

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING **3** OCTOBER 2021



Will you be dancing with them
at the Officers Ball? See p. 8!



Let's Dance!

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OCTOBER 2021

Editor: Loui Tucker

Email: editor@folkdance.com

153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126

Assistant Editor: David Hillis

Address change and membership:

Marcia Rosenblatt, membership@folkdance.com

News From Around The Bay: Contributions from clubs

Federation Officers, North

President: Marian Snyder, president@folkdance.com

Vice President: Ulrike Narins, vicepresident@folkdance.com

Treasurer: Sabine Zappe, treasurer@folkdance.com

Recording Secretary: Clem Dickey, clemd@acm.org

Parliamentarian: Bill Lidicker

Editor: Loui Tucker, editor@folkdance.com

Website: www.folkdance.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FolkDanceFed

Federation Officers, South

President: Diane Baker

Vice President: Leslie Halberg

Secretary: Camille Dull

Treasurer: Mindy Belli

Website: www.SoCalFolkdance.org

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

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

Donations: The Folk Dance Federation of California is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible! Gifts and donations are always welcome. Send to:

Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

153 Race Street

San Jose, California 95126

Join now: Membership rates: (add \$15 for foreign addresses)

Individual \$35/year

Household rate \$45/year

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

Group/Club rate \$40/year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Marcia Rosenblatt, Membership

927 Springfield Drive, Millbrae, California 94030

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

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

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

	<u>½ page</u>	<u>full page</u>	
Member clubs	\$50	\$90	<i>All ads are in COLOR</i>
All others	\$80	\$120	

**Mail checks to: Loui Tucker, Editor
153 Race Street
San Jose, CA 95126**

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WELCOME OUR NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Cheryl Fuller, El Granada

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

Much has been changing very quickly due to the Delta Variant. The Bay Area and much of the country has been hit hard. Cases have climbed high and fast. Mask mandates are back. On the bright side, vaccinations for the most part are proving to be vital if you want to stay out of the hospital. With such a large percentage of people vaccinated in the Bay Area, it has been possible to resume many near-normal activities. Perhaps this surge of COVID cases will be over by the time you read this message.

The September issue of *Let's Dance!* featured many clubs back dancing in person. So wonderful to see so many hands joined and smiling faces. I could almost hear the music! Speaking of music, are you ready for something new?

Do any of you bowl or know someone who does? I have only bowled a few times in my life and remember the thrill when I actually hit a pin. It was one of those moments I wanted to celebrate with some kind of dance move. I recently read an article about mixing up those bowling victory moves with some form of boogie.

Just in case you'd like to celebrate with some new dance moves, here's a list of videos you can find on YouTube and have some fun while you are at it.



- **Gangnam Style** came from South Korean in 2012. It looks like you're riding a horse.
- **Michael Jackson's Moonwalk** was first performed in 1983. Wearing socks is helpful on this one.
- **The Bangels' "Walk Like an Egyptian"** was written in 1986 after observing people trying to keep their balance on a ship.
- **The Sprinkler Dance** was invented in the 1980s and involves holding an arm out and imitating the rotation of a garden sprinkler.
- **The Macarena** originated in 1992 in Venezuela. I think most of us know this one.
- **Boogie Dance Disco** dates all the way back to the 1920s.

Now that you've got your dance moves going, be sure to make your way to **The Officers Ball at the Veteran's Building in Hayward**. You don't want to miss this very fun, in-person folk dance event on **Saturday, October 16**. Doors open at 1 pm. The institute, featuring eight amazing local teachers, will run from 1:30-5:30 pm. Bill Cope will lead us in song at an on-site dinner from 5:30-7:00 pm. Following that will be a dance party until 10 pm. Flyer on p. 8. Proof of vaccination will be required.



Can you Walk Like An Egyptian?

Your continued support of the Folk

Dance Federation is very much appreciated. Spread the word that new members will receive a coupon good for **One Free Day** at a Federation-sponsored or co-sponsored event. That would include our upcoming Officers Ball. See the flyer about joining on page 13. I know that if you're reading this, you are probably already a member, but are all the dancers in your group members?

Little by little we are being allowed to gather and experience the fun of folk dancing together again. It is unbelievably amazing!

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).

- October 2** **MOSAIC FESTIVAL SILICON VALLEY.** School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose. 11am – 5pm. Celebrate the many cultures of Silicon Valley through performances, visual art, food, and workshops. It's FREE! Must register to attend! *[This is a change in the date from September 25 as posted last month.]*
- October 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. See ad on p. 8.
- November 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). Info: FallCamp.org or email: Dance@FallCamp.org. See p. 14.
- December 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

FEDERATION NEWS

IS YOUR CLUB INCLUDED IN THE FEDERATION'S NEW WHERE TO DANCE PAGE? [Visit the website!]

by Kevin Greek

Is your club included on the Federation's new interface for finding places to dance? There is a lot of flexibility for presentation, selection, and display, so drop by, start interacting with it, and you will discover how useful it is. The new page and map allow a user to search by club locations, by category (e.g., international, Balkan, Israeli), or range based a location you provide (e.g., zip code, city, address, airport name). Club locations are shown on the map (unless they are only online). The map can be zoomed in or out, and clicking on a marker pops up a description of the club.

