

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  JANUARY 2021

Our wishes for the coming year:



Rooms full of dancers

Workshops with master teachers



Potlucks and snack tables

Dancing together to live music



KOLO FESTIVAL
REVIEW on p. 7

Let's Dance!

Volume 78, No. 1

JANUARY 2021

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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 under the **Services** tab.

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Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

153 Race Street

San Jose, California 95126

Join now: Membership rates:

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Group/Club rate \$40/year

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

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

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WELCOME OUR NEW FEDERATION MEMBER

Susan Speck - Redmond, Oregon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

Did you ever play *Hide and Seek* as a kid? One person closes his/her eyes and counts while everyone else hides. 2020 feels like it has been one big game of *Hide and Seek* hiding behind our masks from COVID, counting the days/weeks/months as they pass while seeking ways to stay connected and enjoy life. **Ready or not, here we come, 2021.**

Even though we have to start the New Year behind our masks, we can continue to enjoy dancing. In this time of polarization, dancing breaks down barriers between people. Whether we are watching a dance video or doing the actual dance, dance gives us a healing effect that is contagious.

Every one of the many times that I've watched *Where the Hell is Matt?* it makes me feel so happy and connected with everyone around the world. If you haven't seen this YouTube video, I highly recommend that you watch Matt as he joyfully dances with just about every ethnicity you can

imagine. Log into Google and search for *Where the Hell is Matt?* and you will find several videos

Ready or not, here we come, 2021!

from which to choose. My favorite is the one from 2012. It is amazing!

You might remember a picture in last month's *Let's Dance!* (December 2020) on page 11. The caption read "The Jerusalema Dance Challenge got these medical workers out on the lawn to dance..."

In a separate email to Federation members, Loui recommended taking a look at the video compilation of Jersalema. Talk about great energy



and "dancing the dance." If you missed seeing this, here's another chance. If you have seen it, watch again and join in. Again, log into Google and search for *Jerusalema Master KG Top Best Dance Challenge 2020*. **This is truly one of the best ways you can start your new year in just 11 minutes and 43 seconds.** If that wasn't enough fun, there are many more Jerusalema videos to choose from. An exceptional one features children in Africa.

Stockton Folk Dance Camp in January?

That's right! Be sure to Zoom in January 22-24, 2021 for a Winter Weekend of "dynamic international dance stars and musicians to entertain, educate, and amuse you." Check out the flyer on page 16 for more information.

It was another great Kolo Festival this year.

The marvels of technology brought us all those master teachers, musicians, and presentations. Thanks to all who were involved to make it happen. Karen Wilson-Bell wrote a full review that you can read on page 7.

H. H. Dalai Lama says "The purpose of life is to be happy." Keep dancing and find happiness. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of dancing together again.



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 (Community tab).

December 31



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. 10 pm-12:30 am (perhaps a bit later) on Zoom. The later start is to allow dancers to share dinner with friends (outdoors) and then dance. **Zoom Meeting ID: 957 5454 0536.** Slideshow of photos of dancing in years past. Send requests to loui@louisucker.com by December 29. Info: hollisradin@pacbell.net

< 2021 >

January 22-24

STOCKTON WINTER WEEKEND. 24-hours-a-day, Friday evening through late Sunday evening. More than a dozen dance and music teachers. Free on the Zoom platform. See ad on p. 16.

April 7-11

NATIONAL FOLK ORGANIZATION VIRTUAL CONFERENCE. Connecting Through Culture. Free for all. Details at nfousa.org.

▶ LIST OF VIRTUAL CLASSES ON P. 14 ◀

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 or loui@louisucker.com
- Kevin Greek, Federation Website Manager, events@folkdance.com
- The Federation's Google Groups at FDf-CA@googlegroups.com

"Ciuleandra"

Foaie verde și minor!
Ține-ți ciuleandra pe loc.

CHORUS:

Și'ncodată măi băieți
Hooooop ș'așa ș'așa.

Țineți-o flăcăi așa
Până n-ajunge puica.

Întăriț-o liță lus
C-ajunge acuş acuş.

Mai întăriț-o de un pas
C-ajuns si n-a rămas.

Două fire două pae
Luați ciuleandra la bătaie.

Tot așa că nu mă las
Că sînt cu puica de-un pas.

Green leaf of basil (?)
Dance Ciuleandra on the spot.

Ch: And once again you guys,
Hop like this and that.

Hey you guys, dance it like that
Until my girl catches up.

CHORUS

Play it again a bit faster now,
Because she'll quickly get in time.

CHORUS

Now you play it even faster,
Because she's already outdone me.

CHORUS

Two stalks, two husks,
Beat Ciuleandra as fast as you can.

CHORUS

Play it like that, I won't give up;
I'm at the same place as my girl.

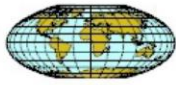
CHORUS

Translation courtesy of Sunni Bloland.

From the November 1973 issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine (in case you missed it the first time around).

Mihai David taught Ciuleandra at the Kolo Festival in 1972 and at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1973.

Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2021-23



Travel
broadens
one!

