

# Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  DECEMBER 2020

*2020 has been a difficult year....*



December 31, 2019, it started out just fine....



By June we were deep into Zoom dancing.



In October, a few classes are starting up outdoors.



*...but we're still dancing!*

*(What are your hopes for next year?)*

# Let's Dance!

Volume 77, No. 10

DECEMBER 2020

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The Federation's **Promotion Fund** is available to Federation members and clubs, in the form of a grant or a loan, to promote a specific dance event or folk dance in general. Read more about this fund and download an application at [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com) under the **Services** tab.

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](http://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

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**Join now:** Membership rates:

Individual \$35/year (add \$15 for foreign addresses)

Household rate \$45/year

Student rate \$25/year (26 or under and at least half time)

Group/Club rate \$40/year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

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

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## WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS



Sadly, none this month



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

As we enter into our ninth month of COVID life, I think about how this has had such a profound effect on all of us, and especially as folk dancers. As many of you know, I am a member of Berkeley Folk Dancers. What that meant for me before COVID was attending classes for two hours, three evenings a week. On Mondays I was a student in the Advanced Class taught by Yaqi Zhang. In that class, over the course of a year, she would teach about 35 advanced dances, 10 trial dances, and review about 165 dances from Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced Intermediate repertoires. On Tuesday evenings I would teach the Intermediate Class with Marija and David Hillis, amounting to 52 Intermediate partner, set, and non-partner dances over the course of eleven months, while reviewing the Beginner Class repertoire. Finally, on Thursday evenings, I would teach roughly 67 dances at the Beginner Class with Helen Brown and David Hillis, assisted by Neil Collier. **Not being part of this wonderful community of dancers three nights a week has certainly affected me in a big way.**



While I deeply miss folk dancing with my local community and beyond, I'm doing my best to use this time to stay active, work on new skills, and attend as many online dance parties as I can. This new life is not ideal by any means, but is okay. The online dance parties have brought joy to the folk dance community and has kept us connected. They have given us something special to look forward to and celebrate what we love so much.

My busy schedule of practicing, teaching, planning, and volunteering, has greatly diminished. Community and collaboration are what I miss most. Here's a lyric from a video I recently saw: "It's hard to dance and play and sing, when you're social distancing."

With my extra time I find myself trying new things. By Googling "how to XXX," you can find out just about anything. I've learned how to make crème fraiche, train a passion flower vine up a lattice, and sew a mask for COVID. I've discovered new

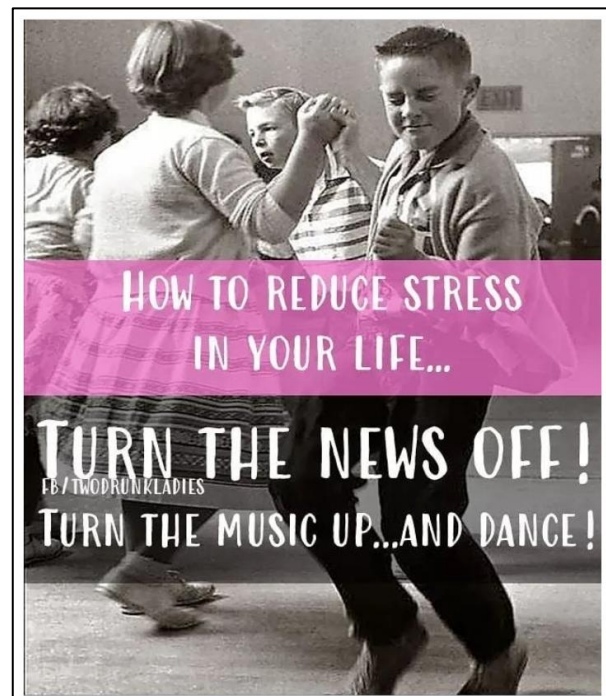
documentaries and series to watch on Netflix streaming. I'm reading more books, cooking new foods, exploring new territory on foot, and riding my bike.

As the holiday season approaches, we are advised to hold small gatherings and reduce risks. An article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* said, "Abstain from things that promote close contact, such as hugging, shaking hands, and dancing." How sad!

Assuming you receive this issue before the end of November, I look forward to seeing many of you online at the **Kolo Festival on November 26 and 28**. You don't want to miss dancing with Joe Graziosi, Sonia Dion, Christian Florescu, John Filcich, and John Morovich. You will also have the opportunity to sing with Michele Simon and Maria Bebelekova.

The **Moveable Feet Club's Second Harvest Food Bank Fundraiser** in honor of Lucy Chang was held on Sunday, October 25. As I write this article, over \$9,000 had been raised – and that is something worth celebrating. The folk dance community is so generous and caring. Read all about it on p. 7.

If you have a story to share about how COVID has affected you as a folk dancer, I would love to hear it. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of folk dancing together again.



# Calendar of Events

We reserve the right to edit all submissions; we assume no responsibility for accuracy.  
Additional events can be found at [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com) (Community tab).

- November 26-29 KOLO FESTIVAL.** All virtual, online via Zoom. Thursday through Sunday. See the article and advertisement p 5. Info: KoloFestival.org or California Kolo Festival Facebook Page.
- December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY.** 10 pm-12:30 am, on Zoom. The later start is to allow dancers to share dinner with friends outdoors and then dance. Watch for the Zoom link in mid-December on Facebook and folkdance.com. **Zoom Meeting ID: 957 5454 0536.** Further details to be announced. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net

## < 2021 >

- January 22-24 STOCKTON WINTER WEEKEND.** 24-hours-a-day, Friday evening through late Sunday evening. More than a dozen dance and music teachers. Free on the Zoom platform. See ad on p. 17.
- April 7-11 NATIONAL FOLK ORGANIZATION VIRTUAL CONFERENCE.** Connecting Through Culture. Free for all. See p. 18.

