

# Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  MARCH 2020



FESTIVAL OF THE OAKS



MOVEABLE FEET

THE  
VAN  
GEEL  
TRIPLE  
HEADER

See  
p. 16



SARATOGA FOLK DANCERS

# Let's Dance!

Volume 77, No. 3

March 2020

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

226 Alameda de las Pulgas

Redwood City, CA 94062

**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:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Marcia Rosenblatt, Membership

927 Springfield Drive, Millbrae, California 94030

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

## WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Tamil Folk Group, Fremont (see p. 7)

Lowiczanie Polish Dance Ensemble, Berkeley



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Joe Croco

First up, the impressive display of talent at the Festival of the Oaks in February. The van Geels are truly master teachers with a wide-ranging repertoire. Kudos to the Berkeley Folk Dancers who made it all happen. Great day!

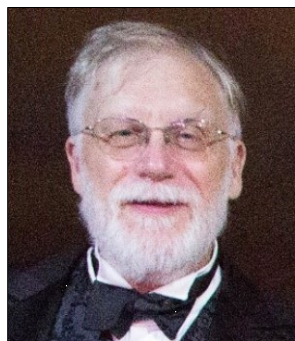
Mark your calendar:

**April 26 at City College in**

**San Francisco**, before the Blossom Festival, the Federation General Assembly will be voting for new officers for 2020-2021. **All Federation members are encouraged to attend.** As an extra incentive, lunch is included. Nomination will be accepted from the floor for all the officer positions.

Last month I talked about trying to get to a folk dance event I have never been to before. When I was looking through the events section on folkdance.com, I was surprised to find how many events in my area that I has never tried. Right now I'm considering a Greek workshop in San Francisco with Joe Graziosi. So many dances, so little time! **I'd like to hear from you about an adventure you had when trying a new form of dance or a new venue.**

In the past I've talked about the special appeal folk dancing has for us. And I still ask myself, "Why folk dancing?" Yes, I enjoyed the dances and the people I dance with. We put a lot on effort into dancing, going to weekly classes, special workshops and camps learning new dances (will we ever run out of new material?).



By comparison, we do other types of social dances, and they aren't adding new dances, just new combinations of the steps we already know. I like doing West Coast Swing and I still use the same basic steps I learned ten years ago. I do work on doing them better and with more style. I find the new figures I'm learning are just the old figures put together differently.

I would really like to hear from you about your personal response to my question: "Why folk dancing?" Are you also doing other types of dance?

**In an effort to increase Federation membership, I am declaring March to be Membership Month. Anyone joining the Federation this month will get a free Federation water bottle. See details on p. 26**

And a thought for the day: "You don't get old and stop dancing. You get old when you stop dancing."



Dan Unger, Yale Rosenblatt, Marcia Rosenblatt, and Lon Radin – who have not stopped dancing! *Photo by J. Croco.*



**The Statewide Festival** needs volunteers to help with registration, decorations, meal prep and distribution, transportation, etc. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marina Troost at [mylt48@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mylt48@sbcglobal.net).

# March 2020 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](mailto:editor@folkdance.com).

Additional events can be found at [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com) (Community tab).

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

- March 6 **DANCE PARTY WITH BALKANTON 340.** Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park. 7:30-10 pm. \$12. As their name implies, Balkanton specializes in Bulgarian village music. Bring some light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages to help make it a party, along with tips for the band. Sponsored by the Stanford Folk Dancers. Info: [info@stanfordfolkdance.com](mailto:info@stanfordfolkdance.com).
- March 7 **RAZZMATAZZ RED & BLACK BALL.** Monroe Hall, 1400 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa. 7-10 pm. \$5 plus tips for singers/musicians (children free). Live music with Gradina, our Sonoma County Balkan choral group of singers and musicians.. Don't forget to wear red and black! Info: Marilyn at [razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com).
- March 6-8 **LAGUNA FESTIVAL.** 24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods (southern California). Featured teachers: Yves Moreau and Aaron Alpert, plus cameo appearances by Tom Bozigian and Lee Otterholt. Three bands! Dance performances! Dancing on the Beach! See the schedule on their website: [lagunainternationaldancers.com](http://lagunainternationaldancers.com). Prices start at \$100 for the pre-ordered Passport; you can also pay per day/class. Sponsored by the Laguna International Dancers.
- March 12 **HAMBO WORKSHOP WITH ROO LESTER.** St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. 7:30-10:15 pm. Sliding scale:\$8-16. In anticipation of Roo's appearance at the Heritage Festival, the group is offering a special workshop on the Hambo. Info: [Loui@LouiTucker.com](mailto:Loui@LouiTucker.com).
- March 13-14 **HERITAGE FESTIVAL.** Friday Opening Party St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sandhill Road, Menlo Park. 7-10 pm. Saturday dance workshop, dinner and party at Twin Pines Community Center, 1 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont. 2-10 pm. Teacher: Roo Lester teaching Basque, Scandinavian and Balkan dances. Register for the entire Festival online or pay per day/event. See p. 21.
- March 13-15 **SAN ANTONIO FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL.** Our Lady of the Lake University campus in San Antonio, Texas. Teachers: Ventsi Sotirov, Lee Otterholt, Andy Taylor-Blenis and Franklin Houston. Info: [safdf.org](http://safdf.org).
- March 26 **SPRING EQUINOX CELEBRATION.** St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Bowcock Hall, 1399 43rd Avenue, at Judah Street, San Francisco. 7:30-10:30 pm. \$12. Dance to live music provided by Staro Vino, led by Mark Jenkins as they play vintage and modern folk tunes from Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Greece.
- March 27-28 **CAMELLIA FESTIVAL.** Polish-American Hall, 327 Main Street, Roseville. \$50 for all events or pay-per-day/event. Friday Night Opening Party 7:30-10:30 pm; Saturday Croatian dance workshop with Željko Jergan, dance performance and evening party 10 am-10 pm. See complete schedule online at [folkdancesac.org](http://folkdancesac.org). See p. 17.
- March 29 **WORKSHOP WITH MIHAI AND ALEXANDRU DAVID.** All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. 2-6 pm. \$15. This is a rare Bay Area appearance by the David brothers, teaching Romanian and Russian dances. Sponsored by the Moveable Feet Club. Info: [Loui@LouiTucker.com](mailto:Loui@LouiTucker.com).
- April 16 **40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY.** St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. 7:30-10:15 pm. \$6-\$8. A celebration of 40 years of international folk dance in Saratoga lead by Loui Tucker.
- April 18 **ANNUAL SPRING FOLK DANCE PARTY.** Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. 7:30-9:30 pm. \$15. 8:45-9:30 pm, live music by Staro Vino. Sponsored by Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers. Info: Carol Friedman at [cjay@horizoncable.com](mailto:cjay@horizoncable.com).



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

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

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

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

Led by Lee Otterholt: **Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen**

## **BULGARIA:** August 3-16, 2020 Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour!

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, Lee Friedman  
**Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, and Koprivshitsa Folk Festival**

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

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

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

**Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada**

## **GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND**

**June 16-29, 2021. Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour. First of its kind!**

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

## **ISRAEL:** October 31-November 11, 2021, and/or March 13-24, 2022

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

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# THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Penny Cloud, Doug and Joanna Schwilk at the Sacramento Council's Gold Diggers Ball held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Placerville. *Photo by J. Volkoff.*



The San Leandro Folk Dancers celebrated their first year anniversary in January.  
*Photo by G. Jensen.*



Arlene Imagawa and Lisa Michael enjoying the spread at the Peninsula Council's Afternoon Tea Party in January.  
*Photo by C. Dickey.*



Members of the Tamil Dance Group, flanked by Lon Radin (left) and Adony Beniares (right) gave a short performance wearing the distinctive bronze-bell leg bands at the Peninsula Council's Afternoon Tea Party in January. *Photo by L. Tucker.* See p. 7 for more information about the group.