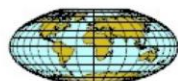
Federation groups benefit because the data presented is much richer than before, so visitors can find out more and find it quickly. Clubs can include a much longer description, even a list of the club's repertoire or a typical evening's playlist. **Listings can include up to six promotional photos!** If a club wants to keep a Google calendar of their upcoming events, that calendar can be displayed with their listing.

IS YOUR GROUP MISSING? If you know a group exists but you can't find a listing for it, nudge the group leader to complete the Federation Survey of Clubs. If your group can't find the old email with the Survey of Clubs, please contact me at greek1@ix.netcom.com and I'll get you the link to the survey.

The Federation is always looking for ways to improve the website, both for members and people looking for information about the organization and its members/groups. If you have a suggestion, please contact me at greek1@ix.netcom.com.



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

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

Tour(s) desired _____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone(_____) _____ Email _____

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THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

There are all photos from past Officers Balls except one, which is from the 2010 President's Ball. Read more about the history of the Treasurer's Ball-President's Ball-Officers Ball on the facing page.



Alicia LaFetra and Todd Wagner were at the Officers Ball in 2013.



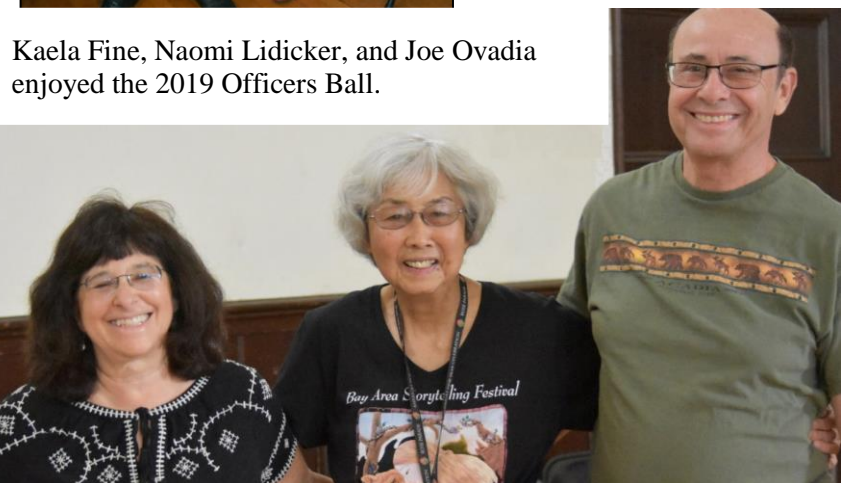
Gary Anderson (left) taught Sandy's Čačak in 2017. Eileen Kopeck and John Carroll followed his lead.



Jerry Gregory and Sally Howlett danced at the 2010 President's Ball.



Bill and Julie East came from Redding in 2017.



Kaela Fine, Naomi Lidicker, and Joe Ovadia enjoyed the 2019 Officers Ball.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

by Loui Tucker

IN THE BEGINNING IT WAS THE TREASURER'S BALL

What we now refer to as the Officers Ball was originally called the Treasurer's Ball, and it has quite a history! The first mention I could find of the Treasurer's Ball was in the November 1956 issue of *Let's Dance* magazine, although the announcement that year said it was the third year that Federation Treasurer John Mooney had served as Chair of the event. **In 1956, the cost was a mere 90¢ and it ran from 1:30-5:30 and 6:45-10:30, with a break for dinner.** The program included a Kolo Hour led by John Filcich as well as squares dances. For many years, it was held at Kezar Pavilion, in Golden Gate Park, in San Francisco.

As the folk dance scene expanded, the Ball moved to a different area each year. In 1965, for example the Treasurer's Ball was in Sacramento at the Memorial Auditorium. Admission had been \$1 for several years by that time, and the event ended at 6:30 instead of lasting into the evening. Beyond the ticket sales, additional funds were raised by raffling off donated prizes and selling folk dance costumes, a format that continued through the 1990s.

In 1970, the Treasurer's Ball was in Burlingame, and had moved to December. Admission was still \$1, but the party lasted only four hours – 1:30-5:30. In 1980, Pleasant Hill was the site of the December Treasurer's Ball, the price had risen to \$2, and 1:30-5:30 was still the standard length. December 1985 saw the Treasurer's Ball at the Veterans' Hall in Sonoma, still the same length, but the price had gone up again to \$4.

In 1985, Page Masson became the Federation Treasurer, a position she held until 2002. She moved the Ball to Sonoma, not far from her home in Kenwood. In 1990, Page arranged for two rooms in the Veterans Hall – one for general international folk dance and one for Scandinavian dancing to live music. This continued to be part of the Treasurer's Ball for many years.

