# Let's Dance!

#### THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING CS MAY-JUNE 2019



George Fairbrook (92 years young) leads the line at the Saturday evening party at the Camellia Festival, followed by Lee Otterholt (who taught one of the afternoon dance workshops), Yale Rosenblatt, Denise Heenan, Dragan Djordjevic, and Julie East. *Photo by L. Tucker*.

More photos from the Camellia Festival on p. 6 and 7.

Bridget Floyd (far right) taught one of the afternoon dance workshops and performed Irish dance with Moriah Payne at the Camellia Festival's Saturday evening party. *Photo by C. Dickey.* 

#### Let's Dance!

#### Volume 76, No. 5 MAY-JUNE 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.

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

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The deadline for *Let's Dance!* is the first day of the month prior to the date of publication. We welcome submissions, letters and comments from our readers. Please send to: Loui Tucker, Editor (editor@folkdance.com). Opinions expressed in *Let's Dance!* are not necessarily those of the Folk Dance Federation or of the Editor.

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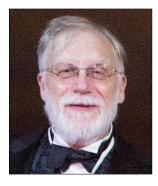
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Israel Yakovee dancing in typical Yemenite dress. Israel will be teaching at Statewide in Claremont May 31-June 2. Read more about Israel on p. 21.



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Joe Croco



First, let me share some news about the Federation Board: we have three new Board members.

First up is Marcia Rosenblatt, who will be taking over as head of the Membership Committee from Alicia La Fetra. Alicia has served the

Federation well since January of 2014, and now needs to take time to attend to family business. We are grateful for Alicia's years of service. Marcia and her husband Yale dance with several South Bay and Peninsula groups.

You may have seen notices in prior issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine that the Federation was seeking a new manager for our liability insurance program. Ken



Marcia Rosenblatt



Mike Giusto

Kaye did a great job of setting up our program and made sure it was running smoothly before announcing he needed to move on. Ken has spent the last couple of month training **Mike Giusto** who will be taking over as **Insurance** Chair. Thank you, Ken, for all your work. Michael also dances with several South Bay and Peninsula groups.

Last, we have **Marina Troost** from the North Bay clubs. Marina agreed to Chair the **Statewide** 

Committee and has already been hard a work for a couple of months. She and her committee investigated local venues and discussed possible dates and teachers. I will leave it up to Marina to make announcements about location, dates and teachers when she is ready.



Marina Troost

Welcome aboard to all three!

I have one last item for you: I received an interesting email from a student at an East Bay high school who was doing his senior project on the international folk dance community. He had some questions about international folk dancing and was looking for answers from someone in our community. I asked him about his experience with folk dancing since so many of his question were the same ones we have been asking ourselves. He responded that he had no experience with folkdance and had been doing hip/hop and break dancing for the last four years. He had done some research and had an interest in the folk dance community. For someone not a part of our community, I was very surprised to see his list of questions. I'll share his first four questions and I would like to hear your thoughts and responses.

- 1. What brought you into the folk dance community?
  - 2. How has it helped you?
- 3. Why is the folk dance community still important today?
- 4. How does the folk dance community differ from any other dance community?

By the way, as I write this, Laura and I are in Budapest enjoying the dance scene for a couple days and then we will join the Folk Tour Hungary 2019.



#### **May-June 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.

- April 26-27 **CABRILLO FOLK DANCERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTIES**. Friday April 26, 7:30-10:00 pm, at Market Street Center, 222 Market Street, Santa Cruz. Live music with Meze. Saturday April 27, 7-11 pm, at Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz. Live music with Mosaic and Balkanot 340. \$15 suggested donation. Bring snacks, beverages and tips for the bands. Info: Judy Donaldson calqua@sbcglobal.net.
- April 28 **2019 BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**. City College of San Francisco, 50 Phelan Avenue, Wellness Center, 3rd Floor, Studio 301, San Francisco. 12:30 am-5:00 pm. It's FREE as part of Bay Area Dance Week. This afternoon includes a folk dance party, short dance workshops, and a dance performance by guest company. Folk Dance Federation General Assembly at 10:30 am includes the election of officers for 2019-2020. All are encouraged to attend.
- April 30 RAZZMATAZZ BAY AREA DANCE WEEK. Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa. 7-9 pm. It's FREE! Everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of folk dancing to celebrate the eve of May Day.
- May 8 **OCHO DE MAYO DANCE**. The Carriage House at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton. 7:45-10:00 pm. \$9.00 unless you are registered for the class. Sponsored by the Carriage House Folk Dancers.
- May 10 **ÉDESSA AT KOPACHKA BALKAN DANCE PARTY**. Come dance to the exciting music of one of the Bay Area's premier Balkan dance bands. Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley. 8-10:30 pm. \$15. Spacious sprung wood floor; lots of free parking. Please consider bringing refreshments to share. Info: president@kopachkafolkdancers.com or 415- 497-4890.
- May 11 **CAFÉ SHALOM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AND RBG'S 90TH BIRTHDAY!** St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 1399 43rd Avenue (at Judah Street), San Francisco. \$10. 5:30 pm (potluck); dance party 7:30-11:30 pm. Dessert will be provided, bring other food to share for dinner along with serving utensils (no pork, shellfish or alcohol, please). Info: cafe\_shalom\_dancing@yahoo.com or 415-595-4492.
- May 11 **PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL PARTY**. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. \$10. Pre-Party workshop 7:15-8 pm; dancing 8-10:30 pm. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- May 18 **DA! MOZHEM AND THE NEMA PROBLEMA CHORALE PARTY**. All Saints' Episcopal, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. 7-11 pm. \$13. Sponsored by Moveable Feet Club. Info: LucySChang@gmail.com or KBegonia@me.com.
- May 19 **INTRODUCTION TO FOLK DANCE, SESSION #5.** DC Dance Center, 1555 Washington Avenue in San Leandro (close to Davis Street exit off I-880). 1-2:30 pm. \$8. Free parking in the area, and it's a short fourblock walk from the San Leandro BART station. Tell your wannabe-a-dancer friends, especially if they live in the East Bay. Info: dance@tangoandmoredance.com.
- May 31 STATEWIDE 2019. May 31-June 2 in Claremont, California. See ad and registration form p. 21-22.
- June 7 **DANCE TO LIVE FRENCH MUSIC**. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park. 7:30-10 pm. \$12. Sponsored by the Stanford Folk Dancers. Info: info@stanfordfolkdance.com.
- June 13 **DENIM DAYS DANCE**. St. Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. 7:30-10:15 pm. All-requests folk dance party. \$6-\$8 (sliding scale) and bring a snack to share. Wear your best denim duds. Info: loui@louitucker.com.
- June 15 **PALOMANIANS ICE CREAM SOCIAL**. St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 7:30-10:30 pm. \$10. Dancing and ice cream what's not to like? Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- June 15-22 **MENDOCINO FOLKLORE CAMP.** See article on p. 1213. Info: www.MendocinoFolkloreCamp.com
- June 16 **INTRODUCTION TO FOLK DANCE, SESSION** #6. DC Dance Center, 1555 Washington Avenue in San Leandro (close to Davis Street exit off I-880). \$8. 1-2:30 pm. Free parking in the area, and it's a short fourblock walk from the San Leandro BART station. Tell your wannabe-a-dancer friends, especially if they live in the East Bay. Info: dance@tangoandmoredance.com.