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

www.jimgold.com



2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

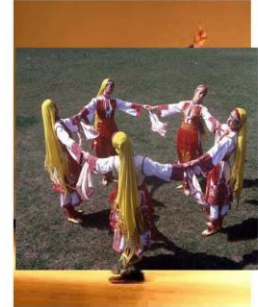
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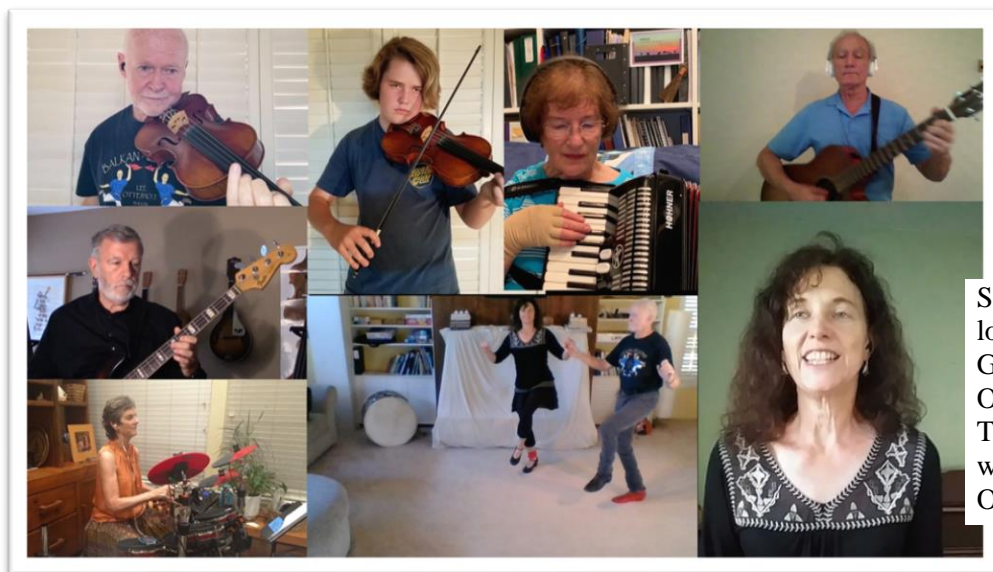
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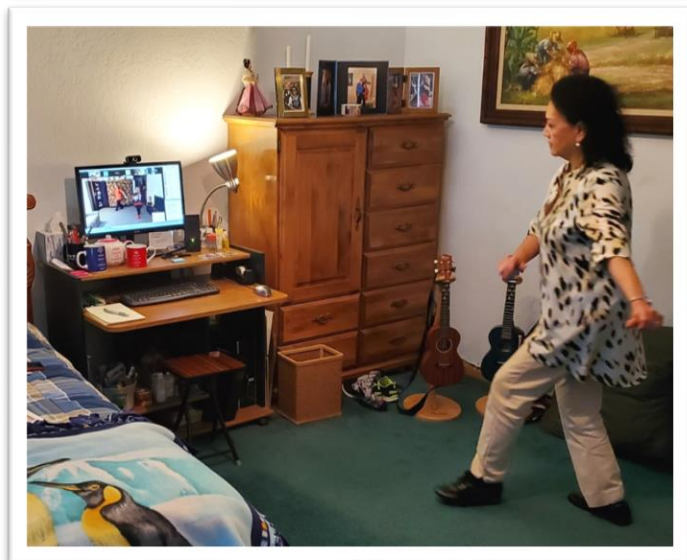


THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Kolo Festival in late November had dancers gathered around their screens. This is a selection of the photos submitted.



Sans Frontières, clockwise from lower left, Mindy Belli, Lance Gucwa, Lee Otterholt, Sebastian Otterholt, Barbara Gershman, Terry Gucwa, Marcella Lawson, with Marcella Lawson and Lee Otterholt dancing.



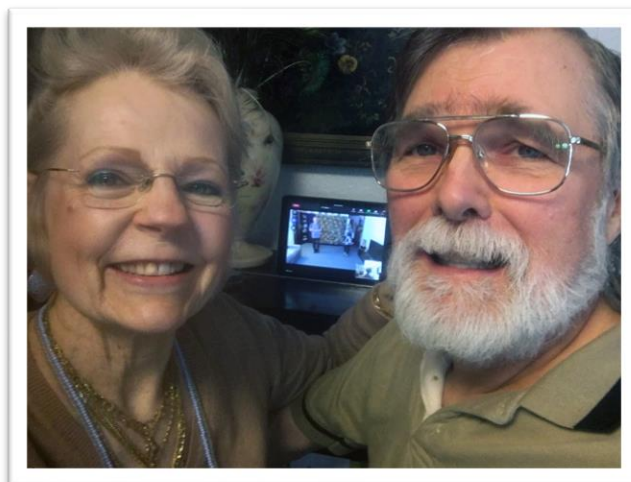
Alicia La Fetra learning Joc de Bata.



Laura Douglass and Kobal watching from atop the cabinet.



Diane Baker



Melissa Miller and Lew Smith (Cristian and Sonia on the screen in the background).

