

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 🍷 DECEMBER 2017

THE OFFICERS BALL 2017

What a grand time we had!



Yale and Marcia Rosenblatt teaching Aino Kchume at the Officers Ball.
Photo by C. Dickey.



Julie East teaching Szot Madziar at the Officers Ball, Lothar Narins and Neil Collier behind her. *Photo by J. Croco.*



Aaron Alpert teaching the Israeli dance Holech Uva. *Photo by J. Croco.*



Dancing at the Officers Ball 2017.
Photo by C. Dickey.



Marian Snyder and Marija Hillis preparing dinner for the dancers. *Photo by K. Greek.*



Bill Cope leading a delightful sing-along during dinner at the Officers Ball. *Photo by C. Dickey.*

***This issue is brought to you in part by
the Peninsula Folk Dance Council! Details pp. 14-17.***

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

Let's Dance!

Volume 74, No. 10
December 2017

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The Federation's **Scholarship Fund** provides financial assistance to Federation members wishing to attend dance workshops and dance camps. Read more about this fund and download an application at www.folkdance.com under the **Money Matters** tab.

Donations: The Folk Dance Federation of California is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible! Gifts and donations are also welcome. Send to:

The Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

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

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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)

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

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Member clubs	\$10	\$20	\$35
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©*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.

KEVIN GREEK TO LEAD THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Kevin Greek, the Federation's Past-President and current website manager, has accepted the position of chair of the Archives Committee. Because Kevin lives near the storage locker where the archives are kept, the many boxes of items will not have to be moved to another location.

Thank you, Kevin!

President's Message

by Joe Croco

The holiday season is upon us (already). Here is my wish that everyone has happy holidays no matter what holiday or how you choose to celebrate this year.

A big thank you to the 90+ people who came to the Officers Ball this year. It was great to see old friends and meet new friends. The Ball went smoothly and everyone had a great time. Like a duck serenely moving across the pond, there was a lot of frantic paddling going on underneath. Most of the Federation Board members were involved this year and worked together to pull off this year's event. A special thanks to Loui and Lucy, who were co-organizers this year. They kept the rest of us in line and handled all the problems (kind of like herding cats).

A special thank you to Karen Bartholomew, the winner of the 50/50 draw at the Officers Ball. She declined the prize of \$220 and donated it back to the Federation!

One more thank you, this one to Kevin Greek for stepping up to take over as chair of the Archives Committee, a position I had to vacate when I became president of the Federation. As was said at the Officers Ball, if any Federation member wants to get more involved in our activities, such as putting on the Officers Ball, please get in touch. There are positions on various committees and plenty of work to be done.

Karen
Bartholomew
enjoying dinner
at the Officers
Ball 2017.
Photo by L.
Tucker



FROM THE EDITOR

The Power of One.

I heard a dance leader complain recently, "We did all this advertising, we had two beginners' session, and we had 14 new dancers. We set up a buddy system for the newcomers to keep them involved. At the end of a year, all but one of them has dropped out. We have only one new dancer after all that work!"

Let me tell you a story.

She was the dancer; he was not. She decided to add another night of folk dancing to her weekly schedule. He thought, "If I value my wife and my marriage, perhaps this is a sign I should take a look at this folk dancing thing." He did, and he liked it!

Following the loss of two key members, the leaders of a once-popular dance group were discussing closing. Before they could do that, this couple decided to join the group. Then the couple talked a few of their friends – some former folk dancers, some new to the scene – into joining the group too. The declining trend in membership in the group was reversed, and the leaders decided to continue meeting.

The council to which this group belonged had also been struggling due to declining interest but, with the renewed membership and energy of this particular group, the council also saw an increase in enthusiasm for its events. The council had been discussing reducing the size of its annual festival, but instead decided to take a few risks. The festival that year was very well-attended and it has continued to be successful.

When we lament that our advertising efforts were mostly in vain because *only one* new dancer had joined our ranks in the course of a year, we discount the value of a single new person to make a difference in our community.



A LITTLE FOLK DANCE HUMOR

A Polish immigrant went to the Department of Motor Vehicles to get a driver's license. First, of course, he had to take an eyesight test. The examiner showed him a card bearing the letters CZWIZOSTANCZ.

"Can you read this?" the examiner asked.

"Read it!?" the Polish guy replied, "It's my favorite dance!"



December 2017 Calendar of Events

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

Send future events information to Loui Tucker, Editor editor@folkdance.com.

Additional dance events can be found at www.folkdance.com (Community tab).

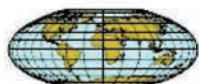
The deadline for listings is one month prior to the magazine date.

- December 2** **RAZZMATAZZ CHRISTMAS FOLK DANCE PARTY.** Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue, Santa Rosa. 7-10 pm. \$5. Children free.
- December 2** **PALOMANIANS PIE PARTY.** International folk dancing and lots of pie and ice cream! St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. \$10. 7:30-10:30 pm. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- December 9** **POST-KOLO FESTIVAL AND HOLIDAY PARTY.** First Baptist Church, 305 North California Avenue, Palo Alto. 5:00 -9:30 pm. Info: LucySChang@gmail.com. Please bring canned goods as a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank.
- December 11** **ANNUAL PETALUMA HOLIDAY FOLK DANCE PARTY WITH LIVE MUSIC.** 7-9:30 pm. First hour will be dancing to old and new recorded favorites followed by dancing to live music by Da! Mozhem. At Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue. Info: cjay@horizoncable.com.
- December 21** **TWINS & TRIPLETS PARTY.** Sponsored by the Saratoga International Folk Dancers. St. Michael Archangel Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. 7:30-10:15 pm. \$8. Coordinate your outfit with others and come dressed as twins or triplets (or similar group). Great photo opportunity! Info: loui@loutucker.com.
- December 25** **CHRISTMAS NIGHT GATHERING.** Saint Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 7:30-10:30 pm. *FREE TO ALL!*
- December 31** **NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK DINNER AND ALL REQUESTS PARTY.** Sponsored by the Moveable Feet Club. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. 6:30 pm-12:30 am. LucySChang@gmail.com.
- December 31** **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY.** Sponsored by Berkeley Folk Dancers' New Year's Eve Party. Live Oak Park Social Hall, Shattuck at Berryman, Berkeley. 9-midnight. \$5 for BFD members; \$7 for non-members. Info: Neil or Judy Collier 510-524-2671.
- January 12, 2018** **KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS' BALKAN FOLK DANCE PARTY.** Dancing to a local favorite band, Da! Mozhem. 8-11 pm. Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley. \$10; students, half-price; children free. Contact Nadav 415-497-4890 or Susie president@kopachkafolkdancers.com.
- January 19 and January 20, 2018** **HERITAGE FESTIVAL WEEKEND.** Friday "Club Night" at the Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos. 7-10 pm.
Saturday afternoon and evening: Serbian workshop with Miroslav "Bata" Marèetia Exhibition and party with live music. Twin Pines Senior and Community Center, 20 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont. See p. 16 for more information, registration form. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.



Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours: 2018

Travel with Folk Dance Specialists: Jim Gold,
Lee Otterholt, Joe Freedman, and Richard Schmidt



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broadens
one!



Exciting adventures! Fascinating cultures!
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See tour itineraries at: www.jimgold.com

ISRAEL March 11-22, 2018

Led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman
Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa,
Tiberias, Safed, Golan Heights

JAPAN April 15-28, 2018

Led by Richard Schmidt: Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Hamamatsu,
Kyoto, Kobe, Osaka, Takamatsu, Hiroshima, Kakogawa

POLAND June 11-25, 2018

Led by Richard Schmidt: Kraków, Rzeszów, Zakopane,
Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Olsztyn, Żelazowa Wola, Warszawa

NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN June 12-25, 2018

Led by Lee Otterholt
Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen

ROMANIA July 1-12, 2018

Led by Lee Otterholt
Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighetu Marmatiei, Piatra Neamt, Brasov

BALKAN ADVENTURE! 5 COUNTRIES

July 29-August 12, 2018. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt
MACEDONIA, BULGARIA, SERBIA, ALBANIA, GREECE! Sofia, Belogradchik,
Vidin, Nish, Skopje, Ochrid, Korca, Lake Prespa, Bitola, Sandanski, Plovdiv,
Local Koprivshtitsa folk festival

SCOTLAND September 9-22, 2018

Led by Richard Schmidt
Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Loch Lomond, Loch Ness,
Fort William, Mallaig, Isle of Skye, Inverness, Aberdeen, Perth

SPAIN October 12-22, 2018

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman
Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada



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Mail your \$200 per person deposit. Or with credit card at: www.jimgold.com

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FOLKLORE TOUR OF CROATIA

by Denise Heenan and Ellie Wiener

If you have had the pleasure of dancing with Željko Jergan, you are very aware of his love for his homeland. Wanting to share this feeling with his friends, he arranged an incredible folklore tour, Zagreb-Vinkovci-Zadar, which entailed visits to several regions where we experienced the music, dance, food, and the warm and friendly people of Croatia.

After a guided tour of the Ethnographic Museum on our first day in Zagreb, we were treated to viewing Lado, Croatia's State Ensemble, in rehearsal. It was clear to see Željko's pride and pleasure when he introduced all of us to the Lado members. As a former soloist with Lado, Željko was welcomed with open arms.

There were so many other highlights and wonderful experiences along the way:

- Visit to Kašina village for dinner, dance, and party with their tamburitza band.
- Đakovo and the farm where horses of the Lipizzaner breed have been bred in the Stud Farm since the beginning of the 19th century; dinner with the local folklore society, Tena-Đakovo.
- Two lovely days at the Acin Salaš farm in Tordinci for more tamburitza music plus witnessing the making of brandy in the traditional way.
- Zadar on the Adriatic Sea for two glorious days of swimming, sun, rest, and more music and dance.
- Visit to the Nikola Tesla Memorial Centre in Smiljan.

The highlight of our tour was Autumn Festival, Vinkovačke Jeseni. The morning features row upon row of booths in the park selling food, toys, trinkets, jewelry, and



The gathering at Vinkovci Stadium. Photo by D. Heenan.

religious articles. Following a parade of costumed men on horseback and many horse-drawn carriages filled with elegantly costumed participants, thousands of Croatians gathered in their gorgeous costumes to sing and dance together on the huge stadium field. It is a truly impressive and moving experience. (Their website has hundreds of beautiful photos.)

Željko best sums up this wonderful tour with his Facebook post:

Croatian folk art is characterized by calmness and dignity, thoughtfulness and perseverance, deep emotion, pride experienced existence. And that's what I wanted to share with my close friends and lovers of folk art traveling through my homeland. Those days of laughter, songs, dancing and socializing will remain forever in my heart. Najskrenije hvala!



advertisement

Folk Dance Scene

This (almost) monthly publication has folk dance events in California and elsewhere, folk lore articles, ethnic recipes and lots of good reading. To get a **free** copy, just call Sandy: (310) 391-7382, or Email: circulation@FolkDance.org

To subscribe, it is just \$18 a year for 10 issues - \$10 for an Email version. Send to Gerda Ben-Zeev, 19 Park Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405

9th Annual FOLK DANCE PARTY CHRISTMAS NIGHT

ONCE UPON A TIME, a family gathered with friends and relatives every Christmas Night to celebrate the Day. They shared food and beverages, and danced away the evening. John Nicoara was there. It is from the stories of these warm memories that he & Jan, and Becky & Adony, were inspired to continue that tradition with a new family — YOU!



MONDAY, December 25, 2017
7:30 pm – 10:30 pm
St. Bede's Church, Menlo Park

ALL-REQUEST PARTY (FREE) MC'd by Adony & Becky Beniares

*Send your requests to Adony & Becky at beni@pacbell.net.
 They will incorporate them into the program!*

*Come dance with your friends on a
 great wood floor!*

*Dances range from beginning to
 advanced, & all forms (line, couple, set).*

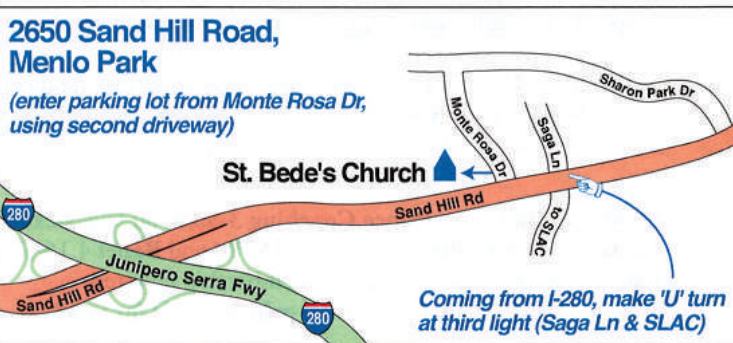
Bring a snack to share!

