

Let's Dance!

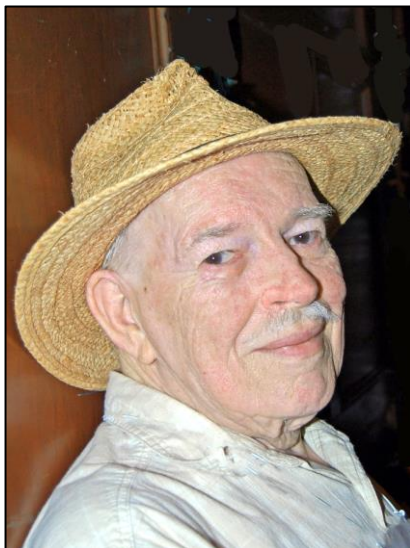
THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING *vs* SEPTEMBER 2020

There are many shortcuts to happiness...



... and dancing is one of them.

~ Vicki Baum



Catching up with Gary Anderson,
the Federation's first Lifetime
membership recipient. See p. 18.

Let's Dance!

Volume 77, No. 7

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

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

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:

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

Household rate \$45/year

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

Group/Club rate \$40/year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

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

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

Your advertising helps support *Let's Dance!* Please make checks payable to the **Folk Dance Federation**. Ad rates:

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**WELCOME NEW
FEDERATION MEMBERS**
Freda Kirkham - Chico
Evan Chu and Rebecca Tsai - Newark
Rhonda Futterman – Concord
Erica Sigal – Oakland
Wayne Phillips - Orinda

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

The Folk Dance Federation is looking for new members. As many of you know, the number of members has dropped over the past few years. We always lose members as they age out, and fewer members means less money for printing and mailing *Let's Dance!*, Federation sponsored festivals, scholarships, and promoting folk dance in the larger community.



Perhaps you have a friend in your local group who you might ask to become a Federation member. Maybe you might consider giving a dance friend a membership to the Federation. Membership will connect them to other enthusiastic dancers, support and inform about festivals and dance workshops, receive information about folk dance activities, folk dance news, and even dance descriptions in *Let's Dance!*, the Federation's official publication.

There are four different types of membership in the Federation: individual, family, group, and student. Individual members are eligible for scholarships to folk dance classes, workshops, or camps. Family membership enables everyone in your household to share the benefits of membership. Group members are eligible for free promotion on the Federation website and discounted advertising in *Let's Dance!* magazine. Group members can also receive liability insurance for their dance venues at an affordable rate. Students may become members at a discounted rate. Each member receives ten issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine per year.

The Folk Dance Federation is a non-profit organization. The members vote, hold office, organize dance events, and publish an extraordinary magazine called *Let's Dance!*. Members of the Federation join together to promote folk dancing and the culture that partners this experience. Did you know that approximately 60 members are outside of California? And a few individuals and libraries are outside the United States!

On our website, www.folkdance.com, you will find how to become a member. Registration forms and dues can either be submitted by mail or online. In this edition of *Let's Dance!* there is a flyer advertising our membership drive, including a registration form.

Don't miss it. A coupon good for admission to various festivals for new members is now part of the deal!

See our New Member Incentive on p. 14.

A standing ovation to all who were involved in making Stockton Folk Dance Camp happen in such a big way during this pandemic. Thank you to Adony Beniares for being the wizard of Zoom, and to all his many volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes and online. Dancing, house tours, cultural corners, game shows, singing, silent auction, puzzles, raffles, Cristian and Sonia's 10th anniversary celebration, and candlelight ceremony all came alive online without a hitch. I hope that many of you tuned in and enjoyed the festivities as much as I did.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Folk Dance Federation. As we continue to adjust to these strange times, there has never been a better time to support organizations that we care about. We just need to patiently wait and see what happens when we come out the other side. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of folk dancing again!

FROM THE EDITOR

As most of you are aware, the July/August issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine encountered some serious delivery issues with the bulk of the them arriving the end of July instead of the end of June. I spent some time at the Bulk Mail Center in Santa Clara County discussing the problem with the supervisor there. It has been extensively reported (do an internet search) that the U.S. Post Office is having delivery issues, primarily because overtime has been all but eliminated to cut costs, and employees who are missing because of illness or taking care of COVID-19 family members are not being replaced. This means that any mail not delivered is left for the next day, which can cause a massive backup in the system. In addition, COVID-19 health and safety restrictions are limiting the number of employees at a facility, which creates additional staffing problems, which adds to the mail backup. The supervisor explained that the late issues all appeared to have gotten delayed at the Richmond processing plant that handles all the bulk mail coming into the San Francisco Bay Area from around the country.



continued on p 4

FROM THE EDITOR (continued)

We have had a similar delay in the somewhat recent past, November of 2017. I am hopeful the problem with the July/August issue was an aberration.

A few people emailed to ask why we didn't just switch to a PDF so we didn't have to use mail service. The Federation Board discussed this issue at their meeting the first week of August. I will highlight a few of the points made.

- There is a potential to lose members who cannot/will not read a PDF.
- For many members, *Let's Dance!* is the only clear, tangible benefit of membership. If the physical magazine becomes a PDF, will they continue their membership?
- Would advertisers pay for placement in a PDF magazine?
- We would impact at least two other small businesses which are struggling right now: our printer and our bulk mailing service.
- We would impact the U.S. Postal Service which is already under siege.
- You cannot leave a PDF on a table at the library, dentist's office, local community center, or church.

The Board agreed to table further discussion and any decision for another few months to see if the delivery problem is repeated.

In the meantime, if you find you are missing an issue of *Let's Dance!* and would like to receive a PDF pending eventual receipt of the hard copy, please email me at either editor@folkdance.com or loui@louisutucker.com and I will send you a PDF.

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!

Going Virtual

by Carol Friedman

It's been like the stages of grief, not being able to teach and dance together with my folk dance buddies when the virus hit, along with shelter-in-place orders. I've been teaching three classes a week for years now; it's part of my weekly rhythm, my friendship circle, my exercise, my fun, my way of feeling connected and happy and at peace with the world.

I still miss holding hands in a circle, and I look forward to the time when we can do that again. But I'm pretty sure that time is far in the future.



So, I have made the leap to go virtual. I am now teaching two weekly class via Zoom – Balkan and Israeli. It was a big leap for me (I don't adjust well to new technology), but with the help of some knowledgeable and generous dance friends, I did it.

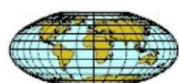
And I have discovered that I'm really loving it.

