

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 🍷 SEPTEMBER 2017



Opening Night at the 70th Stockton Folk Dance Camp, First Week 2017. *Photo by J. Croco*



Dancing to live music at the 70th Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Second Week 2017. *Photo by L. Tucker*

More photos on p. 10

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Statewide 2018
will be May 18-20 in the Sacramento area !
Many more details coming soon!**

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

Let's Dance!

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SEPTEMBER 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

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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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WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Aaron Alpert, Stanford, California
Penny Garland, Redding, California
Marsha McGill, Paradise, California

President's Message

by Joe Croco

It's time for me write an article for *Let's Dance!* and I'm off to another dance camp! Before the last issue, it was Vintage Dance weeks in St. Petersburg and Prague (that trip is worth an article at a later date). I was home less than a week, followed by the first week of Stockton Dance Camp. Now, after a week at home, Laura and I are heading to TiTiTabor, a Hungarian dance camp near Seattle.

I have discovered that doing different dances demonstrates both differences in time and country, but also how dances are alike. The waltz step that folk dancers do today is the same rotary waltz of the late 19th-century European Balls.

I hope you are looking forward, as Laura and I are, to the ***Federation's Officers Ball*** on **Saturday, November 4**. The Institute Committee is assembling a good mixture of local teachers to share their favorite dances. I have found in past years that this event is a great way to connect with lovers of folk dance from all over California.

One final request: The Federation needs someone to chair the ***Archives Committee***, which was my position until I took over as president. 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).

Happy dancing to you, and may your feet never get sore.



FROM THE EDITOR

by Loui Tucker

Being the editor of *Let's Dance!* for six issues has involved a learning process. I have needed to create a system for organizing and keeping track of multiple contributors, dozens of dates, many photographs, and close to a hundred emails per issue. Despite my best efforts, I made two significant errors in the July-August issue.

1. I misidentified John Carroll as John Burke in the photo on p. 16.

2. I failed to include a significant event sponsored by the Peninsula Council.

Yes, I have a proofreader (Assistant Editor Karen Bennett), and she's great at catching typos, missing punctuation and diacritical marks, errant grammar, excess verbiage, and formatting issues. She lives in Canada, however, and doesn't know our local people or events. She couldn't have been expected to catch either of the slip-ups noted above.

In an effort to avoid mistakes like this in the future, I asked for help from Federation Board members at the meeting in July. Expecting one reluctant soul to offer to proofread, I got five (!) people willing to review the preliminary draft of *Let's Dance!*. They each said they wouldn't necessarily have time to proofread *every* issue but, with five people available, certainly one will have the time.

I am hopeful that this team of local proofreaders will mean *Let's Dance!* will be error free from now on.



SEPTEMBER 2017 Calendar of Events

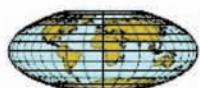
We reserve the right to edit all submissions; we assume no responsibility for accuracy.

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

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

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

- September 2** **FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMER CAMPS REVIEW.** All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. 1:30-8:00 pm. \$10. Dances from camps and workshops held May-August will be taught by local teachers. Sponsored by Moveable Feet Club. LucySChang@gmail.com.
- September 9** **PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL MONTHLY PARTY.** Hillview Social Hall at the Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. 7-10 pm. \$9. Loui Tucker MC. hollisradin@pacbell.net
- September 20** **CARRIAGE HOUSE DANCERS END OF SUMMER PARTY.** Holbrook Palmer Park, Atherton. 7:45-10 pm. sroccabutler@mac.com
- September 23** **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS' INAUGURAL BALL.** Live Oak Social Hall 7:30-10:30 pm. Contact Peter and Lynne D'Angelo (510) 654-3136.
- September 30** **DANCE WITH IRA WEISBURD.** St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 7-11 pm. \$15 Workshop with mostly international folk dances and a few line dances, request dance party 10:30-11:00. Contact LucySChang@gmail.com.
- October 6** **CHANGS QUARTERLY PARTY.** Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 31st Ave. and Clement St., San Francisco. Live music to Scottish and English dances. \$5. 7:30 pm. Patti Cobb and Friends will supply live music beginning at 8 pm with Changs' own original Scottish dance "The Blackstone Jig," devised by Craig Blackstone.
- October 14** **PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL MONTHLY PARTY.** Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos. 7-10 pm. \$9. Pre-party lesson by Katherine Abbott. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net
- October 20** **KABILÉ RETURNS TO KOPACHKA.** Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Dr., Mill Valley, CA. 8-11 pm. \$12 (students, half-price; children free). Kabilé is named after a village in central Bulgaria where they first performed. They have become widely known for their traditional style and highly-enjoyable melodies. See ad on Page 14.
- 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. Pricing, and list of teachers and dances, coming soon.
- November 11** **PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL PARTY.** Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos; 7-10 pm. English dance workshop with Denise Heenan; MC is John Burke. hollisradin@pacbell.net
- November 18** **PRE-KOLO FESTIVAL PARTY.** All Saints' Episcopal, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Mark your calendar; details coming soon.
- November 24-25** **66TH ANNUAL KOLO FESTIVAL.** Croatian-American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Ave., San Francisco. Michael Ginsberg, Yves Moreau, John Filcich and John Morovich will be teaching -- plus singing classes and live music at the evening parties. See ad on p. 15.
- 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. At Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue. Carol Friedman, cjay@horizoncable.com.
- December 31** **NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK DINNER AND ALL REQUESTS PARTY.** All Saints Episcopal, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto; ~6:30 pm-12:30 am.



