

# Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  OCTOBER 2020



More on p. 6!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

# *Let's Dance!*

Volume 77, No. 8

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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

153 Race Street

San Jose, California 95126

## **Join now:** Membership rates:

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Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

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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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## **WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS**

Francis Chamberlain – Napa

Hannah Caratti – Santa Rosa

Wendy Brown – San Francisco

Cristina Tso – Taiwan (!)

Linda Hershenson – Pacifica

Laura Richardson – Sunnyvale



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

Our membership drive appears to be working! New members are announced in each issue of *Let's Dance!* inside the front cover. We typically average two new members per month. In the past 12 months we added ten new members, which just about kept us up with the number we lost. In July we posted **five new members**, including one couple. Check the inside front cover and you'll see we also added **six new members** in August! If this trend continues, the Federation could soon be once again up to 400 line entries (not members) in our database, which hasn't happened since before 2009! The new members are from all over... the South Bay, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, East Bay, and one from Taiwan. Spread the word about joining the Folk Dance Federation. Let's make this happen!



In this pandemic many of us are nostalgic for the old normal. We want to get back to our favorite "coffee shop" or restaurant, church service, and folk dance communities. Some of us find ourselves sorting through old pictures, scrapbooks, and cassette or VHS tapes.

I recently came across pictures and home movies of where my folk dance journey began. I was six years old. A family friend was teaching Irish step dancing, which I took to like a fish to water. The same family discovered international folk dancing by joining a group in the Los Angeles area called The Westchester Lariats. I started folk dancing too.

From age seven to eighteen, I learned and performed dances from all over the world, as well as tango, swing, waltz, and square dancing. We put on shows and traveled each summer around the United States (including Hawaii), Canada, or Europe. Most of this took place in the 1960s during a time when folk dancing was so popular that children had to try out to join clubs like The Westchester Lariats. This was a time when many schools taught folk dancing, square dancing, and ballroom dancing. This was a time when college age kids were traveling (hitchhiking) all over Europe and the United States and bringing home their experiences.

Following a thirty year break while I attended college (folk dancing was not offered in the 70s at

USF and I didn't know Changs existed), raised my daughter, and then taught elementary school, I found the Berkeley Folk Dancers. It's actually more like they found me.

I was outside a bank in my neighborhood and met Mel Mann, a longtime member of Berkeley Folk Dancers, showing off his electric bicycle to a bank teller. I was trying to just listen but found myself drawn into the conversation. The teller informed me Mel was a folk dancer and I couldn't resist sharing my story. He invited me to give Berkeley Folk Dancers a try. The rest is history. I felt as if I'd come home.

My love and joy of folk dancing in the summers came alive again when I attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp for the first time in 2014. I felt like a teenager again, going away from home, eating in a cafeteria, sleeping in the dorm with a roommate, staying up late, and dancing. I missed Stockton so very much this summer and look forward to camp in 2021!

Unfortunately, this year's Federation event, The Officers Ball planned for October, has been cancelled. The theme was going to be "Together Again" because we hoped by then we would be!

As we look forward to dancing together again in the (not too distant!) future, let us express gratitude, be kind to ourselves, and keep dancing. We're in this together. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of folk dancing again!

**Perhaps some of you have a story or two to share about how you became part of the folk dance community. Send them to me – I'd love to hear!**

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

# Calendar of Events

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

- October 23-25 **FOLKLORE VILLAGE VIRTUAL ANNUAL FALL SWEDISH DANCE AND MUSIC FESTIVAL** 2 pm Friday-3:30 pm Sunday, on Zoom. \$100 registration fee for access to all events. There will be a variety of dance and music classes including non-partner Scandinavian dances. The weekend begins with some fun and interesting information about Hovra, Sweden. Visit [www.folklorevillage.org](http://www.folklorevillage.org) for more information and to register.
- October 25 **SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER.** 3-5:30 pm on Zoom. Sponsored by the Moveable Feet club. Donations can be made at [fundraise.shfb.org/goto/MoveableFeet](https://fundraise.shfb.org/goto/MoveableFeet). This event is in honor of Federation Past-President Lucy Chang who held a fundraiser through her Moveable Feet club for her favorite charity, Second Harvest Food Bank, in the fall of each year. Instead of collecting cans and checks, only funds will be raised this year. Over \$2300 was raised last year and the need for food in the Bay Area has doubled since the pandemic began. The Zoom link will be available in mid-October on the Second Harvest webpage, Facebook, and [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com). Info: [hollisradin@pacbell.net](mailto:hollisradin@pacbell.net)
- December 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY.** 10 pm-12:30 am, on Zoom. The later start is to allow dancers to share dinner with friends outdoors and then dance. Watch for the Zoom link in mid-December on Facebook and [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com). Further details to be announced. Info: [hollisradin@pacbell.net](mailto:hollisradin@pacbell.net)

For more virtual dance events by leaders outside California, visit [daleadamson.com](http://daleadamson.com).

