

# Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 🍷 APRIL 2017



Nina Kavardjikova leads a line at the Moveable Feet workshop, followed by Lucy Chang, Lew Smith, and Richard Graham, dancing to music by Bruce Cochran on the gaida. *Photo by C. Dickey*

Dancing our way  
through a rainy  
winter!



Sanna Longden teaches the morning workshop at Festival of the Oaks. In line to her left are Cynthia Lambert and Barry Moore. Behind to her right are Louise and Bill Lidicker. *Photo by A. Partos*

# Let's Dance!

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The Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

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**Join now:** Membership rates:

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Family rate \$45/year

Student rate \$25/year (26 or under and at least half time)

Group/Club rate \$40/year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

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To post dance event flyers on the Federation's website, email:  
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**The deadline for *Let's Dance!* is the first day of the month prior to the date of publication.** We welcome submissions, letters and comments from our readers.

Please send to: Loui Tucker, Editor ([editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com))

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All others	\$15	\$30	\$50

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## President's Message

by Kevin Greek

Who remembers the viral YouTube viral sensation *Where the Hell Is Matt?* from five years ago? If you haven't seen or remember his 2012 video (or versions from other years), go online and search for it. We can all learn some lessons from this man who danced all over the world with people from various cultures. Matt would often learn and dance together with his world hosts the movements of their dance culture. His hosts would often dance with him the movements Matt brought. His infectious carefree dancing on camera drew in both a corporate sponsorship and inspired millions of viewers. The greatest marvel about his project is not his dance skill, but in his comfort in dance as a form of expression that transcends cultural barriers, inspiring people worldwide to move with him. It reminds us that all people can set aside their differences to discover each other and share a dance together. We should all learn to find frequent joy and opportunity doing just that!

This month during Bay Area Dance Week, April 21 to 30, 10 Bay Area member clubs are opening their doors for free classes, expecting visitors of all ages and experience to come dance as the world does. Look inside this issue for details, including an ad and article for dates, locations, and groups. Dance clubs offering free events during Bay Area Dance Week will all be especially interested in bringing in newcomers. Unfortunately, there are common self-limiting perceptions new dancers have that might keep them from enjoying the experience. Here are some top five misconceptions that discourage guests from participating, but are all easily remedied by the following caring advice by angels at the host event:

**"If I go out on the dance floor, people will see I'm no good."** Like many things, there is both good and bad news for you. The bad news is that unless you are an excellent dancer, no good dancer would watch you. The good news is that unless you are an excellent dancer, no good dancer would watch you. Instead, everyone envies excellent dancers and watches them for technique. No one is going to be critical or judgmental of you, especially not in recreational dance.

**"I don't know this. Can I try it?"** Of course, ... mostly. Some dances take more care and help with than others, but they are worth it. Couple and set dances, for example, are more flustering without good help at your side. We know this from our own experience. Your new friends that greeted you as you came in would be able to tell you. Also, with you in mind, sometimes there'll be an announcement in advance that



if you don't know the dance then you're especially welcome to do a solo, or follow the dance from behind.

**"I can't do couple dances. Especially because I don't have a partner."** It doesn't hurt to start by asking any likely partner, "Do you know this dance?" or, "Would you like to try it?" To become noticed, it helps to stand a step from the dance floor, smile broadly, use eye contact to a target partner, and, since this isn't ballroom dance after all, to even wave your arms in the air. Or just walk up and ask. Both men and women may do the asking. After dancing, you can continue by engaging in a charming conversation.

**"I couldn't do this all night."** It's easier than you think once you find you can enjoy new friends, music, and dance. Come back next week for more. You can practice dances you know and learn some new ones. Or just come for the good time others are enjoying. It's decent and less than the price of a movie lately.

**"What if I don't like it?"** Impossible. Anyway, if there is something you didn't like, leave a message with the organizers. They know what the others think already. They want to hear from you.

The upcoming Blossom Festival on Sunday April 30 is also featured among Bay Area Dance Week free events. The first hour is instruction time for dancers of all ages and experience. Dancing and even a performance during intermission follows until 5pm.

Also mark your calendar **November 4, 2017** for the **Federation Officers Ball** coming in Hayward. We've made plans early to ensure we have the venue and date in order to make it a success this year for all Bay Area dancers. Stay tuned for more information on its special workshops, evening banquet, and dance program.

Happy dancing!

### **WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS**

Gordon Deeg and Kamrin MacKnight -- Atherton

Tamara Littlewood -- Turlock

Donna Oppelt -- Turlock

# APRIL 2017 Calendar of Events

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

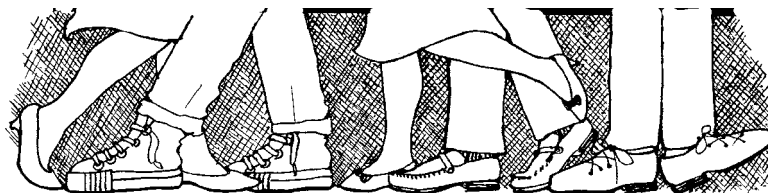
Send future events information to Loui Tucker, Editor [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com).

Additional dance events can be found at [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com) (Upcoming Events tab).