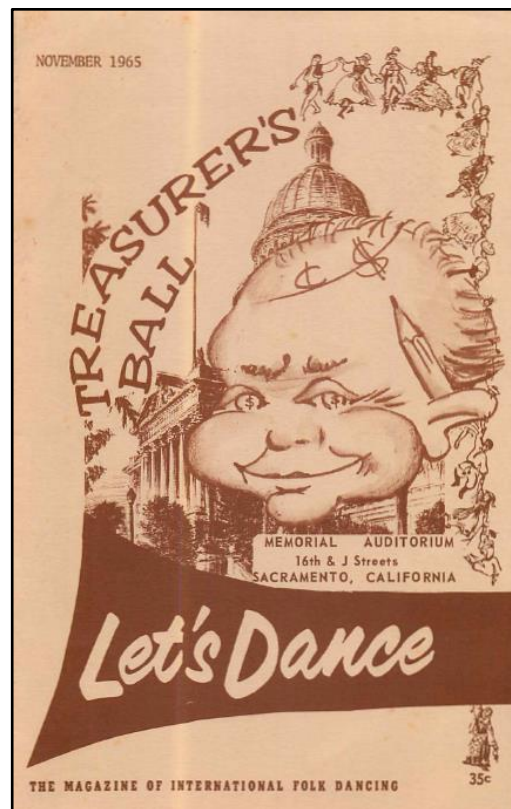
By 1991, the price had gone up to \$5. In 1997, the Ball moved temporarily to Sebastopol, because the roof on the hall in Sonoma needed repairs. In 2000, the price was still \$5, but attendance had begun to dwindle. Without the raffles, the event probably would not have been financially feasible. In 2001, the price rose to \$6.

Then, in 2003, **the new Treasurer, Paul Nyberg, declined to carry on the tradition.** So ended a 48-year tradition for the Federation.

I, for one, was sad to see it go so, when I became Federation President in 2009, I decided it was time to bring it back. The bad news was that Sabine Zappe, the Federation Treasurer, was not interested. **I managed it myself and changed the name to the President's Ball;** it was held at the Veterans Hall in Albany on December 11, 2010. The price was \$45, which included the afternoon dance workshop, dinner, and evening party (you could save \$5 by paying in advance).

In 2011, Lucy Chang became the Federation President. **Lucy decided the Ball had to involve all the Federation Board officers and renamed the Ball once again.** Thus, the Officers Ball was born (and it never had an apostrophe!). The event has moved from location to location, from December to November to October, and it was cancelled twice in the last 10 years.

This year, after the long, dark tunnel created by COVID, of dancing in our homes while watching on our computer screens as others danced in their homes, let's come together and learn together, eat together, and dance together – in person. **I hope to see you all at the Officers Ball, Saturday, October 16!**



So Happy Together!

OFFICERS BALL (IN PERSON!)

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Hayward Veteran's Hall, 22737 Main Street, Hayward

Doors open 1:00 PM

Institute 1:30-5:30 PM

On-Site Dinner 5:30-7:00 PM

Dance party 7:00-10:00 PM

50/50
Raffle



Afternoon Institute \$20

Dinner with entertainment \$15 (must register by Oct. 11)

Evening Party \$20

Package Price \$45 (must register by Oct. 11)

Name(s) _____		
Pre-register \$45 x _____	=	_____
Workshop \$20 x _____	=	_____
Dinner \$15 x _____	=	_____
Evening Party \$20 x _____	=	_____
TOTAL	\$	_____

[New members with coupon pay for dinner only]

Any dietary issues we should know about?

Make checks payable to Folk Dance Federation

Mail check and form to Federation Treasurer

Sabine Zappe, 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126

You can also pay on **folkdance.com** and then scan

and email the registration form to

Sabine at samzappe@gmail.com

INSTITUTE TEACHERS

Aaron Alpert (with Latisya Steele)

Rodef Smalot (Israel)

Adony Beniares

Staroselsko Horo (Serbia)

Barbara Bevan

Mindrele (Romania)

Cindy Blackstone

Tfilati (Israel)

Laura Douglass (with Joe Croco)

Mezoshegi figures (Hungary)

Carol Friedman

Toculetsul (Romania)

Skopos (Greece)

Lenore Frigo

Contras (United States)

Yale Rosenblatt

Julud (Circle Dance Community)

Proof of vaccination is required.

Attach to email or include in envelope to Sabine Zappe with your registration form.

Notes: Unless State/County COVID protocols have changed by then, masks will be required.

XXL TOUR to GEORGIA, ARMENIA and (OPTIONAL) IRAN

Following the successful XXL Tour to three countries in 2018, Tineke & Maurits are planning a wonderful new XXL tour in June 2022.

Don't miss it!

Registration is open. Payment due in 2022. Info on our website: www.tinekevangeel.nl



LYRICS FOR YOU - Bitola

NOTE: As promised in last month's issue, below are the lyrics to the third song in the lesnoto medley typically played by the band at Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Bitola, moj roden kraj,
Vo tebe sum roden,
Za mene si raj.
Bitola, moj roden kraj,
Jas te sakam za tebe peam.
Bitola, moj roden kraj,
Jas te sakam od srce znaj.

