

# Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  MAY/JUNE 2020



## DANCING VIRTUALLY EVERYWHERE!

This screenshot shows 24 of the over 1500 participants in the Peninsula Council's Virtual Dance Party on March 28. See p. 7.

# *Let's Dance!*

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Editor: Loui Tucker

Email: [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com)

153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126

News From Around The Bay: Contributions from clubs

Address change and membership:

Marcia Rosenblatt, [membership@folkdance.com](mailto:membership@folkdance.com)

Assistant Editor: David Hillis

## **Federation Officers, North**

President: Joe Croco, [president@folkdance.com](mailto:president@folkdance.com)

Vice President: Marian Snyder

Treasurer: Laura Douglass, [treasurer@folkdance.com](mailto:treasurer@folkdance.com)

Recording Secretary: Clem Dickey, [clemd@acm.org](mailto:clemd@acm.org)

Parliamentarian: Bill Lidicker

Editor: Loui Tucker, [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com)

Website: [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FolkDanceFed](https://www.facebook.com/FolkDanceFed)

## **Federation Officers, South**

President: Pauline Klak

Vice President: Diane Baker

Secretary: Leslie Halberg

Treasurer: Mindy Belli

Website: [www.SoCalFolkdance.org](http://www.SoCalFolkdance.org)

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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

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Marcia Rosenblatt, Membership

927 Springfield Drive, Millbrae, California 94030

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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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**153 Race Street**  
**San Jose, CA 95126**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Joe Croco

This will be the last President's Message I write. In the next issue you will have a message from the new Federation president. Of course I wish the new president a successful and satisfying term in office.

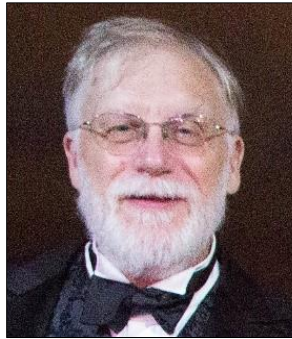
I started dancing in 1973 while in college. Up until recently I had volunteered to help with events but, since joining the Federation Board in 2015, I have become more heavily involved in the organizing and running of many events. What has impressed me the most is seeing all the effort by so many people to put on these dance events and then, on top of all that, run weekly classes. All the club organizers and teachers deserve a big thanks from all of us for their efforts. To see this really speaks to the dedication of our community.

I can say that being on the Federation Board has shown me a whole other side of folk dancing. I am happy I joined the board and will continue working on it in the future (yes, that is a plug for more of you to become involved).

And what a time it is to be writing with all the dancing cancelled! All of us miss our normal get-togethers and we miss our friends. There has been some good from this too. The Federation Board decided to offer grants to clubs for expenses when events were cancelled. So far, we have received two requests for help, and there were many offers of help from Federation members.

I want to also thank those teachers who have been putting together playlists of youtube videos of dances, and other who have been putting on virtual dance parties using Zoom. In addition, videos have been created of dance performances and we are also seeing efforts to do remote workshops. Yes, we miss the physical connections, but we will survive this and dance together again soon.

By the way, the Federation officers and board members are still planning to hold the Officers Ball October 17. Stay alert for details!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

We received the April issue of *Let's Dance!* yesterday, and we want to say thank you for the cover photo and article on page 9.

We are both doing OK. Marian is getting stronger after her heart valve surgery, and walking and driving, doing some shopping, etc. We are staying in as much as we can, and so far have had no problems. We have a bunch of very nice neighbors who have volunteered to shop, but so far haven't needed them to help. We do appreciate VERY much the amazing folks who have offered assistance.

We were going to try to have some sort of a 100th birthday thing, but think we'll now wait and do a "100 and 1 Easy Birthdays" or something. Thanks again!!

— Ned and Marian Gault



## SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

The **2020 Officers Ball** will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 22737 Main Street in Hayward, the same location as last year. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

As in past years, the Federation Officers are planning an afternoon dance workshop, on-site dinner, and evening dancing.

The afternoon workshop will again feature new and classic dances taught by local teachers. If there is a particular dance or teacher you'd like to recommend, please contact Federation Institute Chair Lon Radin at [lonradin@pacbell.net](mailto:lonradin@pacbell.net).



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



# May/June 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).

Only two events remain on the calendar as of the date this magazine went to the printer: **Statewide Festival** (May 22-24, in Petaluma), and **Stockton Folk Dance Camp** (July 19-26, in Stockton). The situation with the statewide quarantine changes weekly, so please refer to the calendar of events at [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com) for updates.

**On or around the first week of May, the Statewide Committee plans to announce whether or not Statewide will be cancelled, based on limitations placed by the Governor's quarantine.**

It is very important to keep a positive outlook. We *will* dance together again and it will be a joyous occasion, or series of occasions, when that happens. With that in mind, and looking far off into the future, mark your calendars on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17** for the **OFFICERS BALL**. It will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Hayward, the same place as last year. As in past years, this will include an afternoon workshop with local teachers, an on-site catered dinner, and an evening all-requests dance party.

Please note that **Lucy Chang's Memorial Dance Celebration** scheduled for **May 10** has been postponed to a future autumn/winter date.

ÉDESSA



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

## ÉDESSA at KOPACHKA | Balkan Dance Party

Édessa is comprised of musicians who have devoted decades to the study and performance of the rich cultural expressions of the southern Balkans, with music from Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Armenia, Turkey, and Balkan Roma (Gypsy).

George Chittenden on clarinet, gaida (bagpipe), zurna (shawm) and guitar;  
Lise Liepman on santouri (hammered dulcimer) and accordion; violinist Ari Langer;  
percussionist Sean Tergis and bassist Paul Brown.

