

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  MARCH 2022



Michel Hardbarger (front) taught at the New Dancers Festival in Sunnyvale on January 29. See p. 7.

Should we be doing more to attract new dancers?

Let's Dance!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Mail checks to: Loui Tucker, Editor
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WELCOME OUR NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Paul Werner - Richmond, CA
Beverly Benson - Palo Alto, CA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marian Snyder

Our lives continue to be unsettled by the Omicron variant as we ride this crazy COVID roller coaster. In early January, Berkeley Folk Dancers finally started their evening classes five nights a week. I was enjoying dancing and teaching once again at Live Oak Park. But then, just ten days later, after many emails between BFD teachers and members, **it was decided to shut down all evening and afternoon classes!** Our new beginners only had one chance to get a taste of folk dancing. (Their favorite dance, by the way, was Chilili!) Fortunately, I have contact information for all those beginning dancers and, as I write this column in late January, hope to invite them back mid-February. My plan is to be back at Live Oak Park doing what we all love so much in person once again.

Omicron also threatened the Festival of the Oaks, scheduled for Sunday, February 13. As I mentioned in my last message, this festival is sponsored by Berkeley Folk Dancers and the Folk Dance Federation. Omicron cases in the Bay Area were monitored, and there were discussions about masks and vaccinations and finding ways of moving the lunch outdoors to make all attendees feel safe. As President, I surveyed the Folk Dance Federation Board to see who was planning to come, and David Hillis created a survey for BFD members for the same purpose. Finally, the Berkeley Folk Dancers Board held a special meeting to vote on whether to host the festival and resume dancing, which they did.

Why am I reporting all of this in my President's message? I guess it's to share some of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into keeping this jewel of folk dancing alive. I want to thank the many people who have devoted many hours because of their deep appreciation of how folk dancing has enhanced their lives.

One of those people who stands out is Loui Tucker, who wears many hats in our folk dance community. Her gifts and talents always amaze me. Last weekend I attended a workshop for new dancers in Sunnyvale that Loui organized. The work she put in was awesome. Loui opened the event by skillfully leading the circle of dancers through various basic dance moves, nonstop, to lively music, without anyone realizing they were actually dancing. She had everyone hold hands and proceeded with teaching how to walk to the beat, grapevine, touch-step, sway, stamp, and go forward and back while moving counterclockwise and clockwise around the circle. The entire exercise was just plain fun and a great success. It got everyone warmed up and feeling confident. **Be sure and read the article by Marija Hillis about this New Dancers Festival on page 7.** I am hopeful that other Federation clubs will see the possibilities in organizing a similar afternoon in their area.

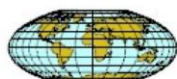
Congratulations to Stockton Winter Weekend 2022! We all extend our thanks to the incredible group of organizers and teachers who made this happen. I was once again fortunate to dance in person with a small group on the deck at Bill Cope's home in San Jose, while he and his band, Orkestar Unbound, played live music for those watching via the Zoom Channel. A special thank you to Craig Blackstone for creating the playlist of dances for that hour. You can read more about the Stockton Winter Weekend on p. 20.

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



Orkestar Unbound gathered at Bill Cope's home and played inside for the dancers outside on the deck. *Photo by E. Chu.*

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and anyone with a love of travel and culture.

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2022

ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA, KOSOVO

May 25-June 6, ext. 6-8, 2022 Led by Lee Otterholt. Tirana, Durres,
Vlora Festival, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat, Lake Prespa, Ochrid

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 14-28, 2022

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

POLAND: June 8-21, 2022. Led by Richard Schmidt.

Warszawa, Olsztyn, Malbork, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot, Toruń, Kraków

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

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

GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: October 8-21, 2022

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)

ROMANIA: Oct 24-Nov 6, 2022 *Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour*

Led by Jim Gold with Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman:
Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu

2023

ISRAEL: March 12-23, 2023

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

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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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).

- March 13** **INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE IN PERSON PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 2:30-5 pm. \$10. Sponsored by the Peninsula Folk Dance Council. Info: adony408@gmail.com.
- March 24** **DANCE WORKSHOP WITH BRUCE HAMILTON.** St. Michael's Church, 870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga; 7:30-10:15 pm. \$10-\$15 [Sliding scale; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.] See ad on p. 14.
- March 25-27** **ENSEMBLE BALKANSKE IGRE'S 57TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING FESTIVAL.** Hyde Park/University of Chicago. Featured artists include: Yannis Konstantinou (Greek), Ahmet Luleci (Turkish), Ventzi Sotirov (Pirin), Galia & John Kuo (Balkan), plus singing and music workshops with Chris Bajmakovich and others. Special Guests: Shturo Make ("Crazy Macedonians").
- WE ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED.
- March 25-27** **64th ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL.** Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas. Staff: Andy Taylor Blenis, Jaap Leegwater, Mihai David. As low as \$100 for just the festival; additional charges for on-site housing, music, video, syllabus. Info: safdf.org. See ad on p. 19.
- March 30-April 3** **NATIONAL FOLK ORGANIZATION ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE.** Evanston, Illinois. See p. 16 or visit nfo-usa.org.



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

ARE YOU MISSING *LET'S DANCE!* ?

Under normal circumstances, you should expect to get your copy of *Let's Dance!* magazine shortly before the first of the month the issue is dated. If you do NOT receive your copy, please contact Marcia Rosenblatt and we will arrange to have a replacement issue sent to you.

THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Richard Graham and Marina Troost danced together at the New Year's Eve party.
Photo by L. Tucker.



Alicia Lafetra taught Chindia Veche, one of the dances Cristian and Sonja introduced at Fall Camp and Kolo Festival, to the Saratoga Dancers in January.
Photo by L. Tucker.