*Have any questions? Contact Hollis
 at hollisradin@pacbell.net*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

*Heritage Festival: Jan. 19-20, 2018
 (Fri. – Garden House; Sat. – Twin Pines)*

NEXT PARTY: Feb. 10 (St. Bede's Church)



 **Sponsored by Peninsula Folk Dance Council** 

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Hollis Radin

There are so many opportunities to dance on the Peninsula in December: (1) The Palomarians Pie Party on **December 2** at St. Bede's Church in Menlo Park; (2) the Post-Kolo Festival and Holiday Party on **December 9** at First Baptist Church in Palo Alto; (3) the Twins & Triplets Party on **December 21** at St. Michael Archangel Serbian Orthodox Church in Saratoga; (4) Christmas Night Gathering at St. Bede's Church in Menlo Park on **December 25**; and (5) New Year's Eve Potluck Dinner and All Requests Party at All Saints Episcopal Church in Palo Alto. Check the *Let's Dance!* Calendar (p. 4) or folkdance.com for more details.

Read all about our **Heritage Festival** coming up **January 19-20** elsewhere in this issue (p. 15).

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

Things have been really crazy around here! We had to close school for a week (and we were without phones/internet/gas), but luckily Willits wasn't hit by the fires. Unfortunately, our neighboring community, Redwood Valley, where many of Willits's friends and family live, was hit very hard.

Our newly formed adult group is doing as well as can be expected. Only six people so far, but the fire has really caused a lot of events to be cancelled. We had to cancel the first class, and that slowed momentum.

Coming up soon, Bruce Hamilton is going to teach my kids' group on December 2. I knew Bruce was coming to teach in Mendocino, so I asked him to stop by Willits on the way – and he said he would!

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

The Advanced Class hosted a lively Autumn Hoedown on November 17. What a wonderful community with such a wide ethnic diversity!

In December we focus on the end of another year. Our traditional New Year's Eve Party is on **Sunday, December 31**, at the Live Oak Park Social Hall, Shattuck at Berryman, Berkeley. Everyone is invited, including your family and friends. Semi-formal attire of your own ethnic choice would be appreciated. The fun begins at 9 pm and ends at midnight. There will be food and punch; please bring finger food to add to the table. Just \$5 for BFD members, \$7 for non-members. Contact Neil or Judy Collier 510-524-2671. BFD classes will NOT meet on Monday, December 25 or Monday, January 1. Season's Greetings to all!

Save **February 11, 2018**, for the **Festival of the Oaks** 2018 in Berkeley.

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

We are dancing again after the devastating fires in the North Bay with Santa Rosa being particularly affected. Sadly, four families from our Intermediate class lost their homes and all their belongings. Many folk dancers throughout the area were evacuated and had to wait many days to be allowed back into their homes. Our beginners class was displaced because our usual hall was used as an evacuation center.

All of our folk dancers who were evacuated and whose homes survived have returned home. Our folk dancers who lost their homes have found rental housing or are living with family. We are so grateful that all of them are safe.

Both groups gathered on Tuesday, October 17, a week after the fires, at Monroe Hall, which was unscathed. We gathered not only to dance, but to connect with each other, to talk, to offer support, and to celebrate the joy we have in dance and in our community.

We look forward to our upcoming **annual Christmas party**, which will take place on **Saturday, December 2, 7-10 pm at Monroe Hall**, 1400 W. College Avenue, Santa Rosa. We will dance to recorded favorites early in the evening, read the traditional "Night Before Christmas," enjoy a visit from Santa Claus, and then dance to live music provided by Sonoma County musicians Barbara Babin, Jim Avera, Ken Genetti and Jana Mariposa.

Come join us and celebrate this wonderful season of the year. Adults \$5, plus tips for the musicians. Children are welcome and always free.

***When I'm glad, I want to dance.
When I'm sad, I need to dance.***

– Art Babad

Art danced in the Santa Rosa area for many years, along with his wife and daughter, and also volunteered to teach folk dance in the elementary schools. He was a well-known anesthesiologist in Santa Rosa. He died in 2016. In his obituary, he was listed as "Doctor and folk dancer."

VILLAGE DANCERS OF STANISLAUS – Judy Kropp

In the November issue of *Let's Dance!* our entry was headlined "Village Dancers of Fresno." Fresno is an hour and a half away from us, so we're not the Village Dancers of Fresno. Our group has called Modesto home in the past and we're in Turlock now. I guess we should be called **Village Dancers of Stanislaus**.

... AND BEYOND

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

On Monday morning, October 9, I woke up to smoky skies and reports of big fires in Sonoma County. After checking with folks from my Petaluma class, as well as news reports, I decided it was necessary and prudent to cancel that evening's folk dance class. There was the uncertainty of the situation as well as requests by authorities to leave the roads clear for emergency vehicles. Thus began an intense, unsettling, and anxious week as I tried to reach and stay in touch with all of my students as the fires threatened Santa Rosa and Sonoma and elsewhere. I gathered and shared important information (some from the Santa Rosa group, many of whom dance in both venues), made sure everyone knew how to stay in touch, and compiled a list with up-to-date information as well as offers of housing. More than half of my class evacuated, some due to horrible air quality, many others due to mandatory evacuation orders.

Uncertainty and smoke were still in the air the following Monday, October 16, but I made a decision to have class that night. The sense of relief and comfort was evident on everyone's faces as they walked in the door. One couple had lost their home; another had just been able to get back and see that their home still stood. Others were still uncertain, some staying elsewhere with relatives out of the smoke. A whole lot of hugging went on, and much sharing of stories.