The Global Texa-Kolo Festival Extravaganza

by Karen Wilson-Bell

It was a Thanksgiving weekend like no other. The organizers for Texas International Folk Dance Camp in San Antonio and for California Kolo Festival in San Francisco, plus a hundred and more of their friends, put on an amazing event that attracted well over 1000 of us from 30 countries to a virtual celebration of dancing, music, performances, and folk culture.

There were many opportunities to learn: Joe Graziosi taught us 18 Greek dances; Sonia and Cristian taught us nine Romanian dances; Michel Hardbarger taught fun family dances; Maria Bebelekova, John Morovich, Michel Simon, and Shirley Johnson taught singing classes; Melanie Kareem taught ukulele classes; and there were at least six instrumental jam sessions. Did I mention the fantastic schedule, color coded to help us find dance classes, singing classes, instrumental classes, warm up sessions, culture corners, performances, and chat rooms?

In the evenings, there were performances for dancing by more than 24 different Balkan bands from all over the country. Simultaneously, there were videos of dance performances curated by Ahmet Lüleci and international folk dancing organized by the Texas Camp. There were after-parties every night.

The tech crew was kept busy helping us navigate between virtual dance and chat spaces, quickly playing recorded teaching sessions when a teacher's live Zoom session was having problems, and monitoring the chat window.

When we logged in on Saturday morning, we were met with the message: "Hi, Friends, we are having so much fun at Texa-Kolo that we are crashing Zoom!" The tech crew quickly made changes in the procedures for getting to the events and we kept on having fun.

It's not too late to express your thanks to the hosts or the teachers or performers for this amazing four-day event. Kolo Festival (kolofestival.org) and Texas International Folk Dance Camp (tifd.org) both have websites and opportunities to donate.



Community Building in Folk Dance

by Gigi Jensen

I bet you miss dancing. I sure do! We try to get our dance fix by going to virtual classes, parties, and festivals, and we really appreciate that teachers and organizers make those opportunities possible. (Thank you!) It'll do for now, but we sure wouldn't want that to be our only option for much longer. Here are some strategies to help get us through these difficult times.

It all comes down to keeping your community together. Social dancers go to classes or parties to see their peeps, not just to dance. There are people you chat with and others you only smile at from across the circle. When someone is absent, you hope it's a temporary situation, and when it's announced that someone is undergoing a challenging situation, you feel concerned.

It's the same in our tango community. Warren and I have been intentional in helping our students build connections. That is especially true with our former students at the San Leandro Senior Center and daytime dance events frequented mainly by seniors. Almost all of our students live alone and don't have partners.

Our main strategy is to use social media. First, let me clarify that we haven't yet taught dance classes over Zoom, mainly because the majority of

It all comes down to keeping your community together. Social dancers go to classes or parties to see their peeps, not just to dance.

our students want to learn tango to meet people, and to get hugs. Instead, we have regular meetups via video chats with a different activity every time. We've had an Argentine wine-tasting, watched a full-length tango movie, and even enjoyed an afternoon cocktail party just to catch up a bit. While these are not dancing events per se, they are tango-focused.

The next meetups will include an exploration of tango lyrics, a cooking class, and having other tango dance professionals meet with us from Buenos Aires (or from wherever they currently are located; some are stuck in other countries and can't get home). A few people in our group have traveled to Argentina and it will be fun to have them to share their adventures. We're scheduling a documentary, a preview with the documentary's director, followed by a Q&A.

What can you do? That depends on your local community. Talk to your organizers or teachers. If they don't have the time, you could organize something yourself. You may need to help someone learn how to use Zoom or other similar service. We have YouTube and Spotify channels with favorite music and dance videos. We have a page on our website (tangoandmoredance.com) of strategies to enjoy Argentine tango and its dance cousins. You could make a Facebook group. Phone calls, emails, and texts are easy options. Do a conference call. You can even pop a note in the mail. I'm sure you will have your own ideas. I encourage you to reach out to each other. It lets people know that they matter.

The main thing is to not let the time slip away. You, too, need support through these difficult times and maybe your love of dance is where you can find it.





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.**

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



Make check payable to Folk Dance Federation of California
 Mail this form and your check to:
 Marcia Rosenblatt For additional information about membership
 927 Springfield Drive e-mail membership@folkdance.com
 Millbrae, CA 94030

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

Our 15-week Balkan folk dance class on Zoom ended mid-December. We enjoyed learning dances from Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and Armenia, many of which I learned during the virtual Stockton Folk Dance Camp this past summer. We took a short break over the Christmas and New Year's holidays and look forward to dancing again on Tuesdays in January with an all-request program each week. Our 15-week Spring folk dance class will start in February.

We not only folk danced every Tuesday this fall on Zoom, but we also celebrated birthdays, dancers' grandchildren, and a special remembrance night for those folk dancers we have lost over the years. Our Day of Remembrance has taken place in November the past several years. Photos are usually on display in our dance hall along with votives and flowers. This year, Marguerite Treat made a slide show of the photos mounted on display boards for us to see on Zoom.

We weren't able to have our annual Christmas party this year in Monroe Hall. Every year I read "The Night Before Christmas" for the children (now mostly grandchildren) of our folk dancers. This year we were able to do it on Zoom. On the last night of



Photo taken at last year's Razzmatazz Christmas party.
Photo by Eric Torgerson.

our Fall class we started a little early and I read the story to a small gathering of children. Through the

wonders of technology, Santa even made an appearance from the North Pole to talk to the children and wish all of us a Merry Christmas.