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

## Upcoming Events

- April 15** **ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WORKSHOP.** Dance workshop, potluck dinner and dance party 3-8 pm. Teaching by Royal Scottish Country Dance Society teachers Bruce Hamilton and Lin Pettengill. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. \$15.
- April 21-30** **BAY AREA DANCE WEEK.** Many free dance classes, open houses, and parties around the San Francisco Bay Area. Includes 15 events by 10 participating folk dance groups. Locations include Mill Valley, San Francisco, Berkeley, Atherton, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Saratoga. **ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!** See the advertisement on p. 6. The downloadable flyer available on the [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com) website includes links with information about each event.
- April 22** **ANNUAL PETALUMA SPRING FOLK DANCE PARTY.** Live music by Staro Vino. 7:30-10:30 pm. First hour will be dancing to old and new recorded favorites, followed by wonderful live Balkan music with musicians Mark and Greg Jenkins. Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Ave., Petaluma. Info: Carol Friedman, [cjay@horizoncble.com](mailto:cjay@horizoncble.com).
- April 28** **HARDLY STRICTLY BALKAN SPRING DANCE PARTY WITH ZABAVA!** Presented by Kopachka Folk Dancers. 8-11 pm at the Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 East Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley. \$12. Contact: 415-497-4890 (Nadav) or e-mail [Susie.president@kopachkafolkdancers.com](mailto:Susie.president@kopachkafolkdancers.com).
- April 30** **THE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL.** San Francisco City College's Health and Wellness Center, Room 301, at Ocean Ave. at Phelan in San Francisco. 12:30-5 pm. The first hour is devoted to dances and teaching for beginning dancers. The rest of the afternoon will be a mixture of dances for all levels, plus a short dance performance. The event and parking are free. Contact: Craig Blackstone at 650-359-7486 or [crb2crb@comcast.net](mailto:crb2crb@comcast.net).
- The Blossom Festival is part of Bay Area Dance Week, but it is also **an important Folk Dance Federation event**. BEFORE this Festival (10:30-noon) is the **Annual General Membership Meeting** of the Folk Dance Federation. It is at this meeting that the Federation Officers will be elected. See article on p. 5. Lunch is provided for all who attend.
- May 20** **CELEBRATING BALKAN DANCES.** Katherine Abbott will be teaching Nina Kavardjikova's Daychovata and Iliana Bozhanova's Yuta, followed by all-request dancing party. St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 6:30-11 pm. Contact [LucySChang@gmail.com](mailto:LucySChang@gmail.com).
- June 2-4** **RAZZMATAZZ FOLK DANCE WEEKEND.** Mendocino Woodlands near Mendocino, California. Joe Graziosi is the feature teacher (Greek), with live music with Edessa (special guest musician Cristos Govetas), and Joe Finn and Leslie Bonnett will play Cajun and Scandinavian sets at the evening parties. Contact Marilyn Smith at [razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com).





# MEET THE CANDIDATES



Joe Croco. *Photo by L. Tucker*

I'm Joe Croco, a candidate for the office of Federation President.

I started folk dancing at San Francisco State University in 1973 and continued dancing, mainly at The Mandala in San Francisco until about 1983. During that time I graduated with a B.S. in chemistry, got married (to Laura Douglass whom I met folk dancing) and had two children, and attended the Stockton camp four times.

We then dropped out of dancing

except for an occasional party or festival until 2003 when we started dancing with Marcel Vinokur in Menlo Park.

Since then we have taken up ballroom dancing, where we have specialized in West Coast Swing since 2008. We started learning Hungarian couple dances in 2007 (three trips to Budapest so far). Currently we dance at a Hungarian class in Menlo Park each Tuesday, at the Peninsula Folk Dance Council parties and as many festivals and workshops as we can. Last year we attended the Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

I have been the Federation Archive chair since 2014 and, since I retired in 2015, I have been getting more involved in dance. Last year we went to Transylvania and this year we plan to go to St. Petersburg and Prague for Vintage dance weeks.



I'm Marian Snyder, a candidate for the office of Federation Vice President.

I started dancing when I was 6 years old. I learned to Irish step dance and then joined an international folk dance group called the Westchester Lariats at age 7. For 10 years I learned dances from all over the

world as well as tango, swing, waltz, and square dancing. We put on shows while traveling each summer around the continental United States, Hawaii, and Europe.

After a 30-year break of going to college, teaching elementary school, and raising my daughter, I joined the Berkeley Folk Dancers. Fast-forward six years: I am now a Beginner Class teacher, I have served as vice president for two years, and I have joined the Festival of the Oaks Committee. I have had the opportunity to attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Mendocino Camp, North/South, several Statewide Festivals, and a few workshops.

I find folk dancing to be very fun! I hope to keep it going strong as the Vice President of the Federation.



Laura Douglass. *Photo by J. Croco*

I'm Laura Douglass, a candidate for the office of Federation Treasurer.

As a child, I was aware of folk dancing. My parents were early members of Changs, back in the day when membership was restricted to make sure the club dance floors were not overcrowded. My father was Madelynne Greene's partner in her exhibition group for several years, and I loved watching them perform when the entire family went to an event. It was not until I had graduated from high school that I began

to really learn to dance.

At UCSC, I took every folk dance class I could. Marcel Vinokur taught the intermediate and advanced classes on Fridays, and students taught the beginning classes the rest of the week. By my second quarter, I was one of the student teachers. I was also part of the group that organized a series of performances for other students. During summer breaks, I went to Marcel's class in Menlo Park. My parents were members of the Palomanians, which met on the same night, so we separated to different rooms.

I left UCSC after two years to join the workforce in San Francisco, and started dancing at The Mandala. I met Joe Croco at a dance festival and we were married in 1977. We were briefly part of two performing groups, one lead by Dennis Boxell, the other by Marcus (Holt) Moskov. Both were passionate about dance and very demanding of the students in their groups. The rehearsals were a great opportunity to refine our skills, and we were disappointed when each group fell apart before ever giving a performance.

Life then took us in other directions. I enrolled at SFSU in the engineering program but continued to work, including a stint as a bookkeeper for a small law firm for a few years. When I graduated I worked as an engineer until I retired in 2015.