The following Monday, October 23, we had scheduled a special dance party with live music provided by Kabilé. I was uncertain what the turnout would be, given the circumstances, but we had almost 60 people, including numerous folks who had just returned to homes that miraculously were not touched. There was more hugging and sharing of stories. We sang "Happy Birthday" to two dancers. And then the band started playing, and we joined hands in our circle. We danced, knowing even more than before how important and powerful this dancing is, how much it is not just about movement and music, how it is fundamentally about friendship and support and love and community and family.



Dancing to Kabilé. Photo by C. Friedman

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan

Changs International Folk Dancers' Scottish and English Dance Party on October 6th was "a lovely event," to quote one of the many attendees. The honored dancer of the evening was Changs member Thad Trela, who was celebrating a very special birthday. Thad states in his most charming manner, "Would that everyone could receive such attention and thoughtfulness when becoming a nonagenarian!"

While we're on the subject of parties, **Changs will celebrate its 80th birthday in 2018** with a party tentatively set for **Sunday, September 16th**. Save the date for this special event. Time and venue will be announced soon!

Changs meets Friday, 7:30-10:30 pm, at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 31st and Clement in San Francisco. The first two Fridays are teaching nights, 8:30 to 9:30. The third Friday is Family Night. The fourth Friday is for all-request dancing. Fifth Fridays, when they occur, are for all request dancing and special workshops. Non-members \$5; your first time is free.

San Francisco Dance Circle meets Wednesday 10:45 am-12:15 pm at Harvey Milk Center for the Arts, 50 Scott St. at Duboce. Free. Contact Ann at acolichidas@gmail.com.

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – Barbara Malakoff

Plans are being made for our big event, the 2018 Statewide Festival, May 18-20. We really liked the room arrangement at the 2014 Statewide in Redding, with a dance room on one side of the building and a dining room on the other side. This setup meant that when people wanted to take a break, they could retreat to the dining area and just talk. It was brilliant! We could meet new people and connect with old friends, while staying within earshot of the dance room, so we didn't miss our favorite dances!

When we saw the beautiful Masonic Hall in downtown Sacramento, we saw the same potential. There are kitchens and tables and chairs on the same level as the dance floor. We could see the virtues of serving meals and snacks there, in view of the dancing. Not only is it the best of both worlds in one huge room, but also it solves that annoying problem of having to leave the building and look for restaurants and parking spots. We are in the process of finding some great cooks to make ethnic meals for us for a reasonable price. In case anyone gets claustrophobic, you will just have to step out the door and you are in the heart of downtown Sacramento, the Capitol Building and Park, and all kinds of fun and interesting sights.

The transformation of downtown Sacramento is moving along at a breathtaking pace. So much new to see in such a compact area! Even I am amazed at the changes and improvements going on! Mark your calendar and plan to attend Statewide May 18-20. See you here!

A WONDERFUL DANCE EVENING WITH IRA WEISBURD

By Kevin Greek

For those dancers who don't travel far to folk dance events, this last September 30 in Menlo Park was our first opportunity in 30 years to meet Ira Weisburd in Northern California. Ira is a well-known instructor and choreographer of line and international dances, and has taught worldwide. It was only a matter of time before he came to our area.

During this three-hour workshop hosted by Moveable Feet Ira taught a mix of dances that he choreographed: Bellitikos (Greece), Sarbatoarea-I Mare (Romania), Soura Kai Mastoura (Greece), Valle Gersheta (Albania), Hora Lui Grigore Din Vinireu (Romania), Rushja E Lales (Albania), and Mandoline (Israel). Ira also led dances he popularized, including Cumbia Semana, Kritiko Serviko, and W Moim Ogradecku.

I particularly liked the music Ira chose for Bellitikos with the long flamboyant trumpet introduction starting with a gong strike. This 30-second orchestral introduction was the figurative drum roll for the simple dance melody that followed, one that should cause all dancers to smile. It reminded me of the imaginative 60s arrangements of Esquivel or of one silly Greek dance tune named Tsamiko Espanol which features clarinet, Spanish guitar, and castanets. Music is a great part of dance inspiration and enjoyment.

Ira has said that he has always loved easy-to-learn dances because they were a great way to introduce dancers to one another at the beginning of an evening social or weekend dance event. His workshop choices reflected that. While teaching he was prepared to spend considerable attention to detail for the 50 or so dancers attending.

Participants had an opportunity to purchase a CD from Ira with music files for the dances taught and dance notes. The purchase also entitled one to download a video recorded of our group dancing each new dance with him after he finished teaching it. I really like this useful trio of providing music, notes, and recorded video for download and review later, and would gladly pay for the service again at a future workshop.



KOPACHKAS HOST KABILÉ

On Friday, October 20, Kopachka Folk Dancers hosted the versatile, premier band Kabilé for an exciting evening of dancing. Kabilé had played for Kopachka in 2012, on their previous national tour, but this time they really outdid themselves. The band, known for their bitov (traditional) style and memorable melodies, played entirely on the floor, to the delight of the dancers encircling them, as if in an enchanted ring.

Kabilé played a variety of traditional and modern tunes. Many of the usual favorite Bulgarian dances were represented, but the band played more unusual selections such as Karamfil and Sedi Donka. To some of the 60-plus dancers who attended the party, perhaps the most striking feature of the inspired music was the shifting tempo heard in many tunes. Especially interesting was Kabilé's medley-like version of Dospatsko, which started off slowly, then changed to a tempo more familiar to dancers who have long enjoyed this classic dance. Dancers were represented from throughout the Bay Area, with many excellent dance leaders leading a multitude of versions of exciting dances such as Trite Pâti and Kopanica.

Mindful of the fact that some of its members as well as friends were affected by the recent fires in the North Bay, Kopachka dancers hope that the Kabilé party gave many the opportunity to find comfort in dancing and communing with friends.

Kopachka Folk Dancers meet Fridays 7:30-10:30 pm at the Strawberry Recreation Center in Mill Valley. See www.kopachkafolkdancers.com for the Kopachka calendar, directions, etc.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SUNNI BLOLAND

by Lucy Chang

A group of students, dancers, musicians and friends gathered at Sunni's lovely home on October 22 to wish her a happy birthday and many more. Sunni and Hank, her longtime companion, greeted us with warmth and best wishes. We were surrounded by an atmosphere of caring for each other, as we all felt the effect of the recent fires and floods. Since some of us had not seen each other for several years, this was also a time to reminisce about the glorious days of dancing at Hearst Gym and I-House and to catch up with news of each other's lives. A beautiful day for a beautiful lady.