**Friday, MAY 1, 2020 8-10:30 pm \$15**

>>> **Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley** <<<

**SPACIOUS SPRUNG DANCE FLOOR | LOTS OF PARKING**

[president@kopachkafolkdancers.com](mailto:president@kopachkafolkdancers.com) or 415-497-4890

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and anyone with a love of travel and culture.

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## **PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE:** May 23-June 4, 2020

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!**

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman  
**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

What usually appears on this page are recent photos from festivals, workshops, and dance parties. Because the vast majority of recent dance events were cancelled, photos were scarce. These photos were provided by Eliot Khuner who had a lot of extra time on his hands (no surprise there!) and went through his multiple hard drives looking for photos he could share. Thank you, Eliot!



Roberto Bagnoli, Radboud Koop, Cristian Florescu, and Ahmet Lüleci, before the wedding of Sonia Dion and Cristian during Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July 2010.



Tom Sha and Luoping Zhang dancing the Bohemian National Polka at the Berkeley Folk Dancers' 75th Birthday Party in 2016.



Dancers from the Sacramento Area at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2016.



Sue Speck, Suzanne Rocca-Butler and Valerie Daley.



Lucy Chang dancing with Bill Lidicker.

# DANCING VIRTUALLY EVERYWHERE!

[You, too, can host an incredibly successful virtual folk dance party with 1,500 of your closest friends.]

by Adony Beniares

On March 28, the Peninsula Folk Dance Council (PFDC) team staged a highly successful, worldwide, virtual party attended by upwards of 1,500 dancers and observers.

Due to the potential of a California-wide shut-down due to COVID-19, we cancelled our Heritage Festival, scheduled for March 13-14. With an expectation of classes and other parties being cancelled as well, we quickly decided to fill the gap with a video conference party. **We'd play music, and people would dance in their own homes.**

As I had several years of work experience with Zoom video services, we settled on that as our base, with the potential of YouTube and Facebook as other options. I created the email address [virtualfolkdance@gmail.com](mailto:virtualfolkdance@gmail.com), sent out a Save-The-Date flyer, and didn't expect it to be too hard to pull off, maybe even easier than one of our normal parties.

It quickly took off. People posted the invite on Facebook and Google Groups, and forwarded it to friends around the world. Their friends did the same, as did their friends, and so on. **Within the first 48 hours, our flyer had reached more than 2,500 people** and we were getting questions and comments from 15 countries including Canada, Germany, Sweden, and Korea. We were surprised by the attention and anticipation our flyer generated, and decided we were up for hosting a Global Party. Our first steps were:

- ✓ Updating the flyer. Our original Save-The-Date flyer said 3-6 pm, but not what time zone.
- ✓ Keeping everyone in the loop. We made sure we quickly responded to the more than 150 emails and 300 Facebook comments we received.
- ✓ Expanding our team. A global party needs a global presence, so we reached out to nine friends we knew from dance camps who could lead dances and work well as part of our team. All said they'd love to help.
- ✓ Deciding where to connect. With at least several hundred people viewing, we decided we needed a larger Zoom license as well as a secondary outlet. We bought as large a license as we could and decided to use Facebook as our secondary broadcast medium.
- ✓ Gathering equipment. Since it was now tougher to get any additional computer equipment, I went through my equipment, pulled out what good cameras, mics, and speakers we had, distributed them to the team, and made sure all equipment was updated and compatible.
- ✓ Creating the program. With more than 150 requests and time to play about 50, we decided which dances to put on our first program, while leaving room for in-party requests.
- ✓ Testing. We held three meetings to test and talk through our process, making changes as we figured things out. After each test, we adjusted and tested again.

**Then it was party day, March 28!** The camaraderie, the openness, the sheer joy of how much fun we had was, at times, overwhelming. Our highlights and lessons:

**People really liked it.** We've received dozens of compliments, thank yous, and ideas on how to make it better. People loved seeing and dancing with their friends and future friends, and the ability to connect to each other for a few hours meant a lot. We also saw many connections from retirement communities, people who aren't near a large folk dance group, and people who, for whatever reason, haven't had the opportunity to dance for years, and we found that there is a real opportunity for us to continue this.

**The folk dance family is wonderful.** As we figured out the various bits of the party and made changes, everybody online was very helpful with their comments and ideas, and forgiving of what we messed up. It was a pleasure doing this party for our old and new friends.

**Adjusting on the fly was critical.** We quickly learned through chat comments that people were uninterested in any displays and wanted to see dancers and dance leaders. About 40 minutes into our 3-hour show, we went simple. We adjusted the dance list so we'd have one of the four locations lead, and on several of the best-known dances, just rotated through images of all the people globally dancing.



*continued on p. 8*



**Spontaneity is a wonderful thing.** Three teachers – Roberto Bagnoli (in Rome, a hot spot of the coronavirus!), Andy Taylor-Blenis (Massachusetts), and Sonia Dion (Canada) – reached out to us during the party, so we put them on screen. They each led dances from their respective homes, and we chatted with each to see how they were doing.

**Team members need to be everywhere.** It turns out there's a lot more to do when you're online with hundreds of friends, rather than in person with a few dozen. There are comments to answer, dances to announce, cameras to focus, troubleshooting, and so on. Everybody did a great job managing this and, for our future parties, we'll have two people designated to each role. For example, being so focused on the images in Zoom and the main broadcast, we took our eyes off Facebook. One of the participants sent us a message that our Facebook broadcast had ended due to time restrictions, so we restarted that.

**Back-ups are a necessity.** Given the quality of the internet when everybody starts watching movies, having co-hosts ready to go was a lifesaver. Our internet died for a few minutes and, while we were switching over to wireless, the team just kept going.

