

# Let's Dance

FEBRUARY 2001 • \$3.00

Happy  
Valentines Day

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THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

## Festival of the Oaks



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

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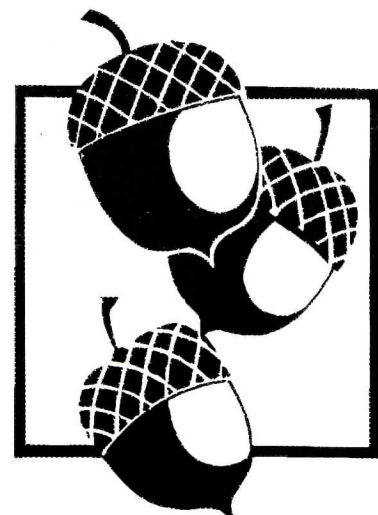
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**On Our Cover:**  
**Welcome to the**  
**Festival of the Oaks**



## 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).



## SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

\$17.50 per year  
\$22.50 foreign & Canada

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## President's Message

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Have you ever wondered why legal documents always seem to contain lots of words and phrases that nobody in his right mind would use in normal conversation? As a lawyer, I can tell you that there is a very good reason for all this gobbledygook commonly called "legalese". Over the years these words and phrases have been subjected to frequent review and interpretation by the courts, and so through this extended usage have developed standard meanings and applications that are generally understood throughout the legal profession. People creating legal documents are aware that these agreements may some day be subject to interpretation by a court, and prefer to use terms that have already established particular meanings in order to assure that the intent of the parties to the agreement is properly communicated.

What does this have to do with folk dancing, I hear you ask? Well, in dancing we use our own particular form of language to communicate our intent when we describe a dance: the language of dance notation. Have you ever learned a dance, and then tried to describe in writing the series of movements, pacing, and styling that makes up the dance? If only you are likely to refer to your notes, it probably doesn't matter too much what terms you use when you write up the dance description. But would you be able to describe a dance with sufficient clarity to effectively communicate all the elements of the dance to someone else? This is really quite a chore, as I know from personal experience. It is even more of a chore if you will not be personally available to clarify any ambiguity that might arise from the particular terms you have used.

The Folk Dance Federation of California has over the course of its fifty+ years of existence regularly published dance descriptions in "*Let's Dance*" magazine, using a relatively uniform system of dance notation. I believe this collection of dance descriptions is one of the greatest accomplishments of the Federation. The creation of this collection has been the result of thousands of hours of hard work by a very dedicated group of individuals. None of this work is done for pay, but all is contributed on a voluntary basis by members of the Federation Dance Research Committee dedicated to maintaining the highest level of integrity in proper instruction of international folk dance. Current members of this hard-working committee are: Chairperson, Ruth Ruling; Committee members: Larry & Ruth Miller; Bob Gardner; Vina Cera; Edith Cuthbert; Elsa Bacher; Dorothy Daw; Bob Young and Bruce Wyckoff.

Before any dance description appears in "*Let's Dance*", it requires extensive review by members of the Federation Dance Research Committee, both in person and by videotape, of the dance as taught by the dance teacher at the time the dance is being introduced, as at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Although the instructor may have brought a dance description for the dance camp syllabus, it is not at all uncommon for the instructor's description to vary from the manner and styling in which the instructor teaches the dance. Furthermore, the instructor's description might use ambiguous terms or not use a notation system consistent with that which has been regularly utilized by the Federation. (In case you didn't know, there are many different forms or systems of dance notation.)

By having used the same dance notation system consistently for decades in our dance descriptions, we are like the lawyers I mentioned at the beginning of this column: we are using a tried and tested series of terms to most effectively communicate precisely what we intend. I want to thank Ruth Ruling, Suzanne Rocca-Butler, Bill & Louise Lidiker, Loui Tucker, Joyce Lissant Uggle, Bill & Carol Wentzel, and Teddy Wolterbeek, as well as all those who preceded them as members of the Federation Dance Research Committee, for the excellent work they have done, from which we have all benefitted.

See you on the dance floor.

Craig Blackstone



## *Welcome to the Festival of the Oaks*



The 53rd annual Festival of the Oaks will be held this year at Live Oak Park in Berkeley on Sunday, February 25. This is the third year that the Berkeley Folk Dancers will co-sponsor this event with the Folk Dance Federation of California. If you attended either the 1998 or the 1999 Festival of the Oaks you can tell anyone who has missed these outstanding events that they shouldn't miss this year's festival.

One might ask, "What makes this such an outstanding event?" I'm glad you asked that question. Can you picture dancing on a lovely, large, sprung wooden floor in a large hall with life-sized costumed figures on the walls? The room was set up in a cafe-like atmosphere, with small tables, flowers and chairs arranged around the room. In the morning there were two-hour institutes with skilled dance leaders. After a lunch break there was 3-1/2 hours of international folk dancing with a short break for exhibition dancing.

This year will be as good or better than previous years. The morning institute, from 10:00 AM to Noon, will feature Susan Cashion teaching a Mexican choreographed dance as well as several Latin American social dances. As teaching tools she plans to choreograph some simple routines. During the lunch break the Folk Dance Federation of California will hold an Assembly Meeting which is open to any participants attending the festival. A warm lunch will be served after the Federation Meeting. Dancing will resume at 1:30 PM and in the mid-afternoon we will be entertained by the Jubilee American Dance Theater. The whole day's event will cost \$10 or one can attend individual sessions for \$6. The admission for full-time students is \$2.00 per session.

This event at Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Avenue (near Berryman) can be reached by public transportation or adequate free parking is available. For more information contact Mel Mann, (510) 527-2177, or e-mail: [meldancing@aol.com](mailto:meldancing@aol.com).

MEL MANN

# Festival of the Oaks

**Sunday, February 25, 2001  
Live Oak Park Recreation Center  
1301 Shattuck, at Berryman  
Berkeley, CA**

**REGISTRATION.....9:45 AM**

**INSTITUTE.....10:00 AM – NOON    \$6.00**

Caribbean and Latin American Circle and Partner Dances presented by  
SUSAN CASHION

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING.....NOON    No Charge**

Folk Dance Federation of California

**INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.....1:30 PM – 5:00 PM    \$6.00**

Dances from Macedonia, Israel, Hungary, Armenia and other far away places.

**EXHIBITION AT 3:00 PM**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

Full day \$10.00. Full time students \$2.00 per event.