**If you'd like to publicize your virtual event to the folk dance community,** send your email with any publicity flyers to

- Loui Tucker, Editor, at [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) or [loui@louisutucker.com](mailto:loui@louisutucker.com)
- Kevin Greek, Federation Website Manager, [events@folkdance.com](mailto:events@folkdance.com)
- The Federation's Google Groups at [FDF-CA@googlegroups.com](mailto:FDF-CA@googlegroups.com)



## UNSCRAMBLE THESE!

by Sabine Zappe

**This is the December *Let's Dance!* Challenge!** These are all dance names, however all the diacritical marks had to be eliminated. The **THIRD** person to send an email with the correct answers to [loui@louisutucker.com](mailto:loui@louisutucker.com) wins a \$20 gift card.

1. mad burlesque narc \_\_\_\_\_
2. looks aerobic \_\_\_\_\_
3. honorary desks crash \_\_\_\_\_
4. envoys ran nude \_\_\_\_\_
5. inane mouser \_\_\_\_\_
6. ham halo hangers \_\_\_\_\_
7. cardiac bouncer \_\_\_\_\_
8. shares a pipe \_\_\_\_\_
9. lack book divisor \_\_\_\_\_
10. major pea deal \_\_\_\_\_

For answers to last month's Unscramble Puzzle, see p. 18.

## oops!

Many apologies for the errors in last month's puzzle. I accept full responsibility. I gave Sabine the list of names to plug into the anagram software and, in my haste, I misspelled **four** of the names: Sunni Bloland was missing an "n", Madelynne Greene was missing an "e", Alix Cordray's first name is not "Alex," and Atanas spells his last name with an "i" at the end, not a "y." Unfortunately, it wasn't the sort of thing that would be caught by an assistant editor or a proofreader.

And yet, that didn't stop many readers from submitting answers to the puzzle! **Craig Blackstone was the first with the correct answers** (and the errors noted above). He was the winner two months ago too!

Loui, *Let's Dance!* Editor



# GLOBAL KOLO FESTIVAL 2020

FRI & SAT, NOVEMBER 27 & 28

Let's come together to share dance, music, traditions and more  
with old friends and new, locally and globally!



## All your old favorites ...

- Dance Classes
- Singing Classes
- Instrumental Classes
- Dancing
- Sing-Alongs
- Instrumental Jam Sessions
- Kefanas
- Parties
- Culture Corners

## ... and soon to be new favorites!

- First Time Dancers' Program
- Children's Dance Program
- Cooking Demos
- Recorded International Dance Music

## Musicians from around the world playing folk dance music for you from:

- Albania ■ Bosnia ■ Bulgaria ■
- Canada ■ Croatia ■ Greece ■
- Hungary ■ Israel ■ Macedonia ■
- Norway ■ Romany communities ■
- Romania ■ Serbia ■ Sweden ■
- Turkey ■ United States of America ■

*These plans and programs are subject  
to change, of course!*



# KoloFestival

For more information, go to **KoloFestival.org** or email **info@KoloFestival.org**



# THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

*Digging through a box of old black and white photos.  
Recognize anyone?*

Who still has their record collection?



# MOVEABLE FEET CLUB'S BENEFIT FOR SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

by Hollis Radin

Our overflowing thermometer tells it best: the Moveable Feet Club's Second Harvest Food Bank Fundraiser was a great success! While the team's goal of \$2,000 was met long before the actual Folk Dance Celebration on October 25, online donations poured in during the party (and afterwards) thanks to matching grants from generous donors. A separate check for \$2,501 brought the total raised up to a whopping **\$9,457!**

Part folk dance party, part fundraiser, part tribute to Lucy, this event featured video visits from Lucy's siblings, **Christine and David Chang**, a talk and slide show about volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank by **Loui Tucker**, and nine dance leaders, including **Richard Graham**, who led Sadi Moma, a dance he and Lucy often led together at Moveable Feet events.

Although a potluck supper couldn't be managed over Zoom, the party included "a touch of teaching, a stir of mixers, a twirl of Scandinavian dances, and . . . some advanced dances."

A great big thank you to the team that pulled this off:

- **Susan Gregory** for designing the colorful promotional flyer
- **Laurie Reynolds** who kept track of donations
- **Wendi Ellis** and **Lisa Michael** who worked behind the scenes spotlighting, monitoring, and providing dance names via the chat screen
- **Alicia LaFetra** who dazzled us with her scarves dancing Vallja E Planes
- **Cricket Rayburn** who shared Oj Dimitro Le, a favorite of Lucy
- **Mel Harte** who taught Hora de la Rezina
- **Jane and Frank Tripi** who showed we can have fun dancing a Schottis alone at home
- **Marina Troost**, a first time Zoom leader who did a terrific job
- **Kevin Greek** who made us smile with Cupid's Shuffle
- **Adony Beniares** and **Lon Radin**, both experienced set leaders



Laurie Reynolds with The Second Harvest Food Bank Thermometer. In the end, over \$9300 was raised. Photo by T. Nelson.

For many of the team, this was their first time leading or providing technical support at a Zoom event. They all did tremendous jobs, despite the curve balls thrown at us by Zoom, Windows and other computer gremlins requiring last minute changes to our plans. You too can become a Zoom dance leader or tech. We will be doing this for quite a few more months, so why not learn some new skills and have fun at the same time!

Here are some comments from donors and attendees:

"It was a great party and I especially loved that you had friends and family talking about Lucy. . . . It was also great to have Loui's talk about Second Harvest. Most of us have a general idea about what these organizations do, but it was great to have her show pictures and talk about what and how they make all of this work, especially now, during COVID. I think that probably helped to get people to donate."

"Happy to give; we have been hearing, and Loui bore the message out today, that huge numbers of people are having to come who never needed help before."

"I'd given our annual contribution to Second Harvest already this year, but chipped in some more to support Lucy's fundraiser."

"Thanks for keeping this tradition going! Lucy would have been so pleased! Dance on!"