After attending the Texa-Kolo Festival and many other online classes this fall, I will be spending the month of January preparing all the new dances I've learned and looking forward to teaching them to our Razzmatazz group in the spring, even if it's just in my living room!

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

We're still dancing virtually in the North Bay, with our Israeli class on Sunday mornings and Balkan/International on Monday nights. Both classes continued through late December, and then resumed in early January.

In the Balkan class, we brought back Sandy's Čačak, an old favorite that had dropped out of our repertoire. I have a vivid memory of longtime Petaluma folk dance stalwart Sandy Clemmer leading this dance, always wearing his opanci. In Serbia it's simply referred to as Čačak Kolo, but Sandy introduced the dance locally, hence the name.

We've been taking a fun deep dive into Albanian dances, some of them traditional (Valle Iusuf, Vallja e Katushkes, Populli Jon), others choreographed, including Valle e Permetit and Moj Maro. I also introduced great new music for Valle Pogonishte with vocals by well-know Albanian singer Merita Spahiu (Google "Valle e bukur toponishte").

In the Israeli class, we've been having fun dancing favorite line dances including Hine Ma Tov #2, Vals Agur Zahav (originally done as a couple dance, but I found a video from Japan of folks doing it as a line dance), Sixteen Tons, (music by Tennessee Ernie Ford – a testament to the fact that Israelis will choreograph to any music), Jaimale, Pata Pata, Homey Twist (not Israeli, but a favorite Urban Soul line dance) and, of course, Jerusalem.

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

... AND BEYOND

SACRAMENTO – Barbara Bevan

I hope everyone has enjoyed Thanksgiving and the December holidays as much as possible. It has been almost a year that we have been in this historic pandemic. I am grateful to the folk dance leaders who have made it possible for us to maintain our dancing skills via Zoom. I hope that 2021 will be better than 2020 and that we will be able to dance together again.

Recently, I wore a sparkly blue top for Kolo Coalition's Zoom class when I led three dances. One was a Macedonian Roma dance called Usti Baba ("Wake up, wake up, father! It's time to go to my sister's wedding."), a dance I learned from Roberto Bagnoli.

When I led Usti Baba on Zoom, I told them I wore a sparkly top because when I experienced the Roma wedding in Skopje, Macedonia, in 1985, the Roma women all wore sparkly clothes and make-up. Atanas Kolarovski was our leader. It was an experience I'll never forget!

The background of that experience is that when a young Roma woman is going to get married, her relatives and girlfriends go to her house where they wish her happiness and pin money to her dress. They all then join in a procession from her house to that of her new husband. A horse-drawn cart, on which her dowry of clothes, linens, pots and pans, etc., are prominently displayed, joins the procession and a Roma brass band plays. Everyone dances in the street. It is very festive! We Americans were welcome to join in. We exchanged many smiles and nods. They seemed pleased we could actually join the dance. I still remember this experience whenever I do a Roma dance and I am so grateful I had that memorable experience. You can read more about it on p. 18.

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

While folk dancing is my first love, contemporary dance has become my other main dance form. Pre-COVID, I danced with my modern/contemporary dance friends twice a week.

For the past five years, my dance teacher has led us in a yearly dance at the beach. We drive about an hour from Willits to the Mendocino coast. She leads us in movement exercises and dancing for a few hours. We don't even use recorded music. The sound of the ocean is our only music. It's always very restorative and empowering.

This year, just three of us were able to meet in person on the beach to dance, but it meant even more to me. It was my first time dancing in person with friends since March. Because it was just the three of us and we had the beach to ourselves, it was easy to stay distant. We danced with flags that helped fill the empty space between us and made us feel connected. I highly recommend dancing in nature, especially on the beach. It's always powerful, but this year was extra special.



Megan Wolf (left) dancing with friends on the beach near Mendocino

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Adony Beniares

The Saratoga Folk Dance Family, which has been dancing outside on Thursdays, has temporarily shut down due to the weather change and the new rules restricting congregating in groups. As soon as conditions improve, we're sure Loui will lead us again with in-person dancing!

In 2020, the Peninsula Council decided to shift our annual Heritage Festival from January to March and revisit it in 2021, and we wound up cancelling that due to COVID. Given the current conditions, the Council has decided to cancel the Festival for 2021 and focus on our other folk dance parties. Top among those projects are our Global Folk Dance Party, scheduled for the third Sunday of every month for all of 2021, and our monthly Regional Folk Dance Parties held online on the second Sunday of each month.

As we end 2020, what we're happy about is that we've started seeing and dancing with many friends that we only saw once or twice per year. While it doesn't replace the fun we have with in-person classes and parties, it does add something new that we look forward to having in our lives even after COVID-19 has left us.

Smile & Folk Dance

By Catherine Ko

In March 2012, the Smile Dancers started dancing together after our weekly prayer meetings. The casual steps and twirls of a handful of church friends in a garage soon grew into an active group of amateur dancers who love dancing and making friends through international folk dancing. We have danced at local multicultural events, liturgical services, homeless shelters, community fundraisers, nursing homes, health centers, and cathedrals. We have cherished every precious moment when we celebrate music, dance, and costumes, when we hold hands, dance, sing, laugh, and sometimes cry together.