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

- Loui Tucker, Editor, at [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) or [loui@louisutucker.com](mailto:loui@louisutucker.com)
- Kevin Greek, Federation Website Manager, [greek1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:greek1@ix.netcom.com)
- The Federation's Google Groups at [FDF-CA@googlegroups.com](mailto:FDF-CA@googlegroups.com)

## CORRECTIONS

In last month's issue Linda Hershenson's last name was misspelled (as Henderson) in her contribution to the San Francisco Dance Groups' News From Around the Bay.

In addition, in the notice about the answer to the prior month's Photo Challenge, it was stated that no one submitted the correct answers – which was incorrect. Dwight Fine submitted the correct answers, but those answers were filed in the wrong folder and forgotten. Read more about Dwight on p. 13.



# Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2021-23



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2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2022

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

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

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

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

2023

**GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND**

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

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

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

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

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

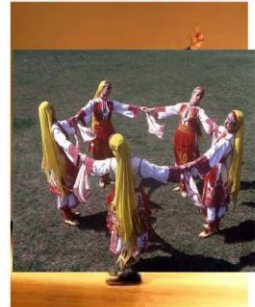
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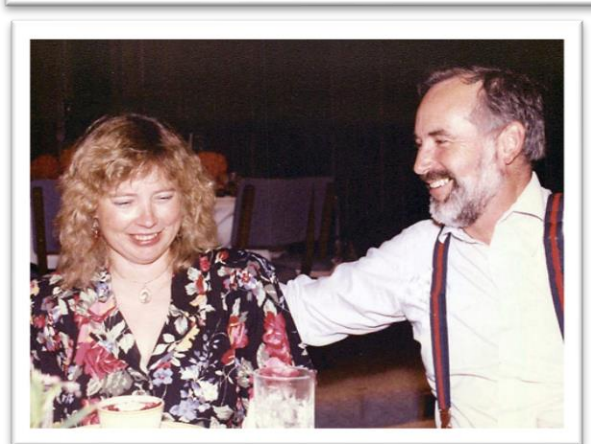
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# THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

*More Then and Now photos that didn't make it on the cover.*



# PANDEMIC POSITIVES AND RECONNECTIONS

by Denise Heenan

As Martha Awdziewicz so colorfully described in the September issue of *Let's Dance!*, COVID-19 has produced unexpected benefits.

I spotted a comment by Rosemarie Keough on Zoom Chat during a virtual event, and she and I reconnected, sharing news of our current lives and reminiscing about our first meeting on Yves Moreau's Trakya trip in 2008. She shared a photo of her Salt Spring Island (Canada) dancers meeting at her home, dancing outside while social distancing, and enjoying a beautiful view of the water. Roberto Bagnoli joined us during this series of emails when Ellie Wiener reminded us of the wonderful visit we all had at Rosemarie's home on this beautiful island between Vancouver Island and the mainland, in British Columbia, Canada. Rosemarie plans to move dancing indoors to her basement as the weather cools. She now has contact information for Tony Canavarro (who maintains Stockton Camp's wonderful wood floors) to help her create a wood floor for her space.

Being an old-timer at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, I was invited to participate in Stockton Memories, one of the Zoom 'assemblies' during Stockton's virtual camp in July. Loui Tucker, our dedicated archivist, gathered photos from the first Stockton Camp in 1948 onward. During the presentation, she showed the big group photo from 1969, my first year. A face jumped off the screen at me – that's Ed Stern! Perhaps it was the green badges we first-time campers had to wear back then that connected us and led to our friendship. I got Ed Stern's email from Paul Collins, another person I found on Zoom Chat, and my friendship with Ed Stern has been renewed!

During our email reminiscing, I reminded Ed of a particular Morris Dance performance I recalled in which he participated, and he responded:

History and more history! The Morris performance at Stockton Camp – ah, such nostalgic memories that evoked! That performance happened in 1972, the year Nibs Matthews, an English dance specialist, was on the teaching staff. Around 1969, a small square dance group run by Paul Collins in Chicago evolved into a Morris team that lasted several years. The Chicago Morris group lost several members in 1971, including me, when I moved to Minneapolis. By chance several of us discovered we were going to Stockton in 1972, and we had a reunion of sorts.

Every afternoon Nibs spent time working with us out on the grass, and it turned out that there were two good Morris musicians in Camp, so we had live music. It was lots of fun. Nibs was in charge of organizing an English-themed party that year, and he invited us to do a performance. It was so hot! I'm sure I almost passed out. But, honestly, it was the most euphoric experience I've ever had. I had almost no recollection of being on the ground, only of being in the air during the dances, and I think I was non-stop giggling for a day and a half afterwards.

Although we may not connect over miles and time, many of us have made friends through folk dance and our Stockton experiences. Virtual camp has been more satisfying than many of us expected; however, we hope to be dancing together in person in 2021.