The demands of a career and two children meant Joe and I essentially stopped dancing for 20 years. We started ballroom dancing in 2004 after we had come back to Marcel's folk dancing class in 2003. We started taking Todd's Hungarian/Transylvanian dance class in 2007. In 2008 we started to focus on West Coast Swing and gradually stopped going to ballroom classes and events. Because our Hungarian and West Coast Swing classes conflict with most of the available international folk dance classes, we get our folk dance fix at the parties sponsored by the Peninsula Council, the Palomanians, and Moveable Feet, supplemented by the annual Kolo Festival and, now that we're retired and don't have to hoard vacation days, Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

I have been the Finance Chair for the Federation since 2011, and interim Treasurer since December 2016. My background as a bookkeeper means that the job duties of a Treasurer are well within my comfort zone.

# BAY AREA DANCE WEEK



**Participating Folk Dance Events Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of N. CA.  
Friday April 21 to Sunday April 30, 2017**

**All dance. All week. All free.**

**Invite your family and friends to these free dance events**

DAY	LOCATION	EVENT	PRESENTER
Fri. April 21	Mill Valley	Ethnic dances from the Balkans & Beyond	Kopachka Folk Dancers
	San Francisco	Family Night Folk Dancing	Changs International Folk Dancers
	Berkeley	International Folk Dance Party	Berkeley Folk Dancers
Mon. April 24	San Francisco	Step into Greek Dance	GreekFeet
Tues. April 25	Berkeley	International Dance in the Afternoon	Berkeley Folk Dancers
Wed. April 26	Mountain View	Norwegian Folk Dance	Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelemannslag
	San Francisco	International Folk Dance	San Francisco Dance Circle
	Atherton	Balkan and International Folk Dance	Carriage House Folk Dancers
Thur. April 27	San Francisco	Balkans and Beyond	Mandala Folk Dance
	Saratoga	Dance to Music from Around the World	Saratoga International Folk Dancers
	Berkeley	International Folk Dance for Beginners	Berkeley Folk Dancers
Fri. April 28	Palo Alto	Join Hands for World Dance	Stanford International Folk Dancers
	San Francisco	International Folk Dance	Changs International Folk Dancers
	Berkeley	International Folk Dance Party	Berkeley Folk Dancers
Sun. April 30	San Francisco	Blossom International Folk Dance Festival	Folk Dance Federation, N. CA



**SEARCH Bay Area Dance Week online to find many more  
free dance classes, performances, and more  
by specific artists, dates, or locations**

**[bayareadance.org](http://bayareadance.org) [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com)**



## BAY AREA DANCE WEEK

by Kevin Greek

To help promote folk dance, 10 Bay Area Federation member groups are generously opening their folk dance classes free to the public during **Bay Area Dance Week (Friday, April 21-Sunday April 30)**. Participating member clubs span Mill Valley to Saratoga and Mountain View to Berkeley. They include the Kopachka Folk Dancers, Changs International Folk Dancers, Berkeley Folk Dancers, Greek Feet, San Francisco Dance Circle, Carriage House Folk Dancers, Mandala Folk Dance, Saratoga International Folk Dancers, Stanford International Folk Dancers, and Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelemannslag. The Blossom Festival at City College of San Francisco on April 30 is among the events included. See the full listing on p. 6.

**Bay Area Dance Week (BADW)** is the largest, most vibrant dance week celebration in the country, with over 400 free dance performances, workshops, classes, lectures, and open houses during its 10-day celebration. The Bay Area has one of the largest active, thriving dance communities in the country. In fact, the Bay Area has the largest per capita concentration of dancers in America. Last year over 18,000 participants enjoyed over 400 free events during BADW. According to their website BADW, now in its 19th year, provides "an opportunity for dance-lovers of all ages and experience levels to take a grand tour of the many movement styles, including Argentine tango, classical Indian, jazz, hip hop, ballet, traditional hula, fire dance, Samba, modern, Chinese classical, belly dance, aerial dance, West African, contact improvisation, and more."

Since 2015, the Folk Dance Federation has encouraged member groups to participate during BADW, offering to register events for them and thereby defray their \$86 registration fee.

If over 18,000 people participate during BADW again this year, our hope is that many will bring their feet to dance and meet friends among our folk dance clubs in the Bay Area. Encourage your friends to come and try folk dance too that week. Bay Area Dance Week is their chance to dance.

## THE 2018 *BALKAN CHILI*

### TOUR PROJECT by Memo Keswick

We in Chico have been working remotely with members of a Varna, Bulgaria, music trio called Balkan Chili. They're fabulous musicians and wonderful folks with whom to work. Once a month our local singers study Bulgarian songs with Petya Dragneva via Skype. From Petya's husband, Dragni Dragnev, our local band, Ritmi, gets music scores and advice for backing up the singers. Dragni plays the Bulgarian Jura and Kaba gaida so, of course, I'm extremely happy! Knowing that he was a colleague of our late friend/musician Vassil Bebelevkov is also very special. The third member of Balkan Chili is accordinist Lasko Laskov. Typical of many professional musicians, the trio members are multi-instrumentalists.

I am helping to coordinate a 2018 California tour project for Balkan Chili. I know it would be wonderful for them to visit any of our dance communities giving concerts, playing for dance parties, and giving lessons. For the tour, Dragni has discussed the possibility of sharing village dances and a willingness (with enough lead-time) to learn some favorite dances of a local club. He has both Bulgarian and Macedonian ancestry, and the trio's home city, Varna, is relatively close to the Romanian Dobruja region. Examples of Balkan Chili's work can be found at [www.dragni.com](http://www.dragni.com).