What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

By Marc Rayman

Almost 70 dancers gathered for the 33rd annual Camp Hess Kramer Institute Weekend Oct. 20-22. This “camp review” is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South. It is held in a lovely wooded canyon with birds and butterflies in Malibu within walking distance from the beach for those people who don't want to spend every possible moment dancing.

Denise Heenan presented dances popular in Northern California, including from Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Israel Yakovee taught Israeli dances he and others have choreographed, and Gary Diggs brought popular dances from the New Mexico August Folk Dance Camp.

In addition to the teaching, the camp included a Halloween party, with many participants adopting the theme of a pajama party. (I don't know the origin of that theme, but I dutifully wore my pajamas. That saved me having to spend a few moments changing after dancing when it was time to go to bed. I may dance in pajamas from now on!)



A group of dancers at Camp Hess Kramer. The author is on the far right. *Photo by Betsy Lewis.*

In other news: With the resignation of Shana Vinokur this fall as the president of the Folk Dance Federation South, Pauline Klak moved up from the VP position. This required her to find a new vice president. Diane Baker has accepted the position of vice president of the Folk Dance Federation South. Congratulations, Diane!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am sure I'm going to be labeled an old crank, but there is a situation that has become intolerable, if not dangerous. When I started dancing in the late '60s, beginning dancers were cautioned to not get into dances they didn't know. They were told to dance behind the line and learn the steps by watching the experienced dancers. The only exception was when friends invited you to stand between them in the circle and they knew your ability and didn't drag you into a dance you couldn't do. I know we are supposed to be glad and welcoming when beginners show up, but there have to be some limits!

I have been to several parties in the past six months where beginners were in the circle, and too often they were next to me. I am not that steady on my feet now, and I am afraid one of them is going to yank my arm, or bump or turn into me, and knock me down. They also grip my hand too hard. I watched one couple stumble around the floor trying to copy the Hambro and nearly get knocked down themselves. Someone finally got them to leave floor, but she was laughing like it was funny, and he was annoyed.

Is it possible to bring back the “Beginners Dance Behind the Line” Rule? It would be good if the folks organizing our parties could make a short announcement, or talk to the beginners about this – for their safety and our safety.

Cranky old dancer

(name withheld by the editor to protect the writer)

SAVE THE WEEKEND!

STATEWIDE IS COMING
TO SACRAMENTO

*** MAY 18-20, 2018 ***

Featured teachers

Steve Kotansky (Balkan)

Bruce Hamilton (English)

More details coming soon!

HISTORY CHANNEL

ALL ABOUT OUR EARLY FESTIVALS

Dear Professor History: We have been reading about the Heritage Festival coming up in January. In the July-August issue of Let's Dance! you mentioned that the councils used to host these festivals and there used to be a lot more of them. My question: which came first – the councils or the festivals?

The short answer is the festivals came first, but I'm sure you'd like more than a short answer. The May 1945 issue of *Let's Dance!* published a complete list of all the festivals beginning in 1942, which pre-dated the first publication of *Let's Dance!*.

Back in the 1940s, there were festivals every month, although they weren't quite what we would consider festivals now. For example, Saturday, February 17, 1945, the Gateswingers of San Francisco hosted a festival. The festival on March 10, 1945, was hosted by the Albany Folk Dancers; the May festival was hosted by Changs. The Gateswingers, the Albany Folk Dancers, and Changs were clubs, not councils. Someone in the Federation was in charge of contacting clubs to ask them to host one of these monthly festivals. They didn't have fancy names (Rose Festival, Sweetheart Festival...), but were just referred to as the May Festival, June Festival, July Festival, etc.

These festivals were not weekend-long events with a workshop or two with a guest teacher. A festival usually consisted of an afternoon dance party (2-6 pm), sometimes including a performance or two, and was sometimes followed by a meal – a potluck, a spaghetti feed or fish fry. One festival in 1945 featured a bonfire and weiner roast. The festivals were held wherever a hall or open space could be found: Castlemont High School in Oakland, the Yacht Harbor at the Marina, Frost Amphitheater on Stanford Campus, or Stern Grove in San Francisco. Outdoor venues were popular in the summer months because gymnasiums and church halls were not air-conditioned. The Statewide Festivals, held on or near Memorial Day Weekend, were the only weekend-long events.

These festivals drew huge crowds of both dancers and spectators: The December 1946 festival, hosted by the Berkeley Folk Dancers, reported over 800 dancers in attendance, with 5000 watching the afternoon exhibitions from the stands. Dinner was held at 15 different East Bay restaurants, and the dance party continued in the evening.

When the councils began forming in the late 1940s, festival hosts began to plan more and more elaborate events, hoping to outdo the previous festival. Most of the festivals lengthened to a full afternoon (either Saturday or Sunday) of dancing and exhibitions, dinner on your own, and more dancing and exhibitions in the evening. A few festivals also featured after-parties that would run until well past midnight.

Beginning in the 1970s, a few festivals became three-day extravaganzas featuring parties Friday and Saturday evening and

morning and afternoon dance classes both Saturday and Sunday with master teachers. For example, the April 1974 UC Festival in Berkeley featured Andor Czompo, Mihai David, Jerry Duke, and Dennis Boxell. Registration was limited to 100 women and 100 men! The cost? \$11!

Other large festivals included the Camellia Festival, the Heritage Festival, and the Harvest Festival.

You probably know the rest of this story: Interest in folk dancing waned, dance clubs and classes closed their doors, and festival attendance declined. Councils also began to dissolve and sometimes a local group accepted responsibility for the festivals. For example, when the East Bay Council decided, in 1998, after 50 (!) years, that it was no longer able to host the Festival of the Oaks, the Berkeley Folk Dancers took over. When the San Francisco Council dissolved, San Francisco clubs began to put on the Blossom Festival. Sometimes the festival shrank back to the afternoon dance party (Fiesta de Sonoma). In other instances, the festival just disappeared from our calendars (the Sweetheart Festival held in February in Napa ceased in 2008).

