

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 🍷 May/June, 2010



The Vintage Dancers of Sacramento appeared in the Concert at Camellia Festival

A colorful concert at Camellia Festival!



Also appearing in the
Camellia Festival Concert—The
Ukrainian group, Kalyna, from
Sacramento

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

Let's Dance!

Volume 67, No. 5

May/June, 2010

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Gifts and donations are welcome. Send to:

The Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Treasurer

153 Race Street

San Jose, CA 95126

Join now: Membership rate is \$22.50 per year (plus \$10.00 for foreign)

Family rate is \$30.00 per year

Group/Club rate is \$25.00 per year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

M. Rose

2315 Ravine Court

San Jose, CA 95133-1226

Website:

You can now post your folkdance event flyers on the Federation's web site: www.folkdance.com. If you need assistance, contact Dick Rawson at FDFC2.rawson@xoxy.net

©Let's Dance! (ISSN#0024-1253) is published monthly by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., with the exception of the May-June and July-August issues, which are released each two month period. Standard mail postage paid at Sacramento, California.

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The deadline for Let's Dance! is one month prior date of publication.

We welcome submissions, letters and comments from our readers.

Please send to: Gary Anderson, Editor

Box 548, Woodacre, CA 94973

email: wildwood_press@comcast.net

Opinions expressed in Let's Dance! are not necessarily those of the Federation/North or of the Editor.

Your advertising helps support Let's Dance! Ad rates:

	¼ page	½ page	full page
Member <u>clubs</u>	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
All others	15.00	30.00	50.00

Contact: Editor, Box 548, Woodacre, CA 94973 or

email: wildwood_press@comcast.net

or call 415-488-9604 (9:00am to 3:00 pm)

President's Message

BENEFITS OF FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP

By Loui Tucker, loui@loutucker.com

You may have heard me make the statement at a recent event that dancers should NOT be joining the Federation because there are lots of benefits to being a member. (Sure, you get this terrific *Let's Dance!* magazine, which I happen to think is one of the best dance-related magazines published today. It alone is well worth the \$22.50 you're paying in dues. But I digress...) What I have said is that I think dancers should look at Federation membership as being akin to joining the ACLU or the Sierra Club or MADD – you believe in the purpose and goals of the organization and you want to help further those goals with your monetary contribution.

I still believe that – but now there really is a benefit to joining the Federation!

See the tote bag pictured next to this article? Back in January, the Federation Board authorized the Federation Promotions Committee to create something special for Federation members that will both thank them for being members and provide them with an easy way to advertise folk dancing. The tote bag is the result of those efforts. I am particularly indebted to Susan Gregory for her work on the design. She is wonderful at taking a verbal idea and turning it into a drawing!



Design by Susan Gregory

“HOW CAN I GET ONE?” I hear you say!

First of all, you'll need to be a Federation member. If you're reading this article, you probably already are a member, unless you belong to a club that is a group member, and you are reading the copy of *Let's Dance!* that each club receives. If you are a club member, you might want to consider paying for your own membership.

Secondly, you will need to attend Statewide 2010 in Sonoma coming up June 4-6. The first 100 Federation members who arrive at Statewide will receive one of these **“I ♥ FOLK DANCING”** tote bags for free. If you have a family membership, you'll be entitled to two free bags. Group members can have **one** bag, and the group will have to decide who gets it!

If there are bags left over because fewer than 100 Federation members come to Statewide, the remaining bags will be sold for \$22.50 each. You may notice that \$22.50 is the same amount as a one-year membership in the Federation (an amazing coincidence!). If you want a tote bag and a one-year membership, we'll give you both for \$22.50 – a real bargain!

Don't wait until the last minute. You do NOT want to be the left out. Join the Federation TODAY: (1) go to www.folkdance.com and click on the “Join the Federation” link on the left side; or (2) find the application in *Let's Dance!* magazine (there is one in this issue (page 14) and there was one in the April issue). Fill out the form, write your check and

send them in!

Then, fill out and send in your registration for Statewide 2010 and plan to arrive Friday evening for the opening party, just to make sure you're one of the first 100 Federation members.

Oh, and when you get your tote bag, make an effort to carry it where non-dancers will see it. I am sure it would be great for carrying your dance shoes, but if you carry it at the grocery store or the drugstore, or the library, or the farmer's market, perhaps one of those thousands of non-dancers will spot it and ask you “Hey, what's so great about folk dancing?”

Somebody out there is waiting for their life to be changed by folk dancing – just like yours was! Don't make them wait any longer!

Rose Festival planned by the Santa Rosa Folk Dancers

The roses will be in full bloom again this year. They always have such beautiful colors and have such appeal to everyone! This should remind all folk dancers of the annual Rose Festival held by the Santa Rosa Folk Dancers. It will be on Saturday, May 8th at Wischemann Hall, 465 Morris Street, Sebastopol from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. (The Hall has not moved; the address has been changed to end confusion over streets.) Donation \$7.00. There will be “time out” for refreshments and door prizes. Please come! You'll be glad you did, and we will be so glad to see you. For further information call Sharon at 707-546-5467 or chsmeier@att.net.

New Mexico's August Camp Welcomes You!

**August 5-8, 2010
Socorro, N.M.**

Internationally renowned
choreographer and teacher

Željko Jergan
Dances of Croatia



Nationally acclaimed
musicians and callers

Bare Necessities
English Country Dances

Easy to reach • Moderately priced • Warm and friendly • Broad menu options • Children's program • Parties • Wooden floor • Swimming pool

Let's Dance!

Information at www.swifdi.org or call:

Wendy Brown, 505-345-0447 • Charles Cummings, 505-256-3807

Sponsored by Southwest International Folk Dance Institute (SWIFI)

May/June, 2010 Calendar of Events

We reserve the right to edit all submissions and assume no responsibility for accuracy

Send future events information to Gary Anderson, Editor, Let's Dance!,

Box 548, Woodacre, CA 94973, e-mail: wildwood_press@comcast.net

The deadline for listings is one month prior to the magazine date.

Upcoming Events—

- April 24** ***Blossom Festival International Folk Dancing**—Dance Concert 6:30 pm., dancing to live music 7:30-10:30. Federation meeting at 5:00 pm. City College of San Francisco, Health and Wellness Center. Enter Campus from Ocean Avenue at Howth and the Health and Wellness center will be right in front of you.
- May 7** **Kopachkas Folkdancers** party Friday, May 7, 8-11 pm at Scout Hall, 177 E. Blithedale Avenue, Mill Valley. Live music with The Mehanatones. Cost is \$10. For more info, call Nadav Nur, 415-497-4890 or email Susie Shoaf, susieshoaf@aol.com
- May 8** **Rose Festival Dance**—Saturday, May 8, 1:00 to 4:30 pm at Wischemann Hall, 460 Eddie Lane, Sebastopol. Donation \$7.00. Refreshments and door prizes. For further information call Sharon at 707-546-5467 or chsmeier@att.net
- June 4, 5 & 6** ***Statewide 2010, "Dancing in the Valley of the Moon"**—Great location and teachers. We are in historic Sonoma, birthplace of the California wine industry. Zeljko Jergan and Erik Bendix are the teachers, Chubritza to play for the party The Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Hall, 126 First Street West, Sonoma. **Accommodations**—check our website: www.statewide2010.com. Phone days: Gary Anderson 415-488-9604, Email: editor@letsdancemag.net **See our ad in this issue**
- June 18** **Changs International Folk Dancers** will celebrate our 72nd Birthday Anniversary Party, June 18, with French Country Dance lessons and live music from the regions of Auvergne, Gascogne, Alsace, Breton, and Bretagne, featuring Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti. This is *dance traditionnelle francaise*. We will also dance international folk dances to recorded music between the musicians' sets. Join us for dancing from 8-10:30 p.m., followed by a potluck and socializing. Admission is \$10 per person. Location is Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, 417 - 31st Ave. between Clement and Geary. For more information and a map, visit <http://changsfolkdancers.blogspot.com>
- July 25-31, Aug. 1-7** **Stockton Folk Dance Camp**—Please contact Jan Wright at (530) 474-3231 or jmwright32@frontiernet.net to find out if spaces are still available. If there is space available, you may hold your place with a \$50 deposit. The balance must be paid by July 25.
- Aug. 5-8** **New Mexico August Camp**—Željko Jergan, Croatian and Bare Necessities, English Country Dances. Socorro, N.M. Info: www.swifdi.org or call Wendy Brown, 505-345-0447, Charles Cummings, 505-256-3807
- Aug. 15** **Little Festival of the Redwoods**. Sunday. Picnic in Armstrong Redwoods, noon & 4:30 p.m. Request dance at Veterans Memorial Bldg, First & Church Streets, Guerneville, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. 707-546-8877 for info.
- Oct. 3** ***Fiesta de Sonoma Folkdance**. Sunday. Veterans Memorial Bldg., 126 First St. West, Sonoma 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Federation Board Meeting 11:00 a.m. with light luncheon. 707-546-8877; 415-925-9786.

**Federation sponsored events.*

Regular party and class listings are in the "Where to dance" pages in the back of the magazine

Register now for Statewide 2010, 'Dancing in the Valley of the Moon'. June 4, 5 & 6
Great teachers, great facilities, great bands, great sound by Andy, great fun for all!
See registration form on page 8

Council & Club Clips

Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council— We want to thank the many people who shared our Camellia Festival with us. It was great to see so many old friends! You are very important to our success!

Sacramento has two big events coming up. Each year both of these get bigger and better and are attended by more out-of towners. So we hope you will think about coming to them this year! Dance in the Woods will be September 10-12, at Camp Sacramento, 85 miles from Sacramento on Highway 50. It is a refreshing retreat in the woods filled with dancing and relaxing. The cost is \$130.00/person which includes lodging with 3 meals Saturday and 2 meals Sunday.

It starts at 4:00 PM Friday, with a potluck and dance and then goes through Saturday with dance workshops and/or free time to hike, sing or whatever. The Saturday party is from 8-11. On Sunday there are dance reviews in the morning and the weekend ends with lunch.

Please go to our website at folkdancesac.org for registration, maps and details

Also in early September is our annual BBQ at the Wollterbeek estate. The date is as yet unknown, but it will feature a giant potluck as well as BBQ, and dancing under the stars in the foothills with clear skies and great fellow dancers. Check the website and Lets Dance for more information! Hope to see you there!

—Barbara Malakoff

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS.

Tie one on for BFD's big **Birthday Ball** on Saturday, May 15. Join the zany crowd for a dinner and dance party at our Live Oak Park Social Hall at 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Cha Am is catering the dinner so dancers are encouraged to wear a crazy (awful? horrible?) tie to go with the theme of "**Thai One On.**" Need one or more? Goodwill has tons of them. Dinner will be in the Fireside Room at 6:30 PM. After that the dancing will be in the Social Hall from 8 to 10:30 PM. This promises to be an event not to be missed. Tickets for this Thai (Tie) affair are \$20 and must be purchased or ordered before May 12. Contact Sara Pope at 510-524-7877 or lapopel@comcast.net.

On Monday, May 10, BFD is delighted to host a **Romanian dance workshop**. The charming and energetic **Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu** who have taught at Stockton and have given a workshop at BFD before will be teaching from 7:45 to 9:30 PM at Live Oak Park Social Hall at the above address. Contact Lone Coleman for more details at 510-5886 or lonedances@sbcglobal.net.

BFD will not be dancing Monday, May 31, Memorial Day.

—Naomi Lidicker

ADVANCED BALKAN DANCERS—We will be having a new (to us) teacher in June, July and August. Martin Frost will be coming to teach us the VERY interesting dance "Arkan". Yes, it can be done! Plus another dance.

