

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  JULY-AUGUST 2021



At The Land in the Santa Cruz Mountains over Memorial Day Weekend 2021. Look Ma, no masks!

OH, THE JOY!

Photos and commentary inside!

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

Let's Dance!

Volume 78, No. 6
JULY-AUGUST 2021

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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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©*Let's Dance!* (ISSN#0024-1253) is published monthly by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., with the exception of the May-June and July-August issues, which are released each two-month period. Standard mail postage paid at Sacramento, California.

WELCOME OUR NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Nancy Halliburton - Bandon, OR
Joyce Desaussure - Comptche, CA
Linda Cain - El Cerrito, CA
Lisa Bell and Tom Williard – Belmont, CA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

Little by little, the Bay Area and Northern California have been returning to life something like it was before the pandemic. More counties have moved up the state's tiered system, allowing later curfews, indoor events, and larger gatherings as vaccinations continue. As I write this message, California is doing the best in the entire country at keeping COVID numbers down. We are beginning to experience activities we have missed for over a year.

It looks like we will be dancing indoors sometime in the near future. That means it's time to start thinking about how we will keep our folk dance clubs alive. Gigi Jensen's article "The Rebirth of Folk Dance" in last month's *Let's Dance!* magazine inspired me to write this message today.

This coming dance year, which starts in September for Berkeley Folk Dancers, will likely be challenging as we attempt to retain old members and attract new ones. After being away from dancing together in person for a year and a half, I'm hoping that most will be eager to return. Some won't because of our aging folk dance population. Now is the time to start thinking about how to attract younger people and keep the folk dance community thriving.

How do we embrace the future and grow? One way that cannot be emphasized enough is to get local schools involved. Does your club reach out to teachers and students offering scholarships? Berkeley Folk Dancers has such a program, set up by long-time member Mel Mann, which provides free classes to all students. As Gigi mentioned, just by inviting a middle school electives teacher or an elementary PE teacher could have an impact on hundreds of kids. Some schools have after school clubs or talent shows where folk dancing might fit right in.

Does your club offer a family folk dance day/night? Changs in San Francisco devotes the first hour of their weekly classes once a month to families. Megan Wolf and Jordon Ugglu have shared with us their great success with children and families in Willits.

Many of us have T-shirts and tote bags that promote folk dancing. My favorite T-shirt that I bought through the Federation not too long ago says "Folk Dancing is My Superpower!" I also have a bumper sticker that reads "International Folk Dancers/Dancers Without Borders," given to me by Loui Tucker at my first Stockton Folk Dance Camp. These are both incidental and subtle ways to promote folk dancing.

As society begins to open up and more people are vaccinated, street fairs will come back. For over 50 years, Berkeley Folk Dancers has had a booth and danced at the Solano Stroll in order to promote folk dancing. Block parties are another way to spread the word.

Thanks to all of you, our Federation membership has remained steady. Let's all put our best foot forward to keep folk dancing alive. I am confident that each and every one of us can make a difference in promoting this jewel. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of folk dancing again!



The **Dancers Without Borders** bumpersticker is **FREE** as long as you commit to putting it on a vehicle. Send an email to Loui at Loui@LouiTucker.com and she will mail you as many bumperstickers as you'd like. Ask for several so you can share them with other dancers in your group.

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).

- July 24-31** **STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP.** On-Line via Zoom. See ad on p. 18.
- Aug. 15-21**
and
Aug. 22-28 **MAINEWOODS DANCE CAMP(S).** IN PERSON FOR FULLY VACCINATED PARTICIPANTS. Two separate weeks with different teaching staff. Visit mainewoodsdancecamp.org
- Sept. 24-26** **MOUNTAIN PLAYSHOP 2021.** Annual folk dance weekend. YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, 84 Blue Ridge Circle, Black Mountain, North Carolina. Info: mountainplayshop.org or rbzweigoron@gmail.com.
- Oct. 16** **THE FEDERATION'S OFFICERS BALL.** Veterans Hall in Hayward. Afternoon dance workshop, on-site community dinner, evening dance party. IN PERSON! Mark your calendars; details coming soon.
- Nov. 12-14** **FALL CAMP.** Brandeis-Bardin Campus near Simi Valley. The Real Deal – not Virtual! Teaching staff: Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian); Roberto Bagnoli (International). Registration will be available this summer. Full refund if pandemic re-emerges. Info: FallCamp.org or email: Dance@FallCamp.org.
- Dec. 16-19** **CAMP NIRKODA BAKEREM.** Wonder Valley Ranch Resort, Sanger, California (near Fresno). Israeli dance and wine tasting! IN PERSON FOR FULLY-VACCINATED PARTICIPANTS. Featured teachers: Michael Barzelai and Yaron Elfasy (Israeli). Info: Nirkoda.com or email aaron@nirkoda.com

If you'd like to publicize your event to the folk dance community, send your email with any publicity flyers to all three of these:

- Loui Tucker, Editor, at Editor@FolkDance.com or Loui@LouiTucker.com
- Kevin Greek, Federation Website Manager, Events@FolkDance.com
- The Federation's Google Groups at FDF-CA@GoogleGroups.com



There is much unintended entertainment to be found in the close captioning function! While it does a pretty good job at everyday conversation, there is the occasional mangling of a dance title, dance terminology, or a last name. During the April NFO Conference on Zoom, an MC was discussing the schedule and mentioned that Steve Kotansky would be presenting a dance workshop – except his last name was rendered in the close caption readout as “Steve Catastrophe.”

Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2021-23



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2021

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

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

ALBANIA and KOSOVO: May 1-11 ext. 11-13, 2022

Led by Lee Otterholt. Tirana, Durres, Gjirokaster Folk Festival!
Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra.

PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE: May 21-June 2, 2022

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

NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN: June 7-21, 2022

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

BULGARIA: August 1-14, 2022 **Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour!**

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

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

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

Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

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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THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

We are slowly resuming in-person folk dancing. As of June, many groups were dancing outdoors, masks optional, in parks, in plazas, and other open spaces. A few groups were dancing indoors.



We Danced at The Land!

by Betsy Moore

The Land Dancers typically holds folk dance weekend events at my husband Cliff Jenkins' land in the Santa Cruz Mountains every Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend. In 2020, we held two virtual events instead and, though both events were well attended and enjoyable, we were really hoping to be able to welcome dancers back to The Land in person this year.

In April, our Board of Directors met and decided we did feel comfortable gathering for Memorial Day with some restrictions. We opened the event only to people who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with a maximum of 100 attendees, RSVP required (this is usually not necessary). At that time, we decided that we would maintain physical distancing and wear masks while dancing or singing or otherwise not distanced.

A few days before the weekend, however, given the new CDC and state guidelines for outdoor events,



Dancing at The Land on Memorial Day Weekend.

Trying to respect the spectrum of varying comfort levels and with the help and input of fellow dancers, I created an experimental “COVID Comfort Level Necklace Project.” Upon arrival, everyone chose a brightly colored necklace (Green, Yellow, or Red) that best reflected their social interaction comfort level. It also helped that we let folks know about the Necklace Project before the event so they had some familiarity with the concept and definitions before they arrived.

The intent of the Necklace Project was to provide clear preliminary communication about basic social/pandemic boundaries (without taking the place of checking for consent). The brightly colored necklaces are devices that everyone can easily see, understand, and respect. Some folks chose to double up the necklaces to wear as a bracelet, but they were most consistently visible to dancers when worn as a necklace. The meanings of the different colors are explained below.

we decided not to require masks and sent out an update to that effect. A few people had previously let me know they didn't feel comfortable gathering yet, and two more dropped out because we removed the mask requirement, but we received mainly positive feedback about that decision.

Our Board member, Lisa Bell, created a system of ‘**COVID comfort level**’ necklaces, which was very successful and is described in the article below. We ended up having about 70 attendees – with around 45 camping overnight and the rest coming for one or both days. A typical weekend has about double that number attending. The weekend went very well and it was beyond wonderful to be able to see one another in person, to hug, to make music together, and to dance together holding hands! It all felt very natural and normal.

So far, there have been no reports of any cases of COVID-19 among those who attended. We hope to have an even larger and more inclusive event for Labor Day, when we'll be celebrating 40 years of dancing at The Land!

The COVID Comfort-Level Necklace Project

by Lisa Bell

The Land Dancers Board recently held its first 4-day/3-night Folk Dance Weekend since COVID shut us all down in the spring of 2020. Most were very excited, but there were some who were a bit anxious. For this outdoor, in-person event, the Board decided to require all attendees to be fully vaccinated. As many of us are discovering, the transition to “normalcy” is a process. Not every fully-vaccinated person is comfortable with a full return to a mask-free, socially-close, hand-holding-while-dancing, sharing food, sharing hugs environment.

continued on p. 8

The COVID Comfort-Level Necklace Project – *continued*

Because we were all fully vaccinated and outside, most of us chose to wear green necklaces, several chose yellow, no one chose red. Everyone appreciated having an opportunity to express their social comfort level and the necklaces prompted great conversations about respect, boundaries, and consent. The Necklace Project can be easily adapted to other dance events – outdoor/indoor, fully vaccinated/unvaccinated – by simply customizing the definitions of the colors, as desired.

GREEN Necklace:

- Comfortable without mask or social distancing
- Comfortable sharing food
- May be willing to hold hands while dancing – please check for consent first.
- Accepting hugs (with consent)

YELLOW Necklace:

- Prefer to wear mask when social distancing not possible
- Holding hands for dancing within family “pod” only – or by consent – please check for consent first
- May be comfortable sharing food – please check for consent first
- May be comfortable with a brief hug – please check for consent first

RED Necklace:

- Masks and Social Distancing
- Not holding hands outside “family pod”
- Not sharing food (thanks anyway)
- Not hugging (yet)



The display of necklaces at The Land.

Note: If your comfort level changes, feel free to exchange your necklace for a different color.

VINYL SEEKING A NEW HOME

I have inherited 70 (!) albums of international folk dance music from our dance teacher, Richard Duree. Do you know anyone who would want them? Please have anyone interested email me. They are: Accordion Music, Austrian, Big Band, Bulgarian, Chamber Music, Czech, Contra Dances with calls, Flamenco, Hungarian, Moravian, Norwegian, Quadrilles with calls, Romanian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swiss, Transylvanian, Waltz Music, Yaqui, Yugoslavian.

Bridget Richards, Lake Forest, California (bridgetbr@aol.com)

I inherited some 45 records of folk dance music along with instructions for each dance. Bulgarian, Turkish, Hungarian, Croatian and more. I'd like to give these to someone or an organization that might appreciate/use them. I realize that 45 rpm records are most likely not played anymore but I hate the idea of just throwing them out. There are 19 of them and they were all purchased from Ed Kremer's Folk Showplace some time ago.

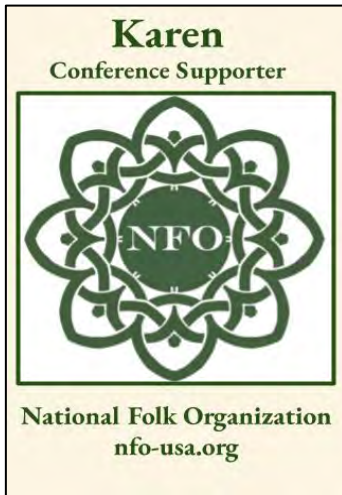
If you would like them or have any advice as to what to do with them, I'd greatly appreciate it! My Mom loved the music, (she was a professional musician), and was an active folk dancer for many years. My email is below.