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A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL DANCING

By Aaron Alpert



I've been folk dancing my whole life, since my parents brought me to my first camp at the age of three months. In 29 years, I have danced at over 50 camps and probably more than 1,000 dance sessions. However, it's been (almost) exclusively Israeli folk dance. So, when I attended the 70th Stockton Folk Dance Camp, I discovered a whole new world. As an experienced dancer and teacher of Israeli dance – but an outsider to this community – I'd like to share a few observations:

Paaa Da-Da Da-Paaa... Rhythm! Israeli dances are mostly in 4/4 time, with a decent smattering of 3/4 waltz rhythm, some syncopation, and only occasionally something else. I was completely unprepared for the complexity of Balkan rhythms. As Cristian and Sonia would say, it's just mathematics, but more akin to complex analysis than arithmetic.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Every Israeli dance teacher must learn to yell over the students, "Sheket!" (Quiet!) and badger them to go outside if they want to schmooze. It's just the way it's done. I was floored to see how incredibly respectful and diligent all the Stockton campers are, and I'm sure the teachers appreciate it immensely.

It's not a sprint, but a marathon. A typical Israeli dance camp is three nights, so we stay up quite late: 2 am the first night, 5 am the second, and on the last day, we go at least until the sun comes up, when we take a photo of the survivors. At seven nights, Stockton is more than twice that length, so it's necessary to pace yourself. I didn't, and by Wednesday, I was ready to collapse and ended up sleeping through the mid-week review sessions.

Music, maestro! Live music brings such energy to the room! The musicians are every bit as talented as the dance teachers. Their ability to play songs from any country on the globe is astonishing. Simple songs and dances invite the community to grow, almost organically, around the band.

Hallelujah, a dance camp with washing machines!

Welcome, beginners. In the past 40 years, practically no one has created an easy, beginners-level Israeli dance. In fact, in the 90s, the most well-known choreographers competed with each other to make increasingly complex and difficult dances. However, the Stockton teachers each brought new dances of varying difficulty, and the campers enjoyed even the easy dances, such as De Secerat and Bahar. On the social level, first-year campers were welcomed with open arms, big smiles, and a warm yet dignified candle-lighting ceremony. They even get front-row seats at the Talent Show! These features are critical. If we are to keep our dance traditions alive, it's important for beginners have an avenue to join the circle.

Once more, from the top. To put it mildly, Israelis are not a patient people, and they don't like repetition. If a dance takes much longer than 10 minutes to teach, the dancers start to get antsy. Also, many pieces of music are cut so the dance goes through only twice. During the week I was at Stockton Camp I noticed that most of the dances taught went through three, four even five times and nobody complained! Several times during the week, the band played a medley of tunes for seven-eight minutes and the dancers sang along while dancing simple steps. It was clearly about enjoying the music, socializing, and sharing the camaraderie of the community, and not about getting to the next dance on the program.

Most Israeli dance camps follow a strict "no repeats" rule. Other than the dances taught at camp, you don't repeat anything during the parties. The volunteers (!) who run the late-night parties at Stockton Folk Dance Camp are not restricted in what they can play, and they often respond to requests to play a dance even if it was already played several nights before.

Jour de lavage. Hallelujah, a dance camp with washing machines! When dancing, I change shirts about every 90 minutes, and it's really nice to not have to bring 30 shirts to make it through the week and then take home an enormous pile of dirty laundry.

Talent show: some assembly required! Talent shows at Israeli camps have a rather sordid history, featuring terribly uncomfortable moments such as wardrobe malfunctions and crying babies on stage. Imagine my surprise to see a talent show with actual talent! It was quite enjoyable; no cringing necessary. Each act was prepared and rehearsed, showing a deep level of care.

And finally... tick tock, tick tock. Everything starts and ends on time?! Who knew it was even possible?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am writing in response to Craig Blackstone's article about creating dance programs.

The recent trend in the Bay Area to do away with set programs has both helpful and adverse effects. It is great for those dancers who know the dance names and who load up the request list with those names. Those dancers uncertain of names are left out of participating in the composition of the event. I agree with Craig's solution of providing space in an event for requests, which allows for a balance. When a program is set in advance and dispersed to local teachers and groups, there is the opportunity to review a dance prior to the festival or party. The most ideal result is that the greatest number of dancers will be able to participate in the full program.