Our next session is Sunday, May 16. Teacher still to be determined. We meet, as always, on the third Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Back Dance studio at Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley. For more information contact Gary at wildwood_press@comcast.net



Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Stockton Folk Dance Camp

Romanian Wedding Finishes first week

In Romania, a wedding includes many special events and customs which involve everyone who will attend the wedding. When you are internationally known dance teachers, how can you assemble your many friends for a week or so to make it happen? Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu decided to share their marriage ceremony and other wedding celebrations with all of their friends who attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Other friends and family are also coming for their "big day."

The dance notes for Hora nuntașilor (the dance of the wedding guests) which are available on the camp website describe many of these customs. Check it out by going to www.folkdancecamp.org and scrolling to the bottom, clicking on Dance Descriptions from 07, 08 and 09. They are available online. Click on Hora Nuntașilor to read about them. Let's all prepare to offer a wedding toast: Trăiască mirii! Long live the bride and groom!

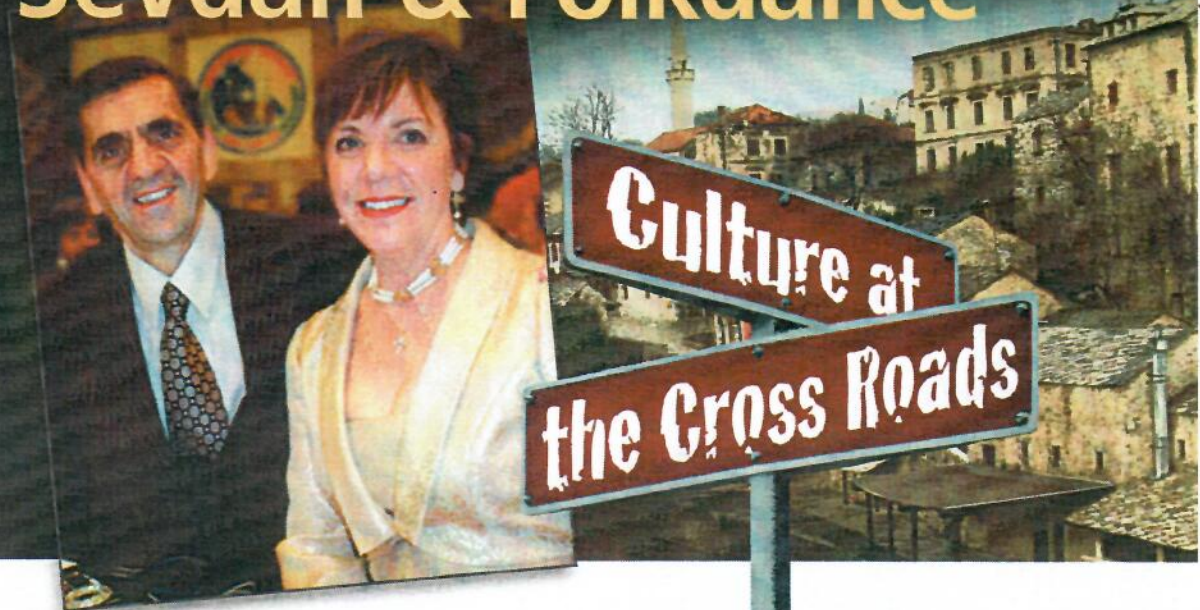
For those of you who haven't preregistered for Stockton Folk Dance Camp this year and wish to attend the wedding of Sonia and Cristian, there may be a way. The Camp is offering a limited number of wedding packages which include the wedding ceremony, the pre-dinner reception, the banquet, the dance and the after party for \$100 per person. For an additional \$50 you may be able to stay the night in one of the dorm rooms.

Please contact Jan Wright at (530) 474-3231 or jmwright32@frontiernet.net to find out if spaces are still available. If there is space available, you may hold your place with a \$50 deposit. The balance must be paid by July 25.

Karen Wilson-Bell

for the Stockton Folk Dance Camp committee

An Evening of Bosnian Sevdah & Folkdance



Sevdah is the traditional music genre of urban town centers of old Bosnia and Herzegovina. This evening will feature sevdalinke by Bosnian performers now residing in the San Francisco Bay Area. The performers include **Muhamed Kočan**, **Rasima Ališić Klisturić**, and **Hajrudin Hajrić**. They will be joined by **Mary Sherhart** of Balkan Cabaret from Seattle, and currently President of the North American Sevdah Association. The evening's band will include **Dževad Zerić**-*accordion*, **Dženan Gacanović**-*key board/arrangments*, and **Fahir Crnojević**-*guitar*. The Bosnian dance ensemble, **Mladost Bosne**, will perform. There will be traditional food, and dancing.

Friday, May 7 • 8 PM • \$15 • \$12 in advance • Children Free

Advance tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com

Upcoming Events

April 2 - International Roma Day Celebration

Chris Bajmakovich, Rumen Shopov, Brass Liberation Orchestra, Sani Rifati

April 11 - Festival of the Mandolins

May 2 - Detski Panair

"Children's faire." Participatory Bulgarian dance, arts, and music for children & families

May 7 - Culture at the Crossroads

Evening of Bosnian Sevdalinke and Folk Dance

May 22 - Sts Kiril & Methody Bulgarian Festival



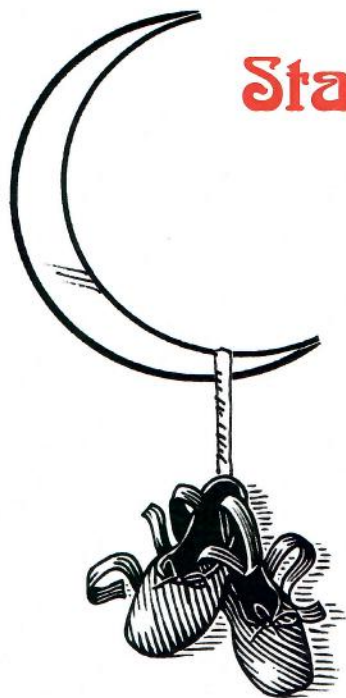
**Croatian American
CULTURAL CENTER**

60 Onondaga Ave, San Francisco

www.croatianamericanweb.org



Our cultural programs are funded in part by the California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, SF Grants for the Arts, SF Arts Commission, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, SF Foundation, Walter & Flora Hewlett Foundation, Zellerbach Family Fund, W.A. Getcode Foundation and the Walter & Elise Haas Foundation.



Statewide 2010

"Dancing in the Valley of the Moon"

June 4, 5 & 6, 2010

**It's a vintage year for fine dancing—
Excellent facilities,
Outstanding teachers:**

Zeljko Jergan, Croatian

Erik Bendix, Balkan & Klezmer!

The Friday party will feature dancing in two halls!

**Line, couple and set dances will play in the ball room
And a Kafana with local bands will be in the second hall**

Saturday will feature teaching by Zeljko and Erik

Saturday night party music by Chubritza!

Sunday morning will be more teaching by our great teachers!

**Sunday afternoon winery tour and tasting at
Gundlach Bundschu Winery with dancing!**

The Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Hall

126 First Street West, Sonoma

Information: garychair@statewide2010.com Phone: 415-488-9197

Check the website for accommodation ideas: Statewide2010.com

Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Statewide 2010 "Dancing in the Valley of the Moon"

Friday, Saturday & Sunday—June 4, 5 & 6

Pre-register and Save Time and Money!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

How do you wish acknowledgement of registration? () email, () phone, () mail

Event costs

Under 18 are admitted free—pre-high school must be accompanied by an adult

Package for all events (paid by May 10): \$75.00 x _____ = \$ _____

(Does not include Winery tour or installation lunch—includes syllabus)

Per event pricing:

Friday night party, dancing in two rooms, 7:30 to 11:30 pm

light teaching by Erik and Zeljko \$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____

plus Kafana with local bands in the dining room

Saturday, all events: \$45.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday, Institutes only: 9:00 am to 12:00 \$15.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Afternoon 2:30 to 5:00 pm \$15.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday night party with Chubritza: \$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____

7:30 to 11:30 pm (Institute dances will be done during the evening)

Sunday morning, Institute and

reviews: 9:30 am to 12:00 noon \$15.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Syllabus (included in the package price) \$5.00 = \$ _____

Installation Lunch—details and cost to come

**Sunday afternoon Winery Tour and Dancing, 2:00 to 5:00 pm,
at the Gundlach Bundschu Winery**

One hour tour and tasting followed by request folk dancing.

\$20.00 per person (must be pre-paid) \$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail form and check made out to Folk Dance Federation to:

Sabine Zappe

Treasurer, Statewide 2010

153 Race Street,

San Jose, CA 95126

Another great Balkan Plus Party

By Eileen Kopec, eisiedancer@gmail.com

When spring rolls around, we can count on the Balkan Dancers of Marin to throw another great party. This year was no exception. The party originally started in 2004 and has been held annually ever since. The event took place at the San Rafael Masonic Lodge Hall which has a marvelous wooden floor with ample capacity for a large crowd. The turnout was better than last year with well over 100 people attending.

Our group started the evening with dinner. It is refreshing to actually sit down and talk to people without rushing off in the middle of a conversation to do the next dance. There are many restaurants along 4th Street within walking distance of the Masonic Lodge serving all sorts of interesting foods, from Puerto Rican, to Japanese to Italian and many others. Since there were twelve of us we needed a place that could accommodate a large group, and San Rafael Joe's fit the bill nicely. Of course when we got to the hall, there were also plenty of snacks set up inside. Thank you to the person who brings that great runny brie every year and also to the many home bakers and dip makers.

The party is called Balkan Plus for a reason. In addition to the programmed dances, there are many slots reserved for request dancing throughout the evening. It worked well as a compromise between the all request and the all programmed evenings, and the only time the music stopped was for a five minute break for announcements. The evening mainly consisted of the old beautiful dances we all loved and still love. The fact that there were many dancers participating in almost every dance was proof of the enduring nature of these dances, such as Karamfil, Orient, Tino Mori and Horehronsky Czardas to name a few. Kudos to Lenny Talmy for leading an amazing silent kolo. Further proof is that every year the Marin group gets requests to email dance descriptions or music for several dances.

Gary Anderson deserves special thanks for keeping the music rolling, but everyone in the Marin Balkan Dancers contributed to the successful evening. The Marin group wants to thank all the people who came, danced, had fun, and helped set up and clean up afterwards. Hope to see you there next year.

If you crave a weekly Balkan fix, the Marin Balkan Dancers meet every Thursday from 8:00 – 10:00 pm at the "Dance with Sherry Studios", 4140 Redwood Highway, San Rafael. One hour of program dancing, one hour all-request dancing. For more info call Irene Croft (415-456-0786) or Anne Arend (415-892-9405).



In other local dance news, Ashkenaz has been presenting live music shows with Balkan roots at least once a month, the latest being on March 25th. The doors opened at 8:00 pm and Jerry Duke warmed up the crowd until the first band went on. The band was called Go Van Gogh, complete with cardboard heads of the famous artist on each table. This eclectic band was billed as "a riotous collision of Klezmer, ska, and cowboy

-- Balkan surf ska with a Western Swing/Ethiopian twist?" Whatever it was called, they played it, and we happily danced to it.

The second band was Janam (formerly the Black Olive Babes). They offered "an eclectic mix of Balkan, Turkish, Romani, Sephardic, American roots and original music. These soul-stirring melodies create a dance-and-trance-inducing groove that carries listeners from the shores of the Black Sea to the foothills of the Appalachians." If you think that sounds intriguing, it was! The lead singer, Juliana Graffagna, had a fabulous voice and their music was a pleasure to dance to. Someone in the small but enthusiastic group of dancers (including some young people) always came up with an appropriate dance to accompany the lush harmonies and rhythms. P.S. - they have a CD coming out soon.