Lines of dancers enjoyed Chilili at the New Dancers Festival in Sunnyvale in January. *Photo by J. Croco.*



A Lunar New Year's Dance party brought dancers to Cerritos, in Southern California. *Photo by W. Chiang.*

A SUCCESSFUL NEW DANCERS FESTIVAL IN SUNNYVALE

By Marija Hillis

Back in December, when Loui Tucker petitioned the Folk Dance Federation to co-sponsor a New Dancers event scheduled for the end of January, I had my doubts about who would venture forth into the Omicron world to explore folk dancing when they were not yet familiar with its joys. Fellow BFD-member and Federation President Marian Snyder invited me to join her in driving down to Sunnyvale to support the endeavor. We were gratified to find that about half the group of just over 30 people assembled in the hall were new dancers.

Loui chose easy but interesting dances from various traditions and forms, creating quick success and confidence for the 16 new dancers. Teaching was shared among the Federation board members and teachers from other local dance groups.

Berkeley Folk Dancers was represented by Andy Partos and Cornelia Ghafur (Setnja and Dunantuli Ugros), Marian (Alunelul and Chilili), and me (La Bastringue).

Changs was represented by Craig Blackstone (Terrace Loggers Jig and 't Smidje) and Michel Hardbarger (Zek Zek Dadumle and Mi Nada Um Ca Tem).

Clem Dickey represented the Palomanians (Rumulaj); Laura Douglass taught Sweet Girl and Arap; and Donna Frankel taught Damat Halai and Jerusalem.

Loui started the event with a quick warmup that introduced basic dance steps, and later taught Sheena's Saunter, Western Trio Mixer, Kak Pri Balkye, and Yatsusaka.

We were all masked. Vaccination status was not checked (per City of Sunnyvale policy), but each of us had to sign a waiver upon entry. We had a short lemonade-cookie break outdoors on the patio, the only chance we had to be unmasked and see each other's smiling faces. Considering all the possible hindrances of holding this event at this unsettled time, the afternoon was a definite success. We were able to share our passion for folk dancing with many new dancers, and Loui reported that several of the attendees asked about how they could find folk dance groups in their area.

I want to personally thank Loui for organizing the event and keeping her eyes on the prize: continuing to build the folk dance community so we survive and thrive in the future. The New Dancers event served its purpose!

A view of the room during the New Dancers Festival in Sunnyvale. *Photo by M. Hillis.*



INTRODUCING THREE EEFC BALKAN MUSICIANS

by *Kathy Molga*

[Note: Videos of these three artists can be found on YouTube.]

I had never attended an East European Folklife Center (EEFC) event before, so I was curious to see what the EEFC's East Coast Virtual camp would have to offer. I registered for their Zoom Camp in August 2021. It was there I heard these three outstanding Balkan artists for the first time. In an effort to get to know them better, I contacted them to see if they would like to share how each of them became involved in Balkan music. This article is the result of those interviews.

I was immediately drawn to the music of one musician named **Danilo Yanich**. His performance of a soothing bossa nova took the viewing audience by surprise, because it stood out from the rest of his rousing set of Roma tunes. I did not want that bossa nova to stop! In my opinion, it was one of the standout performances that weekend. A bossa nova? That's not Balkan, but the rest of what makes Danilo Yanich uniquely Balkan is.



Danilo grew up in a large Slavic community in Steelton, Pennsylvania, near Harrisburg. His family is Serbian and during his childhood Danilo was surrounded by a very close-knit folk music community. Immersed in this culture, he developed his love for everything kolo, and this rich tradition now informs his work as a Balkan musician/singer/songwriter.

Danilo began playing Serbian music at a very young age and he was enthralled by the music and dancing of his heritage. He was asked to join the Duquesne Tamburitians in Pittsburgh. "What an honor," he thought, "to be part of such an incredibly gifted group of performers." It was difficult for him not to accept their generous offer, especially since it came with a full university scholarship.

However, Danilo decided to take a separate path that would lead him into his current scholarly pursuits. Danilo is a published author and professor by day, and a folk artist by night, shaking the rafters with his Serbian band, Sviraj. Danilo's heart is securely rooted in the unique rhythms of Balkan music and dance. Danilo forever will be an EEFC favorite!

Another outstanding EEFC guest performers is **brass multi-instrumentalist, Nizo Alimov**. As a teacher, composer, and performer of Balkan music, Nizo learned his unique repertoire by being immersed in the music of his Roma/Macedonian heritage. Born in North Macedonia, Nizo started playing the keyboard and singing when he was just seven years old. He first studied the baritone horn with his uncle, Ramadan Durmišev, and he spent several months playing with the King Kočo Aguševi Orchestra.

Nizo began performing in Šutka, an established Roma community on the outskirts of Skopje. His professional life as a musician began to flourish when he joined the Kočani Orchestra in 2003 as a baritone player, an experience that took him around the world for over a decade.

Since 2017, Nizo has focused primarily on playing trumpet in several bands and leading his own group. He enjoys playing the clarinet, trombone, saxophone, tuba, and kaval, which has now become one of his favorite jamming instruments.

A lover of Serbian, Greek, Albanian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Turkish and Roma music, Alimov enjoys sharing his rich musical background through his teaching. He writes, arranges and teaches all parts of the brass band, and he has conducted popular workshops at EEFC camps.



continued on p. 15

SPEAKING OF DANCING...

How to Use the Internet to Support Your Dancing

by Gigi Jensen

I started researching this article with the idea of sharing some of the digital resources you can use to help you as a dancer.

Oh boy! This topic turned out to be a bigger one that I can succinctly explore here and now. I did, however, come up with some ideas that will help you find dance resources in more familiar locations.

Enjoy the familiar, your local library:

Use your local library system to your dance advantage. Look at their book, music, and DVD sections for sources about how to dance, dance history, health benefits of dancing, folk music, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance movies, etc. I used to check out VHS tapes on how to dance hip hop and swing. Do they carry any of the national dance magazines? Checking my own public library system online, I found a generous smattering of interesting dance-related items. Most bigger library systems allow you to check out your books online and some may still offer curbside



service. Ours has a web portal to other catalogs of resources. They also give free tickets to local arts institutions who sometimes have dance-related exhibits and events.