#### Jim Gold International Tours: 2019-21



Meet the people, see historic sites, folk dance with local groups.

Our trips are for folk dancers, non-dancers, and anyone with a love of travel and culture.

Tour itineraries at: <a href="https://www.jimgold.com">www.jimgold.com</a>



ARGENTINA and CHILE: FULL! March 29-April 8, ext. 8-10, 2019 Led by Jim Gold. Buenos Aires, Salta, San Antonio de los Cobres, Quebrada de Humahuaca, Mendoza, Santiago

ALBANIA and KOSOVO: May 7-19, ext. 19-21, 2019
Led by Lee Otterholt. Tirana, Durres, Vlora Folk Dance Festival!
Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra



NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN: FULL! June 11-24, 2019

Led by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen

**IRELAND:** July 13-25, 2019

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman.

Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin

ROMANIA: October 21-November 3, 2019

Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour. First of its kind!

Led by Jim Gold and Henry Sapoznik. Bucharest, Brasov. Bistritsa, lasi

**SPAIN:** May 7-20, 2020

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

BULGARIA: August 2-16, 2020

**Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival Tour!** Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt. Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo and great Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival

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 Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour. First of its kind!

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman. Munich, Saltzburg, Innsbruck, Swiss Alps, Lucerne, Zurich

TOUR REGISTRATION: Can't wait to go! Reserve my place! Mail your \$200 per person deposit. Or with credit card at: www.jimgold.com

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#### THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Matute Maturana and Maryclare McCauley dance under the arches at the Berkeley Folk Dancers' Baba Marta party in March. *Photo by A. Partos*.



Dancing at the Moveable Feet "Just Baskets" dance party in March. *Photo by L. Tucker*.



Lee Otterholt leads the line of dancers at the Camellia Festival, in spite of the cast on his arm (surfing accident). *Photo by C. Dickey*.



Ross and Sue La Fetra at the Valentine's Day dance party in Saratoga. *Photo by L. Tucker*.

#### THE RETURN OF THE CAMELLIA FESTIVAL!

by Barbara Bevan

The Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council held the Camellia International Dance Festival 2019 after cancelling it last year (2018) because we were too busy hosting the Statewide Festival. The

Camellia Festival is now just a very happy memory and most of us think it was a BIG SUCCESS! Many thanks go to the Chairperson Cynthia Lambert. Our registrar Walter Kress said the total attendance for both Friday and Saturday was 76. We had dancers from as far away at Spokane, Washington (Karen Wilson-Bell), Redding, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sierra Foothills, Davis, Woodland, Stockton, Turlock, and Southern California (Lee Otterholt). In spite of some conflicting events, especially the Scandinavian Festival and the glorious weather, we are pleased with the attendance.



Dancing at the 2019 Festival in Roseville. Photo by L. Tucker.

Despite having a cast on his right arm from a recent surfing accident, Lee Otterholt's Balkan dance workshop was a fun and challenging event. His precise teaching, styling techniques, and humor demon-



Bridget Floyd demonstrating the proper leg position. *Photo by L. Tucker*.

strated once again why he is such a popular dance teacher. Lee taught dances from Turkey, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Romania, and Albania. Having recently taught at the Festival of the Oaks, he made a point of teaching different dances here and included all the dance music from both festivals on one CD.

Bridget Floyd taught the Irish Set and Ceili Dance workshop. It was the first time many of us had ever learned Irish dances, and Bridget provided a delightful first experience. It was both fun and challenging. There were lots of smiles and laughter.

Later at the evening party, Bridget and her friend Mariah amazed us with some incredible Irish Step Dancing, both softshoe and hard-shoe. They are both prize-winners in competitions. Bridget will soon be off to Ireland for a year to work on a master's degree in environmental science, and to take more dance classes, of course. We wish her well.

The Friday and Saturday evening parties featured all-request dancing. Andy Kacsmar provided the music and Glynis Hawley helped with the programming. Our council president, Gene Vaughn did many jobs including set-up and clean-up, decorating, and beverages. Mary Victor led the decorating team. Many local dancers provided snacks and helped with the many jobs required to put on a successful festival. Thanks to all!

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

#### **RAZZMATAZZ** - Marilyn Smith

Over 100 folk dancers lit up Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa on March 23 for our annual **Red & Black Ball**. People pulled out their favorite red and black outfits and Rebecca Dwan brought her strings of red Christmas lights to decorate the hall. This is always a nice reunion where we get to see many folks we don't see on a regular basis and some we haven't seen for many years! Steve Ayala brought his replica of burning embers (using battery tea lights and foil) for dancing the traditional Nestinarsko dance. Darkening the hall lights and having just the "embers" in the center of the room and the light from the red Christmas lights strung around the hall, created a magical moment.

But the highlight of the night was the extraordinary singing and music with **Sonoma County's own Gradina Balkan choral group** accompanied by

Druzhina on tamboura, kaval, accordion and hammered dulcimer. They treated us to a varied program of songs and tunes such as Pustono Ludo, Neda Voda Nalivala, Ya Da Kalinushku, Fatiše Kolo as well as a kopanica, račenica, lesnoto and a čoček to name just a few.