Our local group asks for submission of requests in advance, which allows the MC to have a playlist ready at party time. The level and pace of the dances can be arranged and requests can still be taken at the dance.

Denise Heenan



I completely agree with the sentiment you expressed in your *Let's Dance!* article about loud music! It's an accepted fact that loud music causes hearing loss. I love the irony you pointed out about people feeling good about dancing because of the health benefits, yet being okay with crazy-loud music. In my opinion, the only time we need to "put up" with it is if there is live music that is not amplified. I don't think that happens very often.

Ellie Wiener

Save the dates

HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2018

January 19th **Opening Night Party**

Venue to be announced

January 20th **Afternoon workshop and evening party**

Twin Pines Senior & Community Center, Belmont

Featuring **Miroslav "Bata" Marcetic**

Director of the Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing



Serbian Party theme Saturday night



DANCE AND MUSIC AS MEDICINE

by Donna Frankel

Much has been made of advances in western medicine and the benefits of eastern medicine. Though not a scientist, I have witnessed amazing medical recoveries in those who trust in or give dance and music a chance to heal them.

Most of us who dance know the benefits of dancing in our lives. It is social, emotional, physical, mental, spiritual, and a mood changer. Dancing brings joy and gladness to the depressed, along with being a stress reducer, and dance is an in-the-moment experience.

My earliest recollection of the difference the medicine of music and dance could make was of Mr. Margotti, who came to the ice rink where my father and I would skate each week. This frail man walked hunched over two canes, taking tiny steps. His age and weight had to have been around 90. His deceased wife had also been an accomplished ice dancer and figure skater, and together they had won many competitions.

My father would help Mr. Margotti into his skates and lead him to the railing, where he would leave his canes. One step on the ice, and he shed 40 years. No longer forcing the steps, he glided easily, then effortlessly doing the steps of the pattern dances. His back was a little straighter, his gloved hands always in position. He taught me the proper progression of warm-up figures. He explained that he could feel his late wife dancing on ice with him, so he needed no other partners.

My dad told us Mr. Margotti had chosen to live in a small apartment near the rink so he could skate every day. No pills could reduce the pain in his body or his heart, and no surgery was advised at his advanced age. Only good music relieved the pain in his heart, and only ice dancing brought back his youth and health.

And so it is today. Last year, in questioning whether to go to Stockton Dance Camp or stay home to nurse a sprained left ankle, I chose to go. "You'd be crazy to go," said some of my friends. My husband questioned, "So you intend to sprain the other ankle to have a matched set?" I figured I could stay home and limp around being miserable, or go to camp and at least enjoy wonderful music and longtime friendships.

It was the right decision, because the medicine of music and dance kicked in right away. Friends unloaded

my car when I arrived on crutches. By the second day, I had left a crutch in the bathroom after showering, but I didn't miss it until leaving for the cafeteria the next morning. I was soon doing some of the easier dances at the end of the line with one crutch, and stopped using it entirely by Friday, choosing to leave out all the turns, hops or long holds on my left foot. I knew that a little is good and exercise helps the healing process, but too much can put you weeks behind.

By the last day, I was almost able to load my car by myself, and threw both crutches in the back.

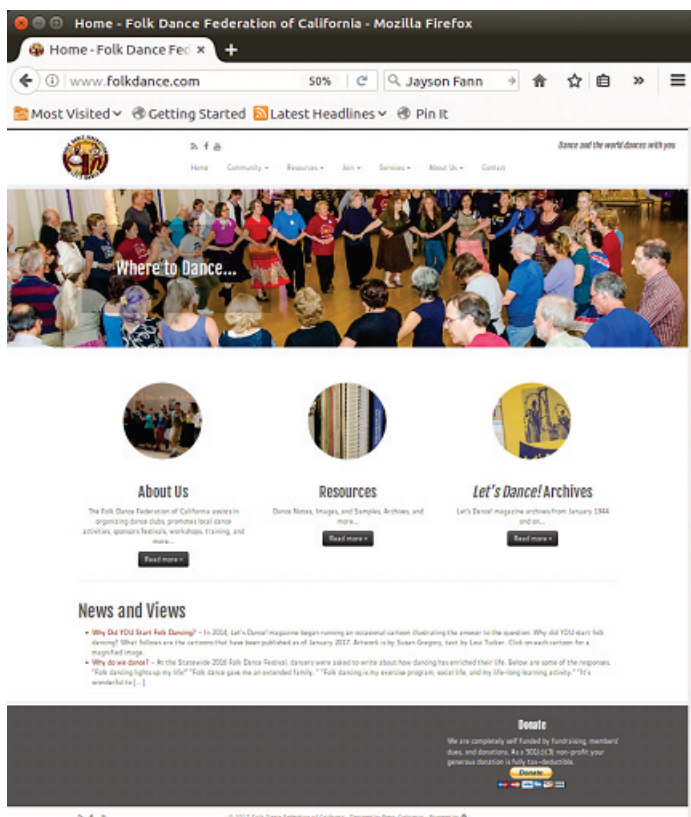
Many of us have seen for ourselves that music and dance are emotionally healing, and are known to help with depression. In the same way an artist feels fulfilled doing art, dancers can tap into that same positive energy. I know that I feel full listening to a gorgeous melody, surrounded by positive healing energy.