Mnogu gradovi, sela projdov,
Kako tebe Bitola, nigde ne najdov.
Bitola, moj roden kraj,
Jas te sakam za tebe peam,
Bitola, moj roden kraj,
Jas te sakam od srce znaj.

Ej, roden kraj, koj bi mo'el,
Zbogum da ti re'e da ne zapla'am.
Bitola, moj roden kraj,
Jas te sakam za tebe peam.
Bitola, moj roden kraj,
Jas te sakam od srce znaj.

Bitola, my hometown,
I was born in you
For me you are heaven.
Bitola, my hometown,
Know that I sing for you from the heart.
Bitola, my hometown,
Know that I love you from the heart.

I have been to many cities, many villages,
Dear to me, like you, nowhere did I find.
Bitola, my hometown,
Know that I sing for you from the heart.
Bitola, my hometown,
Know that I love you from the heart.

Hey, hometown, who could
Tell you good riddance and not start to cry?
Bitola, my hometown,
Know that I sing for you from the heart.
Bitola, my hometown,
Know that I love you from the heart.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

We are hoping and planning to start Balkan/International dancing again indoors at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma after Labor Day; if, however, the COVID situation worsens, we may decide to postpone the start date. We will be wearing masks as per existing mandates in the Bay Area, and all participants must be fully vaccinated. I've got a long list of favorite dances I've learned at Zoom classes and parties that I'm looking forward to introducing.

Israeli folk dance classes are continuing at this point on Zoom, Sunday mornings 9:30-10:15 am. I am still waiting to hear back from The Powers That Be at the Osher Marin JCC about resuming classes in person.

I will be offering a monthly **Balkan/International Zoom session** on the second Wednesday 7-8:15 p.m., because it's been so much fun to see and dance with old and new friends who live too far away to join the in-person dancing. I invite any of you who are looking for more opportunities to dance (whether it be virtual or in person) to contact me at 415-663-9512 or cjay@horizoncable.com if you'd like to join us.

SACRAMENTO – Barbara Bevan

We had to cancel our annual membership event due to COVID and smoke from the many wild fires! Sadly, not much else to report.

REDDING DANCERS – Lenore Frigo

Nothing going on around here, except smoke and COVID, so we haven't started back up after the summer break.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Emily Stoper

Nothing much is new with the Berkeley Folk Dancers. We'd love to start our season of big parties, but our main venue at Live Oaks Park is not available yet. In the meantime, **we're continuing with the Tuesday and Thursday afternoon sessions (1:30) at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley**, which we've been doing all summer. Attendance has stayed consistent – about 35 people. We also have an all-requests Friday evening dance party (7:30-9:30) at Northbrae. We

are, of course, looking forward to dancing in the newly renovated Live Oak Recreation Center when that becomes available.

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Adony Beniares

In September, the highlight for us was the **100th birthday celebration on September 4 of a long-time dancer, Bob Young**. We had planned to hold a 100th birthday party for Bob, but COVID caution had us postpone that for a future time. Instead, a representative team decorated his and Dorothy's house, and then came by with a surprise proclamation from the City of San Carlos, delivered along with what we knew was his favorite cake. Special thanks to Ken Kaye (town crier), Nancy Kaye (musician), Karen Bartholomew (cake) and decorators (Lesley Bone, Hollis Radin, and Ann Kleiman), as well as to all the PFDC members who joined us. As a follow-up, the Palomanians dedicated the night of September 7 to Bob, featuring pictures of him and Dorothy as well as dancing their favorite dances.



Bob Young (right) with wife Dorothy greeted the well-wishers from the balcony.

Ken Kaye dressed as the Town Crier read the proclamation. *Both photos by C. Dickey.*

