# Let's Dance!

#### THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING № MARCH 2017



Roberto Bagnoli teaching at Heritage Festival, with Yvonne Couvillion, Robert Null and Trudy Baltz in the background. See p. 8. *Photo by L. Tucker* 



Photo by L. Tucker

We remember Anna Gajicki (left) and Edith Cuthbert (right\_.

See p. 9.



Photo by G. Milton

## Let's Dance!

#### Volume 74, No. 3 MARCH 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.

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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

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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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	¼ page	½ page	full page
Member clubs	\$10	\$20	\$35
All others	\$15	\$30	\$50

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#### President's Message

by Kevin Greek

The chill of January makes me appreciate a new car that starts and drives off as quickly as I want. I'm told that starting a Model T in near-freezing weather would require a complex procedure of jiggling all three pedals and hand brake to free



Getting more youth

involved in folk dance

appears as difficult a

challenge as getting a

Model T started in

sub-freezing weather.

clutch plates congealed with oil, retarding the spark lever, engaging choke, a throttle lever adjustment, and then, with the key off, priming the engine by pulling the choke wire and hand cranking a few times. If the car starts by hand cranking, next you'd adjust the fuel to smooth the idle. Did I forget to mention to set the emergency brake?

Getting more youth involved in folk dance appears as difficult a challenge as getting a Model T started in sub-freezing weather. If you attended any Bay Area folk dance event recently

you'd notice it'd be filled with people who qualify for an AARP card. Our folk dance events should be inter-generational as well as international.

Still, there are communities that have large and successful youth and family folk dancing activities because they promote and organize teachers and venues. Megan Wolf, who wrote "How I Got 24 Kids to Love Dance' in last month's Let's Dance! and brought a number of youngsters to dance

with us at the Heritage Festival, is one such local success story. Her youngsters from Willits were confident and proud enough to help lead and teach a few dances to the adults.

Recently, Jennifer Shaw, music instructor of Lake Ridge Academy, North Ridgeville, Ohio, shared her school folk dance program experience in a blog entitled "Making It Work: Family Folk Dance Night." Her school not only taught folk dance to the kids but created a family night dance festival wherein the kids performed and taught the adults a folk dance. To them, it was a delightful role-reversal to teach!

Elsewhere there are community family folk dance programs, including those at the Tapestry Folkdance Center in Minneapolis and our own Changs Folk Dancers, a San Francisco institution. Often ethnic communities – Greek, Filipino, Lithuanian, Nordic – have youth dance programs at their churches. Motivated to learn their culture, students learn to perform cultural dances, but are also taught the stories behind them, their ancestry and culture, the purpose of the dances and where they are performed.

Often we hear our newest dancers explain they returned after having a family and their adult children moved away. There is an age when a child may be easily brought with you for dancing. You only need to convince them to try. Fun and giggles are certain to ensue. There is

another age as an independent young adult when they need a good reason to come, as well as a reason to join dancers on the floor. If children can first be encouraged to learn and enjoy dance with the family, it makes it easier for them to continue on their own as young adults.

If you have kids or grandkids, you may be looking for a way to channel their seemingly boundless energy. Traditional team sports may not be right for all children, particularly the younger ones. Folk dancing encourages risk taking, exercises a sense of self-confidence, and adds to the child's social, physical, and emotional well-being.

Here in the US and in the UK it appears a majority of 20-to-30-somethings would prefer to dance with their own age group. The dance form they prefer most is club dancing, mainly salsa and swing. where singles are quite prevalent. Our cold start challenge is outreach to this age group and younger.

> The Federation wants to promote attendance and energy to show that folk dance events are great enthusiastically approved a free admission policy for those 21 and younger to all Federationsponsored events. Currently those events include the Officers Ball, the Heritage Festival Institute,

I'd be interested in hearing what you hope to find in a dance community, your ideas to bring families and young adults to folk dance, and what the Federation can do to serve their needs. You can reach me at president@folkdance.com.

social activities for all ages. To this end, the board and Northern California Statewide. Hopefully this and other outreach plans will help seed more youth in Bay Area folk dance.



Megan Wolf (far left), Audrey Sherf, Kara Wilkes, and Aidyn McFadden at the Heritage Festival. Photo by L. Tucker

#### **MARCH 2017 Calendar of Events**

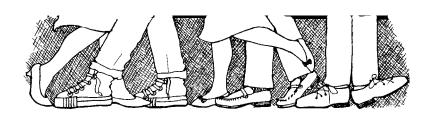
We reserve the right to edit all submissions and assume no responsibility for accuracy. Send future events information to Loui Tucker, Editor editor@folkdance.com.

