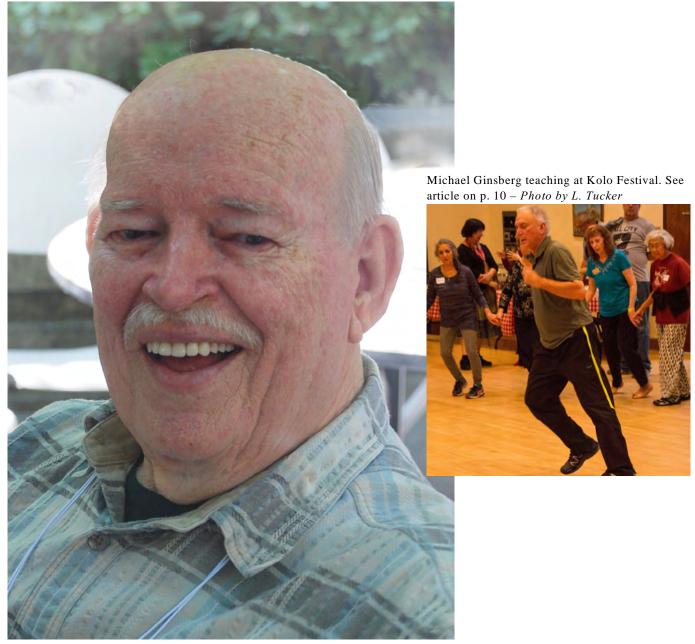
Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 🍋 JANUARY 2017



Thank you, Gary, for your years of dedication to *Let's Dance!* magazine! Enjoy your retirement! More on pp. 6, 7 – *Photo by L. Tucker*

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

Let's Dance!

Volume 74, No. 1 JANUARY, 2017

Editor: Loui Tucker Email: editor@folkdance.com 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126 Council Clips: Contributions from clubs Address change and membership: Alicia La Fetra, Alicia@LaFetra.com Assistant Editor: Karen Bennett Calendar: Loui Tucker, Editor

Federation Officers, North

President: Kevin Greek, president@folkdance.com Vice President: Cynthia Lambert Treasurer: Laura Douglass, treasurer@folkdance.com Recording Secretary: Clem Dickey, clemd@acm.org Editor: Loui Tucker, editor@folkdance.com Website: <u>www.folkdance.com</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/FolkDanceFed</u>

Federation Officers, South

President: Marshall Cates Vice President: Shana Winokur Secretary: Pauline Klak Treasurer: Rick Bingle Website: <u>www.SoCalFolkdance.org</u>

The Federation's **Promotion Fund** is available to Federation members and clubs, in the form of a grant or a loan, to promote a specific dance event or folk dance in general. Read more about this fund and download an application at <u>www.folkdance.com</u> under the **Promotion & Publicity** tab.

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, 226 Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City, CA 94062

Join now: Membership rates:

| Individual \$35/year | (add \$15 for foreign addresses) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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. Alicia La Fetra, 1614 Peacock Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

To post dance event flyers on the Federation's website email: *webmaster@folkdance.com*

IN THIS ISSUE:

| Around the Bay and Beyond 13 |
|--|
| Bits and Pieces 12 |
| Calendar of Events 4 |
| Dance Description: Helenka 18 |
| Discovering a Wealth of Dance Styles in India 17 |
| Eye on Dance 10 |
| From the (New) Editor |
| Good News: The Pope Is a Folk Dancer 12 |
| It's Not Just the Folk Dancing 12 |
| Let's Dance! Archives |
| Many, Many Thanks to Gary 6, 7 |
| President's Message 3 |
| Welcome New Members 8 |
| What's Up Down South 14 |
| Where's Where to Dance? |
| Why Did YOU Start Folk Dancing (Cartoon) 12 |

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.

Your advertising helps support *Let's Dance!* Please make checks payable to the *Folk Dance Federation*. Ad rates:

| | 1⁄4 page | ½ page | full page |
|--------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Member clubs | \$10 | \$20 | \$35 |
| All others | \$15 | \$30 | \$50 |

NOTE: Ads in color are *double* the rate above.

©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.

President's Message

by Kevin Greek

The most important promises are the ones we make to ourselves. The promises we make to ourselves are the things that assure us we have the capacity to keep our promises to others.



-- Mary Ann Radmacher, author and artist.

Another U.S. election year has ended and so have the candidate speeches. It would never be enough for a candidate to promise to just perform their civic duty upon election. What would an election be without some exciting and amazing promises by candidates? We all want bold elected challengers to start the change to our lives and community for the better. Nevertheless, making outrageous promises leads to voter discontent whenever the reality emerges. Attempting difficult promises has also shown to lead to historic bureaucratic failures. When experienced elected officials can't make important promises work, studies showr voters begin to consider that they themselves or an inexperienced outsider like themselves would do better if elected. Any inexperienced captain at the helm of a boat might soon demonstrate how luck plays better than belief and how quickly the confidence of the crew is lost.

Making a promise is easy; fulfilling it is difficult, to which anyone with a bold New Year's resolution may attest. Some of the topmost New Year's resolutions common among people are to become more active, get in shape, meet more people, improve concentration and mental skills, and become more confident. If there is one healthy activity that meets all of these objectives. it is learning and leading dance. What is more rewarding than to find friends who enjoy the physical, social, and mentally challenging activity of learning and practicing dance with you? Looking for other suggestions? Studies find that people who are searching for new directions in life find new purpose and interest in devoting their time and spirit to help others. Make the outcome of your New Year's resolution benefit others and it will be treasured. Whatever your resolution, avoid making broad political promises.

This January 13 and 14, the annual Heritage Festival returns, divided between two locations: Friday in Palo Alto at the First Baptist Church and Saturday at the Belmont Twin Pines Community Center. Roberto Bagnoli is the featured master instructor Saturday. This year's theme is an exciting special tribute to all local Bay Area dance clubs featuring their favorite dances, special moments captured by photos, displays, and more. Both Friday and Saturday evening parties are not to be missed! Look for more details in this issue.

Membership in the Federation has hovered at slightly above 400 for about a decade, but is now below that number. This trend isn't indicative of anything more than that we haven't promoted new membership enough lately. We always lose members who age out, but in the past we have been able to replace them with new members. Why is dropping below 400 members important? Fewer members means less money to spend on printing and mailing *Let's Dance!*, for Federation-sponsored festivals and workshops, on scholarships, and on promoting dance in the greater community during the year. The more riders on the bus, the more likely the bus will still run, and be affordable for all.

Do you have friends that especially enjoy social activities such as dance, are interested in international cultures, ethnic dance performances, or perform dance themselves? Are they dance students, professionals, educators, administrators, or advocates, young or old? If they are not already members, consider starting their 2017 by giving them the gift of membership in the Federation, a gift that will impact their interests and social life for years to come! Membership in the Federation helps them to connect with other dance enthusiasts, support folk dance workshops, as well as receive information on folk dance activities, news, and a dance description in each issue of *Let's Dance!*, the official publication of the Federation. Look to *folkdance.com* for a registration form and either mail dues by check or pay online.