Emily Onderdonk (emilyonderdonk@gmail.com)



A Firehose of Content: The National Folk Organization Conference, April 7–11, 2021

by Karen Bennett



I'd been aware of the existence of the National Folk Organization for years, and even contributed to their magazine, without feeling an urge to join or to use my limited vacation to attend an in-person event, but in April 2021 the NFO staged a blow-out five-day event entirely on Zoom. From the firehose of programming, I emerged concussed, drenched, and tired, but carrying a headful of dances and extremely varied experiences.

On April 7, I attended Steve Kotansky's session on Moldvai/Moldova/Moldavian dances, only one of which I had in my repertoire. Steve had thoughtfully structured his session to start with a basic dance and then show what had evolved from/was related to it. As usual, he crammed a lot of dances in (six, by my count), and clearly knew dozens more. I always find his generosity astonishing. Two days later, he had another session, this time on Vlach dances of eastern Serbia, and managed to cover nine of them! He was pleased to tell us that, although he had collected these dances from villagers more than 40 years ago, nowadays, young Serbian Vlachs have "rejoined" their culture by returning to their ancestral villages

and learning the dances, thus keeping them alive in their natural settings. I was delighted to add to my repertoire a wedding dance that all Serbian Vlachs know, called simply Dancu ("Dance"). In his second session, Steve had also started with basic dances—always village dances, not choreographed ones—and progressed to more "evolved" ones.

On April 8, I joined a session on Peruvian dance taught by Rubén Pachas, a genial man who springs from the Indigenous Quechua people of Peru and has been based at the University of Chicago for 16 years. At only a half-hour, his session was much too short. He presented a fertility dance from eastern Peru, near the Amazon jungle, called Shanganakuy. The NFO conference featured a number of fertility dances/rituals held either at spring or summer solstice, including a Persian dance called the Qashqai Scarf Dance choreographed and taught by Farima Berenji, and she gave the same explanations for the rainbow colors of the scarves as Rubén Pachas did.

Rubén was assisted by Jessica Loyaga, who not only danced but did her best to chuck on the entire costume over her dance clothes towards the end of the session. (Rubén taught in his costume.) I'd recommend Rubén and Jessica for anyone looking for Peruvian dances/folklore for adults or children. Unfortunately, their session was the only one on folklore from South America, or even folklore from south of the Rio Grande.

Moving to the Pacific Ocean, we had another charming presentation, this time from Kau'i Mailelaili'ili'i Tu'a teaching Polynesian songs from Hawai'i, New Zealand and Samoa. These three songs are taught to children in their native setting, but they work beautifully for non-native adults. From Hawaii, we had a song welcoming the sunrise: "E Ala E." I asked Kau'i if these songs had harmonies, and she said yes; people sang whatever harmonies sounded good. From the Maori of New Zealand, we had "Haere Mai Te Manuhiri E," a song describing the legend of how the first seven canoes carried the Maori across the ocean. All these songs had hand motions, and sometimes dances too, but Kau'i had no time to do



continued on p. 10

A Firehose of Content – continued

dances other than a basic swaying one. Finally, we had what turned out to be my favorite: “Savalivali,” a Samoan song which explains what various terms mean in English (for example, “ ‘Savalivali’ means ‘go for a walk’ ”). It was a really feel-good session, and although Kau’i did not have a trained singing voice, her good humor, calm, warmth and kindness shone through. To the joy of all of us, she was allotted a full hour.

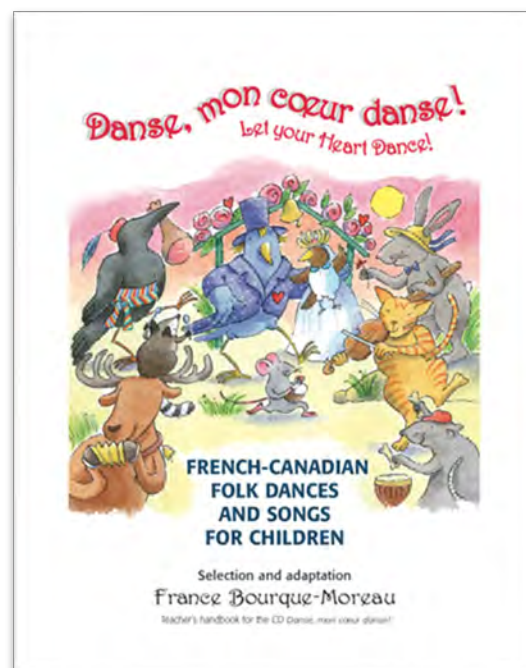
On April 10 was a two-hour session with Caspar Bik wherein he taught four dances. Kost ar c’hoat from Brittany has a name that is spelled many different ways, even by Bretons. All the videos I found online left out the second figure that Caspar taught (and I had been taught, many years ago). Perhaps the dance has now “evolved” in Brittany so that it has now only one figure. Second was Ceamcu, a Vlach dance from Dobruja, Romania. There are many dances with that name, as it’s not just a dance but a family of dances. Next was a lovely, relaxing Russian round dance choreographed by Hennie Konings called Tuman Yarom. Last was the extremely energetic Horlepiep (“Hornpipe”), whose melody and dance steps were appropriated—er, borrowed—by the Dutch from English sailors centuries ago.

One of the sessions the same day, led by Carol Silverman, was about cultural appropriation, but Horlepiep was not the kind of thing that raised hackles; the “correctness” of the Roma/Gypsy/Cigany name, and the appropriation/monetarization of their music by non-Roma without compensation to the not-exactly-rolling-in-wealth Roma dominated the part of the discussion I had time to watch. Carol mentioned that the Roma she knew were happy and surprised that non-Roma appreciated their music, but when she told them how much money the popular bands, musicians, and DJs make using Roma music, they were angry. Carol also mentioned that work presented by Roma can itself be questionable, with a case in point being the 1993 film *Latcho Drom*: Although directed by a Romani, it was staged and therefore not a documentary, as it purported to be.

