

# Let's Dance

JANUARY 1999 • \$1.50



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THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

## International Folk Dance Festival



**Honoring our German Heritage**

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

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**Honoring  
Our  
German  
Heritage**



### NEW INFORMATION:

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
Deadline for each issue is now  
the 15th of 2 months previous  
(i.e., March deadline would be  
the 15th of January).



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# President's Message

## The Joy of Folk Dancing

International folk dancing is an interesting paradox of change and repetitiveness. When one dances a lesnoto for the hundredth or thousandth time, is it the same as any time before? What gives one dance or group of people energy and excitement, while bringing another instance only simple repetition?

The attractiveness of Folk Dancing is its juxtaposition of sameness and new experiences. Like a theater performance or a spectacular sunrise, each dance can be experienced again but it will never be the same.

An important part of the ephemeral cocktail that comprises international folk dance is the music itself.

Taped music gives us the opportunity to learn dances and to have a wide array of musical styles and types of dances at our fingertips. Live music offers a completely different experience.

The thrill of dancing to live music cannot be duplicated with tapes. How to put into words what happens when the energy of the musicians boosts the excitement of the dance, which in turn keeps the musicians going? What happens to the air? It seems to snap and hum. It's like the first sip of champagne.

I've been concerned to notice over the past few years that we as members of the Folk Dance Federation seem to have lost many of our connections to music makers. It's important to the folk dance movement that dancers and musicians be connected.

It's not only the power and excitement of live music that we miss. We also miss out on the tremendous contact network and social web that musicians have created: the easy sharing styles and cross-pollination offered by people who have played instruments together.

As dancers, we also have something to offer musicians. A dancing audience is an audience that listens with more than just the ears. It is an animated audience, moved with emotion and excitement.

I encourage you to learn about and make contacts in the folk music community. Who knows, but that you might start playing yourself?

Live music is one way to add joy and energy to folk dancing. Talk to me next festival and let me know your ideas about adding excitement to folk dance events.

Until then, Happy dancing.

Barbara

# **INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL**

## **Honoring Our German Heritage**

**CALLING ALL DANCERS !**

**Save Jan. 15 & 16, 1999**

The Peninsula Folk Dance Council invites all dancers to the 1999 Heritage Festival honoring our German heritage. The Friday night party will start at 7:45 pm on Friday, January 15, with Marcel Vinokur as the MC. Festivities continue on Saturday, January 16. As with last year, there will be no Federation meeting, but there will be an Institute on Saturday starting at 1:30 pm. The Saturday night party begins at 8:00 pm, with exhibitions about halfway through the evening. Refreshments will be available at both parties.

All events will take place at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City. Plan to join us for a fun filled weekend! The Peninsula Council extends a warm welcome to you all.

