

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  MARCH 2021

來自臺灣快樂舞友的祝福!

(Greetings from happy folk dancers in Taiwan!)



This photo was taken during Stockton Folk Dance Camp's Winter Weekend during the Asian-clubs-sponsored after-party. Read more about this truly global virtual dance event beginning on p. 7. *Photo by J. Lu.*

Let's Dance!

Volume 78, No. 3

MARCH 2021

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Blast From The Past – 40 years ago.....	23
Asian Groups Join Stockton Winter Weekend.....	12
Calendar of Events.....	4
Dance Description – Maki Maki.....	17
Election of Federation Officers 2021.....	15
Family Photo Album.....	6
Federation Clubs with Virtual Classes.....	14
From The Photo Archives.....	15
History Channel.....	21
Many Thanks From Asian Folk Dance Groups.....	8
Morris Dance Mini-Reunion at SFDC 1972.....	21
News From Around The Bay.....	10
President's Message.....	3
Remembering Debbie Evenich.....	22
So Grateful for Stockton Winter Weekend.....	9
We Have A Winner!.....	4
Welcome Our New Members.....	2
Why Did YOU Start Dancing?.....	18
World Cure for Winter Pandemic Doldrums.....	7

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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153 Race Street
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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

Kyklos International Folk Dancers (Portland, Oregon)
Andrew Greenberg & Marilyn Adamson (San Francisco)
Marvin & Natalie Wahl (Sunnyvale)
Virginia & Joe Fitzpatrick (Orinda)
[three Individual memberships converted to Family memberships]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DANCING ANIMALS

by Marian Snyder

Once again Stockton Folk Dance Camp put together a fabulous online event. Their Winter Weekend was such a huge success that plans are already in the works for a repeat in 2022. There are several articles in this issue about it, beginning on p. 7.

The inspiration for my message this month came from, of all places, a Netflix series called *Atypical* that I just finished watching. Sam, the main character, is a high-functioning autistic senior in high school. He knows every possible fact about penguins that live in Antarctica. A few episodes ago he made one of his many comments about penguins, which grabbed me. "When penguins dance, they warm up the earth." What a wonderful image.

That led me to Google search "Penguin Dance." To my surprise, I found that Romanians do what they call The Penguin Dance. **I watched a video of Romanians dancing at a wedding in a conga line doing what we know as The Bunny Hop!** This was one of the very first dances I learned when I was six years old. As an elementary school teacher, I taught this dance to my six-year-old first graders.

The same Google search revealed another video from 1956 where men and women are doing The Penguin Dance in the United States, to that same Romanian music. In a video from 2009, penguins dance Romanian style. Finally, *Penguin Albania*, a video created in 2013 at a wedding, is a must-see, where a person dressed as a penguin leads the line.

Did you know that other animals dance? I first learned that spotted salamanders dance when my daughter had one as a pet. A current children's book, *Salamander Dance*, describes the moves as "twist and turn and swing and sway, the males move their heads back and forth as they swim around the females...nudge each other as they dance all night long...three days of this night time ballet."

Honeybees use dance to communicate. It's known as the Waggle Dance, which they use to communicate where food can be found.

A cockatoo named Snowball went viral in 2009 when a video showed him bobbing his head to a Backstreet Boys song. The bird had a similar response to Queen's "Another One Bites the Dust" and Michael Jackson's "Black or White." After changing the tempo of the music either faster or slower, cockatoos were able to adjust. Google "Birds

Can Dance" and enjoy a brilliant video of all kinds of birds performing a wonderful waltz by Johann Strauss. I think this is one of the most amazing dancing bird performances you will ever see. (Thank you, Francis Chamberlain!)

The peacock spider, which can fit on your fingertip, does a dance during its mating ritual. As part of the dance, the colorful designs on its abdomen open like a flap. **The female uses the dance moves to decide if the male is healthy enough to be her mating partner. Those who don't make the cut are killed and eaten by the female.** Talk about pressure!

Dung beetles roll and transport their food. They use a dance to protect their dung balls from rivals. They stand on top of the dung ball and perform a 360-degree turning dance to get their bearings. Their hind legs are then used to push the ball along.

Freshwater algae use two types of dances to reproduce: the waltz and the minuet. Colonies of algae connect to each other with their flagella, and use their free flagella to spin around on an axis. The colonies then either orbit around each other (the waltz), or rock back and forth as if held by an elastic band between them (the minuet). These dances help the algae clump together. Sound familiar?

The manakin bird, native to Columbia and Ecuador, has a unique mating dance. First it makes a ticking noise at a prospective mate by flapping its wings at a rapid pace, moving them so fast that they cannot be seen by the naked eye. After a short flight, the bird then lands on a branch and **performs a moonwalk that resembles a dance.**

Just when you think I'm done, there is one more from David Hillis of Berkeley Folk Dancers. Google "I've Got Faith Canine Freestyle Routine" and you will find a remarkable and delightful woman and dog performing a very complicated dance routine.

"When penguins dance, they warm the earth." I like to imagine all living things that dance warm the earth. We can continue to keep the earth warm with hope and joy as we dance online. It will be unbelievably amazing when we are allowed to gather and experience the fun of folk dancing 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).

April 7-11

NATIONAL FOLK ORGANIZATION VIRTUAL CONFERENCE. Connecting Through Culture. Free for all. Details at nfo-usa.org.

April 23-25

LYRIDS/KYKLOS ONLINE FESTIVAL 2021. Featured artists: Tineke and Maurits van Geel, Gergana Panova, Ahmet Lüleci, Naomi Taussig, Steve Weintraub, and Polly Ferber. Produced jointly by the Kylos and Burnaby International Folk Dancers. See ad on p. 20.

▶ 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 all three of these:

- Loui Tucker, Editor, at editor@folkdance.com or loui@louisutucker.com
- Kevin Greek, Federation Website Manager, events@folkdance.com
- The Federation's Google Groups at FDF-CA@googlegroups.com

WE HAVE A WINNER OF THE THE FEBRUARY CHALLENGE

Linda Milhoan was the winner of the February Challenge and she received a \$20 gift card for her efforts. She submitted the first photo of the items on the Scavenger Hunt list. Eleven other *Let's Dance!* readers submitted entries and all were creative and colorful. It is a pity there isn't space to share them all.

Linda Milhoans's winning entry

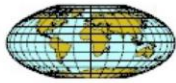


The Scavenger Hunt list was:

- A picture of a folk dance teacher
- Lyrics for a song in a foreign language
- A mask
- A folk dance-related t-shirt
- A pair of shoes you use for dancing
- A back issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine
- A musical instrument (be creative!)
- A recipe for an ethnic dish
- A CD of folk dance music
- A photo of yourself dancing

What looks like a pretzel is actually a mask, and you look out through the holes in the pretzel.

