

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  JULY/AUGUST 2020



**Stockton Folk
Dance Camp
has so much
to offer –
all virtual,
and all FREE!
See p. 7.**

*Psst! See p. 8 for what
almost made the cover!*

Let's Dance!

Volume 77, No. 6
JULY/AUGUST 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 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 under the **Services** tab.

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Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

153 Race Street

San Jose, California 95126

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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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San Jose, CA 95126

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

This is my first President's message. I hope that you are surviving the realities of shelter-in-place, and that you and yours are staying healthy physically, mentally, and emotionally. Thank you for your support and trust in electing me to be your president. I have never been president of anything before in my life. There's always time for a first. I guess this is it!



I have been back at folk dancing for only ten years. During that time, I have enjoyed attending many festivals. 2020 has been quite the year with COVID-19. Without the Heritage Festival, the Camellia Festival, the Blossom Festival, Statewide, and Stockton Folk Dance Camp, the world of folk dancing feels fractured. Fortunately, the Federation has funds to support groups that have lost money because of cancellations and Stockton Camp savings/investments will be able to pay the teachers.

Whatever logistical barriers lie ahead for us one thing is certain: we are a community of dedicated folk dancers. Folk dancing, by its very nature, is about community. We have found ways to connect in non-traditional ways. Hats off to Adony Beniares and the Peninsula Folk Dance Council (PFDC) for creating monthly virtual folk dance parties. Many thanks to David Hillis for his weekly and monthly bulletins to all Berkeley Folk Dance members. I'm sure there are many others who are continuing to build community as we continue to shelter-in-place. If you know of anyone, please let me know.

While we look to the future with optimism and while we know we will be back dancing together when it is safe to do so, it is important that we take time to grieve about what is being lost. For each of us the loss of folk dancing will mean something different---a particular line dance we

were hoping to learn, a partner dance we love to do, the challenge of a set dance, the joy of a mixer, human interaction with our dance friends. In the sorrow of what we are missing is also a reminder of why we love folk dancing. Without it we are losing part of ourselves.

By the time you read this message, there might be limited dancing in small groups, perhaps outdoors. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of folk dancing again!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Hi, Editor!

In the May/June *Let's Dance!*, page 15, the couple is Frank and Elsa Bacher. We have danced with them both, before Frank passed away, and then with Elsa for years after. Their dance festivals always were excellent productions with perfect dance choices and everything on time, almost right down to the minute.

I recall learning dances from both of them at the old Schaal Hall in beautiful downtown Vineburg. What a pair and nice memories. Thanks.

Brian T. Bender
Napa

Editor -

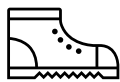
I read the many nice articles about Lucy Chang. Her enthusiastic vision for the folk dance scene brought us the experience of reviewing old favorites, meeting new teachers and their dances, and the opportunities to encourage new dancers. Always friendly and supportive, Lucy presented her ideas in ways that united dancers from all over the Bay Area. Lucy appreciated excellence in teaching and styling. She is greatly missed.

Denise Heenan
San Jose

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).

- July 11-18 **VIRTUAL STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP.** The Board and staff of Stockton Folk Dance Camp is offering a week of FREE broadcast of folk dance-related events including, teaching of dances by master teachers, cultural lectures, singing and ukulele classes, a selection of archived video featuring dances and talent shows, the traditional Hat Kolo and Candle Lighting Ceremony, a raffle, Bollywood Squares, online puzzles, a Name-That-Tune contest, a daily raffle, a silent auction, and at least two virtual dance parties. Website: folkdancecamp.org. Contact Loui Tucker (loui@louisutucker.com) to receive emailed updates including the schedule of events.
- October 17 **OFFICERS BALL – TOGETHER AGAIN – WELCOME BACK!** The Federation Board believes it is better to be prepared and be told the Officers Ball cannot happen, than to have dancing allowed in the fall and be caught without a plan! The Veterans Memorial Hall, 22737 Main Street, Hayward. Afternoon workshop featuring new and classic dances taught by local teachers. On-site dinner. Evening party. Price to be determined.
- December 4-6 **FALL CAMP** – Brandeis-Bardin Institute in Simi Valley, California. Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian) and Roberto Bagnoli (International) are scheduled to teach. Registration forms, flyers, etc. will be available later this summer. Details at FallCamp.org.



Statewide 2020 or Statewide 2021

by Marina Troost

I would like to thank all early registrants and all the people who promised to help make Statewide 2020 a successful event for their support. By April 1st, we had 75 pre-registrants. Unfortunately, as we know by now, the festival had to be cancelled.

The good news is that Statewide 2020 has become Statewide 2021! The festival has been moved in its entirety to **May 21-23, 2021**, with the teachers, the band, the performers, the caterer, and supporting staff committed. Please note that this is now **the week before Memorial Day Weekend**.

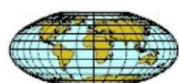
Though there will be a slight increase in registration fees, group rates for motels will be lower, and motels will be located closer to Hermann Sons Hall.

For those people pre-registered, there are two options:

- Roll over your registration to Statewide 2021 without an increase in fees.
- Request a full refund any time before Statewide 2021.

To get a full refund, please contact Sabine Zappe at samzappe@gmail.com. New information for Statewide 2021 including the registration form, flyer, list of motels, directions, etc. will soon be posted online at statewide.folkdance.com.

Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2020-22



Travel
broadens
one!