Hank Sturtevant  
Peninsula Council President

\$5.00 donation for each party  
\$6.00 for the institute

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



# International Folk Dance Festival

## Honoring Our German Heritage

### FRIDAY NIGHT FOLK DANCE PARTY

January 15, 1999 • 7:45 - 11:45 PM • MC - Marcel Vinokur

Trgnala Rumjana	Bulgaria	Ravno Oro	Macedonia	Mishol Hapereh	Israel
Gerakina	Greece	Feiar Med Vals	Norway	Gjusevska Racenica	Bulgaria
Doudlebska Polka	Czechoslovakia	Indiski Cocek	Macedonia	Cacak	Serbia
Bavno Oro	Macedonia	Makazice/Bela Rada	Serbia	Ada's Kujawiak #1	Poland
Alunelul	Romania	Livavteenee	Israel	Joc de Leagane	Romania
Milondita Tango	USA	Misirlou	Greece	Shir	Israel
Mayim	Israel	Vlasko	Bulgaria	Csardas Z	Slovakia
Ciuleandra	Romania	Korobushka	Russia	Cigany Tanc	Hungary
Tsiganotchka	Russia	Dospatsko Horo	Bulgaria	Jove Male Mome	Bulgaria
Briul de la Fagaras	Romania	Haroa Haktana	Israel	Stav Lavan	Israel
Dodi Li	Israel	Zillertaler Laendler	Austria	Imate Li Vino	Macedonia
Orijent	Serbia	Gavotte d'Honneur	Brittany	Florica Olteniasca	Romania
Salty Dog Rag	USA	Rustemul	Romania	Rorospols	Norway
Cetvorka	Macedonia	Tubarozsa Csardas	Hungary	Shoofni	Israel
Bekesi Paros	Hungary	Hora Anton Pann	Romania	Sopsko Horo	Bulgaria
Shir Al Etz	Israel	Sitna Zborenka	Bulgaria	Mairi's Wedding	Scotland
U Sest	Serbia	Hambo	Sweden	Iste Hendek	Turkey
Na'ama	Israel	Sapri Tama	Israel	Somogyi Karikazo	Hungary
Sestorka	Serbia	Bicak	Bulgaria	Atzay Hatsaftsafot	Israel
Dedo Mili Dedo	Macedonia	Polharrow Burn	Scotland	Cimpoi	Romania
Arnold's Circle	England	Sweet Girl	Armenia	Cetvorno Horo	Bulgaria
Setnja	Serbia	Pasarelska	Bulgaria	Swing	USA
Horehronsky Csardas	Slovakia	Vossarul	Norway	Erev Ba	Israel
Bare Necessities	England	Dobrudzanska Reka	Bulgaria	Ovcepolso	Macedonia
Ma Na'avu	Israel	Joc Batranesc	Romania	Waltz	USA

### SATURDAY NIGHT FOLK DANCE PARTY

January 16, 1999 • 8:00 - 11:45 PM • MC - Marcel Vinokur

Setnja	Serbia	J B Milne	Scotland	Maple Leaf Rag	USA
Karamfil	Bulgaria	Jove Male Mome	Bulgaria	Marklaendler	Germany
Ada's Kujawiak #1	Poland	Vrtielka	Slovakia	Godecki Cacak	Serbia
St. Gilgen's Figurentanz	Austria	Tzadik Katamar	Israel	La Bastringue	Canada
Miserlou	Greece	Dreisteyrer	Austria/Tyrol	Corrido	Mexico
Trip to Bavaria	Scotland	Bal en da Straat	Belgium	Ivanice	Macedonia
Bohemian Ntnl. Polka	Bohemia	Hofbrauhaus Laendler	Bavaria	1314	Scotland
Armenian Miserlou	Armenia	Vrapcheto	Bulgaria	Horehronsky Csardas	Slovakia
Alexandrovska	Russia	Arnold's Circle	England	Zillertaler Laendler	Austria
Divcibarsko Kolo	Serbia	Stabberinglender	Norway	Vulpita	Romania
Polharrow Burn	Scotland	Shir al etz	Israel	MacDonald of the Isles	Scotland
Joc Batranesc din Niculitel	Romania	Japanese Soft Shoe	USA	Hambo	Sweden
Schuhplattler Laendler	Bavaria	Lepa Anka Kolo Vodi	Croatia	Kvar Acharay Chatzot	Israel
Das Fenster	Germany	Bucimis	Bulgaria	Waltz	
Rumelaj	Balkan	La Encantada Tango	USA		
		Gerakina	Greece		

# Folk Dancers We Should Remember

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Bruce Mitchell

by Larry Getchell

For this month's column, "Folk dancers we should remember" I have chosen to honor Bruce Mitchell. Bruce is still a very active folk dancer, and as Bruce is very busy, we are fortunate to have his history detailed in the recently published 50-year history of Stockton Folk Dance Camp, by Vera Holleuffer and Jack and June McKay. Having received proper permission, I quote as follows:

"Bruce Mitchell started his folk dancing career on June 2, 1951 when, at the age of 15, he went to a square dance class with his parents Don and Bee Mitchell at the Midway Ballroom between Stockton and Lodi. They needed one more person to complete the fifth square and Bruce was the only person in the room not already dancing. He hasn't sat down since.

"Bruce's first experience in teaching dance started during the fall of 1954 just as he was entering college when, he says, "Not knowing any better, I taught a class of 130 + junior high school students." He has been teaching dance ever since for many recreation departments and/or private groups.

"His experience with the students helped to prepare him for his formal vocation, elementary education. Now retired, he was a professional educator for 38 years in the Rio Linda Union School District where he taught various levels, including three years of special education. For 23 of those years he was a school principal and for the last three, a Curriculum Coordinator. During his 38 years in the school district, he always found a way to teach dance to students.