It's different. When I teach or review a dance, I can't see people. I must have my back turned from the screen, so folks can distinguish left from right. I need to dance far enough away from the screen so people can see my feet. It's much harder to balance without holding hands. It is also much harder to remember dances without that connection to other dancers because you *feel* the dance as much as *know* it. I need to remember keep everyone muted so the music works, which means there's much less easy, casual conversation.

Yet I get to see and dance regularly with my wide circle of dance friends. We chat first, just checking in as we always did in my previous classes. I get to dance the dances I love. I get to teach again, which is one of my greatest pleasures. I'm having fun discovering new dances (and re-discovering old ones) through the wide variety of virtual folk dance classes and parties that are happening.

I've come back home to dancing, and it feels good.

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

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

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

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

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

BULGARIA: August 2-15, 2021 **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

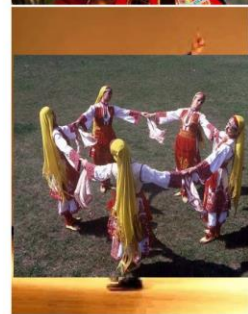
Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman
Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin
Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

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

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THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Marian Snyder and Helen Brown shared photos of the back yard where they danced each day during Stockton Virtual Camp. They made the deck festive with different signs and decorations. This was their last photo on the last day. See p. 16. *Photo by H. Brown.*



Marina Troost enjoying watermelon during Stockton Virtual Camp. See p. 16 . *Photo by P. Zagorites.*



No, this photo was *not* taken last year – it was taken in July – in Italy! After a *four-month national quarantine*, Italy lifted its restrictions enough for Roberto Bagnoli to hold his in-person Israeli-focused dance camp. Can you spell e-n-v-i-o-u-s?



Alica La Fetra dancing at home during the Virtual Stockton Camp. See p. 7. *Photo by S. La Fetra.*

VIRTUAL STOCKTON

by Alicia La Fetra

We learned in the Spring that the Stockton Folk Dance Camp was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though it was expected, the news brought much disappointment to folk dancers everywhere. Many of us have been dancing virtually online since late March, and we were hoping against hope that we could gather in person at the University of the Pacific for our annual “reunion.” But it was not to be. However, there was good news ahead.

Before COVID-19, the word Zoom conjured up (for me) images of super heroes dashing around the world rescuing people in dire situations. Well, our super heroes came in the form of Adony Beniares and the Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2020 Team. Adony’s idea of having Camp via Zoom was met with great enthusiasm by the Stockton Board, so off they went to save Camp this year. I think it’s safe to say that the virtual Stockton Camp exceeded all expectations.

For eight consecutive days, participants were treated to five hours each day of a variety of dance-related programs. The team recorded these hours and held two rebroadcasts so that dancers in Europe and Asia could enjoy camp at a convenient time for them. It was also great for anyone who wished to see the initial broadcast a few more times. As if the five hours weren’t enough, the team also held after-parties that went on until midnight and sometimes beyond, just like “real” Camp. And it was all FREE! For those who have always wanted to see what Stockton camp is like, this was the perfect opportunity.

We learned wonderful new dances from master teachers, luminaries in the folk dance world. We had classes in cooking, singing, and ukulele. We were taken on home tours and watched presentations on a variety of topics (e.g., growing up in a dance family, the history of the Can Can, the development of ragtime dance, and the history of cocktails). We took a trip down Memory Lane as we viewed mostly black-and-white photos from early Stockton Camps. We laughed along with our dance teachers as they participated in two games, Stockton Squares and the

Already Wed Game (parodies of Hollywood Squares and the Newlywed Game), which gave us a chance to see another side of their already charming personalities.

In addition to the master teachers, several campers presented dances to share. There was an online auction as well as puzzles. A couple of “fur babies” even achieved some fame by making cameo appearances. Even done virtually, the Candle Lighting Ceremony still brought tears to dancers’ eyes. And Footnotes were distributed nightly. We also celebrated a special wedding anniversary for Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu who were married during Camp in 2010. It was another lovely trip down Memory Lane for those who were there 10 years ago. For those of us who weren’t, it was fun to see the photos and hear stories about the event.

Even when there was a glitch (Tuesday’s U.S. session did not get recorded and was therefore unavailable for the rebroadcasts), Adony and the Stockton Team worked quickly to offer alternative programming. The closing party lasted about five hours and reluctant farewells closed out an outstanding virtual camp.

There were so many people (60+) who worked tirelessly for countless hours in a relatively short span of time to bring Stockton Camp to dancers world-wide. The teachers, the emcees, the co-hosts, the staff – all were so professional and handled everything that came along with grace, efficiency, and good humor.

I have heard so many positive comments about virtual Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Even though we missed being on campus at the University of the Pacific, we chose to look at some of the pluses: no long drives or flights, no dance floor to put down and take up, meals at home, no luggage to lug up three flights of stairs, our own beds to sleep in, etc. Still, we hope to all be together again in Stockton in 2021.

On behalf of folk dancers all over the world: thank you Adony and Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2020 Team, for Zooming camp and saving the day! You are all our super heroes!



Alicia La Fetra, Photo by L. Tucker.

I think it’s safe to say that the virtual Stockton Camp exceeded all expectations.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP

The story behind our 8-day, 144-hour online Stockton Folk Dance Camp

by Adony Beniares

We knew our in-person 2020 Stockton Folk Dance Camp was going to be special because we had already begun planning it. We had planned to celebrate Israeli Purim and Roma traditions in our end-of-week parties, had a wonderful staff of teachers, had expanded our band, and had added several new events. Everyone on the Stockton Board was disappointed when, on March 14, we made the painful decision to cancel our in-person Camp due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but an online replacement was quickly approved.

The first thing we did was reach out to the teachers and musicians already scheduled for the 2020 event, all of whom reacted favorably to the online idea, although some could not participate due to technology, available space, or other commitments. Next up was putting together our planning team, composed of people with previous online and Stockton experiences. Ellie Wiener agreed to be our primary performer contact, giving everyone a single point of contact. Various team members took the lead on the other segments. For example, Randi and Murray Spiegel volunteered to put together some game shows and puzzles.

We decided our focus would be an actual 'Stockton Camp' experience instead of a simple online event. We planned to feature a variety of events with an emphasis on dance, a fundraiser for our teachers and Camp, and provide a warm, personal experience for all viewers and participants. To show appreciation to donors, we put together a Thank You Package, which included counting the online event as a real year of Camp. This set the tone for how we thought about all components of our camp.

The enthusiasm of our weekly meetings was important in coming up with what participants eventually saw. The combination of our teachers and staff working together kept everyone excited and generated ideas that included a raffle, auction, cooking shows, and house tours. An additional idea was a series of teasers and informational videos we published leading up to Camp that made us even more excited.