We will probably never again see monthly festivals held throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, but we all should make a point to attend the festivals that are still being held.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES

We found this photo in the May 1947 issue of *Let's Dance!* He was a folk dance teacher and a square dance caller. When this photo was taken, he was already a *past* president of the Federation. Folk dance teachers across the United States, perhaps throughout the world, bought folk dance records from him. His name?



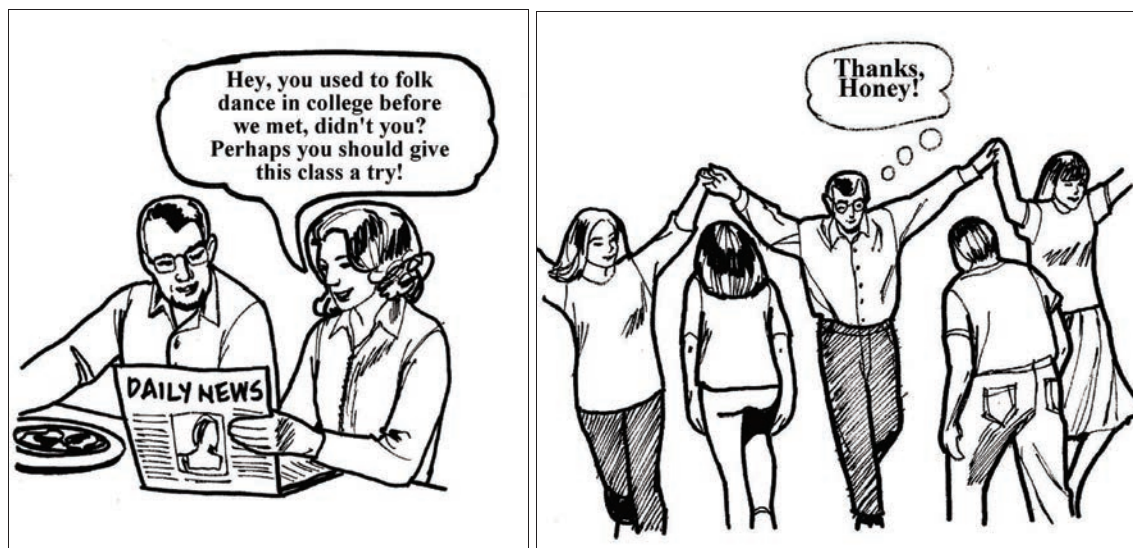
LAST MONTH'S PHOTO was of Edith Cuthbert, who died in early 2017. She attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp for 50 years, starting in 1957. She brought many boxes of records and cassette tapes to Camp each year and managed the music for all the nightly after-parties. It's no wonder she sometimes fell asleep during the day!



In 2014, *Let's Dance!* began running an occasional cartoon illustrating the answer to the question:

Why did YOU start folk dancing?

Artwork by Susan Gregory; text by Loui Tucker



You can share *YOUR* story or the story of a friend by emailing the idea to editor@folkdance.com. No names will be included, so your secret will be safe with us.

DA! MOZHEM

DA! MOZHEM

Live at Kopachka Folk Dancers

Friday, JANUARY 12, 2018

8-11pm \$10

Balkan Folk Dance Party

Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley

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president@kopachkafolkdancers.com or 415-497-4890 (Nadav)

www.kopachkafolkdancers.com

Editor's Note: The Peninsula Folk Dance Council approached me earlier this year about paying for a portion of the expenses of printing *Let's Dance!* in December in exchange for extensive coverage of their upcoming Heritage Festival (January 19-20, 2018). I agreed. As a council member of the Federation, they would be entitled to free advertising, so it is especially nice to have the contribution. I am happy to recognize this very active and energetic group of dancers.

WHAT IS THE PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL?

By Denise Heenan

Amazingly, the earliest minutes of a Peninsula Council Folk Dance Council meeting, dated **November 9, 1951**, are collected in a binder preserved by Gene Fuller, the council treasurer in the early 1950s. The Council was created to allow for equal representation of all local folk and square dance groups, regardless of their membership in the Folk Dance Federation. At that time folk and square dancing were extremely popular, and there was tremendous growth of these groups. The main purpose of the councils was to promote folk and square dancing, assist in the formation of new groups, and to help coordinate club activities in their council areas.

Among the clubs organized then in the Peninsula Council were the Barronaders, Gay Nighters, Docey Doe Folk Dancers, Beresford Park Folk Dancers, Ensemble International, Little House Folk Dancers, Park Towers, Palo Alto Folk Dancers, Y W Twirlers, Stanford Folk Dancers, Square Rounders, Palomanians, and many more. Of those listed above, only the Palomanians and Stanford Folk Dancers remain as active groups and classes, but several other groups have since joined.

Today the Peninsula Folk Dance Council consists of dancers interested in and responsible for monthly dance parties, and our annual Heritage Festival in January (see p. 17). Currently our very competent team of officers consists of Hollis Radin (president), Lesley Bone (treasurer), and Ellie Wiener (secretary). The energy and liveliness of our parties are the result of the ambiance created by our talented decorating staff of Becky Beniares and Ann Kleiman, along with their committed crew. Our monthly parties could not come together without Adony Beniares, our resourceful and competent sound expert. Also, the PFDC is grateful to the many local dancers who provide emcee duties.



Peninsula Council Board and staff (from left): Adony Beniares, Lesley Bone, Becky Beniares, Hollis Radin, Ellie Wiener, Ann Kleiman, and Mike Giusto. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

The 60-plus-years collection of memorabilia mentioned above contains minutes from meetings, programs from various parties and festivals, and publicity, including flyers and newspaper articles. The ongoing yearly Heritage Festival has, over all these years, honored many countries and traditions. Our upcoming festival in January 2018 honors for the first time, our Serbian heritage. Read more about this year's Heritage Festival in this issue of *Let's Dance!* (pp. 15-17). Also see the Registration Form (p. 16) that features a price reduction for early registration. Plan to join us for this weekend of dance, music, and friendship.

Živeli! (Cheers!)