A few hours later was a session by France Bourque-Moreau on the translation of her handbook of French-Canadian children’s dances and songs—“Danse, Mon Coeur Danse!”—into English: “Let Your Heart Dance!” With the assistance of a grant in 2020 from the NFO, the book’s translation into English was largely done by Yves Moreau, whose English skills are better than France’s. It was still very much a collaboration between Yves and France, one that included discussions/arguments about the best way to rewrite and illustrate dance descriptions to make them clearer, or to translate song words/expressions. France noted that the songs should still be sung in French, despite the translations, as the English often doesn’t fit the meter, the length and the stress of the words being different. Yves was in the room as France’s tech assistant. He presented his face to the camera and then retired to the right of his wife so all our attention could be on her. In one adorable moment, France reached for Yves’s disembodied left hand to demonstrate the movement of making an arch, and talked about why arches could no longer be taught, as the kids would either refuse to hold hands or yank down joined hands, causing injuries. The book, printed in April, is now for sale at bourque-moreau.com as well as at www.facone.org, the website of the Folk Arts Center of New England.

Before I watched a session “Zooming After the Pandemic,” I took in a dance workshop taught by French Balfolk teacher Lynn Baumeister. Like too many presenters, she was only allotted half an hour, and her performance suffered as a result. She chose to teach three partner dances, with a musician in the room but no partner: Rondeau en couples; a two-count bourrée, done in two facing lines, that she called Bourrée Droite (I’ve never heard anybody, in France or out of it, call it that); and a Schottische. All these dances have variations and improvisations, and there was not enough time to get into them because of the time constraints, or even explain that in the video clip, the couple was improvising rather than doing the basic sequence.

concluded on p. 14



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The May Challenge was a fun contest! Some of the lyrics I knew by heart, such as Setnja, which Jim Shoemaker so patiently taught years ago. He even made up cardboard signs with phonetic pronunciations to make it easier to learn. Licko Kolo's lyrics always bring to mind Dick Crum and Edie Cuthbert leading, and Zeljko Jergan closing the Heritage Festival in 2019.

And who could possibly forget the opening lines of La Bastringue, while picturing Yves Moreau keeping time with spoons and heel tapping as he sings? Sweet memories!

~ Denise Heenan

Note: Denise was the winner of the May Challenge. See p. 19 for the answers.

It was a great pleasure to read the words written by Vera Jones in the last issue (May/June, Blast from the Past, p. 23). From 1976 to 1979, I lived in Fresno and danced with Vera's group once a week in Roeding Park, outdoors on a concrete slab. I particularly remember how friendly and encouraging she was with everyone. She took great pride that anyone in her classes could do a proper Hambo. I can still feel the hot summer nights dancing under the stars with her group. After packing a table full of records and PA equipment into her Volkswagen bug, her class would go out to Denny's. She would always order a cup of coffee and float a scoop of ice cream on top. Then she would hold court, perhaps to plan the next folk dance Harvest Festival.

My wife Carol and I met folk dancing in Fresno and left in 1979 when we were married. After that, Vera would still count us as part of the Fresno contingent at Kolo Festival, Stockton Camp, or anywhere else we would dance with her. While there are many ethnic dance groups in Fresno, Vera was the spark that energized international folk dance and Federation participation in Fresno.

~ Monty Low

XXL TOUR TO GEORGIA, ARMENIA and (optional) IRAN

June 2022



Following the successful XXL tour in 2018, Tineke & Maurits van Geel plan to organize a second XXL trip to 3 countries in 2022. We are working hard to make it a wonderful experience.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

TURLOCK – Judy Kropp

The Village Dancers finishing a dance performance in 90+ degree heat the end of May!

Our performance group does wear masks when dancing inside the garage converted into a dance hall by David Raube. We open the doors and watch the moon rise over his orchard.

I'm the Coordinator for the Village Dancers, and we will be heading for Junction City, Oregon, in August to perform in the town's Scandinavian Festival. We also have an Oktoberfest gig and an international one lined up.



The Village Dancers, above in costume and below out of costume. Below, from left, Tamara Littlewood, Dori McElroy, Lise Swedberg, Vicki Harmon, Judy Kropp, David Raube, Robert Rudholm, Don Kropp, Carlos Canto. *Photo by J. Knox.*



NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

Classes in person are on the horizon in the North Bay,

but there are still some hurdles to jump. Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma, where our Balkan/International class is held, has been closed throughout the pandemic. It currently continues to be closed and will remain so until the new manager receives specific directives and guidelines from Sonoma County officials. When the space becomes available again, we'll be back dancing together, but we have no confirmed date as yet. Members of the Israeli class at Osher Marin Jewish Community Center in San Rafael have been reaching out to staff to make sure the class will continue to be supported. They've received positive feedback, but the JCC has yet to contact me directly with any clear information. For now, virtual classes are continuing.

My latest new favorite dance is Valle Came e Shpejt that I learned on a Zoom class with Genci Castrati. I have also been bringing back some old favorites including Hora Anton Pann and Jove Male Mome. In the Israeli class, we've been working on Halev, Yareach Limon and Hora.

I continue to be grateful for all the many virtual dance parties and classes that I've been able to attend during the past year, with special shout-outs to the Folk Arts Center of New England, EEFC, and the monthly Global Folk Dance Parties. Kudos to everyone who has managed to provide opportunities to learn and to bring us all together throughout the past year of virtual folk dancing.

Want to join us? Contact me at 415-663-9512 or cjay@horizoncable.com.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

The Berkeley Folk Dancers have been continuing their programs during COVID-19 as noted before. David Hillis has been faithfully and with much joy delivering his twice weekly email tidbits that are enjoyed by everyone.