# DEATHS IN THE FAMILY

Soon after I became the editor of *Let's Dance!*, someone wrote to thank me for *not* running any obituaries. He said it seemed that every issue featured at least one and he was tired of reading them. He wanted upbeat news about folk dance events, past and future! As it turned out, the only reason I had not included any obituaries at that point was because no one had died. Since then, I've included many death notices because they are both newsworthy (and for many readers these notices are their first awareness) and I think we should honor members of our dance family in this fashion.

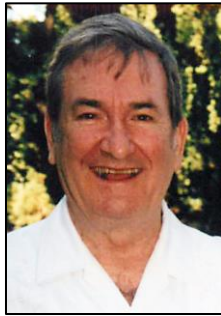
Sadly, October/November brought news of an unusual number of deaths. Interestingly, only one (Glenn Bannerman) was the result of COVID-19. We mourn the loss of each one. ~ Loui

## Glenn Bannerman

Glenn Bannerman was known nationwide as a dance caller, teacher, and leader. Glenn and his wife Evelyn taught at clogging at camps all over the country. He was on the faculty of Stockton Folk Dance Camp four times in the 1970s and 1980s, teaching clogging and Big Circle dancing.

For many years, he was a professor of Recreation and Outdoor Education at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. After 20 years, he retired in 1989 and formed the Bannerman Family Celebration Services. The entire Bannerman family is into the dance movement.

Glenn and his family operated the Thanksgiving Folk Dance Camp for over thirty years. This camp provided a unique holiday weekend of recreation, dance, and family activities in a beautiful mountain environment.



## Richard Duree

Richard Duree was best known in recent years in southern California, although his early dance career included several years in the Sacramento area when his new job with the Department of Justice took him there. He discovered folk dancing in 1960, but it was several years later than he decided to switch careers. After receiving a BA, and then a MA in dance ethnology, he taught dance and physical education for 20 years at Cal State Fullerton.

Richard was the founder, artistic director, and business manager of the *Dunaj International Dance Ensemble, Inc.* based in Orange County, California.



## Nikolai Massenkoff

Nikolai Massenkoff, along with his wife Douce, regularly attended Changs Folk Dancers on Friday nights in San Francisco for many years. He died in October after a long battle with cancer. (Changs members share the memories on p. 10.)

Nikolai was a dancer who was well known for his singing while accompanying himself on the accordion. After founding the Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival in 1975, Nikolai performed worldwide for forty-five years, singing in twelve countries, forty states, and with seventeen symphony orchestras. He was very involved in the local Russian community and was a choir director and singer at numerous Russian Orthodox churches. Nikolai loved to perform for audiences and, amidst the ongoing COVID lockdown, and despite his declining health, he played accordion from his veranda, accompanied on guitar by his son, Maxim, for the many afternoon walkers of the Ingleside Terraces.



## Leanne Mitchell

Leanne Mitchell was married to Bruce Mitchell for 38 years (August 1982). She was a life-long educator and taught for many years before becoming a principal. She and Bruce were both principals in the Rio Linda School District in Sacramento.

Although she was not a dancer before their marriage, Leanne was involved with dance





## Deaths in the Family (continued)

for the first five years they were married, traveled with Bruce to teach in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and was a member of Camtia, Bruce's performance group. She had to drop out when the late evenings made it difficult to be ready for work in the morning.

She was also involved in Stockton Folk Dance Camp, including producing the nightly Footnotes several years. And, of course, according to Bruce, "she put up with me for so many years as Director of Camp."

Leanne was an avid quilter and won awards for her work. When she and Bruce moved to Auburn after living in Cool for 17 years, the house they purchased had a room she was able to make into a large quilt room. She was in seventh heaven!

"The beginning of the end for her was kidney failure and all the things done just weren't enough for her to live any longer."

### Gerda Grindstaff

Gerda Grindstaff died in early November after a short battle with leukemia. Gerda enjoyed dancing with various groups in the South Bay including Alan Rothchild's dance class in Santa Cruz, the Monday Night Israeli class in Sunnyvale and with the Saratoga International Folk Dancers on Thursdays.



She also attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp as well as workshops and festivals in the Peninsula and South Bay. She loved to travel and always stopped at her favorite hot springs. She could always strike up a conversation with strangers and made friends wherever she went. She was a very private person and did not want to inform anyone about her condition.

Have you often wished you could get away on, say, a Sunday afternoon, and drive over to Turlock to visit the dancers there? Well, now you can - virtually!

### FEDERATION CLUBS WITH VIRTUAL CLASSES

The Federation website manager, Kevin Greek, and *Let's Dance!* are maintaining a list of Federation groups meeting via Zoom. The clubs below provided their information. **The list is also on [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com) and that list will be updated** as more clubs respond to the request for information. If your club is NOT listed, and you want to be listed next month, please email [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) or [Loui@LouiTucker.com](mailto:Loui@LouiTucker.com).

#### **Changs International**

Friday

#### **Global Folk Dance Party**

3rd Saturday

#### **Kolo Koalition**

Wednesdays

#### **Kopachka Dancers**

Friday (every 2 weeks)

#### **Razzmatazz Folk Dance**

Tuesday

#### **Peninsula Folk Dance Council**

2nd Sunday

#### **Palomanians**

Tuesday

#### **Tuesday Dancers**

Tuesday

#### **Tuesday Santa Cruz Israeli**

Tuesday

#### **Village Dancers Plus**

Sunday

Ulrike Narins

7:30 - 9:30

Adony Beniares

3:00 - 6:00

Sharon Hulten

8:00 - 9:30

Susie Shoaf

7:30 - 9:00

Marilyn Smith

7:00 - 8:00

Adony Beniares

3:00 - 5:30

Adony Beniares

7:00 - 9:30

Bruce Mitchell

7:30 - 9:00

Alan Rothchild

8:00-10:00

Judy Kropp

3:00 - 4:30

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Zoom #: 893 3862 3151 (PW=sapari)

[judykropp40@gmail.com](mailto:judykropp40@gmail.com)

Zoom #: 825 5262 8923 (PW=697402)

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

## **RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith**

**On Tuesday, October 27, we celebrated my 50 years of teaching folk dance in Sonoma County.** This “mini-celebration” on Zoom included dancers who are currently taking my Zoom class as well as folks who have danced with me over the years. It was wonderful to see some folks we haven’t seen in a while. The dancers made colorful signs celebrating this milestone and held them up to the computer screen at the end of the dance program. My husband Eric surprised me and carried out two cupcakes with lighted candles—one had a 5 candle and the other one a 0.