Morris dancing performance at Stockton Camp in 1972. Ed is the third man from the right (he had grown a beard). *Photo by A. Smith.*



Ed Stern in 1969.  
*Photo by A. Smith*





# More Pandemic Positives

by Nancy Gerston

I'm learning how to paint with watercolors. I've never done any art in my life and never thought I could, but here I am learning something I probably never would have learned if it weren't for COVID! I'm learning from YouTube videos and Zoom classes. Of course, I'm also zoom dancing but looking forward to the day we can all dance again together!

by Wendy Brown

Just last week I was talking about some silver linings! For me, it has allowed me to set free my inner Martha Stewart by delving even deeper into my crafts projects. Since March, I've finished four quilts, completed two quilt tops, made progress on four others, and sewed a baby blanket. I've knit half a dozen string bags. I finished a needlepoint project for the first time in decades.



Wendy Brown's quilt.



Watercolor by Nancy Gerston

I've also taken time to learn new skills. I was learning Romanian for about 4 months (but put that on hold), I've been playing the ukulele with Melanie, and am about to learn how to weave.

The cloud to this silver lining? Where am I going to put all these items when they're completed?

by Anne Frazier

A positive consequence for me of the restrictions required during the COVID-19 pandemic is the discovery of my inner cook/baker. Pre-COVID-19, I was working full-time and taking classes three days a week. With the rest of my busy social life, my meals were mostly sandwiches, heated cans of soup, microwaved dinners, and take-out. It's not that I didn't want to cook. I bought cookbooks, clipped recipes from magazines, and printed recipes off cooking website – but I could only find the time 2-3 times a month to actually try one.

In late March, my work hours were reduced and moved to my home (bye-bye 30 minute commute!), and all my classes were cancelled. I suddenly had time, lots and lots of free time!

I baked bread and cinnamon rolls and donuts and pretzel bites. I tried 5-6 new recipes a week: pasta from scratch with freshly made marinara sauce, enchiladas and sopapillas, falafel in my own pita, several varieties of dim sum, apple strudel, roti, and paella! I canned tomatoes and peaches, and pickled ginger and cucumbers.

Yes, I miss dancing, although I Zoom-dance with Roberto Bagnoli (thank you!) twice a week. As it turned out, however, my kitchen has been a source of unexpected joy.

by Crista McGowan

Seeing my family on Skype, talking more with my neighbors, seeing the mail lady every day. This is most helpful. Just spending more time with the ones who mean the most to me, whether it's virtual or in person. I had a small dinner party with three friends, socially distanced, of course.

*continued on p. 12*



# GLOBAL KOLO FESTIVAL 2020

FRI & SAT, NOVEMBER 27 & 28

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



## All your old favorites ...

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- Singing Classes
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- Instrumental Jam Sessions
- Kefanas
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- Culture Corners

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

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- Turkey ■ United States of America ■

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



# KoloFestival

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

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

## **PENINSULA COUNCIL** – *Adony Beniares*

The **Annual Second Harvest Fundraiser** was one of Lucy Chang's favorite projects. The Moveable Feet Team decided to host an online version this year. Go to [fundraise.shfb.org/goto/MoveableFeet](https://fundraise.shfb.org/goto/MoveableFeet) to make your donation (no cans can be accepted). This has been a very difficult year for many Bay Area residents. Second Harvest Food Bank has doubled (from 250,00 to 500,000) the number of families it feeds each month. Please be generous.

Join the celebratory party on **Sunday, October 25** on Zoom. Check the Second Harvest site above or folkdance.com for the Zoom meeting number and password in mid-October. Early donors will have their requests included on the program. In the Moveable Feet tradition, both advanced Balkan dances and mixers will be included. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net.

**The Thursday night class in Saratoga continues to meet in person.** Each class is 12 -15 people, with more than 20 people having tried it out. The class is learning how to dance with masks and social distancing as a new part of the folk dance etiquette. If you're in the area, grab your mask and go dancing in person!

Given the feedback from our participants, as long as we're not dancing in person, the **monthly Peninsula Council Bay Area parties** will be held on the second Sunday of each month, from 3-5:30 pm. Once we can go back to dancing in person, we'll shift some parties back to our long-time Saturday evening schedules.

The Peninsula Council runs two different parties per month. The **monthly Peninsula Council Parties** (for more than 30 years), celebrates local dance and dance leaders. While we welcome everyone to attend, we will focus on Bay Area happenings and dance leaders at these **second Sunday parties**.

The **Global Folk Dance Party** (which began in March of this year), is for everyone everywhere. We'll continue to hold this on the **third Saturday of each month** and look forward to continuing to have dancers, teachers, and dance leaders from around the world.