"In 1952—a year after Bruce's mother Bee attended Folk Dance Camp at the College of the Pacific for the first time—Bruce came as a teenager and has attended every camp since. In 1955 he received one of the first scholarships awarded by the Folk Dance Federation of California. He often had to walk (dance) a tightrope between his military reserve obligations and summer school sessions in order to get to FDC.

"During the early 60s Lawton Harris asked Bruce to become a member of the Grounds Crew. In 1968 the Committee invited him to become a member and upon Jack's retirement in 1987, the Committee chose Bruce to become Director.

"Folk dancing has opened many doors for Bruce over the years. He started teaching classes in the Sacramento area when he moved there in 1956. Four years later he started the Camtia Dance Ensemble, a group specializing in German/Austrian dances that provides entertainment for Oktoberfest throughout northern and central California. Today it has several second-generation members in it. During the late 1970s Bruce started a Bulgarian performing group, which lasted for three years. In 1993 he founded the Sacramento Vintage Dancers, a group that is now performing for all types of shows.

"When Ching-shan Chang came to Folk Dance Camp in 1980, he invited Bruce to teach dance in Taiwan the following year and again in 1983. Traveling in that part of the world also enabled Bruce to visit Hong Kong and teach the Budlet Dancers. Following Ching-shan's untimely death, Bruce-as asked to return to Taiwan and Hong Kong in 1987. The Tokyo Federation invited him to teach dance for their 30th anniversary in 1991 and also for the all-Japan Recreation Festival held in Shimane Prefecture in 1994.



He returned in 1996 for special workshops in both Tokyo and Hong Kong.

"In 1996 the State University at Sacramento asked Bruce to choreograph dance numbers for their production of Smetana's opera *The Battered Bride* and to perform together with other members from his group. That collaboration was so successful the school invited him to choreograph numbers for the school's spring 1997 production of Strauss' *The Merry Widow*.

"Bruce has taught numerous workshops in dances for children for various California school districts as well as workshops for the California Music Educators' Association and the California Association of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

"As Bruce enters retirement, he is in the process of developing folk dance classes for seniors in the Sacramento area. He currently substitutes for music teachers in his old school district, giving him the opportunity to develop new dance material for children. He also plans to do extensive research in vintage and early California dances from the 1850s to the early 1900s."

To the foregoing it is important to mention that, following one year as Treasurer, Bruce Mitchell served as President of the Folk Dance Federation of California for the term 1968-69.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention Bruce's mother, Bee Mitchell. Not only was her presence noted starting with the early years at Folk Dance Camp, she was especially active in promoting the Scholarship Program. In addition to her Folk Dance Camp activities, Bee Mitchell was Federation Historian for almost 20 years, starting with the 58/59 administration of John Mooney. It is little wonder then that son Bruce got his folk dance feet wet while an early teenager.

Just one added suggestion. If you have during the past 51 years attended camp, you certainly should avail yourself of a copy of the 76 page "50-Year History of Stockton Folk Dance Camp. We guarantee it will bring back pleasant memories.



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# The *Let's Dance* Four-Year Index of Dance Descriptions

## PUBLISHED DANCES

(1/95 - 12/98)

January 1995	Kak u nashikh u vorot, Ketri Ketri
February	Shoofni, Baba Djurdja
March	Familejvals, Palóc Táncok
April	Cigánytánc, Kak pri balkye
May-June	Voronezhkaya Kadril, Harmonica
July-August	Tsamiko
September	Atzay Hatsaftsafot, Devochka Nadya
October	Mona's Festvals, Hora femeilor
November	Cačak from Padež, Reel of the Royal Scots
December	Stopparen, Viper Tango
January 1996	Valle Jarnana, Balmoral Strathspey
February	Ginka, Kvar Acharay Chatzot
March	Joc bătrânesc, Last of the Lairds
April	Trei păzește de la Măceșu
May-June	Churshat Ha'ekaliptus, Žensko Pušteno
July-August	Krossadans med tre/ni
September	Podrushky
October	Yatsusaka
November	Joc în patru de la Târgul Lăpuș
December	Schottis från Storvik Pinewoods Two Step, Dunántuli Ugrós
January 1997	Nochka, Nino
February	Idam, ne Idam, Gorenka
March	Poydyom miliy, Louky
April	Tajimi ko uta
May-June	Uswals, Kojčovata
July-August	Jan Pierewiet, Rothesay Rant
September	The Black Nag
October	Swiss Mixer, Rozelaar
November	Dans Țsigănesc, Vesela je Šokadija
December	Szot Madziar
January 1998	Gaida, Avant-Deux des Touches
February	La Danse des Mouchoirs
March	Biały Mazur
April	Maitli Schottish, Indijski Čoček
May-June	An Dro Retourné, Lüsener Deutscher
July-August	Three's a Crowd
September	Szarocz
October	Kalle P's Vals, Pravo Rodopsko horo
November	Romska Gajda
December	Vidinsko horo