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**

- March 3 LIVE FRENCH MUSIC DANCE PARTY at the First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Avenue, Palo Alto from 8-11 pm, \$12. Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti will help lead French dances to the live music of Fête Musette. Sponsored by Stanford International Dancers. Contact: Owen at stanfordfd@gmail.com or stanfordfolkdance.com/event/live-french-dance-party.
- March 4 A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR ANGEL TAM at the First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. 6-10 pm. Sponsored by the Changs International Folk Dancers and the Moveable Feet Club. Contact Craig Blackstone at crb2crb@comcast.net or Lucy Chang at LucySChang@gmail.com.
- March 3-5 LAGUNA FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL (47th annual). Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion and Ahmet Lüleci 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 17-18 CAMELLIA 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. 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. See advertisement p. 7.
- 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 15 ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WORKSHOP. Dance workshop, potluck dinner and dance party 3-8 pm. Teaching by Royal Scottish Country Dance Society teachers Bruce Hamilton and Lin Pettengill. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. \$15.
- ANNUAL PETALUMA SPRING FOLK DANCE PARTY. Live music by Staro Vino. 7:30-10:30 pm. First hour will be dancing to old and new recorded favorites, followed by wonderful live Balkan music with musicians Mark and Greg Jenkins. Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Ave., Petaluma. Info: Carol Friedman, cjay@horizoncble.com.
- April 28 HARDLY STRICTLY BALKAN SPRING DANCE PARTY WITH ZABAVA! Presented by Kopachka Folk Dancers. 8-11 pm at the Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 East Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley. \$12. Contact: 415-497-4890 (Nadav) or e-mail Susie president@kopachkafolkdancers.com.
- May 20 CELEBRATING BALKAN DANCES. Katherine Abbott will be teaching Balkan dances (TBA), followed by all-request dancing party. St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 6:30-11 pm. Contact LucySChang@gmail.com.





A Celebration of Tamburitza Music • Feb 19, 2017 • \$15, \$10 Adv, Children Free

# Listen, Dance and Sing to the Hall of Fame Tamburitza Band "Sarema"

The upcoming 18th annual TamFest at the "Croatian American Cultural Center" features **Šarena Tamburitza Orchestra** from Cleveland, Ohio. All members of the

orchestra have been inducted into the Tamburitza Hall of Fame. They are the first and only all female orchestra to receive this honor.

Also playing will be the Slavonian Traveling Band with Lilla Serlegi, and Sidro Tamburitza Orchestra.

12PM-8PM Concert, Dancing, Sing-a-long





60 Onondaga Ave. San Francisco, CA 94112 www.croatianamericanweb.org



Bike to festival from Balboa BART!

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

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Hi Loui,

Great job, Loui! I am impressed, but then I expected you to do a great job, and you did.

I want to thank all those who said nice things and all those who sent cards and emails. I've said it before and it is true — folk dancers are the nicest people!

Thank you, Loui, and thank the folk dancers who care.

Gary Anderson

Dance parties and special dance events are great social events, thanks to wonderful hosts and excellent dance choices. There is at least for some a downside to the increasing use of image devices during the proceedings, including intrusive flash cameras. I for one do not want the flow of the dance disturbed by so much picture taking. Why not designate a time frame within the event as the photo-opsko horo hour (really only a few minutes) for photo enthusiasts, before and after which the devices would relax for the evening, and so would we.

Jim Emdy

# WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Gayle Fairchild, Clarence, New York

Penny Garland, Redding, California

Cleo Fishman, Richmond, California

## FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Folk Dance Federation of California has a scholarship program that's available year-round, but it is especially useful from May through August when the majority of the dance camps and workshops take place.

If you are interested in attending one of these dance events and need some financial assistance, consider applying for a scholarship. The application is available on the Federation's website – www.folkdance.com – under the Money Matters tab. The deadline for applications is 60 days before the start of the event, or May 31.



Megan Wolf and Jorgan Uggla dancing at the Heritage Festival in January. See article on p. 8 *Photo by C. Dickey*.

#### Welcome to the 61st ANNUAL



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

## MARCH 17 & 18, 2017

Workshops with guest teachers:

#### \*\*\*\* RICHARD POWERS \*\*\*\*

**American & European Partner Dances** 

#### \*\*\*\*\*\* JAAP LEEGWATER \*\*\*\*\*\*

**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: <a href="https://www.folkdancesac.org">www.folkdancesac.org</a> or <a href="https://dancesac.org">dancesong20@att.net</a> or 916-923-1555

#### A GAY AND DELIGHTFUL

#### **FESTIVAL** by Ellie Wiener

Have you ever wondered how long the Peninsula's January festival has been around? According to *Let's Dance!*, the January Festival, as it was once called, began as an afternoon-only festival, where it was referred to as "gay and delightful" and "a jolly afternoon" in 1945 and 1946 respectively. Seventy-two years later, on January 13 and 14 of this year, the Peninsula Folk Dance Council hosted yet another gay, delightful and jolly festival. While the length of the event, specific dances and popular adjectives might have changed, the festival remains THE place to dance, see old friends, and have a great time on the second weekend of January each year.

This year's Heritage Festival, as it now called, did not disappoint. Many thanks to the Stanford Folk Dancers for allowing the Heritage Festival to use their regular hall in Palo Alto for the opening party. On Saturday, the festivities moved to the beautiful Belmont facility that housed the festival last year. Both venues were colorfully decorated by our fabulous decorating team, led by Becky Beniares and Ann Kleiman.

The prize for driving the farthest this year goes to Megan Wolf and Jordon Uggla, who drove down from Willits, which is north of Mendocino! They brought three of Megan's elementary school students, who not only seemed invigorated by the experience, but in turn invigorated the rest of us with their enthusiasm. We were extremely fortunate to have the ever-popular Roberto Bagnoli as the Federation's Institute teacher, who joined us for both evening parties.

