

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  JULY-AUGUST 2019



The Blossom Festival in April.
Photo by L. Tucker.

**WE DANCED
AWAY...**

APRIL AND MAY!



The Cabrillo Folk Dancers' 50th Anniversary Party
in April. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Café Shalom's 50th Anniversary Party in May.
Photo by L. Tucker.

Dancing at The Land in the Santa
Cruz Mountains on Memorial Day
Weekend. *Photo by D. Bergen.*



Let's Dance!

Volume 76, No. 6

July-August 2019

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The Federation's **Scholarship Fund** provides financial assistance to dancers wishing to attend dance workshops and dance camps. Read more about this fund and download an application at www.folkdance.com under the **Services** 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:

Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

226 Alameda de las Pulgas

Redwood City, CA 94062

Join now: Membership rates:

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|----|
| 90th and 50th Year Celebrated | 8 |
| A Sharing of Memories from Changs' Past | 17 |
| Archives Committee Seeking an E-bay Seller | 18 |
| Awa-Odori Comes to Redding | 15 |
| Cabrillo Celebrates Their 50th Year | 9 |
| Calendar of Events | 4 |
| Dance Description – Rum Dum Dum | 19 |
| Dancing on the Go! | 15 |
| Family Photo Album | 6 |
| Get Your Federation Water Bottle! | 12 |
| John Filcich Birthday Celebration | 21 |
| <i>Let's Dance!</i> Photo Archives | 14 |
| Little Festival of the Redwoods | 16 |
| New Fall Dance Camp | 21 |
| News From Around The Bay and Beyond | 10 |
| Obituary: David Farkas | 13 |
| Passport to Folk Dance Adventures | 18 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| Razzmatazz's 42nd Folk Dance Weekend | 12 |
| Scholarships Granted | 18 |
| Update Your Club Listing | 3 |
| World Culture Festivals | 7 |

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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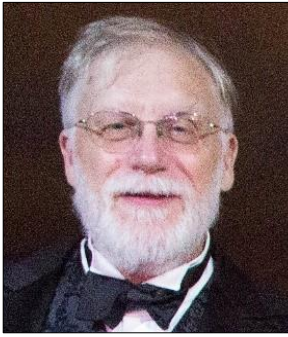
©*Let's Dance!* (ISSN#0024-1253) is published monthly by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., with the exception of the May-June and July-August issues, which are released each two-month period. Standard mail postage paid at Sacramento, California.

WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Suzanna Yeh – Berkeley
Rosemarie and Joe Klemm – Berkeley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Joe Croco



We just got back from Statewide 2019 in Claremont. I have to congratulate Diane Baker and her group for putting together a great event. We enjoyed a spacious venue, high-quality music, a great selection of teachers, and enjoyed re-connecting with

fellow dancers from all over California and beyond. Although the planning committee had little to do with it, the weather co-operated as well. I was impressed by how many people were willing to step out of their comfort zone to try something new like Salsa Rueda.

For a more detailed report on Statewide by Kevin Greek, go to p. 22.

It was in the last issue that I started writing about a high school senior who wrote to me with a list of questions (see the last issue of *Let's Dance!* for more details). He had done some research and had an interest in the folk-dance community. Because he is not a part of our community, I was very surprised to see his list of questions. I would like to share more of them with you. This is his *second* group of questions and I would like to hear your thoughts and ideas.

4. How do participants typically socialize in folk dance classes?
5. What are the long-lasting benefits that you have noticed come from folk dancing?
6. Is it cultural appropriation to learn a folk dance that is not of your culture? Why or why not?
7. Does altering or modernizing a folk dance tarnish its cultural heritage? If so, how?

I would appreciate your thoughts on these questions and also the three I shared in the May/June issue of *Let's Dance!*

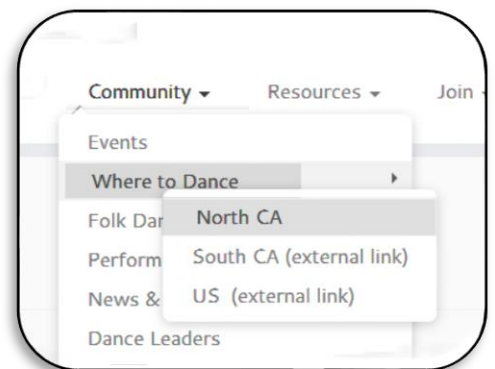
By the way, if you're looking for the Let's Dance! monthly challenge, it's not here.



Petur Iliev teaching at Statewide on Saturday morning – “Death by Dancing!” Photo by J. Croco.

UPDATE YOUR CLUB LISTING

Did you know that every Federation dance club has a pin on the map on the Federation website? At folkdance.com, click on the Community tab to access an interactive map of northern California. The red pins mark the location of general dance classes and the yellow one mark the specialized dance classes (Israeli, Scandinavian, Hungarian). Locate your club and click on the pin. A window will open on the left that notes current information for your club. **PLEASE take a few minutes to review the information** and let the Federation's website manager Kevin Greek (greek1@ix.netcom.com) know if anything needs to be changed!



July-August 2019 Calendar of Events

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

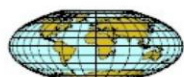
Send future events information to Loui Tucker, Editor, at editor@folkdance.com.

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

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

- June 22 - **BALKAN CAMP 2019.** Mendocino Woodlands, 39350 Little Lake Road, Mendocino.
June 29 A Balkan-infused weekend in the woods. Grab a sleeping bag, put on your dancing shoes, and don't forget your instrument! Info: eefc.org/balkan-camp/west-coast.
- July 14 **BASTILLE DAY PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.
3-7 pm. Sponsored by the Peninsula Council. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- July 18 **SQUARE DANCE WORKSHOP WITH TONY PARKES.** St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. \$12. 7:30-10:15 pm. Tony is a master teacher, and you'll be square dancing in no time at all! Info: loui@loutucker.com.
- July 20 **CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE WORKSHOP AND PARTY WITH TONY PARKES.** All Saints Episcopal Church 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. 3-9 pm. \$16.
3:15-5:30 Contras and Squares workshop with Tony Parkes; 5:30-6:30 – Potluck Dinner;
6:30-9 Dance Party with recorded music, plus some contras and squares. No partners needed.
All dancers welcome, however, a basic knowledge of the fundamentals of contra and square dancing is beneficial. Sponsored by the Moveable Feet Club. Info: LucySChang@gmail.com or bonelesley@hotmail.com.
- July 21- **STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP.** University of the Pacific, Stockton. Eight master
August 4 teachers, 7 classes per day, plus live music at evening dance parties. Two separate weeks – come for either or both. There is still time to register! See ad on p. 16.
Info: folkdancecamp.org.
- August 11 **POST-STOCKTON DANCE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road,
Menlo Park. 3-7 pm. Review some of the dances taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, and dance to old favorites. Sponsored by the Peninsula Council. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- August 11 **75th ANNUAL LITTLE FESTIVAL OF THE REDWOODS.** Armstrong Redwoods State Park picnic grounds for the potluck (noon-1:30), then Guerneville School, 14630 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville for the all-requests international folk dancing (1:45-4:15 pm). \$5. Sponsored by the Santa Rosa Folk Dancers. Info: bacherelsa@comcast.net.
- August 25 **SIFDAC MEMBERSHIP POTLUCK, BBQ, & DANCE PARTY.** Wolterbeek Ranch, 3100 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs. \$10. 3-5 pm games; 5-10 pm potluck and dancing. Sponsored by Sacramento Folk Dance and Arts Council (SIFDAC). Info: www.folkdancesac.org.
- August 29 **END OF SUMMER DANCE PARTY.** St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. \$8. 7:30-10:15 pm. Info: loui@loutucker.com.
- September 7 **SUMMER CAMP REVIEW.** All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. \$10. 2-8 pm. Now in its sixth year, an increasingly popular way to learn the best dances from the summer camps and workshops. Teaching, potluck and review/dancing. Info: LucySChang@gmail.com, kbegonia@me.com.