Since March, the extended Peninsula Council team has put on more than 100 hours of online folk dance classes, events, and get-togethers. If you're interested in getting your group going online, but don't know where to start, or have any questions, please reach out to us at [pfldparty@gmail.com](mailto:pfldparty@gmail.com) and we'd be happy to share what we've learned. In addition, we're continuing our **"Anybody Can Learn to Lead and MC" Program**. If you're interested in being a dance leader or MC, please email us and we'd love to have you join us.

## **SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS** – *Linda Milhoan*

**Changs International Folk Dancers** continue to meet via Zoom on Friday. After dancing, our session continues with a group visit. Each week one of our members acts as a moderator, allowing us all to check in with one another. We welcome our friends in the dance community and those new to folk dance to join us online. Contact: [garciamill1@att.net](mailto:garciamill1@att.net).

**After 83 years, folk dance at City College of San Francisco is still here!** The program has inspired many students to continue dancing in community folk dance groups and has an enduring relationship with Changs International Folk Dancers. Previous teachers in this program were Gloria Dunn, Vera Spencer, Lili Felias, Laurine Bergin, Grace Nichols, Alice Rhine, Mylie Furgis, Gail Barton and Marguerite Fishman.

As has happened at many colleges over the years, folk dance was cut from the CCSF schedule for Spring 2020. Usually these classes do not make a comeback. Amazingly, folk dance was brought back again for the Fall 2020 semester and ended up being offered online due to the pandemic. In August 2020 the course was almost canceled due to low enrollment, but thanks to the folk dance community, a sufficient number of new and experienced dancers enrolled in the course and it is now progressing through the semester online via Zoom sessions, videos, articles and discussions.

Long-time folk dancer Linda Cain is assisting Jeanne-Marie Hughes, PhD, who teaches the course, which goes until mid-December. We are hoping for a Spring 2021 folk dance class to begin in January. For further information on joining our class in 2021, please contact Jeanne Hughes at [jmhughes5678@gmail.com](mailto:jmhughes5678@gmail.com).



# ... AND BEYOND

**SACRAMENTO** – *Barbara Bevan*

**What a difference a year makes!** August 25, 2019, was a beautiful, sunny (okay, and hot) day in Sacramento. Friends Denise and Elizabeth rode with Hadi and me to the Wolterbeeks' outdoor dance deck in Shingle Springs for the Sacramento Council's annual Membership Potluck and Dance Party. We danced under the stars and the sheep bleated "baah baah". It was a fun event with good food and many friends.

Fast forward one year to August 29, 2020. Our **Membership Party was held on (you guessed it) Zoom!** No barbecue, no stars, no sheep... but we still had fun!

Glynis Hawley was the host. Toba Goddard, unable to dance as she recovers from knee replacement, coordinated the dance requests. Our dance leaders were Jordan Uggla and Megan Wolf, Glynis Hawley and Andy Kacsmar, Yvonne and Andre Couvillion, Bruce Mitchell, Barbara Linderholm, George Fairbrook, Dragan Djordjevic, Judy Kropp, Julie East, and Lise Svedberg.

**Other Zoom classes are emerging.** Dances of the World meets Sundays 3-6 pm led by Yvonne and Lise. Kolo Coalition meets Wednesdays 8-10 pm, led by Glynis and Andy, Dragan, Robert Null, and Sharon Hulten. Zoom has become very important to all of us. The massive fires in late August meant we couldn't even wisely walk or jog outside due to the unhealthy air. We have to adapt to this strange world we now share. Stay well, dance friends, and be optimistic that we can dance together again soon!

Many of us in Sacramento are very sad about **Denise Lucero's serious condition** with breast cancer. She chose not to have surgery or chemotherapy. A few dancers have been to visit her in Stockton and report that she is very weak. The last we heard was that her daughter, grandson, and possibly other family members are with her. Denise has been an avid folk dancer for decades and has taught many dances. She has attended festivals and classes all over California. We all miss her and hope for the best.

**KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS** – *Susie Shoaf*

**It's Friday, August 28.** and time for another **virtual dance night for Kopachka Folk Dancers**, our sixth, with an all requests program this time. As has been the case for the past six months, I'm all alone in my living room. Still it's nice to connect with our extended dance family, even on screen. Dancing has been such an integral part of my life and this is my way of keeping it going. For those wondering what it's like to set up an online dance event, or contemplating doing your own, here's a rundown from my perspective.

Prep for our night means first reaching out for requests from the roughly 40 Kopachka members and friends from the Bay Area and beyond who join us. It's all about the community spirit. Many may not even be dancing, but they tune in to see everyone and hear the familiar music.

Once we have the request list, Nadav and I add dances we'd like to lead, then Nadav puts together the playlist order just before going live. We've invited Jane to lead a couple of dances this week too. There will be no teaching tonight. In two weeks, we'll have another teaching session, alternating with requests every second week. We make sure we're all set to teach or lead.

