

IN MEMORIAM
DOROTHY TAMBURINI



Dorothy Tamburini & Miriam Lidster

A very dear friend of dance and folk dance research passed away Saturday, March 30.

Dorothy Tamburini began dancing seriously in 1941. One day George, Dorothy's husband, upon returning from San Francisco by train, noticed an announcement for a folk dance class at the Church of the Good Shepard in Belmont, California. George said, "Why don't we go dancing?" They had danced old fashioned dance and ballroom dance for many years. Folk dancing, a new venture, became a challenge: a challenge to learn new steps and new patterns.

They discovered that the Varsouvienne, a heel-toe polka, and other "old fashioned dances" had steps that were different from the ones they knew. Here began Dorothy's interest in the many variants in dances. Did dances need to be researched and written so that one could dance with many

clubs, at Saturday night folk dance parties, and at monthly festivals? Over the years, Dorothy and George participated in many folk dance clubs, namely the San Carlos Peasants, the Docey Doe Club, and the Palomanians, where Dorothy taught many classes.

In 1949, Mildred Buehler became Chair of the Research Committee of California, and Dorothy and I became active in the writing and research needed for accuracy in the steps, patterns, and styling in the descriptions being written for the many volumes that have been published.

In 1952, Mildred and her husband, Jake, left for England. Mildred relinquished her chairmanship to Dorothy Tamburini. Dorothy remained Chair of the Research Committee since 1952. During that time, Dorothy faithfully attended Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific. Over the years, Chair Dorothy worked with and encouraged many interested teachers and dancers to become members of her committee.

When you consider the number of volumes of folk dance descriptions that have been published, you can begin to understand the number of hours Dorothy spent reading and rereading, correcting and adding notes to the volumes that were published.

At no time did Dorothy complain. She sometimes was frustrated at committee meetings. Everyone did not always agree. Dorothy calmly listened to each person, and disagreements were solved with patience. As we recall meetings of the Research Committee, we will remember pleasantries like Dorothy always bringing doughnuts to go with our coffee break. This lent a feeling of camaraderie to the work. Since 1978, the meetings have been held at the home of Joyce

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Ugglä. For the past three years, Dorothy has been joined by Ruth Ruling as co-chairman.

Last October I was in the Bay Area and was able to attend a Research Committee meeting. The same feeling of working together has continued over the forty-plus years. Through the years, the Research Committee has lost devoted and valuable members in Vera Jones (Research 1955-1982) and Virginia Wilder (Research 1977-1990). We miss Vera and Ginny. Dorothy, you will be missed by the many whose lives you have touched through dance, teaching, research, and just being you.

The ever-consuming job of research will be carried on, and your friends and readers of the vast number of volumes published under your guidance will say "thank you." Dorothy, you have a special place in our memory.

by Miriam Lidster
Research Committee 1949-1979