

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING ♣ APRIL 2018

BAY AREA DANCE WEEK? From Santa Rosa to Saratoga, we've got it covered!



April 27-May 6

Join Hands for World Dance

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GREEK DANCING**

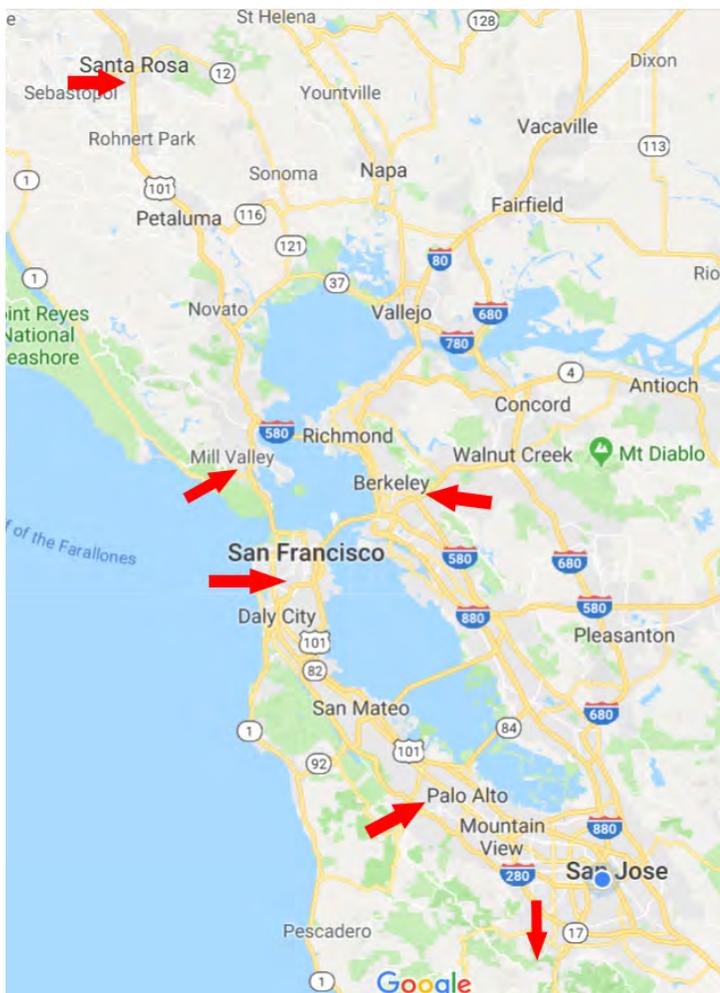
Afternoon World Dance

Family Folk Dance Party

Balkans and Beyond

Scandinavian Dance Party

May Day Dance Celebration



Around the World with Easy Partner Mixers

ALL DANCE – ALL WEEK – ALL FREE – see p. 13!



WANT PDF? – Please see Page 3!



Let's Dance!

Volume 75, No. 4
April 2018

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

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

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

The Folk Dance Federation Treasurer
226 Alameda de las Pulgas
Redwood City, CA 94062

Join now: Membership rates:

Individual \$35/year (add \$15 for foreign addresses)
Family rate \$45/year
Student rate \$25/year (26 or under and at least half time)
Group/Club rate \$40/year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:
Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.
Alicia La Fetra, 1614 Peacock Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|----|
| Calendar of Events | 4 |
| Dance Description: Ec Ec | 21 |
| Federation News | 19 |
| History Channel – Exploring Old Issues | 17 |
| Kopachkas Love Dancing to Live Music. | 12 |
| Let's Dance Survey | 3 |
| Letters to the Editor | 7 |
| News from Around the Bay and Beyond | 10 |
| Photo Archives. | 17 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| Statewide Registration Form | 15 |
| Unexpected Portuguese Adventure | 6 |
| Why Did You Start Folk Dancing? | 8 |

The deadline for *Let's Dance!* is the first day of the month prior to the date of publication. We welcome submissions, letters and comments from our readers.

