

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING ♣ MAY/JUNE 2018

THE FEDERATION'S ANNUAL STATEWIDE FESTIVAL

Our Gathering of the Clans

A 76-year tradition

*May 18-20
in Sacramento*

Be there!

Pssst!
There is
still time to
register!
See p. 15.



WANT PDF? – Please see Page 3!



Let's Dance!

Volume 75, No. 5

May/June 2018

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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

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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:

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

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All the ills of Mankind, all the tragic misfortunes that fill our history books, all the political blunders, all the failures of the great leaders have arisen merely from a lack of skill in Dancing.

— Molière

President's Message

by Joe Croco

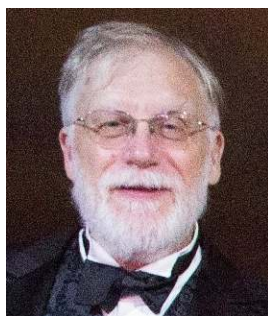
As it said in the April Issue of *Let's Dance!*, the summer dance camps are almost upon us and Federation scholarships are available. See details in the column to the right. Experienced dancer, new dancer, it doesn't matter – anyone interested in learning more about dance is welcome to apply.

Also in the April issue I asked for your input about partner versus non-partner dances. I've only received four replies and, considering how many articles have written about this in the past, there must be a lot more opinions out there. I really do want to hear from you.

Remember that I started folk dancing in about 1973 and did mainly Balkan dancing at that time. I very soon meet a dance partner I later married, so I've long had a partner with whom I could dance. My wife and I have since taken ballroom dance lessons, then moved into Hungarian dancing, and we are now working on West Coast Swing.

I know my view of dancing is tilted towards partner dancing, which is why I want to hear from you. Please feel free to send me your two cents' worth or rant as much as you want. My email address is president@folkdance.com, so let me have it. As a side note, if there is anything bothering you about our folk dance community, or if you have a great dance-related idea, send that my way too.

The Federation's Statewide Festival is coming up the end of May. I want to stress that this 76-year tradition deserves your attention and support. The



FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The summer dance camps are almost upon us: **Razzmatazz, Scandia, Folklore, Balkan,**

Stockton, Lark, Mainewoods, Pinewoods, and more!

Wouldn't it be a shame to miss a major event for lack of funds?



The Folk Dance Federation offers scholarships to ALL dance camps and workshops. Apply at **www.folkdance.com**, under the **Services** tab. All dancers are encouraged to apply!

If there are new dancers in your club, encourage them to join the Federation and apply for a scholarship. Download a copy of the form and hand it to them, along with a registration form for your favorite dance workshop or camp.

Statewide Committee, made up of dancers in the Sacramento area and led by Bruce Mitchell, has put together an exciting program featuring dance workshops with Steve Kotansky and Bruce Hamilton, dancing to live music by Chubritza, contras called by Lenore Frigo, two on-site catered dinners, all in an impressive 100-year-old dance hall. Let's not disappoint the people who have worked so hard to put on this yearly event.

A final reminder that we would like to hear from you about the format of *Let's Dance!* magazine. Would you like to get it as a PDF sent by email? The Federation Board is discussing this option and there is no plan to make this happen right away.

WANT PDF?

The Federation Board is discussing delivering *Let's Dance!* magazine as a PDF.

Would you prefer receiving Let's Dance! as a PDF instead of a printed magazine?

If you would prefer PDF, please email Clem Dickey, Federation Secretary at clemd@acm.org or phone him at 408-537-3352.

NO CHANGE in delivery of *Let's Dance!* is being made at this time.
This is for the purpose of gathering data.

May/June 2018 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, at editor@folkdance.com.

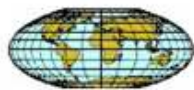
Additional events can be found at www.folkdance.com (Community tab).

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

- April 29** **2018 BLOSSOM FESTIVAL.** City College of San Francisco, Wellness Center, Third Floor, Studio 301, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco. 12:30-5:00 pm. It's FREE! Folk Dance Federation General Assembly and Election of Officers at 10:30 am. Dances for All Ages (Beginners) 12:30-1:30 pm. General Dancing 1:30-5 pm. Info: crb2crb@comcast.net or 650-359-7486.
- May 2** **CINCO DE MAYO PARTY.** Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton. Sponsored by the Carriage House Dancers. \$9. 7:45-10:00.
- May 5** **FREE BAY AREA DANCE WEEK EVENT.** Scandinavian Folk Dance Party with live music. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 7:30-11 pm. IT'S FREE!
- May 11** **BALKAN DANCE PARTY WITH ZABAVA!** All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. 8:00-11:00. \$12. Sponsored by Stanford International Folk Dancers. info@stanfordfolkdance.com.
- May 12** **HUNGARIAN FESTIVAL.** Twin Pines Recreation Center, 20 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont. \$15. Noon-10 pm. www.hungarianheritagefestival.com.
- May 12** **PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL PARTY.** St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. \$9. 7:15-8:00: Pre-party workshop with Ann Kleiman and Lon Radin teaching a Serbian dance from the Heritage Festival. 8:00-10:30: All request party, Lucy Chang MC. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- May 18-20** **THE 2018 STATEWIDE FESTIVAL.** The Masonic Temple, 1123 J Street in Sacramento. Steve Kotansky (Balkan) and Bruce Hamilton (English Country set dances). The Saturday Night Balkan party includes an exhibition of Croatian dances, singing by Skalinada, and live music by Chubritza. Full schedule and menu for the two lunches are available at folkdance.com. See registration form and additional information on pp. 14-15. Info: www.folkdancesac.org.
- May 21** **THE TAMBURITZANS.** In Northern California, this premier performing group will be at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street in Mountain View. 8-10:15 pm. \$31-\$46. This is part of the Tamburitans' West Coast Tour, which includes appearances in San Diego, Bakersfield, Northridge, Huntington Beach, and Palm Springs, California, as well as cities in New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Idaho. www.thetamburitans.org.
- June 1** **DANCE PARTY WITH STARO VINO.** Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park. 8-11 pm. \$12. Sponsored by Stanford International Folk Dancers.
- June 2** **BALKAN CHILI TRIO.** All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. Workshop followed by live music for dancing. 7-11 pm. \$15. Sponsored by the Moveable Feet Club. Info: LucyS.Chang@gmail.com.

