 Repeat cts 1-16.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Dance pattern as written 3 times and add Fig II at the end.

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etc. #2 Full sightseeing, plus festivals
etc. #3 Bulgaria, followed by workshops in Gabrovo, and performing at the festival.
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Koster C'hoad

France

Koster C'hoad (KOHST-ehr HWAHT) means "at the edge of the forest" in Breton, the Celtic language of Brittany. It is a dance of the gavotte family from the region of Finistère in western Brittany. Germain Hébert learned it from Huguette Bochez in 1976 and introduced it at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1993. It is also performed by Triskell in Montréal.

CASSETTE: Hébert, Chants et Danses des Provinces Francaises, Stockton '93, Side B/5; 2/4 meter
Hébert, North-South Teachers' Seminar 1992, Side B/5.

RECORD: L. P. Vogue LDM 30194, Side A/4.

FORMATION: Lines of 10-12 dancers facing center, hands joined at chest level. Elbows are bent, right over left, so that dancers are close together.

STYLING: The dance is led from the left and progresses gradually in RLOD. Each count uses either a leap or a hop, so the action is springy, down on each beat and up between beats. Keep weight on the balls of the feet, with knee of the supporting leg slightly bent.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION None; but Hébert recommends waiting four measures before beginning dance.

I. SIDE TOUCH

- 1 Leap onto L, as R heel scuffs diag fwd to L (ct 1); leap onto R across in front of L (ct 2).
- 2 Hop on R, pointing L toe low to L, L knee straight ct (1); hop on R, pointing L toe low in front of R, L knee straight (ct 2).
- 3 Leap onto L, pointing R toe low to R, R knee straight (ct 1); hop on L, pointing R toe low in front of R, R knee straight (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times (twice if waiting out the first four meas)

II. MODIFIED GRAPEVINE

- 1 Repeat Figure I, meas 1.
- 2 Step sdwd L on L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct 2).
Note: meas 1 and 2 combine to make a modified grapevine step.
- 3 Hop on R ft, lifting L knee and flicking L heel twd R shin (ct 1); leap onto L to L, kicking R ft high behind (ct 2).
- 4 Leap onto R behind L, kicking L fwd (ct 1); hop on R ft, lifting L knee and flicking L heel twd R shin (ct 2)
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.

DANCE SEQUENCE. Dance pattern seven times as written.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Ed Kremers, 155 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-775-3444

1994

Nov. 26	JACKSON	WALTZ-TANGO COTILLION, Senior Center
Sat		Jackson, 8-11 PM New York Ranch Rd
		Call the Ribas 209-296-4970
Dec. 3	REDWOOD CITY	Palomanians
Sat		415-333-2210
Dec. 4	SONOMA	TREASURER'S BALL, Veterans Bldg,
Sun		126 First St., 1:30-5:30
Dec. 10	SACRAMENTO	Whirl-A-Jig Party
Sat		Baldwin 916-455-5000
Dec. 10	SAN JOSE	Santa Clara Valley FD Party
Sat		Burnham 408-739-0500
Dec. 10	PALO ALTO	Los Quadros FD Party
Sat		MacDonald 415-493-5033
Dec. 10	PETALUMA	Petaluma-Novato Party
Sat		Hermann Sons Hall; 707-546-8877
Dec. 10	MILL VALLEY	Scandia; Park School
Sat		Sweger 415-388-6790
Dec. 10	MENLO PARK	Recreation Center 415-327-0759
Sat		
Dec. 10	SAN FRANCISCO	Family night at Jewish Community Ctr
Sat		3200 Calif. St. 8:15 415-566-0896
Dec. 16	SAN FRANCISCO	Changs Party 415-661-9426
Fri		
Dec. 17	SACRAMENTO	BBKM (Balkan) Party
Sat		Bevan 916-422-5131
Dec. 17	PALO ALTO	Peninsula Council FD Party
Sat		Lisin 408-252-8106
Dec. 17	SUNNYVALE	Scandinavian Party
Sat		Kirton 415-323-2226
Dec. 17	PALO ALTO	Peninsula Council FD Party
Sat		408-252-8106
Dec. 17	SUNNYVALE	Scandinavian Party; 415-323-2226
Sat		
Dec. 17	SANTA ROSA	Folk Dance Party; Piner Elem School
Sat		707-546-8877
Dec. 29	NAPA	Afternoon party, 4130 Byway East
Sat		707-258-0519
Dec. 31	FIFTH SATURDAY	Also New Year's Eve. Check your
Sat		Councils for information.

