

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 🍷 July/August, 2009

28th annual Táncháztalálkozó (Dance House Festival) in Budapest.
See article by Todd Wagner on page 14



Folk dancing is very alive in Hungary! Can you find Todd? Photo by Zsuzsanna Kárpáti, the official photographer of Táncháztalálkozó—photos are courtesy of the Dance House Guild via Todd Wagner

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Let's Dance!

Volume 66, No. 6
July/August, 2009

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Gifts and donations are welcome. Send to:

The Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Treasurer

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You can now post your folkdance event flyers on the Federation's web site: www.folkdance.com. If you need assistance, contact Dick Rawson at FDFC1.rawson@xoxy.net

Let's Dance! advertising rates

Size	width and length	Fed. club	Others
Full page	7 1/4" x 9 3/4"	\$35.00	\$50.00
Half page	7 1/4" x 4 3/4"	20.00	30.00
Half page	3 1/2" x 9 3/4"	20.00	30.00
Quarter page	3 1/2" x 4 3/4"	10.00	15.00

email editor@letsdancemag.net or mail to:

Let's Dance!

Box 548,
Woodacre, CA 94973-0548

©Let's Dance! (ISSN#0024-1253) is published monthly by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., with the exception of the May-June and July-August issues, which are released each two month period. Standard mail postage paid at Sacramento, California.

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The deadline for Let's Dance! is one month prior date of publication.

We welcome submissions, letters and comments from our readers.

Please send to: Gary Anderson, Editor

Box 548, Woodacre, CA 94973

email: wildwood_press@comcast.net

Opinions expressed in Let's Dance! are not necessarily those of the Federation/North or of the Editor.

Join now: Membership rate is \$22.50 per year (plus \$10.00 for foreign)

Family rate is \$30.00 per year

Group/club rate is \$25.00 per year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

M. Rose

2315 Ravine Court

San Jose, CA 95133-1226

TIME FOR ENJOYMENT

LITTLE FESTIVAL OF THE REDWOODS

From Laila Messer

Sunday, August 10, 2008, will be the annual Little Festival of the Redwoods at Guerneville, California. It will be hosted by the Petaluma and Novato International Folk Dancers.

ENJOY BEFORE NOON: THE REDWOOD TREES

Stroll amongst beautiful old-growth redwoods at Armstrong Redwoods Reserve in Guerneville named after lumberman James Armstrong who, in the 1870's, saved that area from logging. Also named after him is the oldest tree in the grove. Over 300 feet tall, *The Colonel Armstrong Tree*, is 1400 years old. Sonoma County purchased the property in 1917. In 1934, the State took over. The grove's status was changed to a reserve in 1964 when people better realized its ecological significance. There is concern now the Armstrong Redwoods might be closed because of budget cuts

ENJOY AT NOON: A POT LUCK PICNIC 12:00 - 1:30 pm. Gather at the picnic area 3/4 mile from the park entrance. Bring your own table service, a hot dish, a salad or dessert and enjoy some down time sitting under the tall trees with good people and good food.

ENJOY AFTER LUNCH: DANCING 1:30-4:30 pm. Dance your favorite dances at Guerneville Veterans Memorial, First and Church Streets. All-request program music by Elsa Bacher

ENJOY AFTER DANCING: A POT LUCK SUPPER 5:00 pm. Back to the Grove for supper and to reflect on a lovely day of strolling, eating, and dancing.

ENJOY AT BEDTIME: Contentment and thoughts of a lovely day.

SUMMER DANCE CLASS SESSIONS with instructor Carol Friedman

At Herman Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma:
Summer Dancing – old and new favorites, requests
Mondays 7-9:15 p.m., June 8-August 10

At the Dance Palace, 503 B Street, Point Reyes:
International Folk Dance Class: Dances from Bulgaria, Rumania, Serbia, Israel, Greece, and more. Wednesdays 7-8:15 p.m.
Beginning/Easy dances 7-7:30 p.m.; Intermediate/Advanced dances 7:30-8:15 p.m. June 10-July 22 (no class July 1).

Ballroom Dance Class: Salsa, Swing, Waltz Tuesdays 7:15-8:15 p.m. June 9-July 14 (no class June 30).
Info: Carol Friedman, 415-663-9512, cjay@horizoncable.com
<http://carolfriedmanfolkdance.blogspot.com/>

Welcome new member

We wish to welcome our new member:
David Smart
Oakhurst, Ca

President's Message:

Hello! Allow me to introduce myself: I am Loui Tucker, the newly crowned President of the Folk Dance Federation of Northern California. Don't be too impressed, or assume that I am. The way you get to be President of this organization seems to be that you are the first one that stops saying "No, no, please, not me, not me!" to the members of the Nominating Committee and others who continue to pursue you. I was Vice President for the last two years and, after much arm-twisting, I resigned myself to the task.

Before I get into my Mission Statements, let me tell you something about myself: I started international folk dance in 1972 in San Jose and began focusing on the dances of Israel a few years after that. Those of you who know me know that I continue to be both a generalist and a specialist. I have been teaching an international folk dance class on Thursday nights in Saratoga for almost 30 years; my Israeli dance class on Mondays in Sunnyvale recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. I have taught Israeli dances at Stockton Dance Camp, Camp Hess Kramer, the Camellia Festival, as well as other workshops and events.

If you have been reading *Let's Dance* magazine for the past few years, you know that I write fairly regularly for it. Recent articles have focused on bringing new dancers into our circles, and included the printing and distribution of the "INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS - DANCERS WITHOUT BORDERS" bumper stickers. I am also an active member of the National Folk Organization and I maintain its website.

I will confess that there was a time in the recent past when my Mission Statement would have said that I intended to spend my two-year term dismantling the Federation, allowing the various dance classes and councils and festivals to face the future independently, and letting the chips fall where they may. After some analysis, however, I realized that dismantling the Federation would be a lot more work than I first thought with plenty of consequences I am not prepared to handle. Among other issues, the Federation has a substantial sum money from a bequest that is earmarked specifically for promotions and cannot just be sent to some charitable organization, tossed away, or distributed to the Federation officers; there are many dance classes and clubs that get their liability insurance through a Federation insurance program; there is a scholarship fund; and there is *Let's Dance* magazine.

It also dawned on me that the Federation has considerable power that it could choose to exert: the power to lead, focus, organize, promote, and support. As a group, we have the ability, and I hope the will, to make the activity we love so much more visible, more readily available, and more attractive.

So I'm not going to dismantle the Federation, after all. To learn what I **do** plan to do during my two years as President, read the article entitled "*Mission Statement*" elsewhere in this issue.

—Loui Tucker



July/August, 2009 Calendar of Events

We reserve the right to edit all submissions and assume no responsibility for accuracy

Send future events information to Gary Anderson, Editor, Let's Dance!,

Box 548, Woodacre, CA 94973. e-mail: wildwood_press@comcast.net

The deadline for listings is one month prior to the magazine date.

Upcoming Events—

June 20-27 Mendocino Folklore Camp. Info: 415-225-9956, mendocinofolkloreamp.com

June 21 Birthday Party! The Advanced Balkan Dancers invite the friends of founder Gary Anderson to help us celebrate his 75th birthday. **Dancing for all levels! Da! Mozhem/Pochti Gotov** will play popular dances. Recorded music between sets. Birthday cake will be provided and you are invited to bring finger snacks. **No gifts! \$5.00, 2:30-5:30 pm.** Good wood floor, free on-site parking. San Rafael Community Center, 618 B St., San Rafael.

June 27-July 4 Mendocino Woodlands Balkan Music & Dance workshops. 510-547-1118 or office@eefc.org

July 26-Aug.1 Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009. Two identical weeks. Already on board are Yves Moreau, France Aug. 2-8 Bourque-Moreau, Bruce Hamilton, Lee Otterholt, Zelko Jergan, Roo Lester, Roberto Bagnoli and Jerry and Kathy Helt. One week's deposit is \$75.00. Send to: Folk Dance Camp, Jan Wright, 36676 Viola Meadows Court, Shingletown, CA 96088, email: jmwright32@frontiernet.net

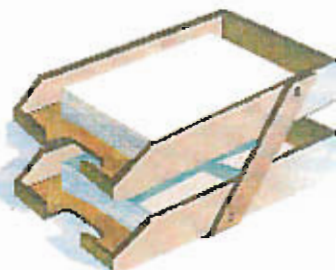
July 31-Aug.8 Lark Camp, World Music, Dance & Song Summer Camp. Two indoor dance floors, two outdoor dance floors and a special coffee house for Middle Eastern music—Lots of music, dancing and song. We use the entire Mendocino Woodlands for our event. See our ad in this issue. www.larkcamp.com

August 10 Little Festival of the Redwoods, Guerneville. Pot luck picnic at noon in the picnic area 3/4 of a mile into the Armstrong Redwoods State park, followed at 1:30-4:30 pm with request dancing in the Guerneville Veterans Memorial, First and Church Streets. After the dancing, return to the Redwoods for a pot luck supper and enjoying the redwoods.

Oct. 30, 31, Nov. 1 Celebrating 25 years—2009 Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend. Watch for more information as it develops. If you want to know more about the weekend, call Beverly or Irwin Barr (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

**denotes Federation events*

The Council, club and class listings are in the back of the magazine



FILL MY INBOX!

I would love to have your comments, concerns, musings, pipe dreams, ideas, suggestions, guidance, criticism....

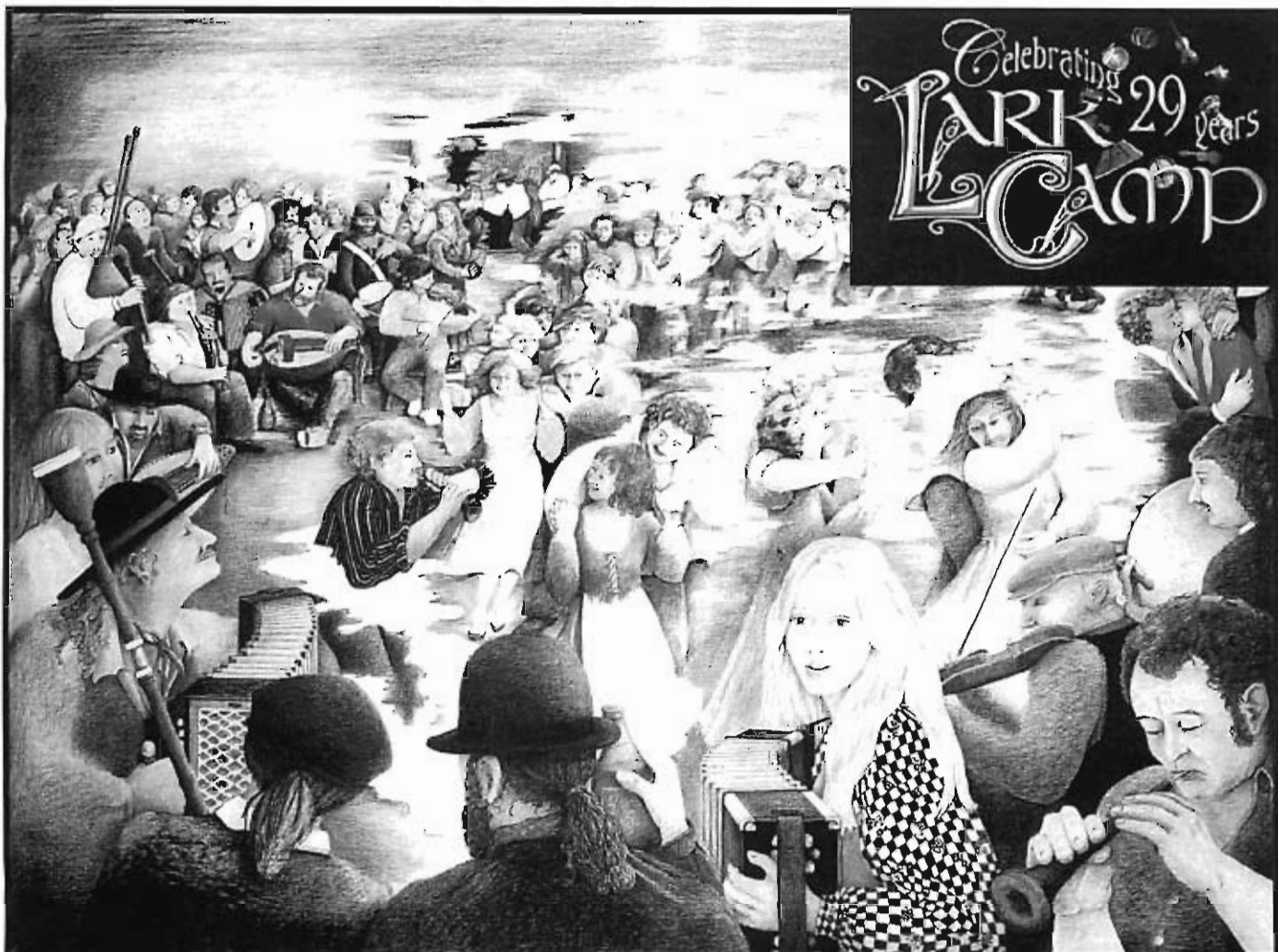
Email: loui@loutitucker.com

Address: 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126

Phone: 408-287-9999

Best times to phone: Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

Celebrating 29 years
LARK Camp



World Dance & MusicCamp

July 31 to August 8 2009 • 29th Year
Dance & Music Workshops & Evening Dances With Live Music
Great Food • Cabins • Camping • Fire Circles • Mendocino Redwoods