Your fellow dancers:

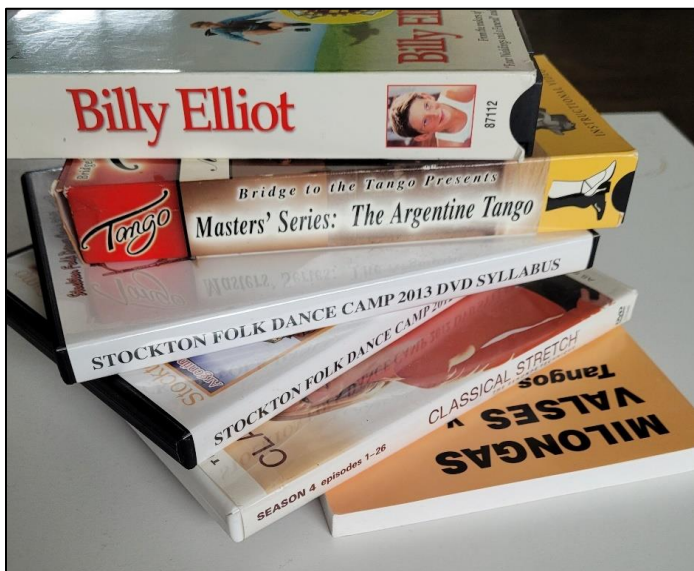
I'll bet y'all have a few books, CDs, videos, DVDs, LPs, on your bookshelf. Have you thought about sharing those with each other? Does your folk dance club have a lending library? Pre-virus, you could host a dance movie viewing in your living room. Today's version is to watch dance movies together on YouTube over Zoom, which we recently did with our tango students. I know it's not the same when you can't pass the popcorn bowl, but since we now live in another state, it was nice to share dance together.

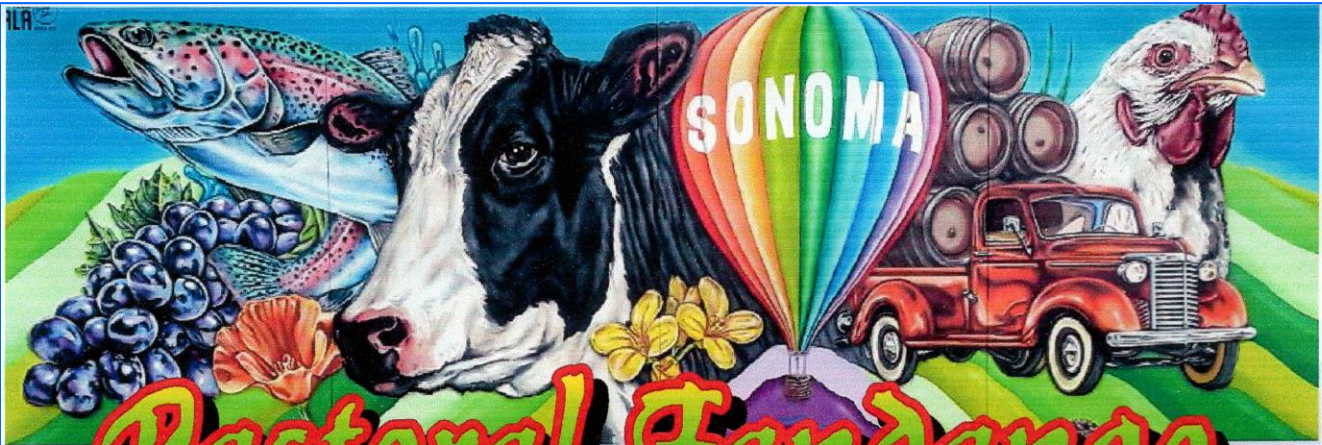
Websites:

Visit folk dance organizations' websites. I saw links to dance books, CDs, movies, articles, and to other organizations with their collections. I went first to *folkdance.com*, clicked the *Resources* tab, then *Dance-Related Links*. I ended up visiting folk dance organizations in Ontario, Canada, and Australia. They had resource sections, too, with links to even more folk dance organizations! I spent the afternoon virtually wandering around the world. Then I went to the National Folk Organization website and did the same, following up with Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Social Media:

As for social media, like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Pinterest, and so on... that requires more thought. It's not as orderly as your local library. It's more like the Wild West. I'm not ready to buckle on my holster and spurs just yet.





Pastoral Fandango

Statewide 2022 Folk Dance Festival
Friday May 20 - Sunday 22, 2022

Guest Teachers:
Ahmet Luleci
Gergana Panova
Bruce Hamilton

Hermann Sons Hall
860 Western Ave
Petaluma, CA 94952

Evening Parties
with
Chubritza

Middle Eastern Dinner and
Installation Lunch catered by
The River Front Cafe

Additional entertainment by
Gradina
Chinese Performance Group
with Rebecca Tsai

With more to be announced later

Our Host Hotels:

~ Hampton Inn and Suites ~
6248 Redwood Drive
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

For more information about the festival, parking,
motels, etc. go to: <http://statewide.folkdance.com>

Mask and proof of vaccination requirements
will follow CDC, State, and County COVID
regulations at the time of the event.

Banner art used by permission of artist Maxfield Bala

Pastoral Fandango – Statewide Folk Dance Festival

May 20 - May 22, 2022

Hermann Sons Hall, Petaluma, California

Registration Form (Please register individually, one form per person)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Festival Package (Includes ALL workshops and parties, **\$135 at the door**)

- \$120 when payment is received by February 15, 2022
 \$125 when payment is received by April 15, 2022
 \$130 when payment is received by May 5, 2022 (final day to preregister)

All Day events (ONLY WITH early registration)

- \$75 All day Saturday (**\$85 at the door**)
 \$50 All day Sunday (**\$55 at the door**)

Individual Events (ONLY WITH early registration) **\$30 each at the door**

- \$25 Friday evening party \$25 Saturday evening party
 \$25 Saturday AM instruction \$25 Saturday PM instruction
 \$25 Sunday morning instruction] \$25 Sunday afternoon review

Federation coupons are good for Friday or Sunday or \$35 discount on festival package.