The highlight of the evening was a live performance by three members of Gradina, our Sonoma County Balkan choral group. Rebecca Dwan, Jana Mariposa Muhar and

Tabitha Doniach sang Trugnala Rumjana midway through the program and a beautiful closing lesnoto at the end. They were dressed in traditional Balkan costumes, socially distanced, with their masks on as they sang at

Rebecca’s house in Sebastopol. It really felt like we were in the room with them.

I’ve been compiling a list for our Sonoma County Folk Dance Hall of Fame, a list of folks who have danced in my classes for 20 years or more. Longevity seems to be the operative word! There are eight people who have danced for 20 or more years, eight who have danced for 30 or more years; six who have danced for 40 or more years. **Jackie Egbert has danced the entire 50 years with me and I awarded her the Silver Opanki Award**, a necklace with a small silver opanki charm.



Members of Gradina, Rebecca Dwan, Tabitha Doniach, Jana Mariposa Muhar.  
*Photo by K. Dwan.*

We stayed online and visited a while after the last dance, reminiscing about all the wonderful years we’ve shared together on the dance floor, the children we’ve seen grow up and now the grandchildren. Getting older has its rewards when you have such a loving community of people who dance.

## **SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS –**

*Linda Milhoan and Luiselle Yakas*

Nikolai Massenkoff, beloved Changs member, passed away on October 13. His obituary is in this issue of *Let’s Dance!* (see p. 8) and tells of his many accomplishments in music and song. Nikolai and his wife, Douce, officially joined the Changs family ten years ago. After his passing there were many memories shared about Nikolai.

Several people mentioned how he could light up a room with his smile. We all recalled how he brought his little accordion to Changs, always ready to celebrate a special occasion with song or to just make a song a special occasion!

Peter wrote: “I remember how amazed I was at his eagerness to share his talents, and then afterwards act as a perfectly normal person. Such humility has become less common during my lifetime, and I will always remember the example Nikolai modeled for us.”

Luiselle recalled Angel bounding towards Nikolai in glee, closely followed by Luiselle, when she saw him arrive at Changs, so they could both share hugs with him. Nancy wrote of his unique charm and just plain youthful fun! Lindy said that Nikolai’s singing left a big impression on her father, Sid, when he visited here last and happened to hear him sing at Changs. He told Nikolai how deeply he felt the music, which resonated with his own Russian/Ukrainian background and song memories.

Wendy W remembered his strong deep voice juxtaposed with his gentle, kind nature. He had an endearing sense of humor and a playful spirit!

During shelter in place, health and weather permitting, Nikolai, accompanied by his son Maxim, played music and sang afternoon veranda concerts. Several of us had the good fortune to enjoy these special times with him and his family.

As Jane and Obo wrote, “Anyone who knew Nikolai will miss him and his warm, generous spirit.” WE surely will!



# ... AND BEYOND

## **NORTH BAY** – Carol Friedman

We're still dancing virtually in the North Bay, and we're still having fun. I'm teaching Israeli on Sunday mornings and Balkan/International on Monday nights. Both classes will continue through late December, and then start up again in January.

On Monday, we continue to dance old favorites introduced by Yves Moreau including Koljovo Horo and Mari Mariko. Tik has become a new favorite after last month's deep dive into the Pontic repertoire, and **we've brought back Repasseado, a wonderful dance from the Bal Folk movement in Portugal.** It's originally done in couples, either in formations of four, or in lines. I arranged the steps such that it can be danced in a circle.

In the Israeli class, I've been bringing back old favorite Debka dances that we hadn't danced in a long time including Debka Oud and Debka Schachar, and we're delving into dances choreographed by Shmulik Gov Ari including Shalom Aleinu, Na'ale, and Rokdim Yechefim.

In both classes, the new line dance Jerusalem has become a top favorite. The music (from South Africa) is fantastic, and the dance is just plain fun. It has become an international dance sensation. **If you get a chance, go to YouTube, search for "Jerusalem" and watch some of the fabulous videos from all around the world,** including folks dancing while they are eating, a fabulous video with policewomen in uniform, and even one in church led by a priest. South African President Cyril Ramphosa urged people to stay home "to reflect on the difficult journey we have all faced – and there can be no better celebration of our South African spirit than joining in the global phenomena that is the Jerusalem dance challenge." If only we had a president like that...

I invite any of you looking for more opportunities to dance to contact me at 415-663-9512 or [cjay@horizoncable.com](mailto:cjay@horizoncable.com) if you'd like to join us.

## **SACRAMENTO** – Barbara Bevan

Among the several Zoom folk dance classes and parties I have enjoyed is that of the Morristown, New Jersey, party hosted by the inimitable pair, Murray and Randi Spiegel. We have become good friends over the years at Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

On October 24, I joined them for a special birthday party for one of their friends, long-time dance

leader on Long Island, Ellen Golann. I learned that Ellen has hosted weekend events for almost 40 years in the Hudson Valley of New York and has featured many of our big-time dance teachers. What a fabulous event! There were over 250 participants! The Spiegels had invited many of those teachers to lead about three of their popular dances. There were our folk dance heroes: Steve and Susy Kotansky, Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, Yves and France Moreau, Lee Otterholt, Ira Weisburd, Michael Ginsburg and Belle Birchfield, Danny Uziel, and Danny Pollock. What joy! Thanks to Murray and Randi for arranging this wonderful tribute to Ellen. To see the teachers' sections, go to <http://youtu.be/tb7kynhqrs>, or search YouTube for "NJ Dance vids Ellen."