The snack table was overflowing with goodies and both Rebecca Dwan and Jana Mariposa Muhar brought vases of beautiful flowers ffrom their gardens.

Our next event is our annual folk dance weekend at Mendocino Woodlands on May 31-June 2 featuring Steve Kotansky teaching Balkan dances, live music with Édessa and Christos Govetas and Thompsonia. There are still a few spaces open and scholarships are available. Email razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com.



Dancing at the annual Red & Black Ball. *Photo by M. Smith* 

#### **NORTH BAY** – Carol Friedman

We had a fabulous time on **Saturday, April 6**, dancing to **live music by Staro Vino**. They played many of our favorites including Sofka, Jove Male Mome, Karamfil and Melnik plus the Balkan basics – Pravo Horo, Paidusko, Devetorka, Eleno Mome, and more.



Dancing in Petaluma to Staro Vino. Photo by P. Smith.

We end our spring session with an **all-request class party on May 6**, and then take a break until June 3 when we start summer dancing through August 5, Mondays 7-9:30 pm at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. No instruction during the summer; we'll just be dancing to requests. Drop-ins, newcomers, beginners through experienced dancers, all ages always welcome.

The Israeli folk dance class will continue on Thursdays 1:30-4 pm at the Osher Jewish Community Center in San Rafael, through May 9, followed by three once-a-month summer classes on May 23, June 20, and July 25.

Info: Carol Friedman at 415-663-9512 or cjay@horizoncable.com.

<u>BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS</u> – Naomi Lidicker There still may be time to dance at **BFD's Bay Area Dance Week FREE classes** – evening classes the end of April at Live Oak Park Social Hall, Berkeley, and afternoon classes at Northbrae Church, Berkeley. For more detail, see the April issue of Let's Dance!. Please tell your non-dancing friends.

The highlight of May is our Fun Night hosted by the Intermediate Class on Friday, May 17. We will be "**Dancing Around the Maypole**" 7:30-10:30 pm in our Social Hall at Live Oak Park, Berkeley. Don bright, sunny and light garments and join the dancing for a mere \$5 for members and \$7 for others. We'd love to see you.

#### . . . AND BEYOND

#### <u>SACRAMENTO COUNCIL</u> – Barbara Bevan

At last, the weather is warming up and we are drying out. Glad the drought is over but enough rain already!

As a former downhill skier, hiker, tennis player, and bike rider, I had to depend on the weather to enjoy those activities. When I discovered folk dancing in my mid-thirties, I realized I could dance in any weather, although sometimes driving to the dance hall was a challenge. This is one feature of folk dancing that I tell propective dancers, plus it's good exercise, educational, social, and most of all FUN!

Many folks are preparing for trips and dance camps. Check our website www.folkdancesac.org for information on classes, events, and lots of photos.

# SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan Fifth Fridays are few and far between, so we at Changs International Folk Dancers, like to celebrate them! On March 29 Changs hosted a Fifth Friday dance party with music by our friends Da! Mozhem. Friday, May 3 will be our free Bay Area Dance Week Open House for Changs.

Saturday, May 11 is Café Shalom's celebration of its 50th year and the 90th birthday of its founder, Ruth Browns Gundelfinger. A potluck dinner at 5:30 will be followed by dancing until 11:30 pm at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 1399 43rd Avenue at Judah Street in San Francisco.

San Francisco Dance Circle will continue dancing on Wednesdays throughout the summer, but *not* at the Harvey Milk Center for the Arts. Please check the Federation website for our summer venue and hours, which will be posted as soon as we are notified.

#### **PENINSULA COUNCIL** – Hollis Radin

So many special events are planned in our area the next two months: (1) **April 26 and 27** the Cabrillo Folk Dancers celebrate their 50th anniversary as a club, (2) **May 8** the Carriage House Folk Dancers are having an Ocho de Mayo party; (3) **May 11** the Peninsula Folk Dance Council will have their monthly all-requests party; (5) **June 7**, the Stanford Folk Dancers are dancing to live French music; (5) **June 13**, the Saratoga Folk Dancers are having a Denim Days dance party; and (6) and **June 15** is the Palomanians Ice Cream Social. See the Calendar on p. 4 or www.folkdance.com for details.

#### <u>THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS</u> – Megan Wolf

We recently had an awesome two-day **Rapper** (English Sword dancing) workshop here in Willits. It was lead by Rhonda Cayford, whom we met at the Bay Area Country Dance Society's Family week. We had two sets, one of girls ages 11 to 14 and the second, pictured below, with two 4th and 5th graders, a mom, Jordan and me. This picture is of Breastplate, one of our favorite figures. The girls' set will perform at the middle school variety show in May.

Our adult group, the Willits Folk Dancers, is going strong. We are excited to have Gigi and Warren Jensen returning in April for another Tango Workshop – more about that next month!



The Breasplate Figure. Left to right: Jordan Uggla, David Lockhart, Vada Morgan, Bridgette Lockhart and Megan Wolf. *Photo by R. Cayford*.

#### MANDALA – Edith Bourbin

The Vernal Equinox happened March 20 this year. This annual event is marked by many cultures around the world. In Iran, it is Nowruz, the Persian New Year; in Japan, it is Vernal Equinox Day, a public holiday honoring the returning leaves and flowers of Spring. In India, it is Holi, the festival of *Continued on p. 10.* 

#### **News from Around the Bay**

Mandala (continued)

colors, and people decorate themselves and others with colorful powder. In China, it is Chunfen, celebrated with colorful eggs and feasting. In Mexico, many people flock to the pyramid of Quetzalcoatl at Chichen Itza for the Equinox Carnival. Stonehenge is also a gathering place for Druids and others.

In San Francisco, we celebrated the Vernal Equinox with a dance party at Mandala. Our favorite band, Staro Vino, played old and new Balkan favorites. Everyone enjoyed dancing to the band's lively repertoire. A packet of flower seeds was given to

each person who attended.

Mandala meets Thursday 7:30-10:30 pm at St.
Paul's Presbyterian Church, Bowcock Hall in San

Francisco. We would love to have you dance with us.