Then it's furniture moving time: rugs rolled up, coffee table pushed out of way, chairs moved, reading lights focused on dance space, curtains drawn,

*Continued on p. 12*

Denise Lucero  
2018. *Photo by*  
*M. Rayman.*



**NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY** *continued*  
computer brought down from upstairs and hooked up to TV. I also place all the files for the dances we're going to do on my computer screen's desktop to make them easier to play during the dancing (no files to scroll through). I print the list of dances, so we know who is up next. Water glass and hand fan ready.

At 7 pm, I log into Zoom, do a sound check for levels and space check to see boundaries of where my head gets cut off, rather than my feet! I greet guest leaders, if any, and decide who will post on chat the dance names each time. (FYI, I taped a sheet of the many calls for U Šest on my mantel for easy referral!)

At 7:15 pm, dancers start coming onto Zoom to chat. I explain gallery vs. speaker view, chat and mute buttons. 7:30 pm is start time, but we wait a few more minutes for more dancers to come. I remind everyone to mute themselves and put questions in chat rather than unmuting because it can override the music.

Then we begin and it's non-stop for 1.5 hours, remembering to change spotlight between leaders, post dance names on chat, and monitor chat for questions. Sometimes faster dances can lose syncing capacity with music, so turning off WiFi and reconnecting can help. It's not a perfect set-up, but we seem to draw a happy group from as far off as Boston and New Zealand! Nadav and I switch after two dances each, which helps provide our own down time. We've now actually started recording the video for posterity!

Another virtual dance with many of our favorite dances and many of our favorite dancers! We'll plan

to keep these going, about twice a month. We're lucky we can do this, as it will be awhile before we can hold hands and dance together inside. We're still a community of dancers at heart after all.

Hope to see you on the virtual 'folk' dance floor.

### **NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman**

We've been dancing virtually these days. I'm teaching a virtual Israeli class on Sunday mornings and a Balkan/International class on Monday nights.

These classes are no longer linked to geography. Zoom has made it possible for folks who did not want to drive to Petaluma at night to join in. It means I get to see and dance with friends from The Land who live in the South Bay. One of my former students who took my very first classes in Point Reyes Station but now lives in Seattle, is dancing with us as well. We expect to be dancing virtually for a long time.

Over Labor Day weekend I was asked to lead two Balkan folk dance sets at the virtual Land Dancers Labor Day Weekend on Saturday, September 5. This twice-a-year reunion (the other is over Memorial Day Weekend) means so much to me and to the many people who gather to dance in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Thankfully the awful fires that swept through California, and the Santa Cruz Mountains in particular, spared The Land where we dance.

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

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## **More Pandemic Positive** *continued*

*by Marilyn Smith*

In the fall of 1970, I taught my first folk dance class at Santa Rosa Jr. College through the Adult Education program. Within a couple of years, it became a credit class transferable to both the CSU and UC systems. Who knew that this year I'd be celebrating 50 years of teaching! Of course, this year I'll be conducting my class online with Zoom. The big 50 year celebration party will have to wait until we can finally dance together in person. The most important thing to me is that I will still be able to share those dances from our class this spring that I didn't get to teach due to my classes being suspended because of the pandemic. I'll also enjoy teaching some of the new dances from this year's virtual Stockton camp.

I can't count how many people I have taught over these 50 years, but one thing I know is that many of those dancers are still in my life. There is one person currently dancing with me who has danced with me all 50 years!

Though dancing on Zoom has had its challenges, it has also enabled us to meet each week and dance and celebrate birthdays (with the grandchildren of the birthday girl joining in on that occasion), a chance to see a new baby in our folk dance family and be reunited with dancers who have moved out of the area and even to another country. One week we had three generations of one family join us from both the Bay Area and Southern California – which could only be possible with Zoom. That brought a lot of joy to everyone that night.

Until we can feel safe dancing in person, we will find joy in these weekly Zoom sessions because at times like this, we need to dance.



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



Can you identify them? The photo was taken in 1997 and they played a big part in the history of the Federation. The **FOURTH** person to send an email with the correct answer to [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) or [loui@loutucker.com](mailto:loui@loutucker.com) wins a \$20 gift card.



## WE HAVE A WINNER!

The last *Let's Dance!* Challenge was won by Federation Past-President Craig Blackstone. He was the sixth person to correctly identify Karen Wilson-Bell and Dick Rawson in the photo above. Congratulations, Craig!

The photo was identified by Karen herself as having been taken at a festival in Fresno "many years ago."

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## THE 2020-21 FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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

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

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

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

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

# International Folk Dancing in the Central Valley

by Judy Kropp

Don and I have been dancing together since we met in 1962 at a German Oktoberfest in San Francisco. We found it was a social activity we could do together where we could meet people while we exercised to interesting music. We started a group in the Central Valley about 20 years ago and now teach dance every Friday night, September through May, at the Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock. In 2011 we received an award from the Stanislaus Arts Council for Excellence in Dance.