## Al Kanfe Ha'Kesef

(Israel)

Al Kanfe Ha'Kesef (ahl kahn-FEH hah KEH-sehf) is a non-partner dance choreographed by Moti Elfassy to music by Naomi Shemer. The title means "on silver wings" and the dance is a salute to all pilots in Israeli Air Force. David Edery presented the dance at the 1998 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

**Music:** CD: Israel Folk Dances Band 10 4/4 meter  
Cassette: Israeli Folk Dances with David Edery,  
Stockton, 1998 Side A/4.

**Formation:** Circle of dancers facing LOD (CCW), hands joined in V-pos.

**Steps and Styling:** Running Step (1 to a ct): Danced in a vigorous manner. Knees are lifted high. Step alternates.

Mayim Step R (1 to a meas): A 4-step grapevine, moving CW (to L): step on R across in front of L (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2); step on R across in back of L (ct 3); step on L to L (ct 4). Step repeats exactly.

Mayim Step L: Same as Mayim R but reverse ftwk and direction.

Yemenite R (4 ct): Step on R to R side, bending knees(ct 1); step on ball of L ft near R heel, straightening knees (ct 2); step on R across in front of L, bending knees(ct 3); hold, straightening knees straightening knees easily (ct 4). Do not turn hips. Step alternates.

Yemenite L (4 ct): Same as Yemenite R but reverse ftwk and direction.

Ftwk same for all throughout.

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Measures	4/4 meter	PATTERN
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4 meas INTRODUCTION No action. Begin with vocal.

I. TO LOD AND BACK; TO CENTER AND BACK

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Beg R, run 4 steps in LOD (CCW).   |
| 2   | Facing ctr, step on R to R side (ct 1); step on L ft across behind R (ct 2); step on R to R side (ct 3); leaving R in place, step on L to L(ct 4). |
| 3-4 | Beg R ft over L, dance two Mayim steps in RLOD.  |
| 5   | Step twd ctr on R ft (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2); repeat with L ft (cts 3,4).  |

- 6 Beg R, dance 1 Yemenite step (cts 1-3); hop on R (ct 4).
- 7 Repeat Meas 6 with opp ftwk (beg L).
- 8 Beg R, run bkwd 4 steps to reform orig circle.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8

**II. TO RIGHT SIDE, LEFT SIDE; FORWARD AND BACK**

- 1 Facing ctr, dance a low leap sdwd R onto R ft (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); repeat (cts 3,4).
- 2 Step onto R ft twd ctr bending torso back and raising arms to head level (ct 1); step back onto L and lower arms (ct 2); jump onto both ft in place (ct 3); hop on R ft in place (ct 4).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

**SEQUENCE:**

Dance pattern twice as written plus Fig I, meas 1-8 and 1-2.  
Note: According to those who know, there are many recordings of this music and the dance sequence may vary from the one given above. Adapt and enjoy!

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## **Submission and Subscription Information**

**The deadline for Submission of ALL material is now the 15th of the month preceding publication--or 6 weeks before publication.**

**For example, the deadline for the March 1999 issue is January 15, 1999**

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Kenwood, CA 95452

**We're still looking for someone to take responsibility for the Federation phone number!**

# COUNCIL CLIPS

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**Nadine Mitchell, 1941 Danvers Way, Sacramento, CA. 95832, 916-392-7357**

**Deadline for March 1999 issue is January 15, 1999.**

## **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS**

Naomi Lidicker reports that the Berkeley Folk Dancers are welcoming the New Year with its annual New Year's Eve Party. It will be Thursday, Dec. 31, of course! Come join us in dancing out the old year and welcoming the new year at Live Oak Park Gym, Berryman and Shattuck, Berkeley, from 9 p.m. - midnight. Members \$4; non-members \$6.

