Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING NOVEMBER 2017



Those were the days, my friend... Above, a sampling of pre-printed dance programs from local dance festivals. Look at the dates! Read more about them on p. 16. Photo by L. Tucker

Let's Dance!

Volume 74, No. 9 November 2017

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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 www.folkdance.com 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

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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.

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

	¼ page	½ page	ruii page
Member clubs	\$10	\$20	\$35
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NOTE: Ads in color are double the rate above.

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WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

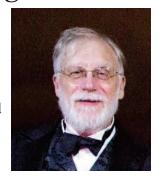
Marissa Kent and Dion Dettmer Willits International Folk Dancers

President's Message

by Joe Croco

Well, the summer is over, along with all the summer dance camps. The Federation's Officers Ball is now less than a month away as I write this and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at this yearly tradition on **Saturday**, **November 4**. The Institute

Committee is assembled an



excellent group of local teachers who will share their favorite dances – some old, some new. Their photos are on the cover of the October issue of *Let's Dance!* A registration form is in the October issue of *Let's Dance!* and in this month's issue on page 7. Depending on when you are reading this, it may be too late to sign up for the on-site dinner, but you can still attend! You can also check the Federation's website, folkdance.com. Be sure to let your

about the Ball too.

Speaking of which, let's talk about Federation
membership for a moment. Since you are reading this issue
of *Let's Dance!*, you are probably a member already. There
are many folk dancers who are not members of the
Federation and this note will not reach them, but you can.
You see a benefit to being a member, and you can talk with
other dancers about why they should be members too. For
me this magazine helps to create a greater sense of

friends who don't get their own copy of Let's Dance! know

As Loui mentions in her column (right), there is also the option of buying gift memberships for friends too.

community among all the folk dancers it reaches.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE SEEKS LEADER

The Federation Archives Committee is in need of leadership. Ideally it would be someone who lives relatively near Sunnyvale because that is where the Archives Storage Locker is located. However, if someone is willing to make a long-term commitment, moving the Federation archived materials nearer that person could be done. Perhaps there is dancer out there who is a lover of history (particularly the history of the Federation) who might want to take on this job. Please get in touch if that person is you (j.croco@comcast.net).

FROM THE EDITOR

The holidays are coming! The holidays are coming!

Do you need a gift for your new folk dancing friend? Perhaps there is someone in your local folk dance group who has joined recently. You want to keep them involved and excited about dancing, don't you? Sure, the Federation's website is



great, but how about a gift membership in the Federation that includes a subscription to *Let's Dance!* magazine, the very publication you're holding in your hands right now?

As gifts go, it's pretty cheap. A one-year membership for an individual is only \$35. For a couple, it is just \$40. Think about it: it's personal, it doesn't require batteries, you won't have to worry about guessing the correct size, it's good for the environment, and it's not one of those ubiquitous gift cards! As another bonus, you can pay for it without getting in your car and driving to the mall! Just walk over to your computer, fire up your favorite search engine, and go to folkdance.com. Click on the "Join" tab. A few more clicks, and you're done.



If he/she/they like being a Federation member, and pay to continue the membership the next year, it's a gift that keeps on giving, and YOU will be remembered as the person who got the ball rolling.

DANCE LIMERICK

My late husband hailed from New Paltz
Of course the man had his faults
He drank and he swore
He gambled, he snored
But Lord, that man sure could waltz!



November 2017 Calendar of Events

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

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

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

November 4 THE OFFICERS BALL. Hayward Veterans Memorial Hall, 22737 Main St., Hayward. 1-10 pm. Afternoon workshop featuring the favorite dances taught by local teachers, on-site dinner, and evening review and requests dance party.

November 11 PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL PARTY. Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos; 7-10 pm. \$9 (newcomers free!). 7:00-7:30 pm English dance workshop with Denise Heenan teaching Winter Solstice, followed by an all-requests party with emcee John Burke. hollisradin@pacbell.net.

November 18 PRE-KOLO FESTIVAL PARTY. All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. 7-11 pm. Sponsored by the Moveable Feet Club.

November 24-25 66TH ANNUAL KOLO FESTIVAL. Croatian-American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco. Michael Ginsberg, Yves Moreau, John Filcich and John Morovich will be teaching plus live music and singing. Kolo Festival is seeking volunteers; see p. 11.

December 2 RAZZMATAZZ CHRISTMAS FOLK DANCE PARTY. Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue, Santa Rosa. 7-10 pm. \$5. Children free.

December 2 PALOMANIANS PIE PARTY. International folk dancing and lots of pie and ice cream! St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road Menlo Park. \$10. 7:30-10:30 pm.

December 9 POST-KOLO FESTIVAL AND HOLIDAY PARTY. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Avenue, Palo Alto. 5:00 -9:30 pm.

December 11 ANNUAL PETALUMA HOLIDAY FOLK DANCE PARTY WITH LIVE MUSIC. 7-9:30 pm First hour will be dancing to old and new recorded favorites followed by dancing to live music by Da! Mozhem. At Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue. Carol Friedman, ciay@horizoncable.com.

December 25 CHRISTMAS NIGHT GATHERING. St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Rd, Menlo Park. 7:30-10:30 pm. *FREE TO ALL!*

December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK DINNER AND ALL REQUESTS PARTY. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto; 6:30 pm-12:30 am.