1995

Jan 20 & 21	REDWOOD CITY	FESTIVAL & INSTITUTE
FRI & SAT	Note**	Steve Kotansky will teach
Feb 12	NAPA	SWEETHEALT FESTIVAL, 1st Pres. Church
Sun		1:30-5:30 Emerson 707-258-0519
Feb ?		FESTIVAL OF THE OAKS
March 26	(Tentative)	BEGINNERS FESTIVAL

CALENDAR of EVENTS SOUTH

DECEMBER

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>3 Flamenco Concert. 8 p.m., Beckman Auditorium, Cal Tech. Dancers, guitarists, singers. Info: (800) 423-8849.</p> <p>3, 4 Imedi Youth Dance Ensemble. Dance troupe from the Republic of Georgia, Tbilisi Youth Palace. Concert at 8:30 p.m. on 12/3 and at 2 p.m. on 12/4.</p> | <p>Ambassador Aud, Pasadena. Info: (818) 304-6161</p> <p>4 Christmas Fais Do Do at Vasa Hall, 3096 El Cajon, San Diego. Cajun, Zydeco and Blues. 6-10 p.m. Info: (619) 496-6655.</p> <p>4 St. Nicholas Christmas Ball. L.A. Biltmore Hotel. Info: (714) 641-7450</p> | <p>10 Hungarian Tanchaz at Gypsy Camp, with beginning teaching. 7:30. 3265 Motor Ave. L.A. Info: (310) 202-9024.</p> <p>10 Orange County RSCDS Christmas Dance. Music by the Heathertones. Anaheim Ebell Club.</p> |
|---|--|--|

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Please send me information about; L
☐ 1995 Alaska Folk Dance Cruise
☐ 1995 Russian Folk Dance Cruise
☐ 1994 Mayan World Folk Dance Cruise
☐ Single share info (☐ female, ☐ male)

Name _____

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ST PETERSBURG*MOSCOW*PETROZAVODSK*GORITSY*IRMA*KOSTROMA*KIZH

COUNCIL CLIPS

GREATER EAST BAY COUNCIL

The Piedmonter Folk Dancers meet on Monday nights, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m., at the Redwood Heights Recreation Center, 3883 Aliso Avenue (Redwood Road at Warren Freeway), Oakland. They do intermediate and advanced folk dancing. Teachers are Lucia and Duke Edwards. Donation, \$3.

The Berkeley Senior Dancers meet every Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. They do intermediate and advanced folk dancing. Gertrude Kuhner teaches the group at the Berkeley Senior Center, Old Grove Street and Hearst Avenue, Berkeley.

The Concord Senior Folk Dancers will have their party on Sunday, December 4, 1:00-4:00 p.m., with refreshments at 2:30. Stan Valentine will call squares, and Jean Williams will MC. Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle, Baldwin Park, Concord.

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL

The Sacramento Council has obtained a Multi-

Cultural Entry Grant available through the California State Arts Council. This is a three-year project where a grantee receives \$2,000 per year for three consecutive years to support the artistic and and/or administrative activities of the arts group. The goals of the Grant Program include providing support for traditional and contemporary artistic activities of multi-cultural arts groups, introducing multi-cultural arts groups granting programs, and gathering information to assist in designing future programs and policies.

FRESNO COUNCIL

The Fresno Folk Dancers performed at the Fashion Faire Reading Awareness Day, September 29, and at the Fashion Faire Awareness Day on October 1. Millie von Konsky's Folkdancers performed at the Coombs Riverbend Ranch with the Philharmonic for Octoberfest, October 14 and 15. Wilma Andersen's Danish Dancers performed at the Oakhurst Festival on October 1. They also performed at Scandinavia Day and at Solvang. Thanks to everyone who attended the Fresno Festival and the afterdance at the Spaghetti Factory.

FOLK DANCE NEWS

DIRECTORY - The 1994 International Folk Dance Directory (formerly the People's Folk Dance Directory) is a great reference for recreational groups, performing groups, teachers, bands, and others. It lists recreational folk, country, and ethnic dance groups; performing groups; teachers, callers, musicians, and bands; festivals, camps, and tours; college and university programs; seminars and symposia; organizations and periodicals; vendors; museums; and ethnic restaurants in the U.S. and abroad. The price is \$6 before publication, and \$8 after publication. For display advertising, a free listing, or a copy, contact Folk House Publications, San Antonio, TX 78207-4689.

THE DANCE LINE - is a publication dedicated to spreading news and information about international

folk dancing and culture. Subscribers receive - a unique monthly calendar of folk dance parties, as well as information about performing groups appearing in concert, folk dance workshops, and festivals and camps. There is so much happening all around the Bay Area, don't miss out on any of the fun. For more information, call Ed Hughot at 415-496-1822.

FYI - The California Traditional Music Society is a non-profit educational corporation that is a great source of information regarding folk music and related activities. They publish a magazine called the *Journal*. They can be reached between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Pacific time - Phone: 818-342-7664, Fax: 818-609-0106. Their address is 4401 Trancas Place, Tarzana, CA 91356-5399.