We have been gathering viz Zoom for our Friday All Requests Nights, chatting for 15 minutes before and after dancing. Once a month (usually the second Sunday), we hold our Zoom Members Meetings. Everyone is invited to join these activities. Go to our website to learn how you can join us: berkeleyfolkdancers.org.

... AND BEYOND

Our dogged, hardworking club president, Art Woodworth, has been inquiring about the Evergreen Room (the old Social Hall at Live Oak Park) since the Opening Ceremony on March 31. No word so far, but we are preparing. When we get the word, we have to set up two heavy speakers high on the wall, hang our pennants, install our sound equipment and hopefully fill our closet.

It is not clear what we will do about the Beginners Class. Usually, we begin in September, but we're still in a holding pattern. Keep it in mind, however, and be ready to tell your friends and relatives about it when our plans are announced. Keep an eye on our website: berkeleyfolkdancers.org.

Also, go to our website to see our teaching and teachers' schedule for the fall. **Hopefully, we will be in the Evergreen Room at Live Oak Park.** More details coming in September.

CHICO WORLD DANCERS – *Memo Keswick*
During COVID times, several Chico folk dancers followed the global movement of virtual dance and music. Zoom World Dance classes that were offered locally included dancers from around California and as far away as New Hampshire and Australia. Newer and older dances were covered. The class also compared the same dances as done in different clubs or as introduced by the original teacher.

Local musician rehearsals were non-existent. However, virtual choir rehearsals and lessons kept us connected. Workshops that were already happening were adapted on the Zoom platform. We are especially grateful to Dragni and Petya Dragnevi (Varna, Bulgaria) and Donka and Nikolay Kolevi (U.S.) for their ongoing support of our community.

Chico folk dancers have reflected on our times in the COVID Cocoon. On the sad side, we missed visiting our great dance friend, Fred Boos, during his final days in a care home. On the much brighter side we grew dance-wise. We learned new dances, remembered past dances, and virtually met both teachers and other dancers. We enjoyed a personal travel log by David and Nancy Unterman of Grass Valley and saw cultural presentations by dance leaders like Yves and France Moreau, Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion, Nelutsu and Camelia Motoc.

Zoom has its benefits, but we are so happy to be back to in-person events. Through the leadership of local dancer Ralph Gagnon and the Chico World Dancers board, in-person dancing is underway, with masks and social distancing. Proof of vaccination is not required. It is so good to gather in-person again yet feels different doing all dances in a free-form no hands held. We look forward to dancing while holding hands! And those masks make us so hot! See photo on p. 6.

In addition to dance classes, in-person band and choir rehearsals are restarting and fall dance parties and gig bookings are in process. With summer here, many are going to catch up with long-delayed travel plans. Our recreation district and other organizations are starting their normal pre-planning, asking "What dance classes are you planning for the fall?" Ah, life continues...

SACRAMENTO – *Barbara Bevan*

Wednesday at 8 pm, we have been Zoom-dancing regularly, with **Kolo Koalition**. Thanks to Sharon Hulten for programming and Glynis Hawley for hosting. **Sundays at 3 pm**, we have Zoom-dancing with the **Village Dancers Plus**. The host is Lise Svedberg. Teachers/leaders include Judy Kropp, Toba Goddard, George Fairbrook, Yvonne Couvillion, Lise Svedberg, and me. We are taking a break in July-August, and will resume in September, unless we can dance in person! There is already some in-person dancing for the fully-vaccinated in some local areas. We hope this will spread to all our council clubs soon.

I have been thinking of other topics to include in my *Let's Dance!* articles. One came to my mind recently: "**Unexpected Dancing in Exotic Places.**" Here is an example:

In 1985, I was on a folk dance tour of Turkey and Macedonia led by Bora Ozkok and Atanas Kolarovski. The first day, we had an un-scheduled landing in Dubrovnik. We thought, "Great! We can tour Dubrovnik!" It was not to be. We were confined to the airport for a few hours.

Somebody in our group had a small tape recorder and dance music so of course we danced! We had a nice audience, which included some local reporters. We found out later there was an article and some photos of us in the local newspaper!

I'm sure many of you have been on folk dance tours and cruises and have danced all over the world. **Did you have any "Unexpected Dancing in Exotic Places"?** Share your experiences!

continued on p. 14

News From Around the Bay -- continued

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

Zooming to the big room – that is our goal! After dancing for over a year on Zoom in our small kitchens, bedrooms, dining rooms, and living rooms, sometimes on carpet, we are more than ready to zoom to the big room, Monroe Hall, and dance in person on a sprung wood dance floor with our Razzmatazz folk dance group.

We're keeping our fingers crossed that we can finally all meet together by our target date of June 22. In these uncertain times, we'll be in wait-and-see mode and will continue dancing on Zoom until the reunion day! We can't wait to be together again in the same room with all the energy and joy that we bring each week in a normal year. Our Razzmatazz group has proven to be incredibly resilient and supportive during this difficult time with 30-35 people coming to our Zoom sessions every week since April of 2020. Having a small group of us dancing in person together is our first step. The long view is a time in the future when Monroe Hall is again filled as it is in the photo below.



PENINSULA COUNCIL – Adony Beniares

Dancing is continuing to open up in the South Bay!

The Saratoga Folk Dancers have been dancing inside, in person, since mid-April, with ever decreasing restrictions, but still within COVID guidelines. See photo on p. 6.

The Palomanians continue to meet online until their regular location, the Menlo Park Recreation Center is open again. But we have a new twist on the familiar Zoom experience: instead of each participant

remaining in his/her/their own home, members are inviting a few other participants over to their house for a combination of in-person and Zoom dancing.

The Land Dancers returned to hosting their annual **Memorial Day Weekend** event in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Attendance was limited to 100 and full vaccination was required. The photo on the cover was taken at that event. See article on p. 7.