January 19
January 20, 2018

HERITAGE FESTIVAL WEEKEND. Friday "Club Night" Location TBA.
Saturday Afternoon and Evening: Serbian Workshop with Miroslav "Bata" Marèetiæ Exhibition and Party with live music. Twin Pines Senior and Community Center, 20 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont.



Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours: 2018

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



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SPAIN October 12-22, 2018

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HOLIDAY IN BUDAPEST

By Denise Heenan and Ellie Wiener

What a beautiful city! Our gracious host, Todd Wagner, welcomed us at the airport, helped us purchase our Metro passes and obtain cash, guided us through the very efficient transportation system, suggested restaurants (the food everywhere, without exception, was exceptional), and was our Budapest advisor throughout our stay at Wagnerhaz. Among the most memorable sights and experiences were

- The guided tour of the magnificent Budapest Opera House.
- The Dohány Street Synagogue, where we watched the rehearsal and sound check for the Gypsy Orchestra which was to perform that night.
- St. Stephen's Basilica. The grueling climb to the outlook

on the dome was rewarded with a 360-degree view of this gorgeous city.

- The '56 Memorial.
- The Holocaust Museum.
- The Memorial along the banks of the Danube of shoes left by those who were shot into the Danube by Arrow Cross Militia Men 1944-45.

The historic architecture of Budapest was offset by the very modern Müpa Budapest, where we saw the Hungarian National Dance Ensemble perform *The Captain of the Tenkes*.



Shoes on the banks of the Danube. *Photo by D. Heenan*



From left, Todd Wagner, Ellie Wiener, and Denise Heenan, in a Budapest restaurant. *Photo by available bystander*

Those of us who have read Todd's articles about folk dance in Hungary know of his love of this dance form and

of how alive it is there. We were fortunate to be in Budapest at the opening of the Tanchaz season. It was beyond impressive to witness the live music, dance lessons, crowded dance floors that included many people under 30, and to be a part of their traditions. Among those there that night were Judith and Kalman Magyar, who taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the 80s. It was a treat to visit with them and to also hear their grandchildren play in the orchestra. Although Todd remained indefatigable, shortly after midnight, we wearily headed to the tram and home.

Our reservations on Rail Europe to Zagreb, Croatia, sadly required our departure from Budapest. A lesson learned on Rail Europe is that no food or water are available, no matter that we had "Comfort" accommodations. However, our compartment companions from Dallas helped make the trip enjoyable. Look for our article about Željko's Croatia tour in the next *Let's Dance!*



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

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



SCHEDULE: 1:00 Doors open

\$15 1:30-5:30 Dance Workshops (see box below)

\$10 5:30-7:00 On-site dinner (sign up by October 27)

\$15 7:00-10:30 Evening celebration, dances from the workshop, and your requests

Advanced sale \$30 for the entire event and save \$10. At the door \$30, but dinner will NOT be included.

Print and mail this form with your check, or go to www.folkdance.com, download a form, email it, and pay using PayPal or your credit card.

Officers Ball 201	17 Registration Form	
Name(s):		
PRE-REGISTRATIO	N for the entire Officers Ba	all (by Oct 27):
\$30 PACKAGE	X people =	s
I/We can only come f	or part of the event:	
\$15 workshop	X people =	\$
\$10 dinner X peo	ple (sign up by Oct. 27!) =	s
\$15 evening party	X people =	s
Any dietary issues we	should know about?	
Mail the check and re	eg form to:	
Laura Douglass		
226 Alameda de las P		
Redwood City, CA 9	4062	
Email to the form to:	L_M_Douglass@yahoo.com	n
or pay on our website	: www.folkdance.com	

LIST OF TEACHERS: Aaron Alpert - Holech Uva (Israeli non-partner) Julie East - Szot Madziar (Polish non-partner) Lenore Frigo - Contras (U.S. partners) Martin Frost - Pušteno Oro/Devojče, Devojče (Macedonian non-partner) Marija Hillis - Sapphire Sea (English Set) Marina Troost - Hora ca la Neamt (Romanian non-partner)

On-site dinner with musical entertainment by BILL COPE (signup by October 27)

Signing up in advance saves you \$10 and

guarantees you a seat at the on-site dinner.

Yale and Marcia Rosenblatt - Aino Kchume (Assyrian partners) Todd Wagner - Dobrolusko Horo (Bulgarian non-partner)

(Subject to change)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

PENINSULA COUNCIL - Hollis Radin

The Peninsula Folk Dance Council's November 11 party will be at the lovely Garden House in Shoup Park in Los Altos, 7-10 pm. Denise Heenan will be teaching Winter Solstice that evening, and John Burke will be our emcee. Look for our *Dance!* signs to help find your way.

On December 2, the Palomanians will host their annual **Pie (and Ice Cream) Party** at St. Bede's Church in Menlo Park. Don't forget to put the Council's **Christmas Night Gathering**, also at St. Bede's Church, on your calendar for 7:30 pm on December 25. This event is FREE and your family members are welcome.

Look for our first **Heritage Festival flyer** in this issue. This is our great yearly event! The Friday "Club Night" will be at the Garden House in Los Altos. The Saturday afternoon workshop at the **Twin Pines Center in Belmont** will feature **Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić**, and the evening party will include live music from Orkestar Srma and an exhibition from the Serbian youth group Mladost Folklore.