The theme of this year's festival was "the celebration of the heritage and diversity of our folk dance groups on and around the San Francisco Peninsula." Local clubs were encouraged to participate by contributing a poster about their club which adorned the walls of both venues. Additionally, each club submitted some fun facts about their group, and a few of their favorite dances, which were played during the evening parties. Did you know, for example, the Palomanians once had over 40 Scottish dances in their repertoire, or that the Stanford and Berkeley groups are the oldest in the area, having been around since 1942? Who knew? In all, 14 local dance clubs were represented. Three specialty clubs, one Hungarian and two Scandinavian groups, Nordic Footnotes and Nordahl Grieg Leikarring, each had the opportunity to demonstrate one of their dances. Accompanied by a fiddle player, the Nordic groups also taught a fun mixer that appeared to be version of the familiar Oslo Waltz.

In keeping with the theme, each person's name tag was attached to a ribbon made by PFDC President Hollis Lodin and by Lesley Bone, which listed the various clubs that each dancer attends. Adony Beniares, king of all things technical, did a magnificent job of creating and projecting a graphic representation of not only the name of each dance, but of the club that had requested it. It was fun to see what dances are popular from the various clubs, and to be reminded of dances we once did regularly that we might want to enjoy again, as well as others that we would like to learn.



Dancing at the Saturday evening party at the Heritage Festival. *Photo by J. Croco* 

Saturday afternoon's institute, with 60 people, was very well attended. The Federation's Institute Committee, headed by Lucy Chang, made an excellent choice to feature the talented and versatile Roberto Bagnoli, who taught five dances from five different Balkan countries.

Both evening parties were filled with energy, laughter, socializing, and of course a whole lot of dancing. We benefitted from Roberto's warmth, friendliness, and great knowledge of so many dances for both parties. As emcees, Loui Tucker (Friday evening) and Denise Heenan and Adony Beniares (Saturday evening) balanced the dances submitted by local clubs, requests by individuals sent in ahead of time, as well as requests made at the party, and still managed to pepper each evening with many of the dances we have learned from Roberto over the years. The varied programs and the manner in which the emcees were able to keep the dances coming with almost no down time was reflected in the liveliness of the crowd.

It has become a tradition at the Heritage Festival to honor a person for his/her contribution to the folk dance community. This year's honoree is an enthusiastic promoter of folk dance through her teaching, organizing, fundraising and mentoring, as well as her involvement in the Federation, where, along with serving on various committees over the years, she has held seemingly every position from President on down, and is now the editor of *Let's Dance!* magazine. Ken Kaye, the presenter, pointed out that most people who wear so many hats are not successful at each. This person, however, is a definite exception. By now, I'm certain you have figured out that this year's Certificate of Appreciation "for her selfless dedication and commitment on behalf of the Peninsula Folk Dance Council, the Heritage Festival, and the Folk Dance Federation" was presented to the very deserving Loui Tucker.

In keeping with the theme of celebrating the diversity of our local folk dance clubs, during the presentation of this award, Ken Kaye talked about how the Heritage Festival is a time to "recognize the vast cultural and ethnic diversity" among us. I think we can all agree that now more than ever, it's important for the folk dance community not only to accept, but to embrace these differences.

Thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers, not only those named in this article, but the many others who worked behind the scenes to make this year's Heritage Festival a great success and lots of fun for all. Hope to see you there next year!

## WE REMEMBER ...

Anna Gajicki, daughter of Bora and Marge, died December 3, 2017, of a brain tumor. Anna was well-known to dancers in Southern California when she lived, as well as dancers who attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp, which she attended for over 30 years. She worked side by side with her mother, Anna, at the on-site store they brought to Camp each year, which included dance music and videos, as well as ethnic jewelry, shoes, and clothing.



Marge and Anna Gajicki in Romanian costume in 2010. Photo by L. Tucker

Anna loved folk dance, of course. She was born into it. Her father, Bora, had danced professionally with Ansambl Kolo in Belgrade. Anna always accompanied her parents to folk dance events. Ann also loved folk costumes, and was usually seen at folk dance festivals wearing a costume. She loved beading with tiny beads. Many women purchased the earrings she crafted at the family's shop, The Folk Motif. She also wove folk-style sashes on the inkle loom.

She loved the accordion, maybe not as much as Bora did, but he insisted that she learn to play. He taught her the basics and later she took lessons when she visited Serbia. Anna traveled often to Serbia. Many times she went with Bora and later on her own. She made the trip every year for last eight years, staying two or three months each time.

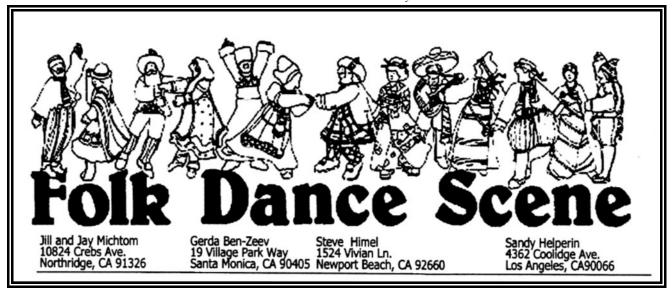
#### **Edith Cuthbert** (1932-2017)

Edith, known to many as Edie, was a fixture at Northern California dance activities. Her mother was named Edith as well, so Edie often referred to herself as Edith Cuthbert, Junior! She attended the first Kolo Festival in 1952, and every year after that until her health sidelined her. She attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp from 1957 to 2007.