Chico World Dancers (CWD) hosted Aaron Alpert, teacher of Israeli dances and director for *Nirkoda!* for a full and fun day in March. Our local and well-loved Chico Women's Club hall provides a nice wood floor and was pleasant venue for the whole event. Aaron taught a selection of dances new to CWD in a two-hour dance workshop which worked well for our group's abilities and interests. He shared supper with us at our sit-down potluck dinner. We finished out the evening

with Aaron at our international folk dance party. Our

dancing event to give us all a great party atmosphere!

band Troika played live music combined with our

recordings rounding out the rest of our music and

CWD is proudly in its second year as a newlyformed non-profit organization promoting international dance, singing and music in Butte County. We were happy to receive so much support for this event from our near and dear dancer friends from the Redding International Folk Dancers group.

We plan to support and create more learning opportunities locally thru international music, singing and dance workshops by bringing more internationally known master teachers to town. We encourage other *Let's Dance!* readers and dancers to visit our happy dance community here in the North State. Info: Facebook page Chico World Dancers or contact us at chicoworlddancers@gmail.com or call 530-774-2287.



#### **Nelda Drury**

April 23, 1918 – February 21, 2019

Nelda Drury nurtured the folk dance community in Texas, but her influence in the international folk dance community was felt throughout the United States. She was a dance specialist, her area of expertise being the dances of Mexico, and Central and South America.

At the age of five, Nelda gave her first dance performance during a celebration in a small town in Texas. She grew up learning a wide variety of Mexican dances and later studied at the University of Mexico in Mexico City under the late Alura Flores de Angeles. Nelda did extensive research in Mexican, Central American, and South American dance. Her teaching took her throughout the United States, Mexico, the Orient, and Europe, presenting her seminars and displaying her dance form. She had wealth of dance costumes that she collected on her round-the-world travels.

She devoted her life to bringing folk dances from around the world to San Antonio specifically, and to Texas in general. She taught at folk dance camps and workshops all over the United States and, in turn, invited teachers she met doing so to teach at the yearly San Antonio Folk Dance Festival that she founded.

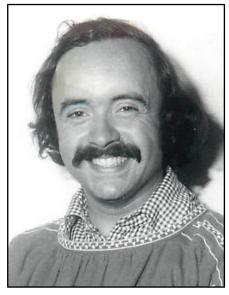
Many *Let's Dance!* readers in California may have taken classes with Nelda when she taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1974.



Chico World Dancers dancing at their workshop with Aaron Alpert. *Photo by C. Dawes*.

## FROM THE LET'S DANCE! PHOTO ARCHIVES

And here's the May-June Let's Dance! challenge: who's that young man on the cover of a Let's Dance! magazine in the 1980s. The fifth person who emails the correct answer to



editor@folkdance.com receives a \$20 gift card. For the record, Denise Heenan was the fifth person to correctly identify **June Horn** as *Let's Dance!* editor in the 1980s. As *Let's Dance!* went to the printer, there were 16 responses to the April challenge (but two thought it was **Gary Anderson!**).

#### **GETTING READY FOR CAMP**

by Loui Tucker

(reprinted from *Let's Dance!* 2007; edited to update) There are currently dance camps scheduled around all the major holiday weekends, several on shorter two-day weekends, plus some five-day and full-week extravaganzas that include tours of the environs. If you're a camp-aholic with unlimited funds and want to hit them all, large and small, in the United States and Europe, you can attend a dozen camps each year. On the major holidays, you may have to choose between camps.

Although this article is written with the new dancer who is attending his/her first camp in mind, even veterans of many dance camps will find a useful tip or reminder here. While most dance camp managers send a list of reminders to participants shortly before the camp begins, that list rarely addresses more than the logistics and schedule of that particular camp. This article is more general and will address both physical and emotional concerns.

**Take Care of Your Body.** Even if you're accustomed to dancing several nights a week on your home turf, dance camps will put some stress on your muscles. You'll be dancing day and night, so pace yourself. Take time to stretch and warm-up for *continued on p. 18* 

# **EDESSA**



www.kopachkafolkdancers.com

#### ÉDESSA at KOPACHKA | Balkan Dance Party

Édessa is comprised of musicians who have devoted decades to the study and performance of the rich cultural expressions of the southern Balkans, with music from Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Armenia, Turkey, and Balkan Roma (Gypsy). George Chittenden on clarinet, gaida (bagpipe), zurna (shawm) and guitar; Lise Liepman on santouri (hammered dulcimer) and accordion; violinist Ari Langer; percussionist Sean Tergis and bassist Paul Brown.

Friday, MAY 10, 2019 8-10:30 pm \$15

Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley
SPACIOUS SPRUNG DANCE FLOOR | LOTS OF PARKING
president@kopachkafolkdancers.com or 415-497-4890

#### THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MENDOCINO FOLKLORE CAMP

by Camp Director Daniel Tuutau

If you haven't heard the news, **2019** is the **57th** and final iteration of this week-long tradition held in the coastal redwoods of the Mendocino Woodlands.

<u>Let me introduce myself.</u> I am the current director of Mendocino Folklore Camp. I am a Tongan-American, born in East Los Angeles, raised in South-Central Los Angeles, and currently living in Salt Lake City. I was introduced to folk dancing by Billy Burke in elementary school. A former AMAN folk dancer, Billy, committed 30 years to teaching ethnic dance to inner-city kids like me. I eventually joined TANZA,

his middle-school performing troupe, and travelled around Los Angeles presenting dances to other schools. I enjoyed this experience so much I continued to meet at Billy's dance studio after school though high school to continue to perform at festivals and other local events.

One of my best friends was Billy's son, Sean. We were both 14 years old in 1997 when Sean invited me to join his family for a week-long dance camp. I had almost no idea what I was going to attend, and I definitely had no clue of the impact this event would have on my life for the next 20+ years. Since then, I have only missed four years (high school graduation, a 2-year church mission service, and touring in France). I have worked on the Work-



Daniel Tuutau with Suzie, Billy and Sean Burke at Mendocino Folklore Camp in 1997.

Exchange Scholarship Crew, of which I became the director in 2002, and eventually I took over as Camp Director in 2016.

<u>What is Mendocino Folklore Camp?</u> It began in 1962 in the town of Mendocino. Two years later, the camp moved about nine miles inland to Mendocino Woodlands Park. Founder Madelynne Greene wanted a truly unique, event-filled celebration of cultural experiences in a woodsy setting where international folk dances were presented, and included music, customs, folklore and ethnic foods.