It's only \$30 for whole package: the Friday party, the Saturday afternoon Serbian dance workshop with Miroslav "Bata" Marèetiæ, AND The Saturday evening party! *Please register in advance for this rate.*

Stanford Folk Dancers' November all-request dance night will be at Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park, and is only \$5. On December 1, Bill Cope & Friends will be playing international folk dance music, including Balkan, Greek and old favorites at All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley Street in Palo Alto. Please check stanfordfolkdance.com for details.

The Moveable Feet Club invites you to kick off the 2017 Kolo Festival with a **pre-Kolo Festival party** on Saturday, November 18 at All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley, Palo Alto. The hall has a great floor and there will be a relaxing kafana adjacent to the dancing hall. Sue Williard will teach starting at 7 with Eric Bendix's Arcanul Batrinesc and Ahmet Lüleci's Kara Tren. The band Staro Vino will provide music from the Balkans. Contact: LucySChang@gmail.com.

In December, the Moveable Feet Club has two events for you. First, a **Holiday Celebration** on Saturday, December 9 at First Baptist Church, 305 N. Californian St., Palo Alto. Second, our annual **New Year's Eve** celebration

at All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley, Palo Alto. The potluck dinner at 6:30 pm is followed by an all-request dancing to 12:30 am. Loui Tucker and Lucy Chang will co-emcee. Contact: LucySChang@gmail.com.

<u>VILLAGE DANCERS OF FRESNO</u> – Judy Kropp In August the Village Dancers performance group danced

for their 17th year at the Junction City, Oregon Scandinavian Festival. This group rehearses most Monday nights. In October we had five local performances: German dances for several Oktoberfests and Scandinavian for the Sons of Norway. Most of the group also dances international folk dancing on Wednesday nights at a local studio.

On Friday nights the Village Dancers teach international folk dancing at the beautiful Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock, California. The first hour is beginning dance and the second is all-request. Up to seven people teach during the month.

Three of our dancers received scholarships to attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp this year: Lise Swedberg, Denise Lucero and Tamara Littlewood. The group was started by Floyd Davis in the 1940s and is now in its 77th year.

Come join us if you're ever passing through the central valley.



The Village Dancers of Fresno. *Photo by an available bystander*

...AND BEYOND

NORTH BAY - Carol Friedman

You are all invited to Petaluma for our two upcoming parties, featuring two fabulous bands. **Kabilé will be playing music from Bulgaria** on Monday, October 23, 7-9:30 pm. On Monday, December 11, 7-9:30 pm, **Da! Mozhem** will bring their great mix of Balkan and international favorites to Petaluma for our **Annual Petaluma Holiday Folk Dance Party**. With veterans of many well-loved groups, Da! Mozhem plays a lively and beautiful variety of folk dance music on traditional and modern instruments and sings lush multi-part harmonies.

At Monday night dancing in Petaluma, we're focusing on Albanian dances taught by Steve and Suzy Kotansky at Mendocino Balkan Music and Dance Camp, including Vallja e Dados, Valle e Gajdes, Valle Beratche Korchare, and Valle Kachakut. Classes continue through December 11 on Mondays 7-9:30 pm at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Drop-ins, newcomers, beginners through experienced dancers, and all ages are always welcome.

For those looking for daytime classes, come on Wednesdays 2:10-3:30 pm to College of Marin in Kentfield. Register now for the next session, October 22-December 6. Israeli Folk Dancing continues at the Osher Jewish Community Center, 200 San Pedro Road, San Rafael on Thursdays 1:30-4 pm, with sessions scheduled from September 7-October 19 and October 26-December 6. Drop in any Thursday for a mix of oldies and contemporary favorites.

For more information, contact Carol Friedman at 415-663-9512, cjay@horizoncable.com, or go to http://carolfriedmanfolkdance.blogspot.com.

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – Barbara Malakoff

Gene Vaughn had his first meeting serving as President of the Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council (SIFDAC), and it was fairly momentous.

Bruce Mitchell reported on all the progress he has made in preparation for the **Statewide Folk Dance Festival**, to be held in **Sacramento May 18-20, 2018**. We have been very fortunate to be able to book the historic and very beautiful Masonic Temple in downtown Sacramento. In fact, in 2018, it will be celebrating its 100th birthday. It is located in the heart of downtown Sacramento about three blocks from the State Capitol Building and much, much more. Sacramento is experiencing quite a renaissance right now, because of the

influx of new home buyers (many from the Bay Area), and the Golden One Center, the new state of the art Sports and Arts Arena in the downtown very close to Old Sacramento.

One of the concerns that this location has brought up is that old bugaboo: parking. The Best Western Sutter's Inn motel is three blocks away from the Masonic Temple and includes free parking in the price of a room. There is also a multi-story city parking lot adjacent to the Masonic Temple. Another approach would be to stay a little out of the center of the city and use Uber to get back and forth, instead of worrying about parking. Carpool, and it gets even cheaper.

The tragic part of all this is that we have had to cancel this year's Camellia Festival because it would be just too close in time to the Statewide, so we are giving it a rest this year, but it will be back in full force in 2019.

For more information on anything Sacramento, check out our ever-growing website, folkdancesac.org.

RAZZMATAZZ - Marilyn Smith

Fall classes for Razzmatazz Folk Dance Club started on September 5. Now in its 47th year, the group welcomed 60 dancers in the intermediate class at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa and 40 dancers in the beginning class at the Person Senior Wing of Finley Community Center.