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

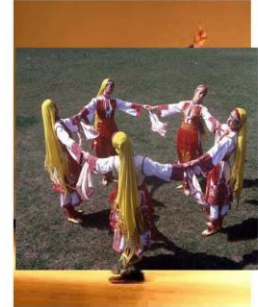
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Phone(____) _____ Email _____

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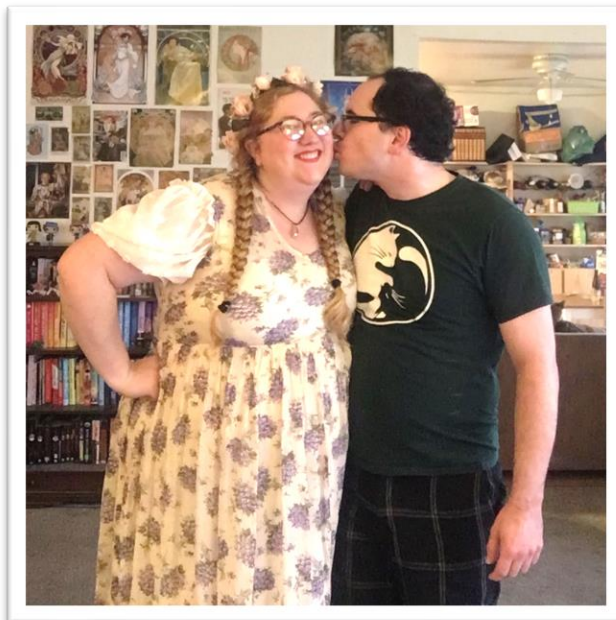
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THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Dancers in Canberra, Australia, taking a class from Gergana Panova during the Stockton Winter Weekend. *Photo by G. Rose.*

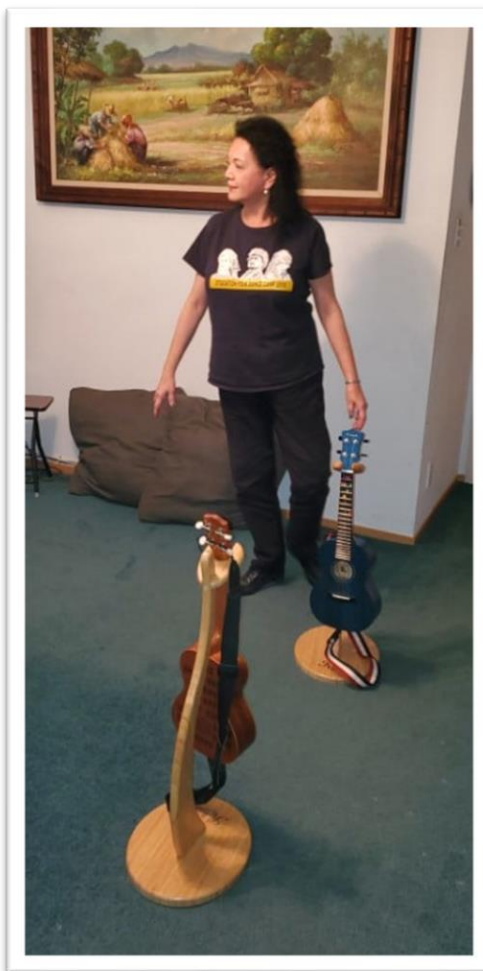


Megan Wolf and Jordan Uggla of Willits, California, mugging for the camera. *Remote Control Selfie*



The sign is the group's name: "Beauty Star Folk Dance Group," a group that co-hosted one of the Asian dance parties at the Stockton Winter Weekend. The man in the blue shirt and woman in the pink shirt are the leaders of the group. *Photo by J. Lu.*

A Woman and Two Ukuleles. *Photo by S. La Fetra.* Kay Munn taught a dance during the Stockton Winter Weekend that was originally "A Woman and Two Chairs," which Kay changed to "A Woman and Two Whiskeys" because it was easier to dance around whiskey bottles than chairs. Alicia (pictured) used two ukuleles.



World Cure for Winter Pandemic Doldrums

by Donna Frankel

Here in California, after ten months sheltering mostly in place, still under a mandatory 10pm-6am curfew, the holidays over, with COVID-19 deaths skyrocketing and nearly every hospital bed filled, it appeared January would be bleak. Walking, swimming, biking, and hiking for exercise weren't good options and indoor gyms and other recreational activities were closed. But the movers and shakers behind Stockton Folk Dance Camp, especially Adony Beniares, had a solution. Stockton Folk Dance Camp's virtual event in July was wildly successful, attracted more than triple the usual attendance of their in-person camp, and brought in far more donations than expected. So why wait for July 2021? That's how Stockton's Winter Weekend was born – and how fortunate for all of us!

I found many of my long-time local folk dance friends, newer friends from weekly Zoom folk dance classes and parties from the San Francisco Bay Area, Vancouver, Chicago, San Diego, and Florida, plus dancers from all corners of the world (32 foreign countries!), bingeing folk dances which ran 24/7 for four glorious days and nights. Teachers included world favorites such as Maurits and Tineke van Geel in the Netherlands, Gergana Panova teaching Bulgarian, Ahmet Lüleci Zooming his Turkish dances from Boston, Roberto Bagnoli teaching at all hours of his days and nights from Rome, Bianca De Jong who fit in two separate teaching sessions while working a full-time job in Italy, Aaron Alpert presenting Israeli dances, and Richard Powers coming up with couple dances that could be danced solo with few alterations. There were many more dance teachers patiently teaching us their styles from the beloved oldies to those like Jerusalema that had been introduced during the pandemic. In between we enjoyed



Dancers in Taiwan hosted one of the after-parties and, because Taiwan successfully managed the coronavirus, they were able to dance in person!

Photo by J. Lu.

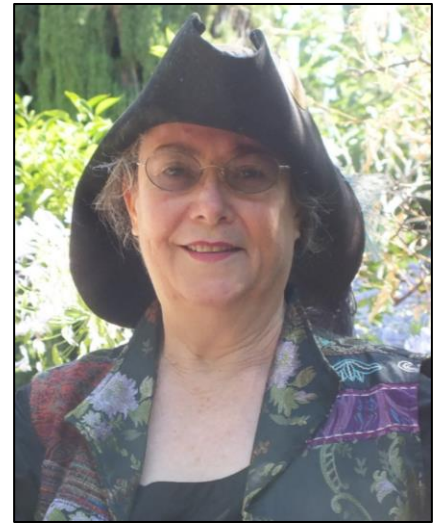
awesome dance parties with special performances from Asia, fun alternative music in New Jersey, and videos with Zoom tech genius DJs at the helm too numerous to mention – but every bit as vital as the dance teachers.

When your feet wouldn't take another step, there were over twenty virtual camp jigsaw puzzles to try thanks to Murray Spiegel, expert singing classes with Juliana Graffagna, drumming with Polly Tapia Ferber and growing bonsai with Stockton Folk Dance Camp's Director Gordon Deeg. I didn't miss a single mini-lecture, from Kay Munn's Burns Night Presentation including how to make haggis, to dance history presentations by Tony Parkes and Richard Powers, complete with vintage dance video clips. Then we enjoyed Q&A sessions with dance teachers such as Vlasto Petkovski, a dance company director in Canada who spent 18 years dancing in Tanec, the Macedonian National Folk Dance Ensemble. While still resting your feet, I'll bet you couldn't avoid laughing with the cook-off stars – Aaron Alpert cooking up a Turkish lamb eggplant feast requiring an ingredient found outside Turkey only on the internet,

opposite Ahmet Lüleci preparing Krembo, Aaron's amazing multistep Israeli dessert – whether making one of the dishes at home or just watching it all virtually.