Membership is the lifeblood of the Folk Dance Federation, as it is for any organization. There are four different types of membership in the Federation: individual, family, group, and student. Individual members are eligible for scholarships to folk dance classes, workshops, or camps. Family membership enables everyone in your household to share the benefits of membership at a reasonable price. Group members are eligible for free promotion on the Federation website and discounted advertising in *Let's Dance!* Group members who need to provide liability insurance at their dance venues are also happy to know they may apply and obtain this affordably through the Federation. Finally, students may obtain membership at a discounted price. Membership dues are now as affordable as a standard magazine subscription. If one does nothing else as a member, one can receive and read each issue of *Let's Dance!* in the mail as you would for the price of a retail magazine.

The Folk Dance Federation is a non-profit, member-driven organization with members who vote, hold office, organize dance clubs and events, advocate dance, develop world-class publications, teach, choreograph, perform, and a host of other professional activities. To a large extent, members determine the future directions of the Federation and, more importantly, join together to enhance dance and cultural appreciation in their communities and beyond.

Members of the Federation are diverse. Of the fewer than 400 members of the Federation, 62 members are outside of California, and a few individuals and libraries are outside the U.S. Although these members are outside California, they share the interest in folk dance and friends we do here. I'd be interested in reading a message from any member outside California and learn what they appreciate in Federation membership.

Reach me at *president@folkdance.com* if you would like to share your membership experience, have membership drive suggestions, or have a New Year's resolution you've met through dance.

New Year's Resolution #1: Be More Awesome than last year.



JANUARY, 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*. Additional dance events can be found at *www.folkdance.com* (Upcoming Events tab). The deadline for listings is one month prior to the magazine date.

Upcoming Events —

- December 31NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK AND PARTY. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto.20166:30 pm-12:30 am. MC'd by Loui Tucker and Lucy Chang. Sponsored by the Moveable Feet Club. Contact
LucySChang@gmail.com
- January 12-21ROBERTO BAGNOLI NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TOUR 2017. In addition to the Heritage Festival (below),2017Roberto will be giving dance workshops in Saratoga (Jan. 12), Berkeley (Jan. 16), Sacramento (Jan. 18), Chico (Jan. 19),
Redding (Jan. 20), and Palo Alto (Jan. 21). See www.folkdance.com for details.
- January 13-14 HERITAGE FESTIVAL. Friday and Saturday, two locations. Friday night dancing with Roberto Bagnoli, 7:30-10:30 pm at First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto (\$10). Saturday afternoon workshop with Roberto Bagnoli (\$15) at Twin Pines Center, 20 Twin Pine Lanes, Belmont. Saturday evening party (\$15) at Twin Pines Center, 20 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont. Info: Hollis Radin hollisradin@pacbell.net. See flyer on p. 11.
- January 21 BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS BIRTHDAY BALL. Saturday dinner 6 pm, Dancing 7:30-10:30 pm. Scottish Theme "Highland Fling." Dinner and Dance \$24, Dance only \$10.
- January 22 THE 7TH ANNUAL CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL. Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90701. 1:00-5:45 pm. The theme of the workshop is "East Meets West." The master teachers for western and eastern dances are Roberto Bagnoli and Rebecca Tsai, respectively. Info: Wen Chiang (562) 865-8854, or CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com.
- February 3-4 TWO DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH NINA KAVARDJIKOVA. Nina will present different Bulgarian dances at these two workshops: (1) Friday, 8-11 pm and (2) Saturday 5:30-10:30 pm. Sponsored by the Stanford Folk Dancers and the Moveable Feet Club. Both workshops are at First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. Contact Melissa at medonosna@gmail.com or Lucy at LucySChang@gmail.com.
- February 12FESTIVAL OF THE OAKS. Doors open at 9:00 am. Dance workshop with Sanna Longden 9:30-noon. Hot lunch noon-1:00
pm, dancing 1:00-5:00 pm. Costume sale 1:00-4:00 pm. Live Oak Park Recreation Room, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.
- March 4 A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR ANGEL TAM. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. 6:00 pm-10:00 pm. Sponsored by the Changs International Folk Dancers and the Moveable Feet Club. Contact Craig Blackstone at crb2crb@comcast.net or Lucy at LucySChang@gmail.com.
- March 3-5 LAGUNA FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL (47th annual). Cristian Florescu and Sonis Dion and Ahmet Luleci are the teachers this year, along with Balkan music workshops led by Miamon Miller, singing classes and sing-alongs with Michael Lawson, and live music provided by The Garlic Band and others. 24112 Moulton Parkway, Clubhouse 2, Laguna Woods (enter at Gate 12).
- March 17-18CAMELLIA FESTIVAL (61st annual). Teachers this year are Jaap Leegwater (Bulgarian) and Richard Powers (American and
European Partner Dances). Polish-American Hall, 327 Main St., Roseville, CA 95678 Cost: \$40 for all Friday and Saturday events
(per-event pricing available). Info: Barbara at dancesong20@ att.net or 916-923-1555 or www.folkdancesac.org.
- March 25
 BALKAN PLUS PARTY. Lots of great dances from the past. 7:30-10:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael. Info: Gary at wildwood_press@comcast.net.
- April 22ANNUAL 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.. Info: Carol Friedman, cjay@horizoncble.com.



MANY, MANY THANKS TO GARY!

Editor's Note: My original plan was for Gary to supply me with the factual information, which I would then edit into a third-person article that would read more like an interview. What he sent me was so charming and genuine, I decided to print it just as he wrote it. Here's Gary, in his own words:

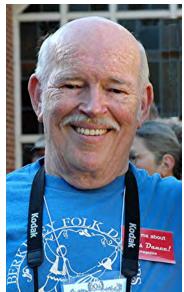
My first memories of any kind of dance are when I rode along with my father to pick up musicians for a dance at our farm in Kansas. I was probably 4 or 5 years old. My folks were involved in social and square dance, and they took an active role in putting on the local dances.

We moved to California in 1942. After the war we moved to a house in San Anselmo. I loved it there. We could ride our bikes to the movies in San Anselmo and San Rafael. While we lived in San Anselmo, my folks became involved with a square dance group in Brown's Hall in Mill Valley. My folks eventually ended up running it, and hauling the equipment back and forth. Dad was one of the callers, but he welcomed other callers. We had people carpooling from Turlock and bringing their caller! I would program the round dances, and I bought some of the records.

Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley had a folk dance club, and I quickly joined as a freshman. The girls were expecting a bunch of jocks to join, and all they got was one skinny freshman! The club didn't last long. On rainy days, the gym classes for the girls would be held in half of the gym and they would do folk dances. I fell in love with the music.

A friend who was old enough to get a driver's license heard about Changs classes at the College of Marin, and we started going there. We did some great dances (nearly all couple dances). I remember learning Hopak and the Russian Peasant dance there. I loved those dances then and I still do, even though I'm too old to do them as they should be done.

I met my first wife, Marie Sandgren, at an event that my folks put on to introduce square dancing to a riding club in Sleepy Hollow,



Gary in 2007. Note the red badge: "Ask me about *Let's Dance!* magazine." – *Photo by G. Milton*

San Anselmo (they did that kind of thing a lot). I would go along to help set up the equipment and demonstrate dance figures. Marie was the niece of a friend of my folks and they asked me to take her to the dance. I did, and found the love of my life. We were married for 39 years before she died of colon cancer.