Join the Berkeley Folk Dancers' Gold Rush in El Cerrito at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane on Saturday, January 23, from 7:30 - 11:00 p.m.

This annual 1-Ball will inaugurate BFD's new officers and welcome our new members from our vigorous beginners class. Tickets must be bought in advance. Members \$4; non-members \$6. For reservations call Underhill 510-236-4807.

## **PENINSULA COUNCIL**

Hank Sturtevant reports that plans are in place for their January Festival, being held Jan. 15 and 16, which will have a German theme. The Federation will be handling the Institute. The location is the Veterans Memorial Building in Redwood City.

## **REDWOOD COUNCIL**

Elsa Bacher reports that the annual SWEETHEART FESTIVAL will be held Sunday, February 14, 1999 (Valentine's Day), from 1:30 - 5:30 PM at the Covenant

Presbyterian Church, 1226 Salvador Avenue, in Napa. Hosts are the Napa Valley and the Petaluma International Folk Dancers. All are invited to come and have a good time!

Dean Linscott reports that the Kopachka Dancers are alive and well and dancing every Friday night in Mill Valley, at Scout Hall, 177 East Blithedale Avenue. (For information call Dean Linscott at 707-546-2434). The program is international, with both partner and non-partner dances. Current membership is 34, plus drop-in guests who are always welcome. Veronica Valero, assisted by her husband, David Porter, teaches a beginner-intermediate class from 7:30 til 8:39, and then they move on to a more advanced program while including a number of easy dances, so that the newer dancers can still participate. This seems to be working well; Veronica and David have put a great deal of time and effort into their class, which all of us appreciate.

A couple of times a year Kopachkas have a potluck dinner at a member's house, and then we adjourn to the dance hall to finish out the evening. We also hire a band to provide live music once or twice a year. So, if you are in the Mill Valley area any Friday night, drop in and join us.

## **SACRAMENTO COUNCIL**

January 9 is the date for our "Hello, Happy '99" New Year's Potluck Dinner-Dance being held at the Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way,



Sacramento. We invite out-of-town folkdancers to come and get 1999 off to a "smiling start."

Work is ongoing for the Camellia Festival on March 6 & 7, with Sunday, the 7th in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. We'll keep you posted on future developments.

Council clubs are always busy with dance activities, and one annual event, Winterfest, is being held January 23, at St. Ignacio's Church on Arden Way. Among other performing groups will be two Council clubs: Alpentanzer Schuhplattlers and Kinder, and Vienna Rhythm. The Alpentanzer Schuhplattlers host this event and as usual, it promises to be a wonderful experience for all those who attend.

Our featured folk dance club this month is the El Dorado International Dance Association under the leadership of Al & Teddy Wolterbeek. This group was started in 1981, so this month, January, marks 18 years. The Association has a membership of between 40 and 50 members. For the first 8 or 9 years the group met on Friday nights, at which time it was decided, due to ongoing interest in folk dancing, that a Beginners Class was also needed. Presently, the Advanced Group meets on Fridays at Wolterbeek's Dance Barn, the Beginner-Intermediate Group meets on Tuesdays in Placerville at the Odd Fellows Hall, and a third Beginner-Intermediate group, which calls itself the Georgetown Dancers, meets on Fridays in Garden Valley. Also, the El Dorado Scandinavian Dancers started classes on Tuesdays recently and have now formed their own club. It's easy to see there is no shortage of interest in folk dancing in the hills above Sacramento! Congratulations to all of you.

Teddy tells me that the El Dorado dancers do not call themselves an exhibition group but mainly dance for the sheer pleasure of it and even though the advanced group is asked to perform several times a year they do not make it a priority. Speaking from a personal standpoint, however, I've seen these folks dance and they are GOOD! But even more importantly, and in keeping with the comment about dancing for the enjoyment of it, one can see they truly like what they're doing. Just look at the energy, enthusiasm and all those smiles!