The **Peninsula Folk Dance Council** is working with our regular dance venue so we can start reserving it for upcoming parties. We are hopeful that our July or August party will be in person. The PFD Council also plans to continue to host the monthly **Global Folk Dance Party** on the third Saturday of every month, at least through 2021.

This is also the time of the year for electing our officers. Given that the original bylaws did not foresee circumstances like this, we had a smaller set of voters this year. The good news is that our current officers, Adony Beniares, Lesley Bone, and Ellie Wiener have agreed to serve another year.

A Firehose of Content – continued

I appreciate the enormous amount of work that went into this conference, but it was the NFO's choice to be over-the-top with the programming (sometimes 12 hours a day, including the evening parties) over five whole days, and it required a huge investment of time by attendees, especially those like me with wide interests—and even so, my interest in costumes was uncatered-for except fleetingly in the Peruvian session and in Maurits van Geel's stunning presentation on April 10 on the professional folk dance company he ran for decades in the Netherlands. I wouldn't recommend that anybody be this ambitious (or perhaps "competitive with other Zoom events" is the wording I'm aiming for). All too often, the NFO's effort to cram in so much content resulted in the short-changing of presenters, to the detriment of the quality of their presentation and the frustration of the attendees (typical chat questions: "What was the name of that dance again? What's the arm position? Which way are people facing?"). Instead of getting up and doing the dances, I was writing notes like mad on a clipboard on my knee while trying to keep up with the distracting chat on screen (because sometimes I could answer a question) and also trying to take screenshots to illustrate this article. It was not a good way to lose the COVID weight I've unwillingly put on; it was an excellent way to be tired at the end of a conference instead of energized.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Who can identify these two dancers? If it helps, the photo was taken in the early 1970s. There's no prize for the correct answer, but if you want to verify your guess, send an email to Loui@LouiTucker.com.

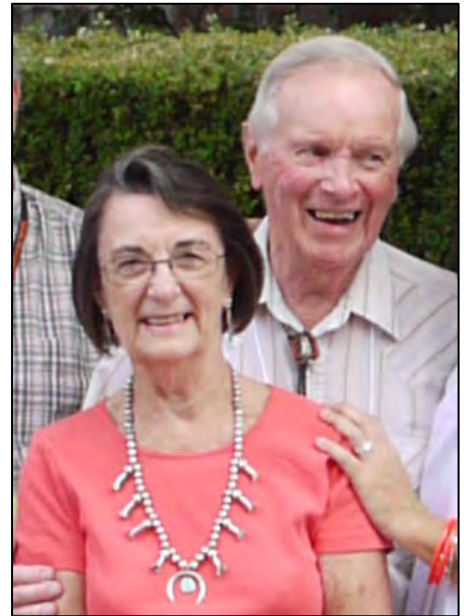
KATHY HELT – 1936-2021

We are saddened by the news that Kathy Helt died in May. Her husband, Jerry, was a fixture at Stockton Folk Dance Camp for many years as a square dance caller, until he retired in 2013. Kathy was by his side many of those years, particularly after 2000. Jerry now resides in a senior living facility in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Last month's photo:



From left: John Pappas on clarinet, Jeff O'Connor on bass, Marianne Taylor, Ercument Kiliç on accordion, Jaap Leegwater on recorder, Norm Oellerich, Ellie Wiener on flute.



Kathy Helt with Jerry in 2013.
Photo by A. Beniares.

FEDERATION NEWS



Federation Board Officer Election Results

Good news! The election results for officers of the Folk Dance Federation for 2021-22 are in, and all of our current officers have been elected to serve another year. Here are the elected officers and the positions they hold:

President: Marian Snyder
Vice President: Ulrike Narins
Secretary: Clem Dickey
Treasurer: Sabine Zappe

Congratulations to each of them! We thank them in advance for their continuing service.

Craig Blackstone
Chairman, Nominating Committee

NOW AVAILABLE : ONLINE PAYMENT FOR ADVERTISING

Kevin Greek, the Federation's website manager, has announced that advertisers can now pay for advertising in *Let's Dance!* via our website folkdance.com. Click on Services on the menu, then *Let's Dance!* magazine. At the bottom of the page, you'll see a link to pay with PayPal or a credit card.

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So Happy Together!

SAVE THE DATE – The Officers Ball is back!

When: **Saturday, October 16, 2021**

Where: **Hayward Veterans Memorial Hall**

Afternoon workshop, on-site community dinner, evening dance party!

Mark your calendars with stars and happy faces!

Details coming soon!



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: _____
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 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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you are an individual member of the Federation, and have a family member who is also a dancer, you could upgrade your membership from an *Individual* membership to a *Family* membership. If you do, you will receive one of the coupons mentioned in the advertisement above. What a bargain: pay just \$10 more and you can get free admission to an up-coming event. Depending on the event you choose, you could get **five times that amount** in benefits!



July 23rd - August 1st, 2021

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Come join us for our great summer camp where we will have more sessions of what you loved from our last camps, as well as new events, classes, and fun!

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For more info and registration:

WWW.FOLKDANCECAMP.ORG



What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

FALL CAMP SHOULD BE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

by Jan Rayman

Plans for Fall Camp, November 12-14, 2021, at Brandeis-Bardin Campus near Simi Valley. are progressing nicely, with lots of fun in store. **And it's the Real Deal – not Virtual!**

If the COVID-19 situation continues to improve, there is a good chance that it will be officially permissible and safe to hold Fall Camp without masks or social distancing as long as all of our participants are fully vaccinated. There were excellent reasons to get vaccinated for your own benefit and that of everyone else, but now you have one more excellent reason! If you haven't already been vaccinated, and you want to sign up for Fall Camp when registration opens late this summer, please make your appointment and get vaccinated soon.

Imagine how wonderful it will be to meet, dance, eat, socialize, and do all of our other activities without masks and social distancing. This may happen only if the COVID-19 situation continues to improve and all applicants are fully vaccinated by the time of registration.