**The end result was a fun party with 586 locations logged onto Zoom** at the same time (with many having multiple viewers in the same house), and **another 750 people watching on Facebook.** Enthusiasm was so great that we ran the party an extra half-hour. The party video has been posted on the Peninsula Folk Dance Council's Facebook page and continues to gather viewers.

Besides the dance leaders mentioned above, the rest of the team that put this on are Lesley Bone, Ellie Wiener, Denise Heenan, Karen Bartholomew, Clem Dickey, Lisa Michael, and Ann Kleiman, all in the San Francisco Bay Area; Rob McCollum and Sarah Sheard in Pittsburg; Cricket Raybern in Portland; and David and Laura Carman and Steve Himel in the Seattle area. Working with our friends on this made it a great experience.

Moving forward, we had our next **Global Virtual Dance parties on Saturday, April 11**, and there is one more coming up on **Saturday, May 9**. We also plan, once the COVID-19 shutdown is over, to continue the



Screen print from the Virtual Dance Party on March 28 – showing Roberto Bagnoli dancing in his living room.

Global Folk Dance Party on a bi-monthly basis due to the great feedback we've received from people around the world. We believe we can continue to connect people and have a series of house parties with friends, all dancing together with hosts from around the world. More on this in the future.

## Peninsula Folk Dance Council Online Folk Dance Parties

We've had great responses to our first folk dance parties, so we're going to hold these parties regularly.

**-- Next Party is --**

**May 9, with another coming in June  
3pm to 6pm California Time (PDT)**

Join at <https://zoom.us/j/600066908> or +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting Number – 600 066 908

or watch on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PFDCouncil/>

We look forward to sharing and dancing with you and everybody.

Email us at [virtualfolkdance@gmail.com](mailto:virtualfolkdance@gmail.com)



# 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



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

## **TURLOCK** – Judy Kropp

**Four years ago we started with maybe ten people dancing Friday nights at the Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock.** We knew we needed to have at least 17 dancers to pay the \$85 rent each night. We hoped that by having a nice studio more dancers would come.

Little by little, we've been growing to around 22. People come from as far away as Merced and Raymond (30 minutes south), Stockton (45 minutes north), and Sonora (an hour east). We're lucky to have such a beautiful place to dance. One night we had 35!

**We have a staff of teachers:** Tamara Littlewood, Lise Swedberg, Denise Lucero, Dori McElroy (beginners), Nick Cuccia (English set dances), Janet Kenworthy (the choreographer for our performing group), and Don and I all teach regularly. Carlos Canto teaches when he comes from Sonora. We're on hiatus right now, of course, but will start up as soon as the coast is clear

Our performance group was meeting every Monday night in Raube Hall in Ceres where David Raube has built a dance floor in his two-car garage. On nice nights, we open the doors to his orchard and watch the moon rise while we dance. We'll be back together soon.



Dancing at the Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock.

## **SACRAMENTO** – Barbara Bevan

This article has been the a very difficult one for me to write. March and April folk dance events were mostly cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Sheltering in place, no touching, and stay six feet apart are counter to everything we know about folk dancing! I did compile a list of “no hands-dances” for my beginners group, but then all dance classes were cancelled!

We tried to cope with these restrictions by watching and even dancing with YouTube videos, the Zoom dance events created by our techie dance leaders (many thanks to Adony Beniares), and reviewing dances on DVDs. It's better than nothing, but it isn't the same. Social distancing just isn't part of folk dancing.

So, weekly classes, festivals, and workshops were all cancelled, **including our beloved Camellia International Dance Festival** (it would have been our 63rd!) featuring Zeljko Jergan. It was postponed for a year. We **WILL** rise again!

I don't want to leave you with a downer! Keep connected with each other. Keep practicing dances at home. Stay fit with exercise. As I walk around my neighborhood, I make a point of talking and joking with others. Social distancing doesn't mean we can't communicate! Smile and greet everyone you pass. **Spread JOY, not GERMS! We WILL dance together again one day SOON!**

## **PENINSULA COUNCIL** – Adony Beniares

The Peninsula Folk Dance Council has begun Global Folk Dance parties. We look forward to you joining us. See p. 7.

Loui Tucker has been sending out a **weekly email with links to YouTube videos of dances** from the repertoire of the Saratoga Folk Dance class. Contact Loui to be added to her mailing list. She also created a webpage that has links to all the prior email lists she's sent out ([louisutucker.com/dance/Videos4Saratoga.htm](http://louisutucker.com/dance/Videos4Saratoga.htm)). It's a great way to finally learn that challenging dance you've been trying to pick up dancing behind the line!

The Palomanians have begun a **weekly virtual class from 7:30-9:30 pm**, until after the crisis is over. People start logging in about 7:15, chat for a bit, and dance and learn during the class. After class, 6-10 people stay on to chat until bedtime. Feel free to join via zoom at <https://zoom.us/join> or +1 669 900 9128, using Meeting ID # 195 812 542.



# ... AND BEYOND

## RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

I look back with fondness now at the wonderful evening we had at our annual **Red & Black Ball at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa**. It seems like ages ago given all that has transpired since then.

The hall was vibrant with everyone dressed in red and black. Many folk dancers from near and far attended and the atmosphere in the hall was very energetic and joyful. Gradina's singing was superb and their voices filled the room and filled our hearts as we danced around them. We were in awe dancing to Sadi Moma sung live and accompanied by Ken Genetti on the harp! We count our blessings in Sonoma County to have a local group like this to sing and play music for us.

Though we are separated now by the current situation, our reunion will be all the more joyful when that day returns.