Edith was very generous with her time and resources. She collected music – from 78 rpm records to CDs – as well as books and magazines, and costumes - especially costumes! She owned hundreds of authentic costumes. In 1968 she was interviewed for *Let's Dance!* when she said she had 42 costumes. She would bring them to folk dance camps and lend them to dancers, mostly women. There are dozens of photos of her with a group of women, all dressed in Edie's costumes. She was always ready to help, and a willing volunteer. For many years Edith managed the music at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp after-parties. She brought to Camp as many of her cases of records as her beloved VW bug would carry, and dancers would stay up until the wee hours of the morning dancing.



Edith Cuthbert (front row, left) with a group of women wearing her costumes in 1985. Costumes identified by K. Bennett: From front row left: Mexican, Russian, Turkish and Korean (Edie). Back row: Macedonian, Croatian, Polish, Croatian, Dutch (twice) and Russian. *Photo by A. Smith* 



#### NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

**SACRAMENTO COUNCIL** – Barbara Malakoff **Roberto Fights the Elements... and Wins!** Read all about Roberto's dance workshop on January 18 on p. 13.

The 2017 Camellia Festival will be held at the Polish-American Hall in Roseville on Friday and Saturday, March 17-18, 2017. Richard Powers will teach American & European partner dances, and Jaap Leegwater will teach Bulgarian non-partner dances. There will be special performances by Skalinada, Veselka, and Sonechko! These are the thrilling kids' Ukrainian Dance groups, taught by Irina and George Arabagi. See the flyer on p. 7, and the Sacramento web page for directions and information, folkdancesac.org.

With the belief that it is never to early to mark your calendars, find May 18-20, 2018 on yours and write in Sacramento hosts the "Gateway to the Sierras," also known as the 2018 Statewide Festival. The one, the only, Bruce Mitchell is in charge of this sure-to-be-a-winner event!

#### PENINSULA COUNCIL - Denise Heenan

The annual **Peninsula Folk Dance Council Heritage Festival** was a great success. An article about this wonderful event can be found on page 8 of this issue of *Let's Dance!* 

The Peninsula Council is continuing the 2017 Heritage Festival's theme of celebrating the diversity of our folk dance clubs at our pre-party workshops this year. Pirinskata, which was taught by Katherine Abbott at the February pre-party workshop was shared by the East Bay Dancers at the Heritage Festival. On **March 11**, George Pavel from the Del Valle Dancers will teach, starting at 7:15, the Russian Round Dance they did at the Heritage Festival. Join us at St. Bede's Church for an evening of dancing to your requests beginning at 8:00 with John Burke, our MC. Send your requests to Hollis at hollisradin@pacbell.net. Donation: \$9. Please bring a snack to share.

On Sunday, March 26, the Palomanians host a Scottish Country Dance Workshop St. Bede's Church Hall. Some Scottish dance experience will help you manage the reels, wheels, and other figures while learning new dances and reviewing some previously taught. Doors will open at 1:30. Donation \$10. Dancing will start 2:00 and go until 5:00 or 5:30. Send any special requests, or your interest in joining together for dinner, to deniseheenan@sbcglobal.net.

On January 21, the Moveable Feet Club hosted the ever-so-popular **Roberto Bagnoli** in his final appearance of his California 2017 tour. Over 60 dancers learned 5 new dances from his tour CD and enjoyed dancing to Roberto's many hits at the party. We gave him a great send-off and we look forward to his return at Stockton Folk Dance Camp

The Moveable Feet Club hosted **Nina Kavardjikova** on Saturday, February 4, where she presented dances from Bulgaria.

On **Saturday, March 4**, come to a Celebration of Life for our very dear friend, Angel Tam. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. 6-10 pm. Sponsored by the Changs International Folk Dancers and the Moveable Feet Club. The evening will be dedicated to Angel and her love of folk dancing. Contact Craig Blackstone at crb2crb@comcast.net or Lucy at LucySChang@gmail.com.

On **Saturday, April 15**, Moveable Feet will host an English and Scottish dance workshop with well-known teachers Bruce Hamilton and Lin Pettengill, both fully accredited Royal Scottish Country Dance Society teachers. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. 3-~8 pm. No partners needed as we change partners frequently. If you have dances you wish to learn, or to dance at the party, email Lucy at LucySChang@gmail.com.

<u>RAZZMATAZZ FOLK DANCE CLUB</u> – Marilyn Smith
Our annual Red & Black Ball, a favorite event every spring, will
take place on **Saturday, March 18** from 7:30-10:30 pm at
Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa. This year's
party will feature dancing to recorded favorites plus live music
and singing with our local Balkan group, Gradina.

We encourage dancers to dress in red and black, which adds vibrancy to the dance hall. Come enjoy this annual event in a wonderful old dance hall in Santa Rosa. Admission is just \$5, plus tips for the musicians. Children are free. Bring your favorite snacks to share.



The Red-and-Black Ball 2014. *Photo by E. Torgerson* 

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

The Dance Club in Willits had an essay contest to determine which students would attend the Heritage Festival. Following are excerpts from the winning essays. All three girls are in fifth grade and have been dancing for 2–3 years.

(continued on p. 11)

#### .. AND BEYOND

Folk dancing is awesome. One thing I like about dancing is the music. I love dances that are exciting and energetic. Dancers have to learn patterns, follow the beat and memorize the steps. I have danced for most of my life and hope to dance forever. This type of dance teaches people about history and other cultures. Folk dancing is amazing because it brings people together, anyone can join, it makes you think, it is a part of history and it is great exercise. (Audrey Sherf, age 11)

I think folk dancing is important because it brings people together, and to work in a group. When you are folk dancing it gives you muscles and that's important. Folk dance teaches you dances from history. (Aidyn McFadden, age 11)

When you folk dance, you are next to others that care about you and to me that's what friends are. Folk dance brings people together all the time.