The group is looking forward to our **annual Christmas folk dance party** on Saturday, December 2 at Monroe Hall from 7-10 pm. The evening will feature recorded music plus live music with local Sonoma County musicians Jim Avera, Barbara Babin and a drummer to be announced. The traditional "Night Before Christmas" will be read for the children and Santa Claus will make his annual visit. All visitors are welcome to our annual party. Admission is just \$5, and children are free. Tips for the musicians are greatly appreciated. Come to our festive night of folk dancing and celebration!

<u>SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS</u> – Linda Milhoan Changs International Folk Dancers are already planning for our 80th anniversary party in September 2018. The

official date will be announced soon.

We meet every Friday 7:30-10:30 pm. The first two Fridays of each month are teaching nights. Teaching is from 8:30 to 9:30. About a dozen Changs members attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp, so our official teacher, Craig Blackstone, has encouraged members who would like to share dances from 2017 camp to do so on teaching nights. Family Night takes place on third Fridays. Our wonderful teacher, Michele Hardbarger, has already taught some camp *(continued on p. 10)*

AROUND THE BAY AND BEYOND (continued)

dances to our enthusiastic kids. Fourth Fridays, and fifth Fridays when they occur, are for all request dancing and special workshops. Come and join us at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 31st & Clement St. in San Francisco.

San Francisco Dance Circle has been invited to participate in a Rec and Park Volunteer Appreciation event for all RPD volunteers, to be held on Saturday, November 4 at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park. International Folk Dance is one of Rec/Park's highlighted volunteer-run programs averaging about 30 dancers each week, year round. The group plans to invite audience members to learn a few dances and find out how much fun folk dancing is! San Francisco Dance Circle meets Wednesdays 10:45 am-12:15 pm at Harvey Milk Center for the Arts, 50 Scott St. at Duboce. IT'S FREE! Contact Ann at acolichidas@gmail.com.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS - Naomi Lidicker

Our new Beginners' Class is doing well, and continues to welcome others. Remember that if you can walk, you can dance. The class is at the Live Oak Park Social Hall on Shattuck at Berryman, Berkeley, every Tuesday 7:45-9:45 pm. Info: Marija and David Hillis: (510) 549-0337.

Our Inaugural Ball was a huge success. Dancers were attired in true "Asian Splendor." It was wonderful to see how many dancers were still dancing at 10:30 pm.

Many BFDers attended the **Czech Festival in Orinda** on **Saturday**, **September 30**. A small group of eight BFD members performed three Czech dances on the outdoor stage. Also, Marija Hillis, who had taught a group of children, including BFD's young dancers Evelyn, little sister Helen, and William, performed a few children's dances with live music by a Czech band, Muzicka. What a delight they were!

Now our thoughts are turning to our **Advanced Class's Fun Night**. It will be a joyous "**Autumn Hoedown**" on **Friday November 17**, 7:30-10:30 pm at our dance hall in the Live Oak Park in Berkeley. This party takes us to an American barn dance. We celebrate our rural roots and the lively community that was built wherever we found ourselves. \$5 for members; \$7 for others. Info: Bill Lidicker 510-528-9168.

Note: **BFD will not be dancing on Thursday, November 23 or Friday, November 24**. Happy Thanksgiving Day! And see you at the Kolo Festival.

BFD schedule for this quarter:

- Monday, Advanced Intermediate with Yaqi Zhang
- Tuesday, Beginners with Marija and David Hillis
- Tuesday afternoon class (1:30-3 pm) with Andy Partos (at Northbrae Church)
- Wednesday, Advanced with Bill Lidicker
- Thursday, Intermediate with Marian Synder and David Hillis
- Friday, All-Request Pary with Peter and Lynne D'Angelo

DANCING "DANES"

by Alicia La Fetra

If it is the third weekend in September, then it must be Danish Days in Solvang. The 81st anniversary of Danish Days was celebrated this year September 15-17 and it marked my fifth year of dancing with the Solvang Village Folk Dancers, led by David Heald. Our Danish "family" members (which consist of multiple generations of several families) returned to Solvang from far and wide for a weekend reunion filled with dancing and fun. We had dancers from age 1 to at least 81. It was truly heartwarming to watch the teenagers helping the little ones – the next generation of folk dancers developing right before our eyes.

Some of the Danish dances done over the weekend were Danish Half Chain, Gustasf's Skoal, Sonderborg Double Quadrille, Oxdansen, and Little Man in a Fix (which is always a crowd-pleaser because the women "fly"). Craig and Cindy Blackstone made the trek from the Bay Area and I was lucky enough to dance Dreisteyrer (which is not a Danish dance) with them. Other non-Danish dances included the Hambo, Alexandrovsky, Willow Tree, Bohemian National Polka, and La Bastringue. Audience participation is always encouraged and there is usually much laughter, especially when there is a language barrier with tourists. But the language of dance is universal and is somehow easily learned during Danish Days. So please consider joining us next year. Our dancing will be fueled by aebleskivers

(round Danish pancakes) and medisterpolse (Danish sausage). Mange tak (thank you)!



The author dancing with David Heald. *Photo by V. Strandskov*

THANK YOU, FOLK DANCE FEDERATION

by Luiselle Yakas

It has been several months since the Stockton Folk Camp 2017 has been over, but I'm still reminiscing about how much I had enjoyed it and feeling the glow. It was my first time attending for two weeks. I had always thought that if I wanted to spend two weeks somewhere, it would be at a location reached by spending hours on a plane. This time I felt that, it being the special 70th year, I should try to do two weeks. First off, I wouldn't miss any of the cameos for each week, and second, I would be able to see and dance with all my folk dance friends, no matter what week they attended.