Gradina performing at the Red and Black Ball. Photo by E. Torgerson.

On a very sad note, we have had to cancel Razzmatazz for this year. The Mendocino Woodlands, where Razzmatazz was scheduled for June 5-7, has advised that, even if the general shelter-in-place orders are lifted, **the Mendocino campgrounds will not be viable for group use**. So, stay safe, stay well, and let's look forward to a joyful Razzmatazz reunion at Mendocino Woodlands in June 2021.

## BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

Our classes have been cancelled and we are still in sheltering in place in this difficult time. However our members experienced the April Members Meeting via Zoom! I suspect that May meeting will be similar.

Since it is unknown when the shelter-in-place mandate will end, we are still planning to hold the **Intermediate Fun Night scheduled for Saturday, May 16**. If it is not cancelled, the theme will be **The Masque of the Red Death**. Yes, it is taken from Poe story of a masked ball during an earlier plague. Use your imagination for your costume! If all goes well we will meet at Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park Street, Berkeley, 7:30-10:30 pm (\$7 for members; \$10 for non-members). Please join us, but first check our website, [BerkeleyFolkDancers.org](http://BerkeleyFolkDancers.org).

## SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan

San Francisco's Mayor London Breed announced in late-March that our shelter-in-place period was extended to May 3. That meant **we had to cancel the Blossom Festival**. We are currently working on a possible rescheduling of this event in the fall of 2020.

Chang members keep popping up at various virtual dance events around the Bay and around the world! We are all very grateful for our wonderful and generous dance community for creating these opportunities to connect with our dance friends... and their pets! It was so much fun seeing who all attended, and watching dancers' cats strolling across the screen! **Kudos to Adony Beniares and the Peninsula Dance Council group for hosting what turned out to be a HUGE party on March 28th!**

Joyce Clyde has sent out so many interesting links on BBMDE. Bravo Joyce! Thanks to all who have shared dances that we could send out to our more local communities. Can't wait until we can all get together again, in person! Stay safe, stay well and a big Changs hug to all!

San Francisco Dance Circle has kept connected through virtual dance parties and workshops that have been generously shared in our community. **Our teacher, Channa Orner, turned 95** on April 22, during our stay-at-home period, so we were not able to celebrate with her in person. We'll do that as soon as we are allowed to resume our weekly class. We send best wishes to our dancing friends, and hope you all are safe and well!

*continued on p. 12*

**NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman**

As did so many things, Monday night dancing in Petaluma came to an abrupt halt, with complete uncertainty as to when we might be dancing together again in real time. We also made the decision to cancel our annual Spring Folk Dance Party with Staro Vino scheduled for April 18. Classes at College of Marin and the Osher Marin JCC were all cancelled.

**I have been staying in touch with students from my classes, checking in to see how folks are doing, and sending out a weekly email with videos of favorite dances so they can dance at home.** I'm checking out opportunities for virtual dance classes and parties happening online; I am especially grateful for the BBMD folk dance list for keeping our Bay Area folk dance community connected.

Hopefully we'll be back dancing on Monday nights soon, but right now we are all sheltering in place, and doing the best we can to stay safe and healthy.

**THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf**

As a classroom teacher, I am used to unexpected challenges and finding ways to solve problems on the fly. When all public dancing had to halt, I immediately started thinking about how to keep dancing. First, Jordan and I went into the woods and danced, which was so rejuvenating! If you have never danced in nature before, I recommend it!

I was so inspired by Adony Beniares and the Peninsula Folk Dance Council that I started hosting Virtual Dance Clubs on Zoom with students in our after-school dance program. We've been doing some clapping dances, like Syp Simeon and Esku Dansa, as well as some of their favorite dances like Cotton Eyed Joe and Charleston Madison.



Jordan and Megan. Photo by J. Ugla, using a timer.

Since people's schedules are now more flexible, I decided to host a Google Hangout for all the former teens of Al and Teddy's dance barn. It was so great to catch up with far-flung

friends (England, Tennessee, Oregon). I plan to set up a Zoom Dance Reunion for us again this month.

I've also started a Facebook Group where people can post about virtual dances, post videos of themselves dancing or dance tutorials. Check it out: Virtual Dance Life.

Anyway, just keep dancing, any way you can!

**KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS – Susie Shoaf**

The Kopachka Folk Dancers is not meeting in Mill Valley, or anywhere else, as I write this while sheltering in place at home in San Francisco. Many of us signed on to virtual dancing events in our own living rooms, which for me was a very poignant reminder of how many of us are all in this together, participating from around the world.

By the time you receive the May/June issue *Let's Dance!*, I'm hoping dancing will be starting by the end of May. The big question remains if we'll have to keep to 'social' or physical distancing ourselves while dancing, when it's really that social aspect of dancing that we all love and miss.

**We'll schedule a new date for our cancelled May 1st dance party with Édessa**, as well as the celebration of Nancy Linscott's life. Dance remains not just an outlet for exercise, but one that can bring joy to our community, socializing and sharing in person.



I want to share a photo from 1947 of the Sons & Daughters (of the Spanish American War Veterans) theatrical-performance group. My parents put on shows regularly at the Veterans Auditorium and at Yountville's Veterans Home. My mom is front row left with my dad behind her to the right. Look familiar? Folk costumes, I mean! Yes, they were dancers too.





# 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**)

☐ \$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](mailto:mylt48@sbcglobal.net).



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



Did you know they met at Stockton Folk Dance Camp (though not the year this photo was taken, 1989)? If you believe you know who they are, and you want confirmation of their identities, write to [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com). THIS IS NOT the Monthly Challenge, so keep looking.