It was hard to estimate the attendance because about half the crowd came to listen to the music, cozily sitting at the tables. The dancers had plenty of room. Fun for us, but not as good for the future of these events. I was disappointed not to see more people supporting this amazing live venue. I hope you will check out the calendar on ashkenaz.com and come to dance next time. Or listen. It was a great night.



Maybe the next topic of interest should be about live versus recorded music. I definitely see a different bunch of dancers at live music nights as opposed to the monthly Wednesday Balkan nights. What is your opinion? Tell us whether you prefer live or recorded... and why!

—Eileen Kopec

72 Years for Changs— Come and help them celebrate

Changs International Folk Dancers will celebrate our 72nd Birthday Anniversary Party, June 18, with French Country Dance lessons and live music from the regions of Auvergne, Gascogne, Alsace, Breton, and Bretagne, featuring Gary Breitbart and Jena Rauti. This is *dance traditionnelle francaise*. We will also dance international folk dances to recorded music between the musicians' sets. Join us for dancing from 8-10:30 p.m., followed by a potluck and socializing. Admission is \$10 per person. Location is Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, 417 - 31st Ave. between Clement and Geary.

For more information and a map, visit <http://changsfolkdancers.blogspot.com>

Merced International Folkdancers start class for beginners, intermediates

Merced International Folkdancers present Winter/Spring classes (Lines, Circles & Couple beginning/intermediate level dances). Now thru 05/27/10 classes are Thursdays, 6:30-8pm, at the downtown Merced Multicultural Arts Center (3rd Floor). Cost is \$7 per session. No Partner necessary. Register ahead or at class. For more information, including scholarships and discounts, call Instructor: Memo Keswick at (209) 723-4016.



*Santa Rosa Folk Dancers
Invite You*

Rose Festival International Folk Dance


**Saturday, May 8, 2010
1:00 - 4:30 P.M.**

Door Prizes, Beautiful Wood Floor, Refreshments

**Wischemann Hall
465 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472**

\$7.00 Donation

The roses will be in full bloom again this year. They always have such beautiful colors and have such appeal to everyone! This should remind all folk dancers of the annual Rose Festival held by the Santa Rosa Folk Dancers. It will be held on May 8th at Wischemann Hall in Sebastopol. There will be a "time out" for refreshments and door prizes! Please come. You will be glad you did, and we will be so glad to see you! For further information call 707-546-5467.



Rose Festival Dance Program 2010

1. Alunelul
2. Couple Hasapiko
3. Swedish-Finn Mixer (P)
4. Liljano Mome
5. Corrido
6. Elizabeth Quadrille
7. Banjsko Oro
8. El Gaucho Tango
9. Oklahoma Mixer (P)
10. Ya da kalinushku lomala
11. Beale Street Blues
12. Trip to Bavaria
13. Lo Ahavti Dai
14. Salty Dog Rag
15. Allemansmarsj (P)
16. Opinca
17. D'Hammerschmiedsg'selln
18. Picking Up Sticks

19. Linerender
20. Baztan-Dantza
21. Chilili
22. Kohala Waltz
23. Swiss Break Mixer (P)
24. Champs Elysees
25. Mairi's Wedding
26. Tfilati
27. Tango Campana
28. Ba La (P)
29. Paraliakos
30. La Cachucha

31. Les mains blanches
32. Never on Sunday
33. Dreisteyrer
34. Das Fenster (P)
35. Hora nuntasilor
36. Frenchy Brown
37. Windmill Quadrille
38. Sulam Ya'akov
39. Numero Cinco
40. La Bastringue (P)
41. Cobankat
42. Snoa
43. Cumberland Reel
44. Kvar Acharay Chatzot
45. La Golondrina
46. Olssons' Familievals (P)
47. Lesnoto
48. St. Bernard Waltz

Getting Young People Into Folk Dancing

By Todd Wagner

I'm here in Budapest (again!) and last weekend (March 28 and 29) was the 29th annual Táncháztalálkozó (Dance House Festival). Once again I was impressed by the number of younger dancers and musicians. I'm not referring to the dozens of High School exhibition groups that were performing on the main stage. What I'm talking about is the groups of young musicians playing in every nook and cranny, and other young people singing and dancing in front of them, just because they enjoyed it.

The Éjszakai bál (evening ball) was from 10pm-5am, although this was really only 6 hours since Daylight Savings Time in the EU kicked in during the ball. At about 2am (DST) they played a fantastic Kalotaszegi csárdás. When that ended about 40 minutes later they started playing Kalotaszegi légenyes. This is a men's solo dance that would send most people to the emergency room. It lasted a little over half an hour as guys, one or two at a time, danced in front of the band for a minute or two each. What was inspiring was the number of teenage guys, cheered on by hormone fueled teenage girls, strutting their stuff.

Equally inspiring was the next day (actually later the same day, but after I slept) when I was having lunch in the kocsmá (same as kafana). There were three groups of musicians playing, and the group nearest me was playing Bonchida Román Forгатós (aka Bonchida Ínvártita). This is arguably the hardest dance we do in my class. Nevertheless, there were 4 or 5 couples doing it very well – teenagers!

The obvious question is why are teens in Hungary motivated to learn their grandparent's dances? The main reason is simply that the dances are great. There is nothing embarrassing about the look and feel of these dances. The dances are hard and take weeks to learn, but a dance you can learn in 10

minutes is forgotten just as quickly. Similarly, in the US there is no shortage of young people in Swing and Lindy classes. The men's dances provide a way for the boys to impress the girls (their historic role), and the couple dances provide a legitimate excuse to hang all over members of the opposite sex, even the shy ones.

Another reason is the music, which is intensely beautiful. They always have live music at a táncház (dance house). A dance can last from 30 minutes to an hour, and the melody changes every few minutes. A lot of young music students are learning to play folk music. Finally there are the songs. Sometimes the band will switch to a melody where everyone knows the lyrics and they start singing. A lot of the songs are somewhat bawdy, and most have a bit of humor. One of my favorites is a song from Szatmár. In the first verse the girls sing "I wish I was a star in the sky" (sounds very sweet doesn't it?). Then they sing the second verse "Then I could look down at the Earth and find out who my boyfriend is doing..."

So try to look at this from the perspective of High School kids. The guys can show off their athletic prowess in the men's dances (while the girls often do bawdy shouts), they can hang all over their girlfriends (or future girlfriends) while doing an interesting dance being played by their musician friends, and sing fun songs. What's not to like?

My point is simply that here in Hungary folk dancing at the High School level is respected as a serious athletic and artistic endeavor. Similarly, learning to play a musical instrument in the folk style is also encouraged. In the US folk dancing in High School is phys-ed for kids that do not have the strength, ability, or coordination to participate in other sports. Therefore we only teach (often insipid) dances that everyone can do. In my opinion this is why many Americans, outside of those in some ethnic or religious communities, have a fairly negative impression of folk dancing. The Hokey Pokey is NOT what it's all about.

The author: Todd has visited Hungary over 30 times and teaches Folkdances of Hungary and Transylvania every Wednesday night at the Menlo Park Recreation Center.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION'S WEBSITE LATELY?

Planning a trip for business or pleasure? Want to know if there is folk dancing on a convenient night where you are going?

Go to **www.folkdance.com** where you will find **two important links:** One is to the Folk Dance Federation of Southern California and the other is a link to the National Folk Organization's web page with even more information!

[And don't forget to pack your dance shoes!]



Letter to the Federation

Report re: Usage of Folk Dance Federation of California Promotion Funds in Merced, 3-20-2010

Judy & I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who attended, or wanted to attend (but couldn't!), the March 20th, 2010 Bulgarian Concert - Dance in Merced. Especially honorable are those of you who helped with the logistics of the party, i.e., advertising, door, set-up, food donations, and take-down. We couldn't have done it without you. From our perspective the event / party was a great success. Counting the band members there were 60 + folks enjoying the fabulous music in the wonderful Merced Multi-Cultural Center auditorium. The sound system with room acoustics, stage presentation, lighting, cabaret tables, flowers plus food everyone brought, and wooden floor all contributed to a beautiful intimate setting - which quite impressed the band members! Vasil Bebelevkov, his family and other musicians personally thanked us for bringing them to the Merced community.

For Judy & me there were many, many special perspectives about the party. These including making our personal goal to offer the Merced Community such a live music event; seeing that so many of you seemed to be truly enjoying the experience; experiencing the wonderful support from out of the area folkdance friends (including those from Atwater, Los Banos, Turlock, Modesto, Chico, L.A., Santa Clara, Daly City, etc); and the "icing on the top" was that Merced International Folkdancers actually "led" dances during the evening - wow, what a wonderful sight!

We also want to mention that we had 9 more folks sign up to get updates on International Folkdance opportunities in Merced and nearby communities. That brings our total list of "interested folks" to over 60! Dance on everyone!

Very, very, very special appreciation and gratitude also goes to the following organizations who provided special support for the event. Without this support the event would not

COME PARTY WITH KOPACHKAS, MAY 7 IN MILL VALLEY

Kopachka Folkdancers will host a party with live music on Friday, May 7, 8-11 PM, at Scout Hall, 177 E. Blithedale, Mill Valley. Cost will be \$10, which includes light refreshments. Scout Hall has a wood floor, and there is free street parking. Music will be provided by The Mehanatones, one of the premier bands in the Bay Area, with an enthusiastic following. They play a variety of traditional urban and village dance music from the Balkans and Anatolia, including Ottoman Turkish, Slavic, Greek, Macedonian, Bulgarian, as well as comparatively modern Rom (Gypsy) and Serbian dances. There will be dances for all levels. The band consists of: Bill Cope (oud, gajda, tambura, bouzouki and accordion); Pat MacSwyney (ney, kaval, frula, trumpet and baglama); Brian Fox (tambura and electric baritone guitar); Dan Auvil (tupan, darabuka and dajre).

To reach Scout Hall, take the E. Blithedale exit from 101, go west approximately 1.5 miles, and 177 is on the north side of E. Blithedale. For further information, call Nadav Nur, (415) 497-4890, or Susie Shoaf, susieshoaf@aol.com

have occurred. Please support their efforts in all ways possible.

Folk Dance Federation of California (Northern): See <http://www.folkdance.com/>
Merced County Arts Council: See <http://www.artsmerced.org/>
Sincerely,
Memo & Judy

***Volunteers are needed for Statewide 2010—
"Dancing in the Valley of the Moon"***

***If you wish to be a part of an exciting event
Email Gary at: wildwood_press@comcast.net***



**FLEET OF FOOT
But
YOUR FLOW OF FUNDS IS FAILING?
CONSIDER A CAMP SCHOLORSHIPS**

Has the price of camps or workshops deterred you from participating or attending in the past? Especially in these tough economic times, dance camp/workshops may have a tendency to become a second or third priority in our budgets.

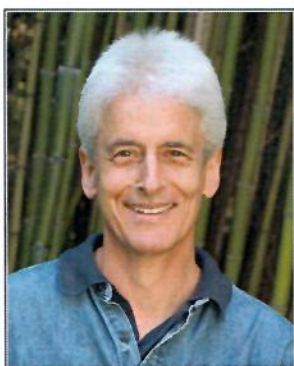
Please do not let the prices scare you away from participating. The Folkdance Federation has a scholarship fund available to help with the tuition cost of camps or workshops. The fund can, at times, pay for up to half of the camp/workshop tuition cost.

Please don't hesitate to apply. We are willing to consider any folkdance related camp or workshop. Please give us 60 days notice before tuition is due.

Applications can be downloaded from the California Folk Dance Federation Web site and sent to beth@berezovskyfamily.com.

Željko and Erik—two of our top teachers!

We are truly fortunate to have these two wonderful teachers for our Statewide. They are both outstanding in their fields. They teach dances that are popular. Don't miss any of the classes!