As we developed the schedule, we committed to bringing Stockton to viewers at times convenient for them, with three broadcasts, rather than focusing only on a U.S. schedule. Given the amount of volunteering from our teachers, our schedule expanded from three to four hours, and finally to five hours a day. We then added in nightly after-parties, a Stockton standard, and organized it to bring the right mix to everyone.

To ensure a seamless, quality broadcast, the technology team (Dale Adamson, David Carman, Evan Chu, Steve Himel, Rob McCollum, Cricket Raybern, Murray Spiegel, and me) reviewed all possible technologies that would work with Zoom and tested endlessly for months, making changes as opportunities and solutions were discovered. Cricket ran multiple training sessions so that all performers, MCs, and techs were ready. Rob worked with each performer to ensure everybody had the best sound and video connections possible.

From July 11-19 we broadcast for more than 18 hours a day, resulting in an event that exceeded all our expectations and, judging from your feedback, the expectations of our viewers and participants.

We again thank the more than 60 performers, planning, and production team members for all their hard work, and especially thank all of you for coming to our 73rd annual Stockton Folk Dance Camp. We look forward to being back in 2021 with our in-person Camp on the University of the Pacific campus in Stockton, California.

**From July 11-19, we
broadcast for more
than 18 hours a day...**



Adony Beniares in The Control Room.
Photo by B. Beniares.

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.

Stockton Folk Dance Camp – 73rd year

The Board of Directors of Stockton Folk Dance Camp thanks all our donors for their support during our 2020 online Camp. Your donations greatly help our teachers and musicians during this financial crisis and allows us to fund future in-person and online events.

The feedback we received from everyone allows us to know what you loved and how we can improve.

An additional Thank You to our performers, Aaron Alpert, Roberto Bagnoli, Caspar Bik, David Bilides, France Bourque-Moreau, Bill Cope, Janie Cowan, Janette Duncan, Sonia Dion, Cristian Florescu, Joe Graziosi, Melanie Kareem, Amina Khelif, Željko Jergan, Marcella Lawson, Michael Lawson, Ahmet Lüleci, Barbara McOwen, Robert McOwen, Miamon Miller, Lee Otterholt, Yves Moreau, Jamie Papish, Richard Powers, Michele Simon, Jen Shoonover, Elisa van Dam, Maurits van Geel, Tineke van Geel, and Susan Worland, as well as all of the people who worked very hard to bring our 2020 camp to life. We thank and love you all.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Adony Beniares

Great news for getting back to in-person dancing. The Saratoga Folk Dancers that meet Thursday nights has been **working with St. Michael Archangel's Church in Saratoga for dancing on their patio**. Several members of the class, working with the church staff, have repaired some rotten wood on the patio and, as of **Thursday, August 6**, that group will meet there, of course with the usual wise restrictions. Everybody is looking forward to things getting better and more in-person dancing to resume. Thanks to Loui's leadership and her Thursday night class for leading the way.

The Peninsula Folk Dance Council continue its local parties online, with the next three being held on August 9 (Dance the Alphabet), September 12, and October 10. As a follow-up for an idea from Hollis Radin and Lesley Bone, the PFDC team is working on a program we call, '**Anyone can MC and anyone can be a Dance Leader.**' We hope to get as many people trained in using Zoom as MCs and Dance Leaders as we can.

Our Global Folk Dance Parties will also continue at least through January on the third Saturday of each month.

In July, the Peninsula Folk Dance Council held its yearly elections during its July 12 party. The incumbent officers, Adony Beniares (president), Lesley Bone (treasurer) and Ellie Wiener (secretary) were all reelected.

Please follow the Peninsula Folk Dance Council on Facebook to stay up on all happenings.

SACRAMENTO – Barbara Bevan

I could just repeat my May-June article when I wrote about folk dancing in the time of the pandemic. Unfortunately, things have not changed much, and no end is in sight. I missed writing for the July-August issue. After re-reading the July-August issue cover to cover however, **my spirits were raised by the creative activities of many of our dance leaders.**

Of course, the main point is that we all learned about Zoom! There are so many opportunities to stay connected. I have especially enjoyed the dancing with Roberto Bagnoli, the Peninsula Folk Dance Council, and the Folk Dance Council of New England.



Back to dancing in Saratoga – outdoors, wearing masks, six feet apart – but dancing together! *Photo by C. Dickey*

Most recently we were treated to the Virtual Stockton Folk Dance Camp! What fun! What joy! Five hours a day for a week! The cooking classes with Ahmet Lüleci, Aaron Alpert, and Sonia Dion were so interesting and mouth-watering! The games hosted by Murray Spiegel were fun. The fabulous dance teachers from around the world! It was so personal to see their homes and sometimes their pets. Maurits & Tineke van Geel even produced a lovely video of their historic home in the Netherlands. Top that off with ukulele classes with Melanie & Marcella, the musicians, singing with Michele Simon, the auction, the parties, and even more. Many thanks to the committee under the direction of Director Gordon Deeg!

Here in the Sacramento area, many are joining the Zoom dancing and singing. We hope to be able to have **our annual Membership Potluck, Barbeque, and Dance Party on Saturday, August 29, 5-10 pm at the Wolterbeeks' farm in Shingle Springs**. We can just hope for the best.

For fun, Google "El Baile de las Toallas que Emocina a las Mujeres," The Dance of the Towels that Thrills the Women. It is a dance video with two young male dancers and two towels very creatively danced to classical music. I would rate it PG. Be sure to Google that whole, long title because there are similar videos out there. This is the best!

Editor's Note: For more on this duo, visit lesbeauxfreres.com.

... AND BEYOND

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

Like most of us in the folk dance world, our Santa Rosa group is experiencing a range of emotions because we aren't able to dance together in person each week, holding hands in a circle, laughing, experiencing the joy of community in our circle of dancers. Our Razzmatazz group hasn't danced together in the same room since early March. Our annual Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend (it would have been our 43rd year) at Mendocino Woodlands had to be canceled. And when we can dance together again in person is anyone's guess.

In April, I began Zoom folk dance sessions for folks who had been registered in my spring folk dance classes. At first, I used the time to review dances we had learned before the class was suspended; then I reviewed dances from the previous session in the fall. As we approached June, we began to follow our usual summer request dancing format where dancers send me their requests a week ahead of time and we do them with some review/reminders as needed. We began inviting folks from our group of dances who don't necessarily sign up for classes, but who drop in to summer dancing. Not everyone can take advantage of the Zoom sessions due to poor internet connections or old computers, etc. **On any given night we have about 35-38 participants. Sometimes we have dogs, cats, and cockatiels!** We enjoy visiting a little before the music starts and always visit at the end. Having a relatively small group makes this possible.