Jim Gold International Tours: 2019-21



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ROMANIA: October 21-November 3, 2019

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Bucharest, Brasov, Bistritsa, Iasi

ALBANIA and KOSOVO: May 5-17, ext. 17-19, 2020

Led by Lee Otterholt Tirana, Durrës, Vlora Folk Dance Festival!
Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra

SPAIN: May 7-20, 2020

Led by Lee Otterholt Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN: June 9-22, 2020

Led by Lee Otterholt Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen

BULGARIA: August 2-16, 2020

Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival Tour!

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, Lee Friedman
Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, and great
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GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: October 10-23, 2020

Led by Jim Gold and/or Lee Otterholt Athens, Nauplia, Sparta,
Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus Greek Island Cruise
to Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey), Santorini
Extension: October 23-25

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND: June 16-29, 2021

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Munich, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Swiss Alps, Lucerne, Zurich

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THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Craig Blackstone and Violet Ho dancing at the Blossom Festival. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Alan Rothchild leading the line at the Cabrillo Friday Night "Blast-From-The-Past" celebration. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Members of Da! Mozem at a recent Moveable Feet performance, from left, Glynis Hawley, Sonne Lemke, Radmila Zarc, Ginny Snyder, and Paul Litsky. *Photo by C. Dickey.*



Dancing in the Edmunds Ballroom at Statewide. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

Dancing at The Land in the Santa Cruz mountains. *Photo by D. Bergen.*



The Best Eight Bay Area World Culture Festivals To Attend For 2019

by Kevin Greek

Attending world culture festivals featuring traditional music, dance, and food is an excellent way to experience and fall in love with a culture and a people. Often organized by an ethnic church or organization, these celebrations are staffed by community volunteers who are happy to share their art and culture. Below is a list of eight ethnic festivals in the greater Bay Area that occur from August through October. Most are free or will charge a small entrance admission. All feature authentic traditional cuisine, vendors, traditional dance performances and music, and dance participation.

The majority of these festivals have traditionally been held in the fall because the fall harvest has been a time of celebration for all cultures. Nevertheless, you'll want to attend festivals and concerts year round. You may find dates for additional cultural festivals announced soon after this publication.

The organizers love to see participants dance and will encourage you to follow them in some simple steps either spontaneously or during a short workshop for beginners. They enjoy answering questions on their culture and will pose for a picture with you too. Ask any friendly booth operator who looks idle.

When dancing at these events I find myself complimented on my dance technique and experience, even if I just picked up the dance pattern. Sometimes that compliment is not spoken first in English for me to understand. Nevertheless, dance and music is always our universal language to share the joyful, creative expression that you'll find at many ethnic festivals.

1. GREEK FESTIVALS

Belmont, August 31-September 2, 2019

goholycross.org

Santa Cruz, September 6-8, 2019 OPA!

livelikeagreek.com

Dance and drama performances, good food, spirits, and dancing to spirited live Greek music as well.

2. CROATIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

San Francisco, October 2019

Live tamburitza music for dance parties and workshops. Sing, dance, and enjoy traditional Croatian cuisine.

3. LEBANESE FESTIVAL

Redwood City, August 31, 2019

bayarealebanesefestival.org

Traditional dancing to live music in the City Center and delicious Lebanese food and beverages. A must-attend for lovers of Arab cuisine and culture.

4. TURKISH FESTIVAL

Monterey, August 3 - 4, 2019

Live traditional music, folk dancing, youth and adult dance performances, and belly dancing at the historic Custom House Plaza. This festival has particularly friendly people, and animals too in the case of the unique breed of Turkish dog on show.

5. POLSKAFEST

San Jose, September 15, 2019 polskafest.com

Polish culture celebration with traditional music, song, and dance performances. Polish music by DJ throughout the festival.

6. ASSYRIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

San Jose, August 17-18, 2019 - assyrianfest.com

Wine bar, traditional pastries and cafe, heritage exhibits, youth and teen dance performances, and best of all a live band for dancing day and night!

7. ALOHA RACES & POLYNESIAN FESTIVAL

Santa Cruz, August 18, 2019

Outrigger canoe races, arts and crafts, live traditional music, Hula and Polynesian dance performances.

8. DIWALI FESTIVAL

Cupertino, October 12, 2019

The Indian festival of lights celebration with traditional dance and music performances, arts and crafts, fun, frolic, and food.



Look for our blog at <http://folkdance.com> for links, additions, and updates upon Bay Area and Northern California ethnic festivals featuring dance.

A 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

By Karen Bergen and Marcia Rosenblatt

What a wonderful Israeli folk dance party, anniversary party, and birthday celebration!

On May 11, people came to Café Shalom by ones and by twos and in small groups. They carried bowls, platters or bags of food, and colorful envelopes containing happy birthday wishes. Over 120 people came.

Entering the hall at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on 43rd Avenue and Judah in San Francisco, where familiar music played, they greeted people whom they'd seen a few days earlier or thirty-five years before. Friends reconnected



and dancers shared stories of how and when they met the guest of honor and what year they started dancing. Celebrants helped themselves to a delicious potluck dinner including several types of kugel (an Eastern European noodle dish), and traditional Middle Eastern foods such as hummus, olives and pita, while they shmoozed with other guests.