Erik Bendix will teach both Klezmer dances and a Serbian Suite

Erik Bendix began folkdancing at the age of 10 and has been teaching folk dance in Europe and the U.S. since 1972. He has studied and taught Yiddish, Ma-

cedonian, Bulgarian, Armenian, Israeli, Yemenite, Romanian, Albanian, Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian, Polish, Turkish, Hungarian and Croatian folk dances, as well as Appalachian clogging and traditional Mevlevi dervish whirling. Among his major teachers were Pece Atanasovski, Mile Kolarov, Ivan Donkov, Michael Alpert, Marcia Rand and Zuleikha. He has performed as a member of the Green Grass Cloggers in Asheville, N.C. and has choreographed for many ensembles, including the Westwind International Folkdance Ensemble in San Francisco.

Erik helped start the Volkstanz International (VTI) workshops in Switzerland in the early 1980s, and the Mountain Playshop in Western North Carolina later that decade. VTI is now a major folkdance organization in Europe that has been pivotal in reintroducing folkdancers in Europe to live music. It runs Balkan and klezmer music camps each year, plus week-long and weekend folkdance workshops. In 2007, Erik initiated the first ever Yiddish Dance Symposium in New York City.

Erik has taught over 60 folkdance workshops, including June Camp in Wisconsin, Autumn Leaves in Nashville TN, and Kolo Festival and the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in California. He has practiced Tai Chi Chuan for over 20 years, and directs *The Art of Alpine Skiing*, a ski teaching method that he invented. His workaday profession is as a movement educator – he is an AmSAT-certified teacher of the Alexander Technique and a certified practitioner of Body-Mind Centering®.

Erik lives with his wife Meredith in Asheville, North Carolina.

Željko Jergan

Will teach dances of Croatia

Željko Jergan is a renowned choreographer and teacher known throughout the world. When he is not researching and creating new choreographies, Željko stays extremely busy working with the international folk dance community, where he is in popular demand for his depth and style in teaching Croatian folk dancing. He has traveled extensively, both domestically and abroad, including folk dance seminars and workshops in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and Taiwan.

Željko also serves as artistic director for *Karljica Jelena Folklore Ensemble*, Kitchener, Ontario and *Croatian Village Folklore Ensemble*, Hamilton Ontario, where he continually strives to elevate the level of authenticity and presentation of those ensembles. He is also the artistic director for the Folklore Ensemble *Hrvarski Tanac* and *Kumovi Adult Ensemble*, of Pittsburg and the St. Anthony's Folklore Ensemble of Los Angeles.

A native of Varaždin, Željko was a leading performer with the Croatian National Folk Ensemble *LADO* for twelve years. He also performed with the Zagreb National Ballet and Modern Dance Companies for several years. He is a graduate of the Varaždin School of Music, Čakovec School of Architecture and worked under the tutelage of Milica Glavočić Pininsky, a consultant to the Zagreb Ethnographic Museum.

Željko has received two full scholarship grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in support of his artistic work.

Željko resides in St. Clairsville, Ohio, with his wife and their son and daughter.



Three days of fun and dance in Sonoma!

We start with a bang Friday night with dancing in two halls! Recorded music will be played in the Auditorium and a Kafana with live music will be in the Dining Room.

Saturday starts early with teaching in the morning and afternoon. There are no repeats in the teaching. There will be a break for lunch downtown and time to look around a bit. There are lots of excellent eating places. Saturday night will be dancing in the Auditorium with Chubritza.

Sunday morning will be more teaching or reviews and the installation luncheon in the lounge. Following that will be a winery tour and dancing for those who have pre-registered. The winery tour is by pre-registration only.

It's not too late to pre-register!

The closing date for pre-registration is May 10! You may download a form from our website: statewide2010.com

If you have a problem with that just email Gary at wildwood_press@comcast.com and I will email one.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the tiny but welcomed article on BFD's National Dance Week open class. It was an unexpected pleasure to see that. I just wished BFD to be listed with the other open dance events,

—Naomi Lidicker

PS. Also much appreciated was the review of the Festival of the Oaks. And what a great cover for the April issue!

Thanks, Naomi,

Those photos were by from Hellen Quan. Her last name was covered up on the caption on the cover.

We have been getting some excellent photos from our readers recently and we greatly appreciate it. The contributions from our readers make the magazine!

Gary, editor



FOLK DANCE QUIZ

What do these sets of dances have in common? [Please forgive the absence of diacritical marks.]

1. Shoofni, Mayim, Ba La
2. Das Fenster, Oslo Waltz, Arnold's Circle
3. Gustav's Skoal, Rothesay Rant, Cumberland Square
4. The Black Nag, Juice of Barley, Levi Jackson's Rag
5. Dreistreyrer, Logovac, Machar
6. Horehronsky Csardas, Dobrudzanska Reka, Kujawiak Niebieski
7. Baztan Danza, Olahos, Sapri Tama
8. Passu Torrao, Andro Retourne, Ciuleandra
9. Idam Ne Idam, Krivata, Melnik
10. Cetvorka, Belasicko, Dedo Mili Dedo

Answer on page 22

JOIN THE FEDERATION!

Membership Form

The Folk Dance Federation of California assists in organizing dance clubs and councils, promotes dance activities generally in Northern California, sponsors festivals, institutes, and teacher training, supports research in dances, music and costumes.

- Meet new friends; connect with other dance enthusiasts.
- Receive discounts on admission to Federation-sponsored events.
- Receive **LET'S DANCE** magazine, your source of information on Folk Dance Activities in Northern California.
- Have a voice in furthering this world-wide recreational activity.
- Learn to teach folk dancing. Academic credit available at selected teacher training institutes.
- Group members are eligible for liability insurance, and free advertising on the Federation website.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

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Club/Group Affiliation (if any): _____

Enclose annual dues (US Dollars):

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Group/Club

Foreign Residents, please add \$ 5.00 to these rates to cover postage.

\$ 22.50**

\$30.00**

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San Jose, CA 95133-1226

For additional information about membership

Call (408) 251-8386 or e-mail marion-rose@att.net

Camellia Festival 2010

By Barbara Malakoff

I really enjoyed Camellia Festival this year! It was a gorgeous weekend and we had a great lineup with Chubritza and Jaap and all, but there was an edge to it for me, because I couldn't help but wonder, "Will there be another one? Or is this the last?" We wonder that every year, but this year seemed more urgent. This was our 54th Camellia Festival, and we have had a wonderful history of festivals. The early years, we were sponsored by the City of Sacramento and were part of a city-wide "Camellia Festival", which included a big parade, a camellia show, a queen contest, concerts like ballet and symphony, and many other activities over about two weeks. The Folk Concert was the closing event in Memorial Auditorium. It always featured the grand entrance of the Queen and her court led by the regal Scottish bagpipers. (The sound in that Auditorium was incredible!) Every seat was always filled, and the dance program was spectacular. The stage was decorated in large homemade but beautiful and artistic props reflecting the theme country for that year. A special committee had been working on the event for many months ahead. People came from all over and two dance rooms were filled until the wee small hours, one of them being the entire floor of the Auditorium. It was grand! Then times change, as they are prone to. The Auditorium closed for renovation, the City defunded the Festival, and the dark times descended. But through it all, we persevered and put on a festival every year. Sometimes it was in a multi-purpose room somewhere. Now it is in the Student Union Ballroom at Sac State University, a great facility. It has come a long way since those dark days, but the committee that puts it on is the same year after year, except that each year it is a little smaller. So the committee is getting tired and old. And every year, the question is asked, will we do it again next year? I imagine that many festivals have the same issues. For now, we have committed to next year, so we hope that somehow the future of Camellia Festival will be bright. I really hope so.

The parties were great, with lots of friends from other places to make it special. Friday started out with a free workshop taught by two of our Wolterbecker stars, Dani and Ryan Sandler. They taught a dance from Pakistan called Bhangra and Žensko za raka, a Macedonian women's dance. (A video and dance notes for all the workshops can be found on our website at folkdancesac.org.) Then, a great party followed with mostly request dancing and a large and enthusiastic crowd.

The Saturday party featured Chubritza, who were just wonderful. There were lots of special moments when various dancers joined them for numbers, such as Jaap Leegwater, playing flute, and Toba Goddard and Barbara Bevan singing. Chubritza is always a party all by themselves, but this was extra special as we joined them and they joined us on the dance floor. Many thanks go to Barbara Bevan, Roy Butler, and Toba Goddard for making it happen!

The workshops were well attended, chock full of new material, and fun! Jaap presented a diverse program of new Bulgarian dances. He was in great form and was enjoying being "back home" in Sacramento where he lived for 20 years! Our own Andre and Yvonne Couvillion took us around the

world with a program of fun couple dances. They added to the drama by magically "changing costumes"



for each dance. This was accomplished by very quickly adding one or two items, such as a hat or vest to indicate each nationality. Check out website folkdancesac.org for syllabus and more information on all the workshop dances.

The Sunday Concert was one of the best ever. Coordinated by Bruce Mitchell, it featured a nice line up of mostly local performers of a very high calibre. Of course, my personal favorite group was the Sacramento Vintage Dancers because I am a part of it. We had been working on our two dances for months. Bruce created one of our dances, which was a Romantic Polish Waltz. The other was the Polonaise Royale, presented by Richard Schmidt of Montreal, Canada. Both are grand and courtly dances, so we decided to make special gowns to reflect that image. When we got on stage, facing each other in a circle, there was nothing but huge smiles all around as we saw how beautiful we were! Even the men looked especially grand, with colorful satin sashes under their tuxedos. We floated through the dances and created a wonderful memory for ourselves, and hopefully the audience. I am sure that other groups had similar experiences reflecting their own characters. Each group brought a freshness and enthusiasm to their performance that is missing in so much of our canned entertainment these days. I know I am always happy to see my own grandchildren in the audience to know that they are at least exposed to the concept that entertainment isn't always on a screen, and that anyone can create it themselves and have a lot of fun doing it.

Our featured group this year was the Croatian dancers from San Jose, Koraci. They put on a wonderful blend of ethnic authenticity, a high level of skill, and youthful energy and enthusiasm, to say nothing of fantastic costumes. It is really inspirational to see what can be accomplished with a group of kids.

Of course, our own local group of kids, Tance El Dorado, has become a great performance group! Al and Teddy Wolterbeek have been working with them for several years, now, and this year, two of their former students, Dani and Ryan Sandler, led the Friday Student Workshop. Al and Teddy were our 2010 Honorees for our annual award for contribution to folkdancing in our area over the years. They were presented with our "Scrap-Plaque", which is a scrapbook about them and other honorees over the years. It has a brass plaque engraved with the names of all the honorees, on the wooden cover, to make it a little more official. Since we don't yet have a "folk dance home" (a long time dream of Al and Teddy) which would have a wall for such plaques, we are settling for a "Scrap-plaque" They are certainly worthy! The award was presented at the Sunday Concert.



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"Green" Dancing in the Park

By Valerie Daley

Many international folk dancers in Southern California celebrated this Vernal Equinox in the beautiful Woodley Park in Van Nuys as an extension of the Green Expo.

The idea to do such a thing was initially prompted by an email I received from Sylvia Stachura with info about this Green Expo (<http://thegreenexpo.net/>) she heard about on the radio. I checked out the website and contacted the guy in charge of exhibitors, Michael, asking for some information and permission to have a table for flyers and maybe some space for dancing at this event. I thought, "Hey! A lot of the folk dancers I dance with are pretty 'green,' so maybe 'green' folk might be interested in dancing!"

Michael was excited to have us, so I got the green-light "GO!" And I WENT!