Subtotal: \$ _____

Additional offerings: (meals and syllabus only available with pre-registration)

- \$15 Mexican Lunch Saturday with meat vegetarian
 \$22 Middle Eastern Dinner Saturday night with meat vegetarian
 \$20 Installation Lunch Sunday with meat vegetarian
 \$25 Festival video access on Google drive
 \$30 Festival video on a DVD mailed to you
 \$12 Printed syllabus
 \$25 T-shirt designed by S. Gregory Size Man Woman Crew neck V-neck
(All T-shirts in either Red or Black, except men's V neck in either Black or Teal) Color: Red Black Teal
 Tax deductible donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\$ _____

To register with this mail-in form: Send with your check (made payable to *Folk Dance Federation*) to: Statewide Registrar, Sabine Zappe, 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126. **On-line Registration** available starting January 2022 at <http://statewide.folkdance.com>.

Visit the Statewide 2022 webpage at <http://statewide.folkdance.com> for the latest information about schedule, teachers, hotels, restaurants, parking, directions, etc. **Mask and proof of vaccination requirements will follow CDC, State, and County COVID regulations at the time of the event.** Statewide 2022 is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, a non-profit organization.

Children under 13 are admitted free with a paying adult. Young adults aged 13-21 will receive a 50% discount, but may be required to volunteer from 1-2 hours during the festival. Work scholarships available. Contact Marina at mylt48@sbcglobal.net

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . .

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

After missing the last two years of Razzmatazz Weekend at Mendocino Woodlands due to the COVID pandemic, we are going to hold our weekend camp in person again (fingers crossed) on **June 3-5, 2022! This will be our 43rd year and also our final Razzmatazz Weekend.** We will be celebrating 43 years together in the magical Mendocino Woodlands, with the incomparable music of Édessa, outstanding guest teachers and joyful campers.

We are so happy to announce our staff for this final year:

- Teachers Michael Ginsburg, Joe Graziosi, Steve Kotansky
- Édessa, the heart and soul of camp, with Christos Govetas
- True Life Trio and Joe Finn
- Chef Nicole Saadeh and her staff

We will be donating all “Above & Beyond” monies directly to the Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association in appreciation for taking such good care of the Woodlands all these years.

This year’s camp is partially underwritten by a generous donation from Jim Kaumeyer, a long-time folk dancer in our Santa Rosa group.

Registration for the weekend is now open. You must be fully vaccinated to attend. For more information and/or a registration form, email razzmatazzfolkdanceclub@gmail.com.



The dance scene from Razzmatazz Folk Dance Camp.

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

After several postponements throughout January, I’m excited to report that we **resumed in-person dancing again in Petaluma on February 14.** It feels auspicious and appropriate to return to dancing, something we all love and cherish and have missed so much, on Valentine’s Day. We will continue to require advance registration, check-in at the door, N95 masks, and full vaccination including the booster shot.

I was excited to get the opportunity to teach at the Festival of the Oaks on February 13 and connecting with dancing friends from across the Bay Area.

In-person Israeli dance classes at the Osher Marin JCC in San Rafael launched in January and will continue through June. Masks are required, along with proof of vaccination. Dancers can sign up for a 6-week series, or drop-in when it fits into your schedule. I’ve been introducing Israeli dances I learned in virtual classes and parties during the pandemic, as well as returning to old favorites that are relatively easy for newcomers to learn. This class has quite a range of skill levels!

The monthly Balkan/International Zoom class continues, but it is now scheduled for the **third Wednesday of each month** from 7-8:15 p.m.

I invite any of you looking for more opportunities to dance, whether it be virtual or in person, to contact me at cjay@horizoncable.com or 415-663-9512.

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Adony Beniares

There’s little to report for this month as we’re all getting ready to go to the Festival of the Oaks in Berkeley on February 13, so let’s take a few lines for some administrative notes.

First, **we’d love to hear any comments, suggestions, or ideas about our monthly in-person party** (usually the second Sunday of the month), or **the Global Folk Dance Party** (the third Saturday of each month). How can we make them better for you? Any ideas for MCs or Dance Leaders, or any other subject? For our in-person parties, email us at pfdcparty@gmail.com; for the Global Folk Dance party, email us at virtualfolkdance@gmail.com.

For our in-person parties, we require proof of vaccination and N95-type masks. You can either email your proof of vaccination to us, or bring it to

.. AND BEYOND

the party. We will also have N95 masks on hand if you need one.

The Saratoga Folk Dancers are planning a **dance workshop with Bruce Hamilton on Thursday, March 24**. See the ad on p. 14.

SAN FRANCISCO GROUPS – *Linda Milhoan*
Changs Dancers has finally found a new venue for their Friday night dancing. Unfortunately, without a signed contract, we are reluctant to share the location. Our goal is to finalize the agreement and be open and welcoming dancers to our new venue in April.

If you are interested in joining Changs on a Friday night in the future, please contact Changs President Wendy Brown at wbrown415@att.net to verify we are meeting and to learn of our latest COVID protocols.

CHICO WORLD DANCERS - *Memo Keswick*
Along with most of the other clubs in this area, the Chico World Dancers suspended in-person dancing due to COVID case rates increasing in Butte County. As I write this, March is our current goal to resume dancing and, following the data, we're hopeful this will happen. We haven't required proof of vaccinations, but do have everyone wear a mask and don't dance holding hands.

Normally our local dancing occurs in three principal locations. We dance mostly requests on Sundays 2-4 pm at a dance studio (unless there's a Sunday party). On Thursday evenings, World Dance classes (6:30-8:30 pm) are held under a Recreational District activities program. Finally, we have occasional Sunday (4-7:30 pm) parties.

We continue to increase support for our World Dance activities by promoting live music. We have weekly rehearsals for local musicians (in person) and singers (via Zoom). The singers also have a monthly Zoom-conference with Petya Dragneva from Varna, Bulgaria. Petya leads us through Bulgarian songs. We're even trying out songs with 2 or 3 part harmonies!