NADINE MITCHELL

### SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL

Ruth Ruling reports the following schedule for Changs:

- Jan. 1 - Closed National Holiday.
- Jan. 8 - Teaching from 8-10:00 PM by Elsa Bacher. General Dancing from 10:00 - 11:00 PM.
- Jan. 15 - Party Night. International Program with requests. Members bring "finger food."
- Jan. 22 - Something new and special! Evening to be hosted by Craig Blackstone. Come join the fun.
- Jan. 29 - Fifth Friday. Changs is closed.

Meeting Place: Social Hall, 7th Avenue  
Presbyterian Church, 1329 7th Avenue, San Francisco, CA.

Edith Bourdin, instructor for Mandala, reports the club meets every Thursday from 7:30 - 11:30 PM. The meeting place is: St. Paul's Church, 43rd and Judah Streets, San Francisco.

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# CALENDAR of EVENTS

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Craig Blackstone, 207 Monterey Road #1, Pacifica, CA 94044, 650-359-7486

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Craig Blackstone, 207 Monterey Road #1, Pacifica, CA 94044, 650-359-7486

Deadline for the March issue is January 15, 1999

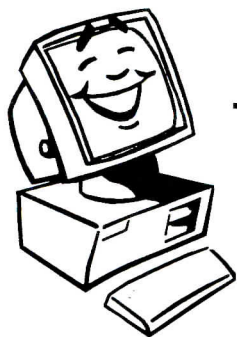
Plan ahead! Save these dates for upcoming folk dance festivals:

Jan 15-16	REDWOOD CITY	Heritage Festival
Feb 14, Sun	NAPA	Sweetheart Festival
Feb 21, Sun	BERKELEY	Festival Of The Oaks
Jan 2, Sat	SACRAMENTO	Kolo Koalition, 8:00-10:30 p.m., YLI Hall, 27th & N Sts. Laura, 916-739-6014 (H), 916-424-0864 (W)
Jan 8, Fri	SAN JOSE	Santa Clara Valley FD, 1st Christian Church, 80 S 5th St. Maxine, 408-739-0500 or Denise, 408-249-6104
Jan 9, Sat	PETALUMA	Hermann Sons Hall, 2-6:00 p.m. Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
Jan 9, Sat	SACRAMENTO	Council New Year's Potluck Dinner-Dance, Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way. Irene, 916-371-4949
Jan 15, Fri	SAN FRANCISCO	Changs, 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 1329 7th Avenue Ruth, 415-333-2210
Jan 15-16,	REDWOOD CITY	Heritage Festival, Veteran's Memorial Center, 1455 Madison
Jan 16, Sat	SACRAMENTO	BBKM Party, 8:00-?? YLI Hall, 27th & N Sts. Barbara, 916-923-1555
Jan 20, Wed	SANTA ROSA	Veterans Bldg., Santa Rosa, 2-4 p.m. Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
Jan 23, Sat	EL CERRITO	Berkeley Folk Dancers Inaugural Ball, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, 7:30-11:00p.m. Clem, 510-236-4807
Jan 23, Sat	MENLO PARK	Menlo Park FD, Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma at Mielke Marcel, 650-327-0759
Jan 23, Sat	NAPA	Grandview Mobile Home Park, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Charlie, 707-258-0519

(Continued)