We've been frustrated by the small spaces we all have in which to dance, whether it's a living room, spare room, a deck outside, or a kitchen, as well as the technological lapses in audio and video. But we persevere! **We've celebrated the CD release of the Sonoma County Balkan choral group Gradina and have danced to their recordings.** I have shared on Zoom the beautifully produced book and CD box set "Sound Portraits from Bulgaria" which Martin Koenig recently sent me. It is a treasure of music, documentation, photographs and personal stories from Martin's research over 50 years. The Smithsonian is submitting his CD box set/book to be considered for a Grammy nomination in three categories.

But, most of all, getting together each week is a Moment of Joy, which is the title of my weekly emails to our Santa Rosa folk dance community in which I send links to videos of musicians and dancers from all over the world that inspire me or which I've experi-

enced myself in dance research that I have done over the years. What we have learned from this COVID-19 world we live in is that, above all, we cherish the community we've created through folk dance.

TURLOCK – Judy Kropp

Lise Swedberg, Tamara Littlewood and I of the Village Dancers in Turlock have been joined by George Fairbrook of Stockton and Yvonne Couvillion of Sacramento to teach international folk dances every week on Zoom. Most dances are reviewed and repeated for several weeks and a few new dances are added each week.

There is a bright side to virtual dancing. We've had old and new friends join us not only from the central valley, but from Hawaii, England, Oregon, Livermore, Placerville, New Hampshire, and Chico... **It's a great way to reconnect with friends who have moved away.**

Everyone is welcome. You can invite any friends who might want to try folk dancing. Contact Judy Kropp at JudyKropp40@gmail.com to get on the mailing list and receive the Zoom number which is the same every week.

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan

Changs International Folk Dancers resumed dancing on June 12 via Zoom and has met every week except during Virtual Stockton Folk Dance Camp. The following was written by Cindy and Craig Blackstone.

We have so much fun dancing, and we love seeing our friends and meeting new ones on Zoom! It gives us something to look forward to and motivates us to keep dancing. At the end of each session, talking with everyone is special; we enjoy hearing from each person and getting a glimpse of their life. Join us if you can, as you are part of our extended family. **A special thanks to Ulrike and Lothar Narins for making Changs Zoom dancing happen.** The A to Z review of our repertoire is helpful in keeping the dances fresh in our memories. Thank you all! **Two Virtual Stockton Camp anecdotes follow.**

Linda Henderson: Ever since I started folk dancing again after almost twenty-five years, I've wanted to attend Stockton Folk Dance Camp. But getting away for a week in July always proved difficult. This year, one of the few silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic for me, is that **I finally got to attend SFDC!** I loved every aspect of it and am looking forward to experiencing it non-virtually next

Continued on p. 12

year. There was one thing that happened at Stockton Virtual Camp, however, that would never have happened in Stockton. Unexpectedly, I connected with several other people who had also folk danced in New Haven, CT in the 1970s!

It's amusing how this happened. On the last Saturday of Camp, after the live music, I recognized the name of one of the musicians. I wondered if it was the same person I had known in high school and who had also danced at Yale in the early 1970s. I posted a message in the Zoom chat and, although no one recognized the musician's name, several people sent me messages saying that they too had folk danced in New Haven the same time as I had. It was great fun to reminisce about people we knew from those days, and it was a lovely way to end my first week at SFDC.

Ulrike Narins. I was born in Austria and came to the U.S. as an adult. My sister Edith is an accomplished ballroom dancer in Austria. We did some line dancing together in Austria about five years ago, and have done a bit of folk dancing together, too. I told my sister about Virtual Stockton Camp, but she wasn't sure she would be able to understand instructions in English.

During our weekly phone chat, Edith told me that she had taken a great Turkish dance class. We discovered we had both **danced with Ahmet in the during the morning rebroadcast – together, but an ocean apart!**

Folk Dance Video Gallery

by Kevin Greek

The Folk Dance Federation website, folkdance.com, has introduced a long-awaited video gallery of folk dance instructional and demo clips. Visit the gallery to browse dances grouped by country or ethnic minority group (e.g. the Roma) and sorted by dance name, or search by name to find a dance. When you find a dance, you can easily share it with others on social media by clicking a button or you may copy the page web address and e-mail it.









Visit <http://folkdance.com/videos> to browse the collection, learn some new dances, or review old ones – anywhere, any time, 24/7.

The collection currently has over 100 dance videos of 16 countries and ethnic identities and is growing. The majority of videos were selected from

YouTube by Carol Friedman for her weekly Shelter in Place Newsletter series. Carol added a short origin and contributor description for each dance that appears with each video. The videos themselves were independently recorded and posted by many different folk dance groups or instructors worldwide and may not be the version of a dance you learned. When there are video choices for a dance, we would like to have the best technical quality video and have the best view of the best dancers to learn from. Nevertheless, we hope you learn from the videos.

Carol Friedman has ended her weekly video submissions for now. If you would like to see videos added to the online collection you can help curate. **The listing format requires:** (1) a dance title, (2) country or ethnic origin identity, (3) a short description of its origin and composition (such as the choreographer or originator, music artist, rhythm, or name translation) and (4) a YouTube video address that can be embedded. In addition to YouTube, the video may also originate from Vimeo, Dailymotion, or Facebook. We can also host a video at folkdance.com if you cannot or prefer not to use an existing video site and can provide us the video file.

Enjoy the videos and share. If, after you view the Federation video gallery, you have contributions, corrections, or comments, be sure to send us a message at webmanager@folkdance.com.

 <p>Dospatsko Horo (Bulgaria)</p> <p>From the Rhodopes region, in 7/8 rhythm The dance is from the town of [...]</p> <p> Bulgaria</p>	 <p>Dzangurica (Bulgaria)</p> <p>Introduced by Yves Moreau 1972 From the village of Dzangura in the Pirin [...]</p> <p> Bulgaria</p>
 <p>Katerino Mome (Bulgaria)</p> <p>From Pirin, Bulgaria "Katerina, why are you so beautiful and pretty? [...]"</p> <p> Bulgaria</p>	 <p>Kyustendilska Racenica (Bulgaria)</p> <p>Basic Bulgarian line dance in QQS (7/8) rhythm This version of racenica is [...]</p> <p> Bulgaria</p>

Sample page from a video web page.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Can you identify these two dancers? The SIXTH person to send an email to editor@folkdance.com or loui@loutucker.com wins a \$20 gift card.

BURT SCHOLIN (1927-2020)

Burt Scholin was introduced to folk dancing in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1962. He twice served as President of the California Folk Dance Federation (1982-84 and 1987-88) and also chaired the Statewide Festival twice. He moved to Southern California in 1988 with his second wife whom he met at folk dancing. Parkinson's forced him to retire from dancing at 85.