Congratulation to Ellie Wiener, who was the SIXTH person to correctly identify Kamrin MacKnight and Gordon Deeg dancing at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1992. She won a \$20 gift card. Take a bow, Ellie!

It's really all in the timing. Some people send their answer as soon as they get their magazine. Others wait and wait and wait and --- oops, too late. A lot of people don't bother to respond because they assume they are too late. Ellie thought someone must surely have answered correctly already, but --- she timed it perfectly.

## **Scandia Camp Mendocino for 2020...**

is postponed to 2021 due to the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We plan to present the same program in 2021 that we had planned for this year: The music and dance of Gudbrandsdalen, (Springleik), Norway and the music and dance of Dalarna, Sweden, with additional instruction in Scandinavian dance fundamentals, singing, nyckelharpa, hardingfele, beginning fiddle, kulning, cow-horn and Allspel/Samspel practice. Plan to come and join us for a magical week in the Mendocino Woodlands, June 12-19, 2021!

Details at: [www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org](http://www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org)

Roo Lester and the Scandia Camp Board

# FEDERATION NEWS



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STRUGGLING CLUBS

The Board of Directors of the Folk Dance Federation met in March to discuss the many ramifications and consequences of the COVID-19 crisis with respect to our dance community.

Among other things, it was decided that the Federation will make available funds to help local Federation member groups and organizations that have had or are experiencing financial problems because of the cancellation of festivals, workshops, classes, and other dance-related events. We know that some airlines are turning cancelled plane tickets into vouchers for future travel, but some are not. While some venues and caterers are forgiving contractual obligations and are returning deposits, other venues are not.

If your group or organization has suffered financially because of the cancellation of an event due to the COVID-19 crisis, please contact Federation President Joe Croco at [president@folkdance.com](mailto:president@folkdance.com), and include a document listing the expenses incurred. Every effort will be made to relieve the financial strain, although the Federation cannot promise 100% funding for every group that applies. This help will be in the form of a grant, with no expectation of repayment.

If you have additional concerns or comments, feel free to contact Joe Croco ([president@folkdance.com](mailto:president@folkdance.com)).

## LET'S DANCE! WILL CONTINUE

Both the printer and the mailing house we use are considered essential services (though the printer is on a reduced schedule). We will continue printing and mailing *Let's Dance!* magazine to Federation members each month.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

According to Federation bylaws, the election of Federation officers is to take place at a General Assembly of the membership. In recent years, the General Assembly has been held just before the Blossom Festival in late April. This year, of course, the Blossom Festival was cancelled along with all other dance classes and events.

When the Federation Board met in March, contingency plans were discussed should this happen, and it was decided that the elections could be held using a web-based program such as Survey Monkey. Watch for announcements that will be sent via email to all Federation members!

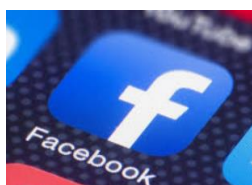
## CHANGE IN THE CANDIDATES

Laura Douglass, who has served as Federation Treasurer for the past three years, has decided to retire from that position. Sabine Zappe will be the candidate for the Treasurer's position. Sabine has served as Treasurer before (2008-2014) and, since she is retiring from her job as a high school math teacher, welcomes the opportunity to take on the Treasurer's position again. The other candidates are the same: Marian Snyder for President, Ulrike Narins for Vice President, and Clem Dickey for Secretary.



## USING IFD-CA@googlegroups.com

You may have received emails from the Federation in the past and wondered how you could post announcements about your group. It's easy! If you're *receiving* emails, you can *send* them. Just copy the email address that is the heading of this paragraph into the "To:" portion of your email program, type your message, and send it. Keep in mind it is going to all Federation members unless they have opted out.



## 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.



# NOW PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES ONLINE WITH CONFIDENCE

by Kevin Greek

Many people send and receive payments today without ever writing a check and often sign up for automatic renewal of licenses, membership, subscriptions, etc. **We wondered: Would Federation members like to pay their annual dues automatically each year?**

We've made it happen! Members or soon-to-be members of the Folk Dance Federation may now pay annual dues online at [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com) using PayPal or a credit card, **including signing up for worry-free, automatic yearly renewal**. Curious? Visit [folkdance.com/join/register](http://folkdance.com/join/register) to start the experience, or read on.

## Online Payments.

Our online registration form guides you to choose whether you want to (1) make one annual dues payment or (2) enter a subscription to make automatic dues payments yearly. You enter your contact name and e-mail, the physical address where you want to receive *Let's Dance!*, and select your membership level. If your registration is a gift to someone (how generous of you!), there's a field to enter the name of the gifted person. Otherwise, enter the dance group or company name in that field.

If you would like to make a donation with your payment, enter a dollar value in the Optional Donation field. Please note that PayPal takes about 3% of your payment as a transaction fee, so consider adding an extra \$2-5 donation to offset that loss.

After completing the online registration, you will be directed to PayPal to complete the payment using your debit card, credit card, or PayPal account. When the transaction is completed, you will receive an e-mail with a summary of the information you entered from us and a transaction summary from PayPal.

## Subscribe for a Yearly Renewal.

**If you chose to subscribe to a recurring annual subscription, your dues will be charged each year automatically.** There is no need to repeat the process described above each year. If you wish to cancel next year's subscription at any time before dues are charged, you may do so by returning to PayPal and cancelling the subscription. A link is also provided on our website or in the confirmation e-mail.

## Pen and Ink are Still OK!

Of course you may still download a member application form from our website, complete it, then mail it to our Membership Chair with your check. All the information you enter online is the same as on the form you download. If, however, you want the convenience of making a payment from your mobile phone, laptop, or desktop computer and the satisfaction of instantly receiving confirmation that your payment was made, you now have that option as well!