For more information, visit FallCamp.org or email Dance@FallCamp.org.

THE JULY-AUGUST LET'S DANCE! CHALLENGE

STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP TRIVIA. Stockton Folk Dance Camp is coming up the end of July. Now is the perfect time to brush up on your trivia. All answers can be found on the folkdancecamp.org website. **BE THE THIRD PERSON** to correctly answer the questions below and you'll win a \$20 gift card. Email answers to Loui@LouiTucker.com or Editor@FolkDance.com.

1. What dance teacher taught the most times at Stockton Camp?
2. Name two teachers who taught Italian dances at Stockton Camp.
3. Name two Japanese dances that were NOT taught by Iwao Tamaoki at Stockton Camp.
4. What year was Hora Agadati first taught at Stockton Camp?
5. What was the cost of the first Stockton Camp (1948)?
6. What year was the Fickle Foot Award created?

[All answers are available (with a little digging) on the Stockton Camp website: folkdancecamp.org]

Answers to the May Challenge:

- H Vie se vie oro Makedonos
- C J'ai neuf ou dix moutons
- I Kazhi mi, Khazi mladi le momko
- N Eva szivem eva, most erik a szilva
- F Shuv haeder noher
- J Mademoiselle, voulez-vous danser
- K Pjevaj mi pjevaj, sokole
- A Na wierzbowym listku slowik list pisze
- D-2 Foaie verde si pinoc
- B Arpa ektim bicemedim
- O Sano duso, sano mori, otvori mi vrata
- L Pote tha nixome pania
- G To ta helpa, to ta helpa
- M Dodje, Mile, u nas kraj
- D-1 Spune nana, spune ce-ai de gang su mine

The winner was Denise Heenan – see p. 11.

- a. Ada's Kujawiak #1
- b. Ali Pasa
- c. Andro Retournee
- d. Ciorba de curcan
- d. Ciuleandra
- f. Erev Ba
- g. Horehronsky Czardas
- h. Ivanice
- i. Karamfil
- j. La Bastringue
- k. Licko Kolo
- l. Paraliakos
- m. Setnja
- n. Somogyi Karikazo
- o. Vranjanka

Yep, there were two "D" items on the list, an error that the editor, the assistant editor, and all five proofreaders missed. How embarrassing!

**DANCE VENUES
YOU HAVE
PROBABLY
NEVER
CONSIDERED!**



**BIG STUMP
CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK**
This stump is 24 feet in diameter, and was once used as a dance floor and lecture pavilion. At the time this tree was felled the crash was heard 15 miles away.

The text above appears on the back of the postcard above.

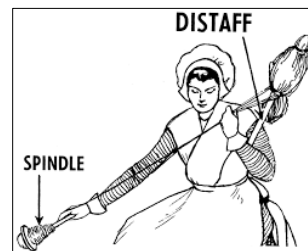


The images on this page were contributed by Craig Blackstone, Past-President of the Federation, who has a vast (150,000!) collection of postcards.

Valle Hajde Merre Furken

(Albania)

Valle Hajde Merre Furken (VAHL-eh HAI-deh MEH-reh FURH-kehn) is a dance created by Steve Kotansky by arranging traditional steps to fit this piece of music. The song “Dardha Rrumbullake” (Round Pear) is sung by the popular Albanian singer Eli Fara, who also sings Cobankat, Osman Taka, and Sonata. The lyrics “hajde merre furken” mean “Go fetch your distaff.” A distaff is a tool used in spinning. Because women would often gather for hours to spin and sew, this expression “go fetch your distaff” has come to mean “I’ve got some gossip to share!” This dance was presented by Steve Kotansky at Razzmatazz, Balkan Camp, and Kolo Festival in the summer and fall of 2011. Note: There are many variations in the spelling of the dance name: valle, vallje, vallja, etc.



Music: 7/8 meter The music is available for download by doing an internet search for “Dardha Rrumbullake Eli Fara”

Video: An internet search for the dance name will yield several results.

Formation: Open mixed circle, facing center, arms in W-pos.

Rhythm: 7/8 meter danced as S, Q, Q or 1-2-3

Meas	7/8 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION. See Notes below.

I. FIGURE I. Instrumental.

- 1 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); brush/lift L up, around, and behind R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).
- 2 Small step R to R with bent knee (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).
- 3 Step L fwd and slightly in front of R (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).

II. FIGURE II. Lyrics.

- 1 Facing R, step fwd R and bring L behind R heel/calf (ct 1); two small bounces on R in place or hold (ct 2-3).
- 2 Step L fwd reaching slightly (ct 1); small step R fwd (ct 2); small step L fwd (ct 3).
- 3 Turning ¼ to face ctr, step R to R (ct 1); brush/lift L up, around, and behind R (ct 2); step L behind R (ct 3).
- 4 Step R to R (ct 1); bounce/lift on R and bring L knee up in front of R knee (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 5 Step L fwd to ctr and bring R behind L heel/calf (ct 1); two small bounces on L in place or hold (ct 2-3).
- 6 Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).
- 7 Step L to L (ct 1); bounce/lift on L bringing R foot up, around, and behind L (ct 2); step on R behind L (ct 3).
- 8 Step L to L (ct 1); bounce/lift on L and bring R knee up in front of L knee (ct 2); hold (ct 3).

Sequence: Part I is done five times. Part II done four times.

Notes: Because the dance has no introduction, it is easiest to wait the first meas and start on meas 2. Also, Part II, meas 1-4 and meas 5-8 are essentially the same steps with opposite footwork. and different directions: (1) Step and hold; (2) three steps; (3) step and brush/lift behind; (4) step-lift and hold.

Wow! Look at all the virtual class and party offerings. Do you need to log in and try a new one?