Jan 23, Sat	SAN CARLOS	Docey Doe FD, Community United Church, Arroyo at Elm Bruce, 650-368-7834
Jan 24, Sun	SACRAMENTO	Scandinavianians, 1:30-5:30 p.m., YLI Hall, 27th & N Sts. Sallie, 916-789-0987 (H), 916-774-5236
Jan 30, Sat	GALT	First & Last Dancers, Valley Oaks Grange, 5th & D Sts. Eda, 916-682-2638
Jan 30, Sat	FRESNO	Fifth Saturday Party, Lafayette Social Hall Fran, 209-255-4508
Feb 6, Sat	REDWOOD CITY	Palomanians, First Methodist Church Broadway at Brewster Denise, 408-249-6104 or Ruth, 415-333-2210
Feb 12, Fri	SAN JOSE	Santa Clara Valley FD, 1st Christian Church, 80 S 5th St. Maxine, 408-739-0500 or Denise, 408-249-6104
Feb 13, Sat	FRESNO	Scholarship Dance, Lafayette Social Hall Fran, 209-255-4508
Feb 13, Sat	PETALUMA	Hermann Sons Hall, 2-6:00 p.m. Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
Feb 13, Sat	SACRAMENTO	Pairs & Spares, 8:00-11:00 p.m., Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way Chuck, 916-428-6992
Feb 14, Sun	NAPA	Sweetheart Festival
Feb 17, Wed	SANTA ROSA	Veterans Bldg., Santa Rosa, 2-4 p.m. Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
Feb 19, Fri	SAN FRANCISCO	Changs, 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 1329 7th Avenue Ruth, 415-333-2210
Feb 20, Sat	MENLO PARK	Menlo Park FD, Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma at Mielke Marcel, 650-327-0759
Feb 21, Sun	BERKELEY	Festival Of The Oaks
Feb 27, Sat	GALT	First & Last Dancers, Valley Oaks Grange, 5th & D Sts. Eda, 916-682-2638
Feb 27, Sat	NAPA	Grandview Mobile Home Park, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Charlie, 707-258-0519
Feb 27, Sat	SAN CARLOS	Docey Doe FD, Community United Church, Arroyo at Elm Bruce, 650-368-7834



# Dancing on the Internet

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by Barbara Bruxvoort (bbrux@wco.com)  
Federation Website: [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com)

## A Few Good Sites

Here are a few sites you may want to check out on a cold and rainy winter evening. Happy surfing!

### Folk Dance Australia

<http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/4677/> Activities, comment and dance descriptions from Australia, including the association's newsletter.

### Folk Dance Glossary

<http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/4160/> Put together for Australian Folk Dancers, this glossary is interesting for its thoroughness, as well as the different ways dance terms are used down under.

### International Dance Association Special Events

[http://www.sandiegoinsider.com/community/groups/ida/A\\_Few\\_Special\\_Events.html](http://www.sandiegoinsider.com/community/groups/ida/A_Few_Special_Events.html) Special programs, plus an incredible array of links to dance groups in the San Diego area.

### The Dance Teacher Now

<http://www.dance-teacher.com/> An online dance magazine with resources for dancers and teachers, including an extensive index of articles about dealing with and preventing dance injuries. You can order three articles for no charge!

### Tom Pixton's Web Pages

<http://www.ma.ultranet.com/~tomatoes/tom-pixton.html> An extensive resource for folk dancers and folk music lovers. Information includes events in New England, and details of an international folk music book (with musical notation!). Don't miss the Rumanian pages with their well-written and interesting travelogue including very nice photos and captions, focusing on folklore. Maps of the different regions of Romania are included, as well as a country map.



## Folk Arts Center of New England

<http://www.ultranet.com/~fac/> Information about events, plus things on offer in their store (including sheet music, records, etc.).

## Kesher LeMachol

<http://www.webspan.net/~hgpkim/> An Israeli folkdancing newsletter. The site includes contacts for more information on events around the country, plus a monthly calendar of annual events (no dates, just the month).

## Anglo-American Dance Service

<http://www.club.innet.be/~year1980/> A European catalog company offering many International folk dance CD's.

## The Clogging Page

<http://www.access.digex.net/~jmangin/clogging.htm> Information on clogging resources including videos and books.

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# CLASSIFIED ADS

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**MILLIE VON KONSKY DAY CLASSES** - Mondays: Beginning Ballroom, Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek (free: 1-1:30, class, 1:30 - 3); Wednesdays: On-going Country Western Line, Dublin Senior Center, 7437 Larkdale Ave., 11:30 - 1:00 (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), 1:30 - 3, Intermediate Ballroom; Thursdays: On-going Country Western Line, Danville Community Center, 420 Front Street, 10 - 11 (Intermediate, Advanced), 11 - 12 (Beginner); Fridays: On-going Country Western Line, Civic Park Community Center, 1:30 - 2 (Free), 2 - 3:30 (class Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced). Private lessons available. For more information, call 925-828-5976.

**"Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble"** - present their new recording: *Chookasian Armenian Songs & Dances of Eastern & Western Armenia*. It is a combination of Classical, Folkloric & Troubadour musical selections. TO ORDER YOUR audio cassette, video cassette and compact disc, contact John Chookasian at 2511 West Browning, Fresno, CA 93711 (209) 449-1777, or fax 209-432-6666.