We were square dancers and social dancers, and Marie knew a lot of Charleston steps which she would throw into swing dances. We also belonged to a square dance club in San Rafael, and I became the entertainment chairman, tasked with hiring the callers for our monthly parties. I edited my first publication at this time. Marie and I belonged to a young married group at my church that wanted to start a monthly magazine to inform people about the church and its activities. I named the magazine "Waterlog," and I bought a Gestetner automatic mimeograph machine to print it.

Our square dancing came to an end when I was put on a night shift at the Independent-Journal. Square dancing was changing a lot by then and had separated from the folk dancers. If you didn't go to regular dances you wouldn't know the new dance figures, so we hit a dry spell for dancing.

Halfway around the floor I stopped and said that this might go better if she let me lead for awhile. After Marie died I didn't do anything for two years. Dismayed by my weight gain. I decided to take a square dance class for the exercise. I mentioned that I used to do folk dancing, and a folk dancer friend at the club accompanied me to the Marin Balkan Dancers, where I met Irene Croft. I was immediately impressed by her character and intelligence. I was also impressed that I knew only a few of the dances they did!

One night we carpooled to Ashkenaz and they played a waltz. Irene asked me if I could waltz. "Of course!" I said, and we set

off. Halfway around the floor I stopped and said that this might go better if she let me lead for awhile. Irene was noted for her quick temper and when she didn't explode, I felt I might have chance with her! We were married in 1998 in Reno, Nevada, while attending a Tamburitza gathering. Irene died of a bad heart in 2012, and I miss her tremendously.

Irene and I were both interested in advanced dances and we would attend Marcel Vinokur's parties, Irene so that she had an opportunity to do the great dances and me so that I could learn them. Out of that desire came the Advanced Balkan class at Ashkenaz. I would line up great teachers of the classic dances and we would have a Sunday afternoon learning/dancing from teachers like Dan Unger, Todd Wagner, Martin Frost and Davida Munkres.

We joined the Folk Dance Federation and when the group sent a thank you letter welcoming us to the Federation, I was disturbed by the terrible reproduction of the letterhead. I printed up a ream of new letterhead with clean fresh type and sent the box to the Federation

President at that time, Laila Messer. When the editor of Let's Dance (the magazine's name didn't have an exclamation point then) quit in early 2004, and Laila started looking for someone to do the next issue, she contacted me. I told her I would print the whole magazine for just a little more than her source had asked just for doing the layout. I did the job, the Federation liked what I produced, and that was the start of nearly 13 years of producing Let's Dance!



Gary's first issue of Let's Dance!

Gary started a group just so he could learn some hard dances. Then he started a yearly thing just to make other dancers happy. He played Santa to me one year and made Let's Dance! appear in my mailbox for a year. Gary has been around long enough to have strong opinions: the old dances are the best ones. I'm happy to have known him for so long, and honored to have him call me a friend. - Dan Unger

l can only say that he seemed to epitomize the idea of hard deadlines with a soft-edged landing. - Memo Keswick Thank you, Gary, for coercing me into writing my first article. Who knew it would lead to 13 years of collaboration!? You have done wonders with the magazine and it's been a pleasure working with you. Happy retirement. – Eileen Kopec

> Patient, agreeable, generous, kind, and very flexible are just a few words that describe Gary and his excellent Let's Dance! publishing. Job well done, Gary! – Denise Heenan

Gary has been easy to work with as an editor, quietly giving of his time editing, compiling, and printing – work few of us would willingly do, a soft-spoken gentleman fond simply of folk dance and family. His retirement will enable him to sit back in his easy chair and read Let's Dance! at his leisure or let them pile up on the living room side table if he chooses. Wishing you the best of happiness, Gary! – Kevin Greek



Gary and staff writer Eileen Kopec in 2007 – Photographer unknown

Gary Anderson has retired as editor of *Let's Dance!* magazine after nearly 13 years. It is a rare gift of tenacity and stamina that keeps someone in that job for so long. Most of the past editors lasted a few years. Vi Dexheimer (1959-1972) and Gary Anderson (2004-2016) were the two editors who felt it was more of a calling than a job. I hope I can live up to the standards he has set. – Loui Tucker



Gary with first wife, Marie, and son Eric, approx. 1975 – Photo by G. Anderson (using a timer)

When I returned to international folk dancing, I found Gary Anderson and Irene Croft's wonderful Advanced Balkan class. It was there that I got to know Gary and his vision of notable dances. I asked him what about these dances he liked and he said they were real, unique, and captivating. I thank Gary for his unfailing support while I was President of the Folk Dance Federation. I am fortunate to have found Gary. May our dancing paths cross forever. - Lucy Chang



Gary with second wife, Irene – Photo by G. Anderson (using a timer)

Set's Dance!

From The (New) Editor Change is inevitable...

Assuming the job of editor of *Let's Dance!* magazine has already proven to be quite an adventure and as I write this in late November, I



Your editor, after a recent face-painting.

have barely begun to assemble the January 2017 issue. I knew there was more to it than just cutting and pasting text from contributors into a template, but I didn't know how much more!

I have already told a few people that it feels a bit like taking the reins of what appears to be a docile horse. I am fearful that one misguided spur in the ribs is going to see me bucked off and eating dust. While I have been writing, proofreading and assisting Gary for some time, I have no idea how to feed the beast, or groom it, or exercise it, or how to muck out the stall. The next few months are going to be an education.

I want to continue many of the traditions that have stood the test of time, but changes are inevitable. Having scanned hundreds of back issues of *Let's Dance!* (the on-line collection is now complete through 2006), I know that changes have been made in the past, from reducing the size of the magazine, to adding color and then returning to black-and-white, from including articles about square dancing and costumes to adding articles about dancerelated websites and how to create a Meetup group. As we changed as a dance community, so has *Let's Dance!* magazine.

Something that will drive some of the change will be a need to cut costs. Gary Anderson was not just the editor. He printed *Let's Dance!* magazine himself. He was a printer by occupation and had his own print shop, Wildwood Press. When he retired, the printing equipment took up residence in his living room and he continued to print *Let's Dance!* for us – at a deep, friend-of-the-family discount. My first task was to find a new printer.

We got quotes for printing *Let's Dance!* from five different printers and even the least expensive ones will cost us significantly more than Gary was charging.

We are looking at many options:

- ✓ <u>Decrease the size of the magazine</u>. Reducing the magazine from 24 to 20 pages won't solve the problem, but it will help a bit.
- ✓ Print in black-and-white. This will reduce the impact of photos, but it may be a necessary sacrifice.
- <u>Print fewer issues</u>. Eliminate one issue per year and publish 9 issues instead of 10.
- ✓ Sell more advertising and/or increase the cost of advertising. More ads also mean less space for content.
- ✓ <u>Solicit printing help from our members</u>. Perhaps some dancer reading *Let's Dance*! will say, "Hey, my son-in-law owns a print shop. I wonder if he'd be willing to give us a good price...."
- ✓ <u>Sponsors</u>. We could solicit individual members, clubs and councils to sponsor an issue each year for, say, \$300. The member/club/council's name would appear prominently and acknowledge the sponsorship.

✓ Increase dues. We last raised membership dues in 2010.

No firm decisions have been made yet except to reduce the size of *Let's Dance!* magazine this month. You may nor may not notice that this issue is 20 pages instead of the more typical 24 pages. In order to maximize the content, the *Where to dance* section that took up the last 3½ pages has been eliminated. It was felt that the vast majority of the information on those pages is available on the Folk Dance Federation's website, *www.folkdance.com* (or it should be). If you feel this action was taken in haste or without sufficient input, and you would like to see those pages reinstated, please let me know.