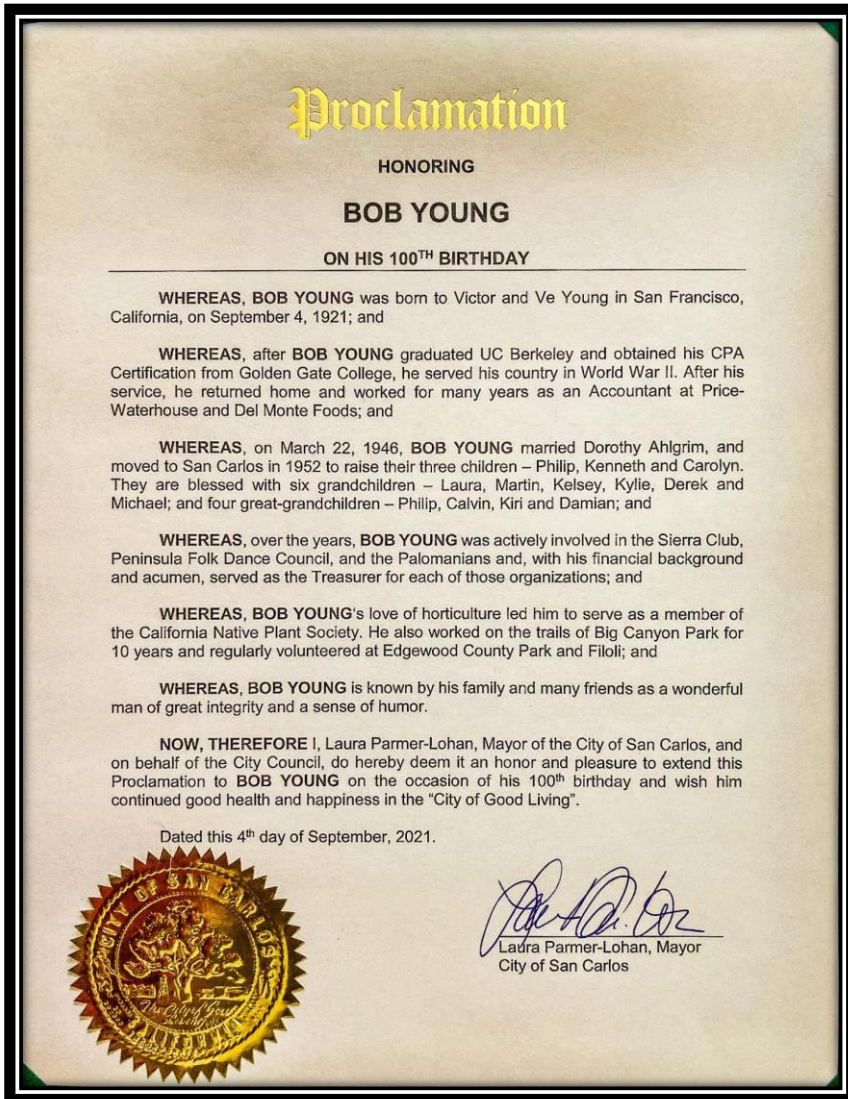


... AND BEYOND

dancing at Becky and Adony Beniares' home, or (3) find an alternate location. We will update everyone next month. The **Peninsula Council's monthly parties**, previously on Zoom, and then in Lon and Hollis Radin's back garden, were in-person **in a large hall in Foster City** with great ventilation, an outdoor patio for dancing, along with the current COVID health protocols.

The **Global Folk Dance Team** also continues its monthly parties online on the third Saturday of each month. In addition to our regular team, Roo Lester joined us in September. In the future we'll be joined by Jaap Leegwater (October) and Ahmet Luleci (November).

We look forward to continuing our in-person and online dancing, while remaining safe.



Happy Birthday, Bob!

by Ken Kaye

Bob Young turned 100 on September 4 and to celebrate this wonderful occasion a group of his folk dance friends gathered at 10 am in front of the home he shares with his wife Dorothy to honor him on this special day. A fellow folk dancer dressed as a town crier read a Proclamation from the City of San Carlos (left) to honor Bob. This was followed by the singing of "Happy Birthday" and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." Bob was presented with a strawberry whipped cream cake (one of his favorites). Earlier that morning some folk dance elves decorated the front of the house with signs, banners, and decorations to help celebrate this special day for a very special person.

As many of you know Bob's activities include dancing at the Palomanians and the Carriage House Dancers and for many years Bob was the Treasurer of the Peninsula Folk Dance Council. What you may not know is that Bob is an alumnus of UC Berkeley, was an accountant for Price Waterhouse, served in World War II, was stationed in Romania, and married his wonderful wife Dorothy on March 22, 1946. We all feel thrilled that we were able to celebrate Bob's centenary.

Happy Birthday, Bob!

In the South Bay, the Saratoga Folk Dancers that has been meeting every Thursday since April 1, **continues to grow and, except for masks, seems back to normal.** They had a fun "Tie One On" party in late August that included a \$20 gift card prize for the person receiving the most votes in the "Best Use of a Tie" contest.

I never thought I'd see the day: the Saratoga Dancers have more men than women dancing on Thursdays.

~ Loui Tucker

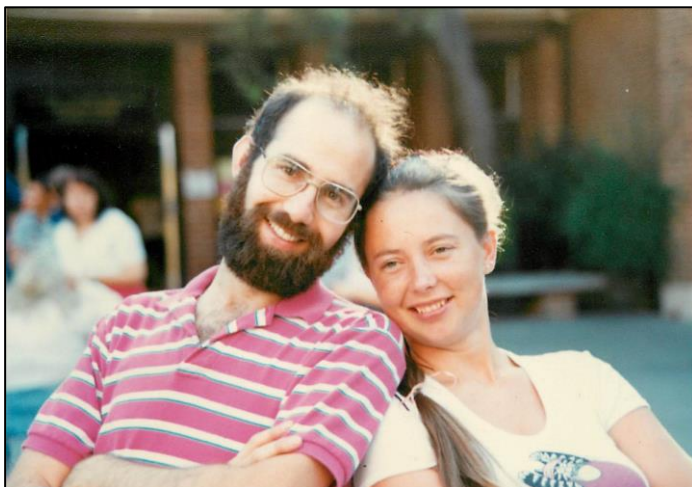
For the Palomanians, the Menlo Park Recreation Center officially opened in mid-September, but with a lower maximum class capacity. At the time this issue went to the printer, the Palomanians were evaluating whether to (1) start back at the Recreation Center, (2) continue