We are so lucky to live near University of the Pacific, Stockton, where a major folk dance “camp” has been held every year since 1948. The Camp is a week of dance lessons taught by a staff of world class teachers who are trained and have performed professionally in their own countries. Greek, Bulgarian, Romanian, Swedish, Irish, Albanian, Israeli, Japanese, Russian, Scottish, English, Brazilian, Canadian, and American folk dances are just a few that have been taught through the years. At the Camp, we can dance from 8 in the morning until 2 the next morning if we want. There are lectures, costume parades, dance parties, talent shows, and more. It’s a full week that’s repeated the following week for another group plus some hardy individuals who attend both weeks.

This year, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the Camp was virtual and conducted on Zoom. Most of the teachers who had been hired agreed to teach via Zoom. The camp started at 3 pm each day July 11-19, with two additional broadcasts for dancers in Europe and Asia! On the last night, Camp officially ended at 8 pm, but was followed by a virtual after-party that went on through the night. Roberto Bagnoli taught from Rome, Aaron Alpert from San Mateo, Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion from Montreal, Tineke van Geel from Holland, Ahmet Lüleci from Boston, and Richard Powers from Stanford. Among the festivities, the Camp celebrated the 10th wedding anniversary of Cristian and Sonia who had been married in 2010 during Camp that year at the Greek Orthodox Church in Stockton. It was fun to see photos of that wonderful event, the dancing, the costumes, and the friends (some who have passed away) who were at camp that year.

This year, Don and I attended Camp via Zoom, and used my laptop to learn the dances that were presented. We also watched an interesting lecture on the history of the Cancan, and one on the lives of our Dutch teachers. There were cooking shows featuring Israeli and Turkish dishes. Game shows, puzzle contests, Balkan singing and ukulele lessons rounded out the week. It wasn’t as much fun as going to Camp, but it was a wonderful way to see so many people we knew and to learn from some of our favorite teachers.

Don’s first year at Stockton camp was 1949 when he was in high school. He had been dancing with a folk dance group in Lodi and received a 2-week scholarship to attend Stockton Camp. I first saw folk dancing in college in 1959. While I sat having lunch on a grassy hill, couples came out of the gym and started to dance a hambo to lively Swedish music. I was transfixed. How could they do that? It never occurred to me that I could ever learn. I was living in Berkeley when I met Don and he invited me to a local Israeli group. I was hooked from the first step. I first attended Stockton Camp on a scholarship in 1964. Over the years, Don and I have attended more than 20 times.

We moved from San Jose to Oakdale in 1971 and we joined the Modesto Folk Dancers, lead by Floyd Davis and his dance partner, Barbara Summers, that danced at Graceada Park in the summer and at a private home during the winter. When we assumed the leadership of the group, we renamed it the Village Dancers and now dance every Friday night at the Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock. The performance group meets every Monday night in Ceres.

The Village Dancers are taught by six teachers and we draw people from several counties. Our performance group usually has 8-10 performances a year for local clubs. Because of the virus, we no longer dance in person, but we have a Zoom class that meets Sunday afternoons from 3-4:30. I miss the energy of a room full of people moving together to music, but the wonderful advantage to Zoom is distance is not a factor to seeing friends. We have reconnected to people who used to dance with us but who have moved away to Hawaii, the East Coast, England, Oregon, Chico, and Pleasanton, as well as all over the Central Valley.

The wonderful thing about dance is that it brings the world to me. We attend the Greek festival in Stockton and can dance all night. We dance with the Chinese and Cambodians during their New Year celebrations. We’ve performed for Assyrian and Scandinavian festivals, for the Scottish Games and at Oktoberfests. When we travel abroad, we look up dance groups where we meet locals. They ask, “Where did you learn to do our dances?” We answer, “Stockton, California.”



Don and Judy Kropp. Photo by Anila.



# FROM THE EDITOR

## Meet Dwight Fine, One of My Folk Dance Connections

This issue has focused on a few of the positive side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most contributors wrote about interesting connections made with old friends via Zoom events. I'd like to share an interesting connection I've made as a result of being the editor of *Let's Dance!* magazine.

Someone once commented that, if my first name were an acronym for anything it should be "Lots Of Useful Information." I receive so many emails asking for contact information for A, photos of B, details about dancing in C, videos of X, music for Y, or the dance description for Z. If I don't have the information at hand, I can usually figure out how to get it. When I send or receive such information, I make a connection.

The connection with Dwight Fine came about because of the September 2018 issue of *Let's Dance!* which had a photo on the cover of Jerry Washburn, a folk dance teacher who appeared seemingly out of nowhere. She'd been teaching in East Bay parochial schools for decades and, when she died, her students and school communities took up a collection and made a large donation to the Folk Dance Federation in her name. Because I'd never heard of Jerry, I did my research and wrote an article about her. When that issue appeared, Dwight Fine got in touch. Dwight had been at Stockton decades ago when he and Jerry both attended, remembered her very well ("Such a lovely person and dancer"), and provided additional information about her. With his help I was eventually able to track down a photo of her from that time period.