The November issue of *Let's Dance!* listed many of the Northern California Zoom classes/parties. In our local area, several Zoom classes/parties listed are in full swing. In addition, Kolo Coalition, a mostly-Balkan folk dance club, hosts a Zoom class on Wednesdays, 8:00-9:30 PM. Contact: Sharon Hulten [dashincal@aol.com](mailto:dashincal@aol.com) Meeting ID: 839 5676 6387 Passcode: 565438.

There is also a wealth of folk-related videos online. **I recently discovered the men of the Moiseyev Ballet doing a Greek sirtaki.** Search YouTube for "Moiseyev Ballet Greek Sirtaki." It is awesome!

One last comment: I'm sending this article in on November 1, Dia de los Muertos, the Mexican holiday on which we remember our departed loved ones. I thought of Vick Vickland who died in January, Lucy Chang in February, Denise Lucero in September and, most recently in October, Leanne Mitchell. We who loved them will remember them always.

Happy (though unusual!) Healthy Holidays to You All! Be Creative!



The Jerusalem Dance Challenge got these medical workers out on the lawn to dance at Catharina Hospital in the

# Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2021-23



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

[www.jimgold.com](http://www.jimgold.com)



## 2021

**ALBANIA and KOSOVO:** May 4-16, ext. 16-18, 2021

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

**PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE:** May 22-June 3, 2021

Led by Martha Tavera. Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu,  
Quechua Village, Lake Titicaca, Uyuni, La Paz, Atacama Desert

**NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN:** June 8-21, 2021

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

**BULGARIA:** August 2-15, 2021 **Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour!**

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, Lee Friedman  
Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo

**GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS:** October 9-22, 2021

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt.: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia,  
Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus, **Greek Island Cruise** to  
Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey)

## 2022

**ISRAEL:** March 13-24, 2022 or Germany in June

Led by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman, and Lee Friedman  
Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed,  
and Golan Heights

**ROMANIA:** October 3-16, 2022 **Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour**

Led by Jim Gold with Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman  
Bucharest, Brasov. Sibiu

## 2023

**GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND**

**June 14-27, 2023. Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour**

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

**IRELAND:** August 5-17, 2023

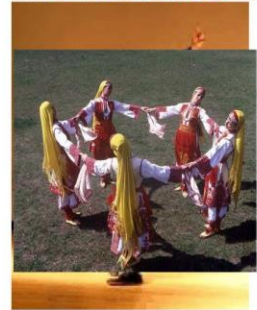
Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman  
Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin  
Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

**SPAIN:** September 14-27, 2023: Led by Lee Otterholt

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# FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Here's another couple for you to identify. This is not the *Let's Dance!* Challenge for December (keep looking), but you can send your answer to [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) or [loui@loutucker.com](mailto:loui@loutucker.com) if you want verification of your answer.



Last month's photo from the archives is of Jerry and Kathy Helt, taken in the 1960s. Jerry called square dances at Stockton Folk Dance Camp every year for over 50 years (1956-2013).

## Why did I start folk dancing?

by Rosemarie Klems

Between 1966 and 1970, my sister Douce and I went to the International House in Berkeley to find Dutch people with whom we could speak Dutch. Dutch was mandatory in our home.

We found no Dutch people, but we did find international folk dancing and we went every Friday night, taking the bus from our home in Alameda to Berkeley. Frank Tripi remembered recently that the teacher was Walter Grothe.

Then Douce and I moved to Den Haag in The Netherlands, to live with our aunt and uncle. We did some folk dancing in Den Haag from September 1970 until April 1971. To dance in wooden shoes and a Dutch costume was fun.

When we returned, I married a non-dancer and did not dance until my divorce in 1979, except for some folk dancing at UCSF 1972-1975 and intermittently with Dean Linscott.

In 1981, I re-met Don Schmitt with whom I had folk danced at UCSF. He and I studied Scandinavian dancing with Dean and Nancy Linscott at St. Paul's Church in San Francisco. We also took ballroom and other dance classes. I have done Scandinavian dancing intermittently since 1981.

David and Marija Hillis introduced me to the Berkeley Folk Dancers around 2004. I have enjoyed BFD a lot, both the people and the dances. Douce has been dancing at Changs in San Francisco for some years. I am delighted to have met my husband Joe at Scandinavian dancing and at Berkeley Folk Dancers.



Rosemarie and Joe Klems. Photo by A. Partos.



## Are you a Folk Dance Federation member?

All dancers from beginners to seasoned veterans should be. If you don't know what the Federation is or what it does, go to [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com) to find out. Help support our dance community that provides us with friends, family and fun. Now is the perfect time to join. See below for the **special new member benefit.**

Join the Folk Dance Federation as a new individual member or family member (no membership for the past five years), and receive a coupon good for **ONE FREE DAY** at any Federation sponsored or co-sponsored event.

Officers Ball (October)  
Festival of the Oaks (February)  
Heritage Festival (March)  
Camellia Festival (March)  
Blossom Festival (April)  
Statewide (May) [Friday or Sunday only]

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club/Group Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose annual dues:

Individual	Family	Group/Club	Students
\$35	\$45	\$40	\$25

*That's about  
10¢ a day!*

Make check payable to Folk Dance Federation of California

Mail this form and your check to:

Marcia Rosenblatt  
927 Springfield Drive  
Millbrae, CA 94030

For additional information about membership  
e-mail [membership@folkdance.com](mailto:membership@folkdance.com)



## Arabım Fellahi

(Turkey)

Arabım Fellahi (AH-rah-buhm feh-lah-HEE ) means “my Arabic farmer.” This dance is from Southern Anatolia and has an Arabic influence. It was first taught in Japan in 2018, and subsequently in the Bay Area. It was presented by Ahmet Luleci at the 2020 Stockton Virtual Folkdance Camp held on Zoom.