This year, at the second week of Stockton Dance Camp, there were two women who came with injuries, and one of them reminded me what an inspiration I had been the previous year when I came on crutches and left so much improved. To each I gave the same encouragement and advice: Keep doing what you are doing, and very soon the medicine of music and dance you are choosing to take will heal you much faster than you ever imagined.



Elsa Bacher and Cynthia Lambert at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July, ready to participate despite injuries.

Photo by L. Tucker



DRUM ROLL, PLEASE! THE FEDERATION HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

On July 1, a new Federation website replaced the old one. It's still folkdance.com, but it has a great new look and some new features.

- The fully responsive website design adapts to mobile, desktop, and tablet formats. This mobile-friendly adaptability is today's preferred format so Google improves our search ranking.
- The Event Calendar has listings that can go far beyond the usual date-time-place-link-to-a-flyer format. It can now include rich text, tables, images, *even video*. Each listing is assigned a category of event (e.g. dance party, workshop, live music) which makes it more searchable, and a map to the venue is included. The calendar may appear as a list or grid and may be searched by date or keyword. Event listings also appear in a sidebar on each page for easy visibility.

- The listing of all *Let's Dance!* issues through December 2006 has been updated and streamlined. *Let's Dance!* listings appear as a thumbnail on the page grouped by decade tabs. Simply click on a thumbnail to open the document. Documents have undergone some corrections and weeding out of duplicates, and missing issues will be added soon.
- The table of over 1,100 dance notes published in *Let's Dance!* is searchable by keyword such as date, country, type, and name.
- We've added a blog entry for periodic special news and updates.

The new website will soon feature on-line form submissions for new-member and scholarship requests. Form entries will be emailed to designated officers and archived online. It is possible to set up surveys as well.

For website questions, comments, and recommendations contact Kevin Greek at greek1@ix.netcom.com.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR LISTING!

Moving the information from one website to another takes time and concentration. There are bound to be errors and omissions. PLEASE take a few moments to visit the new Folk Dance Federation website (www.folkdance.com) and review your club's listing. Is the location correct? Are the starting and ending times correct? Is the admission charge correct?

If you are a musician or a fan of one of our local bands, please check their listing. If you are in one of our local performing groups, take another minute to review that listing. If corrections need to be made, contact our new website manager, Kevin Greek, at greek1@ix.netcom.com.



Some of the teachers at the opening night party. From left, Roberto Bagnoli, Sonia Dion, Caspar Bik, Christel Koop, Radboud Koop. *Photo by E. Khuner*

My only complaint is that there are too many great dances and it will be a tough choice to decide which ones to teach at home, but that, of course, is a great problem to have! Lenore Frigo



John Pappas (center, with his wife Paula) made a cameo appearance both weeks. *Photo by J. Croco*

So many new usable dances, so many new ear-worms. Great camp. Alan Rothchild



100-year-old Ada Dziewanowska (above, with her son, Jas) taught the Polish trio Troják at her very special cameo workshop. *Photo by L. Tucker*

SCENES FROM THE 70th



Friday each week, the Time Capsule featured the "50 Shades of Yves" celebrating Yves Moreau's 50 years of teaching folk dance. *Photo by L. Tucker*

I love seeing so many master teachers sharing their love of their own dances, but also willing to explore dances from other places. The interaction between the teachers is incredible; the experience cannot be duplicated. Laura Douglass

The "50 Shades of Yves" were the highlight of the two weeks for me in terms of dancing. So nice to do the oldies WITH the master teacher. Suzanne Rocca-Butler



Megan Wolf and Jordan Uggla of Willits, California, dance at Once Over Lightly. *Photo by E. Khuner*



Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu (center) pose with visitors from Japan. *Photo by D. Rawson*

I've never seen so many beautiful Romanian blouses in one evening. Marie Montes

STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP



Federation President Joe Croco and Treasurer Laura Douglass posed in their finery at the Wednesday Night English Tea Party. *Photo by D. Rawson*



Wen-Li Chiang and Sue Chen perform at the first week Talent Show. *Photo by D. Rawson*

This was the best year at Stockton: excellent teaching, variety of dances, happy parties, the reunion of friends, and a great honor to see master teachers, especially century-old Ada! Rebecca Tsai