To get to Live Oak Park from BART, disembark at the Berkeley main station and locate a 7, 9 or 43 AC transit bus going North. Ask the driver to let you off at the stop for Live Oak Park, at Berryman Street. Live Oak Park Recreation Center is one block East (toward the hills) at the intersection of Berryman Street and Shattuck Avenue. There is adequate free parking available at the park.

## **SPONSORED BY:**

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc. &  
Berkeley Folk Dancers

For more information call Mel Mamm (510) 527-2177 or e-mail [meldancing@aol.com](mailto:meldancing@aol.com)

Syrtos Greece  
 Ciuleandra Romania  
 La Bastringue French Canada  
 Institute Dance  
 Țarina de la Abrud Romania

Bohemian Mazurka Czech Republic  
 Joc Bătrânesc din Niculițel Romania  
 Institute Dance  
 Haroa Haktana Israel  
 Olsson's Familiewals Sweden

Institute Dance  
 Dhivaratikos Greece  
 Ali Pasa Turkey  
 La Salamandre France  
 Lucky U.S.A.

Idam ne Idam Bulgaria  
 Let's Have a Ceilidh Scotland  
 Pravo Rodopsko Horo Bulgaria  
 El Gaucho Tango U.S.A.  
 Andro Retourné France

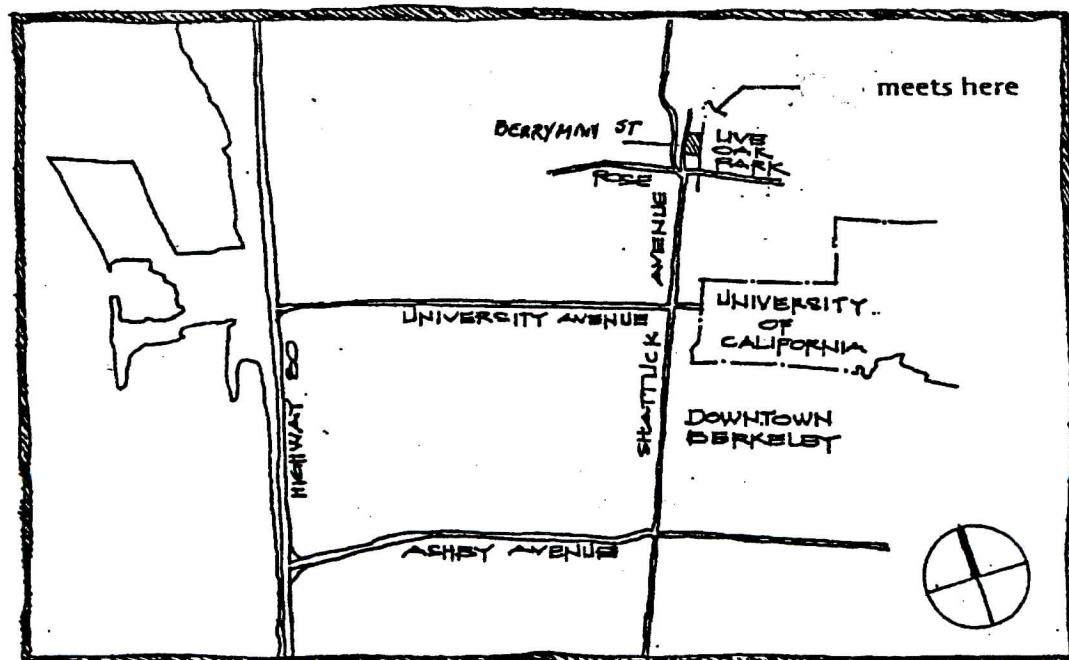
Ijswals Netherlands  
 Tfilati Israel  
 Maple Leaf Rag U.S.A.  
 Gorarçe Albania  
 Kerchief Kujawiak Poland

Louky Czech Republic  
 La Encantada Tango U.S.A.  
 Tamzara Armenia  
 Swedish Finn Mixer Sweden/Finland  
 Valašský Starodávny Czech Republic

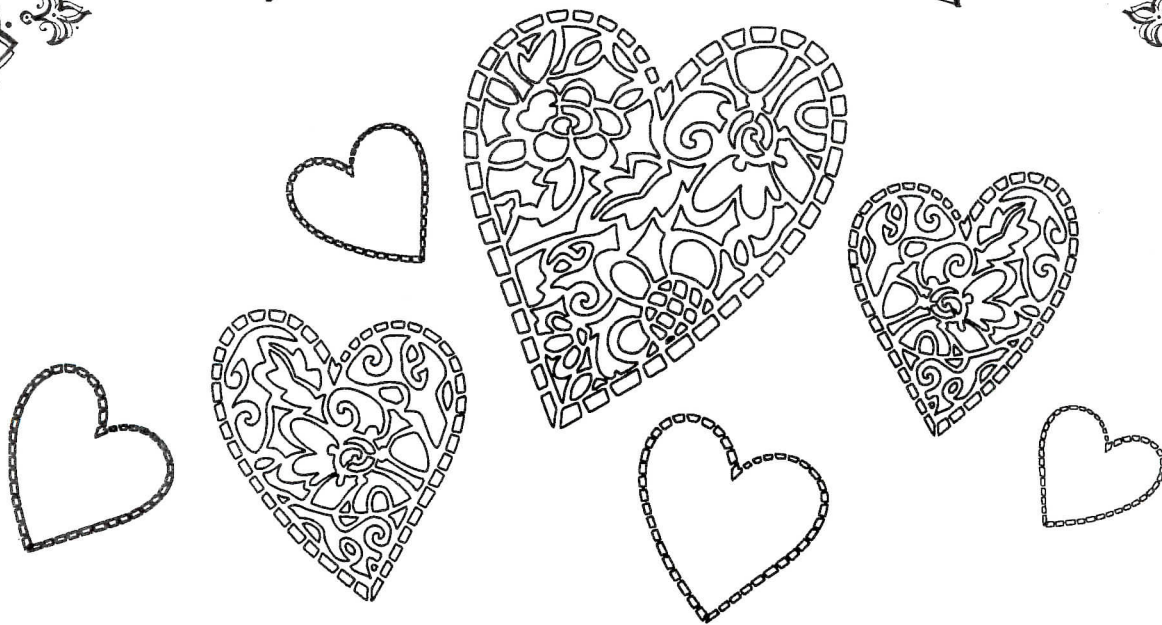
Sulaam Ya'akov (Jacob's Ladder) Israel  
 Polharrow Burn Scotland  
 Horehronsky Čardáš Slovakia  
 3's a Crowd U.S.A.  
 Hambo Sweden