Federation President Burt Scholin, with Federation Secretary Genevieve Pereira, on the cover of the July/August 1987 issue of *Let's Dance* magazine

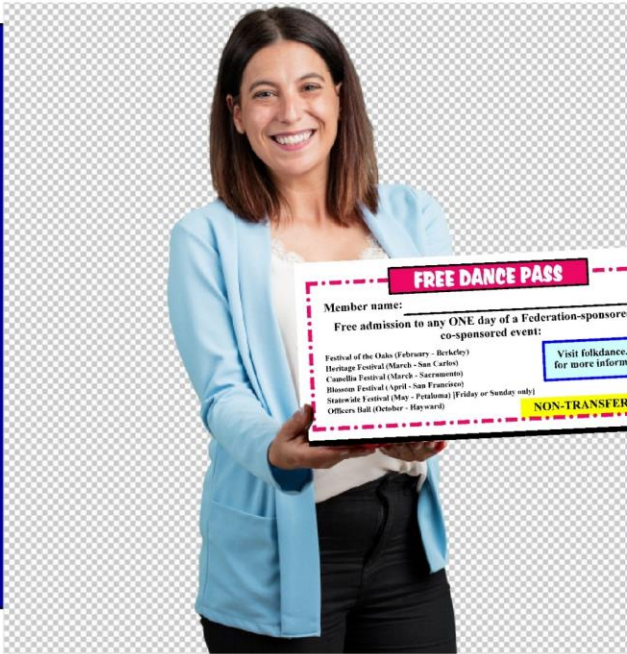


The three dancers are John Filcich, Edith Cuthbert, and Vyts Beliajus and the photo was taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the early 1970s.

WE DIDN'T HAVE A WINNER!

The last *Let's Dance!* was a stumper! Although 11 people sent in their guesses, none was correct.





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 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.**

Beginning July 1, join the Federation as a new individual member or family member (no membership for the past five years), and receive a coupon good for **ONE FREE DAY** at any Federation sponsored or co-sponsored event.

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Club/Group Affiliation (if any): _____

Enclose annual dues (US Dollars):

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

*That's about
ten cents a day!*

Foreign Residents: please add \$15 to the above rates to defray the cost of mailing Let's Dance!

Make check payable to Folk Dance Federation of California
Mail this form and your check to:
Marcia Rosenblatt
927 Springfield Drive
Millbrae, CA 94030

For additional information about membership
e-mail membership@folkdance.com

BENEFITS FLOW FROM THE PANDEMIC

by *Martha Awdziejewicz*

I would never ever have imagined what is happening now. It looked really ominous and discouraging in mid-March after the Laguna Festival and NFO Conference. So many festivals and tours and weekly sessions were cancelled. Big events like Koprivstitsa cancelled.

And then groups started using Zoom and Facebook live. People from New Jersey to California, from Florida to Chicago to Rome started connecting and making new friends. The Folk Arts Center of New England started weekly teaching sessions with wonderful teachers from the U.S., the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Italy. You would not believe how many people have told me they have reconnected with people they danced with 10 or even 20 years ago because they saw the little Zoom square with a picture or a name or saw a comment made on a Facebook live event. So many of the dancers I know have reconnected with people they danced with in college or with people they had met years ago. We are closer now in some respects than we were in March. How can that be?

People are so generous in donating to teachers struggling to make a living now that their workshops and tours have been cancelled. People are contributing to buying new computers and sound systems for teachers. Some dancers who used to participate only minimally in classes are now sharing their homes virtually with others and demonstrating or teaching their favorite dances in Zoom sessions.

It is absolutely amazing how our folk dance community is coping with the pandemic and quarantine and stay-at-home orders. Neighbors walking their dogs past my house have asked me if I am going stir crazy, sitting in a lounge chair and binge watching a Netflix series and eating bags of chips and gaining weight. "What? No way!" I reply, as I go back in my house to move some furniture so I could join another Zoom dance session that's about to begin.



An Ode to Dancers while Zooming during Social Distancing

by *Paul Collins (Chicago area)*

I hope that we will all soon be dancing again in face-to-face mode

Yet the best that we can do now is to join hands virtually, each from one's own personal abode

While these virtual sessions do help decrease this imposing social distancing load

And while we encourage our technophobic dance friends, whom we goad

To join us as we put yet another virtual dance production on the road

And then reap the harvest of our efforts when in our virtual environment they finally showed

Then zoomed with us in sessions where audio/video streams started, stopped, and slowed

Though many got lost in search of that elusive and/or missing Zoom URL and password code

While Zoom (with all its flaws) was perceived (eventually) as a saving prince charming, instead of as an ugly toad.

Dancing Alone Again

by *Hannah Mirkin*

I danced alone as a girl
In an attic room, I'd leap and whirl

I found other dancers, another home
Their circles and lines became my own

This year fractured that connection and joy
Would it break? Would it destroy?

I was back to dancing alone in my room
Watching others dancing alone via Zoom

I dream of rooms once again full of dancers
When, when? There are no answers...



MAKING THE MOST OF STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP

by *Helen Brown*

July arrived - which meant it was time for Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Marian Snyder and I are committed roommates at Camp and, in addition to full days of dance, we have full evenings of laughter and fun. We had been looking forward to our time together at Camp this year and the terrific group of teachers scheduled.

With the Stockton Folk Dance Camp so generously offering a virtual camp this year, we decided to attend and make the most of it. I hung a few decorations and signs in my backyard to liven things up. I had a new theme every day hanging on my washing line as an act of connection to camp.

Marian and I looked at the schedule and chose several days with our favorite teachers and events. She slipped into my backyard, keeping her distance and, with a click of a button, we joined the 500+ people from around the world enjoying Folk Dance Camp on Zoom. Using a portable speaker and a couple of laptops, we were able to both see and join in with the lessons, dance on the deck and patio, and listen to the lectures and game shows.

The Stockton Camp crew did an amazing job of coordinating teachers from around the world and being creative in the daily offerings. We loved it all. So, although the virtual scene made us miss the real deal even more, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and filled up on laughter, companionship, and connection to the mighty family of folk dancers! I even had a winning raffle ticket!



High Five to Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2020

by *Marina Troost*

When it became known that Stockton Folkdance Camp was going to be held on Zoom, I decided it would be more fun if I invited Peggy Zagorites to come stay with me for its duration. I called, asked her, and a week later she confirmed she was coming.

Peggy came prepared. She had her Stockton 2020 T-shirt, multiple T-shirts with dance slogans, her Sonia and Christian T-shirt, her 'Cat in the Hat' hat, Bill Cope's sing-along packet, a bottle of wine, a six pack of beer, and what else did we need?