I like folk dance because it is crazy, energetic and it's a kind of dance that includes almost all kinds of dances and that's why I like folk dance. My experience, folk dance has always made me happy and feel good inside. (Kara Wilkes, age 10)

We all had a blast at the Heritage Festival! The girls were amazed at how talented all the dancers were and so many new kinds of dancing. By one hour into the Friday dance, they told me they were so glad they won the contest. They loved learning new dances from Roberto Bagnoli and are excited to teach these dances back home in Willits. At the Saturday party, they were even polka-ing in the courtyard during dances they didn't know! Oh, to have their energy!

I would like to give a huge shout-out of thanks to everyone who made us feel welcome, especially Hollis and Lon Radin, who hosted us at their home.

#### BALKAN PLUS - Gary Anderson

Balkan Plus began in 2004 with the Balkan Dancers of Marin as sponsors. It was a success then and has been every year since. Irene Croft wrote the play lists until she left us. I have based the current play list on hers.

There will be dances for every skill level, a few unusual ones, ones you may not have heard for many years, all definitely doable. We will enjoy some of the great dances that built folk dancing many years ago. We have around 60 dances on the play list – something for everyone. We may not get through them all, but we will try! See the play list in our ad. We have dancers coming from as far away as New Mexico!



The Girls from Willits doing Tokyo Polka at the Heritage Festival. *Photo by C. Dickey* 

Come and join the fun at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael. Take the Terra Linda exit from Highway 101, go to the frontage road on the bay side, go north to Professional Center Parkway, go up that to Channing Way, and to the parking lot on the left.

#### BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS - Naomi Lidicker

BFD is pleased to announce that we inducted 14 new members, including two students (children under 10 or so) at our 76th Birthday Ball on Jan. 2l. Our Scottish dinner was delicious, too. Neil Collier and his crew did a bang-up job. Kudos to Neil!

Roberto Bagnoli's workshop on Monday, Jan. 16 was another success. He drew 61 people, many from the Greater Bay Area. It was wonderful to see and talk to those who were visiting BFD, although we could only talk briefly as Roberto kept us busy. The busiest dance was aptly named: The Butter Churn.

The Festival of the Oaks also kept us busy. We were pleased to see so many familiar faces. Esther Mann's crew provided a wonderful hot meal for those that did not go out into Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto for lunch after Sanna Longden's Institute dances in the morning, The afternoon dance party and exhibition and costume sale went smoothly, as always.

We are now looking forward to our Fun Night on **Friday**, **March 17**! After all the rain, Spring is finally here. So, between the date and spring, you know what to wear – GREEN! Come join us at the Live Oak Park Social Hall at Shattuck and Berryman in Berkeley 7:30-10:30 pm, when the Advanced Intermediate Class will host the evening with finger food and punch, for a mere \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. Come and celebrate the end of Winter and dance to the contributions of the Irish people.



Photo by Mindy Pines

# The Advanced Balkan Dancers Invite you to a

## Balkan Plus Folk Dance Party

Saturday, March 25, 2017

## Balkan dancing program

Begin around 7:30-11:00 pm ~ Donation \$10.00—new

Lots of free parking, fine wood floor—Please bring snacks to share

At our lovely new location: The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael

Terra Linda exit from Highway 101, use the frontage on the bay side, go north. Turn on Professional Center Parkway to Channing Way

#### Info: Gary Anderson at wildwood\_press@comcast.net

Setnja (Macedonia) Makedonka Kolo (Macedonia) Karamfil (Bulgaria) Jacob's Ladder (Israel) Legnala Dana (Macedonia) Para Stous, Para Kambo (Greek) Jove Malaj Mome (Bulgaria) Stara Vlainja (Serbia) Cimpoi (Romamian) Horehronsky Czardas (Slovenia) Sandy's Čačak (Serbia) Ciuleandra (Romania) La Bistrang (Fre./Can.)(Couples) Četvorno Shopsko Horo (Bul.) Tino More/Kupurlika (Mac.) Seljančica (Serbia) Triti Pati (Dan's) Syrtos (Greek) Pravo (Bulgaria)

Ravno (Macedonia)
Pajduško (Bulgaria)
Ludo Kopano (Bulgaria)
Drmš from Ždenčina (Croatia)
Swedish-Finn Mixer (Couples) (Swe.)
Gjuševska Râčenica (Bulgaria)
Haro'ah Haktana (Israel)
Krivo Sadovsko Horo (long one) Bul.)

#### Intermission—Announcements

Silent Kolo—Len Talmy
Belasičko (Macedonia)
Ovčepolsko Oro (Macedinia)
Tsamikos (Greek)
Ada's Kujawiak #1 (Couples) (Polish)
Dobrudžanska Rêka (Bulgaria)
Ani Mori Nuse/Gorace (Albania)
Ajde Jano (Serbia)
Tzena, Tzena, Tzena (Isr.)