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

www.jimgold.com



GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: October 10-23, 2020

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)

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, **Koprivshitsa Folk Festival!**

SPAIN: September 16-29, 2021: Led by Lee Otterholt

Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTEINSTEIN, SWITZERLAND

June 16-29, 2021. **Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour**

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

IRELAND: August 7-19, 2021

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman
Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin

ROMANIA: October 4-17, 2021 **Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour**

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

ISRAEL: March 13-24, 2022

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

TOUR REGISTRATION: Can't wait to go! Reserve my place! Chose your tour. \$200 per person deposit. Or register and send deposits on line at: www.jimgold.com/folk-tours

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THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Because there have been so many dance events cancelled, there were no current photos for this page. A request went out to local clubs to send photos of past events that could be included in this month's Family Photo Album. Here are some of the contributions.



Karen Bartholomew with Lucy Chang at the New Year's Eve party December 2019.

Muriel Mahrer turned 93 in early June. This photo was taken at the Saratoga Folk Dancers' Black-And-White Ball in December 2019



The Willits Dancers at their community performance in February.



The cover of a photo memory book presented to Channa Orner (seated in red jacket) by members of the San Francisco Dance Circle to honor her 95th birthday in April. See story on p. 12.

Dear Channa: Ann says that you are the heart of the Dance Circle. This book is a gift to you from all of our hearts! Thank you and Happy Birthday!

STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP'S VERY SPECIAL YEAR

by Adony Beniares

As you'll see from the ad (right), Stockton has not cancelled its 73rd annual camp, but has moved it to Zoom. From July 11-18, there will be a 4-hours-per-day online event! *Everybody in the world* is invited and we have lined up more than 15 different performers, dancers, teachers, and folk dance professionals to participate.

You'll see live and recorded dance, and music classes including singing and ukulele. There will be music hours, game show with our teachers, tours of our teachers' homes, assemblies, Q&As, cooking classes, all in an environment that focuses on giving you the best online experience.

We'll also have the special events that you've come to expect each year. There will be the traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony, a Hat Kolo, after-parties, mid-week parties, an auction, and a great closing party on July 18.

This event will also be a fundraiser for our featured guests and folk dance teachers. You'll be able to contribute to the people performing during the

week and to Stockton Folk Dance Camp itself. We hope your donations, as well as the donations Stockton has already given to each of the teachers, will help them through the financial crunch they're all going through with the cancellation of so many events.

If you decide to donate to camp as well, we'll have several tiers to which you contribute with related thank you gifts. These will include a commemorative 73rd year lapel pin, a +1 to the number of Stockton Camps you've attended, raffle tickets for drawings every evening, and above all, a link where you can download the 25-30 hours of all material that we'll be presenting.

We think this will be a camp you won't want to miss, and we look forward to bringing you many, many hours of dance, music and other exciting, entertaining events.

For more info, follow-us on Facebook, or email Loui (loui@louisucker.com), to be put on our email list.

A vibrant poster for the Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2020 Virtual Camp Fundraiser. The background features a view of Earth from space. At the top, the title "Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2020 Virtual Camp Fundraiser" is written in large, bold, green letters with a yellow outline, followed by "free on Zoom for all" in similar style. The dates "JULY 11 - 18" are prominently displayed in large yellow letters with a blue outline. Below the dates, the text "Go to: folkdancecamp.org for more information" is written in red. A green banner with white text says "Follow us on Facebook". The poster is surrounded by numerous portraits of featured guests and teachers, each with their name written below. At the bottom, a group photo of four people is shown, with the text "Miamon Miller & Free Range Organic" below them. The phrase "PLUS MANY MORE!" is written in large, bold, red letters with a yellow outline at the very bottom.

Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2020
Virtual Camp Fundraiser
free on Zoom for all

JULY 11 - 18

Go to:
folkdancecamp.org
for more information

Follow us on Facebook

PLUS MANY MORE!

Featured guests and teachers include:

- Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion
- Richard Powers
- Aaron Alpert
- Tineke Van Geel
- Roberto Bagnoli
- Maurits Van Geel
- Caspar Bik
- Ahmet Luleci
- Tony Parkes
- Miamon Miller & Free Range Organic
- Michele Simon
- Melanie & Marcella Lawson

THE 2020-21 FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

At the Federation Board meeting on June 1, it was decided that a **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** was needed to help increase membership in the Federation. Receiving *Let's Dance!* in the mail is a benefit of membership so, unless you are reading this issue of *Let's Dance!* because a friend gave it to you, you are already a Federation member. We are asking you to think about the dancers with whom you dance: are they members of the Federation? If they are not, you might want to mention this incentive.

Anyone who joins the Federation during the next 12 months (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) as a **new individual member** (no membership for at least the last five years), will receive a coupon good for **ONE FREE DAY** at any Federation-sponsored or co-sponsored festival. In case you are wondering what events are included, they are:

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

**COME DANCE - GOOD FOR
ONE FREE ENTRANCE!**

In some cases, entry into the event is significantly more than the cost of a one-year membership, so this is a financial boon awaiting the new member who takes advantage of this offer. If a household (couple) joins at the \$45 level, it means TWO coupons.



Dancing in the Country by Renoir became Dancing in the Kitchen! Who else but Jordan Uggle and Megan Wolf would attempt this response to the Getty Museum Challenge?

HISTORY CHANNEL

Anatol Joukowsky

by Bruce Mitchell

Mr. J is what we all called him. For those of us that were dancing in the golden years of folk dancing, we all knew Anatol Joukowsky. Anatol was born in Ukraine, lived for a time in Greece, attended military school in Belgrade, and escaped from Europe after World War II, and eventually made his way to San Francisco.