I can't imagine life without going to Stockton Folk Camp every summer. I went for the first time 24 years ago, and I was totally hooked, so I've returned every year since. It's an incomparable high to be dancing from morning 'til night with great dancers from all over the world.
Kay James



The Band, newly named "Free Range Organic," was composed of (left to right) Bill Cope, Michael Lawson, Janie Cowan, and Miamon Miller. *Photo by E. Khuner*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Hollis Radin

Several mid-Peninsula folk dance groups are now scrambling for space after receiving **notices from the City of Palo Alto prohibiting use of the First Baptist Church for dance events.** The church is fighting this order. The Stanford Folk Dancers, Moveable Feet, and the Peninsula Folk Dance Council have all filed letters requesting additional time to comply, due to the difficulty of finding alternative halls. Please check folkdance.com for updates on future party venues. St. Bede's will not be available for the Peninsula Folk Dance Council parties until 2018.

In July, Todd began teaching **Hungarian dances from the village of Magyarbod in the Felvidék region of southern Slovakia.** Felvidék, like Transylvania, was part of Hungary until the partition shortly after WWI. These dances are starting to show up from time to time in the dance houses in Budapest. Besides a slow and fast csárdás the women frequently form a circle to sing while doing a karikázó.

The Carriage House Dancers had a well-attended and lovely End-of-Spring-Quarter dance party, and continued with a post-Stockton party on August 2. Their **End-of-Summer-Party is September 20** and a **Halloween Party is October 25.**

RAZZMATAZZ FOLK DANCE – Marilyn Smith

On Friday night, June 2, campers began arriving at Mendocino Woodlands Camp for the **40th year of Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend.** Many campers have been coming to camp for years, bringing their children and even grandchildren. This year we had several first-time campers. Some campers came from as far away as Texas and New Jersey to celebrate this milestone with us.

Joe Graziosi was our featured teacher, and his easy, relaxed teaching style made the dance workshops fun and enjoyable. Edessa, with guest musician Christos Govetas, provided the



The dance hall at Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend. *Photo by E. Torgerson*

Balkan music for the Friday and Saturday night parties. Joining them were Joe Finn and Leslie Bonnett playing Scandinavian and Cajun sets for couple dancing.

Delicious meals were provided by our long-time cook, Nicole Saadeh. On Saturday afternoon, Shira Cion and Rumen Shopov led a singing workshop for campers.

To celebrate our 40th year, our happy hour theme was The Fabulous 40s. Campers dressed in vintage clothing and we danced to 40s-era music. Saturday dinner was served family style and Bev Mann, with help from Karen Robotka, decorated each table with floral table runners, bouquets of flowers and candles which created a beautiful atmosphere. The dance hall was also decorated with streamers added to the colored Christmas lights hung on Friday evening by Eric Torgerson and Michael Norreel. Stefanie Anderson, Phyris Tobler and Denys Carrillo checked in campers. My job at camp is to welcome each camper with a hug as they arrive -- the best job of all!

The weekend went by so quickly, but what remains are the wonderful memories and the love and friendship that permeate our camp, creating the feeling of one big family.

By the way, **Beginning and Intermediate folk dance classes taught by Marilyn Smith start Tuesday, Sept. 5 in Santa Rosa.** Beginners meet 5:15-6:15 pm and Intermediates meet 7-9 pm for 15 Tuesdays (September 5-December 12). \$45 for beginner class; \$60 for intermediates. For info: razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com and on our website: marilynsmithrazzmatazz.blogspot.com.

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers continue to host Monday night folk dancing in Petaluma every Monday 7-9:15 pm (September 11-December 11) at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Ave., Petaluma. **The fall session will focus on the wonderful Albanian dances** learned from Steve Kotansky at Mendocino Balkan Music and Dance Camp this summer, including Valle e Dados, Valle Beratche Korchare, and Valle e Iusuf Arapit.

Cost is \$65 for the 17-week session, or \$7 drop-in. Newcomers, beginners to advanced dancers, all ages, and drop-ins are always welcome. Contact Carol Friedman, 415-663-9512, cjay@horizoncable.com, or carolfriedmanfolkdance.blogspot.com.

Osher Marin JCC Israeli Folk Dancing meets Thursday afternoons 1:30-4 pm, September 7-December 6 (no class September 21 or November 23) in the Pilates Studio at the Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael. \$35 per 6-week session, or \$9 drop-in. Contact Carol Friedman at cjay@horizoncable.com.

... AND BEYOND

College of Marin International Folk Dance meets Wednesday afternoons 2:10-3:30 pm, September 6-December 6 (no class October 18 or November 22), in PE#22, College of Marin Kentfield Campus. To register go to: marincommunityed.augusoft.net. Contact Carol Friedman cjay@horizoncable.com.