Vidinsko Horo Bulgaria  
 The Fandango England  
 Dhivaratikos Greece  
 Skt. Gilgen Figurentanz Germany  
 Jove Male Mome Bulgaria

Road to the Isles Scotland  
 Ma Na'Avu Israel  
 Fate Tango Argentina/U.S.A.  
 Picking Up Sticks England  
 Lemonia Greece



30th Annual



# Sweetheart Festival

Sunday, February 11th from 1:30 to 5:30

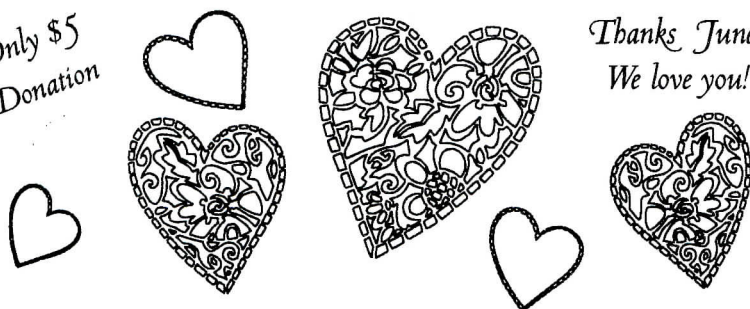
Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1226 Salvador Avenue in Napa

Get in the mood for Valentine's Day with an afternoon of dancing  
in the *HEART* of the beautiful Napa Valley!  
Our varied program has dances for both newcomers and old-timers  
and our location is bright and airy. We hope you'll  
put on your dancin' shoes (and your valentine finery) and join the fun!

The Napa Valley Petaluma International Folk Dancers

# Sweetheart Festival 2001

Only \$5  
Donation



*"30" and counting!*

Get in the mood for Valentine's Day with an afternoon of dancing in the HEART of the beautiful Napa Valley!  
Our varied program has dances for both newcomers and old-timers and our location is bright and airy. We hope you'll put on your dancin' shoes and valentine finery and join the fun!

Sunday, February 11th from 1:30 to 5:30

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1226 Salvador Avenue in Napa.

 The Napa Valley  Petaluma International Folk Dancers

## Program

1. Setnja (L)
2. Frenchy Brown
3. Totur fra Vejle (P)
4. Alexandrovskia
5. Levi Jackson Rag (Set)



6. Tino Mori (L)
7. Tango Mannita
8. Three's a Crowd\*
9. Corrido
10. Apat Apat (P)

 Square 

11. Hora Fetalor (L)
12. Double Sixsome (Set)
13. Bohemian National Polka
14. Swedish-Finn Mixer (P)
15. Lights of Vienna

 Contra 

16. Elizabeth Quadrille (Set)
17. Japanese Soft Shoe\*\*
18. OK Mixer for 3\*\* (P)
19. La Cachucha
20. Never on Sunday (L)

 Square 

21. Karamfil (L)
22. Windmill Quadrille (Set)
23. El Gaucho Tango
24. Doudlebska Polka (P)
25. Couple Hasapiko \*\*

 Contra 

26. Margaret's Waltz (P)
27. Postie's Jig (Set)
28. Western Trio Mixer (P)
29. Vrapcheto (L)
30. Ada's Kujawiak #1



31. La Bastringue (P)
32. Bapardess (L)
33. St. Gilgen Figurentanz (P)
34. Trip to Bavaria (Set)
35. Siesta in Seville



36. Mason's Apron (P)\*\*\*
37. Shiri Ji Kineret (L)
38. Changier Quadrille (Set)
39. Spinnradl (P)
40. Maple Leaf Rag



41. Tzadik Katamar (L)
42. Dundee Whaler (Set)
43. Milondita Tango
44. Joc Bâtrânesc (L)
45. Blue Pacific Waltz

Finale: Let Me Call You Sweetheart

 Trio Dances 

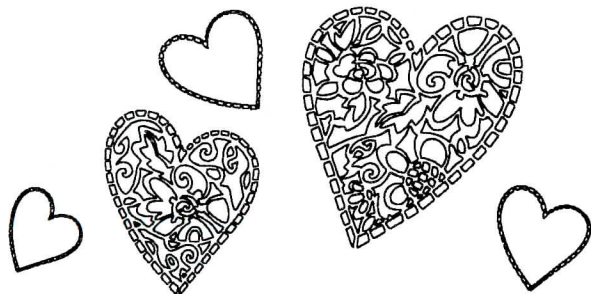
\* circle of trios

\*\* can be done as a trio

\*\*\* trio facing trio

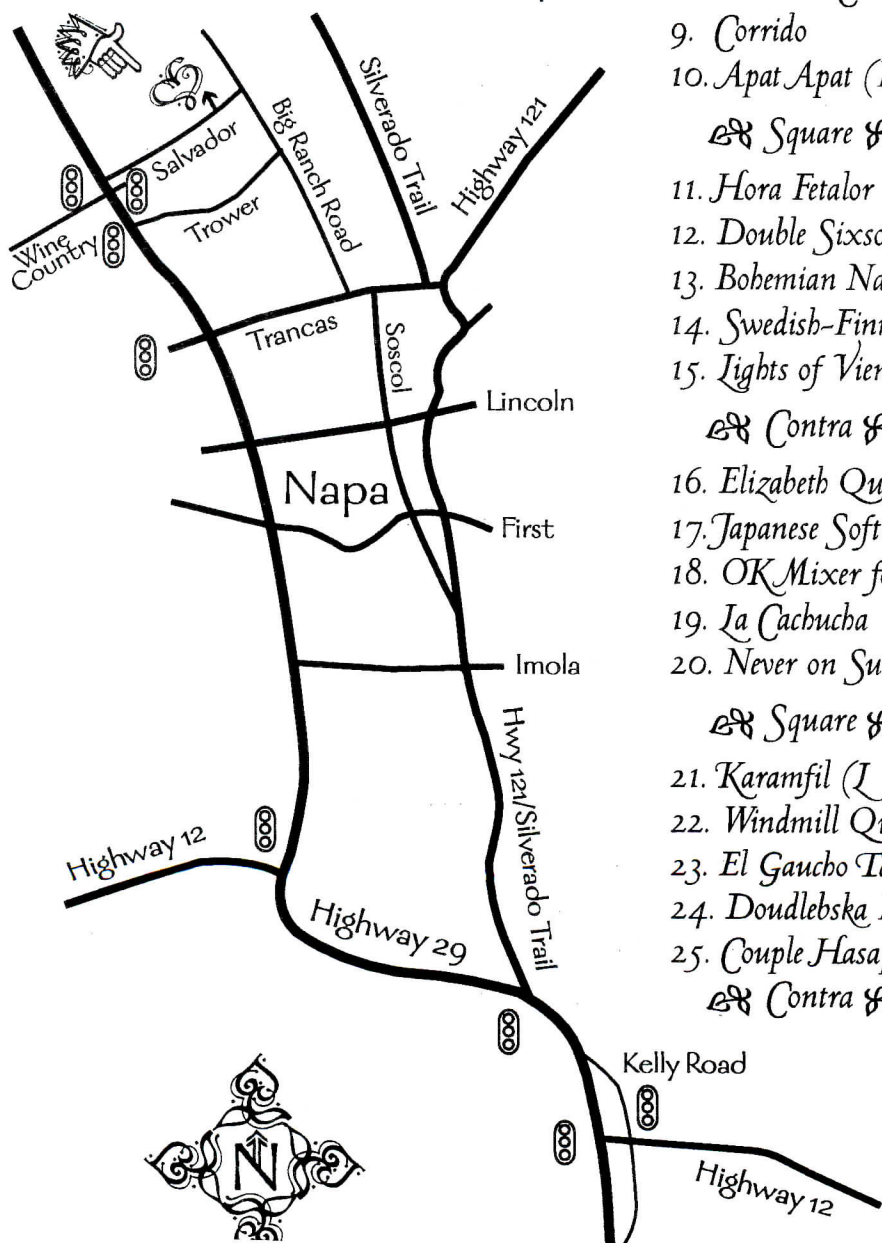
# Sunday, February 11th & Sweetheart Festival 2001 1:30 to 5:30