The calendar continues on p. 18.

Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours



Travel
broadens
one!

Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia

A Balkan Adventure!

Sofia, Belogradchik, Vidin, Nish,
Skopje, Ochrid, Korca, Lake Prespa,
Bitola, Sandanski, Plovdiv,
Local Koprivshtitsa folk festival



Folk dancing, folk music, culture, history, art, and adventure!

July 29-August 12, 2018

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt



- ★ Meet local folklore groups in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Greece.
- ★ Dance workshops with choreographer Nicolai Enceev and gaida player Ventzi Andonov.
- ★ For dancers, non-dancers, and anyone with a love of travel and culture
- ★ 5 UNESCO World Heritage sites, 16 historical cities, 4 National parks, 2 tectonic lakes, breath-taking scenery, prehistoric cave with Neolithic drawings.
- ★ International folk dancing with Lee Otterholt
- ★ Visit Eastern Orthodox churches and monasteries that helped save Balkan national identity through 500 years under Turkish rule.
- ★ Attend local folklore festival in Koprivshtitsa
- ★ 14 overnights with breakfast at 5-star hotels (4), 4-star hotels (8), Koprivshtitsa guest houses (2).
- ★ Land and Air price includes round-trip airfare, city tours, transfers, transfers, hotels, two meals daily, and our own private bus.



NELDA GUERRERO DRURY A Legendary Teacher turns 100

by Kathy Molga

Ask any of the many Mexican, South American, or Latin dance groups in San Antonio what keeps them alive, and you'll hear the same answer, "It's because of Nelda Drury. If it were not for her enthusiasm and support over all these years, we wouldn't be here." It's true. Nelda's devotion to Mexican heritage, folklore, and dance knows no bounds, and many people in San Antonio have Nelda to thank for the Mexican heritage she has brought to this city.

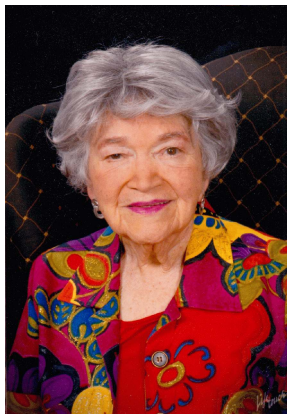
Nelda Drury has also been a beloved international folk dance teacher, choreographer, and folk dance enthusiast for more than 60 years. She exposed the rest of the world to Mexican dancing and raised awareness of Latin culture in places outside of Mexico. However, what Nelda is most known for is how she embraces everyone and everything she touches with grace, gratefulness and a charm that are uniquely hers. Talk with any of her students and you'll hear, "Nelda made me feel like I was her best student and the best dancer in her performing group," or "People lined up to perform Nelda's dances, like the famous Santa Rita, that we perform to this day. It's a celebration of Nelda!"

The Early Days. A native of Laredo, Texas, Nelda first became interested in folk dancing during her freshman year in college. In her senior year, her dance teacher wanted to go to Mexico City to learn Mexican dance, and she invited Nelda to go with her. That's where she met Alura Flores De Angeles and this is what ignited Nelda's love of Mexican folk dancing.

Nelda often reminisces about the early days of folk dancing. It all started when she met dance leaders like Michael and Mary Ann Herman. After dancing with Nelda, sharing workshop sessions and enjoying watching Nelda's dancers perform, Michael Herman invited Nelda to join them on a dance workshop tour of Japan. During the summer of 1956, Nelda taught Mexican dances to thousands of enthusiastic Japanese workshop-goers.

In the 1950s and 60s, Nelda formed close relationships with the Hermans, Ralph Page, Dick Crum, and Jane Farwell. These friendships helped Nelda to develop a new vision: everyone must come and teach dancing in San Antonio. Thus began the formation of the first San Antonio Folk Dance Festival.

Although Nelda specialized in dances of Mexico, she also taught a wide range of dances from around the world. As Director of Dance and professor at San Antonio College, she taught classes in folk dancing, ballroom, jazz and modern dance. She devoted endless hours to choreography and preparing costumes for her performing group.



Nelda Drury today. *From the internet.*

She traveled with her students all over the world to perform international folk dances.

Nelda and Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Nelda was invited to teach at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1974 and 1975. Once again, Nelda went to teach with performers from her dance company. Nelda recalls how profoundly moved she was as she walked down the hallway housing the Camp's teachers those years – Dick Crum, Andor Czompo, Yves Moreau, Ada Dziewanowska, Bora Gajicki, Tom Bozigian, Ned and Marian Gualt, Germain and Louise Hébert, Atanas Kolarovski, Mihai David – to name a few. Then, she saw the door with her name on it. All she could think was, "I will be teaching alongside these great legends?"

The first San Antonio Folkdance Festival. The San Antonio Folk Dance Festival (SAFDF) was established by Nelda in 1958, while she was still teaching at San Antonio College. Nelda explained, "I wanted to start a festival in San Antonio to which I could invite everyone who had invited me to teach. I wanted to share these great teachers with San Antonio." The festival was held for many years at San Antonio College. Later, she sought out nearby campuses to ask them if they would be interested in hosting a folk dance festival. As it turned out, they all wanted to hold the festival! Only Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) had all of the facilities on Nelda's list, including a ballroom-sized sprung-wood dance floor, dorm rooms, performance theater, and a grand ballroom for the closing Henry Lash Luncheon. To this day, the Festival is held at the OLLU campus.