Dance Workshops

Greek Dance • Morris & Sword Dance • Cajun Dance • Irish Irish Step Dance • Irish Hardshoe & Light Shoe, Old & Sean Nos Step Dancing • Tango & Latin Dance • Beginning Swing (East Coast & Charleston), Intermediate Swing (Lindy Hop) • Contrasts, Squares, Waltzes, Couple Dances, Ham-Bone • Hula • English Country Dance, Scottish Country Dance • Irish Set Dance • Egyptian-Style Belly Dance • Galician & French Dance • Balkan Dance

Music Workshops - Too Many To Mention

Send for a reservation form or register online on our website.

Lark Camp PO Box 1176 Mendocino, California 95460 USA

(707) 964-4826 email registration@larkcamp.com

Lark Camp Website <http://www.larkcamp.com>

Syrtos and Serendipity

By Eileen Kopeck, Publicity Chairperson

(If you have an idea about publicity, contact Eileen at: eisiedancer@gmail.com)

The month of May suggests Mother's Day for many people, but for some of us it also means the start of Greek Festival time. The much anticipated annual festival at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension in Oakland was held May 15-17. The cover of the festival booklet stated that 'Maybe the ancient Greeks invented the Olympics to work off all that baklava'. Good luck with that! Anyway, I think Greek dancing is a superior way to work off the culinary delights. It's definitely more fun, any age group can do it, there's less training involved, it's non-competitive and you can do it anywhere--preferably at one of the Bay Area's festivals. Last year I wrote about the specifics of the festival, but this year I thought I'd just note a few general impressions.

On Friday afternoon, before 4:00 pm, entry to the festival was free and it seemed a lot of young people took advantage of that offer, adding to the energy Friday night at the Platia Stage. It was very interesting how Friday and Saturday were so different. Friday the dance floor (yes, sorry, it is concrete -- wear appropriate shoes) was wide open, with lots of people dancing in a sort of controlled chaos that oddly worked. On Saturday, since they have performances throughout the day at the Platia Stage, people set up a semi-circle of chairs, forming a smaller dance area, which was surrounded by an audience of people eating, talking, taking pictures and mostly watching the dancing. That seemed to inhibit more self-conscious or beginner dancers, which made it less crowded on the dance floor. Both days were equally fun for me, but I'd be interested to hear other views. I wasn't able to attend on the last day, so I don't know what Sunday was like. Also, across the church grounds, a Taverna was set up under a shady tent with excellent music and a very small dance area for a more intimate experience.

The one problem I found on both days is the increasing amount of very young children running around on the dance floor. I saw a few minor spills, but I fear a major accident is inevitable. Either a child will be hurt or a dancer will trip over a toddler and be hurt. Parents probably don't realize how dangerous it can be out there when several lines of 20-30 people are snaking around. I hope the festival will address the problem one day -- gently. It is nice to see children having fun and one wants them to have pleasant early folk dance experiences -- but not disasters.

I appreciated the following interactions I overheard on Saturday afternoon -- the little spontaneous exchanges that can leave a lasting memory. On Saturday I was with my friend P and we were talking to an Armenian man while partaking of the many culinary delights during a band break. He asked why we weren't dancing to the recorded music that was playing. We remarked that no one else was dancing to it. Then he said that he sometimes gets so lost in the music he doesn't know if it's live or recorded; he even forgets where he is and is completely unaware of his surroundings. He only hopes that when he dies that there is dancing there! I love his passion. Later another man walked up to P and asked if she was Greek. After

she told him she wasn't, he said admiringly, "I am Greek, but I can't dance like that!"

If you haven't tried a festival yet, and want to experience great live music, delicious food, lively performances, creative crafts and lots of dancing, there are still plenty of opportunities coming up throughout the summer and fall. Try the loukoumades! You can find out more information about upcoming Greek festivals at this Website -- www.greekfestivals.bravehost.com.

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Speaking of spontaneity, I had a serendipitous experience in NYC last week. I was in a taxi going from Manhattan to Brooklyn to visit my aunt. As one does, I entered into a casual conversation with the taxi driver, a Mr. T. I discovered his daughter lived near my old high school and she graduated from the same college I attended (FIT) and his son graduated from the other college I attended (Hunter). We were already amused at the coincidences. Then he said that now that his children had jobs and were settled, that he wanted to move back to his country of origin, Turkey. I remarked that I would be in Istanbul in July. He was amazed, and said that's where he's from. Then he asked why I was going there. I said I was going with a folk dance group. He said, "Then you must know Bora!" I nearly fell off my seat! He meant Bora Özkök of course. I told him I knew Bora and had taken workshops with him, etc. He said he went to school with Bora and proceeded to tell me a few stories about the two of them. It was so funny. After we got to my aunt's apartment building, and I paid him for the ride, we continued to talk for about twenty minutes. That has never happened to me in all my years of riding cabs in NY. We got into some politics, and he told me to tell all my friends his opinions -- which I will not do in this magazine, but you can ask me in person. We could have gone on talking for hours, but he had a taxi to run and I had an aunt to visit. Maybe in other life...

If anyone has an amusing folk dance related story, please send it in -- we'd all like to hear it.

Celebrating 25 Years -- 2009 Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend

From Beverly Barr

Save the date, Oct. 30, 31, Nov. 1, 2009, for the 25th Anniversary of the Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend. This weekend will be a "Camp's Review and More". Many of the teachers that have taught at this weekend in the last 25 years will be here to teach this year. The exciting 20th Anniversary Weekend was a huge success with 12 teachers. Many of the campers are still talking about it, so we decided to do it again for the 25th Anniversary Weekend. The 25 years include 1985 -- 2009.

Check the information in each issue of "Let's Dance" and "Folk Dance Scene" for updates. Save the date and plan ahead for your first memorable Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend experience or another Camp Hess Kramer memorable experience. You don't want to miss it. If you want to know more about the weekend, call Beverly or Irwin Barr (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancing-barr@yahoo.com.

Council & Club Clips

Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council—Sacramento is going through some major changes. One is the transformation of our monthly newsletter from a paper publication to our website folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil and a new site called folkdancesacramento.blogspot.com. The new site is where all the clubs can share their news and pictures, and advertise upcoming events. You can link to it from our old site through the "current buzz" button. On the old site, you can find our monthly calendar of current events, special announcements about future or past events. Our amazing webmaster, Roy Butler, has amassed a wonderful collection of videos of all these events. If you missed the Camellia Festival, for instance, you can find videos of it! To say nothing of ancient history, which is lots of fun! So please visit us and leave comments or news on the blogspot site.

Everyone is invited to our annual late summer BBQ at the home of Al and Teddy Wolterbeek's, on Saturday, August 29, starting at 6:00 pm. It is a great kickoff to the fall dance season, and the perfect end to the summer. The cost is \$12 and we provide meats masterfully bar-b-qued by Robert Null. The rest of the food is potluck. Check out the details on the web-site.

Of course, many of us will be going to a dance camp this summer. See you there!

But if you can't get to a dance camp, join us for a wonderful dance weekend in the Sierra's on Friday-Sunday, September 11-13 at Camp Sacramento. Formerly known as Gypsy Camp, it is now appropriately named "Dance in the Woods" Roy and Patty Butler have moved it three weeks earlier than before to avoid freaky snowfalls. It will be much warmer, and we also have heaters and warmer rooms available now. The cost is only \$120 for the weekend, which includes a cabin, and 3 meals on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Other changes involve more request dancing and less teaching, and time for hikes or naps. All kinds of dancing is included and all dancers and friends and family are invited! All the details and videos from previous years can be found at folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil dance in the woods button. This is a wonderful get-away! Hope to see you there! —Barbara Malakoff

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS. Several exciting events happened in the last two months. We had a very successful Birthday Ball with tasty Middle Eastern fare and we took back Thursday nights. Unfortunately Vecernica had to cancel but as of this writing BFD is looking forward to Erik Bendix' workshop.

The city of Berkeley unexpectedly released Thursday nights at Live Oak Park Social Hall. We jumped at the chance and Peter D'Angelo quickly developed a program that seems to have interested BFD as the evenings have been well attended. Yvonne Provaznik and Ruth Gasser led off with a brisk evening of Balkan dances on May 7. That was followed by non-repertoire dances, partner and non-partner, lead by Bill and Louise Lidicker. The following Thursday Sharon Green taught us English Country Dance classics. Next was an evening of Circle Dances led by Marina and John Bear. And more is to come with Bob Motta teaching leading and following in fox trot and waltz and Yaqi Zhang with Greek, Turkish and Israel dances.

Then from June 18 through August 6, Claire and Al George are coordinating a program of Open House from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. All ages are welcome with adults \$5 each and \$2 for a child accompanied by adults. The first hour will be saved for dances that all ages can do (5 & older) and the second hour will focus on exciting and challenging dances for adults. Many different teachers will be involved in the program. Join the fun. And bring a youngster with you.

In the middle of all this, BFD's Beginners Class will host a "T Party on July 17, 2009." For This fun night, wear any Thoughtful or Titillating attire that could be T-shirts, Tartans, Tuxedos, etc. Come from 7:30 – 10:30 PM to Live Oak Park Social Hall at Shattuck at Berryman, Berkeley. Tariff is \$5 and there will be a few Tempting and Tasty Tidbits. We'll try To have a Terrific Time.

Our usual two-week hiatus has been extended to three for budgetary reasons. So BFD will not be dancing from August 17 until September 8. At that time the fall teachers' schedule will begin: Mondays—Lone Coleman & Tom Sha (Advance Intermediate); Tuesdays—Bill Lidicker & Marija Hillis (Intermediate); Weds.—Yaqi Zhang & Judy Stonefield (Advanced), Thurs.—Claire & Al George (Beginners); Fri.—Peter & Lynne D'Angelo (Request Night).

BFD's new Beginners Class will begin on Thursday, Sept. 10, with Claire and Al George instructing. Please tell any and all of your friends and family. It will still be \$30 for an eight-week session! Do come at 7:30 PM to Live Oak Park Social Hall, Shattuck Ave. and Berryman in Berkeley.