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – *Linda Milhoan*
Changs International Folk Dancers' next quarterly party will be on **Friday, October 6**, at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 31st Ave. and Clement St., San Francisco. \$5. The evening will feature live music to Scottish and English dances. Dancing will begin at 7:30 p.m. with recorded music. Patti Cobb and Friends will supply live music beginning at 8 p.m. with Changs' own original Scottish dance "The Blackstone Jig," devised by Craig Blackstone, as a highlight. As the dance list develops it will be posted on Changs Facebook page and at changsfolkdancers.blogspot.com.

Café Shalom Israeli Dance meets on Tuesdays, 8:30-10:30 pm at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 399 San Fernando Way, San Francisco. The teachers are Udy and Ori Gold. Adults \$8; students \$5. **Café Shalom's monthly party** takes place on the **second Saturday of each month**, 7:30-11:30 pm at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 43rd Avenue and Judah. Looking forward to seeing you all at Café Shalom!

San Francisco Dance Circle (International Folk Dance) goes back to its regular location at Harvey Milk Center for the Arts, 50 Scott St. at Duboce on September 13. The class meets Wednesday mornings 10:45 am to 12:15 pm, and it's free! Contact Ann at acolichidas@gmail.com.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – *Naomi Lidicker*
Berkeley Folk Dancers will be on Summer Recess until September 4. The day after Labor Day, BFD will be back with a vengeance – Boom! All of our classes and parties are at the Live Oak Park Social Hall on Shattuck at Berryman, Berkeley.

Our **New Beginners' Class starts Tuesday, September 5** with Marija and David Hillis as instructors. Please tell your family, neighbors, co-workers, anyone. Remind them that, if you can walk, you can dance. Registration begins at 7:30 pm. and dancing at 7:45 pm. This beginners class is crucial to BFD and to international folk dancing in general. Emphasize the fun, music, cardiovascular exercise, and the great people who are folk dancers. Don't forget that dancing protects our minds also. More info? Marija and David Hillis: (510) 549-0337

On **Saturday, September 23, the Berkeley Folk Dancers will host our Inaugural Ball**. This is one of our major parties, and this year we celebrate Asian Splendor and our diverse membership. The Live Oak Social Hall doors will

open at 7:30 pm and we will be dancing until 10:30. At the Inaugural Ball will thank the outgoing directors and welcome the new ones. Art Woodworth is the president. Vice President is Neil Collier, Secretary is Carol Sheehy and Members-at-Large are Peter & Lynn D'Angelo. Contact Peter and Lynne D'Angelo (510) 654-3136.

This year our classes are as follows:

Monday, Advanced Intermediate (Yaqi Zhang)
Tuesday, Beginners (Marija and David Hillis)
Wednesday, Advanced (Bill Lidicker)
Thursday, Intermediate (Marian Synder and David Hillis)
Friday, All Request Dancing (Peter and Lynne D'Angelo)

In addition we have a Tuesday afternoon class (1:30-3 pm) at Northbrae Church lead by Andy Partos.

KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS – *Nadav Nur*
Kopachka Folk Dancers are looking forward to an exciting year as they return to the Strawberry Recreation Center in Mill Valley on September 8. The fall season will be highlighted by our **annual autumn party, October 20, featuring live music by Kabilé** (see ad on p. 14). The band, one of the most popular bands from Thrace, has made several successful tours in North America, playing for a Kopachka party on their most recent tour, in 2012. Kabilé features five master musicians: Donka Koleva (vocals), Nikolay Kolev (gadulka), Ivan Handzhiev (vocals and accordion), Dzhenko Andreev (gaida), and Nikolay Doktorov (kaval). See their impressive biographies at <http://balkandance.net/Kabile2017>.

In the Linscott tradition, Kopachka has lined up some talented and enthusiastic instructors who, in the coming months, will teach new dances and review some old favorites. We are already planning for 2018 with a dance party with live music in January as well as a "surprise" party in March. The dance year will also feature expert guest teachers as well. Stay tuned for more details.

Kopachka Folk Dancers meets on Fridays at the Strawberry Recreation Center in Mill Valley (7:30-8 pm beginner lesson; 8-8:30 intermediate-advanced lesson; then requests until 10:30 pm). With an impressive repertoire of non-partner, partner, and set dances that are certain to please dancers of all levels, we welcome novices as well as experienced dancers to our fun-loving and supportive group. The first Friday of each month is an all-request dance night.

Information: www.kopachkafolkdancers.com for the Kopachka calendar, directions, parking, etc, or contact Susie Shoaf at president@kopachkafolkdancers.com.

(continued on page 14)

News from Around the Bay and Beyond

(continued from page 13)

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

Our dance group in Willits is a school-based group but we didn't let school being out for the summer stop us from dancing. **Jordan and I took three kids to Mendocino Folklore Camp** for the day, where they enjoyed dancing with Cristian and Sonia. The kids wanted to keep dancing during afternoon free time, so we took over an empty hall and danced their favorites for an hour. **One of the kids even got Cristian and Sonia's autographs.**

We also had a two-day dance workshop at the school where they learned some harder dances and even choreographed their own dance.