Željko Jergen made a surprise appearance at the October Peninsula Council party. From left, Željko, Lon Radin, Craig Blackstone, Denise Heenan, and Adony Beniares. *Photo by L. Tucker*

JANUARY HERITAGE FESTIVAL TO FEATURE BATA MARČETIĆ

Miroslav “Bata” Marčetić comes to the Bay Area January 19-20, 2018, to his joy of dance at the first Serbian-themed Heritage Festival. Many of us had an opportunity to dance with him in 2011 at the Laguna Festival, in 2012 at North-South Teachers’ Symposium and at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2012 and 2014. His energy and enthusiasm on the dance floor are infectious. Serez, Žagubičanka, and Ravno Oro are just some of the dances he has brought to us.



Bata started dancing at the age of 12 with Abrašević in Pančevo, Serbia. He was a leading performer, soloist and choreographer with Kolo, the Serbian national folk ensemble, in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro for 17 years. As a well-known choreographer, he was chosen by the Folk Dance Association of Serbia to judge folklore competitions 1980-83. He is the artistic director of the Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing, which he established near Toronto, Canada, in 2004.

He came to teaching early, assisting his then-teacher, Dobrivoje Putnik, while dancing with Abrašević, eventually working independently with his own amateur dance group. He began his professional career with Kolo when he was only 20, but continued to teach at a few amateur dance ensembles as well as research traditional Serbian folk dance and songs by going to the villages to learn directly from the people living there. “All of these experiences led me into the world of folklore, and dance became my passion. I quickly realized that this was my life path.”

Bata began sharing his dances with the international folk dance community in 1987 with a seminar in Japan, followed by another in Israel in 1988. He conducted workshops in Canada beginning 1995 and in 2001 in the United States. He has also taught in Taiwan and Brazil.

What brings him the most satisfaction from the work he does? “My greatest satisfaction...is when I see that folklore is being nurtured through young generations and is continuously passed on, from the past, through the present and into the future.” His Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing must contribute greatly with membership currently at 500 and ages ranging from 3 to 83! Both of his daughters, Ivana and Marijana, and granddaughter, Milana, attended the

Academy. Marijana is now an Academy instructor. Some of his early students have also passed on the tradition. “We have many young dancers, whose parents I have taught. Seeing this brings me the most joy.”

Every two or three years, he and his wife, Rodika (manager of the Academy), take a group of dancers to Serbia so they can “directly connect with the culture of Serbia, to see how the local villagers dance, to learn the style and history.” During this year’s tour, his group “performed alongside some of the best cultural-artistic folk dance ensembles in Novi Sad, Pančevo and Kraljevo.”

Bata Marčetić was awarded the Golden Plaque in 2005 by the Cultural-Academic State Association of Serbia in recognition of his dedication to preserving and promoting Serbian folklore and dance in the Canadian-Serbian community.

INTRODUCING OKESTRAR SRMA!

This energetic, young Serbian band will be joining us at the Heritage Festival in January. We first met Nick Vezmer at a SarmaFest (cabbage roll feast) hosted by the Serbian Orthodox Church in Saratoga. Six of us attended the SarmaFest, and we were blown away by the music; we also found that we knew or could easily follow just about every dance that they played. You can hear samples of their music on their website: orkestarsrma.com.

Okestrar Srma was formed 10 years ago when the musicians were still in their teens. The band started playing at small church events, and by the winter of 2009 it was providing dance music at larger Serbian Festivals throughout California. Nick Vezmer, band leader and accordionist, his brother Daniel on bass, and Michael Henning on drums all grew up in San Ramon. John Gligich, on rhythm guitar, is from Fresno. They were inspired by Serbian bands from the midwest, as well as tamburaši from across the country.



They are all college graduates and working now, but still manage to get together regularly to perform.

According to Nick, “Our primary focus is on reviving the Serbian culture and heritage through music, while providing quality entertainment for those who join us in the revival.” We are very happy that Nick and his bandmates were willing to try something new – playing for the international folk dance crowd – and we hope that you will join us January 20 at the Twin Pines Recreation Center in Belmont.

INTRODUCING MLADOST FOLKLORE GROUP

Led by Paul Bunjevic and comprised of dancers from the Serbian Orthodox Churches of the Bay Area, the Mladost Folklore Group will be performing January 20 during the Heritage Festival Saturday evening party. Paul caught our eye at the Saratoga SarmaFest where we also met Nick Vezmer and Orkestar Srma, as he was leading most of the dances!

Mladost Folklore Group has been in existence for 15 years, and has performed throughout the Bay Area, as well as in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and in Third Lake, Illinois and Merrillville, Indiana. The current group is comprised of children in grades 6 through 12. Their goal is to promote their Serbian heritage and culture for generations to come. A video of their 2016 performance in Illinois can be found on YouTube.

We are looking forward to their exhibition and have invited the young dancers and their families to join us at the Saturday afternoon workshop and to stay for the entire evening party as well. Please join us in welcoming them!



The Mladost Folklore Group.

How Many	HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2018 — Advance Registration	Each	Total
	(Both days, save \$10) Friday, Jan 19 (7-10 PM in Los Altos) AND Saturday, Jan 20 (1:30-10:30 PM in Belmont)	\$30	
	(One day, save \$5) Saturday, Jan 20 (1:30-10:30 PM in Belmont)	\$25	
Individual events	\$10 Friday night party, \$15 Saturday afternoon workshop, \$15 Saturday night party Under 12 free, \$5/event ages 13-18	At the door	
	THERE ARE LOTS OF NEARBY RESTAURANTS, but if you prefer, you can order dinner in advance to eat onsite. . . .		
	Saturday Dinner: LARGE WRAP plus GREEK SALAD Must pre-order by Wednesday, January 17th!!!		
	___ Hummus with eggplant/zucchini wrap (VEG) ___ Falafel wrap (VEG)	\$10	
	___ Lamb+beef shawarma wrap ___ Chicken shawarma wrap	\$10	
	Please give or mail this form and your payment to: Lesley Bone, 112 Club Drive, San Carlos, CA 94070 or email form to heritagefolkdance@gmail.com and pay online at folkdance.com	TOTAL:	
REGISTRATIONS: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:			
Name:	Name:		
Contact Email:	Contact Phone:		

HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2018

FRIDAY, January 19th

7:00 to 10:00 pm

Garden House, Shoup Park, 400 University Ave, Los Altos

Opening Party (\$10)

Come share your favorite club dances

Meet Saturday's Workshop Teacher, Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić

SATURDAY, January 20th

Twin Pines Community Center, Belmont

Workshop 1:30 – 4:30 pm (\$15)

Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić

Director of the Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing

With joy & verve Bata will teach a variety of Serbian dances
Previous favorites include Žagubicanča and Serez

*Dinner Break 4:30-6:30 Enjoy dinner in town,
Or order a wrap to enjoy on site (\$10).*

Party 6:30- 10:30 (\$15) (ethnic dress welcomed,
recorded international requests between sets)



Bring snacks to
share

Orkestar Srma - this year's live
Serbian band is passionate about their music.
Come dance with them Saturday!
Tips are appreciated.

Exhibition by Serbian youth group
MLADOST FOLKLORE

Early Bird
\$30

Pay in advance and save! Both Friday AND Saturday for only \$30 (\$40 with supper)
heritagefestival.brownpapertickets.com

Please visit folkdance.com for registration form and maps. Doors open 1/2 hour in advance.

*Email dance requests, questions and registration to
heritagefolkdance@gmail.com*

Sponsored by: the Peninsula Folk Dance Council and the Folk Dance Federation of California, North

Blackstone Jig

(Scotland/USA)

The Blackstone Jig was choreographed by Craig Blackstone in 2016. It was originally presented at Changs International Folk Dance group and has since been presented to several folk dance groups in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as some international locations including Japan and the Czech Republic. Craig also presented it at the 2016 Blossom Festival in San Francisco and during the Dances for All Ages Workshop at the 2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp at University of the Pacific.

Music: 6/8 meter Usually danced on counts 1 and 4; JIG-i-ty, JIG-i-ty or Slow, Slow.
“Calliope House/Cowboy Jig” by Alisdair Fraser

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXIJZ9aawCg>

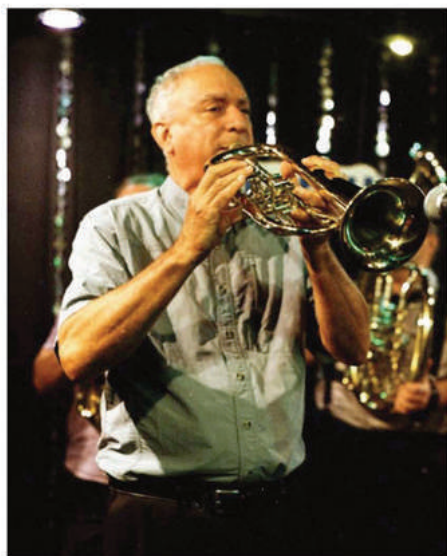
Formation: Closed circle of cpls facing ctr, M on L, W on R, hands in W-pos.

Steps & Styling: Slide or Sashay (to left): Step L to L (ct 1); step R next L (ct 3); repeat (cts 4, 6). This step is usually repeated several times, and can be done with opp ftwk in opp direction.
Set (to right): Small leap onto R to R, bending knee (ct 1); step on L toes next to R and straighten R knee (ct 3); step R in place and extending L diag fwd L (ct 4). This also be done to the left, and is typically done in pairs.

Measure	6/8	PATTERN
		INTRODUCTION. None. Start immediately with music.
I.		<u>ADVANCE AND RETIRE AND ELBOW TURNS.</u>
		<i>Note: Throughout this figure, all steps are walking steps, two steps per meas, on cts 1 and 4.</i>
1-2		Beg R, three steps twd ctr; touch L next to R.
3-4		Beg L, three steps bkwd; touch R next to L.
5-8		Link R elbows with ptr. Beg R, rotate CW in place using 8 walking steps, and end facing ctr in the orig pos in a closed circle.
9-12		Repeat meas 1-4.
13-16		Repeat meas 5-8, linking L elbows and rotating CCW in place. W use the last two steps to unlink elbows, step to ctr and face out, M facing ctr. Ptrs join both hands, R hand joined to L. M take only seven steps and touch L so L ft is free.
II.		<u>SASHAY, SET, AND ARCHES.</u>
1-4		Starting on M's L and W's R, eight sashay steps traveling CW around the circle. On the last sashay, M keep R ft free.
5-6		Set to R; set to L.
7-8		M drops R handhold and lifts L hand in front of his face to form arch with W's R; M walks three steps fwd twd ctr and does a half-turn R to face out while W walks four steps, making a half-turn L and backing through arch to face ctr. W passes to outside on M's R side. Rejoin both hands.
9-12		Repeat meas 1-4, moving CCW, starting on M's L and W's R.
13-14		Repeat meas 5-6.
15-16		M drops R hand and lifts L hand to form arch with W's R. W remains in place facing ctr while M walks four steps fwd passing W's R side, making a half-turn L to face in. All dancers reform circle, hands in W-pos. M has progressed one position to R.

Sequence: Repeat figures until end of music; on last repeat, in Figure I, music slows down during first advance and retire; after second advance and retire, dance ends with ptrs making slow 2-hand CW turn rather than L elbow turn.

70th Annual International Folk Dance Festival of the Oaks



Sunday, February 11, 2018

**Live Oak Park
Community Center**

1301 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709



No partner needed

Registration begins at
9:00 a.m.

Institute with Michael Ginsburg
Master Balkan Dance Teacher & Musician
9:30 - noon – \$13.00

International Folk Dancing
Dances from around the world & Institute Reviews
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – \$12.00

All day – Institute & Folk Dancing
\$22.00

Hot lunch
Noon - 1:00 p.m. – \$6.00

Federation Membership meeting
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
*Folk Dance Federation of California will be
providing lunch for members attending.*

Exhibition Dance Performance
1:00 p.m.

Pre-owned folk dance costume sale
12:30 – 4:30
*Bring items to donate
Consignment sales accepted*

***Free refreshments will be served all
afternoon***

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

For more information:
<http://www.BerkeleyFolkDancers.org>
or email: rg94610@gmail.com

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