I had only a few days, so I scurried to gather dancers and the things we would need to pull this off, and luckily it worked out beautifully! Emails I sent out were forwarded on to other folk dance lists, and the event was announced in many folk dance clubs.

Ann Armstrong brought her canopy, two tables, our "International Folk Dance" banner, an ipod and amp, chairs, water, goodies to snack on and her amazing "know-how." She, Marsha Fenner and Marie Montes were my basic support.

Jay Michtom helped us set up Saturday morning and brought complimentary copies of *"The Folk Dance Scene"* for us to offer to potential newbie folk dancers.

Saturday morning we had a wonderful mix of dancers from the Pasadena Coop, the Tuesday Gypsies and the Westwood Folk Dance groups. Later in the day, we danced with West Valley dancers and even had live music to dance to, provided by Pat Cross and Don Krotser of the Fifth Friday band! WOW!

Serendipitously, dancers arrived, mingled, danced with us for a while and departed as other dancers were arriving. We maintained a group of between 8 to 10 dancers throughout the weekend, pretty much.

At a slow spell on Saturday, I thought to show Hineh Ma Tov to some of the dancers seated in the shade. No club in our area that I know of does that dance, and I wanted them to see it. As I was dancing out there on the lawn, solo, 3 teenage girls stopped to watch, seemingly enthralled! I thought I had hooked some really cool newbies!!! YES!!! When the dance ended, they enthusiastically asked, "OH! What was that dance?" I told them, and one gal said, "Oh, yeah! I knew I knew it! I learned it in folk dance class!" She had been in Billy Burke's class at Miliken Middle School a few years before.

Oh well. I didn't snag a new dancer, but I may have reminded her of how much fun this kind of dancing can be. She did tell me that taking Billy's class changed her life by opening her up to so much more than she ever could have imagined. (She didn't call him Billy, of course; she called him Mr. Burke!)

We did not have more than 5 to 10 expo people join in with dancing each day, nor very many people taking flyers and asking about dance venues. A few, yes, but it was a tad disappointing. Walking about the expo and later as we were loading the cars, though, people would stop me to say how much they loved the dancing, or some like comment. That was very nice.



Dancing Hashual on the grass—Photo by Donald Krotser

Sunday we had serious competition with a music group nearby using a solar powered sound system, with BIG-badda-BOOM amps. Rather than compete with them, I tailored some folk dances to their music. They loved having me dance to their playing! At the end of a piece, they applauded ME! I used Ya Da Kalinushka Lomala, a very lyrical and soft version of Dorozhka, Belasička Oro and a Syrto, which I was dancing solo on Sunday when Irwin and Beverly Barr showed up, joined me, and then John Filcich arrived and danced in the line with us too! WOW! That was so cool!!!

John Filcich brought me a beautiful bouquet of camellias and geraniums from his garden. I am sure you can imagine how honored I felt. I was fortunate enough to have along with me a special CD of kolos I had bought from him at a Greek festival 5 or 6 years ago, and there on the grass in the park, I, along with others, danced many of those kolos with John Filcich. I will forever treasure the memory of this wonderful day. Thank you, John. Wow.

Ann Armstrong, Marsha Fenner and Sylvia Stachura came both Saturday and Sunday and gave me the assistance, equipment and muscle I needed to manage. Marie Montes was with me all day Saturday, even though her Thursday chemo was beginning to take its toll. She paced herself and was a beautiful asset!!!

So many clubs showed their support by dancing with us! I feel so lucky, so grateful, to be a part of such wonderful PEOPLE! Folk dancers are my family: my most favorite people.

Thank you, to every single dancer who helped me this Folk Dance in the Park day.

Two things John Filcich said to me Sunday, March 21, will continue to motivate me to promote folk dancing in this way. One was in response to someone who was not entirely happy with dancing on the grass, and he said something like, "Village dancers dance on whatever surface they have!"

The other bit was, (paraphrased, I'm afraid,) "I was driving one weekend with my parents when I saw these dancers in a large field, and I asked them to stop the car so we could go investigate what was going on. It was a group of folk dancers and my life was then forever changed." WOW!

We other folk dancers are so grateful for that providential moment! John Filcich, you are a treasure! Thank you!

If there are any other crazy folk dance nuts out there who might be interested in trying a similar public presentation of folk dance, please feel free to contact me:

Dancing.Valerie@gmail.com
Dance with JOY!

"Real" vs. "Choreographed" Folk Dances

By Richard Duree

The cussin' and discussin' of "real" versus "choreographed" dances has gone on for as long as I've been folk dancing. I can't resist adding my own concerns about this ever-lasting issue.

It might help to take a look at how the whole folk dance "movement" started and what issues shaped recreational folk dance as we know it.

At least as far as California in particular, and the country in general, is concerned, trace it back to the Stockton Folk Dance Camp, the grand-daddy of them all. When Lawton Harris started the camp back in 1950s (or whenever it was), he set down a series of rules and conditions that put several restraints and requirements on teachers. Some of them sound pretty strange now and were certainly not conducive to taking a "folkloric" approach to the dance. I don't know what they all were, but a couple I can recall: "The dance must not have been taught anywhere else" and "There must be no variations to the choreography."

There were others, but just these two tended to put a rigid and artificial face on the folk dances coming from the camp, which for a long time, was THE fountainhead of material for the recreational folk dance community. Lawton Harris was not a folklorist; his concern was in creating a dance form in which everyone would dance exactly the same thing everywhere.

One of the first teachers Lawton engaged was well-known character dance teacher, Anatol Joukowsky, "Mr. J." to everyone who knew him. Mr. J. was a charming gentleman and a great teacher of very complicated choreographies – most of which turned out to be far from the truth. Most bore little if any resemblance of the true folk dances from which they were supposedly taken. Vrtilka, for instance, was supposed to be from Novy Zamky in Slovakia. My contact from Novy Zamky says there is no such word in their language, the music does not resemble anything she ever heard and the dance does not resemble anything she ever saw.

So Mr. J. was creating dances from his own theatrical dance background and those dances set the example for other dance teachers to follow. Ned and Marion Gault choreographed and presented several lovely tangos, all beautifully choreographed, many still in the repertoire. Others followed as time went on and the mindset became one of collecting as many dances as one could as though the one who died with the most dances won. The folk dance repertoire became "a mile wide and an inch deep." Folk dancers prided themselves on how many dances they could learn and remember and folk dance became no different from the round dance, with a "dance of the month" mentality.

Even Dick Crum commented several times, in his unique fashion, that the folk dancers, and often the folk dance sources, "had their way" with "real" dances, changing their character into something that they were not, with no concern for the dances' traditions.

Tony Shay comments in his excellent book about the influence of state-mandated choreographies that made specta-

cle out of village dance and gave us many of the folk dances we now have in the repertoire.

The great loss is the failure of teachers to instill the more intellectual elements of folk dance – the interest in the related folklore and history of the dance and of those who created and the dances and considered the dance to be theirs. There was no effort to teach technique; there was little or no effort to relate the dance to the music and certainly no effort to relate to ones partner. The folk dancer themselves are partly to blame for that, demanding more and more "new" material to add to their already extensive repertoire.

Every once in a while, a folk dancer would get a glimmer that all this dance material was not "the real deal." I recall one gentleman in class (at Stockton) looking at a dance being demonstrated by a teacher, mumbled, "I think we're being sold a bill of goods."

Ah – enlightenment.

As time passed folk dance began to splinter into specialized groups (losing many dance forms in the process) and many dancers became more serious about the dance. They began to seriously study the cultures from which the dances came. They traveled, learned the language, the music, the instruments, the folklore, the cultural personality. Most notable are the Balkan, Scandinavian and Hungarian dance communities, whose dance repertoire is far smaller than the general folk dance community – and far more authentic and advanced.

The issue then becomes, for those dancers, that they have literally exited from the recreational folk dance community, often without realizing it, and are sadly disappointed when they attempt to re-enter it. Imagine coming from spending years learning the finer points of a very difficult Transylvanian / Hungarian couple dance and being limited to an evening of little choreographed dances that are danced robotically by folk dancers who have no knowledge or interest in anything about the dance other than its choreography.

No wonder folk dance has lost its bloom. It aged without maturing. It placed quantity ahead of quality. It placed choreography ahead of ethnology. It placed regurgitation ahead of improvisation. It placed memorization ahead of technique.

Perhaps the question of "real" versus "choreographed" is not the concern; perhaps we should consider whether folk dance, real or not, should continue as it has until the very end. Is it possible that the last folk dancer is already old?

My personal opinion is that folk dance has so much to tell us about the artistic urge that is so ingrained in the human condition that we owe it every effort to learn. Folk dance is generally considered to be the dance of the peasants, the lower classes, who lived a life of drudgery and unending toil, yet they had the inclination and the talent to create exquisite cultural treasures of music and dance and costume and folk arts. They were real people and they deserve the respect of serious study.

To get back on topic: "choreographed" dances need to be recognized for what they are and folk dancers need to decide what is more important. Do we wish to be "a mile wide and an inch deep" or will we go in search of the answer to "why do people dance the way they do?"

Liljano Mome

Bulgaria (Pirin)

This Liljano Mome (LEEL-yah-noh MOH-meh), a variation of the popular Shirto-type dance common in the Pirin-Macedonian region of Bulgaria, was introduced by Belcho Stanev of Varna and taught by Yves Moreau at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009. A variety of musical performances of this very popular song is accessible via Google and YouTube.

Music: CD: Yves and France Moreau, Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009, Band 9.

Video: Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009

Meter = $7/8 = 3/8 + 2/8 + 2/8$, counted here as 1, 2, 3 or s, q, q.

Formation: Mixed open circle facing LOD, wt on L ft, hands joined up in W-pos.

Steps & Styling: Light and proud. Steps moving bkwd or L are smaller than those fwd or R.

Measure	7/8 meter	PATTERN
8	INTRODUCTION (No action - instrumental music. Dance starts with song)	
I	BASIC PATTERN (Vocal)	
1-2	Facing and moving in LOD, step R, L, R, L, R, L (cts <u>1</u> , 2, 3, <u>1</u> , 2, 3).	
3	Continuing to face LOD, step bkwd in RLOD, R, L, R (cts <u>1</u> , 2, 3).	
4	Facing ctr, step L, R across L (arms come down) then L in place (cts <u>1</u> , 2, 3).	
5-16	Repeat meas 1-4 three more times, raising arms to W-pos to start each repeat.	
II	VARIATION (Instrumental)	
1-2	Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2.	
3	Facing L of ctr, step fwd R (ct <u>1</u>); facing ctr, step L to L then R behind L (cts 2, 3).	
4-8	Repeat Fig I, meas 4; then repeat meas 1-4.	

Sequence: Repeat Figs I and II as written three times; then repeat Fig I once.

<u>Lyrics</u>	<i>(Liljano Mome)</i>	<u>Translation</u>
"Liljano mome Liljano, ja stani rano pri zori, ja stani rano pri zori i libeto si pregurni."		"Liljana, young lady, get up early at dawn, get up early at dawn and give your sweetheart a hug."
Repeat Vocal to complete Fig I, then add Instrumental (Fig II)		
Ne e izlezla Liljana, naj izlezla maika i Ljuti si kletvi kulneshe, i na Georgi dumashe.		Liljana didn't come out, her mother came out, and she moaned and said to Georgi:
Repeat Vocal, then Instrumental		
"Idi si, Georgi, idi si. Liljana bolna legнала, Liljana bolna legнала, i ne mozhe da stane."		"Go away, Georgi, go away, Liljana lies sick in bed, Liljana lies sick in bed, and can't get up."
Repeat Vocal, then Instrumental		
"Ne mi go lazhi, mamо ma, ja sam si Georgi ljubila, ja sum si Georgi ljubila, za nego ke se ozhenа."		"Don't lie to him, mother, I am in love with Georgi, I am in love with Georgi, and I'm going to marry him."
Repeat Vocal (Fin!)		