Speaking of the younger generations of dancers, Tance El Dorado, Al and Teddy Wolterbeeks' teen group, had its first ever reunion dance. We are all in our 20s and 30s now, and most of us still do some form of dance regularly.

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – Barbara Malakoff

Lots of Sacramento folk dancers went to the University of the Pacific to attend the 70th Stockton Folk Dance Camp and celebrated this wonderful milestone! It was a very special year. We came home with a renewed love of dance and excitement for the fall dance season.

If you can find an excuse to go to Sacramento in the next year, check out some of our dance clubs. Visitors are always welcome!

Our clubs offer general international folk dance classes as well as speciality dance classes like Scandinavian, Scottish, English, and contra dancing to live music. There are classes for couples, and classes that feature mostly non-partner dances. We are sure you will find a class that is perfect for you!

Regular classes will be resuming in September. If you visit our website, you will find a full listing of all of our clubs and classes. Website folkdancesac.org.

VERY IMPORTANT NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Statewide 2018 will be May 18-20 in the Sacramento area! Many more details coming soon!

KABILÉ Returns to **Kopachka** — Folk Dance Party **Friday, OCTOBER 20, 2017** **8-11pm \$12**

Kabilé is named after the village in central Bulgaria where they first performed. They have become widely known for their *bitov* (traditional) style and highly-enjoyable melodies.



KABILÉ

www.kopachkafolk dancers.com

Kopachka Folk Dancers, Strawberry Rec. Center, 118 E. Strawberry Dr., Mill Valley
SPACIOUS SPRUNG DANCE FLOOR - FREE PARKING
president@kopachkafolk dancers.com or 415.497.4890 (Nadav)

Save the Date - Kolo Festival 2017!

66TH ANNUAL!

Fri. & Sat. Nov. 24 & 25, San Francisco



FEATURING:

Michael Ginsburg: Balkan Dance

Yves Moreau: Bulgarian Dance

John Morovich & John Filcich: Kolos

PLUS:

Tamburitza jam and sing-along

Balkan jam and sing-along

Singing and instrument workshops

Live music all evening

with great bands in the dance hall and kafana



KoloFestival

For the most current information and updates, please see:

<http://balkantunes.org/kolofestival>

HISTORY CHANNEL

Square Dance AND Folk Dance?

Dear Professor History: I noticed that some of the early issues of Let's Dance magazine have the subtitle "The magazine of square and folk dance," but now it's just "The magazine of international folk dancing." Square dancing? What's that all about?

First, some background: in the 1940s and 1950s, all but a handful of folk dances were couple dances and almost all of the dancers were married couples. You danced with your spouse and that was that. Square dances were considered folk dances, so folk dancing included squares.

Taking a look at the faculty for Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1951, for example, there were seven square dance callers that year. The schedule for the 1955 Camp shows square dance classes of various types (basic, intermediate, advanced, recreational, how to call, squares for elementary schools, etc.) throughout the day.

A review of the early issues of *Let's Dance!* shows it had no subtitle until the March 1949 issue, when it became "The Magazine of Federation Folk Dancing."

Less than a year later, the subtitle changed to "The magazine of square and folk dance" with the January 1950 issue. However, there are articles about square dancing in issues as early as February 1949 (p. 13).

It became "The magazine of international folk dancing" (no reference to square dance) starting with the August/September issue in 1965, although there continued to be a few articles about squares after that date including an article by Jack Sankey in December 1965 called "What did he say?" I suppose a lot depended on having (1) someone willing to write the article and (2) an editor willing to include it.

Squares were still included in the programs of the big festival (samples in February 1970, p. 21; March 1980, p. 2; and March 1990, p. 4), typically six folk dances followed by a tip of squares (or a contra), throughout the evening, for many more years.

As to *WHY* square dancing disappeared from folk dance events, that would be the subject of another column.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Do you know this dance teacher? After an absence of more than 30 years, this former Stockton Dance Camp Board member made a surprise cameo appearance at Camp this year.



Let's Dance

Last month's photo was of Ada, Jas and Basia Dzienwanoski, from the February 1977 issue of *Let's Dance*. Ada turned 100 years old this year. The three of them were at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July when Ada and Jas (with Basia filling in when her mother occasionally needed to sit down and catch her breath) taught Troják to an enthralled audience. See photo on page 10.

Shavlego - შავლეგო (Georgia, Kakheti)

Shavlego (SHAHV-leh-goh) is the name of a hero. Some stories say the song refers to a glorious army commander named Shalva Toreli-Akhaltiskheli who led great battles in the beginning of the 13th century. Later, especially in the late 1980s (during the national mobilization against the Soviet Union), the song gained a strong patriotic meaning throughout Georgia.