- Music: 4/4 meter Videos and music are also available on CD and DVD #11 and a Stockton Virtual CD/DVD from Ahmet at luleci.com.
- Video: 2020 SVFDC Downloads. To view, contact a camper who donated to Stockton Folk Dance Camp and received access to the downloads.
- Formation: Semi-circle facing CCW, start with R arm straight in front and L elbow bent so that L hand is in the small of the back and connects to R hand of person behind. R hand is over L hand.
- Steps & Styling: There are two figures. Figure I moves CCW, slightly out and into the ctr, is flat, earthy, and bouncy. Figure II is light on the feet and moves in and out of the ctr.

Meas	4/4	PATTERN
		<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . No action. Either wait through one complete musical phrase so dancers have the opportunity to feel the rhythm, or starting with the oud after 2 measures (8 counts) of percussion (dumbek) intro.
		I. <u>FIGURE I. TRAVELING CCW</u> .
1		Facing and moving CCW, beg R, three small steps fwd slightly diag R, QQS (cts 1, &, 2); repeat cts 1, &, 2 with opp ftwk slightly diag L (cts 3, &, 4).
2		Continuing CCW, step R fwd slightly diag R (ct 1); step L fwd slightly diag L (ct 2); turn to face ctr and step R to R (ct 3); touch L heel slightly fwd (ct 4).
3		Step L and face out (ct 1); touch R heel slightly fwd (ct 2); facing out, beg R, three quick steps fwd (cts 3, &, 4).
4		Stamp L twice next to R heel (cts 1, 2); step L bkwd in place (ct 3); step R fwd, pivoting CCW on both ft to face ctr (ct 4).
5		Facing ctr, beg L, three quick steps fwd (cts 1, &, 2); stamp R twice next to L heel (cts 3, 4).
6		Step R to R, bending knees (ct 1); straighten knees, lean R and touch L heel to L (ct 2); step L to L, bending knees (ct 3); straighten knees, lean L and touch R heel to R (ct 4). Optional shoulder shimmy.
		II. <u>FIGURE II. IN AND OUT OF CENTER</u> .
1		Facing ctr, rise onto toes of L (ct 1); step R toe fwd (ct &); step L fwd (ct 2); repeat cts 1, &, 2 (cts 3 & 4).
2		Step R fwd (ct 1); touch L toe behind R (ct &); bring L leg around to the front (ct 2); heavy step L fwd (ct &); heavy step R fwd (ct 3); step L back (ct 4).
3		Rise onto toes of L (ct 1); step R back (ct &); step L back (ct 2); repeat cts 1, &, 2 (cts 3, &, 4).
4		Repeat Fig 1, meas 6.

Sequence: Fig I four times; Fig II twice; Fig I four times; Fig II four times.

# What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO DANCE OUTDOORS

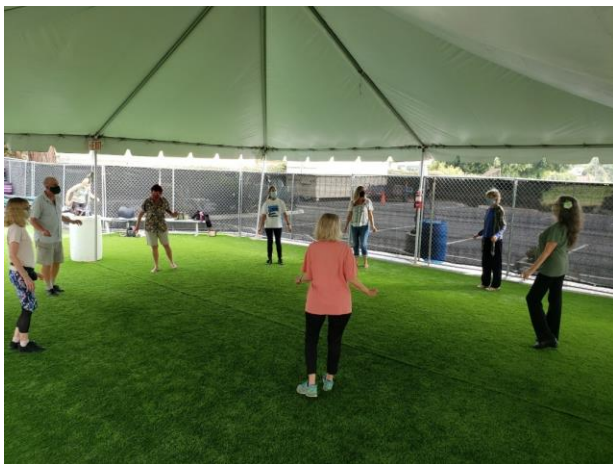
By Valerie Daley

The Ventura Folk Dancers are folk dancing at the YMCA outdoors, masked and socially distanced. The Y was closed for a few months, then allowed classes and exercise outdoors in July. In the beginning, we were dancing on the basketball court on rubber mats over concrete. **I had to wear a black trash bag over my head to be able to see my computer screen to run the music!** Later we were gifted with a shade cloth overhead which helped with the heat, but I still had issues with my computer screen.

We have recently been moved to a new area and now dance on Astroturf. The sunshade here allows me to doff the black trash bag, but the masks still do fog up my eyeglasses, so my issue with my computer screen continues.

I didn't believe that dancing like this without holding hands would mean very much, but it really does! Next to me, or across the circle are dancers I love. We connect in other ways as well. I have Carol Smith to thank for getting our group back together dancing.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dancers!



Dancing on Astroturf in Ventura with Valerie Daley.

## FOLK DANCE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

by Cindy Fang and Rebecca Tsai

Folk Dance Club of Southern California was established in Los Angeles in April 2002. We offer four levels of international folk dance classes (basic, beginner, intermediate, and advanced level) and hold five dance classes each week at different locations. We currently have around 100 active members. Pre-COVID, our folk dance classes were held at three community centers – Monterey Park, Rosemead, and Temple City, as well as at a church in Alhambra.



A photo taken at the 15th Anniversary party for the Folk Dance Club of Southern California.

Due to the pandemic, all of our dance classes have been suspended since mid-March, 2020. We began to offer Zoom folk dance class twice a week: Wednesday 7-8 pm and Saturday 2:45-4 pm. We hold a virtual folk dancing party every three months. We sincerely invite all the international folk dancers to join us on Zoom.

While virtual dancing does not have the fun of gathering together, it allows dancers to meet at a distance. Dancers from different cities, even different countries, can dance together. We invited Rebecca Tsai, an international folk dance instructor from Northern California, to lead us via Zoom folk dancing. We have dancers joining us from Southern California, Northern California, Seattle, and Canada. We also chat with and greet each other before and after each Zoom class.