To make this work, I would have to apply for a scholarship for one of the weeks. I was honored that I received the scholarship from the Folk Dance
Federation of California. Knowing that I would be at Stockton Camp for two weeks, I was able to relax and truly enjoy the Folk Dance Camp experience. It became not only an opportunity to learn new dances, but to socialize with long-time folk dance friends and make new ones. My folk dance community was widely broadened. I reunited with folks I originally met on folk dance tours and cruises, as well as at workshops I had attended far and wide and, of course, those I have known since I first began to folk dance.

When I originally filled out my scholarship application, I was asked "Why do you wish to attend?" I

I had always thought that if I wanted to spend two weeks somewhere, it would be at a location reached by spending hours on a plane. replied that I wanted to strengthen my knowledge of dances and share them. When I was asked "How will you use your dance experience and contribute to the folk dance community?" I stated that, besides sharing what I learned, it would give me the opportunity

to connect with more people in the folk dance community, bringing greater camaraderie between us. This aspect has been really important to me. We have people who come from all over the country and the world. I have made



The author, left, with Judy Robinson, at Stockton Folk Dance Camp. *Photo by L. Tucker*.

life-long friends through the folk dance community.

When reading the literature about what it takes to have a long and healthful lifestyle, the same factors are consistent: exercise (folk dancing) and social support (friends and the folk dance community). It has really made a significant difference in my life and, I know, many other lives as well. The longevity of many our folk dancers attests to how healthful folk dancing is!

So, thank you to the Folk Dance Federation of California for giving me the opportunity for a very special Stockton Camp

experience this year. I've already put my deposit down for two weeks of next year's Camp!

KOLO FESTIVAL SEEKS VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested, please go to

http://balkantunes.org/kolofestival Click on:

Volunteers needed! click here to sign-up!

The 66TH ANNUAL KOLO FESTIVAL

(November 24-25) takes places at the Croatian-American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco. Michael Ginsberg, Yves Moreau, John Filcich and John Morovich will be teaching. Lots of live music and singing, too!

THE SHORT HISTORY OF THE BLACKSTONE JIG, AND HOW IT CAME TO BE

by Craig Blackstone

As a folk dancer for just over 30 years, I have always admired the skill with which choreographers put together the dances that have made it into our folk dance repertoire. While I was occasionally curious about the process, I had never had a conversation with a folk dance choreographer, nor have I attended any workshop where ways of setting steps to music for a community-style dance was the topic under consideration. Thus, the process of creating dance choreography for a folk dance remained a complete mystery.

This is not to say that the subject of folk dance composition had never arisen. I am well aware of the old debate within folk dance circles over whether an "authentic folk dance" necessarily should be able to be traced to a traditional source rather than to be one composed using traditional steps and styling. All I will say on that subject is that it is my opinion that if folks are dancing for recreation, and they enjoy doing a dance together as a community of dancers, they are folk dancing regardless of how the dance came into existence.

In 2016, I ventured into the great unknown and created my first and only dance composition, now known as The Blackstone Jig. It came about as follows.

I have a CD player in my car, and one day I was listening to my CD entitled *Celtic Odyssey*, which is an anthology of Celtic music. Track four on that CD is a lively fiddle medley played by Alisdair Fraser, consisting of the two songs "Calliope House" and "The Cowboy Jig." The music was so sweet and sprightly that, as I was listening, I thought it would be great to dance to.

Shortly thereafter, I was driving my wife Cindy to

San Jose with the same CD playing, and track four came around. Cindy – independently and without any prompting by me – gave her opinion that track four would be nice to do a dance to. Later, as we were driving home and the track came

The music was so sweet and sprightly that, as I was listening, I thought it would be great to dance to.

around one more time, I began picturing in my mind movements which seemed to go along with the flow of the music. By the time we arrived home, the dance had been essentially composed.

There were two elements to the dance which I thought essential to my first dance composition, if I felt



The author dancing with his wife, Cindy, at Stockton Folk Dance Camp this past summer. *Photo by L. Tucker*

inclined to share the product of my creative effort. The first was that I wanted the dance to be easy to do, so that nearly everyone could do it. This was accomplished by, for the most part, using fairly simple and repeated figures. The second was that I wanted it to be fun. Because I personally think that mixer dances are the most fun and easiest to share. I made the dance a mixer.

Now it was time to put my theory of what made a fun dance to the test. I made my dance group at Changs in San Francisco the first guinea pigs. I told them there was a new dance that I wanted to present to them, and they agreed to let me do so even

though it was not on one of our normal teaching nights. I wanted their fair appraisal of the dance, so I decided not to reveal that I had composed it. I was delighted when the dance was enthusiastically received. Several members asked the name of the dance, and I replied that I called it The Cowboy Jig. When I was asked what other people called it, I said they didn't call it anything, as I had just made it up and it had never been danced before. One of our club members, Wendy Brown, then suggested the dance should instead be called The Blackstone Jig. Over my initial and ineffective protest, that is what it has been known ever since.

Next I presented it to the International Folk Dance class at City College of San Francisco, where it was again well received. This led to it becoming one of the dances I placed on the program of dances for the 2016 Blossom Festival. Some of the experienced dancers attending the

Blossom Festival liked it, and invited me to present it for the Palomanians, a group that dances in Menlo Park.