I had bought healthy groceries for the week, including watermelon for our watermelon feast and food for the Saturday banquet. My own Stockton T-shirt arrived a couple of days after it started.

The first thing we did was make a donation to Camp; it would have been hard to pass on all the wonderful benefits it offered. We didn't want to miss having an attendance year added.

We moved the dining room table, the chairs, and the rug, and then set up two computers on different sides of the room, thereby creating a dance floor big enough for two. There was one more important item: we moved a fan close to the dance floor. It got pretty hot at times!

We were focused on the screens from 3:00-8:00, turning one of the computers at 7:00 to face the kitchen so as not to miss a lecture (you may have seen us cook or eat dinner around that time). We loved and tried all the dances, and thoroughly enjoyed the creative culture corners, assemblies, and the funny game shows.

We tried to follow Stockton traditions and had watermelon on Wednesday, wore a hat on Thursday, dressed up for Sonia and Christian's anniversary party on Friday, and we made a meal fit for a banquet on Saturday. We connected to the after-parties at 8:00 where Peggy danced until they closed, and I looked over some of Ahmet's dance notes as part of my Research Committee assignment. On Saturday evening of the last day, we both danced till the end, around 2 am.



Peggy Zagorites waiting to eat the banquet meal she and Marina prepared. *Photo by M. Troost.*

It was a completely amazing experience, one we'll never forget! Many thanks to all the people that made this possible, a "high five" to Stockton FDC 2020.

YOUNGER DANCERS ENJOYED STOCKTON

by Megan Wolf

I was so excited about Virtual Stockton Camp because so many of my closest friends haven't attended Camp in the past decade because they now have careers and children. With Camp being virtual and free, this year they could attend!

I love attending large virtual dance events, but it's hard to find and connect with other young people in a sea of hundreds of people. My solution was to host a pre-Stockton "Young (ish) People" virtual dance so my friends and other young people could connect.

Even though I'm in my thirties now, there's still a large age gap between most dancers and me. I love dancing with people of all ages but there's something special about dancing with other young people. There were eight of us dancing together from across the country. Lothar Narins and my partner, Jordan Uggla, each has the energy of 100-person party. They did "Death Adama" (the Israeli dance Adama V'Shamayim sped up) twice, once at 125% and then at 150%!

Several of our friends said Virtual Stockton Camp renewed their love of folk dance and they hope to return to Camp next year! I want to share a message from my dear friend, Reena Kivlehen (Linden). We used to always room together at Stockton Camp.

I am a proud member of Al and Teddy Wolterbeek's Tance El Dorado performing group, and I have missed attending Stockton Folk Dance Camp in recent years. I have continued to receive the E-News and was overjoyed when I heard Camp would be virtual this year! It was full of unexpected challenges and honestly shocking events. To be able to take a week and mentally step away from my day-to-day world, to be able to connect with so many wonderful people that I know and love from all around the world, was incredible!

I was blown away by the many fun activities and dances taught this year at camp. I loved learning from everyone all week long, and really enjoyed this year's after-parties! I hope to attend in person with my husband and one-year-old son when he gets a little older. Folk dancing has a very special place in my heart, and I love being a part of this beautiful, amazing community!



Megan Wolf (left) with Reena Linden at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2013

FEDERATION NEWS



At its meeting during the first week of August, the **Board of the Folk Dance Federation** **officially cancelled THE 2020 OFFICERS BALL**. It had become evident that dancing in large groups indoors was not likely to be permitted in the coming months. After some discussion, it was decided that this special event is very much about creating a unique gathering of our local community once a year for an afternoon and evening of teaching, sharing a meal, and dancing – none of which would translate well as a virtual dance event.



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.

Gary Anderson – Lifetime Membership Recipient

At its June meeting, the Board of Folk Dance Federation voted to give Gary Anderson, a long-time Federation member and the editor of *Let's Dance!* magazine for 13 years, a lifetime membership in the Federation. To our knowledge, this is the first lifetime membership given to anyone since the Federation was formed in 1942. After receiving the letter of congratulation from President Marian Snyder, Gary responded, in part:

I want to express my thanks for the honorary membership! I have been folk dancing all my life, starting while still in grammar school. My parents were involved in the Circle O Promenaders, a square dance group in Tam Valley, and I danced with them.

We were involved in the origins of numerous groups. Dad would pack his amplifier (that included a variable speed record player), mike and speakers in the Studebaker, and off we would go. Mom and I would teach how to swing, Dad would call the squares. We traveled around Northern California, anywhere we were asked.

I met my first wife at one of these dances. One of our friends had a niece visiting and they asked if we would take her. Marie Edith, from Minnesota, was a natural dancer, and it was love at first sight! I lost her to colon cancer. We had some great years and I really miss her.

After Marie died, I was in poor shape, not going dancing or anywhere. I started going to the Balkan Dancers of Marin for exercise. I didn't know anything, but I stuck with it partly because it was run by Irene Croft and Anne Arend. Irene was late arriving one night. In her hurry, she had side swiped another car. She came in and said, “I had an accident, it was my fault, and I don't want to talk about it!” I thought, “Wow, what a woman!” We were married that year, 1998, in Reno, Nevada, at the annual Jamboritzza.

Being married to Irene, we danced everywhere. We would go to Marcel Vinokur's parties without fail and to contra dances in San Rafael where we lived. We attended Stockton most of the years between 2000 and 2011, where I met many wonderful people.

I have loved folk dancing and enjoyed it nearly all my life. From meeting many fantastic people to learning wonderful dances, folk dancing has ruled my life.

Again, thank you for the life membership. I do very little dancing now (I tend to wander a little!).



Irene Croft with Gary Anderson. Photo by G. Anderson, using a timer.

Zek Zek Dadumle

(Balkan Roma)

Zek Zek Dadumle (Zek Zek DAH-doom-lay) is a popular Roma song originally from Romania which has spread throughout the Balkan countries (Serbia, Bulgaria, and Macedonia). Steve Kotansky taught a 4-measure Tikino Oro/Čoček-type dance to a Bulgarian version of this song at the Veselo Festival 2020 in Eugene, Oregon. Roberto Bagnoli learned this dance from Steve and then taught it over Zoom session during a virtual workshop for the Folk Arts Center of New England to over 400 people from around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Music: 2/4 meter Kotansky, Steve *Balkanot 2020*
Search YouTube for “Cvetelina Zek Zek Dadumle”
- Video: Life Balkan Dancer Asako Oshiro recorded two videos. Search YouTube for “Life Balkan Dancers Zek Zek Dadumle”
- Formation: Open circle of dancers facing center with W- or V-hold, leader on the R.
- Steps & Styling: Light, free, small steps, Roma styling.
Čukče: A small lift of heel.
Twizzle: A small rotation of the heel (i.e., CCW movement of the slightly raised toe).