During the early years of folk dancing, there was a festival almost every month in one of the larger cities of California. It was at the yearly festival in the early 1950s in San Francisco that Mr. J happened to go into the San Francisco auditorium to discover all these people folk dancing. Upon his discovery, Ruth Ruling became his close friend and led him to Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Mr. J was one of the teachers at the Camp in 1954, his first year on the staff. He was on the faculty every year except for two after that until 1972.

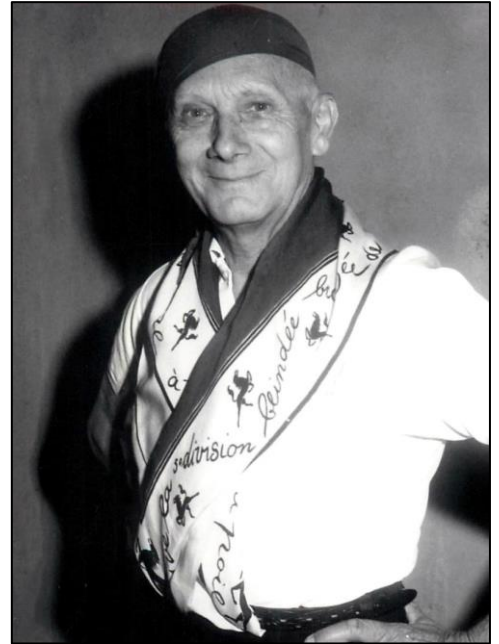
His background as a dancer and choreographer made him an ideal fit for folk dance movement at that time. Some of the dances he introduced at Stockton are still being done today: Our Katia, Csardas Z, Bavno Oro, and Gerakina were just a few of the wonderful dances Mr. J taught us.

I want to relate one story in particular about Mr. J. In the early years when he was on the faculty, the Methodist Church had a strong influence on what happened at the University, and Camp had to follow some strict rules. One such rule was the prohibition against alcohol on the campus. The founder and director of Folk Dance Camp, Lawton Harris, made sure everyone knew the rules. There was one exception, however. Mr. J. always had his bottle of whiskey in his room. He would invite people in to share a drink during the two weeks of camp. Lawton never said anything to Mr. J about this.

During the 1960s, I directed a performing group, The Camtia Dance Ensemble. I made arrangements to have Anatol teach a Romanian suite of dances to our group. All of the men in the group met with Mr. J in Palo Alto at his wife Vania's dance studio. One of the dances was to be done with sticks where the men were to vault up into the air off these sticks. We didn't have sticks when we met with him, so Mr. J located a pipe somewhere in the studio. He used the pipe to demonstrate how it would work during the dance. The pipe left gouges on the floor in many places. I'm sure Vania had much to say about those gouges on her beautiful wooden floor.

Mr. J. always wore a Boy Scout kerchief around his head. He was involved with the scouting movement for many of the years he taught us dances. He also became very interested in the American Indians during the later years of his life and did much research of their dances. One of the last dances he introduced at Folk Dance Camp was an Indian Harvest Dance.

Anatol Joukowsky was part of the foundation of our folk dance movement in those early years. He died in 1998. We were lucky for him to discover us and for us to discover him.



Many thanks to the Federation members who 'top-off' their membership dues with a donation. Sometimes it's a \$35 individual membership rounded up to \$50, and sometimes it's much more. We are blessed to have so many generous dancers!

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

This is a difficult one for me to write as we are all still under shelter-in-place orders. Everything is up in the air. Our traditional Fun Night in July has been cancelled. When our Beginner Class will start is unknown, as is our move back into Live Oak Park Social Hall. But we will definitely have our usual summer recess of the last two weeks in August! That will be August 24 until September 7!!

BFD did do something important in May: we elected officers for 2020-2021. Through a Zoom members meeting, we elected as President, Art Woodworth; Vice President, Jane Martin; Secretary, George and Maggie Lazar; Treasurer, Lillian Wang and Members-at-Large, Gillian Belcher and Lone Coleman. Congratulations to all of you and thanks!

Hopefully I will have more information about the fall schedule in the September issue of *Let's Dance!* **If all goes well the first class will be our all-important Beginner Class, the Thursday after Labor Day.** Remind your friends and relatives who have shown any interest in dancing that it is wonderful exercise and, after shelter-in-place for too many weeks, a welcome activity where you can make new friends and enjoy the company of others. Our website, berkeleyfolkdancers.org, will have update-to-date information.

BFD has a great reporter. Thanks to David Hillis and his twice-weekly dance report, we have marveled in the magic that he and others see around us. Thank you, David, for brightening our days.

Stay healthy and safe. I want to see everyone and soon!

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

I have been staying in touch regularly with students from all my classes, checking in to see how folks are doing and sending out a weekly email with videos of favorite dances (Balkan and Israeli) for at-home dancing. For those who are interested, all these videos can be accessed on the California Folk Dance Federation website (with a big shout out to Kevin Greek for putting this together).

I also continue to write periodic posts with video and music links for the Osher Marin JCC newsletter about Israeli music and dance, and for my local

community center's newsletter about dances that kids and families can do at home.