Another change I will be making is to include some information about events in Southern California. For several decades (mid-1950 to late-1980s) there was a regular column in *Let's Dance!* called *Echoes from the Southland*. Usually just one person submitted the information, but I don't want to burden any individual with that responsibility month after month. Instead, I have asked a half-dozen or so dance leaders to send me interesting information

> when they get it, and a photo of they have it. My goal is to increase communication between Southern California and our neck of the woods. Take a look at *What's Up Down South*.

I have also communicated with dancers and dance leaders in areas outside of the immediate S.F. Bay area such as Eureka, Willits, Chico, Redding, the Sierra Foothills, and San Luis Obispo. Yes, the Federation has members there, and so far they seem willing to send information about what's happening in their dance communities. In light of this outreach, I've renamed Council & Club Clips. Take a look at

Around the Bay and Beyond.

Of course I welcome any and all comments on what I have done and what is being planned, and the cost-cutting we may be facing. This is, after all, your magazine, and I want it to be something you are proud of, want to read, and want to show to others.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Clarke and Lorena Vallero La Honda, CA

Caroll Dickinson Tracy, CA

Ray Sundby Newark, CA

Rick and Elizabeth Henderson San Jose, CA

Megan Wolf and Jordan Uggla Willits, CA Andrew Greenberg San Francisco, CA

Kathy Molga Laguna Niguel, CA

JANUARY 2017

I want to continue many of the traditions that have stood the test of time.





INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

Roseville, California Polish-American Hall, 327 Main St., Roseville, CA 95678

MARCH 17 & 18, 2017

Workshops with guest teachers:

American & European Partner Dances

www.JAAP LEEGWATER www.

Bulgarian Non-partner Dances



SCHEDULE

Friday, March 17: 7:00-11:00 PM Opening Party - \$10.00 Saturday, March 18: 1:00-2:50 PM - Bulgarian workshop - \$15.00 3:10-5:00 PM - American/European workshop - \$15.00 5:00-7:00 PM - Dinner break (many nearby restaurants) 7:00-11:00 PM - Party - \$10.00

EXTRA: Special Performances by Skalinada, Veselka, & Sonechko! *SPECIAL PRICE - \$40 FOR ALL FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENTS*

Sponsored by the Sacramento International Folk Dance & Arts Council Members of the Folk Dance Federation of California & the National Folk Organization - all 501(c)3 organizations Information: <u>www.folkdancesac.org</u> or <u>dancesong20@att.net</u> or 916-923-1555

Eye on Dance by Eileen! Kolo Festival 2016, the 65th year!

Kolo Festival has reached retirement age, as have many of the people attending. You wouldn't know it from observing the energy of our amazing community of folk dancers, including Kolo Festival's indefatigable nonagenarian founder, John Filcich. I'm happy to report that the Festival was as vigorous as ever.

The Festival was again held in the familiar Croatian American Culture Center and had two excellent and accomplished teachers, Yannis Konstantinou from Macedonia, and Michael Ginsberg from New York. Their teaching couldn't have been more different, but they are both charming, energetic, extremely knowledgeable, and have an obvious love of dancing. Dancing was the emphasis, but music (where would the dancing be without it?), singing, and performances all rounded out the two days to achieve a perfect balance.

Yannis reviewed a few favorite dances that he taught last year, like Sofka, and taught some delicious new ones. I appreciate small tidbits during teaching sessions, such as when Yannis told us that many of us would be pulled out of the line in the village because our feet were scraping the ground and that meant we would be kicking up too much dust! He explained that people in the villages don't only dance for fun, but for a sense of family and community. When leading a dance, he would have the people most important to him dancing next to him in line.

Yannis' footwork was so amazing to watch, showing what can happen if you grew up in Macedonia and started dancing at an early age. There was no dust under Yannis's feet. I do wish we had more of the basics cemented in our brains before trying all those embellishments. It's my goal to constantly improve on improvisations, and if I can pick up a couple of new moves, I feel I'm growing my dance vocabulary. Thank you, Yannis.

Michael made up for his lack of being "ethnic" with excellent teaching skills and by introducing a wide range of dances. He broke down the patterns so well, and he made you remember some dances

without relying on him. He taught a mix of very lively complicated dances with a few easy village ones, sometimes accompanying our dancing with his trumpet. He also had interesting tidbits, like the fact that Bulgarians now want to connect with their dancing roots, but don't know their village's dances, so they learn dances from Youtube! Now they are all doing the same dances in the same way. Welcome to recreational folk dancing.



Yannis Konstantinou teaching at Kolo Festival. – Photo by J. Croco

After lunch (deliciously served by Hristo), you could choose kolos or culture corner. The kolos were taught by the two

Johns, Morovich and Filcich. John Morovich has a wealth of knowledge of Croatian dances and is also a musician, often playing his tambura while teaching. He's a truly multi-talented person, who also taught the singing class and led the tamburica band in the evening. Maria Bebelekova and Michele Simon also taught singing. John Filcich is still teaching kolos. He imparts his traditions and styling effortlessly. And I challenge anyone half his age to match the bounce in his step! He was telling me how he had (metaphorically) died and gone to heaven a few weeks ago: he was at a weekend waltz and polka festival. Go get 'em, John, my favorite waltz partner.



The crowd at night during Kolo Festival - Photo by J. Croco

Michael gave an amusing culture talk on Saturday. He talked about how his parents schlepped him at an early age to international couples dancing classes. He said the first Balkan dance that made a big splash was èaèak. One day he realized when thinking about a dance he was trying to learn, that he had a better way to explain it than his teacher He was only 15. Soon after, he started teaching. He also started playing the trumpet, but only because he had braces and couldn't play the clarinet because it would have pushed out on his teeth! He hilariously related the story of his brass band, Zlatne Uste, being invited to the famous Guca competition in 1987.

For some people, when the afternoon classes ended around 5:00 pm, the day was over, but for the live music enthusiasts, it was just starting at 6:30 when the bands rolled out and the party began. I was glad to see healthy crowds both nights. Mark Angel did a fantastic job of putting live video feeds on the Kolo Festival's Facebook page. It's so hard to describe to non-dancing friends and relatives what it's like to be in a line of a 100-plus dancers snaking around a band. This year those non-dancers were able to get a small taste of the experience.

There were many memorable moments to savor. Michael and

Yannis each led several dances in the evenings. Both evenings, the gajda players and other musicians played a touching set to the esteemed and much-missed Vassil Bebelekov. We were also treated to two performances from the Radost dance group from Seattle. I was talking to one of their younger members, asking how he got into folk dancing, when I discovered that he was the nephew of Asha Goldberg. It was my turn to mist up. For those of you who remember Asha, you will know how I felt.

at Kolo The Festival committee did a wonderful job. The attention to detail was superb, from the coffee and tea table, snacks, a board listing all the dances taught and when, having people available to walk you to your car at night, to the seamless transition of bands. Ivan Velev did a great job as Kafanameister. Big thanks to Bill Cope and Kaela Fine and all the other organizers and volunteers.

