



## WHO'S WHO

MR. FOLK DANCER - GARY KIRSCHNER

Twenty Years of Folk Dancing

*By Ed Wright*

Gary Kirschner, one of our well-known teachers here, came to San Francisco in 1950. A rather shy individual, he was introduced to folk dancing at Danny McDonald's beginners class at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center, and soon after, started a small group of his own at the First Congregational Church.

Gary has been at it for twenty years now, and many people, having come in contact with him, know that their lives are enriched a little more from attending his classes.

During the 1950's folk dancing was blossoming, and Gary progressed to Madelynn Greene's and Changs' intermediate classes, and soon became a member of Changs and the Carrousel.

In 1953 Gary met Ethel at a folk dance class during the "Oklahoma Mixer". It was love at first sight - they were married a year later, and soon after, joined the Terpsichoreans of San Francisco, an exhibition group under the direction of Grace Nicholes (then Grace Perryman).

People all over know him as a modest and sincere young man, full of boundless energy. His sense of fun is almost infallible. Hardly anyone comes away from his classes without feeling they have had a good time.

Presently Gary teaches Tuesday nights at the First Unitarian Church at the corner of Geary and Franklin Streets, and Wednesday nights, at the Jewish Community Center, at 3200 California Street. Gary also teaches Israeli dancing to a group of approximately fifty children on Sunday mornings.

Mr. Folk Dancer is past President of the San Francisco Council of Folk Dance Groups, and is at this time the President of the Sunsetters, who meet at the Jefferson School - 19th Avenue and Irving Streets, on the first Saturday of each month. He is presently chairman of the annual Sam Clark Folk Dance Jamboree, a Sunsetters-sponsored weekend, which takes place at Forest Knolls, in Marin County.

The Kirschners, with their two daughters, Cindy and Nancy, are presently traveling through Europe, enjoying a well earned vacation, and will be back in early July.