Dragni Dragnev has toured previously with the 2014 *Bulgarka* band led by Donka and Nikolai Kolevi, so many readers may have already met him. To my knowledge, Petya and Lasko have never been to California.

The likely tour time-frame will be late April-early May 2018. If you, or anyone you know, has interest in this tour project for Balkan Chili, let me know so we can discuss dates, share information, or plan to stay updated on this potential 2018 visit. My contact info is: Memo Keswick, [memok@saber.net](mailto:memok@saber.net), 530-774-2287.



## Folk Dance Scene

Jill and Jay Michtom  
10824 Crebs Ave.  
Northridge, CA 91326

Gerda Ben-Zeev  
19 Village Park Way  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Steve Himel  
1524 Vivian Ln.  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Sandy Helperin  
4362 Coolidge Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90066



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

## PENINSULA COUNCIL – Lucy Chang

The Carriage House Folk Dancers. Please join a welcoming group of dancers that explores a wide variety of musical styles, cultures and movements in the 100+-year-old historic Carriage House with wonderful wood floors, located at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue in Atherton. Dance to great music, enjoy heart-healthy exercise and especially enjoy the warmth of good friends. There is an End-of-quarter party on **March 29**, a Tres de Mayo Party on **May 3**, and End-of-Quarter party on **June 7**. 7:45-10:15; \$9 unless you're registered. Contact: Suzanne Rocca-Butler at sroccabutler@me.com.

Folkdances of Hungary & Transylvania. **Tuesday, March 28 through May 9**, 7:30-9:45 pm, the Folk Dances of Hungary and Transylvania class will have guest instructor László Tihanyi, a professional dancer from Hungary and the director of the Eszterlánc Hungarian Dance Ensemble here in the Bay Area. Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park. Contact: Todd Wagner at todd@wagnerhaz.com

Moveable Feet Club. On February 4, Bulgarian teacher Nina Kavardjikova presented three dances (Dzanguritsa, Dzip Dzip, and Klotsa) at the Moveable Feet workshop and party. Bruce Cochran added impromptu playing on his guida to end the wonderful party.

On **Saturday, April 15**, 2:30-8:30 pm, well-respected Royal Scottish Country Dance Society teachers Bruce Hamilton and Lin Pettengill will give an English and Scottish dance workshop at all levels. Learn styling and how to dance and communicate with your partner, in the set and with other sets. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto.

On **Saturday, May 20**, 6:30-11 pm, the Moveable Feet Club presents "Come Celebrate Dances from the Balkans." Our featured teacher is Katherine Abbott, who will present Nina Kavardjikova's Daychovata and Iliana Bozhanova's Yuta. St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Contact: Lucy at LucySChang@gmail.com.

Nordic Footnotes **First Saturday** Scandinavian Dance Party. They always dance to live music, and they are almost always at St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park (check if you're not sure!). 7:30-?? pm, with teaching the first hour. Suggested donation \$8. Contact: Jeanne Sawyer at jsawyer@sawyerpartnership.com.

The Palomanians. The Palomanians are awaiting confirmation of a date in June for another Scottish Country Dance workshop. At the last Scottish Country Dance workshop on February 5th, two 4-couple sets worked out perfectly for the many dances taught. The downside for some was that there were no breaks for rest! A great time was had by all, and it was nice that Liz and Ron Bueno joined the group.

The Palomanians are also making plans for the annual Ice Cream Social on **June 10th** at St. Bede's. Mark your calendars. Contact: Hollis Raddin at hollis.radin@gmail.com.

The Peninsula Folk Dance Council. Jim Emdy will emcee the next party on **April 8th** at the First Baptist Church in Palo Alto. 7:30-10:30 pm (no pre-party workshop). The PFDC will be back at St. Bede's on **May 13th**.

## NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

Throughout the past couple of months, hardy dancers in the Petaluma area have navigated flash flood warnings and downed trees and torrential rains to turn out for Monday night dancing. We've been learning some new dances, including Vlaski Sat (Serbia) and Ordog Utja (Hungary), as well as reviving and reviewing Vlashko Horo (Bulgaria). Nadav Nur from Kopachka came as a guest teacher in February and taught Berovka (Macedonia) and Hora de la Tulnici (Romania). And we always have ample time for dancing to requests every evening.

We were thrilled to have special guests from the Yale Women's Slavic Chorus come to both dance with us and sing for us on March 13. The Chorus is a performance group comprised of women from a variety of cultural and academic backgrounds who share a common passion for Slavic music, singing a diverse repertoire that spans the traditions of Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, and Georgia.

Our next special event will be our **Annual Petaluma Spring Folk Dance Party on Saturday, April 22, 7:30-10:30 pm**. The first hour will feature dancing to old and new recorded favorites, followed by a live music set of Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Greek music with Staro Vino. The members of Staro Vino are Greg Jenkins on clarinet and vocals, Mark Jenkins on percussion and vocals, Peter Bonos on trumpet, and Andrew Cohen on accordion and vocals.

Drop-ins and newcomers are always welcome to come join us any Monday night 7-9:15 p.m. at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma.



Staro Vino will play at the Annual Petaluma Spring Folk Dance Party. Photo by C. Friedman



## .. AND BEYOND

### **THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS** – Megan Wolf

The Willits Dance Club performed at our school's annual fundraiser. Twelve students performed Lambeth Walk and Borrowdale Exchange. After the performance, the rest of the dancers joined us on stage to teach and lead Syp Simeon.

Our dance group has grown too large to fit on the stage, so this year those who wanted to perform had to audition! Our next performance will be outside, so the whole group will be able to perform. The dancers did an awesome job, and you could tell they were really having fun while they performed!