If you really had to tear yourself away for a few hours of shuteye, no problem. Each session of this free event was repeated at some point during Stockton's Winter Weekend. And if you registered (for free) you will have access to all the recorded sessions on the Stockton Google drive.

Hint: Don't miss anything in the future if it contains the words "Stockton Folk Dance Camp," or you'll be sorry!



MANY THANKS FROM ASIAN FOLK DANCE GROUPS

by JunYan Zhan, Director of TIFA*

Managing Director of Kaohsiung Happy Dancer Folk Dance Association

Translation by Nissa Pen, Director of Kaohsiung Happy Dancer Folk Dance Association

In the 1950s, over 60 years ago, folk dance was introduced in Taiwan. There have been many dance workshops and camps during this time. We have hosted many folk dance experts from other countries who introduced not only dances but also the characteristics of each culture from many regions and nations.

The most fascinating thing about folk dance is the interaction between people. However, keeping social distancing and wearing masks must be done because of the expanding pandemic of COVID-19. Luckily, the pandemic in Taiwan is still under control, so people can gather together and dance in person while taking precautions. It is very difficult to travel abroad now, and we don't want to miss any chance to be part of international folk dance activities. We stayed focused on all the news of folk dance camps and teachers, and invited friends to enjoy the teaching and gatherings online.

Thank you, Stockton Folk Dance Camp, first for organizing the virtual summer event last year in July, and then for inviting Taiwan to participate in the Asia After-Party during the Stockton Winter Weekend which allowed us to share the dances we love. **We were happy to include in this event our friends**

from Japan, Hong Kong, Taipei Ming Chuang Dance Group, Taichung TIFA and Kaohsiung Happy Dancer Folkdance Association.

It was an exciting and interesting experience to share our dances and real-time dance party during this virtual event with so many folk dancers from all over the world. During the party, we presented Taiwanese and indigenous tribal dances. We hope our dances could be seen by the world and attract more interest from other places. May our smiles be contagious and everyone can be happy and healthy.

Many thanks to the Stockton Folk Dance Camp staff (especially Rebecca Tsai and Evan Chu) for assisting us. We overcame device problems under your guidance and suggestions.

Although personal interaction face-to-face is best, the interaction through the Web could be considered an efficient and safer method, even in future, without infectious diseases. The cooperation we experienced recently is only a start. There will be more opportunities to join with people abroad in the activities both on Web and in person. We believe our passion and love of dancing could bring more goodness to others. We hope to join folk dance activities abroad in the near future with you all. We welcome you to visit Taiwan in your travels and attend our traditional festivals and various folk dance parties as well.

* **TIFA is the Taiwan International Folkdance Association.** It was founded and officially approved by the government in 2004, and works to unite

different folk dance groups all over Taiwan and also manages documentation and videos. TIFA is also in charge of training folk dance teachers and providing them the official certifications. There are three branches of TIFA in Taiwan - Taipei, Taichung, and Kaohsiung. TIFA also interacts with other dancing groups, including Taiwanese indigenous tribes, and sometimes performs in holiday festivals to show the public the attraction of folk dance and to showcase the characteristics of other cultures.



SO GRATEFUL FOR STOCKTON WINTER WEEKEND

by Laura Carman

I am moved to write this by an overwhelming sense of gratitude to Adony Beniares, et al., for the enormous effort and ability that produced a most splendid Stockton Winter Weekend.

Speaking as a Luddite and hampered by a lack of technological know-how, I can only sit back and appreciate how much we (not me!) have advanced in the utilization of Zoom since last spring. The Stockton crew made everything look so easy, but I know how much they had to plan for mediating every emergency. They seamlessly transferred back and forth between teachers, dancers, musicians, singers, leaders, films, MCs and techs, with constant attention to getting chat questions answered, making all presenters and attendees feel welcome, and keeping to the schedule with precision.

Speaking of scheduling, it is truly amazing that the schedule basically accommodated the entire world. This was rewarded with attendance by hundreds of people, old friends and new. Reading the chat entries proved that people were enjoying themselves tremendously.

The teachers presented a wonderful selection of dances and songs, well-suited to dancing alone in small places. Dance programs and parties were rounded out with interesting and informative presentations, plus fun activities like humorous cooking classes, games and puzzles, and teacher Q&As.

Some Stockton events were shared with other groups, such as teaching sessions with FACONE and dance parties with Laguna Dancers and Asia Pacific. Even some of our favorite band members were on board to play for us.

The virtual fun continues with Mainwoods on February 13 and Global P.J. party on February 20. Then Laguna Festival combines with San Antonio Festival on March 12-14, and World Camp and Spring Camp combine on March 18-21. April 7-11 is the NFO Conference. Going virtual has truly made folk dancing international!



Laura and David Carman dancing during Stockton Winter Weekend. *Remote Control Selfie*

Would you like to see for yourself what the Federation Board does at its meetings? You can – and without leaving the comfort of your home. Contact Federation Vice President Ulrike Narins at vicepresident@folkdance.com for the Zoom log-in information.

The next Federation Board meeting is **Sunday, March 28 at 3:30 pm. If you're available, why not pull up a chair and join the meeting? You won't be able to vote, but you can participate in discussions and ask questions.**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

We're continuing to dance virtually these days – Israeli class on Sunday mornings, and Balkan/International class on Monday nights. Last month, I taught *Dos Amantes*, an Israeli dance choreographed by Danny Uziel to Sephardic music. **By request, I launched into a search for other dances to Sephardic music** (I do love Google and YouTube!). I discovered *Avre Tu*, and we'll be learning it this month. I'm bringing back *Primavera en Salonica* (Spring in Thessaloniki), a dance by Steve Kotansky with steps based on a Greek *Zeibekikos*.

We're also dancing *Hashoshanah Porachat*, one of our continuing favorites in the Israeli class to a melody from a traditional Sephardic song entitled *Los Bilbilicos* (The Nightingales). You might be familiar with this melody because Richard and Mimi Fariña used it with new lyrics and title for their folk song hit, *A Swallow Song*. With the exception of *Hashoshanah Porachat*, all of these songs are sung in Ladino, the language of Jews who originally lived in Spain and Portugal and then, after being expelled from those countries, spread to various locations in Europe and North Africa.

I also had big fun doing a Zoom training for one of my students who was asked to teach a regular folk dance class for her grandkids. We did *Singing in the Rain*, *Syp Simeon*, *Zimbole*, *Ersko Kolo*, *La Mariposa*, the *Chicken Dance*, *Huayno Peruano*, and *Zemer Atik*. Her grandkids loved it! I would be happy to arrange a session for anyone who would like to get their kids and grandkids dancing. Contact me at 415-663-9512 or cjay@horizoncable.com if you'd like to join us.