In 2015, our prayer for a teacher was answered when Rebecca Tsai moved to our area and graciously joined our weekly garage dance meetings. Besides expanding our extensive repertoire of ethnic Chinese dances, including aboriginal Taiwanese and Uyghur dances, Rebecca also introduced us to a full palette of popular international folk dances. Rebecca has taught us so many beautiful dances with her always-smiling spirit, detailed and patient instructions, and superb dance skills. We consider ourselves extremely blessed to be learning the best of folk dancing from Rebecca.

In August 2019, our weekly garage dance meetings moved to the newly remodeled gym of Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Fremont, California. With the space of three basketball courts, brand new wood floors, air conditioning, and great teachers (Rebecca and Evan), we openly invited dance lovers from local communities to join our meetings.

As so many local dancers had to do, in April 2020, we moved our meetings to Zoom. We have continued dancing and smiling together while learning international folk dancing. Please join us! We'll do easy warm-up dances and you might be among the first to learn Rebecca's newly choreographed dances. Come enjoy our casual folk dance party and learn new dances with Smile Dancers!

Sunday 5:15 PM - 6:45 PM

Zoom Meeting: 899 6194 0965 (pw 137283)

catherine.smile.peace@gmail.com

For more virtual class offering, see p. 14

Parking Lots Saved the Day!

by Jim Gold (Teaneck, New Jersey)

Question: How can we folk dance with fellow humans during this pandemic?

Answer: Dancing in parking lots! These days, indoors is out, and outdoors is in.

Our local Fairleigh Dickinson University has a beautiful parking lot next to the scenic Hackensack River. Wide and spacious and unused (classes at FDU were now all online.), I decided this was the place to dance. After a couple of trial runs with a few friends, we scheduled our first Parking Lot Dance for Sunday, September 6.

About thirty folk dancers showed up with sparks of enthusiasm shining in their eyes. Although we couldn't see each other's faces since everyone wore a mask, I knew there were many smiles behind those masks. Such happy faces! We all had a great time and, at the end, folks hugged each other by bumping elbows. A grand success! We planned new classes for Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. It is a great joy to dance in parking lots.

However, problems occurred: the university police arrived during one of our dance sessions. They stood for a while and watched us dance. Then, in the middle of Miserlou, they stopped us and said we needed permission from the university to use their parking lot. I applied for permission, but the provost denied it. Due to the virus, they forbid all activities in their parking lot.

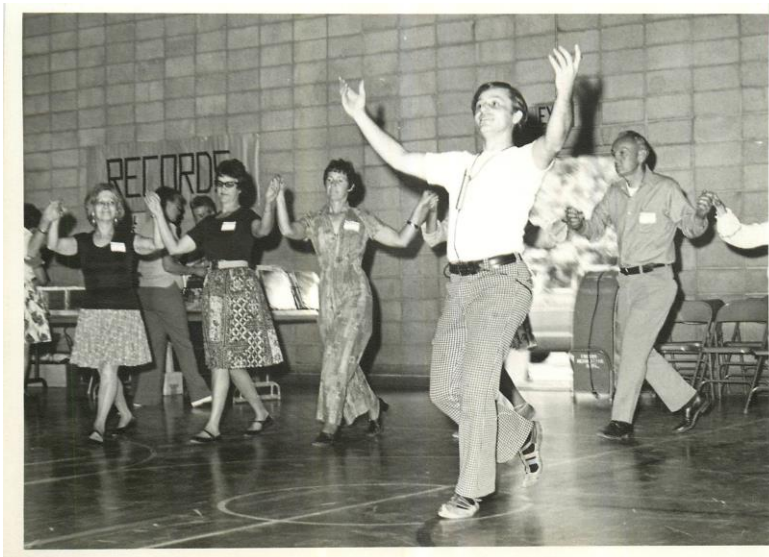
We spent the day looking for other lots in Teaneck and neighboring towns. Finally, from our many options, we settled on Teaneck's Lowell Elementary School's parking lot, which is more private, spacious, and beautiful in its own way. I called the administration several times and got mixed answers. I'm hoping we can stay. If we can't, I've got lots of other parking lot options lined up. Our vagabond group of folk dancers is ready to move to the next location, if necessary.

Parking lot dancing is a winner. What a pleasure to breath fresh air, be kissed by the sun, greet folk dance friends and neighbors, and to live and thrive once again!

May the only virus infecting you be the folk dance virus.

Editor's Note: Although Jim lives in New Jersey, where he leads his folk dance group, he is a Folk Dance Federation member. He has advertised his folk dance tours in every issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine since January 2007.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Judging from the sign in the background, the vendors at this festival were still selling records, so the photo was probably taken back in the 1970s. Do you know who the teacher is? There's no prize if you have the correct answer, but if you want to verify, email editor@folkdance.com.



That's Al and Teddy Wolterbeek! The photo was taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp during one of the Saturday talent shows in the 1990s. Megan Wolf wrote an article about Al and Teddy and their contributions to our folk dance community that appeared in the May 2018, issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine.