Floricica Olteneasca (Romania) Orient (Serbia) Vallje e Rrajces (Albania) Elhovsko (Bulgaria) Ali Pasha (Turkey) Zborenka II Strumicka Petorka (Macedonia) Cekurjankino (Bulgaria) Ivanice (Macedonia) Šopsko Horo (Bulgaria) Rumelaj (Macedonia) Doudlebska Polka (couples)(Czech) Često (Bulgaria) Hora Miresii (Romania) Kalamatianos (Greek) Joc Bătrînesc din Niculițel (Rom.)

Jovano, Jovanke (Macedonia)

Hambo (Sweden)

## ROBERTO BAGNOLI'S CALIFORNIA FOLK DANCE TOUR 2017

Compiled from various sources by Loui Tucker
Roberto Bagnoli is like a dancing buffet table full of wonderful treats. Not restricted to a single country or ethnic group, he selects the most delectable music and dances from all over Europe. In January, he arrived with a CD full of music and dances that he shared with well over 200 dancers in California during his 11-day visit to California.

Saratoga Folk Dancers. After a 15-hour plane flight and very little sleep, an hour standing in lines at Customs in the airport, and about a pot-and-a half of coffee, Roberto was ready to teach the 60+ dancers who traveled to Saratoga to his first dance workshop. Roberto has visited this group so many times, he feels like a member of the family.

His workshop did not disappoint: three dances (Armenian, Romanian, and Bulgarian) in under 90 minutes. And he went out for sweet potato fries at Coco's after dancing!

<u>Heritage Festival</u>. Roberto appeared at the Friday night opening party, the Federation Institute Workshop, and the Saturday night party. Dancers enjoyed his energy and enthusiasm, his easy teaching style, and his warm and friendly personality. At the Saturday party the dances he taught during the Institute were reviewed, and at both parties many dances Roberto taught during past visits to California were danced with him leading. Read more about the Heritage Festival on p. 8.

Berkeley Folk Dancers. The BFD allowed Roberto to take over their Advanced Intermediate class, and they opened their otherwise closed class to the public. The workshop on Jan. 16 attracted 60 dancers, and feedback was uniformly favorable. He taught 4 dances including The Butter Churn from England, a challenging couple mixer.



Berkeley Folk Dancers welcomed Roberto to their Advanced Intermediate class. *Photo by A. Partos* 

Sacramento. January 18, was a dark and stormy night in Sacramento, with wind and rain and power outages, but the show must go on! Roberto Bagnoli was battling the elements and the traffic to drive to his workshop for Kolo Koalition. He was supposed to arrive early enough to be treated to dinner, but it was

not to be. A traffic accident between Davis and Sacramento delayed him over an hour. He arrived only to discover that the power was out at the YLI Hall! Sixteen intrepid dancers were waiting. Candles were lit; flashlights and cellphones were turned on to shed light. Roberto booted up his battery-powered laptop, and the party was a go! We were joyfully dancing in the dark. About 45 minutes later, the lights blinked on, and then off again with appropriate cheers, then groans. Finally, the lights came on for good. Without a break, we danced until 10:15, learning delightful new dances from the stalwart Roberto. Welcome to sunny California, Roberto!



The "What's-a-Little-Power-Outage-to-Us?" Sacramento dancers. *Photo by B. Bevan* 

<u>Chico</u>. Roberto Bagnioli's workshop in Chico on Thursday, January 19, gave Chico World Dancers three great new dances – Senin Canina, Armenian Misirlou from Racine, and Hora Mare Vranceneasca. Dancers enjoyed meeting and studying with Roberto and have been doing these dances every week since his workshop. Having had Roberto and, previously, Sonia & Cristian at Chico workshops has provided a lot of local dance inspiration and more interest in Chico Dancers to attend the 2017 Stockton Folk Dance Camp!

**Redding**. It had been many years since Redding had hosted Roberto for a workshop, but he was welcomed back as if it had just been a few months. While teaching three dances, he charmed his way into the hearts of all the dancers – many of whom are very excited about seeing him again at Stockton Folk Dance Camp this summer.

Moveable Feet. Over 60 dancers packed into the hall in Palo Alto to learn five very different dances – Askin Cesa Mi and a avoat from Turkey, Devetorka Na Baba from Bulgaria, Vlaško Za Pojas from Serbia. and Ženska Šhiptarska Igra from Albania) from Roberto. Despite teaching five dance workshops in 10 days, and traveling many miles, his energy seemed boundless. While dancing Devetorka Na Baba, he seemed to fly. After teaching, he lead many of the dances he'd taught during his past visits.

<u>Cerritos Folk Dancers Chinese New Years Festival -</u>
<u>"East Meets West"</u>. After all of the above, you'd think he had enough. Roberto managed one more quick flight south to Orange County (and back that evening) to teach over 70 dancers in one more workshop at the Cerritos Folk Dancers' Chinese New Year's Festival before flying back to Italy on Monday.

## BITS AND PIECES

# CANDIDATES FOR FEDERATION OFFICES

by Craig Blackstone, Nominating Committee Chair
The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for nomination to Federation offices for the 2017-18 term:

Joe Croco – President Marian Snyder – Vice President Laura Douglass – Treasurer Clem Dickey – Secretary

The election of officers will be held at the Federation Assembly meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Blossom Festival on Sunday, April 30 at City College of San Francisco. The Assembly is open to all Federation members, and you are invited to attend.

Let's Dance! will feature a short article about each candidate in the April issue.