Measures	2/4	PATTERN
1-8	Introduction. – No action.	
1	Facing ctr, touch R toe fwd (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); touch L toe slightly fwd (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &).	
2	Touch R toe slightly fwd (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); step L slightly back and to L (ct 2); step R fwd (ct &).	
3	Touch L toe fwd diag L (cts 1, &); swing L across and in front of R with slightly bent knee (ct 2); step L fwd (ct &). <u>Variation</u> : Ct 2 can also be a small kick fwd with L. <u>Variation</u> : Čukče on R while lifting L fwd (ct 1); čukče on R again while swinging L in a low arc around to R (ct &, 2); step L in front of R (ct &).	
4	Step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct &); step R to R (ct 2); step L in front of R (ct &). <u>Variation</u> : Cts 1 and 2 can be done with a twizzle on the L <u>Variation</u> : This can also be done as a grapevine, with L behind R on the last ct.	



Steve and Suzie Kotansky
2016. Photo by E. Khuner.

Note: Variations noted can be done at any time, at the discretion of each dancer.

Zek Zek Dadumle — continued

Lyrics There are many versions in different languages. Here are a few.

Zek, zek dadule, dadula dadule, zek, zek, zek, zek dadule, dadula, dadule.
Zek, zek dadumle, dadumla, dadumle, zek, zek, zek, zek dadumle, dadumla, dadumle

Igrajmo, pevajmo, cele noci ludujmo,
Gagi bend svira sad, njega voli ceo, ceo grad

Let's dance, let's sing, let's party all night,
Gagi band is playing now, the whole city loves them!

Igrajte, mesajte, snama vam je najbolje,
Gagi bend svira sad, njega voli ceo Beograd.

Dance, move, you have the best time with us,
Gagi band is playing now, all of Belgrade loves them!

Zek, zek dadule, daj skini nanule,
Pa zigray sitnije, nista nije bitnije.
Zek, zek dadule, daj skini nanule,
Jer kad bi se skinula, zelja bi me minulaaa.

Zek, zek dadule, take off your sandals,
Dance with smaller steps, nothing matters more,
Zek, zek dadule, take off your sandals,
If you took off your clothes, my desire would let me be.

Ti kradesh po noshtite, ne koli, jenite grabish ti
Tsennoto vzimash im,
no dobro kazvat che im pravish ti.
Na vrati ne chukash ti, chakat te sami puskat te,
Vsiaka nosht grabish gi,
no dobro kazvat che im pravish ti. (Haide Cvetelina)

You steal at night, not cars, but women are what you loot.
You take from them what's precious, but they say you do them good.
You never knock at doors, they wait and let you in themselves.
Every night you take from them, but they say you do them good. (Come on, Tsvetelina)

Vlez, v men da kradesh da vidia dobro li e
Men,men,men,men da kradesh, che drugite hvaliat te
Vlez v men da kradesh da vidia dobro li e
Men,men,men da kradesh, che drugite hvaliat te.
(Fortza Costi Fortza Fortza Haidee)

Enter, steal from me so that I can see whether it is good.
Me, me, me, steal from me for the rest say you're so good.
Enter, steal from me so that I can see whether it is good.
Me, me, me, steal from me for the rest say you're so good.
(Foza Costi, forza, forza, come on)

Viața mea eu te iubesc
te iubesc ce mult te iubesc !

I love you, my life, I love you so much!
I want you, my life, I love you so much!



WHY DID YOU START FOLK DANCING?

Late one night after dancing, a group of dancers shared stories of how or why they started folk dancing. The reasons were as varied as the people. *Let's Dance!* has published a series of cartoons highlighting some of the more amusing accounts.

If you'd like to share YOUR story, email editor@folkdance.com or loui@loutucker.com and share YOUR reason. You could also share someone else's story, if you think they might be too shy. Susan Gregory, the Federation's resident artist, will draw the cartoon and it will appear in a future issue of *Let's Dance!* No names will be mentioned, so your story will be safe with us!

HISTORY CHANNEL

Once Upon A Time...

by John Nicoara

Once upon a time folk dance magic was happening once a month at a privately owned Japanese Tea Garden hidden along a quiet one-lane road in Saratoga, California, and no, it was not the well-known Hakone Gardens along Highway 9.

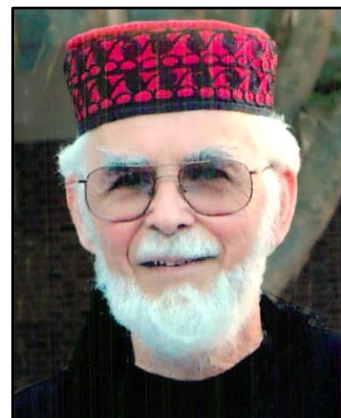
The story is this: In the early 1920s, a wealthy individual hired a professional Japanese architect to create an authentic Japanese Tea Garden for him, including a Japanese Tea House. The project went on throughout the 1920s and was authentic in every way, including plants, walkways, waterfalls, ponds, lanterns, and koi fish. Years later, this Tea Garden was acquired by William Robbison who occasionally dropped in on Marcel Vinokur's Menlo Park Tuesday class. Bill had added a small cabin and deck above the garden proper, and offered Marcel the opportunity to hold a once a month weekend teaching event at his Tea Garden — limited to 20 dancers — because the deck was just large enough to accommodate a group of dancers that size.

What was so special about these weekend sessions was that after an advanced dance was taught by Marcel (e.g., Bicak, Bucimis, Ludo Kopano, Bekesi Paros), we could play the music over and over again and help one another master every dance that was taught. Basically, we were group teaching one another.

At dinner time, Bill would barbecue filet mignon for everyone. Following dinner, we danced well into the evening, then enjoyed soaking in the two hot tubs down in the Tea Garden. When at last the dancing was done, we slipped into our sleeping bags and slept on the deck under the stars.

At sunrise on Sunday morning, Bill — assisted by Marcel's wife Kathy — prepared Spanish omelets for everyone, after which we had a second day to review and master what we had learned the day before. This fantastic monthly experience went on for almost a decade. Alas, it is no more. Our magical Brigadoon is gone forever; only the memories live on.

Among the dancers who participated in these Saratoga events in the 1970s and who still dance are: Alan Rothchild, Loui Tucker, Rebecca Beniares, Pete Galanis, Bonnie LeMat, Denise Schultz Weiss, Pat Kinney, John and Jan Nicoara, Betsy McKone, Todd Wagner, Geno Bloch, and Jim Emdy.