A slide show prepared by Udy Gold ran through the dinner hour. The slides showed the guest of honor, **Ruth Browns Gundelfinger**, first performing as a young dancer, then demonstrating some of the classic early Israeli dances in her later years, as well as sharing good times with friends. Ruth taught thousands

of people to do Israeli folk dancing over the years. That evening, even though she could no longer dance, she could tell her story. And tell it she did!

Ruth was a pioneer in bringing Israeli folk dance to the San Francisco Bay Area. (See *Let's Dance!* article, April 2019.) Sharing her love of Israeli folk dance with her students brought her great joy. She was also a visionary. She wanted folk dancers from northern and southern California to come together to learn the same steps from Israeli folk dance choreographers. She and other organizers chose the U.C. campus at San Luis Obispo as the right spot in the early 1970s. Summer workshops there continued until the 1990s.

Ruth also described her early heartfelt dream of creating a cafe atmosphere where people could enjoy Israeli folk dancing, and eating and shmoozing with other dance enthusiasts. That dream finally found a home in 1969 at the old San Francisco Jewish Community Center with the creation of Café Shalom. In the early days, Café Shalom ran every Saturday night from 9 pm to 1 am (it now meets the second Saturday of the month). It was a very popular spot, drawing large crowds every week. In the 1970s, college students were known to drive in from as far as Davis and Chico just for an evening of dancing. And this night was its 50th anniversary celebration.

Continuing with her story, Ruth asked people gathered in the room to raise their hand if they met someone significant in their lives while folk dancing at one of her groups. A number of hands went up. And for some couples, their children or grandchildren were there, too. After a few guests remarked about Ruth's impact on their lives, Udy introduced the teachers who followed Ruth to keep Café Shalom going.

Then the dancing began at about 7:30 with some easy dances that most people could follow. At about 9:00, there was a break in the dancing for birthday cake, another round of applause for Ruth and the other teachers of Café Shalom and, of course, lots of photos.

Then, most of the non-dancers began heading home and more advanced dancing began. Udy put together a program of old and new dances so no one was left out. Our thanks to the organizers Rosanna Horton, Catherine Horton, Erika Oppen, Udy Gold, Tirtza and Barry Pearl, Riva Jacobs and Alan Rothschild.



Udy Gold, the current leader of Café Shalom, with some of the former leaders (from left), Jill Breslauer, Rosanna Horton, Udy Gold, Adina Kaplan, Ruth Browns Gundelfinger, Ben Ron, Yale Rosenblatt, and Darron Feldstein. *Photo by D. Bergen.*

CABRILLO FOLK DANCERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF DANCING

by Loui Tucker

The Cabrillo Folk Dancers, based in Santa Cruz, celebrated 50 years of dancing in late April. Their celebration included two very different and very satisfying evenings of folk dancing.

On Friday night, the crowd gathered in the hall they use for their regularly Friday night sessions. The locals were joined by a dozen dancers who drove "over the hill" to join the celebration. The focus that evening was on the classics. In fact, although the music was generated on a computer, boxes of record albums stood nearby to remind the participants that these classics first came to us on vinyl. They even had a low-tech green chalkboard with chalk where participants could write their requests. During the evening we danced to Iste Hendik, Godecki Cacak, Cimpoi, Baztan Danza, Tino Mori, Ali Pasa, Erev Ba, Kostursko Oro, Troika, Horehoronsky Csardas, Tsamikos, Kyustendiska Racenica, and so many more old favorites!



Write Yore Requests! Photo by L. Tucker.

Saturday night an even bigger crowd gathered at The Grange where the Cabrillo Folk Dancers often feature dancing to live music supplied by their favorite folk bands. This particular evening started with a potluck. When the tables and chairs were pushed back, the dancing began. Balkaton 340 and Mosaic were the official bands, and they each played a set, but two pick-up bands filled in the spaces. There was so much energy in the room!

The Cabrillo Folk Dance group was started by Al Daoud in 1969, but he'd already been leading a folk dance group in Monterey for 20 years. Bev and Ginny Wilder soon joined the teaching staff, and they taught partner dances in one room while Al taught Balkan dances in another.



Dancing Saturday night. Photo by L. Tucker

In the 1990s, John Savage came north from southern California and took over teaching the Cabrillo folk dancers. Annie Bachar soon joined him. It was Annie who started the practice of bringing live musicians to play for the Cabrillo dancers.

Annie continued leading the group until about 2008, but teaching was done by Tony Canavarro. At that point a staff of teachers began sharing the teaching duties, each one teaching for a month. Most recently, the leadership has been handled by Alan Rothchild who, having moved from Santa Cruz to the mid-Peninsula a few years ago, makes the trip over the hill every Friday night to keep the Cabrillo dancers dancing. They are so appreciative they are funding part of Alan's tuition to attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp this summer.

Congratulations to the Cabrillo Folk Dancers!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

The Redwood Dance Squad (the teenagers) have been working hard on their Rapper Sword choreography (English Sword Dancing). Their hard work paid off with their best performance yet! They did more than 10 different complicated figures and two students did back flips! Working on Rapper was a great opportunity for the kids to take leadership, as they knew the dances better than Jordan and I did.

Dancing in a set with pointy things also brought a stronger sense of teamwork and collaboration. We plan to continue learning more Rapper at BACDS Family Week this summer, **thanks to Federation scholarships.**

We are also very excited to host a dance workshop and party for all three dance groups with **Aaron Alpert in June.**



The Redwood Dance Squad.
Photo by M. Wolf.

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

Summer's here, and we're dancing now through August 5, on Mondays 7-9:15 pm, at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. No instruction during the summer; we'll just be having fun dancing to requests of old and new favorites. Bring your list with you – we'll try anything, and we often re-discover old favorites that then become part of our regular repertoire. Dances will be a mix of beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, so everyone has a chance to join the dance circle. Drop-ins, newcomers, beginners through experienced dancers, and all ages are always welcome.

You have one last chance to take the plunge into Israeli folk dancing class this summer on Thursdays, July 25, 1:30-4 pm at the Osher Jewish Community Center, 200 San Pedro Road, San Rafael. The first hour is easy older Israeli dances, followed by teaching/review of several intermediate/advanced dances and then dancing to requests. Regular classes will resume after Labor Day. Info: Carol Friedman at 415-663-9512, cjay@horizoncable.com.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

We had a wonderful **May Fun Night** dancing around three maypoles. Our highlight in July is our **Beginners' Fun Night** at Live Oak Park Social Hall in Berkeley on Friday, July 19. We will "Walk on the Moon" from 7:30 to 10:30 PM. Wear whatever you would to walk somewhere else than Earth. It's always interesting to see what BFD will wear. \$5 for members and \$7 for others! It's guaranteed to be a fun evening!