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES

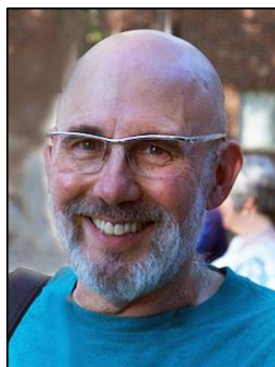


Can you identify the women in this photo that was taken in the 1990s at Stockton Folk Dance Camp?

Last month's photo:



That's Eliot Khuner and Kamrin MacKnight! While I couldn't get a photo of them in the same pose, a more current photo of each of them is below.



Now that you're back to dancing in person, you'll want to stay hydrated. Get yourself a Federation 28-ounce water bottle for just \$10 (\$12 for non-members), plus shipping.

Buy individually, or buy in bulk to give/sell to fellow dancers!

Contact president@folkdance.com.





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!

What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

Fall Camp
November 12-14, 2021
Featuring Master Teachers
Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu and Roberto Bagnoli

WILL YOU BE COMING TO FALL CAMP?

by Jan Rayman

Fall Camp is scheduled for November 12-14 on the beautiful Brandeis-Bardin campus north of Los Angeles. This has been a challenging year to plan a dance camp, but also a hopeful one. If the pandemic improves in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, we will have a

fantastic camp with master teachers **Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu** and **Roberto Bagnoli**, plus a great lineup of other fulfilling activities.

We will be working with Brandeis-Bardin to ensure that, while protecting everyone's health, we will be able to have the kind of camp we want and comply with the facility's COVID-19 restrictions, which are impossible to predict this far in advance. **If the pandemic precludes a safe and fun camp, we will cancel it and provide everyone a full refund.**

At press time, the beginning of September, camp is not yet sold out, but applications come in almost daily. If you are interested in attending Fall Camp, **don't wait any longer to see if there is space available** for you. For more information, visit FallCamp.org or email Dance@FallCamp.org.

If it proves to be safe to conduct a camp, we hope you will be part of it!



And, if you're considering a trip to southern California this fall...

Ojai, Oct. 2, 2021
Dancing Together Again!
\$20 Saturday 10am-5pm, October 2, 2021
Event sponsored by Folk Dance Federation of California, South

Ojai Arts Center
113 S. Montgomery Street
626-792-9118
Ojai, California 93023

10:00-11:30 teaching/review
11:30-1:00 lunch break
1:00-5:00 dance program

INFO: Marshall Cates marshallcates@gmail.com

PROOF OF COVID VACCINATION REQUIRED

Singlets

(United States)

Contra dancing is usually understood to be a dance for many couples in long lines, with the dancers interacting throughout the dance. During the pandemic, contra dancing was off-limits, along with most folk dancing. Whereas folk dancing soon moved onto the Zoom platform, allowing individual dancers to continue dancing in their homes, contra dancing was still out in the cold.

Along came one-couple contra dances called Singlets! Ingenious contra dance creators used the same calls heard in traditional contra dancing, with a few variations/adjustments, and gave their community the opportunity to dance, at least if they had one other person in their household. An experienced contra dancer can even dance alone! While all are eagerly awaiting the time when it's safe to go contra dancing with our friends, these are a few contra-style dances that you can dance on your own or with just your partner. Below are two of Tony's favorites.

MUSIC While contra dancing is typically done to live music, any moderately-paced music with a 4/4 rhythm will work.

STEPS & STYLING Balance: Facing ptr, step R twd ptr, bounce or bend knee; step L bkwd away from ptr bounce or bend knee. Can be done with only R hands joined, or with both hands joined. Sometimes dancers do a small triple step instead of the step fwd and step bkwd. Can also be done by beginning standing sideways, facing opp directions, but generally stepping toward and away from partner.

Box the Gnat: Facing each other, R hands joined, M raises joined hands and walks a half-turn R to stand where the W was, while W steps fwd and turns L, backing under the joined hands. M and W will have exchanged places.

California Twirl: Standing side by side with M's R holding W's L hand, M raises joined hands and walks a half-turn R while W walks under joined hands and walks a half-turn L. M and W will be facing the opposite direction.

Do-Si-Do: (also spelled "Do-Sa-do") This figure uses a total of 8 steps, but it not precise. Facing ptr, walk fwd 2-3 steps, passing R shoulders; step sideways 2 or 3 steps, passing behind ptr; walk bkwd 2-3 steps passing L shoulders, ending in the same position as the beginning.