Like most of you, I continue to check out opportunities for virtual dance classes and parties, sharing that information with my students and dance friends. I have particularly enjoyed the Peninsula Folk Dance Council's periodic dance parties, as well as the ongoing workshops offered through the Folk Arts Center of New England (FACONE). And I am especially grateful for the BBMDE folk dance list for keeping our Bay Area folk dance community connected. I have also been going back to basics (in another lifetime I studied and taught modern dance), taking a sweet New York City Ballet class for kids with my 5-year-old granddaughter every Saturday morning.

On Memorial Day Weekend I'm usually dancing at The Land with long-time friends. Instead, this year, we had a wonderful Virtual Land Day. **With lots of help from Hollis Radin, I was able to lead two Balkan dance sets during the daylong event**, and it was really fun. With that under my belt, I will be launching a weekly virtual class for my Monday night dance group this month.

And, like all of you, I am looking forward to the time I can hold hands and dance in a circle once again.



Carol Friedman leading a line of dancers on the deck at The Land some years ago. *Photo by D. Bergen.*

... AND BEYOND

CHICO – Memo Keswick

The Chico World Dancers (CWD) have ceased all local in-person events – regular Friday night dancing, vocal classes, and parties. Like many others, the CWD dance leaders are exploring social connections through the internet or phone. Virtual meetings are also being used to conclude the business of our non-profit dance organization. Information about national or statewide virtual folkdance parties, interesting or funny dance videos, jokes, cartoons, etc., are being distributed electronically to our membership.

Virtual get-togethers being explored include Zoom, Skype, and Google Hangouts. This has meant helping our membership develop new internet skills because some members had never heard of these web tools. Our first internet meetings had the main purpose of simply learning how to use Zoom. Via Zoom **we are now continuing our Ritmi Singer rehearsals.** We discovered there is no possibility of all participants singing simultaneously (and hearing each other) as we do when we're together in person. The audio/video lag makes it a funny attempt, but also very unsatisfying. Instead, the Zoom Host plays music and everyone sings along. We share our screens to review music scores and lyrics.

It is hoped that soon our monthly group lessons with Petya Dragnevi of Varna, Bulgaria can continue. We're still working out the details of our future first attempt. Individual music and vocal Skype or Zoom lessons continue as usual.

In these difficult times internet meetings continue our joy of folkdance and music and keep us knowing that our friends (locally and internationally) are doing fine.

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

We continue to rearrange our apartment trying to find the ideal set up to work from home, lounging and, most importantly, dance. At one point we even tried putting Jordan's phone in my cuckoo clock, but we eventually settled on a phone holder on the wall with a shelf for a speaker underneath!

Since the last issue, Jordan and I have hosted a variety of virtual dances. We continue our **weekly kid's Zoom**, and we've hosted monthly dances for **Willits Folk Dance, Tance El Dorado** (Al and Teddy Wolterbeek's former teens), BACDS Family week friends, and now we've been starting some



Members of the Ritmi Singers of Chico sharing Bulgarian "Martinita" bracelets: Judy Keswick, Heather Purchase, Victor Robin, Debbie Silveira, Freda Kirkham, and Joan Goodreau. *Photo by M. Keswick* (taken pre-COVID-19, of course).

partner social dancing/ballroom Zoom sessions. Email if you are interested: megster199@yahoo.com.

We've found that, while large virtual dances are great, it's also important to have smaller events showcasing the specific dances that a community knows. It seems more like dancing with others when there's a smaller group. As Adony mentioned in the last issue, the best thing about virtual dancing is being able to dance with many friends I rarely get to see. Many of the former teens from Tance were so happy to get to folk dance because they live far away from dancing or have small children. They are also excited about Stockton's virtual offerings this year.

Jordan and I also participated in virtual English Country dances, Techno Contra and lightsaber classes! I've never learned lightsaber choreography before, but I am really enjoying it and have been surprised how similar it is to dancing. We've enjoyed getting to learn things online we could never have learned here in our small town of Willits.

REDDING – Julie East

The **Redding Folk Dancers** have remained active throughout the stay-at-home order. Lenore Frigo and I (co-directors) hammered out Zoom group meetings with the help of Adony Beniares and Roberto Bagnoli and we only missed each other one week.

Every Friday night at our regular time, we meet on Zoom to chat, play games and dance. We've played Bingo, Apples to Apples, had scavenger

Continued on p. 12

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY – continued

hunts, Guinness World Records, and answered the pithy (or not so much) questions Lenore prepares to get the conversations running. We're a small intimate group that really misses seeing each other and these weekly meetings have been a real benefit for us all.

On Friday, June 12, we met for the first time in 17 weeks - outside - at my house. There is room for 10 people on the upstairs deck, the downstairs patio and on the small lawn. We're antsy, not reckless! See photo below:



SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan

In early March, Luiselle Yakas and I went to Southern California to attend both the NFO Conference and the Laguna Festival. What a treat to have these two events planned contiguously with Yves and France Moreau headlining both! It was like a reunion with dance friends from all over! We were aware of a virus threat and did our best to keep our hands clean and refrain from hugging our friends, but we had no idea of what was coming. There was news of festivals and other public events being cancelled. By the second weekend of March, we learned just how much our world would change with a shelter-in-place order.

Chang members are doing lots of activities via Zoom: dancing, singing, and just keeping in touch. I had never even heard of Zoom until the stay-at-home order came down, but now it's a must-have. We go to Global Dance Parties, thanks to Adony and his crew, and to dance workshops around the world, checking out how old friends in our world community are doing and even meeting new friends. Recently Ulrike and Lothar have been experimenting with Zoom so we can get back to dancing together on Fridays. **Two of our graduating seniors, Sophia Hosmer-Hughes and Freesia Finn,** will be starting their university studies and we wish them well!