From left, Craig Blackstone, Deuce Massenkoff, Denise Lucero, Lothar Narins, Suzanna Yeh and Rick Spaid at the Festival of the Oaks. See p. 16.



## WE HAVE A NEW FEDERATION GROUP: THE TAMIL DANCERS OF FREMONT

The Tamil Dancers of Fremont have joined the Federation. This group of dancers is primarily a performing group, but all are welcome to attend their monthly rehearsals. The current members of the group are recent immigrants who came to the United States from India since 1990. All of them were born and raised in Tamil Nadu. The members meet and practice once a month on the second Saturday in Fremont, and have started performing at Indian festivals and gatherings in Northern California.

Contrary to what many believe, Bollywood dance is not the traditional dance of the people of Indian origin. Indian children born and raised in the United States mistakenly believe Bollywood dance is an actual Indian traditional dance when it is not. One of the group's purposes is to promote true cultural folk dance to help connect with people of Indian origin, and to dance with family and friends at various festivities. Traditional dance forms are a missing piece in the rich culture they wish to share with their children.

There are many folk dances in Tamil Nadu (see map), and this group is learning many of them. However, the group's primary focus is one of the oldest of all folk dances from Tamil Nadu, called the Big Bell Dance, which dates back to Tamil Sangam Period (2800+ years ago). The group chose this dance because it is reportedly nearly extinct. It was performed during the King Era in the

**Why did this group join the Folk Dance Federation? To translate a common Tamil saying: "To us, all towns are our own, everyone our kin."**

Sangam Period during festivals, holidays and celebrations. This particular dance is still performed in a small part of India, but only a few

dancers and dance groups in India are doing research on their own and documenting the dance history and dance moves. This local group of Tamil Dancers is part of the movement to bring this dance from near extinction back to life.



The group's leaders connected with a few dancers in India and got assistance in learning this dance. They then connected with local like-minded Tamilians and started practicing in Fremont. A few of the dancers know the dance steps from performing it when they were children. Their stated goal is to bring this dance out from behind closed doors and make it live long.

A distinct challenge in bringing back The Big Bell Dance is that the classic leg bands of heavy bronze bells used in the dance are not commercially available for purchase and are manufactured only in a few places. To maintain authenticity, the leg bands are still made the same traditional way and strapped around legs using cords.

*continued on p. 12.*

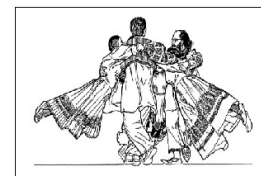
Adony Beniares (and Lon Radin in the background), being fitted with the child's version of the leg band of bells. See the photo of the performance in the Family Photo Album on the previous page.



Members of the Tamil Dance Group performing The Big Bell Dance.



*Ensemble Balkanske Igre's  
55th Anniversary*



# SPRING FESTIVAL

**March 20-22, 2020**

Hyde Park/University of Chicago (Saturday & Sunday) plus Balkanika Restaurant (Friday evening)

Saturday: International House, 1414 E 59th St / Sunday: Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637

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**March 20, Friday, 7pm-midnight, mini-dance workshop, Orch. Shturo Make & Balkana, Balkanika Restaurant, \$20 cover**

**March 21-22, Sat/Sun, 9am-5pm - Saturday: I-House, 1414 E 59th St, Sunday: Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E 59th St, Chicago**

## ***Workshops, Party, Culture Sessions with Master Teachers and Artists from Europe***

Dance Workshops: **Yannis Konstantinou** (Greek) from Greece, **Šani Rifati** (Rrom) from

Germany, **Ventzi Sotirov** (Pirin), **Prof. Nikolay Tsvetkov** (Bulgarian) from Bulgaria

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**Spring Festival co-sponsored** by the University of Chicago International House, CEERES, WHPK, and the Ensemble Balkanske Igre.

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Saturday evening concert & dance party only ☐ \$ 30 ☐ \$ 40 (included in weekend pass)

Syllabus ☐ \$20

Friday eve dance party (reservations required) ☐ \$20 Note: dinner is separate charge a la carte off Bulgarika Restaurant's menu

Dinner Saturday evening ☐ \$30 Please check if ☐ vegetarian, ☐ vegan, ☐ food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-festival Sunday dinner/party w/live music ☐ \$40 at an ethnic restaurant tba

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# MEET THE CANDIDATES

In April, Federation members will gather to choose the next President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The candidates for Secretary (Clem Dickey) and Treasurer (Laura Douglass) are running again for their respective offices.

## ULRIKE NARINS

I'm Ulrike Narins, a candidate for the office of **Federation Vice President**.

I grew up in Austria where I did ballroom dancing in my teenage years and some acrobatic rock 'n roll in my early twenties. In 1994 I moved to the United States with my son, Lothar, and started work as a software developer in San Francisco.

I am still doing this full time. I am married to a musician but non-dancer.

Until 2008 I didn't know such a thing as international folk dancing existed. Lothar did a year abroad in Tuebingen, Germany, where he was introduced to folk dancing. When I researched where we could do folk dancing in San Francisco, I discovered that Changs was just two blocks from my home. Since 2009, my son and I have been dancing at Changs; since 2011 I have been treasurer of the club.

I took the folk dance class at City College, Angel Tam introduced me to Peninsula Council parties at St. Bede's, and I became involved with the Moveable Feet Club. In 2017, I attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp for the first time and have been back every year since. I have participated in North/South three times, as well as Festival of the Oaks, the Federation's Officers ball, the Heritage Festival, Kolo Festival and many workshops.

When I travel, I search out folk dance opportunities. This way I have danced in South Bend, Indiana, New York City, Vienna, Austria and St. Poelten, Austria, and many places in Japan. I also attended the Ontario Folk Dance Camp.

For Changs' 80th Anniversary Party Lothar and I arranged a medley of nine dances for eight people. Together with my son, sometimes on my own, I have been teaching at Changs frequently and at Summer Camps in Review.

I feel that folk dancing is one of the most rewarding activities there is, as it connects people



across all walks of life, strengthens body and mind, broadens your horizon and fills you with joy, and so much more.

It would be an honor to serve the folk dance community as the vice-president of the Folk Dance Federation.

## MARIAN SNYDER

I'm Marian Snyder, a candidate for the office of **Federation President**.

I started dancing when I was 6 years old. I learned to Irish step dance and then joined an international folk dance group called the Westchester Lariats at age 7. For ten years I learned dances from all over the world as well as tango, swing, waltz, and square dancing. We put on shows while traveling each summer around the US, Hawaii, and Europe.

After about a 35-year break of going to college, teaching elementary school, getting married, and raising my daughter, I joined Berkeley Folk Dancers in 2010. At Berkeley Folk Dancers, I teach at the Beginner and Intermediate classes, have served as vice president for two years, and am one of three people heading our biggest event of the year, the Festival of the Oaks. I have had the opportunity to attend Stockton Camp, Mendocino Camp, North/South, Statewide Festival, Summer Camp Review, and Camelia, Heritage, Kolo, and Blossom Festivals.