Our next scheduled party is Sunday, March 6. At the parties we have both live music and recorded music. There has been an interesting party development due to COVID. The last party we had was in November 2021. At that party, the singers did

not want to unmask and sing in proximity to the band. Instead, the singers kept their masks on and spaced themselves around the floor of the dance hall, distant from the dancers. Then they all accompanied the recorded music. It was quite a success! The dancers and singers both loved it. It was also very interesting to be in the middle of the floor because you could hear the recorded vocalist at one end of the hall and the singers at the other end. It was very enjoyable and enhanced the recorded music!

Also worth mentioning is some recent Fall fundraising. In November-December our at-large dance members and Board of Directors participated in a fundraiser to help support our 2022 activities. The fundraiser, done via both Facebook and our email blasts, was successful and the additional income helped replace our local accordionist's instrument which was destroyed in a fire. Our accordionist was surprised and grateful for the support received from our dance community.



Chico accordionist Kathleen McBain.

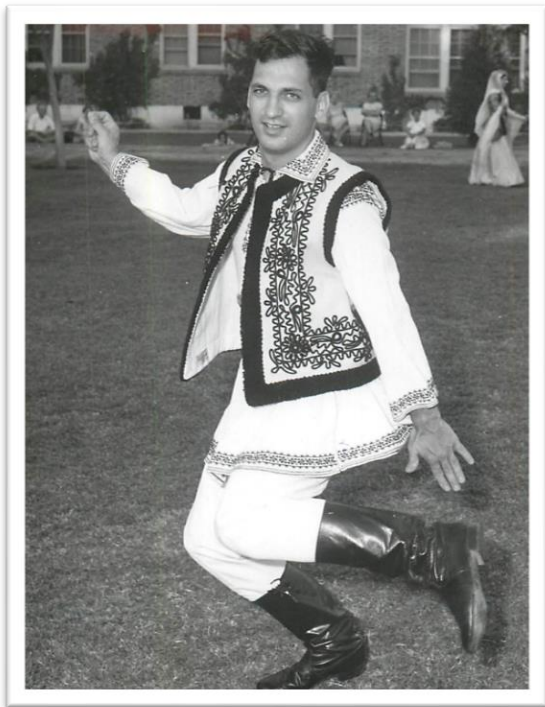
Lastly, some of us have been able to participate in the wonderful World Dance festivals and singing classes put on by various groups via Zoom. It has helped so much to keep us connected to dance. Our whole-hearted thanks go out to all the various organizers of these events.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – *Ann Moghaddas*

While I am writing this in early February, ten days before the Festival of the Oaks, I am hoping that, by the time you read this, the Festival will have happened and been as successful as we all hoped. It's always good to learn a few new dances (thank you Carol!), share a meal, and dance in person.

In addition, most if not all of BFD's full schedule of classes is set to resume the middle of February. We're back!

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



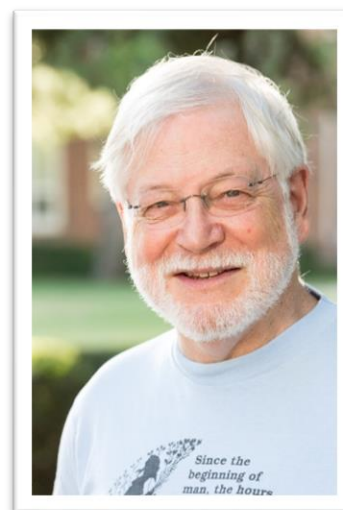
Who recognizes this master teacher? Send your answer to Loui@LouiTucker.com or Editor@FolkDance.com. The **THIRD** person who emails the correct answer wins a \$20 gift certificate.



Last month's issue featured this photo of Ada Dziewanowska taken in the mid-1970s. Ada died in July of 2021 at 104. She last appeared at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2017.

DANCE WORKSHOP WITH BRUCE HAMILTON

WHEN: Thursday, March 24, 2022
TIME: 7:30-10:15 PM
WHERE: St. Michael's Church
18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga
COST: \$10-\$15 [Sliding scale; no one will be
turned away for lack of funds.]
INFO: Loui@LouiTucker.com 408-771-4542



INTRODUCING THREE EEFC BALKAN MUSICIANS (continued)

In my interview with **Corinna Snyder**, I learned that she has been involved with the EEFC for many years. A native of Brooklyn, New York, she started singing as a child with the Cambridge Slavic Chorus, after listening to the album “Music of Bulgaria.” She later studied with Carol Freeman, and learned to play the tambura.

She attended her first EEFC camp twelve years ago and now attends every year. She became so enthusiastic about all that EEFC offered that she served as President of the EEFC for several years. She has taught Macedonian singing workshops and, for the 2021 East Coast Virtual camp, led the “Southern Sing,” one of the highlights that year, with fellow musicians and singers from Brooklyn. She sings and arranges traditional Bulgarian and Macedonian songs with her vocal trio Black Sea Hotel. Since 2016, Corinna has visited Macedonia every summer to work with musicians and singers there.

I joined EEFC in 2021 after attending the East Coast Virtual Camp. The EEFC is dedicated to highlighting the breadth of Balkan music forms and styles by giving a forum for its artists to perform and teach. From its West Coast EEFC camp in Mendocino, to the East Coast camp held at Iroquois Springs in New York, EEFC Balkan Camps help connect musicians to a worldwide community of Balkan dancers and music lovers.

You can help keep this music alive for the entire world to enjoy by becoming a member! For more information about upcoming EEFC festivals and events, visit eefc.org.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



In her President’s Message in the February 2022 issue of *Let’s Dance!*, Marian Snyder cites an article about the benefits of dancing which include social aspects as well as brain health. However, the mental benefits vary depending on the type of dance. From the WebMD website:

“The mental advantages of dancing depend on the type of dance you learn. Styles like ballroom dancing require a large degree of improvisation. These improve your decision-making skills more than completely memorized movements and routines. On the other hand, interpretive modern dance styles offer more benefits for creativity.”

The overwhelming majority of our recreational folk dances fall into the “completely memorized” category. Perhaps we should try to introduce more improvisational material.