In 1970, Madelynne's death left the camp in the care of other dedicated directors whose leadership

SATURDAY	TIME	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
BREAKFAST	8:00-8:30		В	REA	K F A S	5 T		BREAKFAST	served 8:30 to 9:30. Pack, clean cabins and camp area.
9-10 a.m.	8:45-9:45	Sunni	Ingvar	Brad	Taner	František	Sunni	Dance reviews by all teachers, starting at 8:45 a.m.	
CAMP PHOTOS	9:45-10:45	Františe	Sunni	Ingvar	Brad	Taner	rantišek		
	10:45-11:15		S	N A C	K S		1 2		
10 a.m.:	11:15-12:15	Taner	František	Sunni	Ingvar	Brad	Taner		
Intro- ductory	12:15-1:00	Brad	Taner	František	Sunni	Ingvar	Brad		
sessions,	1:00-2:00	LUNCH					Please leave		
teachers (30 min.	2:30-3:30	Ingvar						by 10:30	
each)	2:00-5:30	Crafts - Roo Lester Instrumental Music - Mark Forry Decorating, Skits, Folklore Sessions, Swimming, Sleeping					a.m.		
ROMANIA	PARTY THEME	U.S. GOUNTY FAIR Honora	TURKEY Taner & Piyale	NORWAY Ingvar & Jofrid	Free Day	ITALIAN OPERA Honora	CZECHO- SLOVANIA František	ENGLAND Brad & Jenny	next year!!

A Folklore Camp schedule from 1979.

over the years has helped Folklore Camp see growth and improvement in every possible way. True to Madelynne's dream, the camp remains one of the most unique experiences of international folk culture in the United States. Superb dance and music teachers from all over the world have taught there. Directors of Folklore Camp through the years include wellknown dance leaders such as C. Stewart Smith, Dean and Nancy Linscott, Jeff O'Connor, Marilyn Smith, Billy Burke, Susie Burke, and Russell Linscott.

<u>So why is 2019 the final year for Folklore Camp?</u> Really, 57 years is not a nice round number on which to end, so why are we closing down Folklore Camp this year?

For years Folklore Camp has struggled to survive. Folklore Camp has gone from having a long waiting list with a surplus of funds, to breaking even, to losing a little more each year. By the early 2000s, Folklore Camp looked like it was nearing its end. Susie Burke stepped in, restructured Folklore Camp, incorporating more music along with dance, and kept Camp viable for over a decade more. In 2016, I took over and did what I could to keep the ship afloat, but there just hasn't been enough support from both paying campers along with those willing to volunteer as staff members.

In April 2018, just two months before the start of Camp, enrollment was just 13 full-pay campers.

Canceling the camp seemed likely. I knew if we cancelled, not only would we be out over \$10,000 in deposits, but it would be the end of Folklore Camp. There would be no bouncing back from a cancellation at such a late date. I decided we needed to survive for one more year, let everyone know 2019 was going to be our grand finale, and go out with a bang. The trick was going to be surviving the 2018 camp. Still desperately short on people and funds, we were looking at a huge deficit. I planned to pitch my "grand finale next year" idea when I received a call from the registrar. A large sum

It was like something out of a Hallmark movie.

of money had been left to Folklore Camp by the estate of Honora Clark Forscutt, a long-time former director of Mendocino Folklore Camp. The amount was just over the predicted deficit. It was like something out of a Hallmark movie.

With news of that donation, the board was fully supportive of my plan to give it one more year and it was decided that 2019 would be Mendocino Folklore Camp's final year.

If you get a good turnout this year will you reconsider? We planned this final year assuming we would have a good turnout. However, if we were to continue, we would find ourselves back in the same place in a few years. We can't hope for beloved benefactors to remember Camp in their estate planning year after year. It should not come as a surprise to those active in the folk dance community that interest in folk dancing has declined since the 1970s. There are so many contributing factors it wouldn't do justice to the subject to try to explore them all in this article, but for camps like Folklore Camp, there are some major obstacles including cost, access, and demand.

One of the major draws of Mendocino Folklore Camp is also one of its obstacles: the rustic location. The Mendocino Woodlands is beautiful, but it was built in the 1930s as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal projects. It was not designed to fill the needs of an aging population. Root-covered paths, no electricity in the cabins, wash houses that are far away, and many other inconveniences became bigger and bigger issues. Some camps have adjusted by moving to more urban settings where those amenities are standard. We considered this option – moving camp to a different, more comfortable facility – but ultimately decided the location is as much a part of Folklore Camp as the dancing, the music, and the parties.

Competition is also a contributing factor: people only have so much time and money to devote to vacations. When the cost of an event where you celebrate a foreign country costs about as much as a ticket to fly to that country, it's a tough decision. For those not already invested in our community, it's a big temporal and financial decision to take a week off to try something like Folklore Camp. Even for those invested, there are other dance and music camps, foreign country tours, as well as dance cruises. Also, the ever-increasing cost of room and board pushes Folklore Camp out of the realm of possibility for many. Younger people with the energy to go can't afford it; older people who can afford it don't have the energy to attend.

Another strength that has come to be a weakness is Folklore Camp's identity. By design, Folklore Camp was not called FolkDANCE Camp. Madelynne Greene wanted dance, music, crafts, and overall arts of these cultures to be explored and celebrated. With an ever-changing staff of teachers, it's exciting to see what will be offered from year to year. It's the camp with a little something for everyone. That also means it isn't locked into a certain demographic for support. There isn't a bloodline for international folk dancers the same way there is a blood connection for Balkan, Scandinavian, Middle-Eastern, or other cultural-centered camps.

continued on p. 14.

#### THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MENDOCINO FOLKLORE CAMP – continued

If your mother is from Macedonia and your father is from Bulgaria, you will be culturally tied to Balkan dance and music. If you are able to attend one camp each year, you are more likely to attend one with a connection with your cultural affiliation, not a camp that has a little of everything.

Finally, Folklore Camp didn't focus on bringing the younger generations in order to have the support through the generations. I can attest to this since, at times, I'm still considered as one of the "kids" at camp, even though I'm in my mid-30's, I bring my own children, and I am the general director.