Throughout the 60 years of San Antonio Folk Dance Festival, it was Nelda's mission to bring the best international folk dance instructors to San Antonio. Dick Crum, a close friend of Nelda's, taught Balkan dances at the festival year after year. Dick just couldn't get enough of Nelda's exuberance, and he loved the way she made teachers feel welcome. Nelda planned special events to honor those who came to teach. One of the parties was held annually at her home the night before the start of the festival. This kick-off party was her way of welcoming all out-of-town visitors and teachers.

Nelda wanted to honor the people who dedicated their lives to folk dance, and the National Dance Award was instituted at SAFDF in 1978. The list of recipients reads like the Who's Who of International Folk Dancing, including Jane Farwell, Mary Ann and Michael Herman, Vonnie Brown, and Dick Crum as well as Alura Flores de Angeles, Nelda's teacher and mentor in Mexican dances.

Nelda Drury honored at the 2018 San Antonio Folk Dance Festival. This year the city of San Antonio celebrated its 300th birthday, Nelda Drury celebrated her 100th birthday, and SAFDF celebrated 60 years as a

festival. As such, the Festival lasted nine days, a success on a grand scale! Performing groups from all over the world came to honor Nelda and her contributions to international folk dancing. The nine-day event began with Set for Spring, a three-day weekend of English country dancing featuring the English band Goldcrest and caller Joseph Pimentel. About 100 English country dancers from all over the U.S. attended. The next two days highlighted dances of the Canary Islands taught by Jose Angel Perez de Fumero.

On Wednesday, the Festival held its annual Fun Arts Day, directed by Nelda's daughter, Elizabeth Drury Newton. School-aged students enjoyed days full of folk crafts and learned new folk dances. Andy Taylor-Blenis, a 2018 SAFDF Award winner, has dedicated herself for years to instructing at this event. Known as the Child Whisperer, Andy captivates children with her special way of teaching, planting the seeds from which we hope will grow the next generation of folk dance enthusiasts.

Thursday evening was the kickoff dance party for the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival. The four-day event's full schedule included teaching by Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian), Jaap Leegwater (Bulgarian), and Campbell Miller (Social and American Vintage), with Tom Pixton's band, The Pinewoods Band Trio, from Boston providing live music.

SAFDF Concert Performances. This festival honored Nelda in so many ways during the two excellent dance concerts. The Friday evening concert highlighted many of the outstanding local groups in San Antonio. On Saturday evening, the audience was invited to a rare treat. Bata Mar et i 's Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing from Toronto performing four separate dance suites with 35 high-school-aged dancers (a small percentage of the 450 student dancers in the Academy). Before and after the concerts, as well as during intermission, dancers visiting from all over the country stopped by to chat with Nelda.

The concert's finale was when a young singer, Sebastien Del La Cruz, aptly named "the heart-throb of San Antonio," came out in a traditional Mariachi suit, surrounded by dancers from the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. Sebastien serenaded Nelda with traditional Mexican tunes from the State of Jalisco, Mexico, including El Son de La Negra and the traditional Mexican birthday song, Las Mananitas, which brought the audience from their seats to join him enthusiastically in a sing-along ending in a standing ovation.

First-timers often wonder about the significance of the Sunday afternoon lunch. "Who is Henry Lash, and why is such a beautiful dinner in such a grand ballroom a must-attend event?" Henry Lash was a gifted chef and a continuous contributor to SAFDF. He and Nelda first met at Jane Farwell's festival in Wisconsin and again at Maine Camp. Henry couldn't resist Nelda's invitation to be the chef at her San Antonio Festival. It wasn't just Henry's fine cooking skills that attracted everyone to this event, but also the decorating of the entire ballroom for the Sunday luncheon. Henry continued to share his talents with the festival until the year he died. Nelda said, "That's why Henry Lash's name will be always honored at this final luncheon of the festival." It is a chance to share everyone's experiences and to bid each other a fond farewell before officially leaving the festival.

Nelda's 100th birthday. After Nelda blew out the candles on her cake, she talked about the Festival's favorite MC, Dick Crum. Early in its history, Dick returned each year as an instructor. Even though he was in high demand to teach everywhere at that time, he chose San Antonio because of his close friendship with Nelda. He became MC at the concerts, and his enthusiasm

attracted people from all parts of the country. He started a Culture Corner where he would entertain with many humorous tales that Nelda remembers to this day.

In her usual gracious style, Nelda pointed out that none of the success of the past 60 years could have been possible without the help of her friends. She gave special mention to her son, Jimmy Drury. In the early days, Jimmy ran everything, coordinated all the venues, the

performers, and arranged every detail for all the teachers. He did it all behind the scenes. That responsibility now rests with a staff of people. People came up one after the other to take the microphone and honor Nelda's many contributions. The highlight was watching the video greeting card sent by Yves Moreau and France Borque-Moreau. In the middle of a snow-filled forest, accompanied by a fiddle player and Yves playing the spoons, he and France sang the popular French-Canadian song, La Bastringue.



Henry Lash at Maine Camp



The Henry Lash Luncheon 2018. Photo by E. Wiener

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

CHICO WORLD DANCERS – Eileen Morris

The Chico World Dancers (CWD) provides fun-filled international dance parties and other events. On April 6 we held a **dance party with live music by two bands, Ritmi and Troika**. On June 1 we will have a party with live music by **Balkan Chili** from Varna, Bulgaria.

CWD is a **newly formed non-profit organization** that promotes international dance, singing, and music in Butte County. Its members share a long tradition of local international dance and music with beautiful dance rhythms from across the globe. We support and create learning opportunities locally through international music, singing and dance workshops by bringing internationally known master teachers to town. We welcome all newcomers, ages, and abilities. Info: (530) 774-2287 or chicoworlddancers@gmail.com.