John Nicoara



Marcel teaching a group of dancers on the deck at William Robbison's Tea Garden. *Photo by J. Nicoara.*

Dancers don't need wings to fly.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I wanted to thank Bruce Mitchell for his wonderful article about the amazing Anatol Joukowsky.



I had the honor of being in Mr. J's classes at San Francisco State University in 1973-1974. I took his Ethnic Dance class and then was invited to become a member of his Workshop in Dance Production class. We explored all different styles of ethnic dance and got to perform at the various schools and also for the dance concert at SF State.

You had to try out to be in his performing class, so it was quite an honor to be invited as most of the dancers came from a ballet background. He was standing in back of me while I was dancing, said, "You have smart feet!" He said he wanted me to join his class... but, I would have to take my ballet class at the same time!

I was 24 years old and had never taken ballet! I did attend the first class, terrified, and hid in the back row. Then Mr. J spotted me, said, "There she is!" and took my hand and led me to the front and center of the class and said, "This is your spot." Of course, many of the aspiring ballerinas who were fighting for that spot, simply glared at me. Luckily, Ginny Wilder was also in the class and she was my only friend in the class!

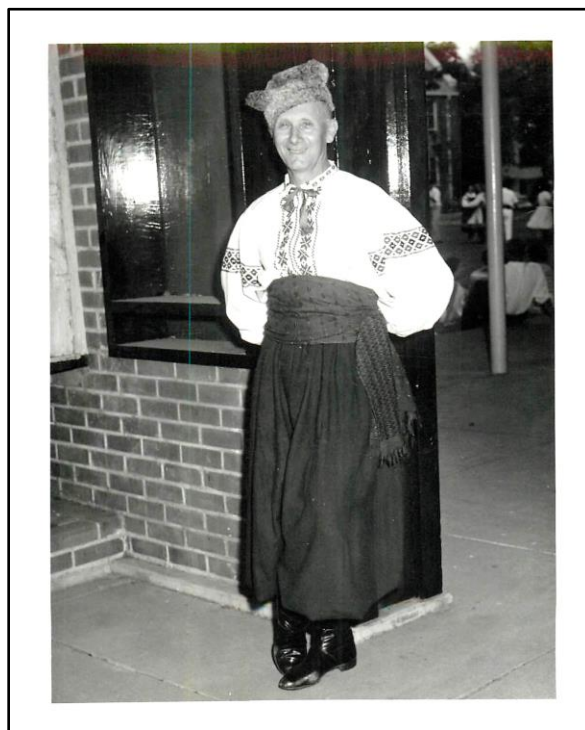
Mr. J was such a great ballet teacher that he eventually created a solo for me to perform at the dance concert!

We met three times a week in the Ethnic Dance Workshop class. Janis O'Connor was the other non-ballerina in the class and since there were only two male dancers, we got to do all the couple dances!

After I graduated with a Multiple Subjects credential, I went back to see Mr. J and attend a Hungarian dance workshop he held with Czaba Palfi... and he saw me, and said, "There she is!"

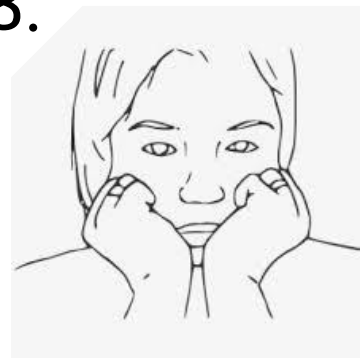
He was an amazing person and I felt so honored that I got to spend so much time with him!

Arlene Imagawa
Folk dancer since 1970



Anatol Joukowsky

The Officers Ball
2020 has been
cancelled. Details
on p. 18.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 40 years ago this month

Letters to the Editor –



Dear Editor,

I am the person who has been involved in taking Video pictures of various Folk Dance Festivals, including the exhibitions at Statewide. Video is a sophisticated extension of the audio-tape recording process. Both the video picture and the sound are recorded on a single moving piece of reusable magnetic tape which can be erased and re-recorded like audio tape. There are two main types of video cassette recorders (V.C.R.), the Beta format sold by approximately five distributors (Sony, Zenith, Sears, Sanyo, are the main ones) and the VHS format sold by over 12 distributors (Akai, G.E., Hitachi, JVC, Magnavox, Wards, Panasonic, Quasar, RCA, Sharp, are the main ones). Tapes used for a V.C.R. using a VHS format, CANNOT be used on a Beta Format machine, but you can record from one machine to the other by plugging into suitable outlets on both machines. (Just like recording from one audio cassette recorder into another.)

I am informed by dealers selling both types of machines that the VHS format outsells all others by approximately 5-1. They would recommend this type of format for this reason.

Some of the festivals have been recorded using V-Cord 11 format (a less popular format) then re-recorded into a VHS format using a Panasonic Video Cassette Recorder, (VCR) NOTE: Video cameras can be used by any VCR format, and if you plan to purchase one, be sure to buy one with a zoom lens.

Both Video Cassette Recorders and Video Tapes have been dropping in price. A 2-4 hour video purchased from a discount store (in a case of 10 tapes) costs only \$12.95. Video Cassette recorders (VCR) again purchased from a discount video store start at approximately \$625.00. Used ones can be purchased as low as approximately \$400.00. Video Cassette recorders are sometimes rented from Video Stores.

A new horizon in folk dancing may be at hand. I have experimented in video taping instructions and walk-throughs of a folk dance, then doing the dance, by watching how it was done on television. Thus it may be possible for a person to learn folk dancing by watching TV. But new problems arise: 1) What folk dances should be video taped? 2) How would tapes be made available to others? On an experimental basis, with the help of my wife and others, I hope to establish a (non-profit) video library of folk dances.

We will start with the Folk Dance Festivals already taken, and on a VHS format. Tapes will be made available on a rental basis for a period of approximately three weeks. (One week being taken up by mailing time). I have checked with the post.

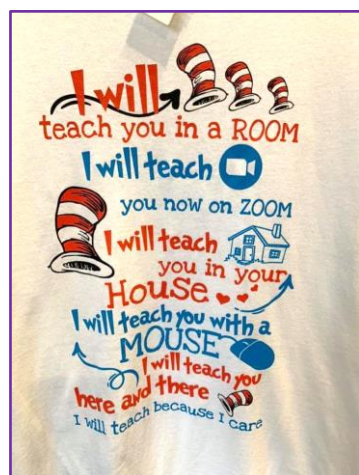
This letter appeared in the **September 1980** issue of *Let's Dance* magazine. To read the letter in its entirety, go to www.folkdance.com/resources/archives

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~ Bob Marley

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