Two years ago I became Vice President of the Federation, and am now finishing up my third year. During that time I also started a catering company called M&M which provided dinner for the last three Officers Balls. It was part of the job. Seems like a pretty good segue into becoming President.

I find folk dancing to be very fun! I hope to keep it going strong as the President of the Federation and promise to continue providing delicious dinners with my catering partner Marija Hillis (the other M).



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

## **SACRAMENTO** – *Barbara Bevan*

Our dancers are all mourning the passing of **Vick Vickland on January 19**. He was such a vibrant member of our folk dance family and will be missed. See p. 24 for the complete article thoughtfully written by Toba Goddard.

Our **Gold Diggers Dance** at the Odd Fellows Hall (built in 1911) in historic downtown Placerville (Hangtown) on January 25 was enjoyed by all. Yvonne Couvillion did a 24-carat job organizing the event. Sheriff Andre Couvillion kept the law and order. Most dancers wore denim, and a few ladies dressed in fancy Gold Rush-era dresses. We struck it rich with a sunny day, and driving home, we lowlanders were treated to a pretty sunset.

February started off with Kolo Koalition's First Saturday party. **The theme was Chocolate!** Want to guess what we ate?

**Zado Singers** performed concerts in collaboration with Vox Musica on February 29 and March 1. See: [www.Zadosings.org](http://www.Zadosings.org).

English Country Dance and Contra Dance are popular in our area. For details, see their website: [www.sactocds.org](http://www.sactocds.org)

Let me see, what have I forgotten to mention? Oh yeah, the 63rd annual **Camellia International Dance Festival - A Croatian Celebration** coming up very soon **March 27-28!** Be sure to sign up for the catered Croatian Dinner Saturday night, only \$15. It must be pre-ordered at [www.folkdancesac.org](http://www.folkdancesac.org). See all the details on the flyer on p. 17. There are driving directions, motel information, and how to sign up for the on-site dinner Saturday night at [folkdancesac.org](http://folkdancesac.org).

## **RAZZMATAZZ** – *Marilyn Smith*

Mark your calendars for our **annual Red and Black Ball** on Saturday, March 7, 7-9 pm at our beautiful Monroe Hall 1400 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa. Gradina, Sonoma County Balkan singers and musicians, will perform for dancing. Be sure and wear red and black!

**June 5-7** is our **43rd annual Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend** at Mendocino Woodlands. This year's camp features Michael Ginsburg teaching Balkan dances, Édessa playing music for Friday and Saturday night dance parties, along with Joe Finn and Leslie Bonnett playing Cajun and Scandinavian. Our Saturday Happy Hour party theme this year is

**Summer of Love** and will feature The Back Pages, a wonderful Bay Area 60's tribute band. Be sure and get out the tie-dye, bell bottoms and fringe vests you've been hiding in the back of your closet!

It's only \$175 for the entire weekend, and registration is open, so visit our website: <http://marilynsmithrazzmatazz.blogspot.com>.

## **NORTH BAY** – *Carol Friedman*

**Newcomers, beginners, and drop-ins are always welcome** for the first hour of our **Monday class** at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma, which is dedicated to easy-to-follow, familiar folk dances including Setnja, Ivanice, Ma Navu, and Armenian Shuffle. I'm pleased to say we have had several beginners join the group this season. After the first hour, we focus on intermediate/advanced dances. This month that means some old favorites we hadn't danced in a while including Hora Femeilor, Hora Anton Pann, Valle Beratche and Valle Iusuf.

Mark Saturday, April 18 on your calendar! It's our Annual Petaluma **Spring Folk Dance Party** with live music by Staro Vino, at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue in Petaluma. You're going to love it! Info: [cjay@horizoncable.com](mailto:cjay@horizoncable.com).

## **SAN LEANDRO DANCERS** – *Gigi Jensen*

On **January 19**, we celebrated the **first year anniversary of our monthly folk dance group!** There were 18 people in attendance who danced for two hours led by our lead teacher, Loui Tucker. The celebration started before with a congenial potluck reception.

We're so happy to share international folk dance in the mid-East Bay where there hasn't been a group in so many years. Over the past year some 45 people have attended. We look forward to many more dance classes with more interested dancers.

Thank you to all who support our efforts!

A saying goes: "Holding hands is a promise to one another that, for just a moment, the two of you don't have face the world alone."

Just think what holding hands in a circle of dancers means!



# ... AND BEYOND

## PENINSULA COUNCIL – Adony Beniares

Members of the Peninsula Council are getting ready for the **Heritage Festival on March 13-14** – choosing decorations, planning menus, putting together play-lists, and working with Roo Lester on what she would love to teach us. If you haven't registered yet, please see p. 21. As a bonus, Roo will be teaching a **Hambo workshop** at the Saratoga Folk Dance Family on **March 12**, the Thursday before the Heritage Festival.

The Moveable Feet team is hosting an afternoon workshop with Mihai and Alexandru David on March 29 in Palo Alto, their first time teaching together in the Bay Area in decades.

The Stanford International Folk Dancers (who actually meet in Menlo Park) will be hosting live music with **Balkanton 340** on **March 6**, and then teaching by Yale Rosenblatt on March 13 and 20.

**Mark your calendar: April 16**, is the date the Saratoga Folk Dance Family will be celebrating the club's 40th anniversary with Loui Tucker leading! It's going to be a party you don't want to miss.

Finally, several of us are looking forward to the NFO Conference and Laguna Festival, and the Camelia Festival. It's always great to visit other regions and see what's being danced.

For more details, please visit [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com).

## THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

Thanks to **Alix Cordray**, one of my fifth grade students came with his family to our Willits Folk Dancers class. The back-story is this: Alix went to high school with my student's grandmother, Robin. The two of them got together recently and went dancing in Palo Alto. Robin had such a good time that she decided to join our Thursday folk dance group here in Willits. That proved to be a lot of fun too, so **the following week she brought her daughter and two grandkids**. I taught both children in the fifth grade, but neither of them joined the dance club at school. When they came to the Thursday adult class, they had a great time! And all because of their connection to Alix!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to ask for some financial help from my fellow folk dancers. **Jordan and I are bringing five kids, ages 10-15, to perform at Statewide in May**. The festival was unable to provide us free housing, so we got an AirBnb and I have applied for a grant. However, the

grant only covers part of the cost and I don't know if we will get the grant. We will be volunteering and performing at Statewide, as well as attending the workshops and parties.



Dancers from Willits who attended the Heritage Festival 2018, from left: Jordan Uggle, Megan Wolf, Audrey Sherf, Aidyn McFadden, and Willow Daun-Widner. We will see them again at Statewide in 2020, along with Abigail Sherf and Jayden Jordan.

**If you are interested in sponsoring kids who love folk dancing, please contact me.** Every little amount helps! Checks can be made out to Megan Wolf and sent to 160 S. Lenore Avenue #27, Willits, CA 95490 or you can send money via Paypal to [megster1989@yahoo.com](mailto:megster1989@yahoo.com). Thank you!

## BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

The wonderful 72nd **Festival of the Oaks**, co-sponsored by the Berkeley Folk Dancers and the Folk Dance Federation of California, was a hit. It was a thrill to have the Tineke and Maurits van Geel as the Institute instructors. The afternoon Dance Party completed with much joy the pleasure of dancing the great dances taught earlier.