We, folk dancers in Southern California, also join other areas' Zoom folk dance classes and folk dance parties without needing to fly or drive. **This is the best advantage of virtual folk dancing!**



# STOCKTON FOLK DANCE WINTER WEEKEND



**Jan 22-24, 2021**  
*via Zoom*

## Featured Guests

Roberto Bagnoli

Ahmet Luleci

Maurits van Geel

Tineke van Geel

Aaron Alpert

Tony Parkes

Gergana Panova

Vlasto Petkovski

Bianca de Jong

Polly Tapia Ferber

Kay Munn

Richard Powers

Miamon Miller

Bill Cope

Janie Cowan

Michael Lawson

Michele Simon

**Non-stop fun from 2pm Friday, January 22,  
until late Sunday January 25 (PT).**

Make sure you get our E-News for more information; sign up at  
[stocktonfolkdancecamp@gmail.com](mailto:stocktonfolkdancecamp@gmail.com)

**Mark your calendar and tell your friends!**

## OTHER FOLK DANCE TOO!

What do you think? Should this become a regular feature?  
Send me a photo of other folks dancing and we can challenge  
readers to supply a caption.



Barbara Bevan suggested the caption for this photo  
should be “Anthony Davis and LeBron James  
celebrate a basket with a Grand Right and Left.”

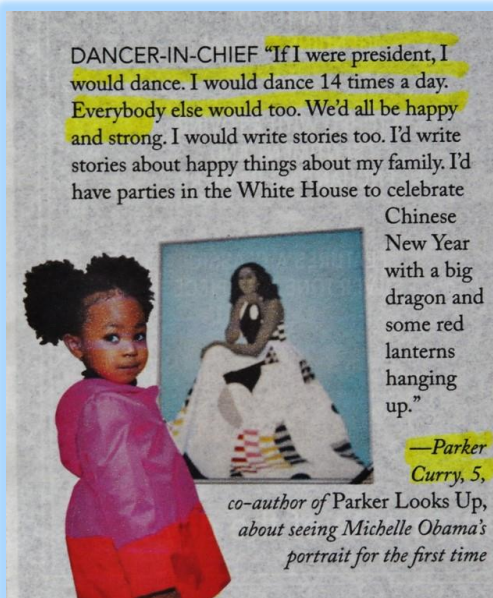
## How would you caption this photo?



### Answers to last month's Unscramble Puzzle

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. all in bounds       | Sunni Bloland (missing an “n”)                         |
| 2. knave keys tots     | Steve Kotansky   |
| 3. racy axle rod       | Alix Cordray (instead of “Alex”)                       |
| 4. rice belt mulch     | Bruce Mitchell   |
| 5. liberator bongo     | Roberto Bagnoli  |
| 6. a mourner face      | France Moreau  |
| 7. nix blond eels      | Dennis Boxell  |
| 8. mend lean energy    | Madelynne Greene (missing an “e”)                      |
| 9. cut manhole rib     | Bruce Hamilton   |
| 10. savory koala tanks | Atanas Kolaravski (the “y” should<br>have been an “i”) |

## Out Of The Mouth Of Babes



Diane Baker submitted this clipping from the article  
“If I Were president....” Quotes were collected by  
Paulette Cohn and Kathleen McCleary and they  
appeared in Parade magazine on October 18, 2020.

## NFO Conference -

### Connecting Through Culture

The National Folk Organization Virtual  
Conference is scheduled for April 7-11 2021.

Every year the National Folk Organiza-  
tion's Annual Conference has gotten bigger and  
better. This spring will see a conference that  
embraces the virtual world of folk arts with  
nearly 20 hours of folk arts programming that  
spans the globe. The conference will be free to  
everyone via Zoom. **Mark your calendars and  
join us.**

The around-the-world programming will  
take us to many varied cultures and experiences.  
We will learn about South Appalachian flat  
footing, French Canadian children's dances,  
Pacific Northwest First Nations people, Poly-  
nesian singing and Bulgarian folk dancing in  
Japan and much more – plus dance parties every  
evening!

We have a great technical team working to  
make everything easy to navigate and go  
smoothly.

More details coming soon via the NFO  
News and our website: [www.nfo-usa.org](http://www.nfo-usa.org)



## A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 70 years ago this month

In the **December 1950** issue of *Let's Dance* magazine there was a brief mention ("Tell It To Danny," p. 4) that Changs International Folk Dancers appeared in a photo in *Life* magazine. That naturally spurred us to see if we could find that photo! An internet search turned up the *Life* magazine archives maintained by New York Public Library (nypl.org). Sure enough, there is the photo in the issue published October 23, 1950.

THE PIONEERS, a new square dance club of SACRAMENTO, held their FALL ROUND UP JAMBOREE at Rainbow Gardens, Sunday, October 29. SI WARD'S MAYERICKS accompanied 21 local callers and played the 12 rounds for a swell evening of fun for all. MARVIN JERNE was the General Chairman, CARROLL YOUNG on program, with Publicity handled by LORENE HALVERSON and SAM SAUNDERS. BOB VARGAS had the Decorations.

Sixteen new groups joined the FEDERATION November 5, being approved at the Council Meeting where the FREE LANCERS were host to the "F.D.F.C.'s" monthly Festival. Thanks to HARRY and FAYE HEFFRIN, leaders of the group, for a very fine program held in the SALINAS Airport's immense hangar. The "SAN JOSE GAY NIGHTERS ADVANCED CIRCLE" with their beautiful Spanish costumes gave a thrilling exhibition of "Los Quadrillos," as did the never tiring MERRYMAKERS of SAN LEANDRO doing the National Dance of Uruguay, "El Pericon." The nite session, "An Evening At the Inn," hosted by THE CHUALAR PAISANOS and the SOLEDAD VILLAGE MIXERS held in the Salinas Armory was a well planned successful program of 36 dances, MC'd by BEN GERBRANDT, HARRY FLETCHER and

the direction of PEARL FRESTON exhibited a group of Italian dances for the CARNIVAL IN MASCHERA sponsored by the Italian Welfare Agency in San Francisco, Saturday, October 28. The beautifully costumed dancers participated in group dancing following their exhibition.