LESS IS MORE

Choreographer: Tony Parkes

Couples standing side by side, M on L, W on R, facing down (away from the music/screen), inside hands joined.

Meas	4/4	Figure
1		Walk fwd 4 steps.
2		California Twirl, end facing opp direction.
3		Walk fwd 4 steps.
4		Turn away from ptr using 4 walking steps to end facing ptr.
5		Join R hands with ptr. Balance fwd and back.

Singlets — continued

Meas	4/4	Figure
6		Box the Gnat.
7-8		Do-Si-Do around ptr. And the end of the Do-Si-Do, face opp directions and join R hands.
9		Balance twd ptr and away.
10		Slide to R or spin to R to exchange places.
11		Again facing opp directions, but with L hands joined, Balance twd ptr and away.
12		Slide to L or spin to L to exchange places.
13-16		Balance and swing ptr.

CAMERA SHY

Choreographer: Tony Parkes

Couples standing side by side, M on L, W on R, facing down (away from the music or the screen), inside hands joined.

Meas	4/4	Figure
1-2		Walk 4 steps fwd; walk 4 steps bkwd.
3		Balance with ptr
4		Dancer on R turns L in front of ptr.
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4 with new dancer on R.
9-12		Grand Slide: Walk 4 steps fwd, slide apart 4 steps, walk 4 steps bkwd, slide together 4 steps.
13-16		Balance and swing ptr. End facing down (away from music/screen)



Tony Parkes, calling squares at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2017.

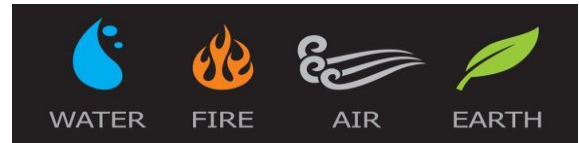
There was a yak from Katmandu
Who liked to square dance at the zoo
Promenade left, and Do Si Do
Allemande left, and a heel and toe
You didn't think a yak could do!

~ Timothy McGuire

WHAT'S YOUR ELEMENT?

adapted from an article by Richard Treitel

Some years ago, during a long car trip, a dancer-friend of mine explained how he classified dancers into the four classical elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water. He illustrated his theory with examples from among our mutual friends. No names will be provided because you might recognize yourself.



Earth dancers, as you might expect, are solid. Not necessarily slow, their feet are on the ground. They give plenty of weight, and they start every movement at the beginning of the musical phrase. They are completely immune to any attempts to tweak them off course. They don't do extra twirls, and some of them won't do any.

Earth dancers like to dance with each other or with Water dancers; they get nervous around Fire or Air dancers. At their best, Earth dancers can be lifesavers when you are too tired, dizzy, or plain spaced out to do the dance yourself; they are excellent for lending confidence to beginners. At their worst, they can leave you thinking how much fun it would have been to stay home and deal with the dirty dishes.

Air dancers are the opposite of Earth dancers. They drift like a breeze across the floor, touching your hands now and then when it seems polite to do so, but not putting any weight on them; they barely seem to be subject to the laws of inertia and gravity. They never apply any forces that deflect you from your chosen path through the dance, and in some curious way, it also seems impossible for you to deflect them. Then again, perhaps this isn't so curious. As Isaac Newton would doubtless point out, you can't accelerate something that has no mass. Caution: not all lightweight or slender dancers are Air dancers. My theory is that they were ballet dancers in a previous life.

I'm not sure whom Air dancers like as partners, or indeed whether they have any preferences. At their best, they are quite graceful, and are remarkably little trouble or effort to dance with. At their worst, they leave you wondering if you had a partner at all.

Water dancers don't just flow, they believe in flow and live for it. They probably do start every movement at the beginning of the phrase, but you can't tell, because they blend their moves together so that no single one is ever finished, just continued. Water dancers hate to stand still for more than half a bar, and if the dance requires them to do so, they get an uncomfortable look, or start swaying in random directions just to be moving. They also don't like to move fast, unless given several beats in which to speed up and slow down again. Worst of all, they hate sudden changes in direction, and will reinterpret the figure to replace these with loops or twirls.

Water dancers are happiest by far when they dance with each other, but will cheerfully put up with Fire partners. Indeed, Water dancers sometimes metamorphose into Fire dancers. At their best, they can make you feel as if you are floating through the dance in a much lower-impact way than you had believed possible. At their worst, they can be icily unforgiving of any roughness in your own style.

Fire dancers sparkle and glitter and are full of energy. To them, every dance is an opportunity for daring improvisation. Let's see if we can do an extra twirl and too bad about that Earth dancer who only knows one way to go. Many of them wear eye-catching clothes, the better to attract an audience. Fire dancers rarely find that their virtuosity is its own reward; they must be appreciated. Some employ flamboyant gestures and postures that dazzle even non-dancers, while others try to improve upon the dance, aiming to impress only those who understand how hard this is. You can often tell the latter kind by the puzzled expression on their partner's faces.