Our love & thanks to June Schaal who presented the first Sweetheart Festival 30 years ago!



come dance with us at

 **Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
1226 Salvador Avenue in Napa



1. Setnja (L)
2. Frenchy Brown
3. Totur fra Vejle (P)
4. Alexandrovskaja
5. Levi Jackson Rag (Set)



6. Tino Mori (L)
7. Tango Mannita
8. Three's a Crowd\*
9. Corrido
10. Apat Apat (P)

 Square 

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12. Double Sixsome (Set)
13. Bohemian National Polka
14. Swedish-Finn Mixer (P)
15. Lights of Vienna

 Contra 

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20. Never on Sunday (L)

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 Contra 

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30. Ada's Kujawiak #1



31. La Bastringue (P)
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34. Trip to Bavaria (Set)
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36. Mason's Apron (P)\*\*\*
37. Shiri Li Kineret (L)
38. Changier Quadrille (Set)
39. Spinnradl (P)
40. Maple Leaf Rag



41. Tzadik Katamar (L)
42. Dundee Whaler (Set)
43. Milondita Tango
44. Joc Bâtrânesc (L)
45. Blue Pacific Waltz

Finale: Let Me Call You Sweetheart  
(free-style waltz)



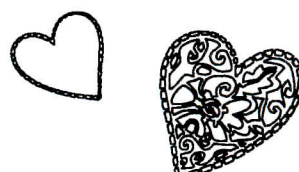
Trio Dances

\* circle of trios

\*\* can be done as a trio

\*\*\* trio facing trio

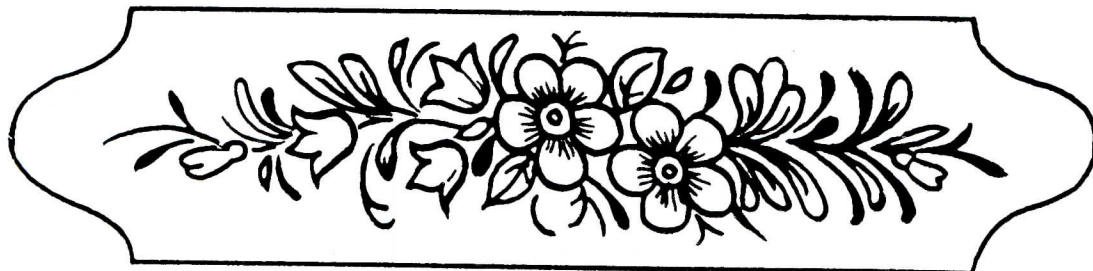




The Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council presents:

# Camellia International Dance Festival

Pageant, Workshops, and Parties  
California State University, Sacramento



## Saturday Workshops, March 10

Yosemite Hall Rooms 183 and 187

\$5.00 for each workshop.

Free parking in lot #1

- Fusae Senzaki teaching Macedonian and
- Drew Herzig teaching Japanese 1:00-2:45 PM
- Marilyn Smith teaching French couple dances 3:15-5:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\*

## Saturday Evening Parties

8:00 - 11:00 P.M. Yosemite Hall Rooms 183 and 187

\$5.00 for both parties. Free parking in lot #1

- Couple & International Dance
- Balkan Party

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sunday Pageant, March 11

Student Union Building

\$5.00 donation

Free parking in lot #4

1:00 - 3:00 PM followed by general dancing until 5:00 P.M.

Federation Meeting 11:00 AM

For information call Teddy 530 677-1134 or Vick at 916 489-9236  
Call or email Vick for maps or list of hotels: [ecvickland@dellnet.com](mailto:ecvickland@dellnet.com)

## WELCOME TO THE CAMELLIA FESTIVAL!

The Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council extends a big welcome to one and all to our 52nd annual Camellia Festival. We will be in the same locations as last year. All events will be at the **CSUS Campus (California State University, Sacramento)**. The Pageant on Sunday will be in the beautiful new Union building. The Saturday Workshops and Parties will be in the Yosemite Hall in two side by side rooms. Thanks to the efforts of the CSUS P.E. Department, we will have **free parking for all events**. Please see the map for the parking lots to be used. We are very excited about our Workshop teachers, **Fusae Senzaki** and **Drew Herzig** teaching **Balkan** and **Marilyn Smith** teaching **French couple dances**.

We are pleased to announce that **French traditional music group, French Creek**, will be accompanying Marilyn Smith at her institutes and again in the evening at the institute reviews. They will also play for generally known French line dances during the evening parties.

Drew Herzig will be hosting the **Balkan Party** and right next door will be the **Couple and International Dance Party**. On Saturday during the evening parties we will be treated to short performances by the **Berkeley Folk Dancers** and the energetic and fun teens from **El Dorado County**.