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Hollis Radin

In March, Stanford Dancers and the Moveable Feet Club both sponsored Bulgarian folk dance workshops with the **delightful Gergana Panova**. She stayed for the Peninsula



Gergana danced at the Moveable Feet Club workshop and Peninsula Council party. *Photo by C. Dickey.*

Folk Dance Party on Saturday night as well, cheerfully joining in for many dances that were new to her! She is a wonderful dancer, and is very friendly and kind. Moveable Feet also hosted an English and Scottish dance workshop with Bruce Hamilton and Alan Twigg in April.

For **Bay Area Dance Week**, the Stanford International Folk Dancers welcomed newcomers with a free party on April 27 in Palo Alto, and Scandinavian Dancers will have a free party with live music at St. Bede's in Menlo Park on May 5.

So many dance parties are on calendar in May on the Peninsula: Wednesday, May 2, the Carriage House Dancers will have an **early Cinco de Mayo party**; on

Friday, May 11, Stanford is hosting a **Balkan Dance Party** with Bill Cope and Zabava. On May 12, you can dance all day and night: the **Hungarian Festival** at the Twin Pines Recreation center in Belmont starts at noon on Saturday. This event will include food, drink, exhibits, music and performances by Eszterlanc. In the evening there will be folk dancing with live music, including simple Moldvai dances and teaching circles so you don't have to be an expert. More details at www.hungarianheritagefestival.com. Want more variety? Head over to the Peninsula Folk Dance Council's party at St. Bede's in Menlo Park. Ann Kleiman and Lon Radin will review their favorite Serbian dances from the Heritage Festival; Lucy Chang will emcee.

Coming up in June, **Staro Vino** will be playing at Bethany Lutheran Church on June 1, the Carriage House Dancers will be having a party on Wednesday, June 6, and the Palomanians' not-to-be-missed **Ice Cream Social and Folk Dance Party** will be on **June 9**. For last minute updates, please join our MeetUp group at www.meetup.com/Dancing-without-Borders.

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

The **Second Annual Generations Dance** will be held **June 2** at Al and Teddy Wolterbeek's dance deck in Shingle Springs from 4-7 pm. Join us for a picnic dinner after dancing. This is a free dance for all ages, hosted by the Willits Charter School Dancers. We hope you will come dance with us!

Please take time to read the article about **Al and Teddy Wolterbeek** (p. 12) and learn why they were instrumental in making folk dance happen for youth in the Sierra Foothills and elsewhere. Being a product of their years of dedicated leadership, I am likewise committed to bringing folk dancing to my community in Willits.



The Willits Dancers with Jordan Uggla. *Photo by M. Wolf.*

.... AND BEYOND

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan
Changs International Folk Dancers celebrated the **fifth Friday of March** with a party featuring live music by our good friends Da! Mozhem. The party was the first of several events leading up to our **80th Birthday Party on September 16**. Fifth Fridays, when they occur, are party nights or other special events.

Mandala will be participating in **Bay Area Dance Week**, so Thursday, May 3 will be a **party night, with free admission**. Dancing is from 7:30-10:30 pm in Bowcock Hall, St. Paul's Church, 1399 - 43rd Avenue. Info: (415) 648-8489, paulbourbin@hotmail.com, or visit www.themandala.org.

San Francisco Dance Circle usually meets Wednesdays at the Harvey Milk Center for the Arts, 50 Scott Street, San Francisco. However, from **June to mid-August they move to their summer home at Eureka Valley Recreation Center** on Collingwood near 18th Street. Summer hours are from 10:30 am-noon. Info: aculichidas@gmail.com.

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

Over 45 people showed up for a very fun, last-minute **Romani dance workshop with Sani Rifati** on March 5 at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. Sani taught four dances, including two that have already become local favorites: Surdulicko Oro (Serbia) and Pharo Malishevsko Oro (Macedonia). Sani now lives in Berlin, but he used to live in Sonoma County. Many in the dance circle were old friends, and have wonderful memories of the Herdelezi festivals he organized in Graton and Sebastopol years ago.



Sani Rifati (center) at the March workshop in Petaluma.

Photo by R. Horton.

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

Razzmatazz Folk Dance Club will celebrate Bay Area Dance Week with a **May Day celebration** on Tuesday, May 1. Bay Area folk dancers are welcome to join in the dancing as our guests on that night at Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue in Santa Rosa from 7-9 pm.

Our regular folk dance classes will end on May 8, but we will have drop-in, **all request folk dancing** (no teaching) **throughout the summer months** at Monroe Hall from 7-9 pm. Admission is \$4 each night during the summer.

There are still some places available at our **Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend at Mendocino Woodlands June 1,2,3**. The weekend features Ahmet Lüleci, live music with Édessa and Christos Govetas, Scandinavian music with Joe Finn and Leslie Bonnett, and Cajun music for our Happy Hour with True Life Trio. Info: razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

For the next two months, BFD will be quiet except for our Friday, May 11, **Intermediate Fun Night**. We will celebrate a Bee Flower Dance at the Live Oak Park Social Hall at Shattuck and Berryman in Berkeley. Let's support the bees and be there from 7:30 to 10:30 pm, when much merriment and music will inspire the dancing. Let's let the hive (the Social Hall) know where the good nectar is (finger food and punch). Encouraged are bee colors like yellow and black. Something floral would be spectacular. \$5 members; \$7 others. Bring yourselves and your friends! Don't forget the Statewide Folk Dance Festival. Many BFDers will be there as it is nearby in Sacramento, May 18-20!

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – Barbara Malakoff

Our **Gateway to the Sierra's Statewide** is almost here: May 18-20! **Steve Kotansky and Bruce Hamilton** will be our teachers.