The Dance Club members at their recent performance. *Photo by R. Alviso*

### **SACRAMENTO COUNCIL** – Barbara Malakoff

Bruce Mitchell's dance class, International Dancers of Sacramento, recently had an English Tea Party, complete with British scones, tea, cucumber sandwiches, and other tasty tidbits. It was a very posh affair, and everyone was on his/her best behavior!

Hadi Babazadeh, Barbara Bevan significant other, celebrated his 96th birthday with a dinner at a local Persian Restaurant. Hadi was born and raised in Iran, and has written a very interesting book about his life. If you ask nicely, there are several people in Sacramento who might lend you a copy. Hadi is still dancing and keeping up with Barbara Bevan, which is no small accomplishment!

Bruce Tichenor, who used to dance with his wife, Jan, in Bruce Mitchell's Vintage Dancers troupe, died February 9, in Concord. He was the uncle of Virginia Tichenor, who has been very active with the Western Ragtime Society, and the brother of the late Trebor Tichenor, who was a recognized authority on Scott Joplin and the ragtime era. Bruce and Jan owned and operated Story Winery in Plymouth, and they used to bring wine for Vintage Dancers' events. A Celebration of Life is planned for Saturday, June 17 at the Story Winery.

### **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS** – Naomi Lidicker

Last month I mentioned that we had inducted two students into our club. What a pleasure it was to see Evelyn Kartini and William Winkley-Markman dancing as members of the "Old Oak Irish Dancers" who entertained us at the 69th **Festival of the Oaks on February 12**. Eighty-five dancers and 14 spectators also witnessed the breadth of the talent in Berkeley Folk Dancers as shown by Xiao Ping Liu-Moore, who directed her lovely ballet Xiao's Choreography Project. At the Festival, co-sponsored by the Federation, the Committee presented to Mel and Esther Mann a crystal plaque to thank Mel for serving as the chair of the Festival for 19 years and Esther for managing the hot lunch for 15 years. This was an expression of gratitude and love and for their work as ambassadors of folk dancing. Yes, they are retiring from management of the annual Festival of the Oaks but not from dancing. For more information about the Festival of the Oaks, including photos, see p. 17.

March did bring out the green everywhere, but especially at Live Oak Park Social Hall on Friday, March 17 when the Advanced Intermediate Class hosted the Fun Night. With merriment and laughter, Berkeley Folk Dancers celebrated St. Patrick's Day, honoring the Irish in all of us. With two feet and three hands, BFD had quite a "fling." Our next **Fun Night** will be hosted by the Intermediate Class on **Friday, May 19**. Mark your calendars!

*Addition by Art Woodworth, BFD President:* Thanks for including Andy's photo (March 2017 issue). The dancer in the white top near the lower right corner is named Evelyn. She is about 8 years old. She and a buddy, William (about the same age), are both Irish dancers and recently joined BFD, so we are now aged 8 to 80+.



BFD's youngest dancer, Evelyn Kartini, front, with Carol Friedman, Cynthia Lambert, and Neil Collier behind her, at the Festival of the Oaks. *Photo by A. Partos*

**"SF Bay Area Dance Week FREE EVENT"**  
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# *Blossom International Folk Dance Festival*

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**  
**Dances for All Ages (Beginners) 12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
**General Dancing: 1:30pm - 5:00pm**  
**Federation Meeting: 10:30am**

**City College of San Francisco**  
**Wellness Center, 3rd Floor, Studio 301**  
**50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco (enter from Howth Street)**



**Website: [http://bayareadance.org/event-details/?e\\_id=349](http://bayareadance.org/event-details/?e_id=349)**

**Info. & Dance Requests - contact: [crb2crb@comcast.net](mailto:crb2crb@comcast.net) or 650-359-7486**

**Sponsored by:**  
City College of San Francisco Folk Dance, the Folk Dance Federation of  
California, and CCSF Faculty Member Jeanne-Marie Hughes



# WORKSHOP FATIGUE

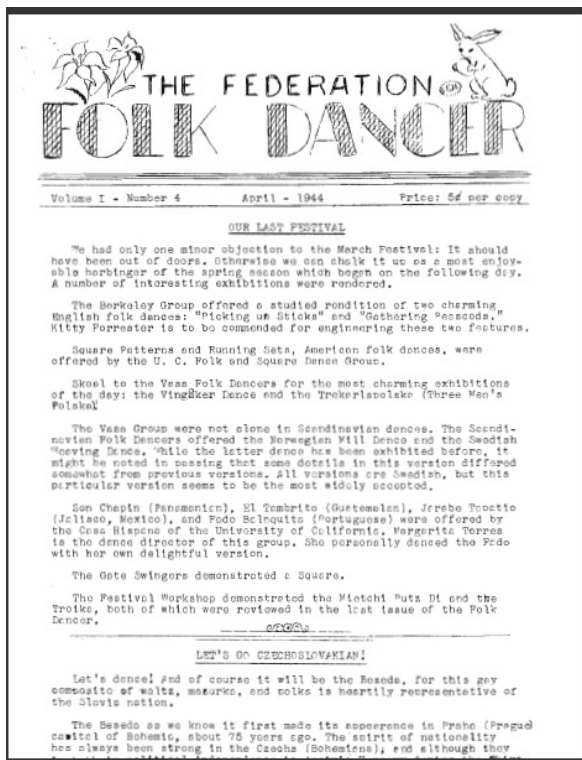
by Todd Wagner

When I started folk dancing (late Jurassic period), workshops with visiting instructors were very special events. They only happened once or twice a year, the material was diligently studied in the following weeks, and many of the dances were then added to our repertoire.