The Early California Fandango

By Richard Duree

"It seems to me that there were never a more peaceful or happier people on the face of the earth than the Spanish, Mexican and Indian people of Alta California before the American conquest. We were building towns and missions when General Washington was carrying on the war of the Revolution."

So wrote Guadalupe Vallejo about the fabled "Rancho Period" of Early California. Huge land grants supported a horse and cattle culture of immense proportions, only lightly influenced by the distant government of newly independent Mexico, of which Alta California was a part. This period survived about the same length as the American Old West – about 25 years – and was just as important to California's history.

Life in the widely scattered haciendas and villages was difficult for everyone – men, women and children alike. As with any people for whom toil is a norm, the opportunity to pause and party was not to be taken lightly. The very nature of the Californios, their love of music and dance and finery, their generosity and hospitality – all inherited from their Spanish forbearers, quickly led to the development of a splendid form of celebration – the fandango.

The fandango was the major social event of the Californios and one was held for every possible occasion: saint's days, religious holidays, a new home, a visitor, a Yankee ship with goods from China and New England, a baptism, a birth, a betrothal – anything. Word of the upcoming fandango spread like wildfire and people came from miles around to share in the event – caballeros and vaqueros on horseback, señoritas and señoras in the creaking corretas, a heavy two-wheeled ox cart.

The Californios played as hard as they worked. During the day, all retired to a wooded area where food and drink were spread for an enormous picnic. The superb horsemen engaged in any number of games to display their skill. They raced each other and had great fun plucking a chicken buried in the sand up to its neck – at a full gallop. These were the vaqueros, the finest horsemen in the world and their skills laid the foundation for the American cattle industry and the American cowboy twenty years later.

As evening neared, all returned to the hacienda for the evening fandango. The women retired to the house to change into their fine dresses and velvet slippers. A sense of excitement was in the air as they all gathered at the ramada, a three-sided enclosure around a hard-packed dirt floor. The ladies took seats around the sides and the young men gathered – on horseback – at the open side of the ramada. Indian musicians sat to one side, playing violins and guitars as taught by the mission priests. Torches illuminated the scene.

When all were ready, El Tecolero stepped to the center of the ramada. He was the "master of ceremonies" and an older, respected member of the community. He knew the dances, the music, the people present and all the gossip and arrangements that were the real reason for the fandango. He will ensure that all goes smoothly, that all get to dance – and

that pairings of young couples are made as arranged by their parents.

All eyes are on El Tecolero as he approaches the lady who is to be honored. Clapping his hands to the music, he invites the lady to the center of the ramada. She rises from her chair, glides to the center and executes a little dance step and bows to the assemblage before returning to her chair. Each lady in turn is invited to the floor; each performing her little dance and casting flirtatious glances to the young men gathered to watch.

With the ladies introduced, El Tecolero calls for the first dance, usually *la contradanza*, a longways set dance still popular in both Europe and America and descended from the 18th Century minuet. Couples are arranged in order of their social standing in the community, elders and guests of honor at the head in a public affirmation of the social structure.

"La Cachucha" was the traditional second dance in the fandango. Translated as "my little cap," it was a form of endearment to the ladies who now proceeded to display their charms in a group dance with lovely movements of the Spanish fan and a flourish of their wide skirts.

Other dances follow quickly as called by El Tecolero – jotas from Spain, sonas from Mexico, popular social dances from Europe and America. Many with ancestry in Spain performed the regional dances of Spain, which they considered a family heirloom.

Far into the night they danced before finally retiring for a few hours' sleep before repeating the whole thing the next day – and night. Fandangos were known to last for several days and there are records of guests leaving in the middle of the night to continue their journey. The women, it has been noted, appeared as fresh at the end as they had at the beginning.

As the Californios became more numerous, the culture became more stratified – as is human nature. The wealthier families began to indulge in a less democratic form of social gathering that they called "bailes." No longer was the lowly vaquero welcome as an equal and the fandango became identified more with the lower class. Increasing numbers of Americans, mostly gold prospectors by then, took to the fandango as an outlet for their rowdy entertainments and the magical fandango of the Californios was changed forever.

Research and reconstruction of the dances, music and costume of the period give us a startlingly strong impression of the life style and values of the Californios.

Czarnowski, Lucille; *Dances of Early California*; Pacific Books, Palo Alto, California, 1950

Richards, Irmagarde; *Early California*; California State Department of Education, Sacramento, California, 1950

Coronel, Antonio; *Tales of Mexican California*; Bellerophone Books, Santa Barbara, California, 1994



Margot's Valsen (Norway)

Margot's Valsen (MAHR-gohts VAHLS-en) is currently very popular in Norway. It was taught by Svein Olav Solli, Borghild Reitan (now Solli) and Margot Sollie at Mendocino Scandia Camp in 1997. Margot is from Røros, Norway, where dancers named this waltz after her. Roo Lester learned it from Margot, and taught it as a progressive at the 2009 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, although it can also be done as a non-progressive. The name translates as "the waltz of Margot."

A very similar version of this dance is known in Sweden as Kalle P's Vals. It was taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in a special workshop in 1998 by Alix Cordray, and described in *Let's Dance* in the October 1998 issue (vol. 55, no. 8, p. 9-10) by Ruth Ruling and Joyce Ugglä. According to Alix, this type of dance appeared in Norway in the 1980's and quickly became very popular in both Norway and Sweden. Some say the dance came to Norway from Sweden, but this is contradicted by the claim (www.folkdans.se) that Kalle P's Vals was created in 1990 at Hässleholm, Sweden; perhaps this claim meant to say only that it was taught in 1990 with this new name. The dance has a reputation for being named after the person who taught the dance, although Kalle P. is reportedly a Swedish fiddler. In parts of California, the dance is known as Kvelstad's Vals. The dance with this name was introduced to California by Mikkel Thompson who learned it from Gunnar and Injerd Kvelstad who are from Lillehammer and claim to have learned it in Sweden. Sometimes the dance is known as the "MT Waltz" after Mikkel.

This dance is mostly taught as a non-progressive couple dance, and in this mode can be done by a single couple whenever waltz music is played. As a progressive, it has been taught with the man moving forward to a new partner during the last two measures of the dance. More comfortably, however, Roo's version described here progresses at the beginning of the dance pattern.

For much appreciated and helpful discussions about this dance, we thank: Alix Cordray, Judy Kropp, Roo Lester, Tom Sears, Ted Martin, Mikkel Thompson, and Donna Tripp.

CD: Roo Lester supplied two tunes for this dance on her CD "At the Jonsson's", bands 3 and 4. The dance can be done, however, to any sprightly Scandinavian waltz phrased in 8 (or 16) measures. 3/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a circle facing LOD (CCW) for the progressive version; otherwise cpls can be spaced anywhere in the hall. Inside hands are joined at shldr ht; the W is to the M's right.

Steps and Styling: Smooth running or turning waltz steps done throughout. For meas 13-16 (turning waltz), the standard pols hold is recommended, but shoulder/shoulder blade or ballroom holds are acceptable. In the pols hold, the M's left hand is placed on or near the W's R shldr while her R arm is below his arm with her hand on the M's L shldr blade; depending on relative heights, M's R hand is on or near the W's L shoulder blade with his arm supporting her L arm with the hand positioned on the M's R shldr. The similar Swedish polska hold can also be used, and differs mainly in that the M's L and W's R hands are on their ptr's upper arm. The arms are held up and rounded to make a firm connection between the ptrs.

Measures	3/4 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION. 2 meas with Band 3; no introduction or 8 meas with Band 4.

1-2 In open pos (inside hands joined at about shldr ht), waltz fwd with 2 running waltz steps.

- 3-4 Turn twd ptr to face RLOD and join inside hands (shldr ht). Dance 2 running waltz steps backward in LOD. At end of meas 4, turn to face ptr, M's back to ctr.
- 5-6 Raise joined hands (W's R, M's L), M dances with 2 waltz meas under the W's R arm to ptr's pos and turns to face ctr; W dances fwd into ptr's pos and then turns to face ptr.
- 7-8 Again raise the same joined hands and change places with M going under the W's R arm to end on inside with back to ctr.
- 9-10 Cpl takes inside hands (M's R, W's L) and M leads W into an outside turn (to W's R) as both move fwd in LOD.
- 11-12 M takes ptr's R hand with his L and leads her into outside turn (to W's R) as both move fwd in LOD.
- 13-16 Cpl dances 4 turning waltz steps (M begins on L, W on R) to make 2 complete turns while moving fwd in LOD. For arm holds, see Steps and Styling. Open out at the end to face LOD with inside hands joined. [In the Kalle P's Vals version, the hold is specified as ballroom, and the dance is not progressive.]

Dance repeats to end of music. If the progressive mode is used, the M moves fwd in LOD to a new ptr as the dance begins again (meas 1). The W dances in place or dances only slowly forward, while waiting for her new ptr to arrive.

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ANSWERS TO THE FOLK DANCE QUIZ

1. All are Israeli
2. All are mixers
3. All are dances in square formation
4. All are English
5. All are done in threes
6. All are dances for women
7. All are solo dances
8. All lead to the left or clockwise
9. All are Bulgarian
10. All are Macedonian (and introduced by Atanas Koloravski)



Folk Dance Scene

The official magazine of the Folk Dance Federation, South, Inc.

This (almost) monthly publication has folk dance events in California and elsewhere, folklore articles, recipes and lots of good reading.

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Al je ljepo

(Baranja, Hungary)

Al je ljepo (AHL-yeh LYEh-poh), means "It is really beautiful (in our area)." The Bosnian Croats (Bošnjaci) migrated to the Hungarian part of the Baranja region near the town of Pécs at the end of the 17th century. Despite the long period of their being among other nationalities, they have survived and kept their speech patterns as well as their wealth of all folk forms, thanks to the village elders. Their rich and unique folk songs reflect daily life of the people - work in the house, in the farmyard, in the field, the joys and the sorrows of everyday life. Željko Jergan found this dance while doing research near the city of Pécs in the summer of 1992. Željko presented this at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009, at the University of the Pacific.

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Baština Hrvatskog Sela* by Otrov, Band 3.
 Video: Stockton Folk Dance 2009, DVD*.

Formation: Closed circle, alternating M and W, facing ctr.

Steps and Styling: Earthy walking steps, smooth buzz and grapevine steps.
Grapevine: Moving in RLOD (L); step on L to L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct &); step on L to L (ct 2); step on R across L (ct &).
Buzz to L: Step on L to L on ball of ft (ct 1); step R across L (ct &); 2 buzz steps per meas.
Rocking Out and In: Shift wt back onto L (ct 1); shift wt fwd onto R (ct 2). In verses II and III, there is a double bounce on each step.

Hands: Verse 1: Hands joined in V-position.
 Verse 2: Escort pos: R arm bent & across body at waist, L arm resting on neighbors R arm.
 Verse 3: Front basket hold, R over L under.

Meas	2/4 meter	Pattern
I	VERSE 1	
1	No action.	
2-3	Facing L of ctr and moving RLOD (L) - walk fwd, L, R, L, R (4 steps) (cts 1,2, 1,2).	
4-5	Facing twd ctr Rock Out and In, twice (4 steps), circle moves in RLOD (L) (cts 1,2, 1,2).	
6	Grapevine, 4 steps (cts 1,&,2,&).	
7-10	Buzz steps to L, (cts 1,&,2,&). Total of 8 buzz steps.	
11	Grapevine, 4 steps (cts 1,&,2,&).	
12-15	Buzz steps to L, (cts 1,&,2,&). Total of 8 buzz steps.	
16	Grapevine, 4 steps (cts 1,&,2,&).	
17-18	Facing ctr, walk fwd L, R (cts 1,2); sway L, R (cts 1,2). Change to Escort hold. (Note: There is no music during these 2 measures.)	