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

Our spring intermediate Balkan folk dance class started in February on Zoom. We are learning new Greek, Turkish, Albanian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Macedonian dances that I've learned from multiple online classes and events including the *Texa-Kolo Festival* in November, EEFC classes, Folk Arts Center of New England workshops and the recent *Stockton Winter Weekend*. It has been such a treat to learn from such teachers as Joe Graziosi, Steve

Kotansky, Roberto Bagnoli, Gergana Panova, Sonia and Cristian, Ahmet Lüleci and Vlasto Petkovski, to name a few.

Usually at this time of the year, I have mailed out advertisements for **our annual Razzmatazz Weekend at Mendocino Woodlands** and registrations would start coming in. However, due to the pandemic, we won't be able to host our fun folk dance weekend again this year. Last year's weekend would have been our 43rd year.

No in-person classes are scheduled at this time for our group. Our dance venues in Santa Rosa are not available for classes and we don't know when they will open for general use. We also feel that until everyone is vaccinated, we won't feel comfortable dancing in person.

This has not dampened our enthusiasm for meeting online each week and learning new dances as well as reviewing dances from our repertoire. Though we have been meeting on Zoom almost every week since April of last year, it always feels like a little miracle to me when I see people's faces pop up on my computer screen. It is our gift to each other each week.

SACRAMENTO – Barbara Bevan

[Part of a series about foreign-born folk dance friends.]

George Fairbrook is an amazing person with a fascinating life history. Many of you have probably met George dancing. At 95, he is still an active folk dancer! He was born in Germany of well-educated and successful parents. He was the youngest of four children. They had a happy family life until Hitler came to power. Being Jewish, the family left Germany in 1933 and moved to Palestine. They did not care for life there and decided to come to the United States. They had to wait for their visas, so moved temporarily to Slovenia and then to Holland.

In 1938, the family took a tramp steamer to New York and, at Ellis Island, George changed his name from Georg Schoenbach to George Fairbrook. He studied economics in college, returned to Germany in 1949-1950 to work in Nuremberg.

... AND BEYOND

In 1954, George met and married Ilse. They lived in Connecticut where George had several different jobs, then back to New York. **In 1985, he and Ilse discovered folk dancing.**

In 1988 they moved to Stockton, California, to be near George's brother Paul who was working at the University of the Pacific. They folk danced in Sutter Creek, Placerville, and Sacramento. Sadly, Ilse died of cancer in 1996. George says that folk dancing helped him deal with that loss. At a folk dance weekend in Santa Cruz, he met Marie Carluccio of San Francisco who has remained a special friend in his life. Like the rest of us, George spends these days walking and dancing on Zoom.

I feel very fortunate to know George. His remarkable mother, Lotte (now deceased) wrote her fascinating autobiography which George let me read. I have had the pleasure of meeting his sister Erika (now deceased) and his brother Paul. I consider George to be a dear friend whom I admire.

PENINSULA COUNCIL – *Adony Beniares*

For the Peninsula Folk Dance Council, it was a fairly new normal month for us with everyone starting to get their COVID-19 vaccine and we look forward to the curve finally flattening. **We'll continue with our online Regional Party on the second Sunday, shifting to second Saturday once we can get together in person, and our Global Folk Dance Party every third Saturday throughout 2021.**

For March, the Global Folk Dance party will be teaming up with World Spring Camp, with our party being one of the features during the 3-day camp. For more information, check out www.worldcamp.us.

Loui Tucker has hopes of opening the dance hall at St. Michael's church so the **Saratoga Folk Dancers can return to in-person dancing by the first week or two of March.** Everything depends on the vaccines working their magic and the rate of new infection per capita continuing to drop, far enough to put Santa Clara County in the Orange Tier. Dancers will probably still be required to wear masks and maintain the magical six feet between each other. If you are interested in being contacted when in-person dancing resumes in Saratoga, contact Loui at Loui@LouiTucker.com.



George Fairbrook leading the line at the Camellia Festival in 2019, followed by Lee Otterholt and Yale Rosenblatt. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

We are sad to announce the death of Ginny Harrington, who most first met as the daughter of Arden and Hiram Pierce. Everyone's condolences go out to her husband Roy and the entire Harrington family.

SAN FRANCISCO GROUPS – *Linda Milhoan*

Although the **San Francisco Dance Circle** has not met for in-person dancing since last March, we are still staying in touch. Members have been invited to send us news about what they've been doing during the pandemic. Erika Opper has been collecting these stories and sending out a weekly compilation to the entire roster of more than 50 people! February 17 under normal circumstances was our annual potluck party, so we're planning a group Zoom party instead. We're getting ready to dance together!

by Matt Miller

Chang members gathered virtually on January 30 for a 60-minute **Zoom Get-Together with Mark Forry**, a Tamburitza Hall of Fame Member: "Everything You Always Wanted to know about Tamburitza, But Were Afraid to Ask." This presentation was one of the perks for making a donation to the Kolo Festival last year.

continued on p 13

WOW! WOW! WOW! ASIAN GROUPS JOIN STOCKTON WINTER WEEKEND

by *Evan Chu*

It all began very soon after the Texa-Kolo weekend in late November, when we were finally able to catch our breath after four days of excitement. My wife Rebecca was checking on what was happening on the other side of the globe.

“It’s so boring that all we have here is Zoom.”

“I want to do other types of dances.”

“I want to do couple dances, set dances.”

“I miss being able to gossip with friends when I am not invited to dance a couple dance.”

“I do not want to have same potato chips from the same bag that we can never finish. I want to taste carefully crafted and delicious snacks!”

“We could go to nearby restaurant, shoulder to shoulder for a quick lunch and a fancy restaurant for dinner at the end of a dance party.”

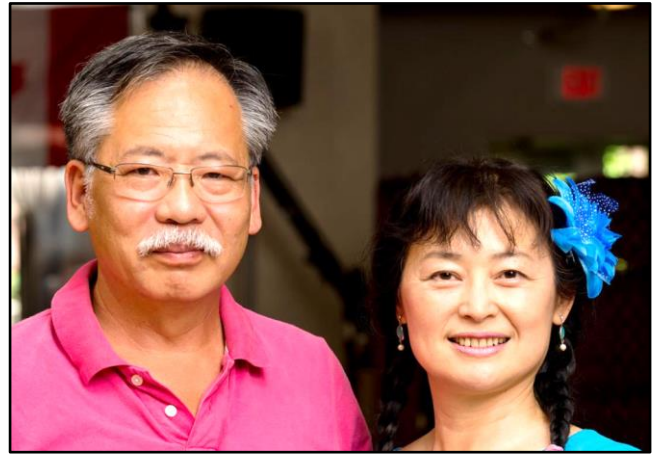
Suddenly, a light bulb went off. We have been kept in our own space for almost a year. Zoom helped us to stay in touch with friends and family, but Zoom also feels like everyone is in a small cage. Zoom gives no indication when we might hope to leave our cages. What if we could see a “normal” life via Zoom? Although we would still have to deal with the reality around us, seeing something normal on Zoom could give us hope that maybe the end of the pandemic is near!