<u>So what's next?</u> While Folklore Camp is finishing up, the folk dance and folk music communities will continue. Festivals, conventions, camps, events, parties, and so forth will continue to happen in different shapes and forms. The community adapts or it is left behind.

To help legitimize Mendocino Folklore Camp as a non-profit organization, the California Multicultural Arts Institute (CMAI) was organized as the umbrella organization for Folklore Camp, Scandia Camp, the AMAN Alumni Society, and others. It is



Daniel Tuutau and his family at Mendocino Folklore Camp in 2017.

possible for the ideas embodied in Madelynne Greene's vision might continue to be expressed in events that carry the name Folklore Camp, or it might just fade away like so many other memories. It depends on who will step up next. CMAI is looking for interested individuals who can contribute their time, talents, and effort toward furthering the cause of culturally diverse arts in the state of California.

Despite all the sad reasons why Folklore Camp is ending this year, one fact remains: There is still ONE MORE TIME! This final year has an awesome teaching staff, fun parties, amazing food, and it is going to be a party like no other. While we are filling up, we haven't yet sold out, so there is still likely room for you to join in the fun!

Mendocino Folklore Camp is June 15-22, 2019. Info: www.MendocinoFolkloreCamp.com.

#### SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19



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

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.





Balkan Dance & Brass Band

Aaron **Alpert** . Israeli Dance





Robert McOwen Scottish Country Dance

Lynnanne Miller Polynesian Island **Dances** 







Varimezova Bulgarian Singing

Bill Cope Bulgarian/ Macedonian



Michele Simon EEFC Songbook & Balkan Sing-Along

Yanika Chemerisov Belly Dance & Morning Yoga



Billy Burke Folk Dance Basics

For more details and to register visit

Middle-Eastern & Arabic Drumming





Daniel Tuutau



Croatian

Singing



Sea Shanties

& Ukulele

Erik Hoffman Contra

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Young Adult (30yrs and under) - \$695

Teen (13-18yrs) - \$595

Child (0-12yrs) - Free

\*Discounts and work-exchange scholarships available. Visit us online for more info.

www.MendocinoFolkloreCamp.com

#### **DON'T MISS OUT!**

by Sabine Zappe

It's not too late to receive a Folk Dance Federation scholarship for a summer dance camp. Whatever camp has captured your interest, don't let a lack of funds keep you from attending. Visit folkdance.com, click on the Services tab, and download the scholarship application. Last year the Federation awarded ten scholarships, and we hope to award as many this year.



Scholarships are not given just to current and potential group leaders and teachers of folk dancing, but also to experienced and new folk dancers. All are encouraged to apply, including dancers who are not Federation members, so tell your dancing friends about our scholarships as well.



# GET YOUR FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER BOTTLE TODAY!

\$10 for Federation members \$12 for non-members

OPTIONS: Contact Loui: loui@louitucker.com or 408-287-9999

Buy individually

Buy in bulk, have them shipped/delivered and re-sell at your dance group Take orders from your dancing friends and have them shipped/delivered

P.S. The Federation totebags have all been sold, but we have five large dark blue t-shirts ("I FOLK DANCE. That's my superpower!") left in stock. Contact Loui if you're interested in buying one.



**Is your club insured with the Federation?** Your treasurer or president should have recently received the insurance program renewal questionnaire via email. If no one receives the renewal questionnaire, please contact the Federation Insurance Program Manager Ken Kaye at *kenkaye46@yahoo.com*. If personnel or email changes, we cannot reach you, so you need to contact us!

## **Stockton Folk Dance Camp**



















# JULY 21 - 28 & JULY 28 - AUG 4 OUR 2019 FEATURED GUESTS

#### Partner Dances

Richard Schmidt - Polish

Gigi Jensen - Argentine

Tony Parkes - Squares & Contras

#### Non Partner Dances

Joe Graziosi - Greek

Tineke van Geel - Armenian

Gergana Panova - Bulgarian

Maurits van Geel - International

#### Workshop teacher

Rebecca Tsai - Chinese

#### Live Music

Miamon Miller & Free Range Organic

#### Visit

www.folkdancecamp.org/ for more info! Download a registration form from the website!

#### Getting Ready for Camp - continued

workshops. Rest between the sessions and elevate your feet and legs. Take a nap if there is time. Drink lots of water to keep your body hydrated and your muscles from cramping.

You may be dancing on wood floors, but you're going to be on your feet many more hours at a stretch. The additional wear and tear on your legs, ankles, knees, and feet will have you suffering very quickly. Take many pairs of shoes and boots, as well as lots of socks so you don't wind up with blisters at the end of the second

day. Something as simple as changing shoes and socks can revive you enough to give you another couple of hours of dancing. Varying between no heels, low heels, and high heels, as well as open toed and closed toed shoes changes your balance, the muscles you use to move, and the stress points on your feet.

Also be prepared for more than just dancing. There may be a fancy banquet or evening party and camp custom dictates something other than shorts and a T-shirt. You may need to dress minimally for the beach or swimming pool but need several warm layers for a cool night by a campfire. Your non-dancing friends may laugh at a huge suitcase for a casual three-day dance camp, but you've got to be prepared for a lot of different events and environments.

Money, Money, Money. Yes, you paid for the camp, and that probably includes all your meals, but you should still take your wallet. There will be t-shirts for sale, along with CDs and DVDs. Some camps invite local artists to display jewelry, clothing, and other dance-related items. Some camps have a camp store with second-hand items. If a camp has a masseuse available, after two days of dancing, a massage feels terrific. If all meals are provided, you may need to drive to the nearest store for emergency Advil, an Ace bandage, or your favorite junk food.

Getting from Here to There to Yonder. This may seem minor because most camps are self-contained, with dancing/eating/sleeping areas in close enough proximity to walk. Ask just be certain. There are stories about the Dance-Camp-From-Hell where a couple visiting from out-of-the-area was graciously picked up at the airport by a member of the camp's staff and driven to their hotel – which was three miles from the dance hall. No arrangements had been made to get the couple to the workshops.

When in Rome, Do As the Romans. You are probably aware that there are some pieces of music to which more than one dance was choreographed. You may be aware there are dances that were taught by a choreographer one way, and then taught a different

way at another time/location. You will also find at a dance camp that, for example, a dance you're used to doing with a shoulder hold, the locals dance with joined hands down. Even if you are certain that you do the dance correctly, don't make waves. It's just a dance, and Western Civilization will not come to an end if there are differences of opinion about how

Counts 4-8 of Part A, Section 2, are done.