The best source of information is our website, **folkdancesac.org**, which has all the details, including a map of the downtown streets where it will take place in the fabulous 100-year-old Masonic Hall. The Masonic Hall is in the heart of downtown, and everything is in walking distance from there.

We are offering an ethnic **Balkan dinner** Saturday, in the hall, for \$18, as well as a **Mexican lunch** on Sunday for \$12. Dine with friends you seldom get to see; no need to spend time looking for a restaurant.

You will find plenty of parking close by at several large parking structures. They have very reasonable all-day rates on the weekend, when downtown Sacramento is pretty much deserted.

If you have time (or make time by staying longer), you can explore the amazing changes that have been happening in Sacramento, including the Golden 1 Center. It's just next door to Old Sacramento, with lots of history, historic trains, the Railroad Museum, and the river. **The Registration Form is on p. 15.**

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



What's the event? You'll get extra credit if you know the man. (Hint: Read the History Channel column to the right.)



Last month's issue shows Dean and Nancy Linscott, dance leaders in the North Bay. They formed the Kopachka Dancers in Mill Valley, and were also directors of the Mendocino Folklore Camp for 17 years.

HISTORY CHANNEL

Bruce Mitchell, Director of Stockton Folk Dance Camp from 1987-2011, has attended every year since he was a scholarship recipient a teenager in 1955. I talked to him about traditions that have come and gone over the years – Professor History. When an organization like Stockton Folk Dance Camp has been around as long as it – 70 years as of 2017 – it is bound to establish some traditions and break others.

The influence of the Methodist Church was very strong on the campus of the University of the Pacific (then the College of the Pacific) in the early years. In 1948, during the very first year of Camp, men had to sleep in separate dorms from the women, married or not, and there were lots of married couples attending Camp that year. That included Larry and Ruth Miller, who were on their honeymoon! That only lasted one year.

What both men and women wore on campus was the second tradition to be broken. We ate our meals in the Anderson Dining Hall during early years. Women were required to wear skirts in the dining hall and men wore long pants. That came to an sudden halt when Reverend Haskins from Reno arrived at dinner wearing shorts. What could the Methodists say to a man of the cloth?

Of course there was no alcohol allowed on campus. Lawton Harris, the director at that time, made sure everyone followed that rule to the letter. There was exception, however: Anatol Joukowsky. Anatol often invited people into his room for a drink. It was never a large group, just a few folks, but nothing was ever said to Anatol. Years later, well, that was blown all to heck.

The tradition of having a watermelon feed started during the early years of Folk Dance Camp. It was usually held on Thursdays following the assembly. Many people made a point of attending the assembly on Thursday so they could be there at the beginning of this fun event. For many years, the shop owners at Camp purchased the melons. Of course seedless melons weren't a common items in those early years, so seeing who could spit the watermelon seeds the farthest was part of this annual ritual. We tried for years to get watermelons to grow on the lawns at the University of the Pacific, but our efforts were in vain.

NEWSFLASH: There are discussions being held that may bring the Watermelon Feed back to Stockton Folk Dance Camp this summer!

STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP

JULY 15 - 22 & JULY 22 - 29, 2018

OUR 2018 FEATURED GUESTS



Aaron Alpert
Israeli (non-partner)

Caspar Bik
Balkan (non-partner)



Kay Munn
Scottish (partner)



**Cristian Florescu &
Sonia Dion**
Romanian (partner)



Roo Lester
Scandinavian (partner)



Rebecca Tsai
Chinese (non-partner)

Joe Graziosi
Greek (non-partner)



**Miamon Miller &
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Tony Parkes
American Squares & Contras

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www.folkdancecamp.org/

HONORING OUR OWN

Al and Teddy Wolterbeek

by Megan Wolf

Editor's note: In response to the From the Editor column in the February issue of *Let's Dance!*, Megan offered to write about her mentors, Al and Teddy Wolterbeek. I hope this will inspire others to write about dance leaders in their area so that this can become a recurring column.

I met Al and Teddy Wolterbeek in 2006, when I was sixteen and my friend dragged me to folk dancing at a barn in Shingle Springs. I had no idea that this couple, who are the age of my grandparents, would be a part of my fondest memories of high school. Al would call all us kids "skinny" and "shorty" (even though most of us were taller than he was) and Teddy held tea parties for the girls. The two of them played around as much as, if not more than, all of us.

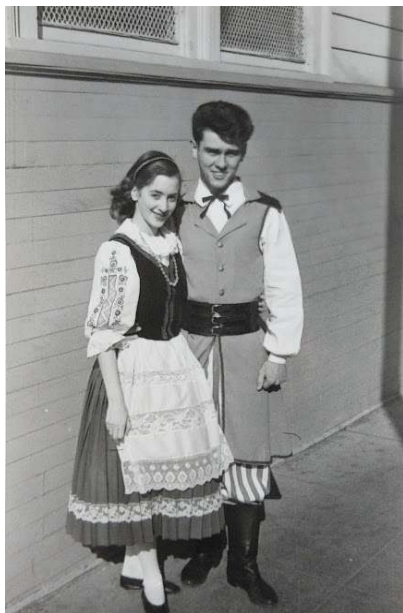
Their story starts after World War II, when folk dancing became incredibly popular in the San Francisco Bay Area. Al started dancing at 13 in San Francisco, thanks to a friend. He was a natural dancer and was invited to join Madelynne Greene's performing group at 17, when most of the other dancers were in their thirties.

Teddy started dancing with her family in Martinez at 13. They danced at the Shell Clubhouse in a squares and folk group led by Stan Valentine. Teddy and her sisters managed to convince their friends to join the group as well, so they were able to make two full squares of teens.