## Why change?

Some members will remember using PayPal to make dues payments or donations to the Folk Dance Federation in the past. The problem with the old procedure was that our treasurer always had to guess what the payment was for if the member never added a memo. Imagine our treasurer wondering whether your last PayPal payment of \$63 was for dues, a donation, or both? With this process, we'll receive your registration information in a structured way. No need for sleuthing. We hope that this will also lighten the load of the Membership Chair because membership renewal will be automatic. No need to spend time and postage on reminder envelopes!

As always, if you have questions of or corrections for your Federation membership you may find answers on [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com) or send an email to [membership@folkdance.com](mailto:membership@folkdance.com) and ask.

Choose whether you would like to join for a single year or a recurring yearly subscription.

<b>SINGLE YEAR</b>	Pay one year's membership dues
<b>SUBSCRIBE</b>	Join for a yearly recurring subscription. Your dues will be billed automatically each year on your membership anniversary to your Paypal account. If you wish to cancel membership anytime before being billed for next year's subscription visit your <b>Paypal autopay settings</b> before your membership anniversary, select your "Folk Dance Federation" billing, then select "Cancel".

# Dance in a Time of Crisis

by Kevin Greek

In the enormity of how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting us, dance isn't at the top of the list: some among us are ill and dying, some are losing their places of shelter and income, and some are struggling to balance work with home-from-school children. Nevertheless, in times of crisis, culture brings us together when millions of people are physically separated from each other. When performing arts and leisure dance events have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely it only serves to remind us how much we rely on culture to bring us comfort, inspiration, and hope. Without an audience or venue artists and creators have lost their means as well.

Not that dance is any one thing or resides at any one address. It occurs in tiny rooms and public arenas, streets, stages, kitchens, studios... and virtually. Performing arts companies sought ways to stream performances online. Dance and fitness teachers found ways to stream classes and parties on social media as well, and are often donating sessions for free. Dance brings joy and healing. Here is a list of some recent ways it has been found since the crisis began:

Iranian Health Care Teams Dance to Boost Morale. With the emergence of the coronavirus in Iran, health care teams are not only treating patients, but doctors and nurses are trying to boost morale by posting videos of themselves dancing in a hospital environment. Either done individually or in groups, these videos have become a coronavirus dance challenge and new and more creative videos keep coming. If you have a chance to watch the videos you will see traditional Iranian folk and contemporary party dances performed in hazmat “bunny” suits with face masks. In one video, a nurse leads patients lying in hospital beds to raise their arms and clap with her. Other clips show teams dancing an exciting Kurdish halay or a Bandari dance from the Persian Gulf region.

In Iran, dancing in public can be punishable by law. This makes the dance videos ever more remarkable because they are recorded in Iran today. Of course, these videos do not appeal to everyone, and some Iranian tweeters denounced them as “disobedience.” Fortunately, the identity of most the dancers are hidden by masks and garb; however, I read that one nurse had been arrested. So far, it appears that the Iranian authorities are tolerating this “dance challenge,” and some video clips have been seen over 100,000 times on various social media.



Neighborhood Street Dance. Residents on a street in the United Kingdom are coming out of their houses daily for a socially-distanced communal dance session. A local fitness instructor came up with the idea after one of her neighbors said she missed her fitness class. Springbourne residents began stepping out to the street at 11 am, keeping a safe distance from one another, and doing 10 minutes of dance exercise. They dance to specially-chosen songs like “Dancing in the Street” and Tom Jones’s “It’s Not Unusual.”

Grandfather and Granddaughter Have Socially-Distant Dance-off. A first-grade girl is used to seeing her 80-year-old grandfather every day. The pair live across the street from each other and normally play together, take walks together, and do activities together at school. When coronavirus social-distancing began, they had to get creative to spend time together. In a popular internet video, they amuse and surprise themselves taking turns busting moves facing each other from opposite curbs of their street.

#ClubQuarantine Dance Party 100,000 Participants Strong. With so many Americans social distancing at home, DJ D-Nice, with nearly 700,000 Instagram followers, hosted a virtual party as he spun music from his home Friday and Saturday nights. Dubbed #ClubQuarantine, the virtual livestreams on Instagram attracted more than 100,000 participants, all collectively listening to music and dancing in their homes.

“TikTok Doctor” Makes Millions Smile with his Viral Dance Videos. Dr. Jason Campbell, a resident physician in Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) in Portland and on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic, has emerged as a social media star. He encourages his social media followers to stay healthy and hopeful during this unprecedented crisis with his dance videos. While performing the Cha-Cha slide to trendy TikTok challenges, he reminds us that one can have a little fun even while social distancing. Jason says he tries to do one video each day and each time his videos get thousands – sometimes millions – of views.

*continued on p. 21*



## Kamay Vurdum Yere

(Cappadocia, Kayseri, Turkey)

Kamay Vurdum Yere (kah-MAH-ee veer-DOOM yeh-REH) translates as “I struck my sword into the ground” in Turkish. The dance originates from Kayesri province (Kesaria in Greek) of Central Anatolia.

The region of Cappadocia in central Turkey had a thriving Greek community up until the forced Exchange of Populations of 1923-24. Cappadocia is associated most with early Christian history, the homeland of some important saints in the Orthodox church and famous for the numerous rock-hewn churches and monasteries, the ruins of which are found throughout the region. There were both Greek-speaking and Turkish-speaking communities among the Cappadocian Greeks, but in both cases, Turkish was the main language of song.

Both men and women may dance this, although it is traditionally more of a men’s dance. During the dance, it was not unusual to have two males with swords dancing in the middle of the dance space, walking, swinging, and striking swords in an improvised manner.