~ Todd Wagner

Limerick #8

There was a young lass in North Dover
She loved to dance Eastbourne Rover
With that spry English set
Her needs were all met
A life full of daisies and clover.





NFO Annual Meeting and Conference

March 30 - April 3, 2022

Evanston, Illinois

Let's reconnect to our history, to our leaders and with each other!

This is our first conference in the Chicago area and we look forward to making lots of new connections. It starts with the Annual General Meeting Thursday morning, followed by a variety of presenters and participatory events Thursday afternoon through Sunday. Thursday night will be a special dance-and-music-for-all-ages event and general dance parties will round out Friday and Saturday nights.

Contact Jo Crawford at nfovicepresident@gmail.com, or visit www.tinyurl.com/2022NFO for more information.

Mi Nada Um Ca Tem

(Cape Verde)

Mi Nada Um Ca Tem (MEE NAH-dah OOM KAH TEHM) was choreographed by Tineke and Maurits van Geel after research in the Cape Verdean community in Rotterdam. The name of the dance comes from the song title which means “I have nothing.”

Cape Verde is officially the Republic of Cabo Verde, an archipelago and island country in the central Atlantic Ocean, consisting of ten islands approximately 400 nautical miles west of Africa. Its 480,000+ inhabitants speak Portuguese. There are far more Cape Verdeans living outside Cape Verde than on the islands themselves.

The singer is Maria de Barros, born 1961 in Senegal. Her parents are from Cape Verde. She grew up in Mauritania, and her family moved to Rhode Island when she was 11, where she connected more closely with her heritage in the local Cape Verdean community. She is also fluent and has recorded songs in several languages, including her native Portuguese and Cape Verdean Creole, French, Spanish, German, and English.

- Music 4/4 meter The song is sung by Maria Barros and is readily available for download on YouTube, Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music, and other websites.
- Video *2019 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD*. Camp videos can be viewed by contacting a Camp participant who purchased it.
- Formation: Pairs of dancers facing each other in long lines or in an open circle. Dancers can also dance alone.
- Steps & Styling Arms are held at shoulder level or even higher, and improvisation is an important ingredient, including twisting, bending at the waist, flirting, and strutting. The African influences are clear.

Meas	4/4 meter	PATTERN
9 meas	INTRODUCTION. Freestyle improvisation. Begin when the woman starts singing the “CAO” of “Parque tanto preocupacao.”	
	THE BASIC DANCE.	
1	Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); touch L toe next to R (ct 4); lower left heel (ct &).	
2	Step L next to R (ct 1); touch R next to L (ct 2); step R next to L (ct 3); touch L next to R (ct 4).	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.	
5	Beg R, four walking steps bkwd, away from ptr (cts 1-4).	
6	Beg R, four walking steps fwd, twd ptr (cts 1-4).	
7-8	Beg R, eight walking steps around ptr, passing R shldr, moving R to pass back to back, and backing up passing L shldr. This is similar to dos-a-dos.	

There are three variations to be determined by the dancers:

Variation 1: Meas 5 and 6: Step (ct 1), drag (ct 2), step (ct 3), drag (ct 4).

Variation 2: Meas 5 and 6: Double-time Variation 1.

Variation 3: Meas 7 and 8: Improvise using turns, flirting with ptr.

Mi Nada Um Ca Tem — continued

Lyrics (Translation by Sally Jenkins)

Paque tanto preocupação
Si nada um ca tem
Mi nada um ca tem
Paque tenta maguam

Why so much concern
If I have not a single thing
I have nothing
Why try to hurt?

A mi e pobre e confortado
Ca mal tadjado
Ca malcriado
Cham conforta cu nha probresa
Pamo mi nada, um ca tem

I am poor and comfortable
I don't get in people's way
I am not rude
Let me be consoled with my poverty
Because I have nothing

Mi nada um ca tem
Paque tenta maguam
Tudo gente cre so magua alguém
Um cre vive na paz di Deus
E tudo qu'um cre

I have nothing
Why try to hurt
Everybody thinking only to hurt someone.
One believes to live in the peace of God.
It's everything that one believes

E tudo u'um cre
Vive na paz di Deus

It's everything that one believes
Live in the peace of God



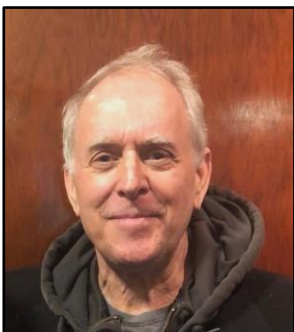
What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

Fall Camp 2022

by Jan and Marc Rayman

Following the wonderfully successful Fall Camp 2021 near Los Angeles, planning is already underway for **Fall Camp 2022, scheduled for Nov. 11-13 (mark your calendars!)**. Camp will feature master teachers Steve Kotansky (Balkan) and Roberto Bagnoli (International) and many fun activities similar to the ones you have come to expect from this dance event.



One of the plans for Fall Camp 2022 is that special health restrictions will no longer be necessary. But even if they are, we will still have a safe and fun-filled weekend or camp will be canceled. Be on the lookout for more news in upcoming issues of *Let's Dance!* You can also visit FallCamp.org or email Dance@FallCamp.org.



Heritage Festivals Presents MARCH 25 - 27, 2022

Andy
Taylor-
Blenis



Jaap
Leegwater



Mihai
David



This festival was founded by Nelda Drury, whose passion for international folk dancing was the driving force behind it for over 50 years. The festival will be held on the Our Lady of the Lake University, a private Catholic university, close to downtown San Antonio. SAFDF is a live festival, but portions of the festival will also be accessible for virtual viewing on Zoom.

Teachers at this year's festival will feature Andy Taylor-Blenis (Portuguese, Hungarian, International), Jaap Leegwater (Bulgarian), and Mihai David (Romanian). Evening parties will include the live music of Shirley Johnson, accordion player and vocalist; and Slavadillo, featuring Don Weeda and Kathleen McDonagh. At Saturday evening's party, there will be live dance performances. Participants are encouraged to use the breaks between dancing to visit the famous downtown RiverWalk or take a side trip to see The Alamo. San Antonio's downtown area is located just minutes away from the OLLU campus.