Next year Michael Ginsburg will be back. He emphasized how important our Kolo Festival is for Balkan dance, and what an extremely high level of musicians and dancers we have in the Bay Area. He said it was an honor to be chosen to teach and to be asked back. I remember Yves Moreau saying the same thing the last time he was at Kolo Festival – and Yves Moreau will be back next year too! Hope to see you all there!

Heritage Festival 2017

Celebrating the Heritage and Diversity of our Local International Folk Dance Clubs!

Friday, January 13 OPENING NIGHT PARTY

7:30-10:30 PM

\$10 donation requested (under 18 free!) doors open at 7:15

First Baptist Church 305 N. California Ave. Palo Alto

Come party with Roberto and get a sneak preview of the Saturday workshop!

Wear a T-shirt or button (or two!) (or three!) from your favorite clubs

Peninsula Clubs

Stanford Folk Dancers • Saratoga Folk Dance Family • Palomanians • Moveable Feet • Mostly Balkan • Carriage House Dancers • Dances from Hungary and Transylvania • The Land Dancers

Our Friends Near and Far

Changs • Berkeley Folk Dancers Mandala Folk Dancers • Del Valle Folk Dancers Cabrillo Folk Dancers • East Bay Folk Dancers

Two different locations-Please see maps on reverse

Saturday, January 14 INSTITUTE WORKSHOP

Twin Pines Community Center 20 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont (close to restaurants, lots of parking, great floor)

with Master Teacher Roberto Bagnoli

1:30 to 4:30 PM

\$15 donation requested (under 18 free!) Registration opens at 1 PM

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY 7:00-10:30 PM

\$15 donation requested (under 18 free!) Registration starts at 6:45 PM

Wear your favorite ethnic costume!

Sponsored by:

the **Peninsula Folk Dance Council** and the **Folk Dance Federation of California, North**

email dance requests to: heritagefolkdance@gmail.com

BITS AND PIECES

It's Not Just Folk Dancing

by Carol Friedman

These past few weeks, folk dancing has felt like more than just fun and community. It has felt like family, a refuge, a safe place.

During the week after the election, folks walked into every class looking despondent and shell-shocked, so I told them that we would not be talking about politics; we would simply dance.

And that wonderful magical thing happened. I put the music on, we took hands in our circle, our feet found the steps, and by moving together in harmony and unison we found what is best in all of us and our country and our world. By the end of each class, everyone was laughing and happy.

These weeks have been a reminder of how central and important and wonderful this thing called folk dancing is, and how important it is for all of us to cherish our dancing communities. So, here's a shout-out to my students, fellow dance teachers, and fellow folk dancers.

GOOD NEWS THAT DESERVES REPEATING: THE POPE IS A FOLK DANCER

by Bill Lidicker

Pope Francis is quoted as saying "I love tango, and I used to dance when I was young" in the October 2016 issue of AARP's (Amer. Assoc. of Retired People) publication. Surprisingly, in this issue there is a six-page spread on dance that even more surprisingly is titled "Let's Dance!" Now doesn't that lift one's spirits?

THE LET'S DANCE! ARCHIVES

After many dozens of hours spent organizing, scanning, and uploading, the Archives Committee is delighted to announce that the on-line collection of back issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine, from its inception in 1944 to 2006, is complete. The next job will be to start working forward from 2007. Viewing these magazine is a walk through the dance halls of time with our community. You can read about the controversies (couple dances yielding to kolos, folk dance versus "fake" dance, and request parties versus preprinted dance programs), rehash over and over again what you thought were new issues (how do we attract young dancers?), and see what was important to earlier generations of dancers (recipes! costume patterns!). The covers alone are worth your time.

Go to *www.folkdance.com*, click on the *Let's Dance! magazine* tab and then the *Let's Dance! Archives* option. Sit back and enjoy!

WHY DID *YOU* START FOLK DANCING?

Late one night after dancing, a group of dancers shared stories of how or why they started folk dancing. The reasons were as varied as the people. *Let's Dance!* has published a series of cartoons highlighting some of the more amusing accounts. Below is the latest cartoon.

If you'd like to share YOUR story, email *Let's Dance!* Editor Loui Tucker at *editor@folkdance.com* and tell her YOUR reason. You could also share someone else's story, if you think they might be too shy. Susan Gregory, the Federation's resident artist, will draw the cartoon and it will appear in a future issue of *Let's Dance!* No names will be mentioned, so your story will be safe with us!



I was getting into trouble with the wrong crowd in high school, so my mother decided I would not be allowed to hang out by myself after school or in the evenings.



That meant going to her folk dance classes with her. I spent the first month slumped on a chair in the corner, scowling and pouting.



Then one day I got up and tried doing one of the dances because I kinda liked the music. Bingo - I was hooked. I've been dancing ever since, and it's been almost 25 years!

AROUND THE BAY AND BEYOND

SACRAMENTO - Barbara Malakoff

Sacramento's big spring event is always **The Camellia International Folk Dance Festival**. This year it's March 17-18, at the Polish American Hall, 327 Main Street, Roseville (see P. 9). Our featured teachers this year are Richard Powers teaching American and European Partner Dances, and Jaap Leegwater teaching Bulgarian non-partner dances. Contact: dancesong20@ att.net or 916-923-1555. We had a fabulous festival last year and we're expecting this one its equal. There will be performances, as yet undisclosed.

Check out "Camellia Festival" under SIFDAC EVENTS on the main SIFDAC web page: folkdancesac.org. While you are there, check out the main menu bar SIFDAC EVENTS. Under that you will see CAMELLIA FESTIVAL. Double click on that to find pictures and videos of the last few years' Camellia Festivals plus a section on the history of the Camellia Festival. There are priceless photos of the early festivals in the mid-50s, including photos of the Camellia Queen. Some of you may remember that Bruce Mitchell's first wife, Ginny, was a Camellia Queen.

Best wishes to **Tom Martin and Lorraine Biner**, who got married in November. It was real folk dance wedding, featuring folk dancing at the reception and live music by Jim Shoemaker. Congratulations and best wishes to them!

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS - Naomi Lidicker

Hopefully *Let's Dance!* will come in time to remind you of our traditional **New Year's Eve Party** at the Live Oak Social Hall, Shattuck at Berryman, Berkeley from 9:00 pm to midnight on Saturday, December 31. It's an All-Request Evening so ask for your favorite dances. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. They are all welcome. It is a wonderful and safe way to end a hectic year, and a great excuse to don your new or favorite fineries. Don't forget your dancing shoes! We will have snacks and punch. All this for only \$5 for members and \$7 for others. For questions contact: Neil Collier 510-524-2671.

We are looking forward to **Roberto Bagnoli's workshop** on Monday, January 16 at Live Oak Social Hall in Berkeley. Join us from 7:30-10:00 pm (\$8 for members; \$10 for others). Contact Bill Lidicker 510-528-9168.

BFD is celebrating 75 years of dancing with a dinner and dance **Birthday Ball. "Highland Fling**" will be on Saturday, January 21 at Live Oak Social Hall in Berkeley. \$24 will cover a Scottish dinner with dancing and a demonstration of Highland dancing. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner served at 6:00 pm, dancing 7:30-10:30 PM. For those who wish to come to dancing only, the cost is only \$10. A silent auction will be held. We welcome your valuable items to the auction. This is sure to be a festive evening, headed by our own Scotsman, Neil Collier. For further information contact Neil at 510-524-2671.