This dance was presented by Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi at the 2019 Stockton Folk Dance Camp at University of the Pacific.

Music: 4/4 Meter Contact Joe Graziosi for music

Video: 2019 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD or online access.  
Camp videos can be viewed by contacting a Camp participant who purchased it.

Formation: Lines of dancers close together, facing CCW. Left arm extends across chest so that hand, palm down and fingers curled, is on right shoulder. Right arm reaches forward, palm up, fingers curled, to join the hand of the dancer in front.

Steps & Styling: Small steps because dancers are close together.



Measures	4/4	PATTERN
2 meas	INTRODUCTION. No action.	
1	Facing and moving R (CCW), dance two steps (R, L) fwd (cts 1, 2); heavy step R fwd while swinging L to L then fwd (ct 3); step L fwd (ct 4).	
2	Repeat meas 1.	
3	Repeat meas 1, except touch L to L on ct 4.	
4	Facing R (CCW), small step L slightly bkwd to L diagonal with toe twd ctr, while bending slightly at the waist to L and backing up, (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); small step diagonally L slightly bkwd (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); touch L next to R (ct 4).	
5	Repeat meas 4.	
6	Repeat meas 4, except step L next to R.	

Sequence: Repeat as described above until the end of the music.

### Lyrics

From Cappadocian Greeks in Turkish language

Kamayı vurdum yere	I threw my dagger to the ground
Kanlının doldu dere	My blood filled the stream

Cappadocian version as performed by Vasilis Katsouras and friends from the collection of Joe Graziosi.

Ah mendil mendil mendil	Ah, handkerchief
Kaldır kolların mendil endir	Raise your arms up, put them down
Hep sözlerinin yalandır	Your words are all lies
Gir koyunuma inandır	Come to my breast and believe

Translated by Brenna MacCrimmon with input from Sumru Ağırürüyen for Mendocino Balkan Camp 2013

Çağrın anan mı gelsin?	When you call out is it for your mother?
Benim akrabam nere?	Where is my relative?

Kama çekerim kama	I have pulled out my dagger
Bir kız verin arkama	Give me a girl
Bir kız bana çok mudur	Is one girl too much for me
Ma'lenizde yök mu dur.	Don't you have any in your neighborhood?

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## HISTORY CHANNEL

### **The Origins Of Folkdance.Com**

Back in January of 1996, Joel Bruxvoort sent a letter to the Board of the Folk Dance Federation that began:

**I am writing to volunteer to create a World Wide Web site on the internet on behalf of the Folk Dance Federation of California. ....**

And that was how it began – an offer by a member that put [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com) at the forefront of the digital age. Joel created the Federation's first website, including a user form for posting events, and a database of information about dances. What an undertaking that was, and in age when web pages were coded a line at a time (no drag-and-drop in those days)! For a look at the letter Joel wrote, visit [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com) and look under the About Us tab, then History.

Loui Tucker took over the management of the website in 2004 as part of her mission as the incoming president of the Federation. She continued to manage the website when her term ended, and turned it over to Kevin Greek, the current website manager, in 2017. Among other changes, Kevin used cutting-edge web design software to make the site compatible with mobile devices as well as computer screens.

And now the exciting news: **The Federation's website, [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com), has been valued by GoDaddy (the hosting company) at \$6,983.** How did they come up with that amount? GoDaddy Domain Appraisals provides an estimate of a website using their own algorithm that combines machine learning with real-market sales data. GoDaddy manages millions of domains and are also the largest aftermarket name seller. If you actually tried to sell the domain name on the open market, you could get less, and you could get a lot more! Just for a little comparison:

trump.com -- over \$25,000
depression.com -- over \$25,000
metaphysics.com -- \$24,195
squaredance.com -- \$10,315

selfworth.com -- \$8,844
rubberducky.com -- \$8,607
toiletroll.com -- \$2,237



## Dance in a Time of Crisis — continued

Spontaneous Dance Solo at Noon. One Friday I received a call on Facebook to stop whatever I was doing for a spontaneous dance on the balcony, front porch, driveway, etc. at 12 noon on Saturday, with or without music. The request was broadcast by friend and Persian dance artist and instructor Shahrzad Khorsandi. Since it came from a bona-fide dance authority, it had to be done. She later sent a video of her enthusiastically jumping and waving her arms with perfect hand styling outside in the rain. By the comments collected on Facebook, the moment appeared to be shared by a dance legion.

No Chocolate Needed. Healthcare workers at the Hershey Children's Hospital were seen taking dance breaks to boost morale. In a video showcasing the Pediatric Intermediate Care unit, the group was seen dancing to "We are Family." It was shared on Facebook with the caption "Sorry, coronavirus, you can't take away our sunshine."

If you are a dancer or dance leader you can do a lot during this crisis to improve morale and community!

Consider online classes and gatherings for closed dance studios and halls. Many studios not only quickly explored the option of teaching recital choreography or classes online, but many put it into action in less than two weeks.

Ramp up your social media presence to foster a sense of community during closure. Use innovation to bring your community together during this time of separation. Use a Facebook group for your dance community and invite them to upload content to the page based on themes like dance challenges. Dance with others if you can, but practice *physical* distancing, not *social* distancing. Whether streaming live or recorded, it is a real mood booster seeing the friends you miss sharing what you enjoy.

Be the leader. Every crisis is an opportunity. It's stressful to be a leader when you have to respond to an evolving situation outside your control. Focus on what you can do, communicate with clarity and compassion, make the best possible choices, and remove negative thoughts.