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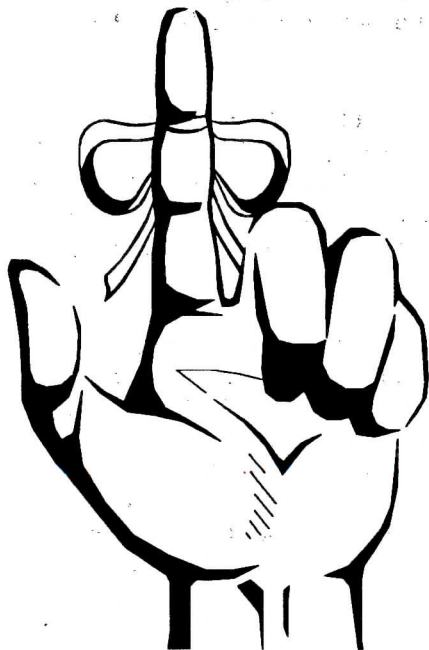
FOLK DANCE RECORD SHOP

ED KREMERS' FOLK SHOWPLACE - Dance, school, and foreign records. Dance books and supplies. Public address systems and cassettes of "unavailable" music. Teacher, Caller, Party Leader. 155 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, downstairs, Afternoons, 415-775-3444.

FOR SALE: CALIFONE SOUND SYSTEMS - Phil Maron, 4820-A Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609, 510-654-1124. Folk dance records.

DAY CLASSES - With Millie von Konsky, Line-Country Western, 510-828-5976. Tuesdays, 1:30, 22325 N. 3rd Street, Hayward, \$25/10 weeks. Wednesdays, 11:30, 7437 Larkdale, Adult Education, Dublin, free. Thursdays, 10:00, 400 Hartz Avenue, Danville, \$2/session for drop-ins, \$16/full 10 sessions. Fridays, 2:00, 1375 Civic Drive, Civic Park Community Center, Walnut Creek, \$23/6 sessions. Performance rehearsals: The von Konsky Dancers, Austrian/Bavarian, 8:00 p.m., Davis & Clark Streets, San Leandro.

WESTWOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS - meet Thursday nights, 8:00 to 10:45 p.m., Emerson Jr. High School, Selby near Santa Monica Bl., W.L.A. 310-839-6719 or 310-478-6600.



Don't Forget!!!

The Holiday Season is upon us once again, and what better gift to give your favorite folk dancers than a subscription to *Let's Dance*? Keep your friends and family on top of all the ins and outs in the Folk Dance Movement. *Let's Dance* tells you which dances people are doing, and where they're doing them. We offer news, monthly dance descriptions, costume articles, tasty ethnic recipes, and fascinating travelogues. Don't let the folk dancers in your life miss out on another issue. Fill out the subscription form in this issue and send it in today.

Why Do We Folk Dance?

by Max Horn

More important -- Why do International folk dance?

Keep in mind that Folk Dance has been handed down from generation to generation over hundreds or even thousands of years. Evidence is that some form of dance was done 30,000 years ago as is detailed in pictographs on the walls of ancient caves in Europe. Dancing with its accompanying rhythms, music, songs or chants were at one time the most common form of relaxation and enjoyment for the human race. Many of us have found that the relaxation and inner-self well-being derived from music and dance is one of the best ways to get away from our rather hectic world today.

Folk Dance for any one nationality or ethnic group may be different from another. Sometimes the steps are nearly the same and sometimes quite different. Many of the individual dances were taken from rituals performed by the early people that eventually became recreational dances. We can still see these steps and actions today, both in the recreational dances and the stage dances that have developed from these earlier forms of dance.

Here in America many of us are two and three generations removed from the villages of our people; we have lost our heritage in dance. We see new immigrants with their own forms of music and dance and we wonder just what we may be missing. Many of us have tried ballroom dancing and perhaps have become bored with the sameness most of us have developed in an entire evening of fox-trots, two-steps and waltzes and perhaps a tango or samba thrown in once in a while.

Some of us eventually came across International (Recreational) Folk Dancing. We learned that each ethnic group and even each village within a nationality group may have a slightly different way of dancing, something that developed over the centuries, something by which we can begin to identify the various cultures and maybe even recapture our own identity.

Today here in the U.S. and Canada we have a number of regional organizations that foster International Folk Dancing as a recreation. These organizations sponsor workshops and festivals at which we learn and practice from all over the world. There are special camps, retreats and workshops where teachers from around the world come to teach new and recently researched dances. Many of these dances are picked up in distant villages and then choreographed to fit a particular piece of music. By this means we, the common dancer, can follow the steps, practice the styling and get the feel for the dance as it may be done in its original setting.