Don't forget to mark your calendar: Sunday, February 12 is our annual **Festival of the Oaks**!

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Denise Heenan

The Peninsula Folk Dance Council is pleased to announce that the annual **Heritage Festival** will take place January 13-14, 2017, at two different locations, celebrating the heritage and diversity of the many folk dance groups on and near the San Francisco Peninsula. On **Friday night the Festival begins at the First Baptist Church Hall, 305 N. California Avenue, Palo Alto**. We will be featuring dances special to our many local folk dance groups, such as Stanford Folk Dancers, Saratoga Folk Dance Family, Mostly Balkan, Palomanians, Carriage House Dancers, and the Land Dancers, as well as favorite dances from Saturday's Institute teacher, Roberto Bagnoli, who will be our guest at the Friday night party. Loui Tucker will MC. Don't forget to wear your favorite club T-shirt, buttons, or stickers!

On Saturday, the Festival moves to the Twin Pines Recreation Center, Belmont, where Roberto will teach the afternoon Institute. Dinner is on your own in downtown Belmont. Please wear your favorite folk dance costume to the closing party on Saturday night. Again we will be featuring favorite dances from our local clubs, as well as sample dances from nearby clubs and local specialty groups. Adony Beniares, Ken Kaye and Denise Heenan will be sharing MCs duties Saturday night. We will have displays of photos, banners and posters from many groups. Be sure to check out the binder of past dance programs collected by Don Burnham.

Don't miss this fantastic annual event. Other surprises are in store, so come and join your folk dance friends for this very special weekend and a chance to get to know other groups a little better. Email your dance requests to heritagefolkdance@gmail.com. Thanks to the Peninsula Council, the Folk Dance Federation and generous sponsors, anyone under 18 will be admitted FREE to the any of the Heritage Festival parties and/or the Institute workshop!

Moveable Feet hosted a Pre-Kolo Festival Kick-off Party with Sue Williard teaching Iliev's Novoselsko and Moreau's Staro Pomaško followed by *Zabava!* playing Bulgarian, Macedonian, Roma, and Greek music. *Zabava!* showed its versatility by starting the party with a mixer, La Bastringue, and ending with a slow waltz – 2 signature events of the Moveable Feet club. *Zabava!* played Happy Birthday as Moveable Feet celebrated its third birthday. The three winners of free passes to the next Moveable Feet event were Melissa Miller, Maria Markoff and Kris Kimble. Cake and refreshments were enjoyed by all in the Kafana. For the first quarter of 2017, Moveable Feet will host **Roberto Bagnoli** on Saturday, January 21 from 6:30-11:00 pm, and **Nina Kavardjikova** on Saturday, February 4, 5:30-10:30 pm. Please join us and Changs Folk Dancers for a **Celebration of Life honoring Angel Tam** on Saturday, March 4. All three events will be held at First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. Contact LucySChang@gmail.com.

The **Stanford Folk Dancers** will host **Nina Kavardjikova** on February 3, 2017. More details to follow.

<u>REDDING FOLK DANCERS</u> – Lenore Frigo

Just before Thanksgiving we had a party honoring **Jan Wright**, one of our groups beloved founding members, because she was moving to the Pasadena area where her daughter lives. We'll miss Jan's kindness, graciousness, and dance expertise, and will always be grateful for all the time and effort she put into organizing and nurturing the Redding Folk Dancers.

On January 20, we'll be hosting a workshop by **Roberto Bagnoli** as he tours Northern California. We're looking forward to his skilled presentation and teaching, especially on behalf of our members who aren't able to travel to camps or workshops out of town.

What's Up Down South?

- News from Southern California -

Welcome Home, Laguna dancers

by Marcella Lawson

The Laguna International Dancers recently enjoyed a rousing homecoming party to celebrate the return to their permanent dance venue, newly remodeled Clubhouse 2 in Laguna Woods Village. After more than a year of dancing in nearly every clubhouse in the village – including a few tiled and carpeted multipurpose rooms and an occasional concrete patio – the return home was a great event for the 25+ dancers and musicians.

Longtime member Betty Solloway loves everything about the renovated clubhouse: "It's light and airy and spacious, has a wonderful floor and wonderful lighting. We're so lucky to be here."

Paulette Stochel, who always has a towel handy, appreciates that it is classy and cool. "I especially love the ceiling fans!" Maggie Lee enjoys that there is plenty of room, inside and out! Daniel Cohen appreciates that the beautifully finished facility has lots of nice alcoves on the patio to relax and catch up with old friends.

This hall will be the venue for the 47th Annual Laguna Festival (March 3-5, 2017) with favorite teachers Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion (Romanian dances) and Ahmet Lüleci (Turkish dances). Mark your calendar to join the fun and experience the old favorite event in a new, refreshing setting!

Winter Festival hosted by The Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op

by Jan Rayman

It happens every year, but it is still very special! The Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op will hold their Winter Festival on *January 15, 2017* at the Scottish Rite Center, 150 North Madison, in Pasadena. For \$10 you get to dance with friendly people in a large hall with a wood floor and ample free parking, desserts and snacks. For the past few years, attendance has been around 100. You can see the dance list on the Events page of PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org.



Last Year's Winter Festival in Pasadena – Photo by M. Rayman

Dancing in Ventura

by Jan Rayman

Valerie Daley leads the International Folk Dancers of Ventura. After many years of struggling to build it, there is now a group of avid folk dancers in her home town. She is justifiably proud of how enthusiastic they are, and I am very impressed at how well they all dance. The group hosted a very successful dance party on Sunday, November 20 at the Ventura YMCA. Over 25 people had a great time sharing the joy of dancing. Some dancers drove a long way from elsewhere in the Los Angeles area to dance with her group.

Valerie is a beautiful dancer and she led almost all of the dances. One of the things I really loved was that there was no feeling of her showing off as some other dancers do. She was more like a hostess and each dance was a savory dish she wanted to share with her guests. *Her thriving group is proof that it is possible to grow folk dancing in Southern California if you do things right and persevere!*

Here is what one of her newbies wrote: "I haven't been in a room with so many happy, alive people in ages, Valerie! There was so much energy, I felt we'd become airborne. Thanks for a great party!"

Beginners Folk Dance Festival Draws Dancers of All Ages

by Shana Winokur

On November 6, 2016, the Folk Dance Federation of California, South held a wonderful international folk dance workshop geared toward beginners. The dance floor was full of dancers of all ages, and our volunteer teachers did a terrific job. After some practice of basic dance movements, 16 dances from 11 countries were taught. In the middle of the four-hour event, we enjoyed a short performance by the marvelous Scandia Dancers of Southern California, dressed in traditional Scandinavian costumes. Another feature of the event was a display of folk costumes organized by Elizabeth Barber, chair of the FDF Costume Committee.

We decided to host the beginners-oriented event in order to attract new dancers to our recreational folk dancing clubs in the region. With increasingly older dancer populations, our members worry that our beloved pastime, recreational folk dance, is in danger of dying out. While we don't know if this type of event will have a lasting benefit, we felt it was worth the effort. Funds from a recent large donation enabled us to offer the event free of charge to beginning dancers.

Most of the young dancers in attendance were Girl Scouts from four area troops, thanks to the outreach effort of co-chair Pauline Klak. We applaud the Girl Scouts leaders for encouraging their members to try new experiences and for awarding badges to the girls. If we consider having a similar event in future, we can broaden our outreach to other youth groups and schools. Publicity can go beyond the folk dance community into any type of social dance email lists, Facebook pages, etc.