Although San Francisco Dance Circle couldn't celebrate the **95th birthday of teacher Channa**

Orner in person, class members showered her with cards and phone calls on April 22. We also sent her a photo book gift created by class member Erika Oppen which included photos and messages contributed by fifty-nine current and former class members.

City College of SF has added International Folk Dance classes back to its Fall Schedule.

Jeanne Hughes has been sharpening her Zoom skills in the event they will have online classes only.

Edith and Paul Bourbin, the leaders of Mandala Folk Dancers, decided to organize a Happy Hour for their small court in San

Francisco. They thought if everyone brought his/her own chair, beverage, and snack, they could stay spread out and visit.

The first Sunday they gathered, everyone had a good time visiting, and unanimously voted to do it again. When the subject of dance came up, Edith offered to teach some easy dances the following week (Chilili and a Lesnoto). Five of the households joined in and wanted to do it again. Country and Western line dance came up as a suggestion, so Edith went back to her Stockton notes and chose Cowboy Stroll. Everyone enjoyed the dancing, and a few people even up dressed for the occasion.

Not wanting to hog the show, Edith asked if anyone else wanted to teach a dance. One of their newer neighbors from India taught them a simple party dance from west-central India the following week. A Japanese member of the community wore a lovely outfit, purchased on a trip to New Delhi, in his honor. **Dance has added a lot of fun to their Sunday afternoons!**

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Adony Beniares

Even with the shelter-in-place, the Peninsula Council groups have many events lined up for June and July.

The Palomanians continue to hold their live Zoom class every Tuesday 7:15-9:30 pm, with the first 15 minutes and last 30 minutes being a general chat session so we all stay connected. To join, email Denise Heenan deniseheenan@sbcglobal.net.

By the time you read this, the Palomanians will probably have already hosted their **annual Ice Cream Social online via Zoom.**

The Peninsula Council (PFDC) is planning on holding its July party on the 5th of July, either via Zoom, or if we can, in person at our normal location at St. Bede's church in Palo Alto. Email pfdcouncil@gmail.com if you'd like info on how to join our parties.

Continued on p. 13

Life in Lock-Down-Under

by Eileen Kopec

Greetings from New Zealand! After three cancelled flights, two by them and one by me, I wound up in COVID-19 lockdown in the antipodes. After my initial panic, I settled into a contemplative, peaceful routine of walks, reading, gardening, eating, and possibly some fruit of the vine activities. I was allowed to be in a “bubble” with my neighbors, so I wasn’t lonely. But a very important aspect of my usual existence, an activity as important as breathing to me, was missing from life – dancing! Surely, I’d get home in time for Statewide and Lyrids. Then the gravity of the situation set in. I don’t have to tell you about how I felt each day as I read about more and more cancellations. Uh oh! Not Statewide. Bummer. Surely not Stockton. Noooo!

I learned a new word, Zoom with a capital Z. I warily dipped a toe into the “mute yourself” world. At first, I found it exhilarating. Here I was across the Pacific, yet all my friends and favorite teachers were right there in my living room. I could dance, see everyone in little boxes (well, from the waist up or sometimes only from the waist down) and I even learned some new dances. I was awed at the lengths people went through to set up these events. This was great. Or was it?

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY – continued

The PFDC has also shifted our **Global Folk Dance Parties to the third Saturday of every month**. Join us, and 750-1000 of your friends by email us at virtuallfolkdance@gmail.com or by following the Peninsula Folk Dance Council us on Facebook. Our party on July 18, will also be the **closing party for the 73rd year of the Stockton Folk Dance Camp**.

Loui Tucker has started an email discussion with the **Thursday Night Saratoga class** on a possible opportunity to **dance outside in the parking lot of the normal location**. Maybe that will allow us to start dancing, at least in small groups.

The **Lucy Chang Remembrance Party** has unfortunately been delayed and we will reschedule this once we can get together in person.

We look forward to dancing in person in the future as well as to future online events.



My screen froze up. Their screens froze up. The music was not in sync with the dancer. The hosts were a blur during a fast dance. The music cut out. I scrolled through screens full of tiny people. I waved to my friends, but they couldn’t see me among the sometimes 100-400 people in the meeting. The music sounded tinny. My house here is carpeted. Being in a weird time zone, some of the meetings were at 4 or 6 AM. That is not a time I feel like dancing (unless it’s a Stockton after-party).

Somewhere in my isolation, I stopped expecting perfection, and became thankful. It was a minor miracle of 21st century life that I could be at the end of the world, and yet still connect with familiar faces. I got to do dances again that I couldn’t do on my own. I could video some of the dances, so I could practice and learn them better. The sessions kept me away from social media and binge-watching old TV series. I was getting exercise. The list of Zoom sessions available was overwhelming. I eventually settled into choosing smaller Zoom session with friends, occasionally joined larger events held by people I knew, and took lessons with International teachers. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone working hard to put on these events.

In mid-May, New Zealand came out of full lockdown. They still recommended distancing, but small groups of ten could get together. I have a group of dancers here. Some had already gone back to their summer home countries or were still uncomfortable going out. A few of us were brave enough. We met outside in my yard, didn’t hold hands, and danced! It was glorious. Not ideal, but glorious. There we were talking about our lockdown experiences, but also about ordinary things, like gardens and cooking. And that is what is missing with Zoom – those casual conversations between (and during) dances.