Dwight dropped back into my life a few months ago when Stockton Camp's virtual program was about to start. He had questions about using Facebook and, having attended Stockton Camp 21 times (!) between 1961 and 1997, was looking forward to seeing reminders of what he used to enjoy so much. In his email, he mentioned in passing, "While I'm here, I'll hazard a guess at the archival photo for this month. Is it John Filcich, Edith Cuthbert, and Vyts Beliajus?" The answer was

correct, of course, but I filed his email in my Stockton folder instead of my Let's Dance folder. That's why I made the mistake of writing in the September issue that nobody had been able to identify all three people in the photo. Dwight got in touch and rightfully scolded me. Sorry, Dwight!

All that prompted me to find out more about Dwight and the 21 years he'd attended Stockton.

Dwight just turned 87, and his involvement with folk dancing began in the late 50s, as a graduate student at UC Berkeley. His first teacher was Walter Grothe who taught Friday night sessions at International House where Dwight was living. During his final year he became involved with the UC Folk Dance Club and the dances put on by the Cal Hiking Club. After obtaining his degree, he moved to China Lake/Ridgecrest where he was a dancer and teacher with the China Lake Desert Dancers for 32 years.

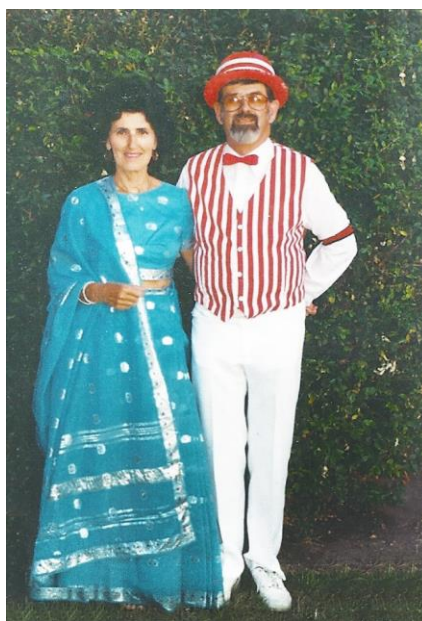
He first attended Stockton in 1961. Audrey Silva

was his favorite partner. He wrote, "She was a wonderful lady, and the most graceful, elegant dancer ever to appear at Stockton."

Exposure to C. Stewart Smith at Stockton led to his specializing in Scottish dance and, starting in 1978, he alternated attending Stockton with attending the summer sessions of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at St. Andrews University in Scotland. After taking the rigorous teacher training sessions at St. Andrews and receiving the teacher's certificate of the Society, he started a class in Ridgecrest

which he taught for 14 years.

After retiring in 1992, Dwight moved to the Palm Springs area and became involved with local folk and square dancing. He continues to attend the Desert International Folk Dancers, a small group that meets from November to April. He serves mainly as a DJ, as limitations imposed by old age have forced him to confine his dancing to the more sedate offerings.



Dwight with Audrey Silva in 1990.



## Are you a Folk Dance Federation member?

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

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

Officers Ball (October)  
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Heritage Festival (March)  
Camellia Festival (March)  
Blossom Festival (April)  
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e-mail [membership@folkdance.com](mailto:membership@folkdance.com)

## Midnight Waltz

(United States)

This is a cross-step waltz, four-wall, line dance choreographed by Jo Thompson Szymanski in 1992. It was presented by Richard Powers at Virtual Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2020.

**Music:** 3/4 meter Any medium-tempo waltz; Richard Powers likes Era Oscuro by Ana Alcaide (Internet search “Era Oscuro Ana Alcaide”). A good alternative is All The Pretty Little Horses by the Russian Bluegrass band Kukuruz. (Internet search “Little Horses Kukuruz”).

**Video:** There are several videos on YouTube (Internet search “Midnight Waltz Jo Thompson”).

**Formation:** Individuals all facing the same direction, hands free at sides.

**Steps & Styling:** Cross-step Waltz. Whereas in a traditional waltz, the longer first step (ct 1) opens to the side, forward, or backward, in a Cross-Step Waltz, the longer first step (ct 1) crosses the body, i.e., R in front of L or L in front of R.