An enthusiastic THANK YOU! to all our volunteers!



Ensemble Balkanske Igre's 52nd Anniversary SPRING FESTIVAL



March 24-26, 2017

International House, 1414 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637

(Hyde Park/University of Chicago)

Dance and Music of the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Eastern Mediterranean

Enjoy the best in Balkan, Eastern European, and Mediterranean dance, music, and culture with world renowned master teachers...spectacular live music...riveting dance & musical performances. Dance on a sprung oak floor. Sing, jam, and celebrate with friends new and old from coast to coast and Canada!

March 24-26, 2017, Friday, 8pm - midnight / Saturday to Sunday, 9am-5pm Workshops, Party, Culture Sessions with Master Teachers and Artists Nina Kavardjikova, Ahmet Lüleci, Ventzi Sotirov, Keepa Jasim, Chris Bajmakovich, James Stoyanoff, & others.

SATURDAY EVENING, March 25, 7pm, Concert & Dance Party featuring the finest live music and dances from all regions of the Balkans and Eastern Europe/Mediterranean

 Info/Reservations:
 847/331-7842 or
 847/858-9822

 Balkanske Igre, PO Box 1157, Chicago, IL 60690

balkanske_igre@yahoo.com www.balkanskeigre.org

Shuttle between O'Hare and Midway Airports and the International House/University of Chicago: www.airportexpress.com or call 888.2THEVAN/888-284-3826. Plentiful housing options near campus; please contact us for details. Program subject to change. Spring Festival is co-sponsored by the International House at the University of Chicago, CEERES, and the Ensemble Balkanske Igre.

Please complete and return to John Kuo, 9201 Mason, Morton Grove, IL 60053 - please make checks payable to: "Balkanske Igre". NOTE: EARLY REGISTRATION + WEEKEND PASS OPTIONS YIELD SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS. Student

/FDCC General Note: Friday & Saturday evening concert & parties included Seniors in weekend packages; evening dinners & syllabus are extra. Individual workshop admission is \$10/\$12. Weekend Pass (Fri evening through Sun) \$140 \$160 by 1/10/2017, \$150/\$170 by 2/10/2017, \$160/\$180 after 2/10/2017 Saturday evening concert & dance party only \$ 30 \$ 40 (included in weekend pass) Syllabus \$20 \$30 Please check if __vegetarian, __vegan, ___food allergies:__ Dinner Saturday evening Post-festival Sunday dinner/party w/live music \$40 at a Balkan ethnic restaurant tba for a total of \$_____ Cell Phone Name Other Phone Address

City/State/Zip?Country

E-mail Address



broadens

one!

Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours: 2017

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

Exciting adventures! Fascinating cultures! Meet the people. Folk dance with local groups, and more!



ISRAEL! March 19-30

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

NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN! June 13-26

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

POLAND FESTIVAL TOUR! July 21-August 5

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

SCOTLAND! August 7-20

Led by Richard Schmidt Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Inverness, Fort William, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond

ROMANIA! August 5-17

Led by Jim Gold Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighetu Marmatiei, Piatra Neamt, Brasov

BALKAN SPLENDOR! October15-28

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina. Montenegro

Custom Tours: If you and a small group want to travel on a **custom made**, **folk travel adventure**, contact us! With our extensive knowledge of local conditions and list of contacts, we can hand-tailor a tour exactly suited for your group.

See complete tour itineraries, videos, and photos at: www.jimgold.com

TOUR REGISTRATION: Can't wait to go! Reserve my place! Mail your \$200 per person deposit. Or with credit card at: www.jimgold.com

Tour(s)desired______ Name______Address______ Phone(____) Email

Jim Gold International, Inc. 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A. (201) 836-0362 www.jimgold.com Email: jimgold@jimgold.com









Let's Dance!

Discovering a Wealth of Dance Styles in India by Donna Frankel

One of the several travel agencies I work with had been pushing me to lead small group dance trips to India. Having studied a bit of Indian classical dance as well as Bhangra, I bowed to the pressure and started an email correspondence with New Delhi World Escapes guide Arun Kapoor. The five months of email exchanges were filled with my worries and concerns and with his answers and suggestions. Arun patiently explained that India is a developing nation and I needed to see it for myself.

I went first alone to Delhi in February 2016. Arun met me at the New Delhi airport and escorted me for two weeks so I would see every major attraction in Northern India. I also evaluated each hotel and restaurant I experienced. Arun helped me order food to avoid my allergies, and for the first time I enjoyed the varied, aromatic, and deliciously fresh cuisine of India.

There was so much to experience: The Taj Mahal, Red Fort, bustling Delhi, the Gandhi Memorial, the Jain marble carved temple in the jungle, spice markets, villages, craftsmen, wedding festivities, fabulous architecture, exotic plants, wildlife from birds to monkeys, and so much more! India has every religion respected and represented. Yes, these diverse people actually get along and are among the most hospitable in the world, with customer service that puts ours to shame.

Dance in India is as diverse as the country, and it seems to be part of every ceremony. My favorites were the Kalbelia dances, wedding procession dances, wedding party dances and colorful Rajasthani Regional Folk Dances which were performed nightly in many hotels and restaurants. At each of these, the audience is invited to join in, with dance lessons for those who are reluctant. Each village also has its own dances with live music, and all encourage visitors to join in. I can't recall any dance event where I was not invited to join at some point.

There are many styles of Indian wedding dances. These are not a performance, but serious, authentic dances passed down for hundreds

The third day of an Indian wedding is the religious ceremony which is timed by the bride and groom's priests, based on the couples' astrological charts, and the auspicious time for a given couple could be at 3:04 in the morning as often as 3:04 in the afternoon, to the wedding goes on day and night. The social dancing at the actual wedding celebration dinner is a joyous affair with the most number of guests (one I observed had seating at tables for 1,500!). It is similar to a lavish wedding anywhere, with flowers, bands, table decorations, and a huge buffet. The speeches and dancing began before the dinner was finished and consisted of both costumed performance dances and social dances in which the guests participated, ending with a lavish fireworks display. As in the weddings of many other cultures, to dance at a wedding is nearly a duty. I saw young and old, skilled and not, even a very elderly lady with two canes held up by two young men, who smiled as she stepped to the music.

Knowing that I was interested in old, traditional and authentic dances rather than the dance performances for the tourists, Arun asked me one day if I could ride a camel. He said he had checked with the locals and found out that the Kalbelia had been spotted watering their camels some two or three hours away.

The Kalbelia are the untouchables, the lowest caste. They raise camels, sheep, and goats on the high desert as their ancestors have done for 800+ years. They are nomadic, live in tents, travel by camel, and have no cellphones or electricity. He said that no reservations were needed; we could just show up and would be treated as their honored guests. Later I would learn that the Kalbelia are the descendants of the original people we know as gypsies. The dancing costumes, music and movements resemble flamenco, but there are dance movements common to the Rom as well.

We drove by jeep for a couple of hours, then by camel when the dirt road ended. Upon arrival, I was welcomed lavishly and fed appetizers while a full band gathered to play. A full meal was served at the encampment, and I was able to watch as the flat bread was formed and baked.