For March, our Advanced Intermediate class will be hosting the **Fun Night on Friday, March 20** at Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park Street, Berkeley. A theme of **Birds of a Feather** will bring the flock together at 7:30 pm (\$7 for members and \$10 for others) and we will dance until 10:30 pm. Wear your favorite feathers and cluck in your favorite bird speak. Please bring some seeds, worms, or other tasty food to share.

*continued on p. 12*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY—continued

Berkeley Folk Dancers now has **three afternoon classes**. Our newest one is Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3 pm at James Kenney Recreation Center, 1720 Eighth Street, Berkeley, and is taught by the very experienced Yagi Zhang at the Advanced Intermediate level. For more details about this and the other two afternoon classes, see [www.BerkeleyFolkDancers.org](http://www.BerkeleyFolkDancers.org).

### **KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS** – Holly Hudson

Kopachka Folk Dancers hosted an evening with **Zabava International on January 24** at Strawberry Recreation Center in Mill Valley. We enjoyed a lively evening of music, song and dance from their expanded repertoire. Favorites included Jove Malaj Mome, Cimpoi, and Ovčepolsko Oro. In addition to long-time Zabava band members Michele Simon (vocals and percussion), Tom Farris (guitar and tambura), and Bill Cope (gajda, accordion, tambura, bouzouki, you name it...), the band introduced two new additions – Hilary Musaji (vocals and tambura) and Valerie Rose (violin). The vocal duets of Michele and Hilary, such as on Neda Voda Nalivala were a real treat. During the evening, Bill Cope led the group in a special birthday tribute to Kopachka Vice President Nadav Nur set to a Lesnoto played on tambura.



The Kopachka Folk Dancers and Zabava International.  
*Photo by S. Shoaf.*

Of special note, **beginning February 7** Kopachka Folk Dancers will meet at our **new Mill Valley venue, Almonte Clubhouse**, near Tamalpais High. Directions can be found on our website at [kopachkafolkdancers.com](http://kopachkafolkdancers.com). This cozy, historic setting nestled in the trees provides a lovely sprung floor and charming outdoor patio for summertime refreshments. Please join us there each Friday evening between 7:30-10pm; entry fee is \$7 (first time free).

On **May 1, 8-10:30 pm**, we'll return to Strawberry Rec Center for an exciting evening of live **Balkan Border Music with the band Édessa**. Details to follow. Hope to see you in the line!

**SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS** – Linda Milhoan  
Changs International Folk Dancers celebrated the **first fifth Friday of 2020 with a party featuring live music by Da! Mozhem**. The party began early with dinner at a nearby restaurant and continued on to our dance venue. Thanks to the wonderful musicians, singers and dancers who made it a great party!

Changs is now gearing up for the **Blossom Festival on Sunday, April 26**, at City College of San Francisco. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

**The Mandala will celebrate the Spring Equinox on Thursday, March 26, 7:30-10:30 pm**. Staro Vino will provide live music for dancing from Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Greece. Admission is \$12.00. Come to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Bowcock Hall, 1399 - 43rd Avenue, at Judah Street, San Francisco. Contact Edith or Paul at [paulbourbin@hotmail.com](mailto:paulbourbin@hotmail.com).

**San Francisco Dance Circle** celebrated **Valentine's Day** early with our **annual potluck on Feb. 12**. We are delighted to welcome new dancers to our friendly and active group! Dancing every Wednesday 10:45 am 12:15 pm at Harvey Milk Center for the Arts, 50 Scott St. at Duboce in San Francisco. It's FREE! Contact Ann at [aculichidas@gmail.com](mailto:aculichidas@gmail.com).

Sadly, **International Folk Dance has been cancelled from the course offerings of City College of San Francisco** effective Spring 2020. We in San Francisco are very grateful to instructor and Changs member Dr. Jeanne-Marie Hughes for her continuing support of folk dance in recent years since the retirement of Gail Barton and Marguerite Fishman.

### **Tamil Dance Group of Fremont** (continued)

The bells on each leg weigh around six pounds, although the child's version has half as many bells and are only three pounds.

Because the bells are heavy, shipping would be prohibitively expensive. To make sets of bells from scratch is not feasible. The bells are manufactured in one location and attached to the leather backing in another location. The group has sought the assistance of friends, relatives, and business associates in transporting the bells from India to the United States. Contact [tamilfolkdancegroup@gmail.com](mailto:tamilfolkdancegroup@gmail.com) or (510) 620-4908 if you would like to support this group.





# **Pastoral Fandango**

**Statewide 2020 Folk Dance Festival**  
**Friday May 22 - Sunday 24, 2020**

**Guest Teachers:**  
**Ahmet Luleci**  
**Gergana Panova**  
**Bruce Hamilton**

**Hermann Sons Hall**  
**860 Western Ave**  
**Petaluma, CA 94952**

**Evening Parties**  
**with**  
**Chubritza**

**Middle Eastern Dinner and**  
**Installation Lunch catered by**  
**The River Front Cafe**

**Additional entertainment by**  
**Gradina**  
**Chinese Performance Group**  
**with Rebecca Tsai**  
**The Redwood Dance Squad**

**Our Host Hotels:**  
**~ Hampton Inn and Suites ~**  
**6248 Redwood Drive**  
**Rohnert Park, CA 94928**  
**~Motel 6 ~**  
**6145 Commerce Blvd.**  
**Rohnert Park, CA 94928**

**For more information about the festival,**  
**parking, host hotel go to:**  
**<http://statewide.folkdance.com>**

**Banner art used by permission of artist Maxfield Bala**

# Pastoral Fandango – Statewide Folk Dance Festival

**May 22 - May 24, 2020**

**Hermann Sons Hall, Petaluma, California**

**Registration Form (Please register individually, one form per person)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Festival Package** (Includes ALL workshops and parties, **\$130 at the door**)

☐ \$105 when payment is received by February 1, 2020

☐ **\$110 when payment is received by April 15, 2020**

☐ \$115 when payment is received by May 12, 2020 (*final day to preregister*)

**All Day events** (ONLY WITH early registration)

☐ \$70 All day Saturday (**\$80 at the door**)

☐ \$45 All day Sunday (**\$55 at the door**)

**Individual Events** (ONLY WITH early registration) **\$30 each at the door**

☐ \$25 Friday evening party

☐ \$25 Saturday evening party

☐ \$25 Saturday AM instruction

☐ \$25 Saturday PM instruction

☐ \$25 Sunday morning instruction

☐ \$25 Sunday afternoon review

**SUBTOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional offerings:** (meals and syllabus only available with pre-registration)

☐ \$12 Mexican Lunch Saturday

☐ with meat

☐ vegetarian

☐ \$18 Middle Eastern Dinner Saturday night

☐ with meat

☐ vegetarian

☐ \$17 Installation Lunch Sunday

☐ with meat

☐ vegetarian

☐ \$20 Festival video access on Google Drive

☐ \$25 Festival video on a DVD mailed to you

☐ \$10 Printed syllabus

☐ \$22 Souvenir T-shirt designed by S. Gregory

\_\_\_\_ Size

☐ Man

☐ Woman

☐ Tax deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Crew neck

-OR-

☐ V-neck

*All T-shirts in either Red or Black, except men's V neck in either Black or Teal*

Color: R ☐ B ☐ T ☐

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**To register with this mail-in form:** Send with your check (made payable to *Folk Dance Federation*) to:  
Statewide Registrar, Sabine Zappe, 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126.