—Naomi Lidicker



Frank Tripi leading a line at Kopachkas—Photo by Gary Anderson

KOPACHKAS had a wonderful party in April. Da! Mozhen played for us and the dancing was great with a near capacity crowd. Lots and lots of fine snacks and drinks. Won't you come and join us? Fridays, 8:00—10:00 pm. Easier dances taught 8:00-8:30. Scout Hall, 177 East Blithedale in Mill Valley. Programmed & request dances. Contact Frank Tripi (510) 654-3636 or Margaret Harrison (415) 453-6334.

ADVANCED BALKAN DANCERS—We will take July off—no dancing in July. But we will be back August 16 with Todd Wagner teaching the exciting Krivo Sadovsko Horo—this is the old one with travel around the room. Don't miss this one. He will review Lamba Lamba and other recently taught dances as well. Third Sunday at Ashkenaz, 2-4:00 pm. Back dance studio.

Mission Statement

By Loui Tucker

Rejuvenate - Get new dancers onto our dance floors and into our circles; increase participation of existing dancers.

Publicize/Advertise - Increase awareness of folk dancing in the general public, as well as provide better publicity to existing dancers of local workshops, festivals, events.

Communicate - Create ways for dancers to connect more easily with each other using internet tools; increase communication between Federation leadership and dancers.

Increase membership - Advertise the benefits of membership to encourage people to join the organization.

Programs to watch for in the coming months:

1. *Revamped and refocused Federation's website.* I hope by the time you read this Mission Statement that the revised Federation website will be up at www.folkdance.com. The first thing visitors now see is "ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DANCE?" That link sends people to a page with a list of local dance clubs. Federation-member clubs get top billing, but other dance classes are listed as well. There are also links for Southern California, the U.S. in general (through the National Folk Organization's website and other websites), speciality classes, as well as bands and musicians. If there isn't already, there will also be a link to a page of dance-related photographs and sample videos. Also on the site is a Frequently Asked Questions page, a coupon for a Free Dance Class, and flyers for classes and events. How will the general public know about this information? Read on!

2. *Colorful, eye-catching advertising.* We're working on some really amazing, eye-catching, full-color flyers with tear-off strips along the bottom reading: "www.folkdance.com." There will be several versions of the same basic information with different headings: "WANT TO DANCE BUT DON'T HAVE A PARTNER?" and "IS YOUR GYM WORKOUT GETTING BORING" and "CAN YOU WALK? THEN YOU CAN DANCE!" We are working on plans to distribute the flyers to Federation members via *Let's Dance* magazine, to dance class leaders, and via the website. We're working on a list of suggested places to post the flyers: college campus kiosks, bulletin boards in churches, community centers, libraries, and gyms, in laundromats, at bus stop shelters, and high schools. The goal, of course, is get these flyers displayed in many places, to attract attention, and to get viewers to go to the Federation website for more information.

There are also plans to pay for similar advertising in hard-copy publications that focus on dance, exercise, recreation, and health as well as get onto other similar websites.

3. *First Class Free Coupons.* Visitors to the Federation website will be able to download and print a coupon for a free dance class. Dance classes that want to participate in this program will have a [FCF] symbol next to their listing - meaning "First Class Free." Participation in the program will be voluntary. Coupons can be downloaded by existing dancers to hand to their friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

4. *Group Email.* Federation members will be invited to join a yahoo group. [This may have already happened by the time you read this article.] I hope to see emails like these: "I'm looking for dancers who want to meet for dinner before the party in Saratoga on Thursday....."

"Does anyone in the Sacramento area have a bed for a visiting dancer? I want to attend the Camellia Festival, but can't afford a hotel room."

"Anybody going to Marcel's New Year's Eve Party? Want to carpool from the East Bay?"

"I want to try salsa rueda. Anyone interested in trying it with me?"

"Does anyone know anyone who can repair opanki?"

"I have some size 12 dance shirts I can't wear anymore (due to my wife's cooking!). Clean and still in good condition. Free to a good home."

The goal is to make communication between dancers easier and encourage dancers to look beyond the dancers in their local dance sessions. The group will also be an easier way to send announcements to Federation members about region-wide dance workshops, parties, festivals, dance camps, etc.

5. *Communicate with Federation Officers.* Let's Dance magazine will publish my email, phone number, and address and I will make an appeal in every issue to contact me. I will be available to answer questions, address concerns, offer advice, and direct inquiries to the proper person if I can't provide an answer myself. It's the best I can do to create an Open Door Policy when my "office" is located in San Jose and some readers live hundreds, even thousands of miles away. I hope to add the same information for any other Federation officer who wishes to be similarly available. Some of this information was available in *Let's Dance* magazine in the past, but I hope to make it more prominent.

6. *Improve Attendance at Festivals.* You will read elsewhere the results of the Festival Survey conducted over the last two months. I hope festival organizers will use the results to point them in directions that will increase attendance. I also hope to create some new feature-specific festivals or workshops or institutes to focus on the features that survey respondents said they wanted (read the article on the survey results for more details).

7. *The Value of Membership.* I hope to increase the benefits for joining the Folk Dance Federation of Northern California. Currently members (1) receive *Let's Dance* magazine, (2) have access to scholarship funds to attend dance camps and workshops, and (3) have access to a fund that provides grants for projects that promote dance. Group members can obtain liability insurance through membership in the Federation. Groups get (or will shortly get) special listings on the Federation website and members and group can post their event flyers on the website. The email group mentioned above will be for Federation members only (although members are free to forward the emails they receive).

Under consideration as additional benefits: (1) membership cards that, when displayed, will entitle members to (2) reduced prices at Federation-sponsored events; (3) small tokens such as pins ["Ask me why I'm a member of the Federation!"], key chains, pens, gift cards, or tote bags available to Federation members only and distributed only at a Federation-sponsored event; and (4) group ticket prices for local dance performances. If you have ideas for further benefits for membership, I am open to suggestion.

8. *Qualify the Federation for 501(c)(3) status.* This may not seem like such a big deal, but it could be. Having non-profit status will mean the Federation and its affiliated groups

Dancing at Statewide in San Diego

By Esther Mosse Mann

If you couldn't have had a good time at the 2009 San Diego Statewide, it means that you are dead. The weather was lovely, the hotel a full resort, and San Diego's Balboa Park is a beautiful place to be. Its buildings are in the old Spanish style. It has several museums and an international village which consists of small cottages for over 30 countries. It is a mini world with all kinds of activities including this year's Statewide Folk Dance Festival weekend whose theme was "Dance with the Dolphins" and took place on May 22nd through May 25th, Memorial Day weekend. It was a great success with over 200 people attending.

Balboa Park Club, the venue for Statewide, features a huge football field size room with a wood floor for dancing and space for vendors. Since the room was so large, there was plenty of room to dance without being crowded, but sometimes you were a little far from the teacher. It also has another room with murals and a statue in the center where tables were set up when a break was needed. On Friday and Saturday night there were "after parties" which took place at The Folk Dance Center, an Ashkenaz like facility about two miles from the park, which is a smaller and more intimate dancehall.

There was live music by the bands "Eastern Exposure" and "Dromia," both of them excellent. There must have been some local talent in the Dromia band, judging from the reaction of the crowd, with lots of enthusiastic clapping and cheering when they were playing. There was a dance performance given by the children who attend the Millikan Performing Arts Magnet School of Los Angeles. The youngsters joined in our dance sessions also and I could not help but think "there is the future of the International Folk Dance community." They are led by Billy Burke and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for the work he is doing. Viviana Enrique Acosta, our Mexican dance teacher, led a Ballet Folklórico en Aztlan, which was beautiful. The troupe was dressed in white, with those huge (36 yards of material) skirts which swished and swayed as they danced. The group "Syrtaki" did hilarious skits, choreographed by Lee Otterholt, which put a nice relaxing touch to Sunday evening's dance.

The teaching was done by Viviana Enrique Acosta (Mexican Folk Dance) and Yuliyán Yordanov (Bulgarian). Viviana taught El Cupido, El Fandango Jarocho, El Huarachazo, Jesusita en Chihuahua, La Bamba, La Mazurka, La Piconá, Mi Reyna, Sonos de Ixtapa y Soyalo, identifying what part of Mexico each dance represented. She is a gracious lady who worked hard to teach us the dances and taught the basic steps well. Most of the dances were couple dances and it

will be able to rent dance halls and other facilities at non-profit rates (and the difference is considerable when you're booking for many hours over several days). It could also mean that member clubs can qualify for lower rental rates for their weekly classes. Donations to the Federation will also be tax-deductible. It's been in the works for a couple of years, and I'm determined to get it done during my two-year term.

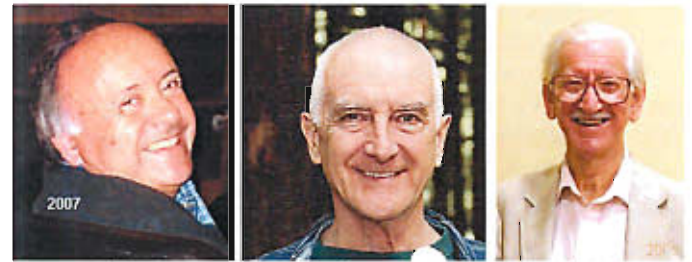
Can we get it all done and see the results in two years? Are we being entirely too ambitious, biting off more than we can chew, dreaming of what cannot possibly be? Perhaps. I'll keep you posted.

would have been easier for me to learn if she had a partner since it was difficult for me to figure out whether she was doing the male or female part.

Yuliyán Yordanov taught Brezovsko Ruchenitsa, Gruncharsko Gruncharsko, Loveshko Daychovo Horo, Loveshko Gankino Horo, Pirinsko Shirto, Radomirska Ruchenitsa, Radoychovata, and Vidinska Chichovata. All of the dances were lively and made me glad that the air conditioning worked well in the hall.

Refreshments were available during the dancing and box lunches as well as other meals available on advance order. There was an ethnic food fair organized by the International Cottages so you had over 30 booths of food to choose from, and also performances by many of the nationalities. On Monday we also attended the barbeque at the home of the warm and welcoming hosts Lu and Georgina Sham, which was delicious and we enjoyed dancing on their large wooden deck after lunch.

Kudos to Georgina and her committee for the outstanding job in putting on the festival. What more could you ask for? All in all, it was great fun and I am looking forward to next year when Statewide will be held in Sonoma.



Yves

Jerry

John

Kolo Festival 2009

By Jerry Duke

The Kolo Festival committee is excited to announce that Yves Moreau, popular Bulgarian dance specialist, will be the featured teacher. Kolo Festival 2009 will be held at the Croatian-American Hall Friday and Saturday, Nov. 27 and 28, 2009. Additional dance teachers will be John Filcich, Kolo Festival founder, who will be teaching kolos, and Jerry Duke, festival committee chair, dances of Northern Greece, Macedonia and Thrace. Singing and music teachers and bands will be announced soon.

Yves and Jerry (and 80 others) were in Thrace last summer for Yves' 60th birthday.

Yves has been researching and teaching Bulgarian dance for over 40 years and has taught at Kolo Festival many times since 1967. Jerry, long known as a specialist in dances of the U.S., has concentrated on dances and rituals in northern Greece for the last 12 years. He has taught at Kolo Festival several times in the last 20 years. John Filcich has been researching and teaching Croatian dance since the early 1950s. He organized the first Kolo Festival in 1952, and teaches kolos at the festival every year. In 2005, John received the National Folk Organization's "Preserving Our Legacy Award." Bill Cope, Kolo Festival music director, will soon announce music teachers and bands.

July 31 to August 8

Lark Camp—World Music, Dance & Song Summer Camp

By Beth Zekley

Imagine idyllic days and nights in the magical redwood forest filled with all the dance, music, song and good times you could possibly stand, and that's kind of close to what Lark's Dance & Music Celebration is like. You are free to take as many or as few of the workshops offered as you like; big dances every evening and jam sessions 24 hours a day, plenty of good food, new friends, and musical stimulation. Lark Camp is truly a unique total immersion into the joys of nature, dance and music. There are many workshops for all levels of skill.