Measures	3/4	PATTERN
		<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> No action. Length of introduction will depend on the recording used.
1		Step L in front of R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L bkwd twd L diag (ct 3).
2		Step R in front of L turning ¼ R (ct 1); step L bkwd turning ¼ R (ct 2); step R to R to end facing opp wall.
3-4		Repeat meas 1-2. End facing original wall.
5		Repeat meas 1.
6		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
7		Repeat meas 1.
8		(Grapevine) Step R in front of L (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); step R behind L (ct 3).
9		Step L to L (ct 1); slowly draw R to L without wt (cts 2-3). (Optional rise-fall.)
10		Repeat meas 9 with opp ftwk and direction.
11		Step fwd L, swing R low and fwd (cts 1-2); swing R slightly back (ct 3).
12		Step bkwd R turning ¼ L (ct 1); step L to L turning ¼ L, now facing opp wall (ct 2); small step R fwd (ct 3).
13		Repeat meas 11.
14		Repeat meas 12, ending facing original wall.
15		Step L fwd (ct 1); small step R to R (ct 2); step L next to R while turning slightly L (ct 3).
16		Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R slightly behind L (ct 3). All are now facing the wall to the L of the original wall.

**Sequence:** Repeat as described above, each time facing the wall to the L.



# What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

## Irwin Barr – 1930-2020

Irwin and Beverly Barr were a power couple, some would say folk dance royalty, for decades in Southern California. They met in high school, were married for over 50 years, had children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren – all while teaching multiple dance classes a week, planning an annual dance camp (Camp Hess Kramer) and attending many more, and organizing and leading multiple folk dance tours.

Irwin had been hospitalized and, when it was determined he would not survive, he asked to return home to be with Beverly. He was under hospice care for his final few weeks and died at home in late July. Beverly has since been moved into an assisted living facility with memory care.

Irwin and Beverly shared a passion for and dedication to international folk dance. Beverly did the bulk of the teaching, partnered by Irwin when needed, but Irwin did the heavy lifting, handled the music, and solved technical problems. He was described by so many as warm, supportive, caring, sweet, gentle, and kind. While he had many physical limitations during the last 8-10 years of his life, he did whatever he needed to do without complaint.

Should you wish to get a card to Beverly, send it to her son, Gary Barr, 6237 Melba Avenue, Woodland Hills, California 91367. If you are in the Los Angeles area and want to visit Beverly, please contact Gary first at 818-489-7848.



Beverly and Irwin Barr 2010. Photo by C. Feige.

## FALL CAMP 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED

by Marc and Jan Rayman, Fall Camp co-chairs

We regret having to cancel Fall Camp 2020. We reached this decision after a great deal of thoughtful consideration plus consultation with the lovely facility where we would have conducted it and with the concurrence of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc. Of course, our highest priority is ensuring the well-being of our participants, but we understand some people are still going to be disappointed. It has been nice to hold out hope for a great time December 4-6 after so much dance and social deprivation. However, the course of the pandemic makes that impossible.

Among our many plans was to have master teachers Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, with Roberto Bagnoli. They support our decision and express their own disappointment about not being able to dance with everyone who would have attended.

We are already working on Fall Camp 2021, set for **Nov. 12-14, 2021, again at Brandeis-Bardin Campus**. We know that weekend is already on your calendar, so you just need to write in *Fall Camp 2021*. In the meantime, we know the folk dance community is well-served by many virtual events.

We will have more news about next year's camp over the coming 15 months, and we join you in looking forward to a better dancing future.

## A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 45 years ago this month

This letter written by Lori Sroka appeared in the **October 1975** issue of *Let's Dance* magazine. To read the end of this letter, go to [www.folkdance.com/resources/archives](http://www.folkdance.com/resources/archives)

### Breed of Folkdancer?

*Occasionally a letter to the editor deserves some extra degree of recognition. Here we have a revival of the kind of thinking that has gone into the very reason for our Folk Dance Federation. Perhaps we can see more of this deeper appreciation of our heritage in the future...L.H.*

Editor:

Over the past twenty-five (or so) years, International Folk Dancing has grown to be a very exciting form of recreation in this country. It is good for the body, it opens up wider social avenues, and it provides an enjoyable introduction to the music and dancing of many lands. But folk dancing seems to be slowly evolving towards more important ends. Dancers today are beginning to look beyond the patterns and footwork; they are curious about why certain regions produce particular dances. They want to understand how to recreate the dances with the appropriate form and feeling. (As Dick Crum puts it, they want to look "less non-Bulgarian".)

Workshops and camps are not only filled with teachers. More and more, dancers are coming for a personal glimpse into the people who bring us these dances. Many people are waking up to the fact that it is not John Doe, "folkdance teacher" who is the expert.

Dancers, especially the younger people, want to know what makes these dances happen. What are the elements of the Macedonian peasants' lives which determine the forms of the dances? They don't want to learn "styling" in a vacuum. They want to feel the weight of the costume, learn the customs and traditions, visit the countries --- really, or through books. They are trying to visualize the terrain, understand how occupations and life-styles affect the carriage of the body. Musicians are learning the instruments of these countries - as a result there is more opportunity to dance to live music, and that in itself is opening up new atmospheres for feeling these dances. Learning how it is to sing and dance, and be a peaceful group in a slow Pravo is bringing on a whole new level of awareness for many people. The crafts, the simple elements, all are becoming more important, as they are a reflection of a total life-picture that they hope to understand.



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