Nowadays we are having workshops once or twice a month. In the past five months (I'm writing this in early February) we've had Christian and Sonia, Cesar Garfiaz, Iliana Bozhanova, Erciment Kılıç, Roberto Bagnoli, and Nina Kavardjiova. Most of them have done multiple workshops featuring different dances while in the Bay Area. It's great to see good teaching and expert styling, and always a joy to see friends you don't encounter at your weekly classes. I'm also sympathetic to the fact that this is how many of the itinerant teachers make a living.

Nevertheless, I feel totally overwhelmed by the 50-60 dances they have taught recently. It's like drinking from a fire hose, and I doubt if much of this material will be added to local group's repertoires. My one suggestion is that we curb the desire to have a teacher present different dances at multiple workshops. Some people will go to several workshops by the same instructor, but many don't. Teaching different dances results in the Balkanization of our repertoires. If an instructor teaches different material in the East Bay and on the Peninsula, then we won't have anything in common at events like Statewide.

I'd be interested in hearing what others think.



# HISTORY CHANNEL

*With all due respect to Todd Wagner, who makes many valid observations, dance fatigue is not a new concern. Read below a piece that appeared in the **November 1954** issue of Let's Dance! magazine. This same topic comes up at least once a decade.*

*-- Professor History*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., I mentioned a growing concern over the trend of new dances creeping into the repertoire of our dance programs. The response in the deluge of letters confirming my thoughts has been very encouraging and leads me to believe that many of you folk dancers agree that something must be done about it. There is a definite feeling that too many dances are introduced each year, making it impossible to keep up with the new and yet find relaxation and enjoy in some of the older favorites.

Some of the new dances introduced are too long and consist of so many sequences that too much time is consumed in learning them to keep up the interest. Then frequently they are soon discarded. This is particularly true of contemporary dances. Folk dancers prefer authenticity. They want a proper balance of old, new and review for all classes of dancers. There are the beginners who need experience in basic dances; the intermediates who are anxious to learn something new but retaining the old; and there are those old-timers who are not interested in constantly learning new dances. A few, yes, for to learn no new dances would mean retrogression.

There has always been folk dancing and square dancing. In 1938 there were approximately 10 groups who were happy to dance 25 different dances. The folk dance movement soon found itself growing to a saturation point, and in 1942 the need for expansion became apparent. This developed into the founding of the Folk Dance Federation of California.

## THE LOST HAVE BEEN FOUND!

Many thanks to the Estate of Marcel Vinokur for filling in the first ten issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine in the Federation's collection. These issues (January-September 1944) bore the name *The Federation Folk Dancer*. The name was changed to *Let's Dance!* in October 1944 because Michael Herman was publishing a magazine called *The Folk Dancer* on the East Coast and he objected to the duplication of the name.

The Archives Committee members had been looking for these missing issues for many years. They were found in one of the many boxes in Marcel's garage when the family was preparing the home for sale.

The image on the left is of the front page of the April 1944 issue.



## GET 'EM DANCING: 10 Tips for Welcoming New Dancers

by Carol Friedman

1. Always greet newcomers and drop-ins personally at the beginning of your class.
2. Take a moment to find out their name, where they live, and whether they have danced before.
3. Be prepared to change what you were planning to play or teach when complete beginners show up (and have a list up your sleeve of those dances that are both fun and very easy to pick up).
4. Help them out by not just teaching the dance, but talking it through while your group dances, and standing directly in front of them so they have someone to follow (and they don't get confused looking at folks across the circle).
5. Don't belabor the teaching. It's more important that they just dance to the best of their ability than get every step and style exactly right.
6. Make sure they don't stand at the end of the dance circle, or next to another beginner.

7. Actively place them between two more experienced dancers (who are about the same size).
8. Applaud and congratulate them when they manage a new dance relatively gracefully, even if it isn't perfect.
9. Smile, laugh, have a good time -- it's infectious.
10. Thank them for coming, get their contact information, and make sure to tell them you hope to see them again next week.



Happy threesome at Festival of the Oaks. From left, Ulrike Narins, BFD President Art Woodworth, and Elsa Bacher.

Photo by A. Partos

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**Miamon Miller & My Men And Yours**



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## What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

### TWO CLUBS OFFER VILLAGE DANCES – Nancy Milligan

The **Caltech Folkdancers** meet on Tuesday. Yes, we have some North, mostly Bay Area, long-time occasional drop-ins. We are close to many Tech events, so people often find themselves here mid-week for conference in the Pasadena area. We have no attendance charge; donation only. Students, adults, kids – all are welcome any time. We are a requests-only club, but selections are mostly Balkan. We dance at Dabney Lounge on the CalTech campus (off the Garden). It's air-conditioned in summer. Sometimes, because of events, we are at Throop Church, at Los Robles and Del Mar, in Pasadena. Call me any time. Let my phone ring 10 times. I work outside a lot and I return messages. Info: Nancy 626-797-5157.

The other group is a Greek Group called **Kypseli**. They do dances from all areas of Greece. The emphasis is on village dances and the Rebetiko dances. They regularly have bands, usually from some part of Greece, but also some local bands. Show up on any Friday night. It's \$8 on regular nights – a bit more for special teachers and bands. If you are in Los Angeles on a Friday night, drop in to the Tango Bar Dance Studio, 8-11:30 pm, and I guarantee that you will have fun.

I mention these two groups because the emphasis is on village dances at both. Don't know any village dances? If you are in the area, drop in and you will know some, even if you don't think you do. We will help you at both. More info: Drina 310-281-7534 or Jerry 310-229-8947.

## FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



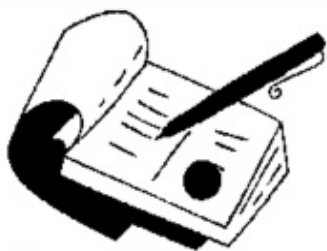
What a fetching pair in their Polish costumes!

We think this photo was taken at a Treasurer's Ball in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Recognize them?

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES (March 2017). The photo was of Ned and Marian Gault (who was Marian Smith at the time the photo was taken). Ned Gault was President of the Folk Dance Federation 1964-66.

Correction: The photo of Sunni Bloland and Dick Crum on the cover of the February issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine was not taken in the 1980s as suggested in the caption. The only year that Dick and Sunni both appeared at Stockton was 1977.



*Mark your calendar!*  
*Save the date!*

**The Federation's OFFICERS BALL**  
**Saturday, November 4, 2017**  
**Veterans Memorial Hall in Hayward**  
**Details coming soon!**

## David Melech Israel – דוד מלך ישראל

(Israel)

David Melech Israel (DAH-veed MEH-leh EES-rah-ehl) means David, King of Israel. This lovely dance was choreographed in 2007 by Shmulik Gov-Ari, a well-known Israeli dance leader. The song was composed and sung by Chava Alberstein, an even more well-known Israeli singer. Sanna Longden presented this dance at the 2008 National Folk Organization (NFO) Conference and several other camps and workshops. Most recently, she presented it at the 2017 Festival of the Oaks in Berkeley, California.

Music: 4/4 meter MP3 file: <http://berkeleyfolkdancers.org/festivaloftheoaks/2017/music.htm>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsLREfpCg0I>  
or do an internet search for “David Melech Israel dance.”

Formation: Circle of dancers, closed or open, facing LOD (CCW). Dancers place L hand, facing up, above dancers' own L shoulder and R hand on top of L hand of dancer in front.

Steps & Styling: **Yemenite R:** Step R to R (ct 1); step L to L and slightly bkwd (ct 2); step R across in front of L (ct 3); hold (ct 4).  
**Yemenite L:** Same as above with opp ftwk and direction.  
**Back Yemenite:** Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R fwd (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Can be done with opp ftwk.  
**Rocking Step:** Step R fwd (ct 1); rock back on L (ct 2); rock fwd on R (cts 3); hold (ct 4). Can also be done starting with L.

Meas	4/4 meter	Pattern
8 meas	<b>INTRODUCTION.</b> No action. Start with the flute.	
	I.	<b>TRAVELING LOD</b> (Hands in starting position)
1		Touch R heel fwd (ct 1); bend L knee (ct 2); repeat (cts 3-4).
2		Three steps fwd (LOD), R, L, R (cts 1-3); hold (ct 4).
3-3		Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.
5		Sway R to R, changing hands to W-pos and facing ctr (cts 1-2); sway L to L (cts 3-4).
6		Grapevine: Step R to R, step L in front of R, step R to R, step L behind R (cts 1-4).
7-8		<u>Yemenite R</u> (cts 1-4); <u>Yemenite L</u> (cts 1-4).
	II.	<b>INTO CENTER AND BACK</b> (Hands in W-position)
1		Moving twd ctr, step R in front of L (cts 1-2); cross L in front of R (cts 3-4).
2		<u>Rocking Step</u> starting R (cts 1-4).
3-4		Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk. End facing LOD, drop hand hold.
5-6		Moving to R away from ctr, step R to R (ct 1-2); cross L in front of R (ct 3-4); repeat.
7		Full turn to R in 3 steps, R, L, R (cts 1-3); hold (ct 4).
8		<u>Back Yemenite L</u> (cts 1-4).

**Sequence:** Part I twice; Part II once; then Part I twice; Part II twice to the end. The choreographer ends the dance with a “sleep gesture.” He put palms together at his cheek, did a brief knee bend and closed his eyes. The end of the song says that David sang “lu lu lu lu lu” and everyone fell asleep.



# ZABAVA!

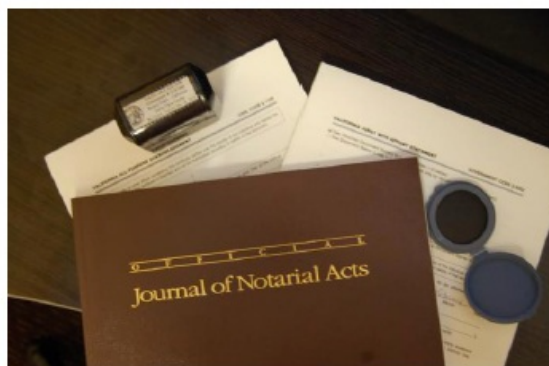
## **ZABAVA!** Live at Kopachka **Friday, APRIL 28, 2017** **8-11pm \$12** **Folk Dance Party**

ZABAVA! features **Corinne Sykes** (vocals, tambura, tupan, darabuka), **Michele Simon** (vocals, tupan, hand drum), **Bill Cope** (gajda, bouzouki, tambura, accordion, vocals), and **Tom Farris** (tambura, guitar, hand drum). Zabava!, whose name means 'party', plays energetic, soulful, and rhythmically dazzling music, from the center of the dance floor, in the Bulgarian, Greek, Macedonian, and Romani traditions.

[www.kopachkafolkdancers.com](http://www.kopachkafolkdancers.com)

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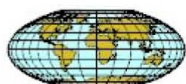
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# FESTIVAL OF THE OAKS

On February 12, the Berkeley Folk Dancers hosted a large crowd for the 69th Annual Festival of the Oaks.