Please send to: Loui Tucker, Editor (editor@folkdance.com)

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

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

| | ¼ page | ½ page | full page |
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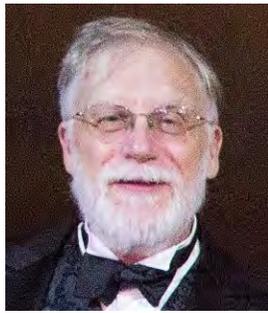


Michael Ginsburg taught a big crowd of dancers at the Festival of the Oaks 2018. *Photo by A. Partos.*

President's Message

by Joe Croco

As you may have noticed on the front page, and below on this page, we are asking if you would prefer to have *Let's Dance!* emailed to



you as a PDF. As of now, the Federation Board is discussing the possibility of letting Federation members get *Let's Dance!* as a PDF, but there is **no plan** to make this happen immediately. The Board is gathering data on how many would prefer digital distribution, which will give the Board information and provide context for the discussion.

On another topic, I have wondered why partner dancing seems to be considered dead or unpopular by a portion of the folk dancing population. In the world outside folk dancing, partner dances are popular; just look at TV and the movies. What is the reason for the apparent conflict between line dances and couple dances in our community? I would like to get some feedback from our members.

Do you like solo dances (no physical connection to others), couple dances (physical connection to one other person at a time), or line dances (physical connection to many others)? Can you state a reason for your preference?

When we talk about couple dances we have to consider that there are two types. There are the choreographed dances in which the dancers know their specific part (Bohemian National Polka, Salty Dog Rag) and there are those that are lead-and-follow (waltz, Mezősegi). Do you like both choreographed and free-style dances or do you have a preference? Why?

Do you think couple dances are less fun than line dances? Do you prefer line dances because, even though couple dances are fun, it is hard to find a partner? Do you like couple dances because you have a consistent partner or other partners are available to you? Does it irritate you to sit out a couple dance because partners are not available? Would you like couple dances more if you were confident of finding a partner? Does it matter if there is live music?

I remember that when I started dancing in the 1970s I didn't like couple dances, but my opinion changed over time and with more exposure.

There must be valid reasons why dancers prefer couple or solo/line dances and I would really like to hear from people. You can send your input to me at president@folkdance.com.

FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The summer dance camps are almost upon us: **Razzmatazz, Scandia, Folklore, Balkan, Stockton, Lark, Mainwoods, Pinewoods, and more!** Wouldn't it be a shame to miss a major event for lack of funds?



The Folk Dance Federation offers scholarships to ALL dance camps and workshops. Apply at www.folkdance.com, under the **Services** tab.

If there are new dancers in your club, encourage them to join the Federation and apply for a scholarship. Download a copy of the form and hand it to them, along with a registration form for your favorite dance workshop or camp.

WANT PDF?

The Federation Board is discussing delivering *Let's Dance!* magazine as a PDF.

Would you prefer receiving Let's Dance! as a PDF instead of a printed magazine?

If you would prefer PDF, please email Clem Dickey, Federation Secretary at clemd@acm.org or phone him at 408-537-3352.

NO CHANGE in delivery of *Let's Dance!* is being made at this time.
This is for the purpose of gathering data.

April 2018 Calendar of Events

We reserve the right to edit all submissions; we assume no responsibility for accuracy. Send future events information to Loui Tucker, Editor editor@folkdance.com. Additional events can be found at www.folkdance.com (Community tab). The deadline for listings is one month prior to the magazine date.