II VERSE 2

- 1-3 Facing L of ctr and moving RLOD (L) - walk fwd, L, R, L, R, L, R (6 steps).
 4-5 Facing twd ctr, Rocking Out and In, L, R, L, R (double bounce on each step).
 6-18 Repeat meas 6-18 of Figure I. On the final measure, change to front basket hold.

III VERSE 3

- 1-18 Repeat Figure II.

* Stockton Folk Dance Camp video can be viewed in the library at U of P, or by contacting a camp participant who purchased it.

Al je ljepo

Lyrics

Translation

Al je ljepo u našime kraju
 Ej zvje-zde sjaju i cure pjevaju
 Dikin pendzer u naš pendžer gledi
 Ej prstom miče ne smije da viče

It's really beautiful in our area
 When the stars are shining and girls are singing
 My sweetheart's window is across from mine
 He's motioning for me to come to him.

Al je lje - po u na - ši - me kra - ju al je lje - po u na - ši - me kra - ju
 Di - kin pen - džer u naš pen - džer gle - di di - kin pen - džer u naš pen - džer gle - di

ai je lje - po u na - ši - me kra - ju
 di - kin pen - džer u naš pen - džer gle - di

Ej zvje - zde sja - ju i cu - re pje - va - ju
 Ej pr - stom mi - će ne smi - je da - vi - će

Ej zvje - zde sja - ju i cu - re pje - va - ju
 Ej pr - stom mi - će ne smi - je da - vi - će

Where to dance

Federation clubs

CENTRAL STATE

Bay Osos International Folk Dancers. Tuesday afternoons, 1-3 pm. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Avenue, Los Osos. First hour is beginner-intermediate instruction, 2nd hour is all request. For Information call Anne Tiber, 805-534-1501 or email: annetiber@charter.net

Mid County Folkdancers. c/o Gabriele Swanson, 7 Via Joaquin #3, Monterey, CA 93940 Gabswan@sbcglobal.net

NORTH STATE

Humboldt Folk Dancers meet Fridays from 8:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 11th and G Streets in Arcata. All level of dancers are welcome and you don't need a partner. Instruction from 8 - 9:30 followed by request dancing. Every First Friday of the month (except January and July) live music with 2-3 bands. For more information, go to www.humboldtfolk dancers.org.

Redding Folk Dancers meet every Friday (except during July and August) from 7:00 to 9:45 p.m. at the Redding Ballet Academie, 1726 Market St., Redding. All levels of dancers welcome. Easy warm-up dances start at 7:00, instruction is from 7:30 to 8:30, and request dances follow. For more information, call Julie at (530) 547-4071 or e-mail Jan at jmwright32@frontiernet.net

SOUTH STATE

West L.A. Folk Dancers meet Mondays and Fridays, 7:45-10:30 pm. Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. in West Los Angeles. Info: Beverly Barr 310-202-6166, email: dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

OUT OF STATE: NEVADA

Ethnic Express International Folk Dancers. c/o Ilene Wagner, 350 E. Desert Inn Rd., E203 Las Vegas, NV 89109-9007

SAN FRANCISCO

Croatian American Cultural Center, attn: Les Andres, 890 Springfield, San Jose, CA 95008
danica@danicarestore.com

SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL

Changs International Folk Dancers, Inc. Meets the first four Fridays of each month at the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of 31st Avenue and Clement Street, San Francisco. Teaching on the first two Fridays followed by general dancing, 8:00-10:30 pm., Third Friday is party night, 8:00-11:00 PM. Fourth Friday is **Family Folk Dance Night** at 7:00 pm, followed by general dancing, 8:30-10:30 pm. Contact Sidney Messer, 415-332-1020.

Greek Folk Dancing. Meets every Monday at the Presidio Dance Academy, 1158 Gorgas Rd. at Marshall. Adjacent to Crissy Field, San Francisco. 8:00-10:00 pm. First hour is teaching and second hour is practice. Contact Mary Ann Karonis, 510-530-5140 makaronis@earthlink.net or www.greekfeet.com

Mandala Folk Dance Center. Meets every Thursday at St. Paul's Church Hall, 43rd & Judah, San Francisco, 7:30-8:15 pm. Request dancing, 8:15-9:00 pm. Intermediate teaching from 9:00-9:45 pm. Request dancing from 9:45-11:00 pm. First and last Thursdays are always Party Nights. Contact Edith or Paul at 415-648-8489.

San Francisco Dance Circle. Free! San Francisco Dance Circle meets every Wednesday 10:45 am -- 12:00 noon at the newly renovated Harvey Milk Recreation Center, 50 Scott Street @ Duboce. Lines, sets, partners, trios-we do it all! Beginners welcome to start anytime. Gorgeous dance studio. Good public transportation. Free! Contact: Ann Colichidas at 415-902-7690.

SAN FRANCISCO HALL RENTAL

Polish Club of San Francisco—Event venue available. Weddings, meetings, dance workshops, seminars, parties, receptions, etc. Full kitchen, dance floor, 2 large meeting rooms, tables, chairs, stage. Limited free parking. Info & reservations 415-285-4336 or 415-821-2574, email staff@polishclub.org

MERCED

Merced International Folkdancers—Winter/spring classes, lines, circles and couple dances, beginning, intermediate. Thursdays thru 5/27/10, 6:30-8 pm, at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center (3rd floor). \$7 per session. For more information including scholarships and discounts, call: Instructor Memo Keswick 209-723-4016.

MODESTO

Every Wed. night—Modesto Folk Dancers meet at Raube Hall in Ceres. 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Cost \$3.00 per person. Contacts: Floyd Davis and Barbara Summers (209-578-5551 for directions)

Every Friday night—Village Dancers of Modesto meet at Sylvan Elementary School auditorium, 2908 Coffee Road, Modesto. 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Cost \$5.00 per night per person (students \$1.00). Contacts Don and Judy Kropp (209) 847-4439 and Floyd Davis and Barbara Summers.

Every Saturday—Modesto Tango (Argentine) meets at Modesto Fitness & Racquet Club, 200 Norwegian Ave. (off McHenry), Modesto. Cost \$12 per person. Beginning lesson at 12:30 pm. Contact Mary Menz 209-522-1571.

Every Monday—Modesto Tango meets at Jacob's Restaurant, 2501 McHenry Ave, Modesto, for a practice and social dancing. 8 to 10 pm. No fee, but participants are encouraged to order food and/or drinks. Contact Mary Menz 209-522-1571.

ALBANY

Albany Y Balkan Dancers. Fridays, all levels, instruction 8:00 to 9:00 pm, all request dancing until 11:00 pm. 921 Kains Street, just south of Solano, off San Pablo Ave., Albany. Contact Kay James, 925-376-0727.

BERKELEY

Advanced Balkan Dancers class. Every third Sunday, 2-4:00 pm in the Rear Dance Studio at Ashkenaz. Learn the great dances of folk dancing. A few year's dancing experience is needed. Experienced instructors, friendly people. Entry via the left hand door at Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. Information: Gary Anderson, 415-488-9197 weekdays or email: editor@lets-dancemag.net

Cape Breton Step Dance at Ashkenaz—2nd Sundays, beginners, 1:00 pm, experienced dancers, 2-4 pm. Ashkenaz Music and Dance, back studio, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. For info call Bob Schultheisz 209-745-9063, bobschul@softcom.net

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS. All classes are held at Live Oak Park Recreation Center, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 7:45-9:35 pm Contact: Naomi Lidicker at 510-524-2871 or <http://berkeleyfolkdancers.org>.

May 15. BFD's Birthday Ball "Thai One On." A dinner and dance party at our Live Oak Park Social Hall at the above address. Dinner catered by Cha Am will be served at 6:30 PM and dancing will start around 8 PM until 10:30 PM. Tickets for this Thai (Tie) affair is \$20 and must be purchased or ordered before May 12. Contact Sara Pope at 510-524-7877 or lapope1@comcast.net.
May 10. Romanian Dance Workshop. Advanced Intermediate Class is delighted to host the charming and energetic Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu at the above address from 7:45 - 9:30 PM. Contact Lone Coleman for more details at 510-5886 or lonedances@sbcglobal.net.

Weekly class schedules:

Mondays—Advance Intermediate, Lone Coleman 510-526-5886 and Tom Sha 510-614-5522

Tuesdays—Intermediate, Bill Lidicker 510-528-9168 and Marija Hillis 510-549-0337

Wednesdays—Advanced, Judy Stonefield 510-655-3074 and Yaqi

Zhang 510-525-1865

Thursday—Beginners, Claire and Al George 510-841-1205

Fridays—Requests. Contact Peter and Lynne D'Angelo 510-654-3136

OAKLAND

Scandiads—Thursdays. 7-10 pm at the Nature Friends, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland, Ca. From Highway 13 take the Joaquin Miller exit. Drive East (up the hill) on Joaquin Miller about a mile. Take the second Right onto Butters Drive. Follow Butters 0.4 mile. On the Right is a sign reading SCANDIADANS. Turn into the driveway and go down into a large parking area. The clubhouse is ahead on the Right. Contact: Frank and Jane Tripi 510 654-3636 or ftripi@juno.com

Scandia Saturday. Four times a year. March and May 2009. Location: Nature Friends, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland. Donation is \$7, or \$10 in December. Scandinavian couple turning dances. Everyone is welcome. Info: Jane Tripi 510-654-3636 or ftripi@juno.com.

PENINSULA COUNCIL

May 8, Sept. 11—Santa Clara Valley FD Parties at St Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road at Monte Rosa, Menlo Park. Parking entrance from Monte Rosa. Starts at 7:30 pm. Free refreshments. Only \$7.00. Info at 408-739-0500.

Mostly Balkan. Thursdays, teaching 7:45 to 8:45, request dancing 8:45 to 10:15. \$6.00. Menlo Park Recreation Center. Information: Sue 408-247-2420 or Derek 650-851-8498.

Menlo Park Folk Dancers Parties—May 22, June 19, July 17, Aug. 14., Sept. 18. Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma at Mielke in Menlo Park. Preceded by a potluck starting at 6:00 pm, call 650-327-0759 for location. 8:00 pm until midnight. Lots of dancing in two halls. Free refreshments provided. Adults \$9.00, teens \$3.00. 700 Alta St. near Ravenswood Ave, Menlo Park. Call Marcel Vinokur at 650-327-0759 for details.

Tuesdays—Menlo Park Folk Dancers. Classes, International, Beg., 7:00. Inter. 7:30, requests 8:30 pm. Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Marcel Vinokur 650-327-0759.

June 12—Palomans FD Party at St Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road at Monte Rosa, Menlo Park. Parking entrance from Monte Rosa. Starts at 7:30 pm. Free refreshments. Info at 408-252-8106.

July 10, Aug. 21 Peninsula FD Council Parties—at St Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road at Monte Rosa, Menlo Park. Parking entrance from Monte Rosa. Starts at 7:30 pm. Bring a little finger food to share. Only \$7.00. Info at 408-252-8106.

Palomans IFD—Class on Tuesdays at Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma St near Ravenswood, Menlo Park. Intermediate and advanced partner and non-partner dances. Denise Heenan, instructor. Info 408 252-8106.

Carriage House FD—class on Wednesdays at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton. Teaching 7:45 - 9:00. Requests 9:00 to 10:00 or so. Suzanne Rocca-Butler, instructor (650) 854-3184.