**On-line Registration** available at [statewide.folkdance.com](http://statewide.folkdance.com).

**Visit the Statewide 2020 webpage at** [statewide.folkdance.com](http://statewide.folkdance.com) for the latest information about schedule, teachers, area hotels and restaurants, parking, and directions. Statewide 2020 is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, a non-profit organization.

Children under 13 are admitted free with a paying adult. Young adults aged 13-21 will receive a 50% discount, but may be required to volunteer from 1-2 hours during the festival. Work scholarships available. Contact Marina Troost at mylt48@sbcglobal.net.



# Pastoral Fandango

By Marguerite Treat

**Statewide 2020 will be held May 22-24, 2020**, in the charming town of Petaluma in Northern California's Sonoma County. Petaluma (and Sonoma County in general) is just an hour north of San Francisco, and **offers visitors so many options to enjoy that you may want to enjoy an extended stay** – or plan a time to revisit this beautiful part of the world.

Petaluma, once known as The Egg Basket of the World, continues to have a strong connection to its farming past, more recently with the planting of vineyards which produce some of the finest wines in the world. Wine-tasting is a very popular option, and



*Of course we hope you want to attend the 2020 Statewide Festival for the dancing and music and camaraderie, but there is plenty to do in the area that you or non-dancing family members can enjoy.*

there is also beer-tasting. Nearby parks offer trails for hiking, biking and horseback-riding, as well as bird-watching and fishing

If you saw the movies *American Graffiti* or *Peggy Sue Got Married*, then you have seen a bit of Petaluma. There are several historic tours available if you want to learn about the town. If you are a Hitchcock fan, then a trip to the nearby towns

of Bodega and Bodega Bay may suit you (come see the birds!) or visit the library in Santa Rosa, where Uncle Charlie left a shadow of a doubt.

Sonoma County extends from just west of Napa all the way to the Pacific Ocean. You can **visit the ocean and the redwoods** easily in one afternoon. Armstrong Redwoods has very accessible trails, and a stroll among these ancient giants can be enjoyed by all ages. Or, if you prefer some **retail therapy** (antique stores!) coupled with charming restaurants, visit the town of Healdsburg a half-hour north.



**SIGN UP SOON and take advantage of Early Bird pricing. Register by April 15, and save \$20 off the Statewide Festival package of \$110 (instead of \$130 at the door).**





# FESTIVAL OF THE OAKS – A REVIEW

by Loui Tucker

The **Van Geel Triple Header** took place February 6-9 at three locations in the San Francisco Bay Area. It started with a workshop with the Saratoga Folk Dancers on Thursday night, and ended with the Moveable Feet workshop in Palo Alto on Sunday afternoon, but the Big Event was the all-day, long-standing Festival of the Oaks put on by the Berkeley Folk Dancers (BFD) at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Albany (just north of Berkeley).

All of our local Veterans Memorial Halls (built in the 1930s) are grand to begin with, but the added banners and flags were a nice touch and focused the room on international folk dancing. In addition, a section at the back of the hall was set up with racks for the BFD costume sales, and several long tables held an impressive array of edibles – bagels, muffins, rolls, spreads, and fresh fruit, plus hot and cold drinks. In the kitchen, a group of Festival Committee members assembled the ingredients for the lentil soup and Asian salad that would be offered for lunch, and the tables in the adjacent dining room were already covered with table cloths and flowers. The weather cooperated and dancers began arriving at 9:00 when the doors opened.

The dancers ranged in age from 11-year-old Evelyn Kartini to 92-year-old George Fairbrook. Total attendance was around 130, a testament to extensive publicity and the draw of the two popular teachers. Tineke and Maurits Van Geel are the new ‘power couple’ in international folk dancing, following in the footsteps of teachers such as Paul and Gretel Dunsing, Una and Sean O’Farrell, Yves and France Moreau, and Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion.

Maurits commented that the last time he was in the Albany Veterans Memorial Hall was for Statewide 2018. He had recently retired from a full-time position as director of a professional dance company in Amsterdam, and was looking forward to spending time in his home woodshop. That appearance at Statewide, however, changed his life. He and his wife Tineke have since been asked to teach together at numerous dance workshops in the United States, and were currently on a three-week tour taking them from Florida to California. We were very lucky to have them presenting dances from their specially-prepared CD.

The morning workshop was well-paced and offered a variety of styles, ethnicity, speed, and complexity, from the light-footed Kučevačko Kolo from Serbia, to the elegant, centuries-old Ronde, a

mixer couple dance from the Netherlands via France. Although Tineke is known for her expertise in Armenian dance (she taught two Armenian dances), she also taught a Bulgarian dance, and was fully capable of reviewing and emphasizing the appropriate styling for the dances Maurits taught. It was clear they had collaborated in selecting the dances so each of the three venues had different dances. While there was some overlap, no single dance was taught at all three venues, and each venue featured one unique dance.

Lunch was the aforementioned lentil soup and Asian salad, with bread and cheese, and brownies for dessert. Then the snack table was reloaded with more cookies, chips, guacamole, veggie trays and other yummys. You could not possibly go home hungry!

The afternoon included a performance, a review of dances taught in the morning, and more dancing, again with a wide range with something for everyone. Hours spent dancing with friends are hours well-spent, don’t you think?



Marian Snyder, one of the BFD Festival coordinators, spent a lot of time in the kitchen, but was still caught dancing!  
*Photo by J. Croco*



Trudy Baltz and Barbara Bevan (Violet Ho in the background) enjoying a moment on the dance floor. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



The Piedmont Highland Dancers & Piper performed in the afternoon. *Photo by A. Partos.*

Welcome to the 63rd annual  
**CAMELLIA**  
INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL  
A CROATIAN CELEBRATION!

Roseville, California  
Polish-American Hall, 327 Main St., Roseville, CA 95678

**MARCH 27 & 28, 2020**

Workshops with guest teacher:

**ZELJKO JERGAN**

Teaching Croatian non-partner & couple dances



**SCHEDULE**

**Friday, March 27:** 7:30-10:30 PM - Opening Party - Request dancing - \$10  
8:00-8:30 **Skalinada** Croatian Dance Performance

**Saturday, March 28:** 10:00AM-12:00 - Croatian Non-partner workshop - \$20  
12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own (many nearby restaurants)  
1:30-3:30 - Croatian Couple workshop - \$20    3:30-5:00 - Request dancing  
5:30-6:30- Catered Croatian Dinner - \$15 (must be pre-ordered at [www.folkdancesac.org](http://www.folkdancesac.org))  
Evening events \$15: 6:30-7:00 - Performance by **Koraci** Croatian Dance Performance  
7:00-7:30 - Sing-a-long with Zeljko, 7:30-10:30 - Request Dancing & Teacher Reviews  
\*\*\* **SPECIAL PRICE:** \$50 for all events **except** Saturday dinner \*\*\*

Sponsored by the Sacramento International Folk Dance & Arts Council  
Members of the Folk Dance Federation of California & the National Folk Organization - all non-profit organizations  
**Information:** [www.folkdancesac.org](http://www.folkdancesac.org) or eneg.vaughn@gmail.com or 916-799-8086

## IMPORANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMELLIA FESTIVAL

### 1. Directions to the Polish American Hall (327 Main Street in Roseville)

Also see maps on the SIFDAC website [folkdancesac.org](http://folkdancesac.org)

From I-80 take the Douglas Blvd exit west. Just past the park on the right, veer right onto Judah. Turn right onto Oak Street. At the traffic circle, take the exit onto Washington Blvd, into the underpass. Turn left onto Main Street. The Polish American Hall will be on the left.