We are meeting weekly, weather permitting. I am going to a line dancing class. And I’m hoping that by the time I get back to California I can do some outdoor-distanced dancing in small groups! I’ll still Zoom, but now more than ever, I realize that dancing is not the only thing about dancing.

PS – As I was proof-reading this, my third rescheduled flight to California was cancelled!

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Can you name the first three dancers in the line?
Be the FOURTH person to send in the correct
answers to loui@loutitucker.com or
editor@folkdance.com and win a \$25 gift card

A CORONAVIRUS LIMERICK

Adrienne Pfarr, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Because of this germ called Corona
My dancing with you is postpone-a.
Though I'm stuck in my town,
It won't get me down.
I dance with my computer and phone-a.

Take care and stay safe.



That's Elsa and Frank Bacher at Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Frank died in 2007. Elsa lives in their home in Fulton, California, near Santa Rosa, is still active in the folk dance scene there, and attends Stockton Folk Dance Camp every year. She has also organized the Little Festival of the Redwoods in September for many years, as well as Fiesta de Sonoma in its heyday.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

The last *Let's Dance!* Challenge was won by Susan Lin of Cupertino. She was the tenth person (finally!) to get all the items in the timeline in the correct order. Congratulations, Susan!

- F First Stockton Folk Dance Camp (1948)
- D First Kolo Festival (1951)
- A Zemer Atik was first introduced (1960)
- B Bruce Mitchell was Federation President (1968-69)
- I Yves Moreau's first time on the staff of Stockton Folk Dance Camp (1970)
- E Ada, Jas, and Basia Dzienanowki appeared on the cover of *Let's Dance* (1977)
- G National Folk Organization was founded (1986)
- C Folkdance.com debuted on the web (1996)
- J Folk Dance Federation became a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (2010)

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MILLISECONDS

by Aaron Alpert

In the shadow of coronavirus, virtual folk dance sessions have mushroomed on the internet. I have attempted to keep a comprehensive list of all the Israeli ones, and in the first month, I recorded an average of 8.29 sessions per day, which is an incredible number! However, among those hundreds of sessions, one in particular stands out.

With people no longer confined to only their local session, and teachers from distant locales no longer prevented from collaborating, a plethora of possibilities emerged. Phil Moss, leader of the Israeli dance session in Chicago for 46 years, envisioned something ambitious and unprecedented – a 24-hour global Israeli dance marathon!

After a few informal chats between Phil, Latishya Steele, Larry Denenberg, and myself, the marathon's organizational team began to nucleate. Discussions of “wouldn't it be nice” evolved into “how we can do it.” The Chicago Israeli dance group had been meeting weekly online since the beginning of the quarantine, and we had found that the web conferencing tool Zoom allowed the closest approximation of a normal session. Dancers can see their friends, follow the feet of a strong dancer, and hear their favorite songs with acceptable fidelity, and we chose to scale up that format into a marathon.

The next major step was to recruit *markidim* (the Hebrew for *dance leaders*), each of whom would lead a one- or two-hour segment of the marathon. Teachers from all over the world enthusiastically joined, representing cities in the U.S., Canada, Chile, Brazil, Australia, Switzerland, France, England, and, of course, Israel. The event started in the evening of April 13 in Boston, and the baton was passed westward across the Americas, eventually crossing the Pacific Ocean to Australia and Europe, and finally back to Chicago for the finale. Each *markid* displayed a unique style, some energetically dancing on screen for two hours straight, some presenting videos they had painstakingly edited, some playing host as they greeted participants individually and spotlighted different dancers in turn. A “scribe” assisted each *markid* by memorializing the dances played,



collating requests, and posting the playlist in the chat window. Additionally, each *markid* selected a charity to sponsor and invited participants to support that charity.

Of course, we encountered a few technical and logistical difficulties. The day before the marathon, the Israeli *markidim* halved their commitment from 8 hours

to 4 to avoid conflicts with the Jewish holiday of Passover. At all times, a designated “host” was needed to manage the Zoom meeting in the background, and unsurprisingly, at one point, one of the host's Zoom crashed, and upon logging back in, he lost all of his administrative privileges. (If you guessed that happened to me, you're right.)

One *markid* had a piece of audio equipment die at the beginning of his session, preventing him from playing music at an audible volume. In the final minutes of the marathon, we discovered Zoom strictly enforces a 24-hour time limit. The meeting abruptly cut off in the middle of the dance *Be'chayai*, which means *In my Life*, leading to an unintentionally apt metaphor.

These issues were quickly addressed, and overall, the event was a huge success. The attendance peaked with over 800 dancers. A few people even stayed all 24 hours. (Personally, I was tuned in for 19.) However, most importantly, this event underscored the connections in our community. During ordinary times, it's easy to forget the worldwide reach and impact of folk dancing, and in an ironic twist, our dispersed, global community has been brought closer together by the thing keeping us physically apart.

Links

- Aaron's list of sessions – nirkoda.com/virtual
- Charities, recordings, post-marathon interview, and more – ChicagoIsraeliDancing.com/marathon.html

FEDERATION NEWS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STRUGGLING CLUBS

The Board of Directors of the Folk Dance Federation received and granted one request for financial assistance because the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of an event. The Board will entertain additional requests should a club determine they need it. **Many thanks to the clubs and individuals what donated funds specifically for the purposes of helping impacted events.**



DONATE ON FACEBOOK!