During the Stockton Winter Weekend, all-day parties were being planned in different parts of Taiwan. It seemed like a crazy idea, but Rebecca and I decided to run an idea by Adony Beniares, the person organizing the Stockton Winter Weekend. Could the Taiwan parties be incorporated into the Stockton Winter Weekend plans? Not only did Adony give his blessing, but Ahmet almost did a backflip when Adony announced the idea at a Planning Meeting. Ahmet offered lots of ideas and assistance, including connecting us with Fusae Senzaki. Although Fusae lives in Sacramento, she is connected with folk dance groups in Japan. She was committed even before we figured out how to proceed.

Not all the dance leaders were as enthusiastic as Ahmet and Fusae. When Rebecca started to contact folk dance leaders in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, they were more skeptical than excited. Taiwan was allowing live parties at that time, but other countries had social restriction similar to those in the United States. To be included in the well-known Stockton program was exciting, but everyone wondered how it could happen using a platform that was outside their comfort zone, and in tiny spaces.

The technical issues such as hardware to connect a live party with 100+ participants to a virtual event were not too difficult, especially with an expert like Rob McCollum to help with the setup. Logistic issues were challenging because there was no prior experience.

Dance parties in Taiwan usually run from morning through afternoon, nine hours a day with a one-hour lunch break. Unlike parties in the United States, Taiwan party organizers select dances in advance and publish a playlist months before so the potential partygoers can decide which party to attend. Revising a playlist is something almost unheard of. How to incorporate the joint party playlist concept took hours of discussion, both using Zoom to connect organizers in the United States, and separate meetings among the party organizers themselves. Other considerations such as dance selections to avoid duplication, who would lead the dances, and local decorations all had to be decided.



Evan Chu and Rebecca Tsai. *Photo by E. Khuner.*

Finally, it was time! After weeks of preparation, the party started at 7 pm PST on January 23. We set up Zoom to have four breakout rooms for various groups to test their equipment, and the main room where the party was held. Fusae’s Japanese groups started the party, followed by three Taiwanese groups and the Chairperson of the Hong Kong Folk Dance Association.

Soon Zoom’s chat screen was filling up with “Wow!” and “Wow!” and “Wow!” There were many other comments...

“I’ve never danced in Asia before... this is SO great!”

“I can’t believe I’m dancing in Japan!”

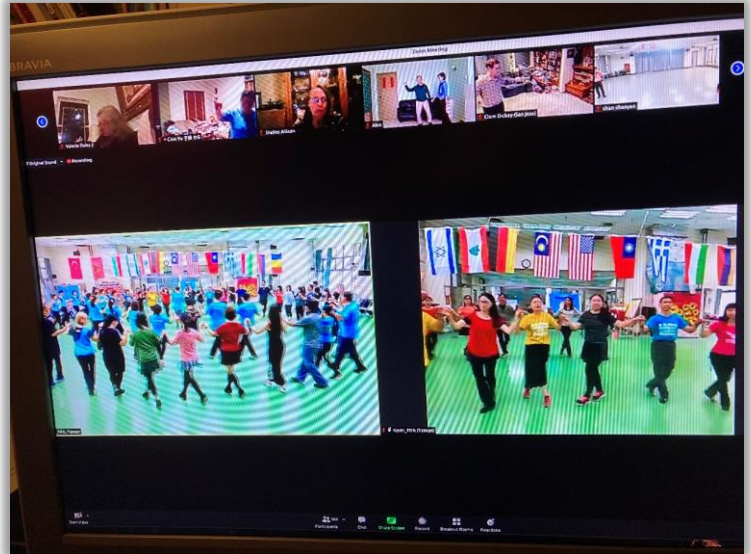
“I’m gonna cry, they are such great dancers, so much feeling...”

“I wish I could jump into their screen and join them for dancing!”

“They give me hope.”

“What a beautiful dance! What a wonderful treat this is !!”

It took an army to bring the party together. From organizers such as Fusae, Shelton, Kevin, T.K. Lau, J.Y. Zhan, all the dance leaders, the many teams behind each group serving in various capacities – to the Stockton Board that took the risk, and Adony and the entire Planning/Tech team that worked so hard to translate our idea into reality. The parties had many glitches but, thanks to more than 350 participants in the main room and 40-50 in each of the breakout rooms, the glitches were overlooked and everyone enjoyed the party.



Dancing in Taiwan. Photo by H. Radin

It was such a joy and privilege to be part of the team that brought the party to life!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY – continued

Mark was raised in the Bay Area and now lives in Hungary. He shared with us his expertise from over 45 years of tamburitza playing, studying and enjoying the music in a talk that lasted almost 90 minutes. He highlighted his talk with many video clips, including one that was done back in 1948 of a folk group from what was then called Yugoslavia, now Croatia. Mark also explained the history of the various instruments that make up the tamburitza stringed family.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his talk! I especially did. Many years ago, I was a young tamburitza player growing up in Wisconsin and have seen many Tamburitza performances through the years. A big shout-out and thank you to Mark for his excellent presentation from all the Changs members who attended the Zoom meeting.

FOR 2021
Want to dance all night?
A pravo’s for me
For others it’s a kolo, or trite puti
Čačak or čoček
Is a syrtos your thing?
The music says, “Dance and be free!”

~ Hannah Mirkin

Wow! Look at all the virtual class and party offerings - including the new listing this month. 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 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, **with semi-monthly and monthly parties at the end.**

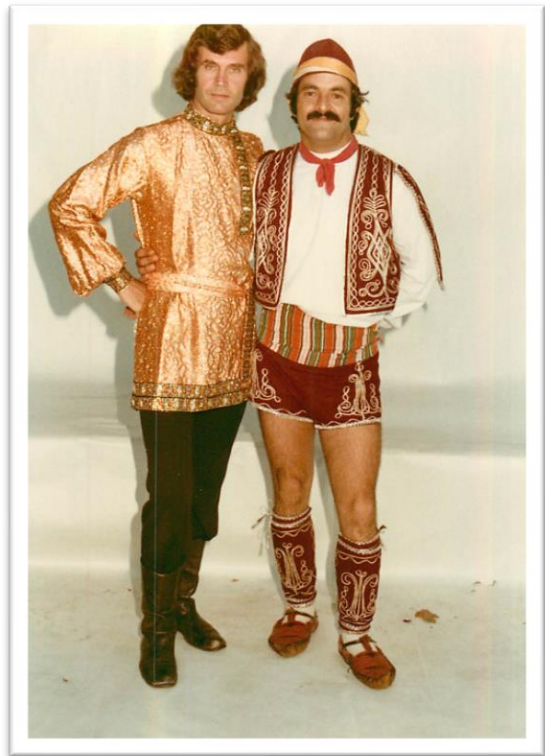
Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers Monday	Carol Friedman 7:00 - 8:15	cjay@horizoncable.com Email Carol for login information
Razzmatazz Folk Dance Tuesday	Marilyn Smith 7:00 - 8:00	marilynmsmith@sbcglobal.net Email Marilyn for login information
Palomanians Tuesday	Adony Beniares 7:00 - 9:30	adony408@gmail.com Zoom #: 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)
Berkeley Friday Request Night Friday	Emily Stoper 7:30 - 9:00	bfdrequestnight@gmail.com NEW THIS MONTH! 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
Village Dancers Plus Sunday	Judy Kropp 3:00 - 4:30	judykropp40@gmail.com Zoom #: 825 5262 8923 (PW=697402)
Smile & Dance Sunday	Catherine Ko 5:15 - 6:45	catherine.smile.peace@gmail.com Zoom #: 899 6194 0965 (PW=137283)

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	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

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



This one is going to stump *Let's Dance!* readers! If it's any help, the photo was probably taken in the late 1950s or early 1960s. Who are they?