Because the festival will be held at OLLU, a strict vaccination and masking policy will be enforced. The COVID policy can be found, along with the festival schedule and registration information at www.safdf.org. People wanting dorm rooms on campus are encouraged to register soon.

STOCKTON VIRTUAL WINTER WEEKEND

by Diane Baker

Suspense building, anticipation high! Previews hinted that the Stockton Team would astound us during Winter Weekend 2022, but how? It started with 300 participants on January 28 for warm ups led by Andy Taylor-Blenis. By Monday afternoon 1,700+ had registered.

Encore! Orkestar Unbound (Bill Cope, Jamie Cowan, Balder ten Cate, and Arianna and Amberly Rosen) opened the party and played a varied repertoire throughout. Spotlighters often featured Lew Smith and Melissa Miller leading dances on the adjoining Cope-a-Cabana terrace.

Surprise teaching assistants! Željko Jergan featured the Tamburitans Ensemble flawlessly demonstrating dance steps as he cued participants. He cleaned up some dances he had previously taught at Stockton Camps – Al Je Lepo and Drmes iz Marjinaca – and debuted for North America the charming dance, Stiri Snehe. Video recordings were shared of the Tamburitans performing suites choreographed by Željko. Željko noted that both males and females in Croatia dance with equal energy and precision. We participants were grateful for Željko’s concise instruction and attention to historical/cultural details.

Can Do Cooperation? The Stockton team again collaborated with FACONE (Folk Arts Center of New England) to sponsor a master teacher, Jaap Leegwater, accompanied by Jan Wollring on accordion. Jaap re-taught old dances and introduced new dances from his Bulgarian repertoire, among them Sitno Severnjasko Horo, Minka, Lamba Lamba Kopanitsa, and Kukunesko. Folks appreciated Jan playing a slow tempo when steps were introduced and picking up the pace as we became familiar with the pattern.

Misconceptions corrected! The dance figures we learned at Stockton Camp 2006 for Gorarce were not the original ones notated by Liselle Langeveld and Martin Ihns, so Roberto Bagnoli set the record straight. He also re-visited his energetic Rom dance Te Joci Cu Focul plus two vigorous Bulgarian dances, Vlasko Cucano and Kloca. We vowed to practice them for Stockton Camp’s 75th Anniversary after-parties in July.



Stockton Winter Weekend on Zoom. Photo from Facebook.

Lucky coincidence! Lunar New Year festivities coincided with Winter Weekend, and so over 400 vwers logged on to celebrate at the Asia Party. Twelve groups from Japan, Taiwan, Korea and China led dances, and explained holiday traditions. The party opened to the haunting melody of a Japanese flute played by a member of the Sonce (Rising Sun) Dance Club in Tokyo. Video snippets illustrated Hane Tsuke, the Japanese paddle game in which the loser gets a black ring around his/her eye to ward off bad spirits; dragon dancers parading along sparkler-lit streets; the dangerous Beehive Fireworks; agile lion dancers performing acrobatics. Live in their dance hall, kimono clad musicians of Team Nagoya played Bulgarian instruments for dancing. The I-Lan University Club invited us to sample rice bars coated with sesame seeds and peanuts before they performed dances from Tibet, West India and Taiwan.

The White Day Folk Dance Club came about when dancer Hunt Lin relocated from Taiwan for business. Seven dance groups now exist in China, all sprouting from one teacher at a university in Taiwan. Young Oro dancers expertly performed a Turkish spoon dance. ASAMO club dancers in Seoul dressed in vintage ball gowns for Bohemian National Polka. The Happy Dancers of Taipei closed the party by leading a peppy Bavno Oro. Club spokesperson Jun Yan explained the purpose of firecrackers and red papers on the wall for New Year's (to scare off monsters) and wished for everyone to become rich during the year of the Tiger.

Surprise addition Euro Party 2022! Dance leaders in Greece, Germany, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, and Spain accepted Ahmet's invitation to participate. Yannis Konstantinou advised us to drink warm rakia with honey during cold weather to ward off chill as we danced Tsofso and Karsilama. Kyriakos Moisidis exclaimed that retsina fueled his group of four friends who joyfully danced selections from Macedonia, Thrace, Pontos and Kars. Iliana and Todor set out party platters for members of Voivodinsi in the Folk Arts Center near Plovdiv. Dancers wore traditional costumes as they performed selections from various regions of Bulgaria with Todor and Iliana singing and Todor playing the accordion. Tineke and Maurits led Yarn Anoush, Gajda, and other dances they had introduced.

Petra Bergmann, wearing a fluffy blue scarf and giant smile, brought her "Big Sound Machine" to a snowy park in Munich to lead dances. Ibrahim and Heidemarie, also of Munich, led a set from their home, followed by Gergana Panova-Tekath and students at the Folkwang University of Arts. They inspired us to join them in a lively Sborinka and Kadandzha. The Euro party concluded with a charming dance leader making his Stockton debut, Gabriel Frontera, of Mallorca. He showed the basic Jota step. His troupe demonstrated complex variations with high kicks, graceful leaps, dizzying turns, castanets and clapping. Gabriel stressed that the Jota is always improvised, with the woman usually leading the man in initiating variations.

Open House invitation! Richard Powers welcomed us for a tour of his House of Curiosities. Richard's distinctive collections include books, posters, paintings, prints, musical scores, sculptures, historic documents, and intriguing objects. Especially noteworthy: an original document from colonial days in which King George charged three men with the crime of "dancing and reveling" without paying a tax for the privilege.

Richard produced balls for which he designed, illustrated, and lettered posters that included images of Richard and friends. He narrated the history and significance of his acquisitions as he shared titles such as "From the Dance Hall to Hell." Richard demonstrated how to use a "patter planner" which preceded computers as a tool for square dance callers to plan dance progressions. We could have wandered through his collections all day, but it was time to dance the Palais Glide.