Put your own oxygen mask on first. Attitude will shape this experience for us. To survive this and make the best decisions, we need to remain healthy and whole. It's not just about washing hands and social distancing. Get plenty of sleep. Connect with

loved ones. Take time out in nature. Eat well. Enjoy music, prayer, and dance. Make sure you give *yourself* whatever you need to feel good. Your bucket needs to stay as full as possible so you can share the goodness with others.

Conclusion. Movement soothes, alleviates stress, moves emotion through and out. We need that now more than ever. We can't be certain how long the stay-at-home order will remain in effect, but we will continue to find ways to dance until we reach the other side of this.

To see videos of healthcare workers, families, neighborhoods, and ordinary people boosting joy and morale by dancing, visit the blog at [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com), under the Community tab/News and Views.

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## THE TIMELINE CHALLENGE

Can you put the events below in order by date? You don't need to know the precise date; you just need to create a correct timeline. Email your timeline to [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) or [loui@loutitucker.com](mailto:loui@loutitucker.com). Because this is a two-month issue, and readers may still be sheltering in place, there will be plenty of time to do the research. Some of the answers are in this issue, while others will be found on various websites. The TENTH respondent gets a \$25 gift card. Time starts NOW!



- A. Zemer Atik was first introduced
- B. Bruce Mitchell was Folk Dance Federation President
- C. [Folkdance.com](http://Folkdance.com) debuted on the web
- D. First Kolo Festival
- E. Ada, Jas, and Basia Dzienanowski appeared on the cover of *Let's Dance*
- F. First Stockton Folk Dance Camp
- G. National Folk Organization was founded
- H. Changs was founded by Song Chang
- I. Yves Moreau's first time on the staff of Stockton Folk Dance Camp
- J. Folk Dance Federation became a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

# A TALE OF TWO FESTIVALS

One that happened....

## LAGUNA FESTIVAL

(otherwise known as “The Last Festival When We All Got to Dance Together in Public”)

by Valerie Daley

How blessed we were to have the Laguna Folk Dance Festival (March 6-8) slip tidily under the wire before the virus door slammed! And what an amazing time was had!

I offer a low bow with arms outspread to Lee Otterholt and his amazing crew for pulling it all together, shifting, swaying with triple steps and mega leaps, yet making it work out so joyfully for all! Having Yves and France Moreau teaching, leading, and dancing with us was about as close to heaven as it gets for me, and I know I wasn't alone there in heaven!

Aaron Alpert! What a thrill! He is a jewel! Those of us who had opportunities to dance with him at Stockton Folk Dance Camp or elsewhere already knew that, but what a wonderful showcase for him to be seen by so many others at the Laguna Festival. I am willing to wager that this Laguna exposure of his dancing/teaching/material will snag some extra campers to Stockton Folk Dance Camp!

Lee taught a “stir the pot, hang the laundry” Albanian dance that was such great fun, and now we have another dance to play with our scarves!

Tom Bozigian made a cameo appearance and was, as ever, clear, precise and had us all dancing with him and Cheree in no time at all, but it was over way too soon! (Tom and Cheree will be available for California workshops in October!)

The bands did a great job! Everybody did a great job!

The National Folk Organization's annual conference was held the three days before (I couldn't get off work to be there), and many of my dancing friends from the NFO stayed for the Laguna Festival, which was such a joy for me.

Having the Brigham Young University students, staff, and alumni with us just shot the joy through the roof for me! What a weekend!

Now that we are stuck inside our own homes, it is fantastic to have these the many opportunities to see

each other using Zoom and Facebook! Many thanks to all the teachers and organizers for testing these strange waters and making it possible for us to see each other and virtually dance together.

The crowd at the Laguna Festival.

Photo by W. Chiang



Jill and Jay Michtom at the Laguna Festival. Jay is the Coordinator/Editor of the *Folk Dance Scene*, the Southern California Federation's version of *Let's Dance!* Photo by W. Chiang





.....and one, a week later, that didn't.

## SAN ANTONIO FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

(or "How the COVID19 shut down the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival the night before it started.")

by Kathy Molga

For the past 61 years, the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival (SAFDF) has run like clockwork, from its Children's Fun Arts Day on the Wednesday just prior to the official start of the Festival on Friday afternoon, through dancing on Sunday evening at Demos Greek Restaurant. The committee members work tirelessly to plan the SAFDF Festival and Concert and it all comes together to make a grand dancing weekend for all the festival goers. It was supposed to happen this year March 13-16.

Then came the 62nd festival. Performers were ready to dance at the Saturday evening concert, and Lee Otterholt, Ventzi Sotirov and Andy Taylor-Blenis had flown to San Antonio. The committee gathered for a special night-before-the-event dinner.

Earlier in the day, Our Lady of the Lake University gave the SAFDF Committee the bad news that they had to shut down their beautiful hall for dancing so as not to spread the COVID19 virus. But wait - the committee were able to find an alternate hall to rent! Then, as the committee, teachers, and friends sat down to eat their pre-festival dinner, the call came in that the alternate dance hall was in trouble. By the time dessert was served, the call came in shattering all hopes for that second dance venue. At 9:00 that evening before the festival was to begin, the committee unanimously, and with great remorse, made an executive decision to cancel the Festival.

That night, the committee worked again to ensure that the teachers had excellent accommodations and could take the earliest flights back home. The following afternoon the committee, in its usual style, treated all the people who had travelled from out of state to a farewell dinner. Everyone present at that dinner felt so fortunate to be part of this dedicated folk dance family, knowing that we

would do this all again next year!



OH NO! It's been cancelled! Lee Otterholt and Ping Chun are dismayed! Photo by P. Chun.

The committee's wish for all the dancers who made their reservations for this year's festival is to stay safe and healthy so you can join us again for SAFDF 2021!

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