The Polish American Hall has a small parking lot. There is additional parking on the residential streets, in a vacant lot diagonally across Main, in a city lot at the east end of Main.

### 2. Local Motels

The **Best Western Roseville Inn** has rooms from \$96. 916-782-4434 Mention "Camellia Dance Festival Block" for the special rate **through March 13**.

The **Best Western Orchid Hotel & Suites** has rooms from \$112.

### 3. Saturday Night Catered Dinner

**Remember the catered Croatian Dinner (\$15) must be pre-ordered!**

## NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?

by Sabine Zappe

**Registration forms are already available for the many of the upcoming summer camps.**

Whatever camp has captured your interest, don't let a lack of funds keep you from attending. The **Folk Dance Federation has a Scholarship Fund** that can help pay for your dance adventure. Visit [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com), click on the **Services** tab, and download the scholarship application. Last year the Federation awarded ten scholarships, and we hope to award as many this year.

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



*Every day brings a chance for you to draw in a breath, kick off your shoes, and dance.*

≈ Oprah Winfrey



## THE "WHO'S WHO" QUIZ

You have found the March *Let's Dance!* Challenge! This will test your knowledge of folk dancers – former and current, local and distant. Just match the name with the location, event, or club with which each is associated.

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| A. Marilyn Smith  | ___ Stockton   |
| B. Marc Rayman    | ___ Changs     |
| C. Julie East     | ___ Ventura    |
| D. Vick Vickland  | ___ Razzmatazz |
| E. Valerie Daley  | ___ Berkeley   |
| F. Roo Lester     | ___ Mexico     |
| G. John Pappas    | ___ Sacramento |
| H. Bruce Mitchell | ___ Sweden     |
| J. Susan Cashion  | ___ Fall Camp  |
| K. Ruth Ruling    | ___ Redding    |
| L. Marian Snyder  | ___ Greece     |

Be the **FIFTH** person to email [loui@loutucker.com](mailto:loui@loutucker.com) or [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) and win a \$20 gift card. Good luck!



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



Another lovely pair! The photo was taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1991.

Who are they?

*This is NOT the Monthly Challenge*, but

if you'd like to know if your answer/guess is correct, email [loui@loutucker.com](mailto:loui@loutucker.com) or [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com).

**And the winner is Julie East**, who timed her response perfectly. She was the fifth person to email with correct answer to last month's *Let's Dance!* Challenge and won a \$20 gift card. By the way, that's Joe Graziosi and Joyce Clyde in the photo.



# HISTORY CHANNEL

## DANCING REVIVAL SWEEPING OVER ALL PARTS OF CALIFORNIA

by William Hall

Excerpts from an article from  
**Sunday, September 25, 1949**

issue of the San Francisco  
Examiner; provided to *Let's  
Dance!* by Craig Blackstone.

***Take note of the numbers cited!***



Ten years ago, Mama Gravander's was an old world place on Washington Street known soberly as the School of Swedish Applied Arts. The liberal Nordic element found it a place for close sentimental ties with the homelands. Once a week was Smorgasbord night and open house for visitors, and after dinner a house-shaking evening of folk dancing in the basement. A Chinese artist, Song Chang, and his wife, Harriet, were the first to perk up and see folk dancing as a healthy, comradery affair for all Californians and an inexpensive kick during hard times.

Chang organized the basement crowd, taught them more folk dances, and this was the group that moved into the William Tell House and gave it a reputation for peasant costumes and old country dances.

Chang's dancers were also the forerunners of a folk dancing frenzy that has sent the schottische, square dance, and polka to all parts of California. Chang's International Folk Dancers, now a club of 250 members, was the first club of the giant California Folk Dance Federation, which presently has 250 clubs throughout the State. At parades, fiestas, jamborees and carnivals it is almost a slight if there isn't a place on the program for folk dancers. Clubs are being organized and joining the Folk Dance Federation at the rate of five to ten per month and oldsters of 70 are among the best dancers in some clubs.

Typical of the Folk Dance Federation's 25,000 members are the solid citizens in their 20s, 30s and 40s

*continued on p. 20*

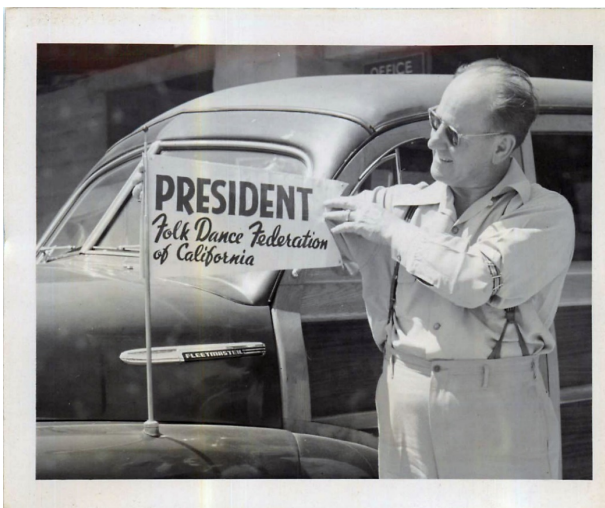
## HISTORY CHANNEL – *continued*

who are teachers, dentists, lawyers, doctors, engineers, real estate agents, Army and Navy officers, beauty shop owners, nurseryman, photographers and secretaries and, almost unanimously, they think popular dancing a waste of time. Folk dancing, they say, builds up the feet and ankles, keeps one limber, and able to run without panting.

The craze is becoming big business. Record stores keep all the folk tunes in stock and rented public address systems blare out the music in halls. Fancy white calfskin dancing boots for men start at \$11.95 a pair. The women buy ballet slippers or sandals. The skirts, blouses, dirndls, petticoats, panties, waistcoats, Tyrolean hats, knee-high socks, and britches are items of the well-dressed dancers and keep specialty shops humming.

Dance instruction in groups costs from 50 cents per person per night and up.

Dan J. McDonald, San Francisco contracting salesman, retired from business to stay at the full-time job as President of the Folk Dance Federation.



Danny McDonald, president of the Folk Dance Federation 1949-1950.

Song Chang's group still meets five nights a week at 1630 Stockton Street, starting at 8:30 pm. William Sorensen, a civilian engineer employee of the Navy, is the president. Chang teaches beginners himself on Monday nights. The club has \$9000 in its treasury. It also has about 1,000 outsiders practicing the dances in hopes of eventual membership. Those who dance with grace and style, Sorensen explains, and who also know 150 dances, and have good character, are admitted.

In the eastern part of the United States, folk dancing is quite popular with ethnic groups, but here in California it is running wild in popularity among all types.

## MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ERA





# HERITAGE FESTIVAL

## 2020

Featuring  
**ROO  
LESTER**



*Roo teaches to all levels of ability and is known for her clear, positive teaching style that incorporates styling and techniques in a fun and lighthearted manner.*

New  
Month!