Our last week of classes is August 12-16, after which BFD takes our now-traditional August break. Live Oak Park Recreational Hall will be closing for extensive renovations starting August 16, so please check our website BerkeleyFolkDancers.org which will have up-to-date information about the closure which we anticipate will last about a year.

Beginning in September, all of our classes will be at **James Kenney Recreation Center, 1720 Eighth St., in West Berkeley**, including our New Beginners Class which will have a set of new teachers, Marian Snyder and Helen Brown with Neil Collier as an assistant teacher. This class is a bargain: classes in September and October for just \$30! And save the evening of **September 7 for a Ceilidh workshop at Albany Recreation Center**. Details will be in the September issue of *Let's Dance!*

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

Please read the article on p. 12 about our wonderful 42nd annual Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend.

... AND BEYOND

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – Barbara Bevan

There are many regular dance opportunities in the greater Sacramento area: Balkan, International, Scottish, English Country, Scandinavian, Contra Dance, etc.. See our website folkdancesac.org for details. Keep in mind that many clubs take a break during the summer, and many local dancers attend dance camps. Some recent special events were the 37th **Annual Croatian Extravaganza** June 8-9, and a **Bulgarian dance workshop with Petur Iliev** on June 19.

Coming up in August will be our **Annual Membership Potluck, Barbeque, and Dance Party**, Sunday, August 25. It will be outdoors at the Wolterbeeks' Ranch, 3100 Ponderosa Rd., Shingle Springs. We will play some games starting at 3:00. (If it is way too hot, maybe we can just run through the sprinklers!) The potluck and BBQ dinner starts at 5:00 followed by request dancing on the wooden deck until 10:00. More details and photos are on the flyer at www.folkdancesac.org.

I hope you all have a happy summer!

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan

On Saturday, May 11, Café Shalom of San Francisco hosted a celebration of the **90th birthday of their founder, Ruth Browns Gundelfinger, and Cafe's 50th year**. Over 125 current and former dancers participated in the evening's potluck dinner and dance party. Ruth was honored in songs, short speeches, and a movie compiled by Udy Gold from old photos and film clips. Read the article on p. 8.

Changs International Folk Dancers is hosting a potluck dinner followed by all-request dancing on 6:00-10:30 pm on **August 30 for the Fifth Friday**. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. Set up at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30.

Note the change of venue: San Francisco Dance Circle meets 10:30 am-noon every Wednesdays in July and August at their **summer venue, Eureka Valley Recreation Center** in the Castro District, 100 Collingwood St.

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Hollis Radin

First the sad news: we lost our dear friend and long-time Israeli and international folk dancer David Farkas in May. See the article about David on p. 13.

We hope everyone had their fill at the Palomanians' Ice Cream Social last month! This is a very popular party every year!

The next two Peninsula Folk Dance Council parties will be held at St. Bede's on **Sunday afternoons, July 14 (Bastille Day!) and August 11**, starting at about 3 pm. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find affordable halls that are available on Saturday evenings. The Sunday afternoon time slot proved popular for our February tea party, and it allowed folks who don't like driving at night to attend, as well as those who have Saturday night conflicts with Israeli, contra, or ballroom dance.

The PFDC Annual Membership Meeting and Elections of Officers will be held at the July 8 party. I will be stepping down from the role of President. The nominating committee has recommended Adony Beniares for President, Lesley Bone for Treasurer, and Ellie Wiener for Secretary. Board meetings are open to all interested volunteers; please speak to one of us if you would be interested in helping with party and festival planning.

Our August Party will feature team teaching of easy and fun new dances from Stockton. Dates and venues of the fall parties are still up in the air. The **Heritage Festival 2020** will not be held until March 13-14; details forthcoming!

Moveable Feet will be hosting a **Contras & Square Dance workshop with Tony Parkes**, with live music by Susan Worland, at All Saints Episcopal Church on **Saturday, July 20, 3-9 pm**. Tony is a featured guest at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, which starts the very next day! The Moveable Feet Club's popular **Summer Camps in Review** will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church on Saturday, September 7. This is where you can get at taste of the most popular dances from the various summer camps!

Finally, Katherine Abbott will be the featured teacher at Stanford Folk Dancers on July 12 & 19.

RAZZMATAZZ'S 42ND FOLK DANCE WEEKEND

by Marilyn Smith

Razzmatazz celebrated its 42nd annual folk dance weekend at Mendocino Woodlands on May 31-June 2. This year featured Steve Kotansky who taught a variety of wonderful Balkan dances. Two special guests this year were Susan Kotansky and Joe Graziosi. What a treat to have them both on the dance floor at our evening parties.

Édessa, with guest musician Christos Govetas, headlined our evening Balkan parties with their inimitable music, energy and enthusiasm. Saturday night one of our 9-year-old campers asked the band if they knew how to play Hava Nagila. What followed was a rollicking version of the dance with everyone singing along. Late Saturday night, Christos enthralled the remaining dancers with beautiful Greek songs, lullabies before they headed to their cabins for the night.

Our theme for the Saturday Happy Hour was "Off to the Races – Kentucky Derby Time." What better music to have than Bluegrass and old time music played by Thompsonia, renowned Bay Area musicians Suzy, Eric and Allegra Thompson. Suzy and Allegra taught the Saturday afternoon singing workshop and the singers performed at the Happy Hour. Thompsonia also played traditional Cajun music sets at both Friday and Saturday night parties.

Our kitchen crew, led by chef Nicole Saadeh, not only provided delicious meals and snacks, but also joined the fun with their homemade stick horses which they created on the spot. They surprised us all by galloping through the dining room on them as we shouted, "We want the cooks," at Saturday dinner, our tradition of calling for the cooks to come in the dining rooms for a curtain call.

This year we had three generations represented at our weekend with three different families: Lynne Paulus, her son Matt and granddaughter Ayla; Gloria Cote, her daughter Haley and grandsons Odin and Alder; Kathy Harris, her daughter Alison and granddaughter Elaine.

Though we left camp with some aches in our knees after dancing and climbing those hills at camp, we left happy and grateful for another wonderful weekend together in the magic of Mendocino Woodlands.



Musician at Razzmatazz. Photo by E. Torgerson.



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Zoltan David Farkas 1927-2019

From the Holocaust to California

by Suzanne Rocca-Butler

Zoltan David Farkas, a long-time Israeli and international folk dancer, was born December 29, 1927 and died May 10, 2019. He had suffered from Parkinson's Disease for a number of years.

David danced with Marcel Vinokur's group for many years and with the Carriage House Folk Dancers in Atherton. He celebrated his 90th birthday at the Carriage House in December 2017, but was unable to dance after that night. His long-time loving companion, Margaret, would play a CD with all his favorite folk songs for him each night as he went to sleep.