The dance thus spread beyond the borders of San Francisco. The expansion continued on a widening scale when, in July of 2016, it was presented at Stockton Folk Dance Camp as part of a Dances For All Ages workshop. Later that year Changs member Ulrike Narins taught it to several dance groups in Japan during her extended stay there. Finally, in the Spring of 2017, I presented it in Prague in the Czech Republic. I wouldn't call it an international phenomenon quite yet, but the dancers have enjoyed it everywhere it has been taught, and there is now a video of it on YouTube.

What delights me most about the dance, and has given me the greatest satisfaction when dancing it, has been seeing the joy on the faces of the other dancers as we do it, and knowing that I have played a part in creating that joy.

Have you ever thought about trying to choreograph a dance yourself? I would imagine most experienced dancers know enough dance steps to create their own dance. To me, the dance is like a sentence, with the steps being the words which need to be organized in a way that makes sense. The music provides the structure which helps the arrangement of the steps. While dancing you may have heard the phrase "The music tells you what to do." To me, the key aspect of the dance is the music. If you are considering trying your own hand at dance composition (and I say, "Go for it!"), I suggest you start by finding a piece of music that really speaks to you, and give a try at letting it tell you the movements which flow naturally in sync with it.

If you have danced The Blackstone Jig, I hope you enjoyed the dance. If you haven't danced it yet, I hope you get the opportunity to do so and let me know what you think of it. The Blackstone Jig was inspired by Mr. Fraser's recording, as well as my desire to share the joy it gives me with my dancing friends. Before sharing the dance to a wide audience, I made certain to write to Mr. Fraser and obtain his consent to using his recording in that manner. It is my hope that someday I will have the opportunity to dance The Blackstone Jig with Mr. Fraser himself.

Watch for the dance description for *The Blackstone Jig* in a future issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine.

THE HOT(!) SUMMER DANCES

by Clem Dickey

The Moveable Feet Club held the Summer Dance Camp Review (aka The HOT Summer Dances) on September 2. It was the Saturday of a record-setting Labor Day-weekend heat wave in the San Francisco Bay Area. The air conditioning at All Saints Episcopal Church in

Palo Alto struggled to keep us cool at 79°F as the outside temperature reached 106 °F. In other numbers, the 66 dancers in attendance consumed 10 gallons of punch, lemonade, and water. Loui Tucker emceed as 13 teachers taught 11



dances from nine workshops (another record). The summer teachings reached across the United States to Mainewoods and further extended -- thanks to Dance on the Water -- to the Rhine River in Europe.

Three dances presented by Roberto Bagnioli at Stockton were taught. Katherine Abbott taught Oj Shope Shope, created by Belèo Stanev. It is a four-figure Bulgarian dance in Petrunino (7/8 meter, counted SQQQS) rhythm. It's fast enough and long enough that the steps may need a few days to migrate from brain to feet.

Rebecca Tsai taught another Roberto dance, Bum Bum Boje. It is a Macedonian-style dance to Bulgarian Gypsy music, with two figures: the first feels bouncy, relaxed and flowing; the second more purposeful and restrained. The contrast works well.

Vince Taylor presented Knut Arne's Reinlender, taught by Knut Arne Jacobsen at Scandi 2017. It can be difficult to teach Scandinavian dances to international dancers, but Vince did a great job of analyzing the pivots for us non-Scandi types.

Other dances taught were Jano Janke (Ann Klieman); Avak Hadrachim (Denise Lucero); Emma's Commencement (Andy Partos and Cornelia Ghafur); Bartin'in Güzelleri (Kevin Greek); Cazino (Lon Radin); Shegani (Marija Hillis); Malenake (Lew Smith and Melissa Miller); and Rododachtilos (Ulrike Narins).

The spring and summer workshops and camps are our primary source of new dances, and we expect these dances and others learned over the summer to provide teaching material for months to come. We had a great time not only learning the cornucopia of dances, but sharing camp experiences over the potluck dinner.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2018

January 19th Opening Night Party

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

January 20th

Afternoon workshop and evening party

Twin Pines Senior & Community Center, Belmont

Featuring Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić, Director of the Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing

Live music from **Orkestar Srma**Exhibition by Serbian youth group **Mladost Folklore**



Serbian Party theme Saturday night!



What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

Editor's Note: We received this message from Shana Vinokur on September 22.

I regret to inform you that I am resigning as President of the FDF South, effective immediately, due to serious health problems which have made it increasingly difficult for me to function. I must put my health first.

I have already informed Vice President Pauline Klak and given her my gavel. According to the bylaws, she becomes the President. Please contact Pauline Klak with any questions or feedback.

So far, my dancing hasn't been significantly compromised by my health problems, and I intend to continue volunteer activities with Veselo Selo as long as I can. Dancing and music are what keeps me going. I hope to see some of you at our club or other local dance events.

Thank you to those of you who have been supportive of me. Closing with a Jewish New Year greeting: May you have a better year than last, with good health and plenty of dancing.



Shana Vinokur performing with Interfolk at Statewide 2017 in Reseda. Photo by L. Tucker

SURPRISES ON TURKISH DANCE TOUR

By Caroll Dickinson

In May, I joined Ahmet Lüleci and nine others in a modern hotel just outside of Istanbul: seven of us from the Greater Bay Area, one from Texas and my roommate from Minnesota. We spent four days in Turkey, traveling east due to the recent terrorist attacks, and then on to the Macedonian area of Greece for six days, ending in Thessaloniki.