## HAPPY SURFING

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# A NEW GENERATION OF FOLK DANCERS

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by Carol Hirsh Folk Dance Instructor Santa Rosa Junior College

A Santa Rosa folk dancer has been selected "outstanding senior volunteer" by the California chapter of the national program, Partners in Education. Art Babad, a retired anesthesiologist, teaches folk dance to hundreds of children in Sonoma County. His classes include Balkan, Bolivian, French, Israeli and Russian folk dances that youngsters find exciting and great fun.

Art's program reaches 200 to 225 students (plus 20-25 dancing mothers and teachers) in six different school districts. There are five regularly scheduled classes on different days, including one for mentally or physically disadvantaged youngsters. After school hours come another three activities (one or two hours each), and two classes of home schooled children ranging in age from 4 to 14 years.

Why spend so much of your time like this, he is asked, and why for free? "I'm being selfish. of course," he says. "I enjoy teaching folk dance, especially to kids. Kids are the hope of the future, and we can help mold their preferences by introducing them to wholesome, enjoyable activities. Just look at our (traditional) folk dance groups: there are some young adults, but very few children, and a lot of old fuddy-duddies like me—and a lot of attrition as our arthritis gets worse." Why for free? "Well, if you paid me, it would be work, and I enjoy being retired."

"I prefer to teach grades 1 through 5," Art says. "Many 6th-graders are becoming teenagers, and their brains get cluttered with hormones and preconceived mass biases against dance (other than rock n roll). I have taught two high school groups, and no thanks! The teens who are interested are very, very good, and the teens who are not interested are horrid! But the younger kids are delightful and amazing. Can you imagine 5-year-olds dancing the Troika at full speed, and correctly?"

Can first-graders really do complex folk dances? "You have to select the dances appropriate to the age level," he admits. "And I have no compunction against modifying a dance to fit the degree of balance, coordination and rowdiness of the particular class. For instance, when I teach Raca, I never have the kids holding hands in a circle — that would be a recipe for disaster. They line up in rows. with at least one arms length between them— and they still sometimes step on each others' feet."

"One of the most difficult tasks was to learn to face the students, and move to my left while I was calling out 'two steps to the right.' And I no longer teach Savila se bela loza; it's much too dangerous (boys will be boys). Ersko kolo is just about right for first and second graders: the running is limited to three steps at a time."

"On the other hand, I do NOT discourage variations in the dance, provided the kids follow three rules: 1. They have to know the standard pattern of the dance BEFORE they develop the variation. 2. The variation must not be hazardous to others or even to themselves. 3. The variation must fit the musical rhythm and phrasing." "Kulsko is a general favorite at all grade levels. My ex-6th-graders at Proctor Terrace



learned the textbook version of Kulsko, and then proceeded to develop one or two 'legal' (but technically difficult) variations for each of the six dance-patterns, and also for the chorus. I've even adopted one of their variations in my standard teaching of Kulsko."

Art began his folk-dance teaching career in 1993, when a friend asked him to teach folk-dances at a school whose students included three of her grandchildren. He was amazed how quickly the students learned the dances. Two of the classes performed at a world culture fair sponsored by the school at the end of the second week. They danced not just well but beautifully — and Art was invited back to teach other classes. The word got around that someone was volunteering his teaching for free and by 1995 he was teaching at five schools. His retirement in 1996 freed even more time to dedicate to the children.

I've seen Art teach his students. He is extremely patient and gentle. He chooses dances they like, and his enthusiasm for folk dance shines through.

We have long bemoaned the fact that interest in folk dance has been declining. Art has found one way to introduce the next generation to folk dance. We need others to follow his example. He is eager to share his teaching experiences, techniques and dances that have worked. Art can be reached at 3343 Magowan Drive, Santa Rosa CA, 95405-5117.



*Children dancing the bunny hop during summer school at Proctor Terrace School in Santa Rosa.*



*Arthur Babad teaching Raca to a second grade dance class at Hillcrest School in Sebastopol.*



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(CITY TOUR); PASSAU (CITY TOUR); MELK (TOUR of MELK ABBEY)  
DURNSTEIN (WALKING TOUR); VIENNA OVERNIGHT (CITY TOUR);  
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