This dance is a *perkhuli* (round dance for a choir) from the Kakheti region of Georgia. *Perkhuli* are dances mostly accompanied by singing. One could say that the dance accompanies the song instead of the song accompanying the dance, so it's important that such a dance not be so lively that it takes breath needed for singing. This *perkhuli* is danced to the song of the same name, sung *a cappella* by the Tbilisi ensemble Georgian Voices (ქართულიხმები or Kartuli Xmebi), who also choreographed this dance. Georgian Voices has been active since 1991 in presenting the rich polyphony of various regions of Georgia to Western audiences. This dance was presented by Caspar Bik at the 2017 Stockton Folk Dance Camp at University of the Pacific.

Music: 3/4 meter. CD: *Georgian Folk Music and Dances 2017*, Track 3. The version of the song used by Caspar can be found on YouTube by searching for “Qartuli Xmebi – Shavlego” (URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NPlf6CQXXI>). It was issued in 2003 on the Georgian Voices CD *The Years*.

Video: *2017 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD*. A Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD can be viewed by contacting a camp participant who purchased it.

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

Steps and Styling: With every step the rear leg is held stretched until the last moment it is needed for the next movement. The body is straight and proud. Toes are pointed in transitions of movement – i.e., during leading or trailing steps.

Bicycle Touch: Extend foot fwd low (ct 1); bring leg up and toward body with a small, circular reverse-bicycle motion (used for the purpose of kicking the skirt of the man's coat out of the way) (ct &); touch toe next to opposite foot (ct 2).

Measures	3/4 meter	PATTERN
6 meas	INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin when the tenors join in with the word “Shavleg.”	
	I.	ALONG THE CIRCLE.
1-3	Facing CCW, beg R, take three steps fwd.	
4	Bicycle Touch L next to R.	
5	Facing ctr, step L to L.	
6	Touch R toe across behind L with R knee turned out.	
7-11	Repeat meas 1-5.	
12	Close R to L (no wt).	
13	Step R to R.	
14	Facing diag R, Bicycle Touch L next to R.	
15-16	Repeat meas 13-14 with opp ftwk and direction.	
17	Facing ctr, step R to R.	
18	Close L to R (no wt).	
19	Repeat meas 1-18 with opp ftwk and direction.	

II. MOVING IN AND OUT.

- 1-5 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-5 except facing ctr.
6 Close L to R (no wt).
7-12 Repeat meas 1-6 moving bkwd.

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II, Fig I meas 1-18.

Lyrics (each line is sung twice)

Georgian

შავლეგ შენი შავი ჩოხა
სისხლში გაგიხამებია
ყაწიმები გიხდებოდა
ომში შესვლა გიხდებოდა
მამველი არ გჭირდებოდა
შავლეგ შენი შავი ჩოხა

Transliterated

Shavleg sheni shavi chokha, shavlego
siskhlshi gagikhamebia, shavlego
qats'imebi gikhdeboda, shavlego
omshi shesvla gikhdeboda, shavlego
mashveli ar gch'irdeboda, shavlego
Shavleg sheni shavi chokha, shavlego

Translation

Shavleg, your black *chokha**
Colored with blood.
Your *qatsimi*** suited you well.
Fighting the enemy was your job.
You needed no help.
Shavleg, your black *chokha**

* man's traditional outer robe

** belt for a sword



Thank you to the many generous Federation members who add to their membership dues each year, decline a refund when they have to miss an event paid for in advance, and just spontaneously write a check. In 2016 those contributions totaled over \$900. The Federation greatly appreciates these gestures.

DANCING ON THE BANKS OF THE SEINE

by Marilyn Smith

The cool evening breeze was a welcome relief after a hot, humid day in Paris. We walked from the Marais across the Île St. Louis until we reached the Quai St. Bernard. The small amphitheaters along the Quai feature many varied kinds of dancing: swing, tango, salsa and, on Thursday nights in the summer, French folk dance. It was a wonderful reunion with our French musician friends who came that evening to see us and play music. Dancing bourrées, waltzes, and mazurkas with the Bateaux Mouches floating by and Notre Dame in the distance illuminated at night was dream-like. Our group of 12 included folk dancers from the Bay Area and beyond, including Frank and Jane Tripi, Debbie Evenich, Karen and Bill Robotka, Catherine Martin and Louise Bassett, Michael Norreel and Barbara Chung, Bev Mann, Eric Torgerson and myself. If you are ever in Paris in the summer, make your way to Quai St. Bernard and join in the dancing!



Dancing on the banks of the Seine. Photo by E. Torgerson

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Information: 619-287-5014 or <gbsham@yahoo.com>
Website: sites.google.com/site/harvestfestivalbalboapark/



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www.folkdanceonthewater.org

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