Early Bird  
\$40

Opening Party (\$10)  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 13<sup>th</sup>**

St. Bede's Episcopal Church  
Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park

7:00 to 10:00 pm

*Come share your favorite club dances  
Meet Saturday's Institute Teacher*

BRING  
SNACK TO  
SHARE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>**

Twin Pines Community Center, Belmont

Institute starts at 2:00 pm (\$25)



**Roo Lester** will be teaching international dances  
including Basque

Dinner Break 5:00-6:30 pm

Bring your own dinner or order a wrap to enjoy on site (\$15)  
accompanied by **SUSAN WORLAND'S** fabulous fiddle  
playing or go out dinner in town

Party 7:00- 10:00 pm (\$15)

Dancing to recorded music from around the world, and Susan  
on the fiddle. (ethnic dress welcome)

Special Guest  
Fiddler extraordinaire  
**SUSAN  
WORLAND**



**BONUS !!** Come to the Saratoga Folk Dancers' Class on March 12<sup>th</sup> to learn the **HAMBO** with Roo

Pay BEFORE March 12<sup>th</sup> and save! Both Friday AND Saturday for only \$40 (\$55 with supper)

[Heritagefestival20.brownpapertickets.com](http://Heritagefestival20.brownpapertickets.com)

Please visit [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com) for registration form and maps. Doors open 1/2 hour in advance.

Email dance requests, questions and registration to  
[heritagefolkdance@gmail.com](mailto:heritagefolkdance@gmail.com)

Sponsored by: the Peninsula Folk Dance Council and the Folk Dance Federation of California, North

<b>HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2020 - Advance Registration</b>		<b>#</b>	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>(Both days, save \$10) Friday, March 13</b> (7-10 pm in Menlo Park) <b>AND Saturday March 14</b> (2:00–10:00 pm Belmont)			\$40	
<b>(One day, save \$5) Saturday March 14</b> (2:00–10:00 pm Belmont)			\$35	
Paper syllabus (must be ordered in advance) emailed <b>PDF notes are free</b>			\$2	
<b>Saturday Dinner: LARGE WRAP plus Greek Salad</b> <b>Pre-order by Wednesday March 11th</b>				
_____ Hummus with Eggplant/Zucchini (VEG) _____ Falafel Wrap (VEG)			\$15	
_____ Lamb+Beef Shawarma Wrap _____ Chicken Shawarma Wrap			\$15	
Please register online at <a href="http://heritagefestival20.brownpapertickets.com">heritagefestival20.brownpapertickets.com</a> OR mail this form and payment to: <b>Lesley Bone, 112 Club Dr., San Carlos, CA 94070</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	
REGISTRATIONS: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Questions ? Email <a href="mailto:heritagefolkdance@gmail.com">heritagefolkdance@gmail.com</a>				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ROO LESTER ON BASQUE DANCE

*by Roo Lester (edited for length)*

The area commonly referred to as the ‘Basque Country’ is divided between France and Spain. There are 3 provinces in France and 4 in Spain. Those living in this area do not necessarily recognize the borders and travel freely across the border. The Basques call their language Euskara (eh-oo-skara) and themselves Euskaldunak (literally, those who speak Euskara), suggesting the central importance of language in defining the Basques as a cultural and ethnic group. Euskara is unique, bearing no relation to Indo-European languages, or indeed to any other language group. Some scholars have suggested that the Basques, who also share certain genetic characteristics, may descend from the Stone Age inhabitants of the Pyrenees.

Within the Basque Country, each area has its own rich cultural elements and dances. Most of the dances are regional though now also found in the urban dance groups. People of all ages dance. There are ritual as well as social dances. The majority of the dances are for men, though today women are joining in some dances where historically they did not. At any festival/fiesta one will find a variety of dances including opportunities to participate. The dances are primarily for the feet and legs, with the upper body held proudly and still. Arms may relax at one’s side or be held in the air and include finger snaps. They tend to be danced on the front or ball of the foot and may include ornamentations of hops, leaps and beats like in ballet.

One of the most well-known Basque dances comes from the Baztan Valley in the northern part of Navarre. Baztan Dantza is a men’s dance although for more than fifty years it has been danced by both men and women. Bolant Dantza and Lauetan Erdizka are from the Valcarlos area of northern Navarre, to the east of the Baztan Valley, originally ritual dances for men and today danced by all. Hegi and Maiana are Jautziak dances, referring to the type of step patterns and are also from Valcarlos. They are both primarily recreational dances now.

In the mid-19th century, many Basques migrated to the United States, perhaps attracted by the gold and silver rush or lack of land to call their own. They settled almost exclusively in the western states where many became shearers. As with most immigrants, the Basques in the United States reproduced elements of their native culture in their new home. Summertime Basque Picnics have offered an occasion for community members to gather and enjoy their Basque heritage in the form of food, athletic competitions, music, and dance. Folk dance groups have become a particularly important mechanism for preserving cultural forms and fostering a sense of ethnic identity among young people of Basque descent. According to Nancy Zubiri, author of *A Travel Guide to Basque America*, most adults now active in the Basque community performed in dance groups as children.

**COME LEARN SOME BASQUE DANCES from Roo Lester at the Heritage Festival!**



## Ivan na Ganka dumashe - Иван На Ганка Думаше

(Bulgaria, Dobrudzha)

Ivan na Ganka dumashe (ee-VAN nah GAHN-kah DOO-muh-shay) means “Ivan said to Gana.” Iliana Bozhanova choreographed this dance, Sborenka, to the song, Ivan na Ganka dumashe. She taught it across the country in 2019. It was presented in California in the Fall of 2019 in San Jose, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Diego.

Music: 2/4 Meter CD: *Zavartyano Horo - Bulgarian Folk Dances 2019* - Track 8

Video: Type “Ivan Na Ganka Dumaše” into the YouTube search line.

Formation: An open circle facing center, led from the right. Arms are in a front basket hold, left arms on top.

Steps & Styling: Style is lively and bouncy.

Grapevine: Each step takes 1 meas, with a step on ct 1 and a bounce on ct 2. Step R to R, bounce on R, step L in front of R, bounce on L, step R to R, bounce on R, step L behind R, bounce on L, continue for a total of 24 measures.

Measures	2/4	PATTERN
1-16	INTRODUCTION. No action. Start with the vocals.	
	I.	LONG GRAPEVINE (with vocals).
1-24	Facing ctr, dance a 24-measure Grapevine, one step per measure, beg R to R and ending with L behind R.	
	II.	TOWARD CENTER AND BACK (with instrumental).
1	Step R diag fwd (ct 1); stamp L next to R (ct 2).	
2	Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.	
3	Step R fwd (ct 1); emphasized step L diag behind R, in 3rd ballet position (ct 2).	
4	Repeat meas 3.	
5	Bounce on L in place (ct 1); stamp R heel fwd, twd ctr (ct 2).	
6	Step R next to L (ct 1); stamp L heel fwd, twd ctr (ct 2).	
7	Bounce on R in place (ct 1); stamp L heel next to arch of R, toes pointed L (ct 2).	
8	Heavy step L next to R, toes pointing twd ctr (ct 1); pause (ct 2).	
9-14	Six steps moving bkwd, 1 meas per step, starting R (R, L, R, L, R, L).	
15	Step R in place (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).	
16	Stamp R in place (cts 1-2),	
17-32	Repeat meas 1-16.	



Iliana Bozhanova.  
From her website.

## Lyrics for Ivan na Ganka dumashe

Иван на Ганка думаше:  
„Гане ле, либе, Гане ле,  
таз вечер, Гане, ще пратя  
женили с жълта бъклица.

Да не си, Гане, върнала,  
върнала да ми откажеш!  
Китката да ми закичиш,  
годежа да ми приемеш!

Че ми е драго, Гане ле,  
тебе под було да видя!  
У дома да те заведе,  
в нашите двори широки.