Our first surprise was during our first stop in Kýrklareli, where Ahmet had arranged to get us into traditional dress and join the parade honoring spring. Ending the event, a pyramid of wood was burned in the middle of the street – something I can't imagine being allowed here. In Erni°, our last Turkish stop, Ahmet treated us to a non-hotel Turkish breakfast of fresh-made *meneme* (eggs, tomato, green peppers, and spices) which I loved and have tried making at home. The owner/cook loved to dance and after breakfast we all danced in her restaurant. What spontaneous fun!



The author (far right) with other members of the tour in traditional dress, prepared to participate in the parade. *Photo by A. Lüleci*

Our last surprise was arranged by Yanni in the mountains of Greece. We were allowed to watch the sacred ceremony of dancing on coals. During the day, musicians played while 12 adults danced and kissed icons in a small hot room. About 9:00, we broke for dinner while a large fire was started in the middle of a large fenced grass area. After dinner, the men and women started dancing across the coals accompanied by live music. Finally they stomped the low burning coals out and we joined them in a large circle dance as the stars twinkled.

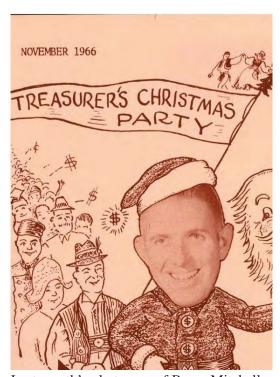
We had expected to dance with different dance groups, and we did. All the people were friendly and even invited us to dance when we said we did not know the dance.

The food in both countries was fabulous – but that is another story!

FROM THE LET'S DANCE! PHOTO ARCHIVES



We think this was taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the late 1980s. Who's our sleeping princess?



Last month's photo was of Bruce Mitchell.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LITTLE PRE-PRINTED PROGRAM BOOKLETS?

Dear Professor History: I was cleaning out my folk-dancing father's basement and came across a plastic bag full of little paper booklets, some with yarn or ribbons attached. There were over 100 of these printed programs from folk dance festivals from the late 1940s to the mid-1980s! [See cover photo]. They listed two or three evenings worth of dances that were to be done.

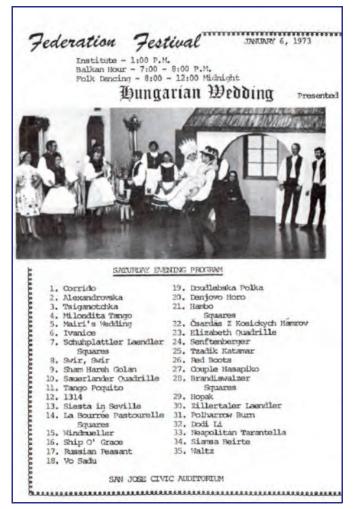
I attended Marcel Vinokur's monthly parties, which were all-request dances, never planned in advance, so I had very little experience with these programs. I think the last time I saw one was at Statewide several years ago in Southern California. Why did they exist in the first place and what happened to them?

In the very early years, the repertoire of available dances was limited, made up almost exclusively of couple dances, and everyone attending dance parties knew all of the dances. Putting together a program was a matter of arranging the known dances into a balanced program (fast, slow, polka, waltz, sets, squares, etc.). Dancers picked up one of these little bookets, put it in a pocket or used the yarn or ribbon to attach it to a wrist or a belt, and could then easily check the order of dances during the evening. As with your father, people kept the programs as mementos of the event.

Moving forward in time, it became the practice for a sub-committee of those putting on the event to select a few dozen dances from the ever-enlarging repertoire and arrange them into dance programs for each party. There were long, heated discussions about which dances to include, in what order. Then the event planners, hoping to increase interest and attendance, began using the program as a form of publicity. In the late 1950s, *Let's Dance!* magazine began publishing dance programs a month before an upcoming festival.

Some dancers viewed published programs as a way to determine if they wanted to attend the event (not enough line dances; too many dances they didn't know, etc.). Others saw it as an opportunity to review, or ask their teachers to review, dances they had forgotten.

Our repertoire continue to expand, and local repertoires began to vary. Pressure was exerted to provide a good balance of generally-known dances along with dances known only to a few. While some felt the goal should be to plan a program that maximized the number



A sample program printed in *Let's Dance!* December 1972 for an event in January 1973 features four non-partner dances, 31 partner dances, and four tips of squares.

of dancers on the dance floor, others felt this approach tended to dumb down or homogenize the programs. Another argument was that, if there was a dance on the program you didn't know, this was an opportunity to see something new and perhaps take the dance back to your home club. Old issues of *Let's Dance!* have scores of letters to the editor discussing how best to balance partner and non-partner dances, and local favorites with common dances, and whether or not to include squares. As late as 2010, programs (Fiesta de Sonoma, for example) continued to appear in *Let's Dance!*.

Although the tradition remains with a few clubs and festivals, most dance events now are either (1) all-request parties where dances are selected from requests made by those attending the event; or (2) events that feature live music where it is typically left up to the performers to select the music to be played. Even when a program is planned in advance, it is more often the practice to simply post the program on posters on the walls of the dance hall.