Teddy's family loved dancing, so her father would take them to festivals, which is where she met Al. It was at a festival in Vallejo in 1951, where Al was performing with Madelynne's group. He was the youngest in the group, so he caught her eye. The next day he asked her to

dance St. Bernard's Waltz and that was it. They married in 1953 in San Francisco, with their reception at Madelynne's dance studio. Teddy joined Madelynne's performing group, and the two of them continued to perform with the group for the next 20 years.

Thanks to their involvement in the group, the Wolterbeeks got an amazing gig performing dances at a lodge in Yosemite from 1959 to 1968. It was an all-expenses-



Teddy and Al in an undated photo, probably the 1950s.

paid vacation for them and their four children for one week, in exchange for performing two dances each night at the lodge.

The Wolterbeeks moved to Shingle Springs in 1969 and started a vineyard. After about 10 years of limited opportunities to dance, Al met Flossy Duchardt on the set

of *Fiddler on the Roof*, where he was performing Russian dances, and she mentioned folk dancing. In 1981 Flossy and the Wolterbeeks started the El Dorado Folk Dancers in Merv Stouffer's classroom. The group bounced



Al and Teddy during the Hat Kolo at Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

around many locations for a couple of years until Al and Teddy decided to put a dance floor in their old goat barn, thus creating the Dance Barn. The group still dances there. In the 1980s Al and Teddy started hosting their annual New Year's Eve Folk Dance Party, which also continues today. The Wolterbeeks joined Bruce Mitchell's Vintage Dance performing group and the El Dorado Scandinavian group, where they danced for about 10 years.

In 2003, Al and Teddy started hosting the SIFDAC Annual Membership Barbecue on their outdoor deck, which continues to be a local favorite event. Teddy began teaching a women's folk dance class in the Dance Barn about eight years ago, for her Shakespeare Club friends.

In the nineties, thanks to the El Dorado Arts Council, the Wolterbeeks started teaching folk dance in public schools (grades K-12) all over the county. In 1997, the Wolterbeeks were invited to perform at the local high school's Oktoberfest. This led to them teaching the German students basic folk dances. The students enjoyed the dances so much the Wolterbeeks decided to form a teen dance group, Tance El Dorado.

The primary focus of Tance El Dorado was always social dance, but they also performed at many festivals and events. From 2000 to 2010 Teddy and Al arranged for scholarships to enable teens and young adults to attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Tance El Dorado exists today, although now it is a group for young adults instead of teens. (Any former teen who has danced with Al and Teddy can tell you that they will always call you a teen, no matter how old you get.) The group has fluctuated over the years, but I would estimate at least 60

continued on the next page

young people have been taught in the Dance Barn over the years. Two couples who met in Tance are now married and have children; one of the couples was married with Teddy as officiant. Many of the former teens continue to dance today, some in folk dance and others in ballroom, vintage, contra, Argentine tango, and more!

Al and Teddy have shaped so many dance communities and dancers over the past six decades, and they continue to bring their energy to everyone they dance with today.



Al and Teddy (far left and far right) with their group of teenagers at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2010. The author is in the second row, fourth from the left.

A WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY PARTY!

by John Carroll and Nadav Nur

On March 9, Kopachka Folk Dancers were delighted to host a **memorable celebration of Jerry's Duke 80th birthday**. Over 130 guests from all over the Bay Area, including Jerry's longtime friends, former students, and dancers from various clubs, reveled in Zabava's compelling rhythms. For the special occasion, Dina Trageser from Seattle and Pat MacSwiney from Los Angeles, joined Zabava regulars Michele Simon, Tom Farris, and Bill Cope.

Along with birthday cake, champagne, sweets, and assorted savories, attendees were treated to a slideshow of Jerry's colorful life as a competitive swimmer, champion football player, and internationally known folk dance teacher. Jerry's roles as a devoted husband and father were highlighted by his wife, Jill, who delivered a moving tribute to a Kopachka member and a beloved dance instructor. And the entire party was a treat by the most generous Jerry and Jill. Many happy returns, Jerry!

Kopachka dancers are eagerly anticipating a **live music dance party with Balkan Chili**, the Bulgarian trio making its first U.S. tour, on June 8 starting at 8 pm.

Remember: we won't be dancing June 15-September 8, our summer break. Info: Susie Shoaf at president@kopachkafolkdancers.com or visit www.kopachkafolkdancers.com for the Kopachka calendar, directions, parking, and other information.

What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

I received this message from the webmaster for the Folk Dance Federation South's website.

I've added more than 10,000 dances to the Dances section of the Federation, South website. Please pass this info on to your dancers. Go to socalfolkdance.org to see dances.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

This year's Officers Ball will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Pleasanton. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

As in past years, the Federation Officers are planning an afternoon dance workshop, on-site dinner, and evening dancing.

The afternoon workshop will again feature new and classic dances taught by local teachers. If there is a particular dance or teacher you'd like to recommend, please contact Federation Institute Chair Lon Radin at lonradin@pacbell.net.



Jerry (in the blue shirt) dancing at his 80th birthday party at Kopachka's March 9. Photo by J. Croco.