Stranger in a Strange Land. If you attend a dance camp that is not in your area, and nobody from your area is going with you, be prepared for some feelings of loneliness, isolation and rejection. No matter what the website says about a friendly and warm atmosphere, let's face facts: people who dance together tend to socialize and eat together as well. You may get a terrific roommate who will walk with you between activities, but you cannot count on it.

Besides not having a partner you're used to for the couple dances, you'll be breaking into lines and circles and holding hands with strangers who won't automatically make eye contact with you, or say hello, or squeeze your hand in greeting. Accept the fact that you'll be introducing yourself at communal meals and other gatherings, and you'll have to join established groups around campfires, swimming pools and snack tables. Smile, keep your chin up, and be receptive. Ask questions and get the locals talking about their dance classes and teachers, and you may find the questions being reciprocated.

And now that you locals have read that last paragraph, be aware that you have visitors in your midst and don't lock the doors of your clique and turn all eyes inward. The reputation of your dance class/camp is dependent on how well you treat your guests. Besides, you may be a visitor at a camp yourself someday.

Have fun! Finally, enjoy yourself. You're lucky to be part of a vibrant and thriving dance community that promotes physical well-being and spiritual joy through movement to music. Just think: you could be on a business trip, sitting all day in a stuffy conference room listening to a lecture on the advantages of an accrual accounting system!

Just think: you could be on

a business trip, sitting all

day in a stuffy conference

room listening to a lecture on the advantages of an

accrual accounting system!

#### Shumarsko

(Pirin Macedonia, Bulgaria)

Shumarsko (shoo-MAHR-skoh) was taught at the Kolo Festival in 2018, by Gergana Panova. She taught two versions of the same dance, one called Shumarsko (7/16 meter), and a gypsy (Roma) version called Romsko (RHOM-skoh) Shumarsko (2/4 meter). While Shumarsko is danced in the spring by young women, the Roma version is done by both men and women. Gergana researched the dance in the 1990's in the village of Razlog in Pirin Macedonia, a province of southwestern Bulgaria.

Music and video: 7/16 meter, 3, 2, 2 – S, Q, Q

Romsko Shumarsko, 2/4 meter, 1, 2, & - S, Q, Q)

Counted herein as 1, 2, 3

Gergana Presents Bulgarian Dances-Vol. 3. Video on a USB flash drive is available from

Gergana at gerganafolkwang@gmail.com.

Formation: A line of dancers facing center, hands joined in V-position.

Steps & Styling: Light on their feet, with knees bent.

Figure 1 starts with a twist to the left. Figure 2 has a twist to the L, then a twist to the right. This twisting allows the women to show off their profiles to the men ("Look how pretty I am"), first to one side, then to the other. The whole body moves in the same direction as the twisted knee,

while the head slightly tilts in the opposite direction.

Measures	7/16 Meter PATTERN	
1-4	INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin with the lyrics of the song.	
I.	FIGURE I. One knee twist.	
1	Facing ctr, lift R knee, twisting at waist with R knee in front of L leg (ct $\underline{1}$ ); facing and moving to (CCW), step R (ct 2); step L (ct 3).	o R
2	Continuing CCW, step R (ct 1); step L (ct 2); step R (ct 3).	
3	Step L (ct 1); facing ctr, step R to R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).	
4	Step R to R (ct 1); touch L next to R (ct 2); hold (ct 3).	
II.	FIGURE II. Two knee twists.	
1	Facing ctr, step L in place (ct $\underline{1}$ ); lift R knee, twisting at waist with R knee in front of L leg (ct 2) step R in place (ct 3).	);
2	Lift L knee, twisting at waist with L knee in front of R leg (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2); step R fw twd ctr (ct 3).	vd
3	Step L fwd, bending knee (ct 1); step R bkwd (ct 2); step L bkwd (ct 3).	
4	Hook R in front of L leg (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3).	
III.	ENDING: These meas follows Fig. II, meas 1-2 the eighth time through the dance.	
3	Step L fwd, bending knee (ct 1); step R bkwd (ct 2); step L bkwd, pointing R toe fwd (ct 3).	
4	Hold this position for the entire meas (cts 1-3).	
5	Hook R in front of L leg (ct 1); step R in place, kicking L bkwd (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3).	
Sequence:	Repeat Fig I and II seven times. On the eighth time, dance Fig I, then Fig II, meas 1-2 only, and the Ending.	

### What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

#### Meet Israel Yakovee

at California Statewide 2019 "ETHNIC TREASURES"

May 31 — June 2, 2019
Pomona College Campus in Claremont
by Diane Baker

When Israel Yakovee arrived in the United States on a student visa, he was already a certified teacher of Israeli dance and accomplished performer. His brother had arranged for the visa and application to Cal State University Northridge and Fred Berk had invited him to teach at Blue Star Camp in North Carolina. Israel recalls, "I was very young and energetically dancing nonstop, so they changed my name to 'Is he Real,' instead of Israel, at Blue Star Camp."

Israel grew up in Israel in a large, supportive Orthodox Yemenite family, his parents having immigrated to Israel from Yemen. He feels that his life work is to preserve the traditions of Yemenite Jewish music and dance. But that's getting ahead of Israel's story.

From his strict Orthodox childhood home, he moved to Kibbutz Nahal Oz, a remarkable change to a secular residence in which boys and

girls mixed. Israel remembers that the policy in early pioneer times was to help large poor families with too many kids to feed by organizing the children into the youth groups to augment the labor force

Come to Statewide 2019 in Claremont, May 31-June 2 and dance with "Is-he-real" Yakovee at parties and his workshop Saturday.

for a kibbutz. That policy allowed young people to combine work with a high school education. At the kibbutz, there was a weekly dance session in the dining room, and dancers from nearby communities often joined them. His talents recognized, Israel studied in a two-year seminar program for dance teachers, was certified, and returned to teach at Kibbutz Nahal Oz. He also began dancing on stage as a professional dancer.