Dance Research Committee: Martha Awdziewicz, Laura Carman, Cricket Raybern, Loui Tucker

Hai Ne Ne Ne

(Russian Gypsy)

Hai Ne Ne (AHYEE neh neh NEH) was composed by Roberto Bagnoli in a Russian gypsy style to the song by Nadezhda Babkina. There is no translation; it's equivalent to "la, la, la." The dance was presented by Roberto Bagnoli at the 2017 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Music: Ethnic Festival 2017, Track 3 Meter: 2/4

Formation: Mixed lines of dancers facing center, hands in V-pos.

Video: 2017 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD. Camp videos can be viewed by contacting a Camp

participant who purchased it. Youtube.com/watch?v=ZRzbNtIS2Kc

Steps and Styling: Playful.

Measur	res	2/4 meter	PATTERN
1-11		INTRODUCTION. No ac	tion. Start with the singing.
	I.	FIGURE I.	
1		Sway R to R (ct 1); sway l	L to L (ct 2).
2		Moving CCW, step R to R (ct 1); step L behind and near R (ct &); step R to R (ct 2).	
3		Step on L heel in front of R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L behind and near R (ct &).	
4		Step R to R (ct 1); step on L heel across in front of R (ct 2).	
5		Repeat meas 2.	
6		Step L in front of R (ct 1);	step R bkwd (ct &); step L to L (ct 2).
7		Repeat meas 6 with opp ft	wk.
8		Step L in front of R (ct 1); place (cts 2, &), ending face	step R bkwd (ct &); drop hands and do a two-step turn (L, R) to L in cing ctr.
	II.	FIGURE II.	
1		1	n R next to L (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2); touch L next to R (ct &). Loose elbows bent, move to L (ct 1) and R (ct 2).
2		Repeat meas 1.	
3		1	awd (ct 1); drag R bkwd and step R in front and near L, bringing R shldr et 2); step R in front and near L (ct &). Arms slowly open wide, palms ow during meas 3.
4		Step L bkwd (ct 1); step R (ct &).	to R (ct &); lifting upper body, step L in front of R (ct 2); step R bkwd
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4.	

III. FIGURE III.

1 Rejoining hands and facing ctr, step L to L (ct 1); touch R next to L with a sharp motion (ct 2).

2-3 Grapevine: step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2).

IV. ENDING

Step L bkwd (ct 1); step R to R (ct &); lifting upper body, close L to R (ct 2).

Sequence: Repeat dance as written above until the music slows during Fig II. Continue doing the same ftwk slowly through meas 4. Then repeat Fig II once more, dancing the Ending instead of meas 8.

Lyrics and Translation

Vidu pred dalinay I will go out to the valley Kosi pavjadzju Will look at the sky I platockam pjostrim And motley kerchief Kosi pavjadzju Will tie in a plait

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne ne

Kosi pavjadzju

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne ne

Will tie in a plait

Gdje tiper bu drugu V oci paglidyet Pesenku eavitnuyu Dle nyego prapyet Where could I look
Into the eyes of a friend now
The cherished song

To sing for him

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne ne

Dle nyego prapyet

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne ne

To sing for him

No ne veselit mnje Dushu rasata Stala ja drugaja Stala ja nje ta But the beauty Does not cheer my soul I became different

I am not the same

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne ne

Stala ja nje ta

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne ne

I am not the same

Vidu pred dalinay Kosi pavjadzju I platockam pjostrim Kosi pavjadzju I will go out to the valley Will look at the sky And motley kerchief Will tie in a plait

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne ne

Kosi pavjadzju

Ay ne ne ne, ay ne ne ne ne

Will tie in a plait



Roberto Bagnoli teaching Hai Ne Ne Ne at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2017. *Photo by J. Croco*

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MARK YOUR CALL... SAVE THE DATE: February 11 Festival of the Oaks 2018 Morning workshop featuring MICHAEL GINSBURG and afternoon dance party -- Live Oak Park, Berkele Details coming soon.

and afternoon dance party -- Live Oak Park, Berkeley

The dance description for *Trojak* appeared in the October issue of *Let's Dance!*, but there wasn't space to include the lyrics for the song.

LYRICS FOR TROJAK

Polish:

Zasiali górale owies, owies. Od końca do końca, tak jest, tak jest. Zasiali górale żyto, żyto. Od końca do końca, wszystko, wszystko.

A mom ci ja mendelicek, w domu dwa, w domu dwa! U sasiada śwarnych dziwuch gromada, gromada! A mom ci ja trzy mendele, w domu dwa, w domu dwa! Žad na mi się nie podoba, tylko ta, tylko ta!

English Translation:

The mountaineers have sown oats, From one end to the other, yes, The mountaineers have sown rye From one end to the other, all of it.

I have 15 sheaves, two at home, two at home! At my neighbor's, there are many lovely girls! I have 15 sheaves, two at home, two at home! I don't like any of these girls, except her, except her!

Phonetic:

Zah-shah-lee goo-rah-leh oh-vyess, oh-vyess, Ot kony-tsah do kony-tsah, tahk yest, tahk yest, Zah-shah-lee goo-rah-leh zhyy-toh, zhyy-toh, Ot kony-tash do kony-tsah, vshyy-stko, vshyy-stko.



Ada and Jas Dziewanowska, with Darlene Clark, teaching Trojak at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July 2017. Photo by E. Khuner

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

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