#### WHAT A DOLL!

By the Archives Committee

June Horn, a former editor of *Let's Dance!* magazine, collected dolls wearing folk costumes. She bought them herself, she inherited them, and she was given them as gifts. Her collection numbered in the hundreds.

When she recently moved to assisted living and the family farm was sold, the collection was accepted by the Archives Committee of the Folk Dance Federation and is currently stored in the Archives Committee storage locker in Sunnyvale  $-\,10$  boxes of them. The only option appeared to be allowing them to go to landfill.

Some of the dolls are still in excellent condition, but some have not stood the test of time and will need repair. Some wear fine examples of authentic costumes; some were designed for the tourist trade, and some wear hand-made outfits.

We offer some options: (1) Purchase individual dolls; (2) take all or some of the dolls on consignment, repair them as needed, sell them on eBay (or similar service), and return 20% of the proceeds to the Federation; (3) purchase the entire collection outright.

**Are you interested?** Contact Archives Committee Chair Joe Croco at j.croco@comcast.net. If you'd like to look at more photos, contact Loui Tucker, who can share them with you. She will also be bringing a selection of the dolls to local workshops and festivals if you'd like to view some of them there.

Let's Dance!

## 

#### What's a Razzmatazz?

Dear Professor History: There is a local dance club and dance camp with the name Razzmatazz. Can someone explain the origins of that name?

We asked co-founder Marilyn Smith for an explanation and she provided the following information.

In 1977, four folk dancers from Sonoma County (Robert Boccabella, Eugene Erickson, Patty Ray and I) got together and said: "Hey, let's put on a folk dance weekend at Mendocino Woodlands." Little did we dream that the weekend would still be in existence to this day. In 1977, it cost just \$28 for the weekend. In June 2017, we'll celebrate our 40th year.

Our first teacher was Billy Burke., and the emphasis was on dances of the Balkans. The name of our camp was "Bulgarian Bandstand." When we branched out beyond the Balkans, the name of the weekend became "Bandstand Weekend."

In 1980, Robert Boccabella, Jimmy LaVita, Howie Franklin and I thought it would be fun to organize a week-long camp at the Woodlands. We wanted this camp to be a little different. We wanted it to have live music as much as possible for both teaching and the parties. We wanted to learn just a few dances and to learn them well. We wanted to learn families of dances rather than "one of these and one of those."

Robert Boccabella wanted to come up with a name that was whimsical and reflected our approach to putting on a camp. *Razzmatazz* won out over Shebang (as in The Whole Shebang) and our Razzmatazz "Un-Camp" (as we called it) was born. We had this camp for only two summers, but they were magical.

Our name *Razzmatazz* hopes to convey that extra sparkle, excitement, energy and enthusiasm that we hope to create each weekend as we celebrate not only dance and music, but the special close bond of community as we dance under the redwoods at Mendocino Woodlands.



A few of the hundreds of dolls in June Horn's collection. *Photo by L. Tucker* 

## What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

#### PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP – Marc Rayman

Approximately once a month the Pasadena Folk Dancer Co-op takes an opportunity to experience something different. They even refer to it as "And Now for Something Completely Different." This often means being taught a different type of dance such as a Maypole dance, the Japanese water spirit dance Unagappa Ondo, Samoan dancing, and Filipino tinikling dancing, but has included many non-dance experiences such as African drumming, lectures on dance-related topics like the history of Easter egg coloring, and learning Silent Night in American Sign Language.

At the most recent And Now For Something Completely Different event, the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op accepted **The Mannequin Challenge** and created a charming and whimsical video. To see the results, go to pasadenafolkdancecoop.org and click on the Events tab. Be sure to watch all the way to the end for the surprise! [If you don't know about The Mannequin Challenge, do an on-line search or read about it on Wikipedia.]

On January 15, the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op held its annual **Winter Festival** (sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South). Over 90 people enjoyed the 64 dances played and the sweet and savory snacks.

#### EAST-WEST FESTIVAL

The Cerritos Folk Dancers sponsored their Seventh Annual Chinese New Year's Festival – the Year of the Rooster. In keeping with their traditional theme "East Meets West," the



From left, Roberto Bagnoli, Sue Chen, and Rebecca Tsai, at Cerritos Chinese New Year's Festival. *Photo by W. Chiang.* 

teachers were Roberto Bagnoli and Rebecca Tsai. Roberto was in Northern California for a series of dance workshops (see p. 13) and agreed to fly down and back from San Jose on Sunday in order to teach. Despite flood warnings and general traffic problems on freeways, over 70 dancers came and enjoyed the teaching, the buffet table full of refreshments, and the general dancing.



Dancing at the Winter Festival in Pasadena, California. *Photo by M. Rayman*.

# FROM THE LET'S DANCE! PHOTO ARCHIVES



Want to guess the identity of these two dancers? One became a president of the Folk Dance Federation (and don't assume it was the young man!). If it will help, the photo is from a 1960 issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine.