The elders of the camp were especially curious about me, what

of years. I witnessed parts of 30 weddings, having purposely arrived during wedding season. For example, the dances at a henna ceremony are just for the women and for the bride. I also watched and joined the processions of at least a dozen weddings which all started with a group of dancing girls following the band playing on a flatbed truck over dirt and cobblestone streets through the center of town. Following the dancing maidens came the nervous bridegroom on a decorated white horse. The throng that included his extended family, friends, guests, and



Kalbelia dancer - Photo by A. Kapoor

and how I ate, what I wore (a long skirt over my jeans, head scarf, and hiking boots). The youngsters were happy to have company and sang for me. The members of the band showed me their musical instruments one by one. As the sun set, a young woman came out to dance for us, her colorful long skirt spinning in the soft breeze. My guide and driver refused to dance, but I was happy to do so, and the dancing went on for a long time. Unfortunately, the lighting from the campfire was too dim for a clear video. There were breaks for singers, for dessert, for hot tea, and for translated discussions.

I returned home happy and healthy, with hundreds of wonderful stories. Suffice it to say, I cannot wait to return, which I will be doing in

then the townsfolk and anyone who just happened to be there (like me) followed on the way to the bride's home. There the entire crowd was welcomed to a feast (for 600+). I was able to watch several brides being dressed in one of their 25 outfits each bride needs over the course of the five-day ceremony.

December, escorting a group from the San Francisco Bay area, and again in February (during wedding season) where we will dance with the Kalbelia on the high desert at their camel encampment.

Helenka

(Slovakia)

This is a women's dance from east Slovakia that was presented by Jitka Bonušová at the 2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific.

| Pronunciation: | HEH-lehn-kah | Translation: Helen dearest | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Music: | 4/4 meter | Czech Folk Dances, Track 9 | |
| Formation: | 0 1 | f dancers facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos. In Slovakia, the dance is done only by women, who would use sket hold. Men would do a slapping dance to this music. | |
| Video: | 2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD | | |
| Steps and Styling: | <u>Bell Step (cifra)</u> : Three small quick steps (R, L, R) kicking L ft sharply to L side on the third step and moving lightly fwd and leaning slightly in direction of leading ft (cts 1, &, 2). When repeated, it is done with opp ftwk ind direction. | | |
| | For movements that are the same in Hungarian dance, the Hungarian terms (cifra, rida) are provided as well. | | |
| Measures | 4/4 meter PATTERN | | |
| 1 | INTRODUCTION. The first time through the dance, wait through the first meas of Fig I and begin with meas 2. | | |
| I. | SIDE-STEPS TO L AND R. | | |
| 1 | Step L to L (ct 1); step R next to L (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); touch R next to L (ct 4). | | |
| 2 | Step R to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step L beside R (ct 3); hold (ct 4). | | |
| 3 | Repeat meas 2, except on ct 3 touch L beside R. | | |
| 4-6 | Repeat meas 1-3, except on ct 3 of meas 3 step on L beside R. | | |
| II. | TRAVEL TO L; BELL STEPS. | | |
| 1 | Step R diag fwd in front of L, swinging arms fwd (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2); step L diag bkwd L, swinging arms bkwd (ct 3); hop on L (ct 4). | | |
| 2 | Repeat meas 1. | | |
| 3 | Step R diag fwd in front of L (ct 1); take low leap onto L diag bkwd L (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4). <u>Note</u> : These are down rida steps. | | |
| 4 | Repeat meas 3. Note: There is a total of 8 down ridas in meas 3-4. | | |
| 5-6 | Facing and moving CCW, do 4 Bell Steps (cifras) beginning with R. | | |
| 7 | Step heavily R, L in place (cts 1-2); stamp R in place (ct 3); hold (ct 4). | | |
| 8-11 | Repeat meas 3 four times. Note: There is a total of 16 down ridas in meas 8-11. | | |
| 12-13 | Repeat meas 5-6. | | |
| 14 | Facing ctr, repeat meas 7. | | |

Sequence: The dance is done four times.

Where's Where to dance?

If you are looking for the <u>Where to dance</u> section that appeared at the end of *Let's Dance!* in the past, you will not find it in this issue. The decision was made to reduce the size of *Let's Dance!* magazine from 24 pages to 20 pages in order to counter increased printing costs.

It was felt that the vast majority of the information on those pages is (or should be!) available on the Folk Dance Federation's website, *www.folkdance.com*. If you feel this act was made in haste or without sufficient input and you would like to see those pages reinstated, please contact *Let's Dance*! editor Loui Tucker at editor@folkdance.com.

If what appeared in the <u>Where to dance</u> in the past about your club or class DOES NOT appear on the Federation website, please send an email to the website manager at **webmanager@folkdance.com** so that it can be included, whether we reinstate the **Where to dance** pages or not.

Also, if the information about your club is listed on the Federation website but some detail is incorrect, please contact the website manager at **webmanager**(**@folkdance.com**.



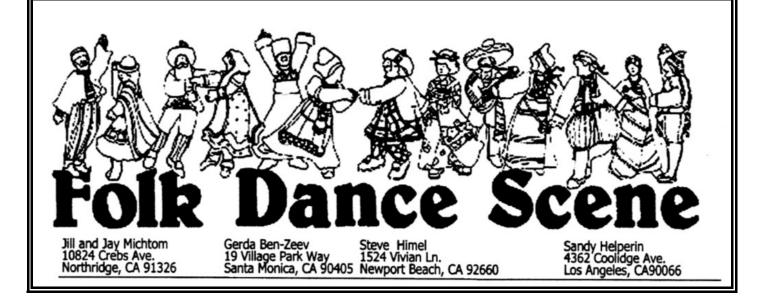
Moveable Feet's Birthday Cake - Photo by C. Dickey



ROBERTO BAGNOLI Northern California Tour

Roberto will be at **SEVEN** events in Northern California **Thursday, January 12** - Saratoga **Friday-Saturday, January 13-14** Heritage Festival Friday evening party - Palo Alto Saturday afternoon workshop; evening party - Belmont Monday, January 16 - Berkeley Wednesday, January 18 - Sacramento Thursday, January 19 - Chico Friday, January 20 - Redding Saturday, January 21 - Moveable Feet See www.folkdance.com for details

Roberto has taught the following dances: Gras Kalo, Valle Shqiptare, Usti Baba, Sej Bob, Passu Torrau, Tu Romnie, De Valse Zeeman, Kirmizi Biber, Muiere Muiere, Ogneno Horo, and many others.





FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC. 1614 Peacock Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94087

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PRST STD US Postage Paid Sacramento CA Permit # 2352



DANCE ON THE WATER

New for 2017!

Europe from A to Z

(Amsterdam to Zurich!) July 3 - 17, 2017

Sail the Rhine from the Netherlands to Switzerland Stops include Cologne, Mannheim, Strasbourg and Lake Lucerne 5 days in Amsterdam with tours selected and led by Maurits van Geel Prices start at \$3,465 (plus airfare; double occupancy)

\$300 Early Bird discount for registrations received by December 31! \$200 Early Bird discount for registrations received by January 31!

Complete information on our website <u>www.folkdanceonthewater.org</u> Please write to get on our email list: <u>folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com</u> Marija & David Hillis 2147 Parker Street, Berkeley CA 94704 (510) 549-0337