HISTORY CHANNEL

by Loui Tucker

I have known Don Burnham for several decades. He often comes up to me at dance class and hands me an envelope of treasures he knows that, as a folk dance historian, I will appreciate. He knows that, in addition to photographs, I collect memorabilia and ephemera related to folk dance. On the occasion of his recent 97th birthday, when a group of us gathered in the cul-de-sac at his home to sing him Happy Birthday, he called me to one side to hand me yet another of these envelopes.

Inside I found the earliest examples of the tiny, printed festival programs I have ever seen. These programs used to be provided at all the local folk dance festivals (typically one per month, sometimes two). They listed the 35-40 dances on the playlist. They were an integral part of our folk dance culture for decades, well into the early 2000s. These two are 4" wide, held together with yellowing tape. If you look closely, you'll see the dates in May of 1947.

I found it interesting that the Hambo was listed *twice* in both programs – dancers just couldn't get enough of it! All the dances were couple dances. Others on the playlists: Korobushka, Kohanotchka, Road to the Isles, Gypsy Wine, and Little Man in a Fix.

There is more information about these programs, their purpose, and popularity in the November 2017 issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine, p. 16. [Thanks, Don!]



Have you often wished you could get away on, say, a Sunday afternoon, and drive over to Turlock to visit the dancers there? Well, now you can - virtually!

FEDERATION CLUBS WITH VIRTUAL CLASSES

The Federation website manager, Kevin Greek, and *Let's Dance!* are maintaining a list of Federation groups meeting via Zoom. The clubs below provided their information. **The list is also on *folkdance.com* and that list will be updated** as more clubs respond to the request for information. If your club is NOT listed, and you want to be listed next month (as well as on *folkdance.com*), please email editor@folkdance.com or Loui@LouiTucker.com. This listing is organized by day of the week.

Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers	Carol Friedman	cjay@horizoncable.com
Monday	7:00-8:15	Email Carol for login information
Razzmatazz Folk Dance	Marilyn Smith	marilynsmith@sbcglobal.net
Tuesday	7:00 - 8:00	Email Marilyn for login information
Palomanians	Adony Beniares	adony408@gmail.com
Tuesday	7:00 - 9:30	Zoom #: 195 812 542
Tuesday Dancers	Bruce Mitchell	sfdc2000@icloud.com
Tuesday	7:30 - 9:00	Zoom #: 831 127 0586
Tuesday Santa Cruz Israeli	Alan Rothchild	rothdance@hotmail.com
Tuesday	8:00-10:00	Zoom #: 893 3862 3151 (PW=sapari)
Kolo Koalition	Sharon Hulten	dashincal@aol.com
Wednesdays	8:00 - 9:30	Zoom #: 839 5676 6387 (PW: 565438)
Changs International	Ulrike Narins	ulrike888@hotmail.com
Friday	7:30 - 9:30	Zoom #: 892 3870 4714 (PW=966035)
Kopachka Dancers	Susie Shoaf	president@kopachkafolkdancers.com
Friday (every 2 weeks)	7:30 - 9:00	Zoom #: 863 9451 5471
Friday Night International	Alan Rothchild	rothdance@hotmail.com
Friday	8:00-10:00	Zoom # 771 0202 4662 (PW=pravo)
Global Folk Dance Party	Adony Beniares	adony408@gmail.com
3rd Saturday	3:00 - 6:00	Zoom #: 600 066 908
Sunday Israeli	Carol Friedman	cjay@horizoncable.com
Sunday	9:00-10:15 AM	Email Carol for login information
Village Dancers Plus	Judy Kropp	judykropp40@gmail.com
Sunday	3:00 - 4:30	Zoom #: 825 5262 8923 (PW=697402)
Peninsula Folk Dance Council	Adony Beniares	adony408@gmail.com
2nd Sunday	3:00 - 5:30	Zoom #: 555 444 300
Smile & Dance	Catherine Ko	catherine.smile.peace@gmail.com
Sunday	5:15 - 6:45	Zoom #: 899 6194 0965 (PW=137283)



Bruce Mitchell leading a dance for the Tuesday Dancers via Zoom.

Answers to last month's Unscramble Puzzle

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. mad burlesque narc | Cumberland Square |
| 2. looks aerobic | Belasicko Oro |
| 3. honorary desks crash | Horehronsky Csardas |
| 4. envoys ran nude | Never on Sunday |
| 5. inane mouser | Ani More Nuse |
| 6. ham halo hangers | Sham Hare Golan |
| 7. cardiac bouncer | Ciorba de Curcan |
| 8. shares a pipe | Sapphire Sea |
| 9. lack book divisor | Divcibarsko Kolo |
| 10. major pea deal | Ajde Lepa Maro |

What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

WHO HAS HEARD OF FLOATING KOLO?

by Diane Baker

This story begins with an unexpected donation to the Federation Archives of the Southern California Federation. Our Historian, Wen-Li Chiang, added an item to the agenda for the Federation's October council meeting: the contribution of two CDs entitled "Floating Kolo" from the 1964 Federation Festival in Ojai. Wen-Li explained that the council could hear the music, but that copies were not allowed, and that the contributor, René Besné, had expressed his wish that the music not be formatted into mp3s. Naturally, I was intrigued and wanted to hear the music! And who was René Besné? And who or what was Floating Kolo? "Must be a folk band from the 60s," I thought.