В нашите двори широки,  
в нашите къщи високи.  
В мала градинка да ходиш,  
под бял, под червен трендафил!“

Ivan na Ganka dumashe:  
“Gane le, libe, Gane le,  
taz vecher, Gane, shte pratyа  
zhenili s zhalta baklitsа.

Da ne si, Gane, varnala,  
varnala da mi otkazhesh!  
Kitkata da mi zakichish,  
godezha da mi priemesh!

Che mi e drago, Gane le,  
tebe pod bulo da vidya!  
U doma da te zaveda,  
v nashite dvori shiroki.

V nashite dvori shiroki,  
v nashite kashti visoki.  
V mala gradinka da hodish,  
pod byal, pod cherven trendafil.”

Ivan, a young man, is talking to  
Gana, his girlfriend:

Gana, my sweet heart, I will send  
my relatives to your home tonight.  
They will ask your father and  
mother to arrange our engagement.  
Gana, don't send my relatives back  
home! Take my flower, please, put  
it in your hair and accept my  
proposal for marriage! I would love  
to see you as a bride, Gana! I would  
love to take you home with me – in  
our big garden, in our big house! I  
would love to see you walking in  
the flower garden, under the white  
and red rose bushes!”

[Ganka is the diminutive of Gane.]

## VICK VICKLAND

by Toba Goddard

Elbert “Vick” Vickland, the folk dancer and singer many of us knew well, passed after a bout with cardiac and kidney failure on January 19, 2020. He was tenderly well cared for in his last days by his sons Jim and Mark and their entire families.

Vick began his dance career with his mother. He was often his mother's partner as a young child and as a growing teen. He grew to really love it and continued for the rest of his 84 years, dancing primarily in the Sacramento and Foothill areas of California. Vick served as President of the Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council and the Folk Dance Federation (2005-2007).

He was able to take his innate talent onto international cruise ships and Mississippi river boats as a dance host. He enjoyed taking international cruises and cruising on the Mississippi River in this fashion. He felt passionately about spreading the joy of folk dance and taught at the Boys and Girls Club, at the Renaissance Society in Sacramento, and (naturally) at Laguna Del Sol in near-by Wilton.

He also loved the music and, in fact, many forms of music such as traditional jazz and older popular tunes. He was able to exercise his lovely baritone voice while doing Balkan singing at the pre-dance Kolo Coalition group Sing Along with Toba (now Sing Along with Glynis), as well as belting out oldies and classical works with the Sacramento Choral Society, and at Singing for Fun with the Sacramento Renaissance Society.

His chosen profession as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker enabled him to work in several California counties with families in crisis. He strongly believed in keeping families together and used his counseling skills to achieve that with many of the families, employing the support of social workers and judges. He worked in the Peace Corps and, while in American Samoa, aided in establishing a mental hospital and bringing the one he found there out of the medieval age. I still hope his chickens are alive and well (sorry, private joke).

Dance and sing in peace, my friend.

P.S. Vick was also the person responsible for the final push to get the Folk Dance Federation 501(c)(e) status!



Vick Vickland during the Hat Kolo at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2016. He attended Camp a dozen times between 1998 and 2018. Photo by L. Tucker.



# Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2020

**FIRST WEEK: JULY 19-25**

**SECOND WEEK: JULY 26-AUGUST 1**



**Cristian Florescu  
& Sonia Dion  
Romanian**



**Richard Powers  
Waltz**



**Tineke Van Geel  
International  
non-partner/partner**



**Maurits Van Geel  
International  
Balkan/Roma**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC  
STOCKTON, CA**



**Vlasto Petkovski  
Macedonian**



**Aaron Alpert  
Israeli Partner**



**Tony Parkes  
Squares & Contras**



**The Band  
Miamon Miller & Free Range Organic**



**Michele Simon  
Singing**



**Melanie & Marcella Lawson  
Ukulele**

# What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

## Two Different Parties With Something in Common

by Nancy Milligan

Like many folk dancers, I enjoy several kinds of dancing. Some dance groups, like Cal Tech Folk Dancers on Tuesday nights, are international; other groups confine themselves to one type of dance. I went to December holiday parties with Skandia (Scandinavian dances) and Kypséli (Greek for “beehive”). Some folk dance events use recorded music, but both these parties had live bands.

Kypséli wanted its holiday party to give the feeling of a Greek night club. Skandia’s felt like a friends-and-family get-together.

Most Greek dancing I’ve seen is without partners, usually people holding hands in curved lines. Most Scandinavian dancing I’ve seen is by couples, often in a circle with each couple rotating individually while the whole circle also rotates. That’s what I found at these two parties.

Despite these differences, it occurred to me that Greece and Scandinavia could each be considered to have a door-opening dance, a dance that, if you know or learn it, you can do the rest.

To me it seems the dance that opens the Greek door is syrto, the four-measure dance in a curved line without partners, two measures traveling to the right and two more or less in place, three steps to each measure, the first step in each measure on a longer beat, the other two on shorter beats.

In Southern California syrto seems to be the Greek dance that gets everyone onto the floor. At Greek festivals it’s what I see most.

I think the dance opening the Scandinavian door is the vals (waltz), a dance for couples in a circle, two measures in triple time where all the beats are of the same length, each partner taking one step on each beat so that the couple rotates halfway around clockwise with each measure (or experts can rotate counter-clockwise), the whole circle rotating counter-clockwise.

The Swedish snoa (“rotating”) is in two-beat time with one step for each measure (sometimes

called a pivot step), the couples rotating about the floor in a circle. The Norwegian rull (“rolling”) is similar. This is simpler than the waltz in that you take fewer steps, but for many people it’s harder. The partners each have to keep their weight balanced against the other’s with fewer movements to make it happen. The schottis has a step-hop on each of two measures, or three steps and a hop, with similar rotation. All of these have variations in which the partners dance side by side awhile, then rotate awhile.

This idea of one door-opening, or maybe key, dance came to me when a friend who had done a lot of ballroom dancing said Scandinavian dances were all waltzes. First I thought that was wrong. After some thought, I believe it might, in a way, be right.

The Skandia party was announced as potluck, so lots of people brought food to share. People were invited to come in Scandinavian folk costume and many did. People brought food to the Kypséli party too. At both places I found some old friends and made some new ones. That’s folk dancing for you.

I hope to see you soon on a local dance floor.

## JOIN THE FEDERATION IN MARCH 2020....

...and you’ll get a free **Federation water bottle** (\$10 value, choice of four colors). If you join as a household membership, you’ll get **TWO** free Federation water bottles. If you give a gift membership to a fellow dancer, you can decide to keep the water bottle for yourself or give it to the new member. This is a limited time offer, so act now! Contact Federation President Joe Croco at [president@folkdance.com](mailto:president@folkdance.com).



## SF Bay Area Dance Week FREE EVENT

# Blossom International Folk Dance Festival

**Sunday, April 26, 2020**

**Federation Meeting (Assembly): 10:30am**  
**Dances for All Ages (Beginners): 12:30pm-1:30pm**  
**General Dancing: 1:30pm-5:00pm**

**City College of San Francisco**  
**Wellness Center, 3rd Floor, Studio 301**  
**50 Frida Kahlo Way (formerly Phelan Ave.),**  
**San Francisco (enter at Ocean Avenue & Howth Street)**



Info. & Dance Requests - [crb2crb@comcast.net](mailto:crb2crb@comcast.net) or 650-359-7486

**Parking: \$5.00. Buy tickets at kiosks in parking lots.**  
**Yellow machines, cash. Grey machines, debit/credit.**

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