The morning began with the Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of Berkeley, welcoming everyone to the festival. Sixty-one dancers were on hand for the morning institute taught by Sanna Longden, a longtime international dance teacher, group leader, and performer from Evanston, Illinois. A nice variety of dances were presented, including Three's a Crowd, a mixer for groups of three dancers, and Gung-Xi Ni, a dance for Chinese New Year. Mel Mann arranged to have the music for the dances taught to be available on the BFD website, so purchase of CDs was not necessary.



Cynthia Lambert and Craig Blackston dance Gung-Xi Ni, a dance for Chinese New Year. *Photo by A. Partos*

At noon, Esther Mosse-Mann and her team served a delicious hot lunch for over 85 people. In the afternoon, a hall full of dancers enjoyed a program of international dances.

At about 3:00 pm the Old Oak Tree Irish Dancers, four children ages 6-9, skillfully performed four lively dances. Two members of the group, Evelyn and William, are BFD members in the Beginners Class. They were followed by five lovely ballet performers from Xiao's Choreography Project, who gracefully danced two beautiful numbers. Xiao is also a BFD member. Fourteen spectators came to enjoy the performances and some of the afternoon dancing.

As always, lots of costumes were on sale at deep discounts, and there were plenty of snacks available. In addition, the Folk Dance Federation's Archives Committee had a small selection of dolls available for sale that had been donated by the Estate of June Horn.

For 19 years Mel Mann has served as the Chair of the Festival of the Oaks Committee. Esther Mosse-Mann has been his right-hand helper for 15 or 16 of those years. Since they are retiring from those roles this year, the members of BFD presented them with a crystal plaque as an expression of gratitude and love for their tireless work in putting on this event, and for their wonderful work as ambassadors of folk dancing.

The event was co-sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of Northern California, which held a Board meeting during the lunch hour.



The Old Oak Tree Irish Dancers performed at Festival of the Oaks. *Photo by A. Partos*



Who said men don't dance? From left, Richard Graham, Helen Brown, Jeff Lidicker, Dragan Djordjevic and Clem Dickey. *Photo by L. Tucker*



Dolls for Sale. *Photo by L. Tucker*



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## Folklore Camp

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Michele Simon (Balkan Favorites)

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## Eye on Dance by Eileen

It's not easy to build a following in a tiny tourist town at the end of nowhere, which is why I am proud that our Balkan folk dance group in Russell, New Zealand, has been meeting for 13 years – sometimes galloping and sometimes limping!

I thought this year might be the end of us. One member moved back to Germany and another back to England. Then, lo and behold, four new people have turned up. One came from the ballroom dance group, and three were former strangers who are now friends. One was a guy, and he only came for two weeks. I thought he left because he felt outnumbered by all the women, but then I learned he had made a deal with his wife – two weeks of dance in exchange for two sailing trips from her. Hey, whatever works. He got a taste, and I hope he'll try it again.

With three absolute beginners, I split the class into an easy first hour and an intermediate second hour. I added a bunch of new (for everyone) basic village-type dances that are even making my regulars happy. It seems to be working. I've been sending out emails with YouTube videos (partly to show our departed man that other men can be great Balkan dancers). People have gotten enthused to see some of our dances performed with live music and great costumes.

A few weeks ago someone was curious about the words to a dance. I told her to look up the song. She not only looked it up, but sent out a video of the dance along with the translated lyrics. I like it when people get involved!

So we are trotting along. My lovely group is not happy when the time comes for me to go back to California.

The news is not as good for the ballroom dance group. Until this year we'd get about 15-22 people each week during the summer months. Then came the "Big Schism" when I was away in the winter. Those who follow my column might remember that last year there was a big rise in the ferry fares for non-locals. That hurt us. Then a longtime member of our group, from *our* side of the bay, started a new group *across the bay*! Gasp!

There had always been disagreements about the repertoire, the music, and more. (Sound familiar?) I was really surprised at the lack of loyalty to a group that has been meeting for well over 20 years. Couldn't they have compromised somehow? Now there are two tiny groups instead of one vigorous group. At least we often have extra men and I get to dance a lot.

There are also a smattering (compared to the Bay Area) of dance events in the area. Most start in February, after the busy holiday season. It is a joy to watch the performances at Waitangi Day, a big annual festival. The most popular are the Maori kapa haka groups. Kapa haka is the term for Maori performing arts and literally means to form a line (kapa) and dance (haka). Kapa haka is an avenue for Maori people to express and showcase their heritage and cultural Polynesian identity through song and dance. Annual competitions are held for the best groups. Also performing this year was a rousing group from the Cook Islands. It was very much like Tahitian dance.

A workshop will be held next weekend with our favorite ballroom dance teacher, Brian Jones, whom I have written about several times. An annual Salsa night was held recently in a waterfront restaurant in Paihia, and there was a live Tango night in Kerikeri a fund-raiser for hospice. With all of these events, one needs a partner, and the women greatly outnumber the men. (Sound familiar?) I realize how lucky I am to have found Balkan dancing and do not have to worry about how much I will get to dance. I am looking forward to being back in the Bay Area in a few weeks! Sorry, Russell folk dancers. I wish I could take you with me.



Eileen and her Russell, New Zealand dancers.  
*Selfie by E. Kopec*



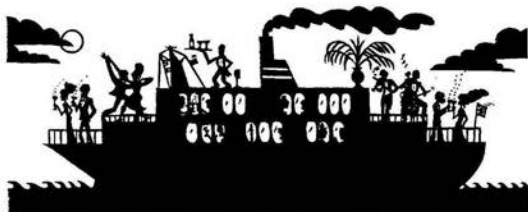
Afraid of a face-to-face rejection, he sends her a text message.



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APRIL 2017

*Let's Dance!*

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