E-mail Address

# 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!

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Plus special workshops in Serbian and Macedonian dances with Vera Miladinović, Galia Miloucheva, & 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 847-858-9822balkanske\_igre@yahoo.comBalkanske Igre, PO Box 1157, Chicago, IL 60690www.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 University of Chicago International House, CEERES, WHPK, 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 in weekend packages; evening dinners & syllabus are Seniors extra. Individual work

vveekend Pass (Fri evening through Sun) \_\_\_\_\$150 \_\_\_\_\$170 \$160/\$180 after 3/10/2017

Saturday evening concert & dance party only \_\_\_\_\$ 30 \_\_\_\_\$ 40 (included in weekend pase)

Syllabus extra. Individual workshop admission is \$10/\$12. Dinner Saturday evening \$30 Please check if \_\_vegetarian, \_\_vegan, \_\_\_food allergies:\_\_ Post-festival Sunday dinner/party w/live music \$40 at an ethnic restaurant tha for a total of \$ Cell Phone\_ Name Address Other Phone City/State/Zip/Country

Dance Research Committee: Martha Awdziewicz, Karen Bennett, Laura Carman, Joyce Clyde, Cricket Raybern

#### Ne klepeći (nanulama)

(Bosnia)

Ne klepeæi nanulama (Neh kleh-PET-shee nah-noo-LAH-mah) means "Don't make that noise." "Ne klepeæi nanulama" is a typical Bosnian "sevda" melody, a song about strong emotions, especially sadness, in this case sadness over the loss of the singer's mother. This song, one of the biggest hits in the history of Yugoslav folk music, was written by Husain Kurtagiæand made famous by the Bosnian singer Nedžad Salkoviæ The lyrics were written by Ibrahim Dediæ The dance was choreographed by Jim Gold in Bosnian folk style and notated by Lee Otterholt. Both Jim and Lee have presented it at various festivals, including the 2015 FolkFest in Princeton, New Jersey, the 2016 Laguna Festival in Laguna, California, the 2016 Ontario Folk Dance Camp in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and the 2016 Northwest Folkdancers' 60th Anniversary Festival in Seattle, Washington.

Music: 4/4 meter

Toše Proeski - Ne Klepæi Nanulama

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-kJE82qGA0

Nedžad SalkoviæNe Klepeæi Nanulama https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMnF3CHWZSk

Video: Ne Klepeæi https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tvbdv5zXBbc

Formation: Open circle; hands in W-position.

Steps & Styling: Smooth and gentle movements.

Meas		4/4 meter Pattern		
8 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . No action.			
	I.	DURING INSTRUMENTAL.		
1		Facing and moving diag R twd ctr, step R (ct 1), step L (ct 2), step R (cts 3-4).		
2		Step L (cts 1-2), facing ctr, moving bkwd, away from ctr, step R (ct 3), step L (ct 4).		
3		Continuing bkwd, step R (cts 1-2), step L (cts 3-4).		
4		Facing ctr, dancing in place, step R to R, swaying R (cts 1-2), step L to L, swaying L (cts 3-4).		
5		Facing and moving diag R, step R (ct 1), step L (ct 2), step R (cts 3-4).		
6		Step L (ct 1), step R (ct 2), step L (cts 3-4).		
7		Facing ctr, and moving R, step R to R (cts 1-2); step L behind R (cts 3-4).		
8		Step R to R (cts 1-2), step L in front of R (cts 3-4).		
	II.	DURING SINGING.		
1-7		Repeat meas 1-7. (There is no meas 8 in the song melody.)		

#### Lyrics

Ne silazi sa èardaka i ne pitaj gdje sam bio zašto sa mi oèi plaène zbog èega sam suze lio

Stajao sam kraj mezara i umrlu majku zvao nosio joj dar od srca ali joj ga nisam dao

Refrain:

Ne klepeæi nanulama kad silaziš sa èardaka sve pomislim moja draga da silazi stara majka Don't come down from the balcony And don't ask where I've been Why my eyes are full of tears Nor why I've been crying

I went to the graveyard And called for my mother I brought her gifts from my heart That I could not give to her

Refrain:

Don't make that noise with your shoes As you come down from the balcony Because I always think, my dear That it's my mother coming down

#### RAZZMATAZZ WEEKEND IN MENDOCINO

by Marilyn Smith

Join us at Mendocino Woodlands on June 2-4, 2017 for our annual Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend. We will be celebrating our 40th year at the Woodlands. This year features Joe Graziosi teaching Greek dances as well as live music with the popular Bay Area Balkan band Edessa with special guest musician Cristos Govetas. Along with Edessa, Joe Finn and Leslie Bonnett will play Cajun and Scandinavian sets at the evening parties.

Festivities start on Friday evening with a high energy party in the rustic dance hall. Saturday's schedule includes morning dance workshops with Joe Graziosi, an afternoon singing workshop and a themed Happy Hour before dinner. This year's theme is "The Fabulous 40s" to celebrate our 40th anniversary of camp, so dress up in your favorite 40s-era style as we dance to the music from the Big Band era. Saturday evening features another party in the dance hall. Camp ends after breakfast on Sunday when campers wander into town to enjoy the sights of Mendocino.

Our cook, Nicole Saadeh, provides delicious, home cooked meals along with snacks late Friday night and on Saturday morning between dance classes, and a cornucopia of appetizers at Happy Hour before we sit down for a candle-lit, family-style dinner in the dining hall.

Oh, did I mention we also have late-night snacks in the dance hall on Saturday night? We don't want to go hungry with all the dancing we'll be doing!

The cost is just \$160 for adults and \$105 for children 17 and under. Registration opens March 1. We expect camp to fill quickly this year for our 40th anniversary. The registration form is posted at http://marilynsmithrazzmatazz.blogspot.com, or you can email razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com and I'll send you a registration form.

I hope to see you there!



The dance hall at Razzmatazz. *Photo by E. Torgerson* 



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