David grew up in one of only three Jewish families in a little village in the Transylvania region of what was then part of Hungary. His family was middle class, better off than peasants, but not as well off as large landowners. They owned a general store and had a cow, some chickens, geese and ducks and a fruit orchard. Having no electricity and no radio, they had to rely on others for news. Because of this, the reality of the war didn't reach his Jewish family until 1943, when David was sixteen.

His brother, Erwin, 18 months younger, is now living near Minneapolis. He made an oral history with MPR in Minnesota and spoke about leaving the village with other Jews as their neighbors watched, silently, "like they were a little baffled and curious." One neighbor was crying. "She was the only one" remembered Erwin.

The family was taken to Birkenau in Poland. Known as Auschwitz II, it served as the extermination camp for about 1 million people. Erwin recalled that it was there, standing in line, that he noticed a pattern: the old men and young boys walked in one direction, while those older than 16 walked in another.

"One way was to the labor camp and the other way probably was the crematorium," he recalled.

David was already 16, but Erwin lied about his age, saying he was 16, rather than 15 years old and that lie saved his life. He and David were assigned to forced labor, which did not mean they were safe, but they escaped the crematorium.

They spent 12 hour a day working in machine shops. Those who were sick were never seen again, and it was hard to stay well when they were fed only a crust of bread and thin soup, hardly enough to keep them alive.

Early in 1945, the Nazis forced David and Erwin and the other prisoners to march deeper into Germany – a death march heading for Dachau – with no food or

water except the snow and roots they could find in the forest. "If you couldn't keep up you were shot," remembered Erwin.

However, on April 23, 1945, before they reached Dachau, the Allies arrived and the prisoners were liberated. Erwin vividly recounted watching the Americans driving out the Nazis and handing the prisoners chocolate and candy. One American soldier, guarding the new German prisoners of war, noticed David had no shoes and the soldier ordered one

of the prisoners, a German officer, to take off his shoes and give them to David.

They eventually found work at a kitchen in an American military base set up in Germany. There they tasted a banana for the first time and learned some English.

They spent time in various Displaced Persons Camps, and eventually made their way to New York City, lived with relatives in the Bronx, and finished high school and college. David graduated with a BS and MS from City College of New York in Electrical Engineering.

Only David and Erwin survived the war. All their other family members were killed. The two brothers returned to Germany in 2008, touring Dachau, the camp they had been marching toward before being liberated. "We finally got to Dachau," David remarked.

David came to SLAC in 1962 working in the Accelerator Physics Department and was one of the originators of the basic SLED scheme. Even after his retirement, SLAC continued to give him his own office.



David Farkas, Christman, approx. 2007.
Photo by S. Rocca-Butler.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Do you know this man? The photo above was in the September 1983 issue of *Let's Dance!* with a small piece thanking him and his wife for putting on a July 4 potluck "picknick" and folk dance party. [By the way, this is *NOT* the monthly challenge! You can email the editor if you'd like to find out if you're correct, but there's no prize!]

For many years, the couple opened their farm in Martinez every Memorial Day and Labor Day for gatherings of folk dancers to share food and folk dancing, and his wife's cinnamon rolls were a big hit! In 1996 and again in 1998, the same venue was used for the then-traditional picnic/barbecue at the end of the Statewide Festival.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

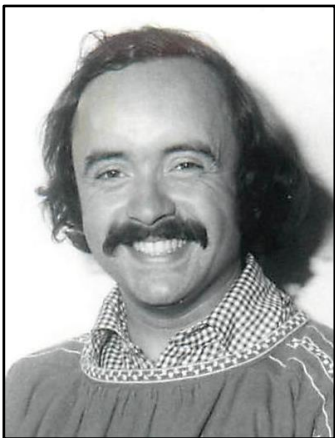
The 2019 Officers Ball will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 22737 Main Street in Hayward, the same location as 2017. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

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.**



A picture postcard from the 1930s showing the Hayward Veterans Memorial Hall. *Postcard from Craig Blackstone's collection.*



The May/June challenge was won by Joyce Clyde for correctly identifying **Yves Moreau**. There were a total of 21 people who sent emails – and two of them thought the photog was of **Graham Hempel** (right). There is a bit of a resemblance.

By the way, Graham Hempel has been teaching at the University of San Diego and was known for being one of a handful of American men who mastered the art of dancing on his toes in the folk tradition of the men in the Republic of Georgia.

He is on the Board of Directors of San Diego Folk Heritage and is the Chair of its Dance Committee. Finally, he is a nationally recognized contra dance caller and has been calling for over fourteen years!



Awa-Odori Comes to Redding

By Sarah Clark

In Japan they say, “Some fools dance, and some fools watch. You’re a fool either way, so why not dance?” Every August, in Tokushima, Japan, Awa-Odori, the dance of fools, takes over the city. Thousands of dancers, and musicians, joined by more than a million spectators, gather for the exuberant, Awa-Odori Festival. This spring, thanks to the efforts of many organizations, sixteen Awa-Odori dancers came to Redding. Amidst many performance commitments, they graciously agreed to join the Redding Folk Dancers one evening for dinner and a sharing of dances.

I am always nervous in situations where I am not fluent in the language, so dinner was a little tense for me as I haltingly spit out my limited Japanese vocabulary, and tried to make conversation. Blessedly, their English is a lot better than my Japanese! Still I was relieved when, in a flash of many hands, tables and chairs were swept away making room for the dance.

Our guests were wonderful, engaging performers. They showed us lovely classical dances, and the lively Awa-Odori signature dance which they then taught. Oh, that coordination of hands, arms, feet and body so challenging for us! We shared dances with them as well from Israel, Serbia, and Turkey. They joined us for Zemer Atik, Pljescavac, and Damat Halayi. We had worked hard for months on the Japanese Algorithm March; an eight part round not sung, but danced! It was most rewarding to hear their delighted response!

When our guests had gone, and the night came to an end, we Redding folks stood in a circle reflecting on the evening. I felt honored to be part of this community of Redding dancers so willing to share their talents as they had joyfully put together the dinner, decorations, and dance program for our guests. In addition, I felt so blessed for the wonderful worldwide dance community that is so full of joy. Someone said, “If people would all dance they’d get along better.” Some fools dance, and some fools watch. You’re a fool either way, so I believe I’ll keep dancing. Maybe it’s not so foolish after all!



Japanese dancers visited the Redding Folk Dancers.

Dancing on the Go!

by Craig Blackstone

Have you noticed the dancing Snoopy license plates being issued in California? They are now available, and appear as shown in the accompanying photo (below). The purpose for this special plate is to raise funds for museums, and they cost \$40 more than your normal registration fees. If you are interested in a new way to share your joy in dance while raising money for a good cause, contact your local DMV to apply.