The Lark Camp 2009 dance program includes: Morris & Sword Dance-Jason Adajian; Cajun Dance-Tami & Claudette Boudreaux; Irish Step Dance, Irish Hardshoe & Light Shoe, Old & Sean Nos Step Dancing-Shirleigh Brannon; Tango & Latin Dance-Harriet Bye & Larry Sawyer; Beginning Swing (East Coast & Charleston), Intermediate Swing (Lindy Hop)-Malaika Finkelstein; English Country Dance-Sharon Green & David Newitt; Contras, Squares, Waltzes, Couple Dances, Ham-Bone-Erik Hoffman; Hula-Robyn Mahealani Kneubuhl; Greek Dance-Antonea Leftheriotis; Scottish Country Dance-David Newitt; Irish Set Dance-Janis Reynolds; Couple Dance Boot Camp (Waltz, Polka, Hambo, Zydeco And More)-Yael Schy; Egyptian-Style Belly Dance-Robin "Dameshe" Shumays; Galician & French Dance-Adrienne Simpson; and Balkan Dance-Sue Williard.

There are two indoor dance floors, two outdoor dance floors and a special coffeehouse for Middle Eastern dance. There are 2-3 dance workshops each hour all day, each night there are 2 big dances going on simultaneously and many times there are also smaller impromptu dance events. There are also more than 80 instrumental and vocal teachers that teach an amazing variety of music from around the globe.

Lark Camp is unique amongst camps for a number of reasons. Firstly, the variety is incredible, with dance and music from all over the world - the Andes, the U.S., England, France, the Middle East, Ireland, Scotland, Egypt, Spain, Bulgaria, Serbia, Canada, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Italy, Arabic, Greece, Sweden, and more. There are lots of opportunities for spontaneous music and song, anytime, anywhere. Along with spontaneous music comes spontaneous dancing. People of like musical interests get together to play - Irish sessions, old-time, French, Tex-Mex, Hawaiian, Bulgarian, you name it. Sometimes you can hear cross-genre fusions of different sorts of music.

Another thing that sets Lark Camp apart from other camps is the lack of division between students and teachers. At some camps the teachers have separate accommodations and there is a noticeable separation between the staff and students. At Lark Camp everyone plays together, dances together, lodges together, eats together.

Perhaps best of all is the relaxed atmosphere. You can take as many or as few workshops as you like. While there are incredible opportunities for in-depth learning, you do not have to adhere to a strict course of study. You can take the same

workshops all week, or sample a variety of workshops to try new things, or take the day off and go to the river or take a nap.

Lark Camp uses all 3 camps at the Mendocino Woodlands. Camp One is focused on the British Isles, Eastern Europe and Greece, Camp Two on the Americas and Europe, and Camp Three on the Middle East. Folks either walk, bicycle or take the shuttle buses (runs from 8:00am to 3:00am, each half hour.)

Food only plays second fiddle to the dance and musical menu and is a major component of Lark Camp's pleasures, not only because having it prepared for you gives you more time for dance, song and music, but also because Lark food is great. The setting--in amongst redwoods and firs, lush meadows and small streams that feed the Big River--ties all the pleasures together, sealing Larkies off from the stresses of daily life in the workaday world.

Lark Camp is also a family camp. There are many workshops where kids can explore music, theater, crafts and nature studies. Young folks are welcome to join in the adult workshops as well. People of all generations attend, coming together to dance, sing, play and make merry in the redwood forest. It's great to see young people carrying on all the different dance and music traditions.

The Mendocino Woodlands, where Lark Camp is held, is a truly beautiful place, with charming redwood cabins, dance halls and dining halls nestled in 700 acres of redwood trees, ferns, and glades along both sides of the Little North Fork of the Big River in Northern California, near the coastal village of Mendocino. The Mendocino Woodlands is a National Historic Landmark. This honor was bestowed in 1997 because its buildings are of exceptional architectural value and significant importance to the history of the United States. The facility is a wood-and-stone work of art built by the WPA and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, called the Mendocino Woodlands Recreation Demonstration Area. It was one of forty-six campgrounds (including Camp David) created during that time, conceived to provide a setting for activities that would introduce the public to the wonders of nature. The Mendocino Woodlands is the only one of these camps that has maintained its historic integrity and has been continuously used for its original purpose. It was given to the people of California with the mandate that the facility be used for group and family recreation and environmental education. The Mendocino Woodlands has an excellent environmental education staff, offering programs for school groups during the school year, and programs for the summer camps that use the Woodlands. During Lark Camp there is a daily environmental education workshop for kids.

There's nothing quite like a week spent around people who don't talk about their day jobs. People come Lark Camp to dance and make music, not to do P.R. or plumbing repair or professorial chitchat. Wherever folks come from, and whatever dance is danced or tune is hummed, all sense the shared humanity of the dance and the tunes. Come join us in the forest for a week of dance, music and song!

Musically Yours,

Beth Zekley

<http://www.larkcamp.com>

VYTAUTAS (VYTS) F. BELIAJUS,

“Mr. Folk Dance, USA”: Memoirs of a Lithuanian Immigrant (1908-1994)

By Bill Lidicker

Last fall the Federation received a copy of this new book edited and privately published by L. DeWayne Young (2008, Modern Printing, Inc., Blackfoot, ID 83221; 266 pp.). It is a remarkable volume, largely autobiographical, fascinating to read, and critically important for anyone interested in the history of the international folk dance movement in the United States and particularly the transformational role that Vyts Beliajus played in this journey.

Most of the book was written by Beliajus including a preface and 26 chapters describing his childhood in Lithuania up to the age of 14 when he immigrated to the USA (1923). There follow 21 more chapters about his life in this country, the last chapter bringing his life story to the summer of 1992. There are also 8 pages of photographs, the earliest of which dates to the end of the 19th century, tributes from 18 dancers, a letter from Vyts' sister Gita, an obituary from the Denver Post, various citations in his honor, lists of publications, honors and other recognitions, and an epilogue by DeWayne Young.

Readers will find the first part on life in Lithuania during the early part of the 20th century completely engrossing and difficult to put down. The complex mix of cultures (Lithuanian, Jewish, Russian, and Polish to name only the most common) that characterized Beliajus' early life experiences plus the disruptions and stresses of WWI form the context for a captivating story and a revealing lesson in human social behavior. It certainly set the stage for Vyts' later career as “Mr. Folk Dance.” Vyts arrived in the US on September 3, 1923 with his 85-year-old grandmother, and settled into the Lithuanian community in Chicago. By 1930 he was already teaching folk dance. Subsequently, he lived in Fairhope, Alabama; San Diego, Calif.; and Denver, Colorado. But, where he lived was important mainly as it affected his often poor health, because he spent much of his time traveling, mostly in North America, to teach dance. He estimated 35,000 miles per year. In an undated comment (probably from early 1970's) he mentioned that “... at the present and for the past 30 years, California leads the field in the general folk dance movement,” and “From thence [Calif.] radiated much of the folk dance movement.” Vyts taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 23 summers, starting in 1949. The last time was in 1986 when he taught 9 Welsh dances. He also organized numerous exhibition groups, and participated in innumerable festivals. He is perhaps best known for his publication of the magazine *Viltis*. It began as a mimeographed newsletter to his many friends and acquaintances in 1942, and then became a published journal in 1944 and continued until his death in 1994. Through this enterprise, his vast knowledge of dance and related cultural arts was disseminated widely.

It is not, however, in my view the massive quantity of his folk dance activities that is most important in Vyts' legacy, but his philosophy of dance and associated culture that led to the establishment of the novel concept of international recreational dance. Through his example and teachings, it became okay to dance and enjoy dances from cultures other than your



Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers annual folk dance party

By Carol Friedman

Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers held their annual folk dance party on Saturday, April 18. There were over 75 dancers in attendance, coming from as far north as Cazadero and as far south as Mountain View. A playlist of recorded favorites including Esmer (from Turkey), Gjusevska Racenica (Bulgaria), and Gori Mare (Serbia), put together by the group's instructor Carol Friedman, kept everyone dancing for the first hour.

From 9 p.m. until past 11 p.m., the band Verna Druzhina played their great blend of Macedonian and Bulgarian dance music. Selections included Tino Mori, Pomasko Sirto, and Petrnino Oro as well as some great pravos and les notos. The members of the group are: Dena Bjornlie on gadulka and vocals, Karen Guggenheim on gajda, Mark Jenkins on percussion and vocals, and Jim Oakden on tambura and accordion.

Monday night classes in Petaluma continue through May 4; summer dancing will resume on Mondays 7-9:15 p.m. from June 8-August 10. For more information, contact Carol Friedman at cjay@horizoncable.com, 415-663-9512, or <http://carolfriedmanfolkdance.blogspot.com/>

own. It is in this profound sense that he can be considered “Mr. Folk Dance.” He absorbed in depth an amazing variety of different cultures from around the world, and found them all meritorious, was never negative about any group, and taught sensitivity to the nuances and subtleties found in the dances and folk arts of every human group. For him, international dance was not only delightful exercise, but meaningful excursions into the lives and feelings of the folks that created the dances. He truly believed that the understanding and enjoyment so achieved would make a strong contribution toward peace in the world. His friends repeatedly emphasized his generosity, kindness, modesty, and dedication to the immense task before him.

This brief book review can hardly do justice to the quantity and quality of Vyts' contribution to world dance and international understanding. You will just have to read it yourself. You will be glad you did.

Do you have a non-dancing spouse? So did I!

By Susan Gregory

My husband Jerry and I have been happily dancing together for several years now with several dance groups (Loui Tucker's Monday night Israeli and her Thursday night International dance class, as well as with Stockton-In-Exile on Sunday mornings). However, it still happens that periodically at a dance class or party, one of the women dancers present will come up to me and ask how in the world did I manage to get my non-dancing husband to join me at dance class!!

I have to tell you, it wasn't easy. For the first several years that I did Israeli and International dancing, I went alone, because Jerry looked at me like I **MUST** be joking when I asked him to join me, to try it because it was a lot of fun. He was a manly man and manly men **DON'T** dance, especially Caucasian manly men from the South (North Carolina in his case). Oh, and shimmying was totally out of the question!!

For the first few years, I did a lot of moaning and groaning, complaining and whining that I needed a consistent dance partner, one I could rely on for Israeli class as the men's and women's roles in the dances aren't similar enough for me to be able to switch back and forth easily. During this time, I kept adding to my dance repertoire by adding a Scottish Country dance night and/or a Hungarian dance night, a Square dance night or two and a Saturday dance party thrown in here or there.

Jerry finally decided to join me dancing just so he would have more opportunities to interact with me, since I was gone most evenings and to find out about some of the other men that I kept on talking about from my various dance classes ("Cliff is a real character and a lot of fun", "Frank always looks so serious when he's dancing", "Todd's a wonderful leader", "Tony treats me like I'm his kid sister"). You can ask Jerry. He wasn't jealous. Noooo. He was just curious. Now he gives Frank a bigger hug than I do when we greet him at dance class – one of those NFL sized manly "man" hugs.

However, it is funny, when I think back on it, that the first dance I ever taught Jerry was the Israeli couples dance Mishol Hapere (aka Israeli Swing) on ice skates before he ever made it to Loui's class for the first time and he was fine learning that dance as long as it was on skates **AND** there was no shimmying or hip shaking involved! (We first met each other at the ice rink many, many years ago – but that's a whole other story!)

I must admit, I started Jerry off with the easiest dance class first, Loui's Thursday International class. I even asked Loui to play Mishol Hapere that first night and when the music came on told him to pretend he had his ice skates on!

Throughout those first months I encouraged him and gave him personalized instruction and reassured him that feeling like he has three left feet, one glued on backward, no right feet, spastic arms and an aberrant or missing sense of timing was quite natural and to be expected. I tried to only be positive, **NEVER** negative about his dancing and made sure that it stayed **FUN!** I wanted to keep him from feeling "newbie" frustration because he didn't pick up dances as fast as I did. I enjoyed flirting with him while we were dancing to keep him laughing and told him what a great partner he was – and he

really was, because he was all mine – and still is! He also was afraid to partner up with anyone else those first few months, and I didn't push the issue then and still don't now.