2018 Statewide Folk Dance Festival

Sacramento, California

"GATEWAY to the SIERRAS"

May 18-20, 2018

Masonic Temple, 1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Friday: Evening party with live music

Saturday: Workshops, special catered Balkan dinner, evening party with live music

Sunday: Reviews, special catered Mexican lunch, afternoon party (recorded music)

Guest Teachers:

STEVE KOTANSKY BALKAN DANCE (Non-partner)

BRUCE HAMILTON ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE (Partner)



Live Music by CHUBRITZA 

Sponsored by Sacramento International Folk Dance & Arts Council

Information: www.folkdancesac.org

Members of the Folk Dance Federation of California & the National Folk Organization - all 501(c)3 organizations

Statewide 2018 - May 18-20

Gateway to the Sierras

Pre-Registration Form - Please register individually

 \$100 before Friday May 11, / \$110 at the door.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone _____ Address: _____

ALL EVENTS Pre-registration by Friday May 11- Package Price \$ 100_____/ \$110 at the door.
Includes all workshops, parties, and snack bar. **Does not include SPECIAL OFFERINGS items.**

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY: (Live music with Chubritza)..... \$20 _____

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOP:..... \$25 _____

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOP:..... \$25 _____

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY: (Live music with Chubritza)..... \$20 _____

SUNDAY MORNING TEACHER REVIEW:..... \$25 _____

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PARTY: (Recorded music)..... \$10 _____

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

DVD of all workshop dances taught \$ 20 _____

Paper Syllabus Note: Syllabus will be available on-line at SIFDAC & the Federation... \$ 8 _____

MEALS (PRE-ORDERS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED - limited extras)

SATURDAY BALKAN DINNER: (Citrus Plaza Catering - menu available on-line) \$18 _____

SUNDAY MEXICAN LUNCH: (Martha's Taqueria - menu available on-line) \$12 _____

Total: \$ _____

Payment Options

- Make your check or money order to payable to SIFDAC and mail to Cookie Brakebill, 3404 Chugwater Court, Antelope, CA 945843.
- Pay on-line at statewide2018.bpt.me

Look for details about
hotels, parking, menus,
schedule, etc. at
folkdance.com

Note: Reduced rates for students up to the age of 23 for Individual Events: Contact Barbara Bevan for information at (916) 923-1555 or [<dancesong20@att.net>](mailto:dancesong20@att.net)

Statewide 2018 *Gateway to the Sierras* Additional Information

THE PLACE: Masonic Temple, 1193 J Street, Sacramento (100 years old this year). It has a spacious wood dance floor with an adjacent dining room where two catered meals will be served.

HEADQUARTERS: Best Western Sutter House, 1100 H Street, Sacramento. Special room rates are available March 1-April 18. (Note the ending date for the special rate!) Call 916-441-1314 and mention the Statewide Dance Festival. All rooms have two queen beds, and the rate includes breakfast and free parking. It is an easy walk to the Masonic Temple.

PARKING: There is one level of limited parking next to the Masonic Temple, and a high-rise parking garage at 10th and I Street behind the Masonic Temple. There are other parking facilities in the area. Parking on the streets is expensive.

OUR TEACHERS:

Steve Kotansky: He lived in Europe for a number of years, and worked with many ethnic communities while living in Germany. He took advantage of his proximity to study and research the dances in the Balkans and Eastern European countries. Dick Crum praised his abilities very highly.

Bruce Hamilton: He is a well-respected thoughtful and energetic teacher of English and Scottish dancing with 45 years of experience. He has taught workshops all around the United States and in the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan and Australia. He recently taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

LIVE MUSIC: **Chubritza** is well-known throughout California; they have been featured in several dance camps as well as past Statewide Festivals. They are known for their variety of international musical tastes and textures while retaining a Balkan and Eastern European emphasis.

THE SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY May 18

6:30 pm: Doors open
7-7:30: Dancing to recorded music
7:30-10:30: Dancing to live music by Chubritza
Teachers will be introduced during the evening

SATURDAY May 19

9:00: Doors open
9:15-9:45: Dancing to recorded music
9:45-11:15: Dance workshop with Steve Kotansky
9:50-12:15: Dance workshop with Bruce Hamilton
Lunch on your own
2-3:30: Dance workshop with Bruce Hamilton
3:30-5: Dance workshop with Steve Kotansky

SATURDAY EVENING May 19

7:15-8: On-site catered Balkan Dinner
8-10:30: Balkan Party with Chubritza, plus an exhibition of Croatian dances and singing by Skalinada. Several of the dances introduced by our guest teachers will be danced during the evening. Be sure to wear something Balkan.

SUNDAY May 20

9:30: Doors open and warm-up dancing
10-12:20: Teacher reviews
12:20: On-site catered Mexican Lunch
2-5: All requests dance program to recorded music; Lenore Frigo will call some contras

OUR MEALS: The **Saturday Balkan Dinner** will be catered by the Citrus Plaza Catering Service. (v indicates vegetarian dishes) Greek salad (v); olive appetizer; cabbage salad (v); eggplant rolls (v); puff pastry triangles; special Ukrainian plate of koreyskava morkava (v); cabbage rolls (v); chicken kabobs; mashed potatoes and gravy (v); rice pilaf with beef; German bread; Russian Napoleon cake.

The **Sunday Mexican Lunch** will be catered by Martha's Taqueria make-your-own tacos with carnitas, shredded chicken, fritos and rice and chips with two different salsas.

İnaduna

(Turkey)

İnaduna (IHN-nah DOO-nah) means “against the will or nevertheless” and is a women’s dance from northern Anatolia in the Black Sea region of Turkey. It was presented by Evren Soytopcu Kiyak at the 2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. It has also been taught at various dance workshops and camps such as Kolo Festival 2014 and Texas Camp 2016 by Ahmet Lüleci. He also presented the dance in Japan in 2013.

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Evren Soytopcu Kiyak 2016 Stockton Camp CD; Turkish Dances with Ahmet Lüleci No. 4 and No. 8.*

Video: *2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD*. Camp videos can be viewed by contacting a Camp participant who purchased it. Also available on *Texas Camp 2016 Dance DVD* and *Turkish Dances with Ahmet Lüleci No. 8.*

Formation: Open circle of dancers facing ctr and standing close together, arms bent at elbows with forearms slightly lower than parallel to the floor. Hands are held softly, palm down, in characteristic Black Sea style, R over L. Arms make small downward pumping movements on ct 1 of Fig I, II, and IV.