The **Sunday Pageant** will feature a sampling of Sacramento's best exhibition groups showcasing the rapidly growing ethnic communities which abound here. We hope you will stay after the pageant for general dancing in the same hall until 5 PM. We are looking forward to seeing many of our friends from around the state and to a **great Camellia Festival!**

### DIRECTIONS TO CSUS CAMPUS

#### Eastbound 50

Exit at Power Inn Rd/Howe Ave. Left at College Town Drive

\*Right at State University Drive East

Look for Parking lot #4 sign on the left. It is right behind the Union Building. Or follow it all the way around campus to Parking lot #1. Park at the far (west) end of that lot. Cross State University Drive East on foot to Yosemite Hall.

#### Westbound 50

Exit at Howe Ave. (north) Cross over freeway overpass.

Left on College Town Drive at stop signal (immediately) \*see above

#### Business 80

Exit at J Street toward east. Look for signs on the left soon after you go under a railroad bridge.

Make a right turn at stop signal in front of Campus. CSUS is at 6000 J Street (about 4 miles).

Turn right into Parking Lot #1. Park at the far (west) end of that lot. Cross State University Drive East on foot to Yosemite Hall.

Or turn left onto State Univ. Drive East. Look for Parking lot #4 sign on the right. It is right behind the Union Building, for the Sunday Pageant.

# COUNCIL CLIPS

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Nadine Mitchell, 1941 Danvers Way, Sacramento, CA. 95832-1226, Ph./FAX: 916-665-1588, e-mail: ggm nadine@cs.com      Deadline for March issue : Jan. 15, 2001

## **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS**

Charlotte Weber provides the following information: Every Friday night is Request Night at our regular dance site at Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, in Berkeley. Dances from various levels are chosen. A party atmosphere prevails. Afterward, some folks go out for coffee. If you are in Berkeley on a Friday evening, do come join us. Contact John Underhill at 510-236-4807.

## **FRESNO COUNCIL**

Fran Ajoian reports that along with their usual dance activities, the Fresno Council is busy getting people together to arrange for a tour bus to attend the Out-of-Statewide Festival in Las Vegas in May, 2001.

## **REDWOOD COUNCIL**

On December 16 the Petaluma-Novato International Folkdancers held their annual Christmas Party at the Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. Hosts for this event were Anne Arend, Frank & Elsa Bacher, Marilyn Birks, Page Masson and Rosa Savage. The theme for this year's event was "An English Christmas Party - Wassail, Wassail, Your Health, Your Health." Christmas decorations were everywhere and the dance program was lively and fun. We enjoyed many request dances and a great time was had by all. But wait! That's not all! Following the dancing, the dessert bowl containing Trifle, was placed on a table in the center of the dance floor. We all did a circle Christmas dance around it. Greg and Nadine Mitchell were honored to lead the Grand March around the room which ended at the food table where we all filled our plates with Cosk-a-leekie Soup, Steamed Vegetables, Cheddar Cheese Loaf, Beverage, and a most delicious Trifle for dessert! As we all sat around the dinner tables I could definitely feel the Christmas spirit all around. I understand that each year a different country is chosen and the dinner reflects that region's foods. I want to thank Frank and Elsa Bacher for their many years of valuable teaching and the committee that worked so hard to create such a lovely event. Thanks also to the members of the Petaluma-Novato International Folkdancers for making Greg and I feel so welcome. NADINE MITCHELL

## **SACRAMENTO COUNCIL**

Vick Vickland, Council Vice-President, reports the following: The Sacramento Folk Dance & Arts Council is working on three upcoming events. The New Year's & Scholarship Dance, *Bedazzled*, which will be held at the Clunie Clubhouse, Alhambra and F Streets, Sacramento, on Saturday, January 27, 2001; the Camellia International Dance Festival, March 10, 2001 (see separate article and flyer); and Statewide, 2002.

In order to find and use talent hidden in our many members, we are planning to include a questionnaire with next year's membership application, asking about interests and talents which might be useful, such as publicity, decorating, etc. We would appreciate hearing from other groups who have had experience with this, or other ways to increase the participation of the clubs' membership. Please respond with e-mail to: ecvickland@dellnet.com.

## Mâdro

(E.Trakija, Bulgaria)

Mâdro (MUH-droh) translates as "wisely." The dance is known also as Mâdroto ("the sage") or Corbadzijsko Horo ("the master's or rich lady's dance"). From the town of Kotel in Eastern Trakija, Mâdro is a traditional women's dance of welcome for their husbands, seasonal laborers back from weeks or months abroad. The dance originally consisted of only one step-close basic step, performed in a slow, light, subdued and feminine way. The composition described here is based on a version by Belco Stanev, choreographer from Varna, Bulgaria. It was taught by Jaap Leegwater at the 2000 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. This revision of an earlier description (*Let's Dance*, November 2000) is more consistent with the Stockton Camp 2000 video.

Cassettes: Folk Dances from Bulgaria, UOP Folk Dance Camp, Side B/5;  
Folk Dances from Bulgaria, JL1990.01, Side B/15.

Rhythm: 7/8 meter = 2/8+2/8+3/8, counted here as 1, 2, 3, or Q Q S.

Formation: Closed circle facing LOD, hands joined down in V-pos.

Styling: Trakijski: feminine, subdued, and somewhat solemn with light and bouncy movements. The shoes are a kind of slipper that dictate and explain the styling. The lacy and heavily ornamented dress and jewelry also influence the modest performing style. A gentle, subtle hip action accompanies the rotations and shoulder movements.

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Measures	7/8 meter	PATTERN
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### INTRODUCTION. None.

#### I. MOVING IN LOD

- 1 Facing LOD, rotate hips and shldr slightly CW, touching ball of R ft fwd in LOD, heel turned in (ct 1); rotate hips and shldr slightly CCW, stepping onto full R ft, pointed fwd in LOD (ct 2); square hips and shoulders, stepping fwd on L in LOD (ct 3).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Take three steps fwd in LOD, R, L, R, dropping wt on each count from ball of ft to full ft.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
- 17-19 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 20 Ritardando (music slows): Repeat meas 4, straightening knees and raising heel of supporting ft before each ct, while bending knees with an exaggerated heel drop on each full count.
- 21-24 Repeat meas 17-20 with opp ftwk.
- 25-32 Repeat meas 1-8.