I started my inquiry with Dick Oakes' master teachers pages on the Southern California Federation website. Read on for a history lesson.

René Besné. René was born in Hollywood, and played in and around the Hollywood Bowl as a child. He became involved in folk dance when he moved with his mother to Exeter, California, at about 16 years of age. He tagged along when she began folk dancing at recreation clubs that met on basketball courts and found he liked it, especially the Russian dances. René even learned how to call square dances and called for a Federation festival in Fresno. He specialized in complex figures, then getting dancers ingeniously back home!

Then the draft called. After military service, René returned to Hollywood and became involved in the local international folk dance scene. He fell in with Jim Schlesinger and became entranced by dotted beats and compound rhythms, a sure sign he was a committed Balkan dancer.

While living in Hollywood, he met his future wife, Frances, and was part of the folk café scene, both dancing and teaching. Both he and Frances danced with Kitka. Next, René co-directed the performing ensemble Sredic with Stopan and Majka Cemja. Their most noteworthy gig was during intermission for a performance of the Russian



Balalaika Orchestra at the Wilshire Ebell Theater. Tony Shay wrote admiringly of that performance, "I remember, like a tape playing in my brain, that performance at the Intersection with seven dancers wearing blue and white Shope costumes." He praised Frances and René for their fine dancing and expressed his wish that they had joined AMAN.

Floating Kolo. René explained that Floating Kolo was a group of local Balkan dancers that wanted to enable a monthly Kolo

party without teaching. One of the members had connections in the Los Angeles County government, which greatly assisted the use of County facilities at the time. René was the one who assembled three hours of dances from a library of discs and tapes, often seeking out variants from the recordings typically used for a dance. Each month the party was held at a different venue – hence the 'Floating' part of the name. René explained that the cost of insurance ended the monthly Floating Kolo parties.

In 1964, the Federation Festival committee invited the Floating Kolo gang to host the kolo hour at the Ojai festival. René prepared a two-hour tape (reel-to-reel!) composed of tunes from Michael Herman records and 78s rustled out of Bulgaria. (Billy Burke claims to have been a kid at that festival with his parents, but he does not recall the music.)

René and Frances made a business move to Sacramento in 1971. There René taught a recreational folk dance class and directed the ensemble Majka Zemja. While René was out of town on business, torrential rain caused extensive flooding. Frances and the children got out safely, as did their pets (thanks to neighbors in a canoe who snatched the cat floating on a couch). Their home was lost, as well as most of their Bulgarian costumes, documents, and memorabilia!

In retirement, they moved back to southern California to be closer to their son and his family. René is now spending his time restoring memorable musical experiences from his files of reel-to-reel tapes.

Editor's Note: Interested in reviewing a list of the dances donated by René and Floating Kolo? Contact Diane Baker at diane.baker@diandden.net.

STOCKTON FOLK DANCE WINTER WEEKEND



Jan 22-24, 2021
via Zoom

Featured Guests

Roberto Bagnoli
Ahmet Luleci
Maurits van Geel
Tineke van Geel
Aaron Alpert
Tony Parkes

Gergana Panova
Vlasto Petkovski
Bianca de Jong
Polly Tapia Ferber
Kay Munn
Richard Powers

Miamon Miller
Bill Cope
Janie Cowan
Michael Lawson
Michele Simon

**Non-stop fun from 2pm Friday, January 22,
until late Sunday January 25 (PT).**

Make sure you get our E-News for more information; sign up at
stocktonfolkdancecamp@gmail.com

Mark your calendar and tell your friends!

Jerusalema

(South Africa)

It has been compared to the Macarena because of its infectious music, simple movements, and rapid and wide acceptance by dancers. As a result of the internet and the Jerusalema Dance Challenge, this dance has spread around the globe. Although Jerusalema does not fit everyone's definition of a folk dance, this dance is certainly being done by a lot of folks. There are video examples of dancers enjoying this dance in the Netherlands, Stuttgart Airport, Bucharest, a Swedish Hospital, Libertatii Square in Timisoara, Romania, and Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, Israel. There are videos of children, priests, health care workers, police, and beachgoers. Dancers often carry and eat from small trays of food because the original video that went viral and started this craze showed just that. The lyrics are in Zulu.

- Music: 4/4 meter Music can be downloaded from a variety of internet sources. The original cut of the music is quite long and may need to be cut.
- Video: An internet search will yield dozens of videos with a variety of styles. On Google or YouTube, search for "Jerusalema."
- Formation: A four-wall line dance. Dancers start facing the same wall.
- Steps & Styling: The steps are uncomplicated and allow for personal styling and embellishment in the form of arms movements, hip bumps, and claps.