I also told him that he was not allowed to give up for the first six months. He had to stick it out for at least six months before giving up. I said that if he gave up after six months, he would never hear another peep out of me about wanting him to come with me dancing. (However, I said nothing about my giving up any of my dance classes;-)

After about 4 months of Loui's International dance class, I decided he was ready for the big time and started taking him to Israeli class with me – our most challenging class.

We are still there ten or more years later, still trying to keep up with Loui and failing miserably, but still having fun. He still can't shimmy very well, can't bootie shake worth beans, although he isn't ashamed to try, which for a Southern white guy is a big step forward, but I still tell him that he's the greatest dance partner in the room – and it's true – because he's still all mine!

Couple Dancing at Folk Dance Camp

By Karen Wilson-Bell

I have read several articles recently discussing the lack of partners for couple dances at dance camps. This can be a problem even at camps that require a strict gender balance in registrations. Many camps have tried limiting registrations of unpartnered women to match the number of unpartnered men. Even then, many women are left without partners at the dance parties because some of the registered male partners only dance a limited number of dances or have a preferred partner.

I'm delighted that Folk Dance Camp doesn't limit registrations of unpartnered women. Otherwise, many of us would not get to experience the fun of a week at Folk Dance Camp. If you don't like sitting out half of the dances at the Saturday party, come second week when the theme is Balkan and most of the dances won't require partners. If you'd like to try a couple dance class this year, you might try set dances like squares or English Country Dancing, where the differences between roles are less pronounced.

For many years I have switched between dancing the woman's part and the man's part in couple dances. In some cases it is like learning two different dances. I may choose to dance the man's part, especially in the improvisational dances, in order to experience the fun of deciding which figure to do next. Also, it gives me a chance to get to know all of the women in the room. I usually come to Folk Dance Camp both weeks, so I often dance the woman's part one week and the man's part the other week. That way I learn the dances better and can teach both parts after I get home.

For those of you who want to attend Scandinavian or Italian dance classes this year and don't have a regular partner, here are a few tips: Get to class on time and get into your dancing shoes so you are ready when people get up onto the floor. Don't come to class reeking of perfume or cigarette smoke. If you don't get a partner immediately, get up and learn the steps anyway. You'll get a partner when the teachers ask everyone to change partners. Unless you are dancing the lead (man's) role, don't try to lead. The teacher will take care of it (eventually). Try to learn the names of everyone you dance with. Be sure to smile and enjoy the dance, even if it isn't "perfect."



My China Trip

By Mel Mann

China is an exciting place to visit now; we know because we just returned from a visit there. We met with dance teachers and leaders in several communities and drank in the energy and beauty of this fascinating country. We went with the pessimistic image that our newspapers paint and were surprised to see a different reality. People are well dressed and appear content and happy. They are now expending as much energy for next year's EXPO in Shanghai as they had done for the Olympics (and wasn't that a wonderful surprise to all of us). They have torn down many slums and replaced them with massive, beautiful office and residential buildings. At the same time, they have created large public parks with ponds, bridges, rock gardens and trails that have been interspersed with these new structures.

Shanghai is a stimulating, modern, bustling city while at the same time featuring and celebrating its heritage. Who would expect an attractive vibrant "China town" in Shanghai, China? What's more to visit a four acre four hundred year old garden within the "China town" boundaries? We had a hard time limiting the photographs we took of all the ponds, paths, buildings and rock formations in that garden. We were amazed to see all the new trees planted all over China and then be told that the Chinese are replacing more trees than are lost in the worlds rain forests. The Bund, the famous and beautiful water front area, is under renovation in preparation for EXPO.

We sailed for eight days on the Yangtze River on board the Victoria Prince, a spacious lovely boat, where all cabins have a balcony with large glass patio doors. Each cabin is larger than the typical ones on river boats with TV (cable reception and nightly films), telephone and attractive furniture. The bathrooms are also large and each features a bath tub and a shower.

The food was outstanding, plentiful and the service could not be matched. At full capacity, there are two passengers for every one staff members. Besides the management and staffs excitement about hosting our dance group next year there are innumerable adequate places to dance on board. All sightseeing trips and shore excursions are prepaid (including admission fees); there are no optional tours or shore excursions sold by the ship.

Noteworthy shore excursions included a day long visit to the Yellow Mountain, Huang Shan, which included an 11,000 foot long, 3,600 foot ascent to the top of the mountain by cable car where we were treated to a lovely lunch in the mountain top hotel. The spectacular views of this mountain scenery struck us as a combination of Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. This was followed by the incomparable vistas of the Three Gorges, the Dam, and the Lesser Gorges. We went to a performance of the talented Chinese Acrobats, and a Tang Dynasty cultural dinner show. The next morning we were treated to a practice session of the shows dancers. We spent a full morning visiting the Temple of Heaven where we observed and interacted with local people enjoying themselves (games, dancing, karaoke, poetry in that lovely setting which we hated to leave.) We visited Xian and, of course, spent a lot of time marveling at the Terra Cotta Warriors and enjoyed a spectacular dinner show in a lovely dining palace. In Beijing the main sights were Tiananmen Square, the Imperial Palace and, of course, the Great Wall.

We found that dance is as important to them as it is to us and it is a big part of life in China. In all the cities that we visited we found many groups in parks and other public areas dancing under the leadership of an instructor. All of them were pleased that we showed interest in their dancing and welcomed us to join them.

Dancing on the Oregon Coast

The Oregon Coast International Dancers will be dancing on Mariner's Plaza in Old Town, Florence, OR during the summer months starting May 20, 2009 (weather permitting). This event will take place on the following Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm: May 20 and 27 (weather permitting); June 3 and 10; July 22 and 29 and August 5 through 26.

There will be instruction for the first half of the evening and anyone interested in dancing with us is welcome to come join in the fun! There is NO charge for this activity during summer. The second half of the evening will be requests and anyone can request their favorite dances.

International dance comprises dances from all over the world and requires NO partner. It is also easy to do and does not require dancing skill or previous experience. This is an inter-generational activity. If you are not inclined to dance, come anyway and bring your lawn chair to relax and to enjoy the dancing and music from all over the globe.

This event is sponsored through the courtesy of the Siuslaw Port Authority and the Oregon Coast International Dancers. A special events license has been granted by the City of Florence for this activity. For more information phone: 997-9505. In the event of rain/inclement weather this activity will be cancelled.

Letter to editor

Hi Gary,

I am one of those people who never gets in photos, dance, weddings, gatherings, etc., so you can imagine my surprise when I saw me front and center in one of the photos of CFest in Let's Dance!

Imagine my further surprise when I learned my name had been changed to Lois Eckhoff!!!!

—Toba Goddard



Photo by Zsuzsanna Kárpáti, the official photographer of
Táncháztalálkozó—courtesy of Todd Wagner

Táncháztalálkozó 2009

By Todd Wagner

From Friday April 3rd until Sunday April 5th I attended the 28th annual Táncháztalálkozó (Dance House Festival) in Budapest. This event was AWESOME, bringing teachers, musicians, dancers, and performing groups from all over Hungary, Transylvania, and Felvidék (Hungarian speaking southern Slovakia).

On Friday night was the opening concert at Hagymán-yok Háza (Traditions House) where the Hungarian State Ensemble rehearses and performs. This was a concert with music, singing, and dance performances followed by a reception with wine and cookies. My favorite acts were a group of octogenarians from Mezőség demonstrating their dances and the Zerkula Memorial band playing music from Gyimes (eastern Transylvania next to the Moldvai border) while Zsuzsana Varga, who taught at Aranykapu Tábor (camp) in California in 2005, danced with an elderly man from Gyimes. Janos Zerkula was a blind fiddler in Gyimes who passed away about a year ago in his 80s. The Zerkula Memorial band is a group of music students in their teens and early 20s who came to his home to practice every weekend in his final years. They were really good.

The main event was from 10 am-10 pm Saturday in the Sports arena, an evening ball at the Petöfi Csarnok (marketplace) in the city park from 10 pm-5 am, and then 10 am-11:30 pm Sunday back in the Sports arena. The Sports arena was great because they displayed the schedule on the scoreboard, and when you are in concentric teaching circles with several hundred people over an area half the size of a football field you could look up at the giant projection TVs and see what the teachers were doing. A large elevated stage was at the back of the main floor and the end zones had booths

selling music, costumes, shoes, and folk crafts.

Meanwhile there were other areas set up including a room for children with folk crafts, dance games, and storytelling. Another room had folklore lectures, and still another room ran documentary videos non-stop. Of course there was a kocsmá (pub). In various nooks I saw younger musicians playing, often with others singing and dancing in front of them.

On Saturday they had dozens of amateur groups performing in the main hall and the teaching was in a smaller but still huge room (only a few hundred people). Although you were much closer to the instructors in this room there was no projection video. Sunday the teaching was in the main hall. Each day they had an 8 hour period with different instructors and bands every 30 minutes. That's 32 half hour classes with different teachers and bands. These were all the best bands and were frequently matched to their specialty. For example, the gypsy band Khamoro played when they taught gypsy dances. Tükrös, a band that specializes in music from Felvidék and Szatmár, played when they taught dances from Magyarböd which is in Felvidék, etc. The instructors included Calin Orza and Erika Demeter who taught at Csipke Tábor near Detroit last summer, and Zoltan and Timea Balla who taught at Ti Ti Tábor near Seattle last summer.

Although the instructors had wireless mikes, the teaching was almost entirely non-verbal except for an occasional cue to change figures or direction. Basically the bands came in, played for 30 minutes straight, and they had a huge teaching circle. They always started teaching the basic steps in a big circle and then split us into couples. The nearest person of the opposite sex became your partner unless one of you came with someone, so getting partners was no problem.

Both Saturday and Sunday evening after the teaching there were more performances, but these were presented by more advanced amateur and professional groups. At 10 pm Saturday night the dancers headed over to the ball at the Petöfi Csarnok. This was a much smaller event, only about 1,000 people, since the parents and relatives of kids in the performing groups didn't attend.

The ball was great and at one point Szalonna (my favorite fiddler) was playing in one room, the Magyarpalatka band in another, and an odd assortment of musicians were playing in the lobby. Note that what most people, including the Federation, call Mezőségi is actually the dance from Magyarpalatka (also called "palatka"). Mezőség is a big place and we do several other dances from this region. The band from Magyarpalatka is a family enterprise – the musicians are all fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, nephews, or cousins. Although the ball went to 5 am, I was so tired I actually left at 2:30 am while Szalonna was playing one of my favorite dances

(Kalotaszegi). I did a Vajdaszentiványi and Mesőségi twice. Three dances might not sound like much but these are dance cycles that are typically 30 minutes to an hour long.

What I love most about this style of dancing is that the music is great (people often sing while dancing), the dances are authentic, and there is no choreography. The man leads and the woman follows. The dances from Vajdaszentivány, a village in the Székelyföld region of Transylvania southeast of Mezőség, include the Sebes Forduló (swift turning), Lassú Csárdás (slow dance, but not very slow), Korcsos (an odd little dance, this word can mean hybrid, mongrel, or bastard), Cigánycsárdás (gypsy dance), and Batuka (the Romanian dance, same as the Sebes Forduló but with Romanian melodies). The woman holds a scarf in her right hand which the man uses to turn her. After the band started playing Vajdaszentiványi I noticed a young woman on the sidelines holding her scarf (big hint) so I invited her to dance. We both knew the dance and for the next 40 minutes I enjoyed all 5 dances with someone I had never met. Apparently she enjoyed it too since at the end she said in English "Want dance later I like" (compared to my Hungarian this is the pinnacle of eloquence). We also did a Mezőségi (she sang most of the time). Real folk dances, real folk music, no choreography -- priceless!!!