Did you know the Folk Dance Federation has a Facebook page? A “DONATION” button was added recently which means you can visit Facebook, follow the Folk Dance Federation and, when you have some spare cash and the mood strikes, you can quickly make a tax-deductible donation to the Federation.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

THE 2020 OFFICERS BALL

TOGETHER AGAIN – WELCOME BACK!

The Federation Board believes in being prepared! It is far better to be prepared and be told we cannot hold the Officers Ball as planned, than to have dancing allowed in the fall and be caught without a plan!

We intend to hold the **2020 Officers Ball** at the **Veterans Memorial Hall, 22737 Main Street in Hayward**, the same location as last year. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. 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 a teacher you'd like to recommend, please contact Federation Institute Chair Lon Radin at lonradin@pacbell.net.



Once More around the Floor

For Lucy Chang
by Barbara Saxton

When I heard the news I knew would come —
but hoped it wouldn't, certainly not quite so soon —
I balled both hands into tight fists, as if
that could reverse the way disease attacked her
from the inside out and waltzed her
into ballrooms far beyond our reach.

She might have asked: What good is it to rant
and rail against cruel fortune? Who gains
from turning death into an angry dance
with some unwanted partner?

Instead, when our familiar music plays,
let's catch a glimpse of shining hair
with hints of grey, a red bandana round her neck,
kick-ass boots and smile to match, a bright white shirt
and patterned skirt, and say: Hello my friend!
Aren't you looking fine this evening?

Lead us through another dance
of hope and love. Grant us permission
to persist and thrive. In life and death,
remain our faithful friend.

Vallja e Pllanës

(Albania)

Vallja e Pllanës (VAHL-ya eh PLAH-nehs), The Dance from Pllana, is based on motifs from Pllana in the Lezhë district of northwestern Albania. Stephen Kotansky learned these motifs from Aldo Nika and dancers from his group in Shkodër, Albania in September 2018. Although the dance was originally taught to loder/tupan (drum) accompaniment, the dance fits nicely with the music Aldo Nika provided. The arrangement is by Aldo Nika and Stephen Kotansky. The crossed hands in Figure II represent the Double Eagle, a symbol associated with Albanian ethnicity and seen on the Albanian flag. Stephen taught this dance at the 2019 Laguna Folk Dance Festival, the 2020 Veselo Festival in Eugene, OR, and the Folk Arts Center of New England online workshop in 2020.

Music: 4/4 Meter *Laguna 2019 SK's Dances, Veselo 2020 SK* (CDs available at events);
also available from Folk Arts Center of New England (facone.org).

Video: www.folkdance.com/video/vallja-e-llanes/

Formation: Dancers solo in a circle facing CCW, optional scarves, folded in half lengthwise over middle finger of each hand.

Steps & Styling: The walking step has a slight bounce, and the upper body sways slightly R and L as dancers flick their wrists R and L. This flick is done with a single downward gesture that mimics shaking off water.

Measures	4/4	PATTERN
1-4		<u>Introduction</u> . – No action (music, silence, music, silence)
	I.	<u>Walk and Hand-Flick</u> .
1		Face CCW, step R fwd, flick both wrists out to R at waist level (ct 1); step L fwd (may cross R slightly), flick wrists out to L at waist level (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).
2-4		Repeat meas 1 three times, for a total of 16 steps.
	II.	<u>Double Eagle</u>
1		Face ctr, touch R to R, raise both hands with arms outstretched at shoulder level to their respective sides (ct 1); touch R fwd twd ctr, bringing R hand (arm bent at elbow) in front of chest, palm facing in, while bringing L hand to the small of the back, palm facing out (ct 2); touch R heel diag fwd to R, while crossing L hand over and in front of R to form a “double eagle” (ct 3); step R beside L, lower arms to respective sides (ct 4).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opposite ftwk and arm movements.
3		Repeat meas 1-2.

III. Turns

- 1 Face ctr, step R to R to begin a CW turn, with R arm bent and crossed in front of chest and L hand down at side (ct 1); continue CW turn, stepping L fwd to R, and bringing arms out to sides at shldr ht (ct 2); finish CW turn to face R of ctr, stepping R to R and bending knee slightly (ct 3); step onto the ball of L beside R (ct &); step R in place, bending knee slightly and bringing L arm bent and crossed in front of chest, lowering R hand to side (ct 4).
- 2 Begin a CCW turn, stepping L slightly L and bending knee slightly, bringing arms out to sides at shldr ht (ct 1); continue CCW turn stepping on ball of R beside L (ct &); continue CCW turn, stepping L in place and bending knee slightly (ct 2); finish CCW turn, stepping R to R to face ctr, while lowering both arms to sides (ct 3); step L in place beside R (ct 4).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