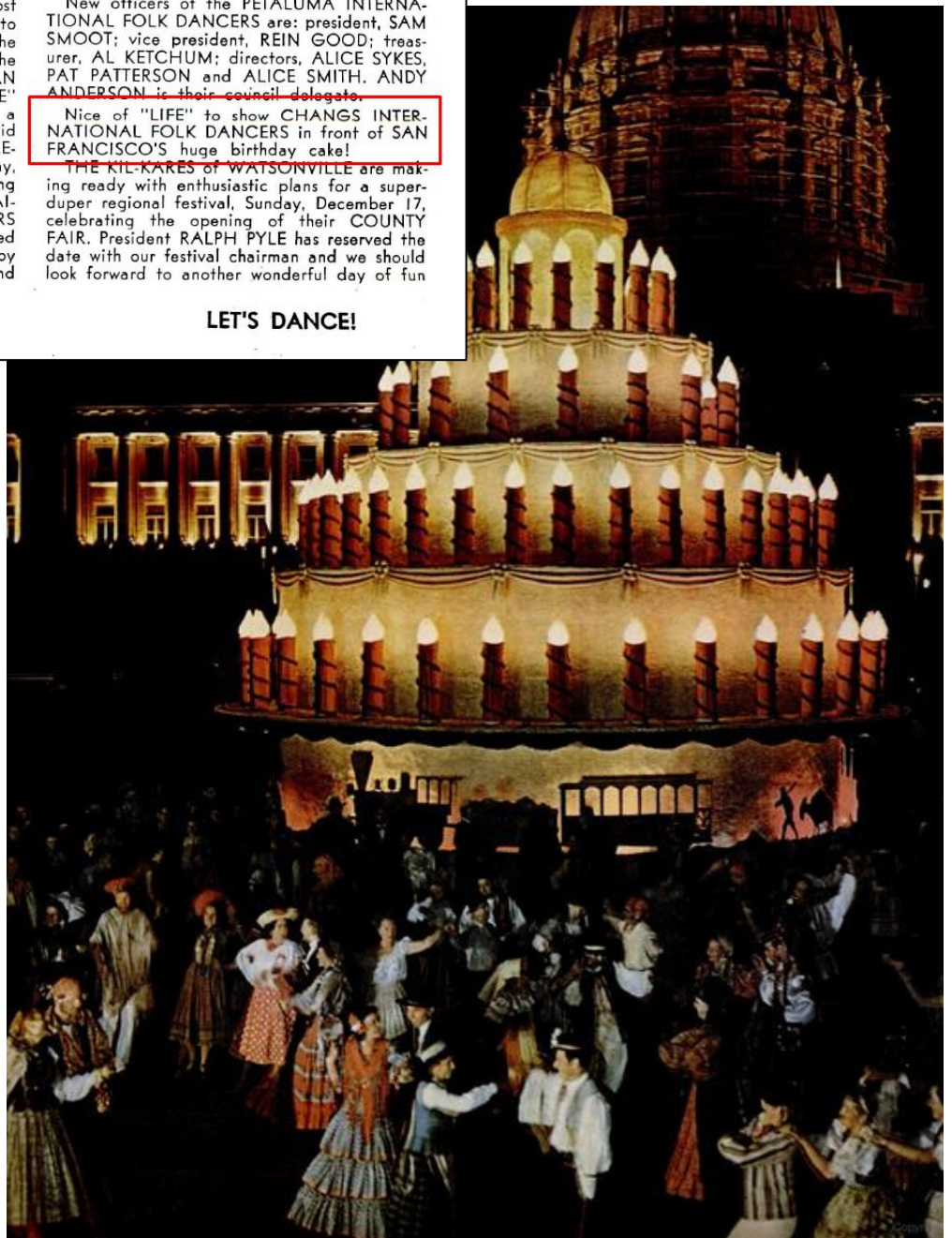
More than 150 Bay Area folk dancers performed on the greensward of STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S FROST AMPHITHEATER, Sunday, Oct. 29, for the "Festival of Nations" observance.

New officers of the PETALUMA INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS are: president, SAM SMOOT; vice president, REIN GOOD; treasurer, AL KETCHUM; directors, ALICE SYKES, PAT PATTERSON and ALICE SMITH. ANDY ANDERSON is their council delegate.

Nice of "LIFE" to show CHANGS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS in front of SAN FRANCISCO'S huge birthday cake!

THE KIL-KARES of WATSONVILLE are making ready with enthusiastic plans for a super-duper regional festival, Sunday, December 17, celebrating the opening of their COUNTY FAIR. President RALPH PYLE has reserved the date with our festival chairman and we should look forward to another wonderful day of fun

LET'S DANCE!

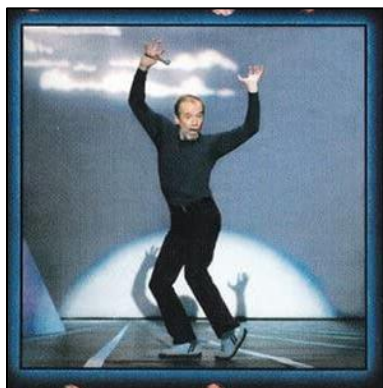


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My first plan (for peace) is worldwide, year-round, nonstop folk dancing. In short, everyone in the world would be required to dance all the time. It leaves very little time for fighting, and what fighting does occur is inefficient, because the combatants are constantly in motion.

~ George Carlin

advertisement



## Folk Dance Scene

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

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