Experienced Fire dancers can have a great time dancing with each other; less experienced ones definitely need someone more predictable as their partner, such as a Water dancer. At their best, Fire dancers can make you shine with reflected glory, or glow with pride. At their worst, you wonder whether they even realize they're dancing with you. Worst of all is when a beginner gets burned.

So – what the good of all this? Perhaps it's just the understanding that the world really is made up of all four elements, and each of these four approaches to dancing has its merits. Maybe it will help you think about your own dancing and how you respond to a particular style, tune, or partner. Most likely, of course, it will just be another source of gossip and rumor. You cannot diagnose what element you are; you need a detached observer to tell you. Entrust this delicate judgment only to graduates of an accredited school of Dance Chemistry. Classes start in the fall.

This article first appeared in *The Grapevine* (late 1980s to the early 2000s), a magazine for the Israeli dance community. It was edited due to space considerations.

The list is shrinking! We hope this is a sign of a continuing return to in-person dancing.

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** This listing is organized by day of the week, **with semi-monthly and monthly parties at the end.**

Palomanians Tuesday Israeli Dancing with Udy Tuesday Tuesday Santa Cruz Israeli Tuesday Smile & Dance Thursday Changs International Friday Friday Night International Friday Sunday Israeli Sunday Smile & Dance Sunday	Adony Beniares 7:00 - 9:30 Udy Gold 7:30 - 9:00 Alan Rothchild 8:00 -10:00 Rebecca Tsai 5:00 - 6:00 Ulrike Narins 7:30 - 9:30 Alan Rothchild 8:00 - 10:00 Carol Friedman 9:00 - 10:15 AM Rebecca Tsai 1:50-2:50	adony408@gmail.com [until late September] Zoom #: 195 812 542 udyg@yahoo.com Zoom #: 893 1471 9684 (PW=dance4fun) rothdance@hotmail.com [live and on Zoom] Zoom #: 893 3862 3151 (PW=sapari) r1234eb@yahoo.com.tw Contact Rebecca for info ulrike888@hotmail.com Zoom #: 892 3870 4714 (PW=966035) rothdance@hotmail.com [live and on Zoom] Zoom # 771 0202 4662 (PW=pravo) cjay@horizoncable.com [until October] Email Carol for login information r1234eb@yahoo.com.tw Contact Rebecca for info
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Kopachka Dancers Friday (every 2 weeks) Café Shalom Israeli Dance Party 2nd Saturday Global Folk Dance Party 3rd Saturday Monthly Balkan/International Wednesday	Susie Shoaf 7:30 - 9:00 Udy Gold 7:30 - 9:30 Adony Beniares 3:00 - 6:00 Carol Friedman 7:00 - 8:15 pm	president@kopachkafolkdancers.com Zoom #: 863 9451 5471 udyg@yahoo.com Email Udy for login information adony408@gmail.com Zoom #: 600 066 908 cjay@horizoncable.com Email Carol for login information
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FOLK DANCERS' HOME FOR RENT!

This home in the desirable Aragon area of San Mateo is a spacious, beautifully maintained 1940s home: 1800 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. The living room has a beamed ceiling and a fireplace, and renewed hardwood floors throughout. Dancers take note: there is a



19 x 26 dance room with an oak floor. The home has landscaped yards and a gardener. There is a garden house in the back yard, and it's convenient to local freeways.

\$4,000 per month.
Contact Cheryl Fuller cfull2@aol.com



Cheryl's parents, both folk dancers.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 60 years ago this month

Browsing back issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine always turns up something interesting. Take a look at this excerpt from the **October issue in 1961**. Daly City celebrated its golden anniversary with a Folk Dance Festival that included costume judging! Don't you wish cities celebrated with folk dancing these days?

DALY CITY CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

WITH FOLK DANCING

Daly City invites you to the celebration of its Golden Anniversary the week of October 7 - 14. Of particular interest to folk dancers is a Folk Dance Festival, scheduled for Friday, the 13th of October, from 8:00 to Midnight, at the War Memorial Community Center, on Mission Street, at the corner of Alp Street. Have no fears, the El Camino Reelers have made hexes to ward off any evil spirits that might be lurking in dark corners. If you have a costume, wear it, there will be ribbon awards for the best costumes worn by a man, a woman, and a couple. Judges will be selected at the last minute from Golden Anniversary Executive Committee members, who know nothing at all about folk dancing or costumes. Whatever happens, it will be a lot of fun and no hurt feelings.

The first part of the evening will be devoted to the easier dances, all favorites, so encourage your beginners to attend. After the exhibitions there will be an all-request jam session until the hour of twelve.

The celebration is being widely publicized and there will be a large number of spectators. Folk dancers, let's put on a good show for them! If it is successful, it may become an annual event.

. . . Elsie Maclaren



IT'S FUN TO FOLK DANCE . . . Photo by . . Henry L. Bloom

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.
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Millbrae, California 94030

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If you stumble, make it part of your dance.

~ River Maria Urke



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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
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