#### II. FORWARD, BACK, AND SIDE, CLOSE

- 1 Turning to face ctr with hands raised to W-pos, bounce on L (ct ah); step fwd on R, leaving L on floor (ct 1); bouncing on R, take wt off L ft (ct 2); bouncing again on R, raise L leg behind R with bent L knee (ct 3).
- 2 Bounce on R (ct ah); leaving R ft on floor, step back on L (ct 1); take wt off R ft (ct 2); bouncing on L, raise R leg in front with bent knee (ct 3).
- 3 Bouncing on L, incline upper torso slightly to R and twist slightly CW (ct ah); leaving L ft on floor, step on R to R (ct 1); take wt off L (ct 2); close L beside R with wt (ct 3).

- 4 Repeat meas 3, but do not take wt on L on ct 3.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

III. MOVING TO CENTER AND BACK

- 1 Continuing to face ctr with upper body bending slightly fwd and arms extended fwd, lift on ball of L ft, bringing R leg fwd with straight knee (ct ah); leading with heel, step diag fwd R on R ft (ct 1); bending R knee, strike ball of L ft next to R heel (ct 2); brush L ft diag fwd L (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1, moving diag L with opp ftwk.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, but on meas 4, ct 3, close R ft to L heel with a stamp, no wt.
- 5 Straightening upper body with arms in W-pos, rotate hips and shldr slightly CW and step back on bent R knee, while leaving L ft on floor (ct 1); take wt off L ft (ct 2); squaring hips and shldr, step back on L (ct 3).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 5 twice.
- 8 Repeat meas 5, cts 1-2 (cts 1-2); step on L beside R (ct 3).
- 9-13 Repeat meas 1-5.
- 14 Repeat meas 8.
- 15-16 Releasing hands, but retaining W-pos, turn CW once in place while dancing meas 6-7. At the end of meas 16 lower arms and rejoin hands in V-pos.

Sequence: Dance sequence: Fig I; Fig II; Fig III; Repeat all; Fig I, meas 1-8.



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**(510) 886-4443**

## Folk Dance Scene

For info on folk dance and ethnic activities in Southern California, and elsewhere, read the Folk Dance Scene.

To Subscribe: Send \$15.00 for 10 issues to:  
2010 Parnell Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Welcome to the  
**Festival of the  
Oaks**



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Celebrating the Dance, Customs and Costumes  
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## **THE SORBS/WENDS - GERMANY'S SLAVIC MINORITY**

The North American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups was founded in 1994 for the purpose of transmitting the dance repertoire of the present German states as well as the former German territories and of the German minorities in neighboring European countries. In conjunction with this objective the organization also strives to disseminate knowledge of related aspects of folklore in their geographic and historical context, such as costume, custom, craft, music and needle arts. The organization further strives to develop materials in English translation for member groups and publishes a newsletter, "The German Folk Dancer" five times a year.

To implement these goals, an annual weekend folk dance/folklore workshop takes place in various states in the U. S. Instructors are usually master teachers who specialize in the dance and folklore of the region in focus.

The workshop for 2001 will take place February 16, 17 and 18 in Giddings, Texas, and will focus on the dances, costumes and folklore of the Sorbs/Wends, Germany's Slavic minority. The workshop will be hosted by the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum and the Chamber of Commerce of Giddings.

Beginning in the 6th century, West-Slavic tribes, among them the "Lusizi", settled in an area that is bound roughly by the Oder/Neisse and the Spree River, giving the region its name, the "Lausitz" in German and "Lusatia" in English. Collectively known as Sorbs, the residents of Lower Lusatia define themselves as Wends. Their dialect is closely related to Polish, while that of the Upper Lusatian Sorbs is akin to Czech. Although, throughout the centuries, the Sorbs had to struggle against Germanization and assimilation, they have preserved their language, custom, costumes and dances. Street signs and other public notations are bilingual and it is still possible to see women in the smaller towns and villages in their traditional dress.

Being alternatively encouraged to preserve their heritage and being suppressed through the centuries, the 19th century brought a concentrated striving for ethnic identity which produced numerous cultural institutions, such as theater groups, choirs, associations of Sorbish teachers and the sports association, "Sokol." In 1926, all these interest groups collectively came together under the umbrella organization "Domovina." Today, the Domovina is best known as a publishing house of Sorbish letters.

Although the Sorbs are German citizens, their ethnic identity is expressed in the blue, red and white of their flag and the heart-shaped Linden leaf. After the fall of Communism, the language of the Sorbs, as well as that of the Danes, Roma/Sinti and Friesians was recognized by the federal government of Germany as co-equal with German. In many schools Sorbish is taught along with German.

Perhaps the best-known region of Lusatia is the Spree Forest. A favorite tourist destination, it has attracted visitors since before the turn of the last century. Located about an hour's drive southeast of Berlin, it is a densely forested region laced through with narrow waterways, formed by the numerous arms of the Spree River. The farmhouses, of dark wooden planks and straw-thatched roofs, which are framed by crossed boards carved in the shape of crowned snakes, sit on individual little islands. Residents, until very recently, got around by poling themselves in long, shallow boats. The mailman, children on the way to school, women going to market, wedding and funeral processions, all went by boat and in some cases, they still do. It is a haven for storks that build their nests on the straw roofs of the farmhouses, for frogs and for mosquitoes. The major agricultural products are cucumbers, pumpkins and hay. In the heather region, high quality honey is produced. In Upper Lusatia, coal is mined in aboveground mines.

Because of the proximity of larger cities, the towns of Lubbe and Leer are crowded with tourists, resulting in a very deliberate cultivation of regional costume and traditions. From Lubbe visitors can take a tour in one of the long, narrow boats and be poled along the narrow waterways through primeval forests, perhaps to stop at a waterside inn for a traditional meal of "boiled potatoes, cottage cheese and linseed oil," or a snack of smoked eel.

As a small child, on the way by train from Berlin to visit relatives in this region, I remember that when the train stopped in Cottbus, a major railroad interchange, Wendish women would come to the station to sell pickled cucumbers, some getting on the train, dressed in their distinctive clothing, their back baskets filled with produce on their way to market in Gorlitz.

Later, in 1949, when I was in the 6th grade, there was a class trip over the Pentecost holidays to the Spree Forest. We discovered that in one country inn it was possible to buy pickled cucumbers without rationing cards! In the dark and hungry years immediately after the war, this was a sensation and we all ended up with tummy aches.

On Pentecost Sunday we went to church in the city of Burg, having been poled there on one of the long boats. As visitors, we sat in the choir loft while the local community sat downstairs. All the women were in their native dress. Since it was customary to receive communion on this holiday, all were dressed in "Half Mourning." The clothes were black with white bonnets. It was an impressive sight to look down and see the large white bonnets row after row, like swans.