Can you believe this will be the 75th annual Little Festival of the Redwoods?

by Elsa Bacher

Back in 1944 the Petaluma International Folk Dancers hatched the idea of an afternoon in Armstrong Redwoods picnicking with friends, followed by dancing together. Initially they danced in the lodge building located at the entrance to the park. When it deteriorated and was torn down, they set up the music amplifiers and speakers among the trees and tables and kicked up the Redwood Grove duff doing the hambo, polka and schottish.

However, not everyone was enthusiastic about their Sunday retreat to Armstrong Redwoods being spoiled by amplified music. It is no longer permitted in the Park. (Remember those ever-present boom boxes?) Dancing was moved all around Guerneville: to the school, to the Odd Fellows Hall, to the Veterans Memorial Building, some churches, and back to the Guerneville School. In 2016, when the Petaluma International Folk Dancers disbanded, the Santa Rosa Folk Dancers took over the annual Festival of the Redwoods. All this is by way of inviting you to come join us: **Sunday, August 11, 2019** for our 75th Annual Little Festival of the Redwoods.

It starts at noon with a potluck at Armstrong Redwoods State Park picnic grounds in Guerneville. Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to share, along with your own table service. We will provide coffee, tea and water.

The all request international folk dancing is at the Guerneville School, 14630 Armstrong Woods Road, 1:45-4:15. We dance in the enormous school gym, admittedly not ideal for our intimate group, but it serves us well enough. The big, round school logo and the court lines painted on the floor keep our circles and sets centered.



LITTLE FESTIVAL OF THE REDWOODS

SUNDAY AUGUST 11, 2019

SANTA ROSA FOLK DANCERS
INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FUN

POTLUCK PICNIC 12:00 NOON & 5:00

PLACE: ARMSTRONG REDWOODS STATE PARK
GUERNEVILLE, CA

PLEASE BRING: A HOT DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT
AND YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE. CLUB WILL FURNISH
COFFEE, TEA AND WATER

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 1:45 - 4:15 P.M.

PLACE: GUERNEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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DONATION: \$5.00

ALL REQUEST PROGRAM OF YOUR FAVORITE DANCES
MUSIC - ELSA BACHER

WE ALLOW NO GUEST TO BE HUNGRY, THIRSTY OR
UNHAPPY!

GUERNEVILLE



A Sharing of Memories from Changs' Past

by Craig Blackstone

As Changs celebrated its 80th year, I thought it important to look back at our early days to gain insights on what is special about our club, and what has allowed it to remain active all these years. During my week at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July last year, I had the opportunity to interview **John Filcich** about his memories of dancing at Changs.

For those of you who do not know John, he holds the remarkable record of having been in attendance for 70 of the 71 years the Stockton Folk Dance Camp has been held, missing only the first year when he could not afford the \$35 (!) registration fee. John has been active in international folk dance circles since 1947 as a dancer, teacher, Kolo Festival organizer, and seller of folk dance recordings, and he continues to dance at age 94. John's connection with Changs (of which I had previously been unaware) came to light when he recognized himself as a member of the performance group on the black and white photo on our anniversary party flyer.



to its reputation. At that time, the international dance clubs in the area only danced couple dances. That is, all the clubs except for Changs, which had already begun including kolo dances in their repertoire. John was delighted to

go where he could dance kolos, and one of Changs early dance teachers, Melvin Hartfield, took John under his wing and shared his collection of kolo dance records with him. John told me he considered Melvin his dance mentor, and spoke fondly of many of the Changs members with whom he established relationships in those early years.

While John never became an official member of Changs, he danced there regularly on and off for many years until he moved to Los Angeles fifty years ago. Changs continued to maintain its preeminence among folk dance clubs, and John continued to dance at Changs as circumstances permitted.

In the early 1950s, John organized the Kolo Festival, which has been held annually on Thanksgiving weekend ever since. He told me that on the Friday night of the Kolo Festival when the dancing there would end around 9:00 pm, the dancers would go en masse from the Kolo Festival to Changs and continue to dance there for the remainder of the night and into the early morning. John believed the photo on Changs 80th Anniversary flyer is of his Kolo dance performance group performing one of their dances at Changs one night after previously performing the dance earlier that evening at the Kolo Festival.

If you are interested in learning more about your club's past, look for opportunities to discuss dancing experiences with some of the older members of your club. Additionally, take some time to try this at other dance venues, such as Stockton Folk Dance Camp or at Folk Dance Federation of California festivals. It is always delightful to hear old timers share their memories of pleasant times dancing at your dance club.



In 1947, there were many folk dance clubs active in the Bay Area. John started dancing in Berkeley where he was living at the time, but soon expanded his dance activity to the point where he was dancing seven nights a week. On one of those nights he would cross the Bay Bridge to dance at Changs.

What drew him initially to Changs was its reputation as the best dance club in the area, and John happily confirmed to me that the club lived up

FEDERATION NEWS

Passport to Folk Dance Adventures

by *Craig Blackstone*

The Executive Board of the Folk Dance Federation is considering the creation of a form of **folk dance club passport**, with separate pages representing different clubs within the Federation interested in participating in the project. Each club page could include the address of the location where the club dances, as well as the days and times the club meets. Dancers would have their own passports, and the clubs would endorse the passport when presented by dancers from other clubs. Ideally, the passports would inspire dancers to visit other clubs near and far, and then compare notes on their experiences travelling to foreign parts. There might even be competition on the number of places visited. Susan Gregory has agreed to act as designer for the project.

Does this sound like something your club would be interested in joining as a participant club? If so, the Executive Board would like to know. If there are enough clubs registering interest in participating, we will move forward with the project. **Please contact me at crb2crb@comcast.net if you are interested.**

2019 Scholarships Granted

By *Sabine Zappe*

The Federation Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of Federation scholarships for 2019. Congratulations to all!

Willow Daun-Widner
Jayden Jordan
Aidyn McFadden
Audre Sherf
Carolyn Cole-Sayre
Kevin Greek
Pam Isberg
Sriparna Majumdar
Crista McGowan
Ulrike Narins

Family Week Dance Camp
Family Week Dance Camp
Family Week Dance Camp
Family Week Dance Camp
Stockton Folk Dance Camp
Stockton Folk Dance Camp
Stockton Folk Dance Camp
Stockton Folk Dance Camp
Stockton Folk Dance Camp
Stockton Folk Dance Camp

Archives Committee Seeking an E-bay Seller

by *Loui Tucker*

Several large collections of costumed dolls have been donated to the Federation Archives and are currently in a storage unit in Sunnyvale. Many have been sold to dancers at local festivals, but perhaps a Federation member who enjoys selling items on E-bay (or similar site) would be interested in offering some of these dolls to a wider audience. A generous commission would be available. Contact me at loui@louisutucker.com to set up an appointment to select the dolls you'd like to sell.