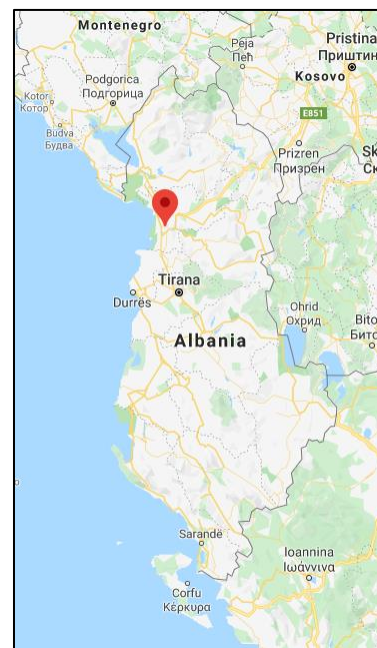
IV. Drum Solo

- 1 Face ctr, touch R out to R, swinging both arms extended low and out to R about 45 degrees (ct 1); draw R up beside L inner calf, swing extended arms down in front of thighs (ct &); repeat cts 1,& (cts 2,&); repeat ftwk of cts 1-2, but raise arms above head with slightly bent elbows, waving hands twice in a windshield wiper motion R,L,R,L (cts 3,&,4,&).
Note: L ft remains in place, heel twizzles slightly CCW on cts 1,2,3,4), return to starting position on the “and” cts.
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Begin a CW turn, stepping R to R with arms wide, L arm slightly higher than R (ct 1); continue CW turn, stepping L across R, reversing arms so R arm is slightly higher than L (ct 2); continue CW turn, stepping R to R with R arm low and bent L arm crossed in front of chest (ct 3); finish CW turn to face ctr, touch L slightly to L (ct 4).
- 4 Begin a CCW turn, stepping L in place on a bent knee, and bringing outstretched arms to shldr ht (ct 1); step on ball of R slightly to R (ct &); continue CCW turn; repeat cts 1,& (cts 2,&,3,&); finishing CCW turn to face ctr, step L in place with knee slightly bent (ct 4).
Note: This is a 4 ct buzz or rida turn.
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 8-9 Repeat meas 4 but continue for 7 cts (2 meas) before stepping L in place with knee slightly bent and facing R of ctr (ct 4). Note: The first time meas 4 is danced, it is a 4 ct CCW turn to the L (1 or 2 complete turns). The second time (meas 8-9), it is an 8 ct CCW turn to L (2-4 complete turns).

Sequence: [Fig I, Fig II, Fig III] twice.
[Fig. IV, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III] twice.

Ending: Facing ctr, walk fwd on R (ct 1);
walk fwd on L (ct 2), close R to L and
raise hands above head (cts 3-4).

*Map of Albania showing the
location of Pllana in the
Lezhë district.*



What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

PLANS FOR FALL CAMP December 4-6, 2020

by Marc Rayman

We are continuing to plan a fun-filled Fall Camp for December 4-6. In addition to master teachers **Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu** presenting Romanian dances and **Roberto Bagnoli** presenting international dances, we will have a wide variety of delightfully entertaining activities, as we did at Fall Camp 2019. (We may also include a few painfully boring activities this year if demand is high enough. Please let us know.)

We had hoped to have another master teacher who specializes in extraterrestrial dances, but we could not accommodate the requirement for dancing in an oxygen-free atmosphere of methane and hydrogen. (*Not to mention the low gravity – Ed.*)

Fall Camp sold out last year, and because it proved to be such a successful weekend, it may sell out sooner this year. We will begin accepting registrations later this summer. When we do, forms will be available for download at FallCamp.org. As an alternative, email us at Dance@FallCamp.org and we will send you the form or mail you a paper copy if you can't easily print the file.

One difference from last year is that, because of the possibility safety precautions for COVID-19 would preclude our getting together, ***we can provide full refunds until one week before camp***. Of course, we will continue to monitor both the instructions and the recommendations of established health experts, supplemented with our own best judgment if there is any ambiguity. We will make all our decisions based on the well-being of our participants. We will provide updates, and you can get more timely news at FallCamp.org. For people who register, we will promptly email important updates.

We invite people who plan to attend camp to suggest new activities to conduct during the weekend. Please email us at Dance@FallCamp.org if you have an idea for what you might want to do. We expect to be able to include only one or two, so we apologize in advance if we can't use yours.



The crowd at Fall Camp 2019. Photo by M. Rayman.

CHECKING IN WITH VALERIE

by Valerie Daley

As unappealing as it may feel for some of us folkies, dancing in our socks on carpet, looking at a computer screen with no one to touch, and singing muted, this cyber-time has also held a gift for me. There's been a bonding opportunity that has affected me greatly. We don't always get that special time with each other while we are so busy dancing, teaching, rehearsing, and singing.

Bill Cope's generous singing hours not only let me sing my heart out, but the group feels like a really cool family. My heart leaps when I see a dear one arrive online.

The Peninsula Group, Lee Otterholt, Sherry Cochran, FACONE and Cricket have kept me dancing! I find dear friends there in Zoom meetings and see new ones I can't wait to meet in real time!

I wish I had the skills to create my own Zoom meetings to keep my dancers here in Ventura afloat, but I don't. I am such a un-techie person I can hardly write this.

Somehow, we will make it through this! I expect to, especially if Bill Cope keeps allowing me to sing! (Translation: Mute yourself, Valerie!)

I hope that we are all happily dancing and singing together soon. When that day comes, my folk dance family will be so much bigger, and I am already grateful for that! My new Attitude: You can't go wrong with Gratitude.

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OF CALIFORNIA, INC.
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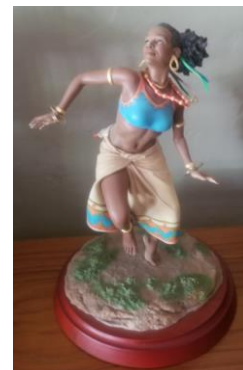
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People have asked me why I chose to be a dancer. I did not choose. I was chosen to be a dancer, and with that, you live all your life. — Martha Graham



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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

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