On the following day, the second "holiday" (all major holidays in Germany celebrate the "first and second holiday," the first being the holiday itself, like Pentecost Sunday, and the following Monday being the "second Pentecost holiday,") all the women wore pastel colors.

The costume of the Spree Forest is extraordinarily colorful. It consists of a very full skirt, red for single women, green for married women, that is trimmed with a wide embroidered band which is finished on either side with lace edging. Workday skirts simply are trimmed with one or two rows of black velvet ribbon. Over the skirt goes a very generous white apron, rather sheer, with multiple lace inserts. The apron covers the skirt almost 2/3 around the body. The blouse is a small little shirt with short sleeves edged in eyelet and is worn under a black velvet bodice that is attached to the skirt. The entire upper body is then covered with a satin shoulder scarf in any pastel color of the wearer's choice. It is profusely embroidered with naturalistic flower garlands and edged with very wide lace dripping over the shoulders and down the back. The most spectacular item of the entire ensemble is the bonnet. It consists of two separate kerchiefs folded over newspaper to give the huge bonnet shape. The first kerchief is folded into a triangle and tied in the nape of the neck. Two opposing corners of the second kerchief are folded toward the center of the scarf and then one end is flipped forward to create a straight edge with two pointed ends hanging down on either side. This piece is then attached to the first kerchief in such a way that it stands up and frames the face. The scarves are of satin and also heavily embroidered. The edges are trimmed in wide lace, usually white. The color of the entire structure can be any pastel color except that for mourning and weddings it is white, while on very high holidays, the bonnets are black as are those of very elderly women. (Among the Sorbs, the mourning color has always been white. It was customary for the nearest relatives to wrap themselves into a "mourning sheet" during the burial ceremony.) Because the Spree Forest costume is so distinctive, it became fashionable in the last decades of the 19th century to about the World War I period, for wealthy families in Berlin to engage young women from the Spree Forest as nursemaids making their dress synonymous with a nursemaid's uniform. There are many paintings depicting Berlin life and street scenes in which one can see Spree Forest girls pushing baby carriages or sitting on park benches with their charges.

The Sorbish-Wendish Community is 80 percent Lutheran and 20 percent Catholic. There is a church in Bautzen/Budysyn, which is half Lutheran and half Catholic. Each denomination has its own altar and chancel, the room being divided by a beautiful wrought iron gate. The differences in belief are also reflected in the clothing habits of the various villages. While in one village brides of both confessions wear a black velvet headpiece in the form of a blunted cone; the Catholic bride wears a wreath of dangling gold stars around the upper edge. The Lutheran bride, on the other hand, wears this wreath of stars around the coiled braids in back of her head.

During the 19th Century, the Sorbs, like their German neighbors, also sought a better life by emigrating. In 1854, under the leadership of their pastor, Jan Killian, 531 Sorbs traveled to Hamburg in order to embark for the United States. After many hardships and loss of lives through illness, they arrived in Galveston on December 16. In the following years they founded the settlement "Serbin" named after their own ethnic affiliation. Together with a settlement in Australia, Serbin, near Giddings, Texas, is the only Sorbish community outside Germany. Today, 150 years later, the descendants of those early settlers proudly cultivate their heritage and the memory of those who came before them, concentrating their efforts on the cultural programs, festivals and exhibits of the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Gregory Mitchell, 1941 Danvers Way, Sacramento, CA. 95832-1226**  
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**Deadline for March, 2001 issue is *January 15, 2001***

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**Plan ahead! Save these dates for upcoming events:**

- February 2-4**                    **Berkeley Folk Dancers. Monte Toyon Dance Camp Retreat.**  
Friday evening through Sunday lunch; for information contact  
Yaqi Zang at 510-525-1865.
- February 11, 2001**           **Sweetheart Festival.** Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1226  
Salvador Avenue, Napa. 1:30 - 5:30 PM. Contact Dave  
Thomson at 707-255-7309.
- February 25, 2001**           **Festival of the Oaks.** Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck (at  
Berryman), Berkeley, CA. Contact Mel Mann at  
510- 527-2177.
- March 10, 11 & 12, 2001** **Camellia Festival.** CSUS Campus, Sacramento, CA.  
Contact Teddy Wolterbeek at 530-677-1134.
- April 1, 2001**                **Cherry Blossom Festival.** Veterans Building, 126 I St.  
West, Sonoma. Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher at  
707-546-8877.
- May 18, 19 & 20, 2001**    **Statewide 2001.** Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact Dick or Dona  
Killian at 702-732-4871.
- May 20, 2001**                **Rose Festival.** Veterans Building, 1315 Maple Street,  
Santa Rosa. Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher at 707-546-8877.  
(Please note change of date reverts from June 3 back to  
**original date of May 20, 2001**).
- August 19, 2001**            **Little Festival in the Redwoods.** Guerneville. Contact  
Frank & Elsa Bacher at 707-546-8877.
- September 9, 2001**        **Fiesta de Sonoma.** Veterans Bldg., 126 I St. West, Sonoma.  
Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher at 707-546-8877.
- October 20 & 21, 2001**    **Harvest Festival.** Fresno. California State University.  
Contact Mike Norris at 559-291-4958.
- December 2, 2001**         **Treasurer's Ball.** Veterans Bldg., 126 I St. West, Sonoma.  
Contact Page Masson, 707-833-4181.

### **Council Club Parties**

#### **Redwood Council**

**Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday**      **Napa Valley Folk Dancers Party.** Grandview Mobilehome Park Clubhouse, Napa. Contact Charles Emerson at 707-258-0519

**Petaluma Int'l. Folk Dancers**    Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Ave., Petaluma, CA. 94952. 2001 Schedule: Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 10 & Dec. 15 (2:00 - 6:00 PM). Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher, 707-546-8877.

**February 21**      **Santa Rosa Folk Dancers Party.** Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1315 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa. 2-4 P.M. North Room. Classes every Wednesday monthly. Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher at 707-546-8877.

#### **San Francisco Council**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**      **Changs** Presbyterian Church, 13229 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., San Francisco. Teaching by Elsa Bacher, 8:00-9:30 P.M. Contact Sidney Messer, 415-332-1020

**February 23**      **Changs.** Fourth Friday of Fun. Presbyterian Church, 8:00-10:00 P.M., 1320 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Program Planner: Stela McCoy. Contact Sidney Messer, 415-332-1020.

#### **Peninsula Council**

**February 3**      **Palomanians Party.** First Methodist Church, Broadway at Brewster Streets, Redwood City. Contact Denise Heenan at 408-249-6104.