Rum Dum Dum - Рум-дум-дум

(Macedonia)

Rum Dum Dum (ROOM DOOM DOOM) is the sound of a tapan (drum). This dance was part of the Tanec performance repertoire. Vlasto arranged some of the steps for this piece of music. Although the music Vlasto used does not have lyrics, it is the melody for the very popular and oft-recorded song “Zurli treštat na sred selo” (The zurlas blare in the village center). An internet search of the name will yield many recordings, many with vocals. This dance was presented by Vlasto Petkovski at the 2018 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at University of the Pacific.

Music and video: CD: *Stockton 2018, Vlasto Petkovski*, Track 11

Video: *Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2018 Video* This video can be viewed by contacting a camper who purchased it.

Rhythm: 7/16 meter, counted as 4/4 meter (two 7/16 measures per 4/4 measure).

Formation: Open circle, hands joined in W-pos, facing R (CCW).

Steps & Styling: Step-Hop: Step R fwd (ct 1), hop on R (ct 2). Can be done moving fwd or bkwd, beginning with either foot.

Two-Step: Step R fwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2). If repeated, the step alternates; may be danced in any direction.

| Measures | 4/4 (7/16) | PATTERN |
|----------|---|---------|
| 2 meas | INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin dance after the drumbeats. | |
| I. | <u>STEP-HOPS AND GRAPEVINE.</u> | |
| 1 | Moving R (CCW), Step-Hop R fwd, arms swinging down to V-pos (cts 1-2); Step-Hop L fwd, arms swinging back up to W-pos (cts 3-4). | |
| 2 | 4-step Grapevine: step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R, turning body slightly to L (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L in front of R, turning body back to face R (ct 4). | |
| 3-8 | Repeat meas 1-2 three times (4 times total). | |
| II. | <u>INTO CENTER AND BACK.</u> | |
| 1 | Facing and moving twd ctr, arms in W-pos, Two-Step R (cts 1-2); Two-Step L (cts 3-4). | |
| 2 | In place, Step-Hop R, arms swinging down to V-pos (cts 1-2); Step-Hop L, arms swinging back up to W-pos (cts 3-4). | |
| 3-4 | Repeat meas 1-2 moving bkwd on meas 3. | |
| III. | <u>STEP SWINGS.</u> | |
| 1 | With arms in W-pos, Step-Hop R, swinging L across R and looking down R (cts 1-2); Step-Hop L, swinging R across L and looking down L (cts 3-4). | |
| 2 | Step-Hop R, swinging L across R and looking down R (cts 1-2); three steps in place (L, R, L), facing ctr (cts 3, &, 4). | |
| 3-4 | Repeat meas 1-2. | |

Rum Dum Dum — continued

IV. SHRINKING AND ENLARGING THE CIRCLE.

- 1-2 Arms in V-pos, moving to R (CCW) and slightly twd ctr, four Two-Steps, starting R, gradually making the circle smaller.
- 3-4 Facing ctr, four Step-Hops straight bkwd, starting R, gradually enlarging the circle.
Optional: last Step-Hop can be a Two-Step in place.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times.
- 17-20 Repeat Fig II, two times.

Sequence:

Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig II, Fig III
Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig II, Fig III
Fig IV



Vlasto Petkovski dancing at
Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2018.
Photo by M. Giusto.

Lyrics

Зурли трештат на сред село, тапан
бие рум-дум-дум,
млади моми и ергени,
до две ора вијат.

Zurli treštāt na sred selo
Tapan bie rum dum dum
Mladi momi i ergeni
Do dve ora vijat

The zurlas blare in the village center
Tapan drumming, rum-dum-dum
Young women and men
Are dancing in two circles

Рум-дум-рум-дум-рум-дум рум,
рум-дум-рум-дум-рум-дум-дум!

Rum dum rum dum, rum dum rum
Rum dum rum dum, rum dum dum!

Rum dum rum dum, rum dum rum rum
Rum dum rum dum, rum dum dum!

Оздола иде стар бел дедо засукал
мустаки,
право трга на орото
и тој да се фати.

Ozdola ide star bel dedo
Zasukal mustaki
Pravo trga na oroto
I toj da se fati

An old, white-haired grandpa comes,
Twirling his mustaches
And goes straight to
Dance in the circle

Го здогледа баба Неда,
за рака го фати:
Каде одиш старо-аро,
оро да им грдиш?

Go zdogleda baba Neda
Za raka go fati
Kade odiš staro aro
Oro da im grdiš?

Grandma Neda spots him
And grabs him by his hand
What are you doing, you old twit
Spoiling their dancing come on now!

Стој, почекај баба Недо,
до моми да играм,
да се фатам до момите,
срце да разиграм.

Stoj počekaj baba Nedo
Do momi da igrām
Da se fatam do momite
Srce da razigram

“Wait, Grandma Neda
Until I catch up with the girls
Playing with my heart.”

What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

John Filcich Birthday Celebration – 95 Years Young!

by Valerie Daley

Join us for an afternoon of folk dancing to commemorate John Filcich's 95th birthday. The fun begins at **1 pm on June 30** at the Thursday Club, 5380 Bell Street in Somis, and we'll dance, sing, and eat cake until 5:30.

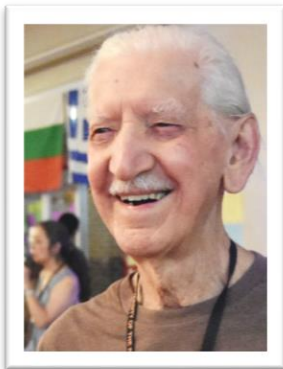
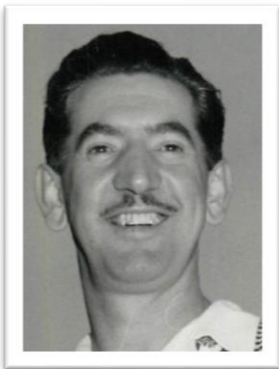
This charming building was built in 1895 and has a wonderfully sprung wood floor just perfect for dancing and we plan to do a lot of that!

Thank you, Ivan, for bringing so many dances and so much music to our folk dance groups. Happy Birthday! You are loved and cherished.

More info: www.somisthursdayclub.org

To read more about John and his long history of dancing, teaching, selling music, etc. visit socalfolkdance.org/master_teachers/filcich_j.htm

To read about John's connection to Changs in San Francisco, the oldest folk dance club in California, see Craig Blackstone's article on p. 17.