Over both days there were probably over 10,000 people. Granted not all were dancers and musicians. A lot were families with a teen in one of the performing groups or parents that brought their child to enjoy the children's program. Nevertheless, the vast number of younger dancers, and especially younger musicians, was very encouraging. My only complaint was the floors, which were carpeted, tiled, concrete, or asphalt. Learning stamping sequences on concrete had a lot of disaster potential. Of course, what do you expect for \$12 for both days at the arena (plus another \$3.50 for the ball).

Here are a couple of other observations: Most of the Hungarian women I danced with were a little smaller than their American counterparts. Obviously this is because Hungary is on the Metric System. They also can do multiple turns without getting dizzy. My theory is that Hungarian women who couldn't turn didn't dance, never found mates, and were eliminated from the gene pool centuries ago.

The author: Todd has visited Hungary over 30 times and teaches Folkdances of Hungary and Transylvania every Wednesday night at the Menlo Park Recreation Center.



The official magazine of the Folk Dance Federation, South, Inc.

This (almost) monthly publication has folk dance events in California and elsewhere, folklore articles, recipes and lots of good reading.

To get a copy, just write to:

Gerda L. Ben-Zeev
19 Village Park Way
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Comments for the Memory Book

My name is Pearl Bujanja and I have been the member of the Sun City Folk Dancing Group for several years. I was born and raised in Croatia (a part of former Yugoslavia), and as a young child was exposed to some limited folk dancing. I often admired the professional folk dancers in my country whose performances were absolutely amazing, almost acrobatic and very dynamic in nature. I remember ensemble "Lado" one of the best in the country and widely known not only in Europe, but also all over the world. Their performances were mesmerizing and admirable, but required lot of conditioning.

Being part of the Sun City Folk Dancing group, brings back those early childhood memories, and "injects" some of the badly needed energy and enthusiasm for life, as it creates the atmosphere of cheery playfulness, allowing the bonding with the rest of the group members in a soothing and not forceful way. The sounds of the beautiful melodies, some happy, some sad, that accompany the dances, reach deep into our souls and the steps that we learn sharpen our aging brains. Many times we get carried away and flirt with our early childhood in such an innocent way. What a great way to exercise.

*Regards, Pearl Bujanja
Lincoln, Ca 95648*

HAVE AN IDEA? NEED MONEY?

The Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc has a promotion fund for the purpose of promoting and encouraging folk dancing. Grants for as much \$2000.00 can be awarded.

The committee welcomes written applications at any time. Applications must be from members of the Federation or from member clubs or organizations.

Applications must include: Name of the sponsoring individual, club or committee; time frame of the proposed project; description of the proposed project, including objectives and planned methodology; discussion of how the project is intended to promote International folk dance; and a budget, including contributions of funds from other individuals or institutions if any are anticipated.

More information can be obtained by contacting any of the following:

Ann Brown, chair, aewbrown@comcast.net
Gary Anderson, editor@letsdancemag.net
Marion Earl, marionearl@yahoo.com
Bruce Mitchell, dancebruce@aol.com
Loui Tucker, loui@loutitucker.com

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email editor@letsdancemag.net or mail to:

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Box 548,
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How to Put Your Group on the Web For Free

By Roy Butler

Well, do you need a simple web page to publicize your folk dance group or other project? Then I have just the free service for you. Google as part of their free Google accounts offer free blog pages on the web.

Information on how to get a Google account can be found here: <http://www.google.com/support/accounts/?hl=en>

Information on Blogger can be found here: <http://help.blogger.com/>

The Free blog pages that Blogger offers are easy to use and allow you to post articles and pictures to the web. When you post to the site the latest posting is set at the top of the page under the heading. This makes the blog page good for ongoing events where you are constantly updating what is happening.

A Quick How To For Blogger

Sign up for a free Google web account. Everyone should have one, not only does Google let you post free blog pages, they also have free storage for online photos and video.

Once you have signed up for a free Google account, log in to your account page and click on Blogger, which will bring you to the dashboard. On the manage blogs line you will see a link to **Create a Blog**, click on the link.

This will bring up the Name Your Blog page, here you type in the name you want to call your blog.

Under that you will find a box to type in the blog address. Type it in with no spaces, on the blog I started for updated Sacramento club articles, "Folk Dance Sacramento" the address is: <http://folkdancesacramento.blogspot.com/>

Click on check availability and check if the address is already taken. If it is, change the address and try again. Once, you have a working address, type in the code word and push the continue arrow.

This brings you to the Choose a Template Page. This lets you decide how you want the blog to look. Folk Dance Sacramento uses "Minima Black", which I have edited later to change some of the features. Choose a template, you can change this later so don't worry too much about it, and push the continue arrow.

This brings you to the blog has been created page. Read it and push the **start blogging** arrow.

This will bring you to the posting page.

Type the title of your first post into the Title bar and start writing your post into the large text box. After you have typed in what you have to say and have checked the spelling, click on the **Publish Post** button and then **view blog** when it comes up.

If you want to make changes in your blog, the bar at the top of the page has two links "new post" and "Customize".

New post lets you add another post and customize lets you change the look of your blog.

Click on customize and then click on add gadget in the side bar and choose add picture, push browse and pick a picture on your computer to post. You will now have a picture in the side bar of the blog.

The best way to learn how to do this is to get a blog and

to get started.

I have started Folk Dance Sacramento, <http://folkdancesacramento.blogspot.com/> as a clearing house for information about Greater Sacramento Area Folk Dance. If you would like to be able to post on this blog please contact me Roy Butler at patroy@ssctv.net If you start your own blog or class web page please send me the address and I will post it on the appropriate web pages.

See the following for examples of group or class blogs.

<http://introinternationaldance.blogspot.com/>

<http://changsfolkdancers.blogspot.com/>

<http://reddingfolkdance.blogspot.com/>

Using a laptop to run your dance class

By Roy Butler

Are you in charge of the music at your folk dance class? Are you tired of hauling around all of the tapes/records/minidisks/CDs that you have to? Then move up to the computer age.

Even a cheap used XP PC or Mac laptop can be used store all of your music and run all of your party and classes.

The laptop combined with a good set of powered speakers is all you need for the class.

Music Programs.

You ask yourself—do I need a special program to run the music? The answer to that is no. Both the PC and the Mac come with strong music programs. Media Player for the PC and iTunes for the Mac. Both of these programs are probably the strongest music players available for their particular computer. They both allow you to store your music, rip CDs to the library and create play lists.

Media player also allows you to change the tempo while playing the music, being digital it just changes the tempo and not the pitch, no more chipmunks, or bass sopranos.

Music

Where can you get music for you library?

For the new stuff you can either download it digitally from the web, if it is available that way, or rip it from the CD you just purchased.

Both Media Player and iTunes make it easy to insert a CD into the computer and to use the program to convert the music into computer files, (this is called ripping or to rip). All of your collection that is currently on CDs can be quickly entered into your computer that way.

If your collection consists of tapes and records, you either go through the long process of converting it to digital (this is a real time operation) or you can ask around. There are a number of us who have already started the process and have fairly large collections of digitized music. We are usually willing to share our files with you. If you already have rights to the music, in other words, if you already have a copy of the song in what ever format, we are only saving you the time it takes to digitize your own collection.

Welcome new member

We welcome the new member:

David Smart
Oakhurst, Ca

Pajduško Horo - Iglīka

Пајдушко Хоро

Bulgaria (Pirin)

Pajduško Horo - Iglīka (PIGH-doosh-koh hoh-ROH) was learned in August 2007 from Iglīka Andonova in Sofia, Bulgaria by Toba Goddard, who introduced it at the 2007 Gypsy Camp North, Camp Sacramento, CA.

Music: Any slow Bulgarian Pajduško Horo
Meter = $5/8 = 2/8 + 3/8$, counted here as 1, 2 or Q, S
Video: You Tube: Toba Goddard's presentation at the 2007 Gypsy Camp North, Camp Sacramento, Twin Bridges, CA.

Formation: Mixed lines, hands joined down in V-pos.

Styling: Body is erect; arms swing loosely, elbows straight.

MEAS.	Meter=5/8	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION (none)

PATTERN

- | | | |
|-------|-----|---|
| 1 | Q | Facing slightly R of ctr and moving in LOD, small hop on L (ct 1); |
| | S | step on R, as arms swing gently toward the center (ct <u>2</u>). |
| 2 | Q,S | Hop on R (ct 1); step on L as arms swing gently back to place (ct <u>2</u>). |
| 3 | Q,S | Small leaps R, L as arms swing to ctr (cts 1, <u>2</u>). |
| 4 | Q.S | Small leaps R, L as arms swing back to place (cts 1- <u>2</u>). |
| 5-8 | | Repeat meas. 1-4 |
| 9 | Q | Facing ctr, step R across L, as arms come up to W position (ct 1); |
| | S | step on L with emphasis (ct <u>2</u>). |
| 10-12 | | Moving RLOD, repeat meas. 9 three times |
| 13 | Q,S | Facing ctr, hop on L (ct 1); step on R (ct <u>2</u>). |
| 14 | Q | Cross L over R as arms swing down, body bent slightly fwd at waist |
| | S | (ct 1); step back on R as body straightens and arms swing up (ct <u>2</u>). |
| 15-16 | | Repeat meas 13-14 with opp ftwk, but end with arms down in V-pos. |

Repeat dance as written to the end of the music.



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TURKEY ! . . . October 17-31, 2009. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt.

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2010

ISRAEL ! . . . March 7-19, 2010. Led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman.

Meet the people of Israel, learn their songs and dances, visit historic sites. Meet and dance with Israeli, Arab, Druze, Balkan, Yemenite, Bedouin, and Kurdish cultural groups. Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Galilee. Jordan extension: March 19-22. Amman, Petra, Jerash, and more!

NORWAY ! . . . June 12-22, 2010 Led by Lee Otterholt.

Norwegian and International Dancing with breathtaking scenery in the Land of the Mountain Kings! Midsummer in Norway! Oslo, Bergen, Hovin (Telemark), Fjord Cruise, and Voss.

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Techot rechka

Russia

Techot rechka (teh-CHYOHT RECH-kah) is a women's round dance (khorovod) from central Russia, based on traditional folk dance material and set to a traditional folk song. It was choreographed by Hennie Konings and first presented by him in Germany in 1997. It was taught by Radboud Koop at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2008. The name, translated as "The little river flows," is from the first line of the accompanying song (see below): *Vdol' techot dyerevni rechka*, "The little river flows along the village."

Music: CDs: Russian Folk Dances from Hennie Konings, SFDC '08, Band 7;
 Radboud Koop: Syncoop 5758, CD 229, Band 11. 4/4 meter
 Video: Radboud Koop, Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2008

Formation: W (and respectful M) face LOD in closed circle, hands joined in V-pos.

Steps & Styling: Stamps are without weight.

Measure	4/4 meter	PATTERN
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8 INTRODUCTION (no action)

I. SMOOTH WALK AND CLOVER TURN (*Trilistnik*)

- 1-2 Starting R, walk smoothly fwd in LOD, with six equal steps in eight counts.
- 3-8 Rpt meas 1-2-1-2-1; in meas 8 turn to face ctr and release joined hands, while dancing three heavy steps in place, L,R,L,pause (cts 1,2,3,4).
- 9 Turning ¼ CW dance *Trilistnik* with tapping sounds; i.e., touch R heel, then ball of R, keeping heel on floor (cts 1,&); step R,L,R,L (cts uh,2,3,4).
- 10-12 Rpt meas 9 three times in full CW turn to face ctr, hands rejoined in V-pos.