Meas	4/4	PATTERN
		<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> No action. Start at the beginning of any measure.
1		With the L slightly fwd, toes touching the ground, both knees bent, tap L toes four times in place (cts 1, 2, 3, 4). Optional: leave L in place and bend and flex the R knee four times.
2		On the "and" before ct 1, jump and switch the position of feet so R is slightly fwd, knees bent. Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk (cts 1, 2, 3, 4).
3		On the "and" before ct 1, jump and switch the position of feet so they are the same as in meas 1, L slightly fwd and knees bent. Repeat this movement so legs switch position four times, once each beat (cts 1, 2, 3, 4).
4		On the "and" before ct 1, jump and switch the position of feet, this time stepping L fwd (ct 1); continuing moving fwd but turning ¼ L while walking 3 steps fwd (R, L, R), to end facing the wall to the left. Optional: some dancers bend at the waist on ct 1 and rise slowly to standing position by ct 4.
5		Touch L to L (ct 1); walk 3 steps (L, R, L) to L.
6		Touch R in front (ct 1); walk bkwd 3 steps (R, L, R).

Sequence: Dance is repeated as described above, facing a new wall each time.

Lyrics in English

Jerusalem is my home, guide me, take me with You.
Do not leave me here.

My place is not here, my kingdom is not here.
Guide me, take me with You.

Guide me, guide me, guide me, do not leave me here.



A Roma Wedding in Skopje, Macedonia, in 1985

by Barbara Bevan

I discovered international folk dancing in 1977 and fell completely in love with it! I asked myself, “Where has this wonderful activity been, and why didn’t I know about it sooner?” I soon learned that Balkan dance was my favorite.

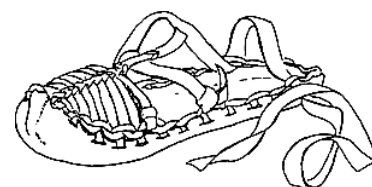
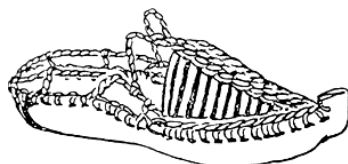
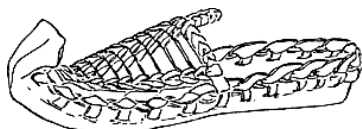
I had never heard of the Rom genre of dance before. I had heard of gypsies and learned that “Rom” was the preferred term. Over these many years, I have learned Rom dances from Ciga Despotovic, Atanas Kolarovski, Steve Kotansky, Lee Otterholt, Roberto Bagnoli, Sani Rafati, Cristian & Sonia, Maurits Van Geel, Yves Moreau, and others.

In the summer of 1985, I was on a small tour with other American folk dancers to Macedonia led by our beloved teacher, Atanas Kolarovski, a native of Macedonia, an esteemed performer and teacher of Macedonian folk dance, and a warm, wonderful person. Among the many experiences we had was the day we were invited to participate in a Roma wedding. Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, had a large community of Roma people. Their unique wedding traditions were still practiced. This colorful experience is still a vivid memory of mine even after all these years.

We began at the bride’s home where her relatives and friends gathered to offer her their best wishes and to pin paper money to her dress and veil. There were hugs and even tears, everyone knowing the bride would be leaving her family to live with her new husband’s family and would be supervised by her mother-in-law.



We joined in the procession to the groom’s house. There was a horse-drawn cart on which was displayed the bride’s trousseau of clothing and household goods. A brass band played in a structure like a 3-sided metal garage which amplified their sound. Atanas said we could join in the line of dancers. Hesitantly, I did and immediately felt welcome. The wedding guests were dressed in colorful clothing. The women wore sparkly clothes and even sparkly make-up. We exchanged many smiles and nods. They seemed pleased that we could actually join the dance. I still remember this experience whenever I do a Roma dance and am so grateful that I had that memorable experience.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 45 years ago this month

The **January 1976** issue of *Let's Dance* magazine included the following items:

Someone's been holding these items for over a year??

```
*****
*                                     *
*                               LOST & FOUND                               *
*   Phyllis Olson is still holding the following items found          *
* at past festivals:                                                 *
* TREASURER'S BALL, 1974; 1 man's straw hat, 1 pair black ringo    *
* shoes.                                                             *
* BEGINNER'S FESTIVAL, 1975; 1 umbrella                             *
* TREASURER'S BALL, 1975; 1 pair man's moccasins, 1 set car keys   *
*   If you belong to any of these items or know who does, con-    *
* tact Phyllis at 351-7338.                                         *
*****
```

YOUR 1976 COSTUME CALENDAR IS READY

12 exciting costume pictures

420 little squares to write in

103 Folk Dancing Events for you to participate in
All the major holidays

Clear - easy to read numbers and information

Remember when we all used
paper calendars?

COMING EVENTS: TEACHER/DANCER WORKSHOP

According to Chairman Dean Linscott, elaborate plans are already under way for an "All-new" program of **three full days** of instruction, practice, discussions, and teaching sessions, encompassing all aspects of Folk Dance teaching, led by many experienced teachers from the Bay Area.

It wasn't so long ago that all clubs maintained a record collection!

WANTED: Variable speed phonograph for new club, Folk Dancers International, Cal State Univ, Sacto. State price and condition. c/o Dan Alstatt, 4432 H St, Sacto, CA 95819.

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**The one thing that can solve most of our
problems is dancing.**

~ James Brown

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