Last month's issue featured this photo of Alexandru David and Bora Ozkok. They were on the staff of Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1979 when this photo was taken.

ELECTION OF FEDERATION OFFICERS 2021

by Craig Blackstone

According to Federation bylaws, the election of Federation officers is to take place at a General Assembly of the membership. Until last year, the General Assembly has been held just before the Blossom Festival in late April. Because of stay-in-place restrictions under the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to hold the Blossom Festival last year and, as no Assembly was held, it was necessary to conduct the election of officers by electronic ballot.

This year, we anticipate again conducting the election by electronic ballot in which all individual and family members of the Federation will be entitled to vote. The current officers have each been nominated to serve an additional one-year term. The Nominating Committee is presenting the following proposed slate of officers:

President: Marian Snyder
Vice President: Ulrike Narins

Treasurer: Sabine Zappe
Secretary: Clem Dickey

Nominations from the membership will be open, allowing Federation members to nominate any additional candidates for any of the four offices. Watch for announcements that will be sent via email to all Federation members entitled to participate in the election!



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

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!

Maki Maki

(Serbia)

Maki Maki (mah-KEY mah-KEY) is a well-known Serbian Roma song. The music is by Goran Bregović. Roberto Bagnoli learned this dance from the choreographer, Paja Milić. Roberto presented it, most recently, at the 2021 Stockton Winter Weekend, via Zoom.

Music: 2/4 The music is available by contacting Roberto (morenu@mac.com) or on Amazon.

Video: 2021 Stockton Winter Weekend downloads. To view, contact a camper who attended the event.

Formation: Mixed circle, facing center, without holding hands. It can also be danced with two or three dancers facing each other, Roma style.

Steps & Styling: Arms are raised in W-pos, moving freely and independently.

Meas	2/4	PATTERN
		INTRODUCTION. No action. Start after the “Ho hp, ho hp, Le-le, Le-le” of vocal.
		I. TOUCH, FWD AND BACK, TWIST, FWD AND BACK.
1		Touch R fwd (ct 1); touch R to R (ct 2).
2-4		Repeat meas 1 three times, for a total of eight touches.
5		Step R fwd (ct 1); step L bkwd (ct 2); step R next to L (ct &).
6		Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk.
7-12		Repeat meas 1-6.
13-14		Wt on both feet, bending knees, swing both heels R and L, R and L (cts 1, 2, 1, 2)
15-16		Repeat meas 5-6.
17-20		Repeat meas 13-16.
21-22		Wt on both ft, bending knees, swing heels slightly L four times (cts 1, 2, 1, 2), effectively turning ¼ R to end facing CCW.
		II. HOP-STEP-STEP-STEP.
1		Small hop on L, raising R (ct 1); beg R, three steps fwd (cts &, 2, &).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, except last step is <i>bkwd</i> onto L.
3		Moving bkwd, two hop-steps: hop L, step bkwd R, hop R, step bkwd L (cts 1, &, 2, &).
4		Hop on L (ct 1); beg R, three small steps backing up slightly (cts &, 2, &).
5		In place, two hop-steps: hop R, raising L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); hop L, raising R (ct 2); step R in place (ct &).
6		Step L fwd (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &).
7-8		Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk.
9-16		Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk continuing CCW, except on meas 16, turn ¼ L to end facing ctr.

Maki Maki – continued

III. TWIST, TRAVEL, TURN IN PLACE.

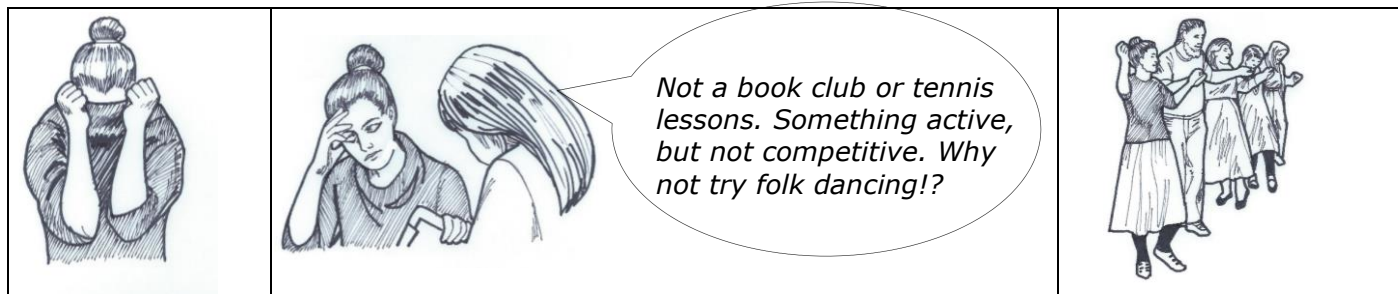
- 1 Bending both knees slightly, swing both heels R (ct 1); swing both heels L (ct 2).
- 2 Swing both heels R (ct 1); leap on R to R while raising L up and L (ct 2), step L across in front of R (ct &).
- 3 Step R to R on the ball of the ft (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct &); repeat counts 1, & (cts 2, &).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5-7 Repeat ftwk of meas 3 four times while making a slow, full CCW turn in place around the L ft, to end facing ctr. Arms: R hand high above head; L hand low.
- 8-9 Repeat meas 1-2, except last step onto L is fwd, to ctr.
- 10 Leaving L in place, step R fwd (twd center), bending both knees and shaking your shoulders (ct 1); step L bwkd (ct 2).
- 11 Step R next to L, turning ¼ R to end facing CCW (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

IV. TRAVELING CCW.

- 1 Moving CCW, two hop-steps: hop L, raising R (ct 1); step R fwd (ct &); hop R, raising L (ct 2); step L fwd (ct &).
- 2 Beg L, one more hop-step fwd; small step L to L (ct 2); step R to R (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times, except on meas 16, ct 2, jump onto both ft tog to face ctr (ct 1); take wt onto L if repeating the dance (ct 2).

Sequence: The dance is done twice as described above.

In 2014, *Let's Dance!* magazine began running an occasional cartoon illustrating the answer to the question: **Why did YOU start folk dancing?** Artwork by Susan Gregory; text by Loui Tucker.



I have been too embarrassed to tell anyone about how I got into folk dancing.

I was in therapy dealing with a decade of intermittent depression. At one point, my therapist suggested I try a non-competitive, physical and social activity.

I found a wonderful group of people, an activity I love, and I have banished depression from my life!