Measure	2/4 meter	PATTERN
		INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin when you can feel the beat.
	I.	<u>FIGURE I.</u> (instrumental)
1		Leap R to R with knees bent, leaving L in place and arms moving slightly to R (ct 1); transfer weight back onto L (ct 2). Optional: look to R on ct 1.
2		Bring ft together and bounce on both in place (cts 1-2). Optional: face fwd on ct 1.
3-4		Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and dir.
5-24		Repeat meas 1-4 up to seven times, depending on when you start. The second time through the dance, Fig I is done five times total.
	II.	<u>FIGURE II.</u> (singing)
1		Turning body so R shldr is twd ctr, jump onto both with R twd ctr (ct 1); jump back onto L in place while turning to face ctr (ct 2).
2		Turning body R so L shldr is twd ctr, jump onto both with R bkwd (ct 1); jump back onto L in place while turning to face ctr (ct 2).
3		Facing ctr, leap R to R, leaving L in place (ct 1); transfer weight back onto L (ct 2).
4		Bring ft together and bounce twice on both in place (cts 1-2).
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and dir.
9-16		Repeat meas 1-8.

III. FIGURE III. (instrumental) Release handhold and place hands on waist, fingers pointing back.

- 1 Leap R to R with knees bent, leaving L in place (ct 1); transfer weight back onto L (ct 2).
- 2 Bring ft together and bounce twice on both in place while clapping hands in front at approximately chest height twice, once on each bounce (cts 1-2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1 - 2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

IV. FIGURE IV. (singing)

- 1 Turning slightly L so R shldr is twd ctr, heavy step R twd ctr (men) or rotating R knee and twisting hips CW, step R twd ctr (women) (ct 1); close L next to R (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Facing ctr, heavy step fwd R (ct 1); hop R in place, bring L from behind R to L side (ct 2).
- 4 Step L in front of R (ct 1); stamp R next to L (ct 2).
- 5 Step R bkwd, twisting L heel slightly inward (ct 1); step L bkwd, twisting R heel slightly inward (ct 2).
- 6 Step R bkwd with knees bent (ct 1); hop on R, straightening knees and lifting L fwd (ct 2).
- 7 Step L bkwd with knees bent (ct 1); hop on L, straightening knees and lifting R fwd (ct 2).
- 8 Step R to R, bending knee (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2).
- 9-24 Repeat meas 1-8 twice.

Sequence: Dance is done twice completely. The third time through the dance, end on Fig IV, meas 20.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (continued)

- June 1-3 ANNUAL RAZZMATAZZ FOLK DANCE WEEKEND.** Mendocino Woodlands Camp, 39350 Little Lake Rd, Mendocino. \$110-\$165. Ahmet Lüleci teaches Turkish dances, live music with Édessa and guest musician Christos Govetas, Joe Finn and Leslie Bonnett playing Scandinavian music, and the True Life Trio with Joe Finn playing Cajun music. Info: razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com.
- June 8 BALKAN CHILI LIVE!** Folk Dance Party at Kopachka Folk Dancers. The band is direct from Varna, Bulgaria, playing authentic dance music from all regions of Bulgaria. Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley. 8-10:30 pm. \$12. Spacious sprung wood floor; lots of free parking. Info: www.kopachkafolkdancers.com or 415-497-4890.
- June 9 PALOMANIANS ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND DANCE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 7:30-10:30 pm.
- June 16 CERRITOS FESTIVAL (Ninth Annual).** Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 1-5:45 pm. \$6. Info: CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com or (562) 865-8854.

CHESTITA BABA MARTA

Tanya Kostova Shares the Martenitsa Tradition at The Mandala

by Edith Bourbin

"Baba Marta" means Grandmother March. During March we transition from winter to spring with its unpredictable weather, just like an elderly person will have aches and pains one day and the next day feel fine. Our Baba Marta party was celebrated near the Vernal Equinox. A tradition during Baba Marta is the giving of Martenitsa to friends. Tanya and I thought it would be fun to incorporate this tradition into our dance.

Many stories surround the beginning of the Bulgarian homeland – stories of war, separation and reunification, and messages carried on the wings of birds; or, rather, strings of various colors tied to the bird's legs. Such a string, the Martenitsa, white with a red stain of blood, is a symbol of the reunification of the Bulgarian people, and of good luck and good health.

Before Christianity, the Bulgaria people worshiped the sun. The sun gave light and warmth, and there was an abundance of animals and plants for food and clothing. When the sun dipped in the sky during winter, the land became cold and food was scarce. The Rhodope mountains were covered with snow and people were hungry and cold. One special, large red blanket, beautifully embroidered, would be placed outside, symbolically saying to the sun, "Please come back and warm us. Bring us your light!"



Tanya leads a line of dancers. Photo by P. Borbin.

In the Martenitsa, red symbolizes light and warmth and ease, while white symbolizes snow, cold, and hardship. The twining of the two together symbolizes the ups and downs of life. The trick is to balance the two for a harmonious life.

The Rhodope region of Bulgaria is the focus of Tanya's research. She has trekked to remote villages to talk with and record musicians, dancers, and local historians. Piecing together information from various sources, she was able to revive dances which, very shortly, might have been lost, as only a few elderly villagers remembered them. Tanya shared some of these dances with us. Tanya then explained what the Martenitsa meant to her and showed us how to make them. Everyone left with their own Martenitsa. You can wear them on your person or display them in your house. Tanya proudly displays one on her car antenna.

BALKAN CHILI



BALKAN CHILI LIVE

Direct from Varna, Bulgaria, at **Kopachka Folk Dancers, Mill Valley.**

Balkan Chili plays authentic dance music from all regions of Bulgaria.

Band members are Dragni Dragnev, Petya Dragneva, and Lasko Laskov.

Friday, JUNE 8, 2018 8-10:30 pm \$12

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