**February 9**      **Santa Clara Valley Folk Dancers Party,** First Christian Church, 80 So. 5<sup>th</sup> Street San Jose. Contact Denise Heenan, 408-2249-6104 or Maxine Burnham, 408-739-0500.

**February 24**      **Menlo Park Folk Dancers Party,** Menlo Park Rec. Ctr., Menlo Park. Contact Marcel Vinokur at 650-327-0759.

**February 24**      **Docey Doe Folk Dancers Party,** Community United Church of Christ, San Carlos. Contact Bruce Wyckoff, 650-368-7834.

**March 9**      **Santa Clara Valley Folk Dancers Party.** First Christian Church, San Jose. (See address & phone contact above.)

#### **Sacramento Council**

**Selective Saturdays**      **Balliamo!** Sierra Two Community Center, 24<sup>th</sup> St. & 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Contact Doris Beckert at 916-482-8674.

**Most First Saturdays**      **El Dorado Scandinavian Dancers.** 3100 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs. 2:30-4:30 PM. Workshop; 7 - 11:00 PM. Party (Live Music). Contact Marida Martin, 530-672-2926.

- First Saturdays**      **Reno Folk Dancers.** Studio 214. 214 California Ave., Reno, Nevada. Contact Penney Ohnstad at 775-358-6762.
- February 3**      **Kolo Koalition.** Balkan Party. 8:00 PM. YLI Hall. Contact Laura Leonelli at 916-739-6014.
- February 10**      **Pairs & Spares.** Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way, 8:00 - 11:00 PM. Contact Chuck Paulsen at 916-428-6992.
- February 17**      **Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.** YLI Hall, 27<sup>th</sup> & N Sts. 7:30 PM. Contact Patrick Gallagher at 916-737-8770.
- February 17**      **BBKM.** YLI Hall, 27<sup>th</sup> & N Sts., 8:00 PM. Contact Barbara Bevan, 916-923-1555.
- February 17**      **Sacramento Cape Breton Step Dancers.** St. Francis School Lunchroom, 2500 K St. Contact Gail Erwin, 209-745-9063.
- February 24**      **First & Last Dancers.** Valley Oaks Grange, 5<sup>th</sup> & D Streets, Galt. 8:00 PM – Midnight. Theme: "Hugs & Kisses". Contact Irene Oxford at 916-371-4949.

#### **Club Weekly Class Schedules**

**Berkeley Folk Dancers** - All classes are held at Live Oak Park Recreation Center at 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, 7:45 PM - 10:00 PM. Contact Charlotte Weber, 510-524-7803.

<b><i>Mondays</i></b>	Intermediate Level	- Norm Gelbart & Yaqi Zhang, 510-525-0174
<b><i>Tuesdays</i></b>	Advanced	- Lone Coleman & Mark Anderson
<b><i>Wednesdays</i></b>	Advanced/Int.	- Louise & Bill Lidicker, 510-528-9168
<b><i>Thursdays</i></b>	Beginners	- Claire & Al George, 510-841-1205
<b><i>Fridays</i></b>	Request Night	- 7:45 PM – 10:30 PM

**Changs**      Occasional teaching for part of evening at Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 1329 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Francisco. Teaching by Elsa Bacher, 8:00 to 9:30 PM. General Dancing: 9:30 to 10:30 PM. MC & Program Planner: Frank Bacher. Contact Sidney Messer, 415-332-1020.

**February 3**      **Palomanians.** First Methodist Church, Broadway at Brewster. Redwood City. Contact Denise Heenan, 408-249-6104.

**February 9**      **Santa Clara Folk Dancers.** First Christian Church, 80 South 5<sup>th</sup> St., San Jose. Contact Denise Heenan, 408-249-6104.

**Napa Valley Folk Dancers** - Every Thursday & Friday. Parties: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Grandview Mobilehome Park Clubhouse. 4130 Byway East Napa 94558. Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher, 707-546-8877.

**February**      **Novato Class.** 1320 Lynwood Dr., Novato. Every Wednesday 8:00-10:00 PM. Contact Anne Arend 415-892-9405.

**February**      **Every Wednesday. Santa Rosa Folk Dancers.** Veterans Memorial Bldg., Maple Ave., Santa Rosa. North Room, 2:00-P.M -4:00 PM. Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher, 707-546-8877.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Petaluma Folk Dancers**, Herman & Sons Hal, 860 Western Ave., Petaluma 94952. Contact Frank & Elsa Bacher, 707-546-8877.

**Fresno Folk Dance Council Activities - 2001**

<b>February 10, 2001</b>	Lafayette Hall. Scholarship Dance.
<b>March 31</b>	Lafayette Social Hall. Fifth Saturday Dance.
<b>June 2</b>	Lafayette Social Hall. Installation of Officers.
<b>June 30</b>	Lafayette Social Hall. Fifth Saturday Dance.
<b>September 29</b>	Lafayette Social Hall. Fifth Saturday Dance.
<b>October 20 &amp; 21</b>	California State University. Fresno Harvest Festival.
<b>December 31</b>	Lafayette Social Hall. New Year's Party.

**Where to Dance In Fresno**

**Tuesdays**                    **Fresno Danish Dancers.** Clovis Senior Center. 6:30-9:00 P.M.  
Contact Wilma Anderson at 559-291-3176.

**Central Valley – CAFY**, Lafayette Center, Princeton, west of Blackstone. 7:30-9:30 P.M. Contact Fran Ajoian, 559-255-4508.

**Wednesdays**            **McTegert Irish Dancers.** Beginners - 5:30-6:30 P.M.  
Intermediate & Advanced, 7-8:00 P.M. Contact Maureen Hall at 559-271-5200.

**Saturdays**                **Fresno International Folk Dancers**, Pinedale Senior Center.  
Contact Kent Peterson, 559-226-5010, or Gary Hughes at 559-439-1416.

**Special Camp Activities**

**NFO Conference - February 22-25.** Muncie, Indiana. Registration on Thursday. Friday and Saturday, discussions, dance workshops, banquet & gala folk dance concert. Conference concludes on Sunday with a general membership meeting. Contact: Vonnice Brown, Tel-Fax: 225-766-8750; e-mail: vrbfolk@prodigy.net.

**Scandia Camp Mendocino, June 15-22, 2001.** Featuring music & dance from eastern Telemark, Norway. For more information contact Kay Loughman at 510-841-7428.  
e-mail: kayloughman@attglobal.net or write to Kay Loughman, 393 Gravatt Dr., Berkeley, CA. 94705

***For information on other Federation activities call 510-558-6862.***



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