II. TO CENTER, BACK, LOD & RLOD with *Trilishnik* and *Koviryalochka*

- 1 Moving fwd twd ctr, step R,L,R (cts 1,2,3); stamp L beside R (ct 4).
- 2-3 Step L; stamp R; step R; stamp L (cts 1,2,3,4). Rpt meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 4 Step heavily in place, R,L,R,pause, as body bends slightly fwd (cts 1,2,3,4).
- 5-8 Rpt meas 1-4, backing with opp ftwk to end stepping in place L,R,L,pause.
- 9-12 Rpt Fig I, meas 9-12, turning 1¼ CW to face LOD, hands rejoined in V-pos.
- 13-20 Moving fwd in LOD, rpt ftwk of Fig I, meas 1-8, but end facing LOD.
- 21 Step slightly fwd on R, knee slightly bent (ct 1); tap L toe behind R (ct 2); turning L leg out, pivot CCW on R to face ctr (ct 3); tap L heel to L (ct 4). This toe-heel movement is called *Koviryalochka*, meaning "picking-step."
- 22 Facing ctr, dance three heavy steps (L,R,L,pause) in place (cts 1,2,3,4).
- 23-24 Raise turned-in R slightly, tap R toe to R, raise turned-out R, tap R heel to R (cts 1,2,3,4); three heavy steps in place facing ctr: R,L,R,pause (cts 1,2,3,4).
- 25-36 Repeat meas 13-24 with opp ftwk and direction.

Sequence: Repeat Fig II; then repeat Fig II, meas 1-8.

Song - Techot rechka

<u>Lyrics (Figure II)</u>	<u>Meas</u>	<u>Translation</u>
Vdol' dyerevni techot rechka, techot – nye kanchayetsya. Ya lyublyu yevo vsho krepche a on nye vlyublyayetsya, oh!	1-2 3-4 5-6 7-8	A river flows along a village, Flows – does not end. I love him stronger and stronger But he does not fall in love with me, oh!
Na garye shumyat sashonki, s polya vyeyet svyezhestnyu A u milava glazhonki galubiye s nyzhnyestnyu, oh!	13- -20	Pine trees murmur at a mountain And freshness breathes from a field But the eyes of my darling Are light blue and so tender, oh!
Miliy lovkastnyu khvalilsha, v sad palyez, drazdom svistyl. Za agradu zatsepilsha i da zor'ki pravishel, oh!	25- -32	My darling swaggered about his deftness He was getting into a garden, whistling like a thrush. He is caught by a fence, And was hanging til the daybreak, oh!
At vyetrov byeryozka gnyotsya rozha pa polyu styelyetsya. Miliy v vyernasti klyanyotsya, tol'ka mnye nye vyeritsya, oh!	1- -8	A birch is bent by winds Rye creeps along a field. My darling vows fidelity, But I find it hard to believe, oh!
Oj, padruzhenjki, moj Vanya, stal rasheyanniyy takoy. Ka mnye khodit na svidanye, a tseluyecha s drugoy, oh!	13- -20	Oh, you know my girlfriends, my Vanya became so scattered, He comes for a date with me But kisses another, oh!
Ty, nye khvasti, miliy Vanya, luhe dyelay dyela v srok Yesli lyubish, na svidanye nye khadi k drugoy, družhok, oh!	25- -32	Do not boast, sweet-heart Vanya, better make you deeds at time, When you love me. do not go dating With another, my little boyfriend, oh!
Vdol' dyerevni techot rechka, techot – nye kanchayetsya. Ya lyublyu yevo vsho krepche a on nye vlyublyayetsya, oh!	1- -8	A river flows along a village, Flows – does not end. I love him stronger and stronger But he does not fall in love with me, oh!

Where to dance

Federation clubs

CENTRAL STATE

Bay Osos International Folk Dancers. Tuesday afternoons, 1-3 pm. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Avenue, Los Osos. First hour is beginner-intermediate instruction, 2nd hour is all request. For information call Anne Tiber, 805-534-1501 or email: anetiber@charter.net

NORTH STATE

Humboldt Folk Dancers meet Fridays from 8:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 11th and G Streets in Arcata. All levels of dancers are welcome and you don't need a partner. Instruction from 8 - 9:30 followed by request dancing. Every First Friday of the month (except January and July) live music with 2-3 bands. For more information, go to www.humboldtfolk dancers.org.

Redding Folk Dancers meet every Friday (except during July and August) from 7:00 to 9:45 p.m. at the Redding Ballet Academie, 1726 Market St., Redding. All levels of dancers welcome. Easy warm-up dances start at 7:00, instruction is from 7:30 to 8:30, and request dances follow. For more information, call Julie at (530) 547-4071 or e-mail Jan at jmwright32@frontiernet.net

SOUTH STATE

West L.A. Folk Dancers meet Mondays and Fridays, 7:45-10:30 pm. Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. in West Los Angeles. Info: Beverly Barr 310-202-6166, email: dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL

Chang International Folk Dancers, Inc. Meets the first four Fridays of each month at the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of 31st Avenue and Clement Street, San Francisco. Teaching on the first two Fridays followed by general dancing, 8:00-10:30 pm., Third Friday is party night, 8:00-11:00 PM. Fourth Friday is **Family Folk Dance Night** at 7:00 pm, followed by general dancing, 8:30-10:30 pm. Contact Sidney Messer, 415-332-1020.

Greek Folk Dancing. Meets every Monday at the Presidio Dance Academy, 1158 Gorgas Rd. at Marshall. Adjacent to Crissy Field, San Francisco. 8:00-10:00 pm. First hour is teaching and second hour is practice. Contact Mary Ann Karonis, 510-530-5140 makaronis@earthlink.net or www.greekfeet.com

Mandala Folk Dance Center. Meets every Thursday at St. Paul's Church Hall, 43rd & Judah, San Francisco, 7:30-8:15 pm. Request dancing, 8:15-9:00 pm. Intermediate teaching from 9:00-9:45 pm. Request dancing from 9:45-11:00 pm. First and last Thursdays are always Party Nights. Contact Edith or Paul at 415-648-8489.

San Francisco Dance Circle. Meets every Wednesday 10:00 — 11:30 a.m. at The Polish Club, 2040 22nd Street at Shotwell. Lines, sets, partners, trios—we do it all. Beginners welcome! Contact: Ann Colichidas at 415-902-7690. Free parking, public transportation.

SAN FRANCISCO HALL RENTAL

Polish Club of San Francisco—Event venue available. Weddings, meetings, dance workshops, seminars, parties, receptions, etc. Full kitchen, dance floor, 2 large meeting rooms, tables, chairs, stage. Limited free parking. Info & reservations 415-285-4336 or 415-821-2574, email staff@polishclub.org

MODESTO

Every Wed. night—Modesto Folk Dancers meet at Raube Hall in Ceres. 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Cost \$3.00 per person. Contacts: Floyd Davis and Barbara Summers (209-578-5551 for directions)

Every Friday night—Village Dancers of Modesto meet at Sylvan

Elementary School auditorium, 2908 Coffee Road, Modesto. 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Cost \$5.00 per night per person (students \$1.00). Contacts Don and Judy Kropp (209) 847-4439 and Floyd Davis and Barbara Summers.

Every Saturday—Modesto Tango (Argentine) meets at Modesto Fitness & Racquet Club, 200 Norwegian Ave. (off McHenry), Modesto. Cost \$12 per person. Beginning lesson at 12:30 pm. Contact Mary Menz 209-522-1571.

Every Monday—Modesto Tango meets at Jacob's Restaurant, 2501 McHenry Ave, Modesto, for a practice and social dancing. 8 to 10 pm. No fee, but participants are encouraged to order food and/or drinks. Contact Mary Menz 209-522-1571.

ALBANY

Albany Y Balkan Dancers. Every Friday, all levels, instruction 8:00 to 9:00 pm, all request dancing until 11:00 pm. 921 Kains Street, just south of Solano, off San Pablo Ave., Albany. Contact Kay James, 925-376-0727.

BERKELEY

Advanced Balkan Dance class. Every third Sunday, 2-4:00 pm in the Rear Dance Studio at Ashkenaz. A few year's dancing experience is needed. Experienced instructors, friendly people. Entry via the left hand door at Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. Information: Gary Anderson, 415-488-9197 days or email: editor@lets-dancemag.net

Cape Breton Step Dance at Ashkenaz—2nd Sundays, beginners, 1:00 pm, experienced dancers, 2-4 pm. Ashkenaz Music and Dance, back studio, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. For info call Bob Schultheisz 209-745-9063, bobschul@softcom.net

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS. All classes are held at Live Oak Park Recreation Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA. 7:45 — 9:45 pm. Contact Naomi Lidicker at 510-524-2871.

July 17. Fun Night "T-party on July 17, 2009." BFD's Beginner Class will host a T Party or Tryst, if you will, from 7:30 - 10:30 PM at the above address. Tariff will be \$5. We will Try to Titillate you with a Terrific Time. Telephone Claire and Al George 510-841-1205.

June 18 through Aug. 6. Open house on Thursdays for all ages at the above address from 7:30-9:30 PM. \$5 — adults, \$2 — child accompanied by adults. Contact , Claire and Al George 510-841-1205.

No dancing for three weeks at BFD from Aug. 17 until Sept. 8.

September 10. BFD's New Beginners' Class starts.

Weekly class schedules:

Mondays—Intermediate, Lone Coleman 510-526-5886 and Tom Sha, 510-614-5522

Tuesdays—Beginners, Claire and Al George 510-841-1205

Wednesdays—Advanced Intermediate, Judy Stonefield 510-655-3074 and Yaqi Zhang 510-525-1865

Fridays—Requests. Contact Peter and Lynne D'Angelo 510-654-3136

OAKLAND

Scandiadans—Thursdays. 7-10 pm at the Nature Friends, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland, Ca. From Highway 13 take the Joaquin Miller exit. Drive East (up the hill) on Joaquin Miller about a mile. Take the second Right onto Butters Drive. Follow Butters 0.4 mile. On the Right is a sign reading SCANDIADANS. Turn into the driveway and go down into a large parking area. The clubhouse is ahead on the Right. Contact: Frank and Jane Tripi 510 654-3636 or fjtripi@juno.com

Scandia Saturday. Four times a year. March and May 2009. Location: Nature Friends, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland. Donation is \$7, or \$10 in December. Scandinavian couple turning dances. Everyone is welcome. Info: Jane Tripi 510-654-3636 or fjtripi@juno.com.

PENINSULA COUNCIL

June 20. Peninsula FD Council Party. 8 pm. \$7.00, free refreshments. Bring a little finger food to share. St. Bede's Church, Sand Hill Rd. at Monte Rosa, Menlo Park. Info: 408-252-8106 or 650-494-1631.

Mostly Balkan. Thursdays, teaching 7:45 to 8:45, request dancing 8:45 to 10:15. \$6.00. Menlo Park Recreation Center. Information: Sue 408-247-2420 or Derek 650-851-8498.

Menlo Park Folk Dancers Parties—June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 12, December 31. Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma at Mielke in Menlo Park. Preceded by a potluck starting at 6:00 pm, call for location. 8:00 pm until midnight. Lots of dancing in two halls. Free refreshments provided. \$7.00. 700 Alta St. near Ravenswood Ave, Menlo Park. Call Marcel Vinokur at 650-327-0759 for details.

Tuesdays—Menlo Park Folk Dancers. Classes, International, Beg., 7:00, Inter. 7:30, requests 8:30 pm. Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Marcel Vinokur 650-327-0759

Palomanians IFD—Class on Tuesdays at Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma St near Ravenswood, Menlo Park. Intermediate and advanced partner and non-partner dances. Denise Heenan, instructor. Info 408 252-8106.

Carriage House FD—class on Wednesdays at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton. Teaching 7:45 - 9:00. Requests 9:00 to 10:00 or so. Suzanne Rocca-Butler, instructor (650) 854-3184.

Docey Doe FD—Note new location—class on Wednesdays, 8:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 2915 Broadway (corner of Brewster) in Redwood City. Bruce Wyckoff, instructor 650-368-7834.

Santa Clara Valley Folk Dancers Parties—May 16. St Bebe's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Rd. at Monte Rosa, Menlo Park. Parking entrance from Monte Rosa. Starts at 8:00 pm. Free refreshments, only \$7.00. Info at 408.739-0500.