P.S. You can share YOUR story or the story of a friend by emailing the idea to editor@folkdance.com. No names will be included, so your secret will be safe with us.



Lyrids/Kyklos Online Festival 2021

by *Sonia Connolly*

The Lyrids Folk Dance Festival (Burnaby, British Columbia) has joined forces with Kyklos International Folk Dancers (Portland, Oregon) for a joint online festival on **April 23-25, 2021**. It has been a delightful side benefit of the pandemic to work together across national borders. The two committees have gotten to know each other and some have even started dancing together online. We can't wait to have you all join us at the festival! See our full-page ad on p. 20.

While we'll miss seeing you in person, we are excited to be able to include well-known teachers from all over the world who will be sharing their expertise from their homes. Our featured instructors **Tineke and Maurits van Geel** will teach Armenian and Roma dances mixed with some international top hits during morning workshops. They will also offer noon culture talks. Tineke, who specializes in Armenian dance and costumes, has studied extensively at the Pedagogic Institute and Choreographic School in Yerevan, Armenia. Maurits received an education as an international folk dance instructor in 1977 and was artistic director for professional performance group Hupsakee for 20 years. Tineke and Maurits have been featured at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp as well as camps and festivals throughout the world.

The afternoon workshops will teach a colorful bouquet of dance and music. The dance teachers are Gergana Panova, Ahmet Lüleci, Naomi Taussig, and Steve Weintraub. Polly Tapia Ferber will teach drumming. Band members Dina, Tedy, and Miamon will lead singing and instrumental workshops.

Our band will be the fabulous Osem i Devet and friends, with Michael Lawson, David Bilides, Miamon Miller, Jamie Cowan, Dina Tregaser, and Tedy Dimitrova. For the Friday evening party, the band will contribute pre-recorded songs. For the Saturday evening party, they will play live for us from the Seattle area. Their Balkan-focused repertoire also includes some international dance tunes. Together, this versatile group of accomplished musicians can play hot and fast, sweet and slow, and everything in between.

We're excited about the festival and seeing you all there! Friendly tech support will be available during the festival to help you have a smooth experience. The festival is free, although donations are encouraged. Please register on lyridsfolkdancefestival.org for updates and to vote on recorded party dances. For more information write to lyridsfolkdancefestival@gmail.com or info@kyklosfolkdancers.org.



Pieces from Marvin Moehle's collection.
Photo by L. Tucker.

Are you interested in collecting ethnic costumes? Do you already have a collection of costumes? Would you like to share with others interested in collecting?

Contact Marvin Moehle at
[*drenoveni@yahoo.com*](mailto:drenoveni@yahoo.com)



ONLINE FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

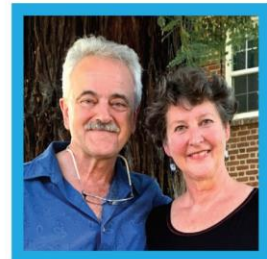


FREE!
Donations
Encouraged

Friday, April 23 to Sunday, April 25, 2021

Maurits & Tineke van Geel

Presenting Armenian & Roma dances
mixed with some International top hits
Saturday & Sunday 9 AM to Noon PT

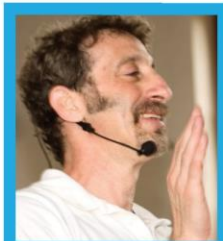


Live Party Band Saturday Night
Osem i Devet with guests

Plus music & singing workshops with band members
And one hour afternoon workshops with:



Polly Ferber
Drumming



Steve Weintraub
Seated Dances



Gergana Panova
Bulgarian Dances



Ahmet Lüleci
Turkish Dances



Naomi Taussig
Israeli Dances

Presented jointly by
Kyklos & Burnaby International Folk Dancers

Free registration opens in February 2021
LyridsFolkDanceFestival.org • KyklosFolkDancers.org

HISTORY CHANNEL

A Chicago Morris “Mini-Reunion” at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1972

by Ed Stern (Minneapolis, Minnesota)

We had an English Morris dance group in Chicago starting in 1969; it lost several members in 1971, including me, when I moved to Minneapolis that summer, and the group ceased to dance regularly at that time, although it did have a revival a few years later. I planned to attend the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the summer of 1972 and discovered several other members of our Chicago Morris dance group also planned to attend. Perhaps one of the attractions was the presence on the camp staff of Nibs Matthews, a well-known teacher of English Country Dance, Morris, and other dance forms. Coincidentally, 1972 was the 25th anniversary of the Camp. We Chicagoans held our own mini-reunion.

Upon arrival, we approached Nibs and asked if he would be interested in helping us improve our Morris dancing. We were delighted when he said yes. Further, his wife Jean could play fiddle for us. Every day, after scheduled classes were over, our little group met on the lawn with Nibs and did Morris dancing for an hour. It was lots of fun, even in the middle of a hot Stockton summer.

Stockton Camp has two themed party evenings each week. Nibs was in charge of organizing an English themed party, and he invited us to do a Morris performance as part of the party, which we gladly agreed to do. We had brought our Chicago kits with us and had some sticks, so we were prepared. The accompanying photo was taken during this performance. Among the traditional dances we performed were Constant Billy (from the village of Headington) and Bobbing Joe (from Bampton-in-the-Bush), but we wanted to enter with our own processional dance, at that time called “The Chicago Processional.” There was a problem: the processional dance had been choreographed to the tune for Bobbing Joe, and it seemed that we should not use the same tune for both a set dance and the processional during the same performance.

I felt that, since our processional was an American dance, it should get an American tune. I suggested we could use an old folk song that I had long known and liked: “Soldier, Soldier Will You Marry Me?” but the tune would need to be modified

for the dance. My recollection is that several people, including Jean Matthews, contributed to bending the song tune into a suitable Morris tune by, among other things, changing the time signature from 4/4 to 6/8 and some rhythmic modifications. We named the new tune “Soldier O” to show both its derivation from, but also difference from, the song tune. It worked well. Problem solved. Ever since that performance at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, the processional dance has been known as Soldier O. Now, almost 50 years later, it is well-known in the Morris dance community in the central United States, and has been for decades, primarily through its use in many Midwest Morris Ales and similar events.

Our performance was, at least for me, a smashing success. I remember being in the air a lot during the dances, seeming only to come down in order to go back up into the air again. Maybe it was a hallucination, caused by the extreme heat in the un-airconditioned room. I recall that we exited after our set of dances and stood around panting for several minutes in a hallway. I had a sense of euphoria for the next day and a half!

The inspiration for this reminiscence was the recent gift of photos (including the one printed with this article) of that special summer at Stockton. A huge thank you to Denise Heenan for sending them to me.