Military service is not only compulsory, but an experience to which Israeli boys look forward. Israel was drafted with a group from his kibbutz, received advanced training, and saw live action in the south of Israel. Following his three years of military service, Israel danced professionally in a musical show, taught dancing, and began to choreograph. That's when

his brother, who was already studying political science in the United States, arranged for him to go abroad.

Israel studied for a degree in physical education and sports medicine. He was intrigued by dance therapy but, after graduation, worked in more traditional physical therapy at Northridge Hospital until 1980 when he became a full-time dance instructor, performer, and choreographer.

"Is-he-real" performed, directed and choreographed for Camp Finjan in California, and co-founded several other Israeli dance groups. He co-founded Hora Shalom Israeli Dance Institutes on both coasts and will be featured at International Folk Dance Camp in New York, May 10-12, 2019. He performed

and toured with Mihai and Alexandru David in the ensemble Bessarabia and performed with Inbal Dance Theatre company. He has been on the staff of both international and Israeli dance camps. International folk dancers love many of his dances, including Shoofni, Shavnu Al Eretz, Aba Shimon, Agadelcha and Yemenite Rap!

Israel said, "Dancing is my life! It is in my veins and is highly addictive!" He continues to travel to Israel as a guest choreographer at the yearly Karmiel Festival, for research, and to visit family.

Come to Statewide 2019 in Claremont, May 31-June 2 and dance with "Is-he-real" Yakovee at parties and his workshop Saturday afternoon.

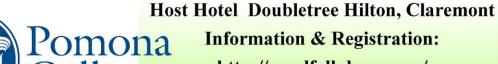
Find schedule, transportation meals and much more on the website socalfolkdance.org.



#### **Evening parties feature the band:**

Miamon Miller & Friends –

Bill Cope, Michael Lawson & Janie Cowan





#### PLEASE NOTE EARLY BIRD PRICE BREAKS!

#### Ethnic Treasures - Statewide Folk Dance Festival May 31 - June 2, 2019

#### Edmunds Ballroom, Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Pre-registration Form (Please register individually, one form per person.)

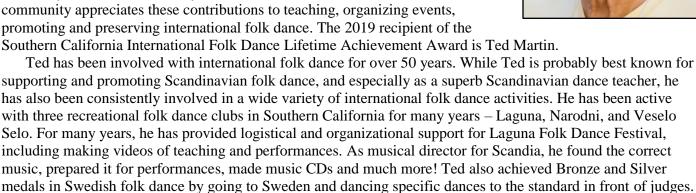
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Free admission for Pomona College st				
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on the Festival Package; must be age 2			_	
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Individual Events: (\$25 each with pre-	-	the door)		
Friday evening party				
Saturday AM instruction				
Saturday PM instruction				
Saturday evening party				
Sunday review, Salsa Rueda, & reques	t dancing [ ] (\$25)			
		Subt	total:	\$
Additional Offerings:				
Festival DVD: quantity [ ] @ \$20 each	າ:			\$
Installation Lunch: Sunday, June 2 (\$25	. Must be purchased in advan	ce with pre-regis	tration.)	\$
Chicken [ ]				
Vegetarian [ ]				
Souvenir T-shirt - designed by Susan G	iregory (Most sizes \$18 e	ach; 2x large s	sizes \$20)	\$
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to the event registrar: Darlene Whee				
<b>Online Registration</b> is available starting	g in January 2019 at <u>www.</u>	<u>SoCalFolkDan</u>	ice.org.	
Notes: Visit the Statewide 2019 Folk Danc	e Festival web page at <u>www</u>	.socalfolkdance	e.org/state	ewide.htm to
the latest schedule, teacher bios, and a list			_	
or additional information, send an email t		-	-	
Treasures Festival is sponsored by the Folk	Dance Federation of Califor	nia, South, Inc.	, a 501(c)	(3) non-profit
organization.				
				Ver :

MAY-JUNE 2019 **Let's Dance!** page 22

#### **Ted Martin - Winner of the 2019 Southern** California International Folk Dance Lifetime **Achievement Award**

The organizing committee of the Laguna Folk Dance Festival is pleased to present, each year, the Southern California International Folk Dance Lifetime Achievement Award. We folk dancers today owe a large debt of gratitude to the people who made our community, the pioneers who had a vision and worked consistently to create the great community that we enjoy today. With this award, we strive to recognize, remember and honor these individuals.

This year we received many nominations, which demonstrates how much the community appreciates these contributions to teaching, organizing events, promoting and preserving international folk dance. The 2019 recipient of the



And most of all, he is a gentle soul, kind to all. From the entire folk dance community, thank you, Ted!

#### LAGUNA FESTIVAL - A review

by Marcella Lawson

If you weren't able to organize your schedule to attend the Laguna Festival in March, start planning for 2020 now! There are already **three great reasons** to add this event to your calendar, with many more to come.

First, it comes highly recommended by average folks and those in power. Here's what the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, President Pauline Klak had to say about it:

All Hail the Power of Volunteers! The Laguna Festival Committee and their many able staffers must be recognized and thanked for creating a most wonderful opportunity to dance joyously in community with folk dancers from near and as far away as British Columbia! The Laguna Festival brought us teachers who exceeded all expectations for skill, energy, variety and knowledge! Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić, whose feet barely touch the ground, and Steve Kotansky, who combines beautiful steps with exquisite music to make a sublime dance experience. Quoting Vice President Diane Baker, "Participating in such a communal festival offers dancers the chance to feel ecstasy! It expands our zest for life, relieves fear, calms anxiety, opens horizons. Tired feet is a small price to pay.

In a separate communication to the Festival Committee, Federation Vice President Diane Baker said, "The festival was a resoundingly joyous occasion for the Folk Dance community. Thank you for bringing the exuberant music, lively dancing and talented teachers to Orange County. I enjoyed every minute!"

Second, plan to extend your stay through Monday to enjoy the uniquely Southern Californian experience of folk dancing on the beach. This year some joyful dancers were photographed and featured in an article in a local newspaper.

Third (and finally, for now). hold onto your hat: next year's 50th Annual Laguna Folk Dance Festival is pleased and proud to feature legendary folk dance teacher Yves Moreau!



Some Laguna Festival dancers on the beach! Photo by B. Alkofer.

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC. 1614 Peacock Avenue

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Someone out there is waiting for their life to be changed by folk dancing - just as yours was.

Don't make them wait any longer!



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