Global expansion! Andy Taylor-Blenis gracefully danced and taught two dances from the Pacific Islands: Himig Sa Nayon, a partner dance in waltz time from the Philippines; and E Pele E Pele, a hula about the goddess of the volcano. One participant commented, "It was nice to have something a little different from our wonderful, expanding repertoire of Balkan, Greek, Israeli, Turkish dances."

Innovation! The Stockton Planning Team responded to feedback from previous camps by creating the eclectic category Bits & Bites. They compiled interviews, puzzles, poetry, video clips, announcements about upcoming events and reminders to support artists with donations (100% of donations contributed to artists) into Bits & Bites. During Bits & Bites, participants could elevate their feet and exercise their brains between dance sessions. We watched video of tractors square dancing at the 2018 PA Farm Show. Marcie Van Cleave presented a poem she wrote as a reflection on the pandemic that was prompted by a sign in Scotland, "Changing Priorities Ahead."

continued on p. 22

STOCKTON VIRTUAL WINTER WEEKEND (*continued*)

Shelley Allison interviewed Andy Taylor-Blenis, who related stories about her legendary parents, Marianne and Cornell Taylor. Andy reminded us that continual strengthening is required throughout life as our hips and shoulders develop issues. She insists that her own body is a testament to the benefits and demands of dance.

Shirley Johnson, musician, played and sang. Lee Otterholt interviewed Betty Solloway, a 102-year-old dancer in his group at Laguna Woods. Betty began folk dancing in the 1930s while a student at UCLA. She resumed dancing with the Griffith Park group in the 1940s to lose a few pounds and gained a partner, husband Carl. They danced through life for 55 years until his passing. Gordon Deeg and Kamrin MacKnight explained the origin of their famous wine and cheese party at Stockton Camp. Melanie Lawson Kareem strummed her ukulele and sang. Campers who fell in love with ukuleles and Melanie's positive demeanor ("I'm changing the world 4 strings at a time!") during workshops eagerly enrolled in virtual classes in 2020.

Special, not sorrowful! Scheduling two sessions to honor Bruce Mitchell allowed viewers to become acquainted with Bruce in multiple capacities. Family, fishing, folk dancing, leadership, and playing were all significant elements of Bruce's life. He was at Stockton Camp for 68 years, many as director. He earned the nickname "The Big Kahuna" while initiating or abetting many Camp traditions. Gordon observed that, in the early years, European teachers were not accustomed to the Stockton College rules banning alcohol on campus. Bruce could be persuaded to smuggle contraband as laundry in oversize pillowcases for after-party enjoyment. Bruce loved to dance, teach dance, and perform on stage. He was the director of the exhibition group Camtia for its 50 years of existence. Both as a school principal and camp director, he welcomed new faculty and staff with warmth. The most memorable of the numerous prank stories was told by son Sean who arranged for Bruce to get a traffic citation for "driving over 55" shortly after his 56th birthday.

Listened & learned! The Stockton Planning Team also responded to requests for programs to be scheduled around the clock! Rebecca Tsai and Evan Chu interviewed, emceed, and danced on the night shift with tech support by volunteers. Viewers appreciated the opportunity to catch classes they had missed, or to get extra practice for dances they want to add to club programs.

Mind boggling! The "What's My Line (Dance)?" game premiered this year. Engineered by Murray Spiegel, the game asked players to view short clips of folks dancing with audio muted while a clock counted down 15 seconds, the goal being to identify the dance. To later increase difficulty, the dance videos were not only muted, but some cut off the dancers' legs, while in others the image was reversed, or flipped so they appeared to dance on the ceiling.

About time! Steve Kotansky was allocated 1.5 hours to talk. His topic was the historical background and evolution of three iconic Macedonian dances: Berance, Postupano and Kopachka. Steve explained that village dances were already becoming codified for stage and film early in the 20th century. Film clips from 1935 depicted Pece Atansovski, Atanas Kolarovski, and Simos Kostantinou in performances as agile young dancers. We were told that Pece was at first denied acceptance into Tanec Ensemble due to his short stature.

Let's Reprise! Drumming with Polly Tapia Ferber, singing with Michele Simon, cinema hours with Ahmet, and opening and closing dance parties were elements of previous virtual festivals that returned in 2022. The Winter Wonderland Party, emceed by Stacy Rose and Gigi Jensen featured veteran and new-to-Stockton dance leaders. Roo Lester offered a winterized version of Ersko Kolo and Jordan Uggla ended the Charleston Madison by somersaulting into our homes. The closing party was hosted by Dale Adamson and Wendy Brown. Dance sets were led by planning team members who had labored voluntarily for hours unseen. Now on center stage to lead, the hard-working volunteers were showered with praise and gratitude.

Thanks for everything! Stockton's fourth online camp excelled in all aspects! Videos popped onto the screen instantly. The schedule was easy to read and download. Programs were intriguing. Attendees set aside their regular activities, pre-emptively prepared meals, swept the floor, and tuned in for three days. The Planning Team, consisting of Adony Beniares, Cricket Raybern, Dale Adamson, Murray and Randi Spiegel, Ellie Wiener, Holly Plotner, Ahmet Luleci, Evan Chu, and Steve Himel, all volunteered their time and talent. We hope they glow with pride of accomplishment, catch up on sleep, and let their imaginations wander to improbable ideas for the next virtual folk arts festival.

Thanks also to the participating artists! This event, and all donations to the festival, were dedicated to your well-being and continued contribution to folk dance. May you prosper during the year of the Tiger!

A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 70 years ago this month

Let's Dance! at one time had a readership of over 5,000, and businesses wanted to advertise in order to reach those readers. Below is a sample of the advertising in the March 1952 issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine/ There was a **total of 43 ads** in that issue. A subscription to *Let's Dance!* magazine was **\$2.50 per year.**

Folk and Square Dancing Skirts, Blouses, Aprons, Stoles, Handbags in colored broadcloths—made to order and trimmed with Imported Tyrolean Braids! (Skirts \$8.95 up)



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Dancing is like breathing — missing a day doing either is very bad.

~ Vera Ellen

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