Here in California we have the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc. and several areas or councils within Northern

California that try to hold International Folk Dancing together for our enjoyment and for our future generations to know from where we and our forefathers came. Perhaps we should make a point of studying the portion of our own ethnic background costumes so we know who we are. Our teachers should take on the responsibility of advising us as to styling and the background of the dances as we learn them. This may be a factor in increased enjoyment of our recreation and art form.

Following are a series of articles on local folk dance events that happened in October, a month set aside to celebrate multicultural awareness.

Multicultural Awareness in Fresno

by Fran Ajoian

Many people spent much time in making arrangements for Folk Dance activities during the month of October.

The Fresno Folk Dance Council club dancers started out by taking part in the 3rd annual Fresno Reads activities held on Sept. 10th at the Fashion Fair Mall. While we were dancing from 1 PM to 2 PM, club members were passing out flyers about our Festival in October and lists of where to dance to those watching us dance.

Again on Oct. 1st we took part in the annual Community Awareness Day at the Fashion Fair Mall for an all day exhibition of our folk dances along with the many other multicultural groups that were there in their native costumes. Even though at times there were only four of us on hand, we were able to invite the onlookers to join us and we all had a lot of fun.

The Fresno Autumn Harvest Festival, Oct. 15th & 16th was our final activity of events for the Multicultural Awareness month. We did have a problem in filling the huge South Gym at the State College but those who attended seemed to have a good time. A big THANK YOU to all that took part in our event.

Michael Norris, Director of Public Relations, received a letter from Barbata Boxer, U.S. Senator, commending us for our deep commitment to tradition.

The California Arts Council and the California Division of Tourism joined forces to announce the first annual California Countryside Festival to take place over a six-week period celebrating the vast cultural diversity in the eight Central Valley counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare. The events were organized so that in any single weekend a visitor could attend a number of completely different activities in several adjoining communities.

International Folk Dance Week in Santa Rosa

by Elsa Bacher

Santa Rosa Plaza cooperated fully with International Folk Dance week kick-off October 8th. Saturday afternoon at the Downtown Mall provided an enthusiastic audience and ideal setting for three groups of dancers. Shoppers were everywhere on balconies overlooking the spacious Center Court and strolling the main atrium's gleaming inlaid marble floor. Children sat ringed around the dance area. The Plaza staff was most helpful and thorough, providing top notch, state of the art sound equipment and small wooden stage at no charge to us.

Kopachka Dancers performed a variety of dances. A dozen of their dancers in colorful varied costumes, along with director, Dean Linscott, had a good time encouraging children and parents to join in Savila and Ersko. This is their 30th year of performing!

The Santa Rosa Scottish Dancers directed by Ron Wallace and Gary Thomas danced on stage. One of their youngest, Morgan, 7 years old, performed Highland exhibition dances, including a traditional sword dance. His concentration and accomplishment were warmly applauded; in fact, I'd say he stole the show. Many youthful spectators identified with him. Six of the group's women, costumed in traditional country dress (laced vest over a white chemise, an overskirt over long skirt) did step dancing and country social (set) dances. They all were accompanied by the Wild Rose Band led by Jeanette Duncan. Despite the fact that the rest of the Scottish Dancers were performing elsewhere, this portion gave a fine show.

The Santa Rose Folk Dancers assembled 5 couples to present a variety of fun dances hoping to encourage spectators to participate. They were costumed in German lederhosen and dirndl, Polish dress, colorful accouterments as well as street clothes; their enthusiastic dancing presented an image that everyone can enjoy folk dancing.

The key to making this all happen was Barbara Lynch of Petaluma who had the foresight to get the ball rolling months ahead of time and was not daunted by such matters as 10-page contracts nor quadruplicate forms. THANK YOU, BARBARA.



International Folk Dance Week at Changs

In order to observe "International Folk Dance Week" we had an "Open House" at Changs on Friday, October 14th. Our teacher, Ruth Ruling, taught a number of simple dances that could be enjoyed by beginners as well as dancers with considerable experience.

The community was made aware of the "Open House" by members of the club who distributed flyers throughout the area surrounding the location of the Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church, where Changs meets on almost every Friday night. The flyers told people that there would be no admission charge on this particular evening. It also pointed out that the dances taught would be simple but fun. Of course, it also mentioned the location and the time.

The evening was a smashing success. There were so many people in attendance that it was necessary to remove the row of chairs across the back of the room to make space for the dancers. The chairs weren't necessary anyway because most of the time everyone in the hall was dancing. There were people of all levels of dance experience. The program was so well planned that the differences in abilities were never a problem. The real measure of the success of the evening will be determined by the number of people who return to participate in the future.

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