Saratoga International Folklore Family. Thursdays 7:30-8:15 beginners lesson; 8:15-10:00 intermediate-advanced. \$8 general public, \$6 seniors. St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. Contact Loui Tucker 408-287-9999, email: loui@loutucker.com

FRESNO FOLK DANCES

Tuesdays—Fresno Danish Dancers. Clovis Senior Center. 6:30-9:00 pm. Contact Wilma Andersen, 559-291-3176.

Wednesdays—McTeggert Irish Dancers. Beginners: 5:30-6:30 pm. Intermediate and Advanced: 7:00-8:00 pm. Contact Maureen Hall, 559-271-5200.

First, Third & Fifth Saturdays—International Dancers. 8:00 to 10:00 pm at California Arts Academy, 4750 N. Blackstone near Gettysburg Street, Fresno. Info: Marty 559-227-7051, Gary 559-439-1416

REDWOOD COUNCIL

Sonoma County Scandia Dancers—Scandinavian dance class in Petaluma. Beginners welcome. Come learn the dances of Norway and Sweden on Tuesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 pm. at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Ave. Petaluma. No partner needed. Bring leather or smooth soled shoes. The first night is free, thereafter \$4 per class. For questions call Vince at 996-8300 or Emma at 823-4145.

Napa Valley Folk Dancers. Telephone contact: 707-255-6815. Napa Valley College, 2277 Napa-Vallejo Highway, Napa, 94558. Party Every 4th Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Novato Folk Dancers Class - Telephone contact: 415-892-9405. Lynwood School, 1320 Lynwood Dr., Novato, 94947. Every Wednesday 8 - 10 p.m.

Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers at Herman Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Mondays 7-9:15 pm through May 3; Easy dances 7-7:30 pm; instruction 7:30-8:15 pm; dancing to requests and favorites 8:15-9:15 pm, drop-ins always welcome - \$7 per evening. Telephone contact: Carol Friedman 415-663-9512, cjay@horizoncable.com <http://carolfriedmanfolkdance.blogspot.com/>

Santa Rosa Folk Dancers Class - Telephone contact: 707-546-8877. Willowside Hall, 5299 Hall Road, Santa Rosa. Every Thursday 1:00-3:00 p.m. except June - Aug.

Snap-Y Dancers (Sonoma). Beginners welcome! Seven Flags Clubhouse, 1400 W. Watmaugh Rd., Sonoma, 95476. Thursdays 7:00-9:00 pm. Contact Paul Smith 707-996-1467 for summer schedule.

Petaluma International Folk Dancers party dates: March 14, Sunday; April 3; May 1; June 19; July 10; Sept 11; Oct. 9; Nov.13; Dec. 12, Sunday, 2010. 2:00 to 6:00 pm at Herman Sons Hall, Petaluma. For more info: 707-546-8877.

Balkan Dancers of Marin—Every Thursday. 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. One hour program dancing, one hour all request. Teaching every first Thursday with reviews following weeks. 4140 Redwood Highway, San Rafael. Info: call Irene Croft 415-456-0786 or Anne Arend 415-892-9405

Kopachka International Folkdancers There will be a special beginners class (drop-in) from 7:30 to 8:00 pm, followed by programmed dancing and some teaching, until 10:30. They meet at Scout Hall, 177 E. Blithedale, Mill Valley. Cost \$5 (\$4 for members), first time is free. For more information, contact Nadav Nur (415)497-4890 or Susie Shoaf, susieshoaf@aol.com.

RENO

RENO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CO-OP. Beg. & Int. International. 7:15-8:30 pm. 1st Congregational Church, 627 Sunnyside Dr., Reno. Party First Saturday, 7-9:30 pm, at the Nevada Dance Academy, 1790 4th St., off Keystone, Reno. Contact: 775-677-2306 or wigand@gbis.com

SACRAMENTO

PONY EXPRESS DANCE CLUB Country-western, couple & line. First Saturday of Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr, May, Jun, Sept, Oct, Nov, & Dec. Lesson 7-8pm. Open dance 8-11:00pm. Arcade Creek Recreation & Park District Hall, 4855 Hamilton Street (I-80 & Madison Ave), Sacramento. Members \$5 & Non-members \$7. Contact: 916-212-4654 or cerponyexpress@aol.com.

IRISH AMERICAN CEILI DANCERS. Irish folk dancing. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Ethel M. Harte Senior Center, 915 27th Street, Sacramento. Contact Helen Healy 916-444-3181
Where to dance in the Greater Sacramento Area

SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE & ARTS COUNCIL

Website: www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil/

*indicates "Beginner-friendly class"

(Note: Federation members are in bold type, others do not belong to the Federation.)

***CONTRA DANCE.** All levels. No partner needed. All dances taught & prompted. Always live music! Held in Sacramento, Auburn, Nevada City, Chico, Sonora, Guinda, and Cool. See schedule online at <http://www.scds.ca> or call 916-739-6014 or 916-371-0739.

MONDAY

***El Dorado International Dance.** Scandinavian class. All levels, couple. Beginners 7-9:30 pm. Hamilton St. Park, 4855 Hamilton St., Sacramento. Contact: 530-672-2926. website: www.folkdance.com/scandi

HOROS. Mostly-Balkan, non-partner, intermediate & advanced. 7:30-9:30 pm. Coloma Community Ctr., 4623 T St., Sacramento. Contact: 916-731-4675

TUESDAY

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** Beg. & Int. International. line & couple. 7:00-10:00 pm. IOOF Hall, 467 Main St., Placerville. Contact: 530-622-7301 or 530-644-1198.

***TUESDAY DANCERS.** 1:00-3:00 pm. Hamilton St. Park, 4855 Hamilton St. Sacramento. Contact 530-888-6586 or 916-923-1555.

WEDNESDAY

CALICO FOLK DANCERS. Beg. & Int. International, line & couple. 3:00-4:30 pm. Mission Oaks Ctr., 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. Contact: 916-487-0413 or 916-923-1555

KOLO KOALITION. Mostly Balkan, Intermediate, non-partner. 7:30-10:00 pm. YLI Hall, 27th & N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-739-6014.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY CAPE BRETON STEP DANCERS.

All levels. 5:30-7:00 pm. Sierra 2 Community Center, Studio 1, 2791 24th St., Sac. Contact: 209-745-9063, website: www.softcom.net/users/bobschul/index.html

VINTAGE DANCERS OF SACRAMENTO. Late 1800s to early 1900s, couple. 7:30-9:30 pm. (Sept.- May) Hamilton St. Park, 4855 Hamilton St., Sacramento. Contact: 916-446-6290 or 530-888-6586

THURSDAY

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** Teens Plus class. All levels Couple and line. 7-8:30 pm. 3100 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs. Contact 530-677-1134.

***PAIRS & SPARES.** Beg. & Int. International, Rounds, Squares, & Contrasts. 7:30-9:30 pm. (Sept.-June). Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way, Sacramento. Party 2nd Sat. 7-10 PM. Golden Palms Mobilehome Estates Activity Rm., 8181 Folsom Bl., Sacramento. Contact: 916-428-6992

FRIDAY

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** Beg. & Int. 7:00-9:00 pm. Marshall Grange, 4940 Marshall Grade, Garden Valley. Contact: 530-622-6470.

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** All levels, Couple & Line. 8:00-10:30 pm. 3100 Ponderosa Rd., Shingle Springs. Contact: 530-677-1134

***EL DORADO INTENATIONAL DANCE.** Parent's class. Beg. Couple and line, International. 7:30-8:30 pm. 3100 Ponderosa Road, Shingle springs. Contact 530-677-1134.

***NEVADA COUNTY FOLK DANCERS.** Beg. & Int. International & Balkan. Selected Fridays. 8-? pm. Methodist Church, 433 Broad St., Nevada City. Contact: 530-272-2149

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY. 7:30 pm. YLI Hall, 1400 27th St. at N, Sacramento. Contact 916-716-3696.

***SACRAMENTO COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** All levels. 1st

Fridays. 7:30-11:00 pm. Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra Bl., Sacramento. Contact 916-739-6014. Website: www.scds.ca

SATURDAY

DANCES OF THE WORLD...Mostly Balkan. Non-Partner. 3rd Sat. monthly except July & Aug. 8-11 pm. YLI Hall, 1400 27th & N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-923-1555

FIRST & LAST DANCERS. Country-Western, Couple & Line. Last Sat. of Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., Sept., Oct., & Nov. 8 pm-Midnight. Valley Oaks Grange, 5th & D, Galt. May, June, July, Aug. & Dec.: special dates & times. Contact: 916-682-2638

KOLO KOALITION. Party, All Levels, Mostly Balkan, Non-Partner. 1st Sat. monthly. 8:00-11:00 pm. YLI Hall, 27th & N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-739-6014

PAIRS & SPARES. Party, International. 2nd Sat. monthly except June, July & Aug. 7:00-10:00 pm. Golden Palms Mobilehome Estates Activity Room, 8181 Folsom Bl., Sacramento. This is a gated community. Planned late arrivals should contact for the gate code number to open the gate which is closed at 7:00 pm. Contact: 916-428-6992 or 916-682-2638.

***ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** 7:30 pm. YLI Hall, 1400 27th St. at N, Sacramento. Contact 916-716-3696.

***SACRAMENTO COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** All levels. 2nd & 4th Sat. 7:30-11:00 pm. Coloma Community Ctr., 4623 T St., Sacramento. Contact 916-739-6014. Website: www.scds.ca

***SACRAMENTO VALLEY CAPE BRETON STEP DANCERS.** 3rd Sat. monthly. All levels. 1-5 pm Galt. Call for location. Contact 209-745-9063. Website: www.softcom.net/users/bobschul/index.html

SUNDAY

***DAVIS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS.** All levels. Mostly non-partner Balkan & International. 7:00-10:00 pm, Davis Art Center, 1919 F st., Davis. Contact: 530-756-4100 or 530-758-0863. Website: www.davisfolkdance.org

***ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE.** All levels. 1st Sun. monthly. 2-5 pm. Masonic Temple, 235 Vernon St., Roseville. Contact: 916-739-6014. Website: www.scds.ca

***DANCES OF THE WORLD. Israeli Dances** 2-3:30 pm, International 3:30-5 pm. 3rd & 4th Sun. monthly except July & Aug. YLI Hall, 1400-27th St. at N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-371-4441 or 916-632-8807.

EXHIBITION GROUPS. Contact the following, if interested, for further information.

ALPENTANZER SCHUHPLATTNER, Austrian exhibition group. Contact 916-988-6266 Website: www.alpentanzer.org

BALLIAMO. Italian performing group. Contact: 916-482-8674

CAMTIA. German/Bavarian exhibition group. Contact: 916-933-4619 or 530-888-6586. Website: www.geocities.com/camtiafest/

CAPER DUCK. Cape Breton Step Dance (Scottish Hard Shoe). Contact: 209-745-9063. Website www.softcom.net/users/bobschul/index.html

EL DORADO SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS. Contact 530-672-2926.

STEPPING OUT WITH THE CAPER KIDS. Scottish. Contact 916-786-8448. Website: www.steppingout.org

TANCE EL DORADO. International. Teens plus. Contact 530-677-1134.

VIENNESE WALTZ SOCIETY. Contact: 916-395-8791 Website: www.waltz@strauss.net

VINTAGE DANCERS OF SACRAMENTO. Late 1800s to early 1900s. Couple. Contact 530-888-6586.

ZADO SINGERS. Performing group singing songs of Eastern Europe & beyond. Contact: 916-923-1555 Website: www.ercregistry.com/zadosingers

Note: Information is subject to change. Telephone contact numbers for current information.

*For information on other Federation activities
Check website: Folkdance.com*

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

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DETAILS SOON, CHECK WEB PAGE OR CONTACT MEL

Mel Mann, folk dancer & organizer c/o BERKELEY TRAVEL

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meldancing@aol.com www.folkdanceonthewater.org

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