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*** 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, **with semi-monthly and monthly parties at the end.**

Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers Monday	Carol Friedman 7:00 - 8:15	cjay@horizoncable.com Email Carol for login information
Razzmatazz Folk Dance Tuesday	Marilyn Smith 7:00 - 8:00	marilynmsmith@sbcglobal.net Email Marilyn for login information
Palomanians Tuesday	Adony Beniares 7:00 - 9:30	adony408@gmail.com Zoom #: 195 812 542
Tuesday Dancers Tuesday	Bruce Mitchell 7:30 - 9:00	sfdc2000@icloud.com Zoom #: 831 127 0586
Israeli Dancing with Udy Tuesday	Udy Gold 7:30 - 9:00	udyg@yahoo.com Zoom #: 893 1471 9684 (PW=dance4fun)
Tuesday Santa Cruz Israeli Tuesday	Alan Rothchild 8:00 - 10:00	rothdance@hotmail.com Zoom #: 893 3862 3151 (PW=sapari)
Kolo Koalition Wednesday	Sharon Hulten 8:00 - 9:30	dashincal@aol.com Zoom #: 839 5676 6387 (PW: 565438)
Zoom-Cali Israeli Wednesday	Aaron Alpert 6:00-9:00	aaron@nirkoda.com Join the mailing list at nirkoda.com for login info
Smile & Dance Thursday	Rebecca Tsai 5:00 - 6:00	r1234eb@yahoo.com.tw Zoom #: 831 8264 1509 (PW=333333)
Berkeley Friday Request Night Friday	Emily Stoper 7:30 - 9:00	bfdrequestnight@gmail.com Email for login information
Changs International Friday	Ulrike Narins 7:30 - 9:30	ulrike888@hotmail.com Zoom #: 892 3870 4714 (PW=966035)
Friday Night International Friday	Alan Rothchild 8:00 - 10:00	rothdance@hotmail.com Zoom # 771 0202 4662 (PW=pravo)
Sunday Israeli Sunday	Carol Friedman 9:00 - 10:15 AM	cjay@horizoncable.com Email Carol for login information
Smile & Dance Sunday	Rebecca Tsai 5:30 - 6:30	r1234eb@yahoo.com.tw Zoom #: 831 8264 1509 (PW=333333)

Kopachka Dancers Friday (every 2 weeks)	Susie Shoaf 7:30 - 9:00	president@kopachkafolkdancers.com Zoom #: 863 9451 5471
Humboldt Folk Dancers Friday (1st, 3rd, 5th)	Joyce Burton 7:00 - 9:00	tutujoyceb@gmail.com Zoom # can vary; contact Joyce
Café Shalom Israeli Dance Party 2nd Saturday	Udy Gold 7:30 - 9:30	udyg@yahoo.com Email Udy for login information
Global Folk Dance Party 3rd Saturday	Adony Beniares 3:00 - 6:00	adony408@gmail.com Zoom #: 600 066 908
Peninsula Folk Dance Council 2nd Sunday	Adony Beniares 3:00 - 5:30	adony408@gmail.com Zoom #: 555 444 300

A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 40 years ago this month

Browsing back issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine always turns up something interesting. *Let's Dance!* used to regularly feature recipes for ethnic food, particularly if the issue contained articles on a specific country or culture. Take a look at this excerpt from the **July/August issue in 1981**. Below is a recipe for dolmades that calls for a stick of butter! I guess folk dancers weren't worried about calories.

FOOD IN THE GREEK MANNER

It has been said that Greece is the father of European cuisine, and Ancient Greece was famous for its cooking.

In traditional Greek cuisine, a great deal of olive oil, spices, tomatoes and lemon are used. Greek cooking shows considerable Oriental influence.

Although pork, veal and rabbit are popular meats, lamb is by far the most popular. One of the well-known foods in Greece is *dolmades*, made of cabbage or grapevine leaves, stuffed with rice and ground lamb, or a combination of rice and vegetables. *Dolmades* may be served as a salad or as a main course. The most popular baked dish is eggplant, stuffed with ground lamb, known as *moussaka*.

And, of course, everyone identifies *baklava* with Greek pastry. It is made of thin layers of dough, topped with nuts and lemon-honey syrup.

DOLMADES (Stuffed Vine Leaves)

1 lb. ground meat (lamb)	Meat stock or water
2 medium onion, chopped fine	1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup rice	1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup celery, chopped fine	3 or 4 doz. small fresh
2 tsp. mint leaves, chopped	grape leaves blanched in
1 tbsp. olive oil	salted boiling water
	1/2 cup melted butter

Mix 1/4 cup stock with all ingredients except leaves and butter. Place about 1 teaspoon of filling on inside of leaf and roll, tucking ends to prevent *Dolmades* from opening. Arrange neatly in deep casserole in layers. Pour over them the melted butter and add meat stock to cover. Simmer, covered, on slow fire for 1 hour, or until rice is done. Shake pan to prevent sticking. When done, remove from heat and serve at once.

Note: Two small parboiled green cabbages may be substituted for grape vine leaves.

Source: *The World and Its Peoples*, Greystone Press, N.Y.
Foods of the World, Time-Life Books, N.Y.
Foods With a Foreign Flavor, Favorite Recipes, Inc.,
Montgomery, Alabama



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You dance love, and you dance joy, and you dance dreams. And I know if I can make you smile by jumping over a couple of couches or running through a rainstorm, then I'll be very glad to be a song and dance man.

~ Gene Kelly

advertisement



Folk Dance Scene

This (almost) monthly publication has folk dance events in California and elsewhere, folk lore articles, ethnic recipes and lots of good reading. To get a **free** copy, just call Sandy: (310) 391-7382, or Email: circulation@FolkDanceScene.org

To subscribe, it is just \$18 a year for 10 issues - \$10 for an Email version. Send to Gerda Ben-Zeev, 19 Village Park Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405