Chicago Morris dancers in Stockton FDC 1972. Long stick dance, “Lads A’ Bunchum” (from Adderbury). Dancers from L to R: Jim Dowling, David Roche, Bob Trobbiani, Ed Stern, Paul Collins, George Davis. Musicians: Chuck Ward (accordion) and Jean Matthews (fiddle). *Photo courtesy of the Stockton Folk Dance Camp Photo Archive.*

Remembering Debbie Evenich

by Marija Hillis

My longtime friend, Debbie Evenich, died January 9. I knew Debbie through singing and dancing together in Westwind International Folk Ensemble and later in Jubilee American Dance Theatre. We traveled to Europe to perform in many dance festivals, often sharing close and spartan accommodations. I looked forward to Mendocino Folklore Camp where Debbie's organizational skills on the board of directors kept the wheels turning behind the scenes.

When I think about Debbie, I appreciate her creativity, her crafting skills, her love of beauty and pets, and her desire for lifelong learning. She sewed many handsome shirts for her husband Abe, and was also an imaginative quilter. I was impressed that she oiled her sewing machine every time she used it! She loved anything French, and was fairly proficient in the language, becoming the designated interpreter and spokeswoman for us when Jubilee went to France. She had a close circle of friends who often traveled to France in the summer, staying at a lovely chateau where they shopped at the local market and cooked together. Debbie and her husband also organized and hosted weekends for groups of friends at Jug Handle State Natural Reserve, on the Mendocino coast near Ft. Bragg, where David and I enjoyed a few memorable weekends socializing, hiking, playing games, and sharing meals with the people they gathered together.

One of my favorite memories is Abe and Debbie's wedding in the 1990s. It was a three-day affair, with dancing and music as the centerpiece. The first day was a folklore festival with attendees invited to wear folk costumes and a band playing music for international folk dancing. The second night we danced to a Cajun/Zydeco band, and for the final evening there was a swing dance band for



The author and Debbie at Mendocino Folklore Camp. *Photographer unknown.*

those who hadn't had enough dancing yet. Such generosity for so many people!

After Abe passed away a few years ago, Debbie moved to Oakland to be closer to her friends and Jubilee. I always admired her for her longtime commitment to Jubilee. Prior to that move, she had been commuting from Petaluma to Berkeley for weekly rehearsals. She loved dancing and singing, and it seems that her passion and dedication gave her the energy she needed to keep up with the demands of rehearsing and performing.

Debbie died of mesothelioma lung cancer, likely contracted years ago when they were doing asbestos removal at the grade school where she worked. A group of her friends gathered under her window on several occasions during her final days to sing favorite songs and lullabies for her. I am sad that Debbie's life was cut short by illness, but a life well lived must be enough for anyone. We who are left behind will also journey into the unknown someday, and I only hope someone will be there to sing for me when it's time to depart.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 40 years ago this month

Browsing back issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine always turns up something interesting. The **March 1981** issue included the following fascinating item:

"VASA HAMBO"



I presume that most of you have heard about the Swedish Hambo Competition held annually in Hälsingland, Sweden. However, for those who have not, I will describe it briefly.

The competition started 15 years ago and has been a great success. In 1980, 1500 couples competed for the championship. The Hälsingland Hambo is a one day affair that runs from 6 AM to 9 PM before the winning couple is selected. After that the dancing for everyone begins and continues until the wee hours.

Three stages are involved in the competition plus a semi-final and final contest. The dancing at the Swedish Hambo began in Härga on a field where the previous week the hay had been harvested. Two cities of 50 couples each were formed. The judges stand in the center and award the points, ranging from 1-10, depending on the couple's skill to dance the hambo correctly.

When all of the couples have danced, the competition then moves by bus a few miles to the city of Bollnäs where they continue dancing up and down a football field. I remember that in 1974 when my wife and I danced in the competition, it was raining, and the ground was very slippery. Our folk dance costumes were soaked, but it was fun.

From Bollnäs, the dancers, next moved by bus to Arbrå, where the dancing progresses from grass to asphalt. I was close to my 60th birthday, and after dancing 400 meters on a street that was slightly 200 meters uphill, I was a little tired. At this stage, it's over for most couples, since only 100 couples are included in the semi-final round, which is held at Järvsö on an outdoor dance arena, and at this point the audience numbers around 15,000 to 20,000. The champions in the 1980 competition were Eva Bruhn and Paul Sjödin.

The excitement in the dancing and the opportunity to meet folk dancers from all over Sweden and other countries adds to the fun and excitement of the day.

Since California Lutheran College sponsors an annual Scandinavian Day each spring, we suggested that the Hambo competition be included in the day's events. Bill Hamm, Assistant to the President for College Relations and Admissions at CLC, wholeheartedly supported the idea. After several meetings between CLC and the Swedish Folk Dance Club of Los Angeles, it was decided to go ahead and arrange "Vasa Hambo" after the same pattern used in Sweden.

The three stages of competition will be:

10-11 AM Dancing in a circle in Kingsman Park.

1-2 PM Dancing on the football field.

3-4 PM Dancing on the asphalt street.

5 PM Semi-final and Final dancing in the California Lutheran College Auditorium.

After the final, dancing in the auditorium for all.

1st Prize - \$100.00. 2nd Prize - \$50.00. 3rd Prize - \$25.00.

A special "Hambo" pinwill be designed and given to each participant after fulfilled dancing. A trophy will be given to the best club.

Rules:

1. You can only have one partner. No switching.
2. You must be on time at the start and ready to dance when your number comes up.
3. Judging will be based on rhythm, technique, skill and the way the couple dance together. Only kneebend (nighambo) is allowed. The pattern is the same as in Sweden.

For information: Vasa Hambo 1981, % College Relations Office
California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks,
California 91360

We encourage you to wear your folk dance costume since this will add color and gaiety to the day.



Participants invited for
1st ANNUAL VASA HAMBO
Folk Dance Competition
at the
Eighth Annual Scandinavian Day Celebration
California Lutheran College
Thousand Oaks, California
Saturday, March 28, 1981

For Details, call or write:
College Relations Office
California Lutheran College
60 West Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, California 91360
(805) 492-2411, ext. 483

This is advertised as being the "1st ANNUAL," Sadly, I could find no listing in subsequent years for another Vasa Hambo.

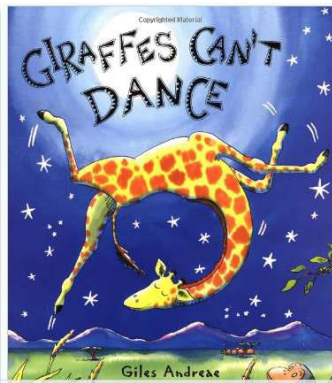
~Editor

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.
927 Springfield Drive
Millbrae, California 94030

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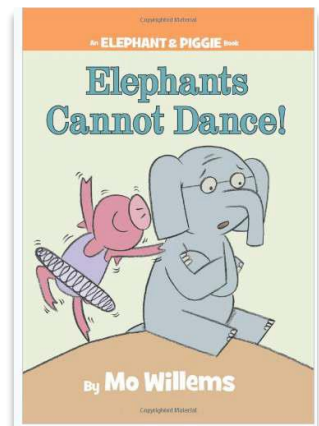
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**Giraffes and elephants can't dance?
Well, other creatures can!
See the President's Message on p. 3.**

Both of these are children's books, perfect
for introducing children and grandchildren to
the world of dancing.



advertisement



Folk Dance Scene

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