Are you looking for the *Let's Dance!* monthly challenge? You found it! The editor will be waiting for the **fifth** email with the name of the northernmost Federation dance group in California. Hmm, I wonder where you'll find that information...

New Fall Dance Camp in Southern California

By Marc Rayman

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! A new dance camp is going to be held **November 15-17, 2019**, at the Brandeis-Campus of the American Jewish University near Simi Valley, about 40 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The new committee planning the replacement for Camp Hess Kramer was lucky to find this new venue following the devastation at Hess Kramer wreaked by the Woolsey fire in November. The campus is reminiscent of Hess Kramer, with its lovely rural setting and motel-style rooms.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR:
NOVEMBER
15-17**

The master teachers will be **Caspar Bik**, presenting dances from several countries, and **Erica Goldman**, presenting Israeli dances. Both have taught at Stockton and at other events local dancers may have attended.

To learn more about the teachers, the venue, and more, visit FallCamp.org.

The Folk Dance Federation of California, South, sponsors the camp this year and will do so in the future regardless of whether it's at Hess Kramer, Brandeis-Bardin, or elsewhere. (I'm hoping we'll hold it on a low-gravity asteroid in a few years, but there are still some lodging and oxygen details to work out). The new name will no longer depend on the location. It is now officially the Fall Dance Camp in Honor of Beverly and Irwin Barr, and most people are simply calling it **Fall Camp**.

STATEWIDE 2019

By Kevin Greek

Photos by L. Tucker and J. Croco

The theme of the 2019 Statewide festival this year was Ethnic Treasures. Held May 31-June 2 in the lovely Edmonds Ballroom on the shady Pomona College campus in Claremont, California it brought smiles to well over a hundred happy dancers. Five times as many dancers from Northern California attended Statewide south this year than two years ago. Dancers from Arizona, Colorado, and as far away as Canada attended. With the remarkable diversity of talented instructors, musicians, as well as dances and activities, no one could leave disappointed.

Miamon Miller, Bill Cope, Michael Lawson and Janie Cowen performed as Miamon Miller and Friends and played international favorites ranging from the Balkans, Eastern Europe to the Middle East and Scandinavia. While dancing I repeatedly looked at the band in surprise when I realized they were often switching instruments in order to play an ethnic dance faithfully. It was hard to believe that there were just four musicians who could play all these complicated and different instruments so skillfully and so comfortably whenever needed.

Statewide 2019 included the most amazing, charming, and congenial all-star cast of dance instructors one could combine at a festival. One could cover the globe in the variety of dance cultures they represented: Petur Iliev, Sevi Bayraktar, Mihai David, Israel Yakovee, and Cesar Garfiaz.

Sevi Bayraktar is a charming new addition to our folk dance festivals although she is not new to dance. As a child she began studying music and dance in Bartın, Turkey. Now a researcher in the field of dance ethnology, she is on schedule to complete a Ph.D. thesis at UCLA in June. Sevi presented four dance favorites of the Turkish people that everyone could enjoy named Zozan, Damat Halayı, a Karşılama from Edirne, and Şemname. Many of our dancers were especially delighted by Sevi's cultural knowledge and experience. I, for one, was happy to have met her.

Petur Iliev demands attention and energy in each Bulgarian folk dance he presents. You cannot be caught daydreaming. In dance, he defies gravity and space by shouting and leaping until an expansive festival ballroom seems too small to contain him. He taught his signature dance Levo Horo and a Macedonian dance named Kamber. After spending a half-hour Saturday morning teaching Ruchenitsa na Horo,

(continued on p. 21)



Israel Yakovee.



Sevi Bayraktar.



Mihai David.



Petur Iliev.



Miamon Miller and Friends.

STATEWIDE 2019 – *continued*

an energetic three-part Bulgarian dance, many were happy to return to the hotel to change clothing and take a shower before lunch.

Mihai David, another legendary instructor who has introduced many Romanian dance favorites, also taught. His dances included Hora Ploii, Țiganesc de Doi, and Lămîița. Finally, Israel Yakovee presented four Israeli dances. On Sunday afternoon the dynamic Cesar Garfiaz taught and led Salsa Rueda, a Cuban Salsa mixer. Everyone attending Statewide had an ethnic dance to learn that they could enjoy, and most came away with several.

In the alcoves around the dance floor were tables full of wonderful items. Collectible ethnic costumes, recordings, books, and other goods were waiting for a new life at the festival. If your shirt got too damp to wear, there was another on the bazaar rack available to buy. Colorful heritage orchard brand posters decorating the walls of the ballroom were for sale. John Filcich was also at hand selling his special collection of folk dance CDs and DVDs.

Saturday evening we were treated to an amazing, high-energy Latin dance performance by the Claremont Colleges Ballroom Ensemble. It was hard to accept that these 3-4 dazzlingly dressed performers call themselves “dance students.” After that, a surprise Turkish/Roma dance performance by Sevi and Petur was announced. The look on Petur’s face when he was called for the performance indicated it was a surprise to him too, but he wouldn’t pass up an opportunity to perform. Completely unrehearsed, the two of them were exciting but natural as a couple to watch.

For those needing to take a break from the dancing, there was a table of jigsaw puzzles waiting in a corner of the ballroom. Abandoned all of Friday and Saturday, a puzzle had a lone taker late Sunday morning. As more people came to see why others were standing about, there was soon a huddle collaborating on the puzzle.

Once Sunday afternoon came and the music paused long enough for dancers to look around, it was difficult to admit this fun was all ending. How can one say goodbye to such a fantastic team of instructors, a wonderful band, awesome festival crew, and our own amazing dance friends? Here was a festival that was an ethnic treasure true to its theme. What can one say except see you next year?



Sevi and Petur performing at Statewide.

Statewide 2019 was made possible by support of the Pomona College Department of Theatre and Dance, the Federation South, and by other many generous individuals, groups, and volunteers. Seasoned organizers Pauline Klak, Diane Baker and their team thought of all the small details upon logistics, program, decorations, and refreshments for the festival.

On Saturday night, Joe Croco, the president of the Folk Dance Federation North, announced that **Statewide 2020** will be held over Memorial Day weekend in the **Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma**, with Chubritza as the featured band. So far, Bruce Hamilton and Ahmet Lüleci are the featured instructors. Watch of details in future issues of *Let’s Dance!*



Mary Jonlick of Riverside (left) assisting Ann, her almost-95-year-old her mother. Ann is recovering from hip surgery, but came to Statewide anyway!

You don’t stop dancing when you grow old... you grow old when you stop dancing!

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