FRESNO FOLK DANCES

Tuesdays—Fresno Danish Dancers. Clovis Senior Center. 6:30-9:00 pm. Contact Wilma Andersen, 559-291-3176.

Wednesdays—McTeggett Irish Dancers. Beginners: 5:30-6:30 pm. Intermediate and Advanced: 7:00-8:00 pm. Contact Maureen Hall, 559-271-5200.

First, Third & Fifth Saturdays—International Dancers. 8:00 to 10:00 pm at California Arts Academy, 4750 N. Blackstone near Gettysburg Street, Fresno. Info: Marty 559-227-7051, Gary 559-439-1416

REDWOOD COUNCIL

Napa Valley Folk Dancers. Telephone contact: 707-255-6815. Napa Valley College, 2277 Napa-Vallejo Highway, Napa, 94558. Party Every 4th Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Novato Folk Dancers Class - Telephone contact: 415-892-9405. Lynwood School, 1320 Lynwood Dr., Novato, 94947. Every Wednesday 8 - 10 p.m.

Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers Folk Dance Class, Mondays 7-9:15 p.m., at Herman Sons Hall, 860 Western Ave, Petaluma. Telephone contact: Carol Friedman 415-663-9512, cjay@horizoncable.com <http://carolfriedmanfolkdance.blogspot.com/>

Santa Rosa Folk Dancers Class - Telephone contact: 707-546-8877. Willowside Hall, 5299 Hall Road, Santa Rosa. Every Wednesday 1:15-3:15 p.m. except June - Aug.

Snap-Y Dancers (Sonoma). Beginners welcome! Seven Flags Clubhouse, 1400 W. Watmaugh Rd., Sonoma, 95476. Thursdays 7:00-9:00 pm. **through April.** Contact Paul Smith 707-996-1467 for summer schedule.

Petaluma International Folk Dancers party dates: July 11, Sept.

5, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Sunday-Dec. 13. 2:00 to 6:00 pm at Herman Sons Hall, Petaluma. For more info: 707-546-8877.

Balkan Dancers of Marin—Every Thursday. 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. One hour program dancing, one hour all request. Teaching every first Thursday with reviews following weeks. 4140 Redwood Highway, San Rafael. Info: call Irene Croft 415-456-0786 or Anne Arend 415-892-9405

Kopachka. Fridays, 8:00—10:00 pm. Easier dances taught 8:00-8:30. Scout Hall, 177 East Blithedale in Mill Valley. Programmed & request dances. Contact Frank Tripi (510) 654-3636 or Margaret Harrison (415) 453-6334.

RENO

RENO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CO-OP. Beg. & Int. International. 7:15-8:30 pm. 1st Congregational Church, 627 Sunny-side Dr., Reno. Party First Saturday, 7-9:30 pm, at the Nevada Dance Academy, 1790 4th St., off Keystone, Reno. Contact: 775-677-2306 or wigand@gbis.com

SACRAMENTO

PONY EXPRESS DANCE CLUB Country-western, couple & line. First Saturday of Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr, May, Jun, Sept, Oct, Nov, & Dec. Lesson 7-8pm. Open dance 8-11:00pm. Arcade Creek Recreation & Park District Hall, 4855 Hamilton Street (I-80 & Madison Ave), Sacramento. Members \$5 & Non-members \$7. Contact: 916-212-4654 or cerponyexpress@aol.com.

IRISH AMERICAN CEILI DANCERS. Irish folk dancing. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Ethel M. Harte Senior Center, 915 27th Street, Sacramento. Contact Helen Healy 916-444-3181
Where to dance in the Greater Sacramento Area

SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE & ARTS COUNCIL

Website: www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil/

*indicates "Beginner-friendly class"

(Note: Federation members are in bold type, others do not belong to the Federation.)

***CONTRA DANCE.** All levels. No partner needed. All dances taught & prompted. Always live music! Held in Sacramento, Auburn, Nevada City, Chico, Sonoma, Guinda, and Cool. See schedule online at <http://www.scds.ca> or call 916-739-6014 or 916-371-0739.

MONDAY

***El Dorado International Dance.** Scandinavian class. All levels, couple. Beginners 7-9:30 pm. Hamilton St. Park, 4855 Hamilton St., Sacramento. Contact: 530-672-2926. website: www.folkdance.com/scandi

HOROS. Mostly-Balkan, non-partner, intermediate & advanced. 7:30 -9:30 pm. Coloma Community Ctr., 4623 T St., Sacramento. Contact: 916-731-4675

TUESDAY

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** Beg. & Int. International, line & couple. 7:00-10:00 pm. IOOF Hall, 467 Main St., Placerville. Contact: 530-622-7301 or 530-644-1198.

***TUESDAY DANCERS.** 1:00-3:00 pm. Hamilton St. Park, 4855 Hamilton St, Sacramento. Contact 530-888-6586 or 916-923-1555.

WEDNESDAY

CALICO FOLK DANCERS. Beg. & Int. International, line & couple. 3:00-4:30 pm. Mission Oaks Ctr., 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. Contact: 916-487-0413 or 916-923-1555

KOLO KOALITION. Mostly Balkan, Intermediate, non-partner. 7:30-10:00 pm. YLI Hall, 27th & N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-739-6014.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY CAPE BRETON STEP DANCERS.

All levels. 5:30-7:00 pm. Sierra 2 Community Center, Studio 1, 2791 24th St., Sac. Contact: 209-745-9063, website: www.softcom.net/users/bobschul/index.html

VINTAGE DANCERS OF SACRAMENTO. Late 1800s to early 1900s, couple. 7:30-9:30 pm. (Sept.- May) Hamilton St. Park, 4855 Hamilton St., Sacramento. Contact: 916-446-6290 or 530-888-6586

THURSDAY

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** Teens Plus class. All levels Couple and line. 7-8:30 pm. 3100 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs. Contact 530-677-1134.

***PAIRS & SPARES.** Beg. & Int. International, Rounds, Squares, & Contrasts. 7:30-9:30 pm. (Sept.-June). Babcock School, 2400 Cormorant Way, Sacramento. Party 2nd Sat. 7-10 PM. Golden Palms Mobilehome Estates Activity Rm., 8181 Folsom Bl., Sacramento. Contact: 916-428-6992

FRIDAY

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** Beg. & Int. 7:00-9:00 pm. Marshall Grange, 4940 Marshall Grade, Garden Valley. Contact: 530-622-6470.

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** All levels, Couple & Line. 8:00-10:30 pm. 3100 Ponderosa Rd., Shingle Springs. Contact: 530-677-1134

***EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL DANCE.** Parent's class. Beg. Couple and line, International. 7:30-8:30 pm. 3100 Ponderosa Road, Shingle Springs. Contact 530-677-1134.

***NEVADA COUNTY FOLK DANCERS.** Beg. & Int. International & Balkan. Selected Fridays. 8-? pm. Methodist Church, 433 Broad St., Nevada City. Contact: 530-272-2149

***ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** 7:30 pm. YLI Hall, 1400 27th St. at N, Sacramento. Contact 916-716-3696.

***SACRAMENTO COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** All levels. 1st Fridays. 7:30-11:00 pm. Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra Bl., Sacramento. Contact 916-739-6014. Website: www.scds.ca

SATURDAY

BBKM. Party, All Levels, Mostly-Balkan, Non-Partner. 3rd Sat. monthly except July & Aug. 8-11 pm. YLI Hall, 27th & N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-923-1555

FIRST & LAST DANCERS. Country-Western, Couple & Line. Last Sat. of Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., Sept., Oct., & Nov. 8 pm-Midnight. Valley Oaks Grange, 5th & D, Galt. May, June, July, Aug. & Dec.: special dates & times. Contact: 916-682-2638

KOLO KOALITION. Party, All Levels, Mostly Balkan, Non-Partner. 1st Sat. monthly. 8:00-11:00 pm. YLI Hall, 27th & N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-739-6014

PAIRS & SPARES. Party, International. 2nd Sat. monthly except June, July & Aug. 7:00-10:00 pm. Golden Palms Mobilehome Estates Activity Room, 8181 Folsom Bl., Sacramento. This is a gated community. Planned late arrivals should contact for the gate code number to open the gate which is closed at 7:00 pm. Contact: 916-428-6992 or 916-682-2638.

***ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** 7:30 pm. YLI Hall, 1400 27th St. at N, Sacramento. Contact 916-716-3696.

***SACRAMENTO COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.** All levels. 2nd & 4th Sat. 7:30-11:00 pm. Coloma Community Ctr., 4623 T St., Sacramento. Contact 916-739-6014. Website: www.scds.ca

***SACRAMENTO VALLEY CAPE BRETON STEP DANCERS.** 3rd Sat. monthly. All levels. 1-5 pm Galt. Call for location. Contact 209-745-9063. Website: www.softcom.net/users/bobschul/index.html

SUNDAY

***DAVIS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS.** All levels. Mostly non-partner Balkan & International. 7:00-10:00 pm, Davis Art Center, 1919 F st., Davis. Contact: 530-756-4100 or 530-758-0863. Website: www.davisfolkdance.org

***ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE.** All levels. 1st Sun. monthly. 2-5 pm. Masonic Temple, 235 Vernon St., Roseville. Contact: 916-739-6014. Website: www.scds.ca

***ISRAELI plus SOCIAL DANCES OF THE WORLD.** Beg. & Int. International line & couple. 3rd & 4th Sun. monthly except July & Aug. 4-6 Israeli 2:00-3:30 pm. International 3:30-5:00 pm. YLI Hall, 1400-27th St. at N, Sacramento. Contact: 916-371-4441 or 916-632-8807.

EXHIBITION GROUPS. Contact the following, if interested, for further information.

ALPENTANZER SCHUHPLATTNER, Austrian exhibition group. Contact 916-988-6266 Website: www.alpentanzer.org

BALLIAMO. Italian performing group. Contact: 916-482-8674

CAMTIA. German/Bavarian exhibition group. Contact: 916-933-4619 or 530-888-6586. Website: www.geocities.com/camtiafest/

CAPER DUCK. Cape Breton Step Dance (Scottish Hard Shoe). Contact: 209-745-9063. Website www.softcom.net/users/bobschul/index.html

EL DORADO SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS. Contact 530-672-2926.

STEPPING OUT WITH THE CAPER KIDS. Scottish. Contact 916-786-8448. Website: www.steppingout.org

TANCE EL DORADO. International. Teens plus. Contact 530-677-1134.

VIENNESE WALTZ SOCIETY. Contact: 916-395-8791 Website: www.waltz@strauss.net

VINTAGE DANCERS OF SACRAMENTO. Late 1800s to early 1900s. Couple. Contact 530-888-6586.

ZADO SINGERS. Performing group singing songs of Eastern Europe & beyond. Contact: 916-923-1555 Website: www.ercregistry.com/zadosingers

Note: Information is subject to change. Telephone contact numbers for current information.

For information on other Federation activities call 510-524-2871

Other groups and classes—

BAY AREA—

Rina Israeli Dance. Everyone is welcome. Thursdays, Beginners 10:00 am, Intermediates 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael. For information call 415-444-8000.

Stockton in Exile—First and third Sundays. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. All requests, mostly Stockton dances. Saratoga School of Dance, 18776 Cox Ave., Saratoga. Call to confirm, Marion Earl 650-793-1166.

Folkdances of Hungary and Transylvania—Wednesdays 8:00 to 10:30 pm. Todd Wagner and Sarah Tull. \$7.00 drop-in. Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park. Call for info: 650-941-0227 or email todd@wagnerhaz.com

Point Reyes International Folk Dance. Wednesdays 7-8:15 pm at the Dance Palace, 503 B Street, Pt. Reyes Station. Contact Carol Friedman 415-663-9512 for information. cjay@horizoncable.com Blog: <http://carolfriedmanfolkdance.blogspot.com/>

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NOTE

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Mel Mann, folk dancer & organizer c/o BERKELEY TRAVEL
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