- March 31** **BALKAN PLUS FOLK DANCE PARTY.** Unitarian Universalist Church, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael. 7:30-11 pm. \$10. Info: Gary Anderson wildwood_press@comcast.net. (With apologies to Gary for failing to include this entry in last month's calendar.)
- April 14** **PENINSULA COUNCIL SPRING FOLK DANCE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 7:00-10:30 pm. \$9. 7:15-8:00: Pre-party dance workshop with Loui Tucker teaching Krivatvorena and Salamati, both non-partner dances. Requests dance party starts at 8 pm.
- April 21** **SPRING FOLK DANCE PARTY.** Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. \$10. 7:30-10:30 pm. First hour recorded music, then live music with Staro Vino. Sponsored by Petaluma Snap-Y Dancers. Info: 415-663-9512 or cjay@horizoncable.com.
- April 22** **ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE WORKSHOP.** Bruce Hamilton and Alan Twigg will be guest teachers. St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 3-8:30 pm. Sponsored by the Moveable Feet. Info: LucySChang@gmail.com.
- April 27-May 6** **BAY AREA DANCE WEEK.** Throughout the San Francisco Bay Area! To help promote dance, many Bay Area Federation member groups are generously opening their folk dance classes free to the public during Bay Area Dance Week. All events are FREE and it's a great opportunity to introduce your wanna-be dancer friends to our community. Visit bayareadance.org for more information. See ad with a list of all local venues on p. 13.
- April 29** **2018 BLOSSOM FESTIVAL.** City College of San Francisco, Wellness Center, Third Floor, Studio 301, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco. 12:30-5:00 pm. It's FREE because it is part of Bay Area Dance Week. Folk Dance Federation General Assembly and Election of Officers at 10:30 am. Dances for All Ages (Beginners) 12:30-1:30 pm. General Dancing 1:30-5 pm. Info: crb2crb@comcast.net or 650-359-7486. See the ad on p. 18.
- May 12** **PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL PARTY.** St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. \$9. 7:15-8:00: Pre-party workshop with Ann Kleiman and Lon Radin teaching a Serbian dance from the Heritage Festival. 8:00-10:30: All request party, Lucy Chang MC.
- May 18-20** **THE 2018 STATEWIDE FESTIVAL.** The Masonic Temple, 1123 J Street in Sacramento. Featured teachers are Steve Kotansky (Balkan line dances) and Bruce Hamilton (English Country set dances). The Saturday Night Balkan party includes an exhibition of Croatian dances, singing by Skalinada, and live music by Chubritza. Book a room at the host hotel, Best Western Sutter House, 1100 H Street in Sacramento, just two blocks from the Masonic Temple. Full schedule and menu for the two lunches are available at folkdance.com. See registration form and additional information on pp. 14-15.

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- *ROMANIA: July 1-12, 2018. Led by Lee Otterholt
- *SCOTLAND: September 9-22, 2018. Led by Richard Schmidt
- *SPAIN: October 11-22, 2018. Led by Jim Gold with Lee Friedman

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AN UNEXPECTED PORTUGUESE ADVENTURE

by Marilyn Smith

My grandma Rose was Portuguese; both her parents and grandparents were from the Azores, islands in the Atlantic 900 miles west of Portugal. My parents used to go to dinners and dances at the Portuguese Hall in Vallejo when I was very little, although I don't remember this. They said I would sleep under the tables while they danced.

In July 1977, I went to the Smotra Folklore Festival in Zagreb, Croatia. Among the dozens of folk dance groups was one from a small village called Monsanto, Portugal. I filmed their performance with my 8mm movie camera, and then forgot about it for awhile. Some time later I pulled out the film, wrote down the name of the folk dance group – Rancho Folclorico de Monsanto – and decided to write to them. I had no address or a name of the leader of the group, but I wrote a short letter addressed just to *Rancho Folclorico, Monsanto, Portugal*. I explained that I was of Portuguese descent and a folk dance teacher at a California community college and that I had seen them perform in Zagreb. I was interested in possibly visiting Monsanto and learning some of the dances and songs. Was there someone there who could help me?

I shortly got a reply from the director, Joaquim Fonseca. He invited me to come to Monsanto, stay with his family, and they would teach me their dances. I didn't know exactly where Monsanto was. This was before the internet and I couldn't find it on any map of Portugal. He told me to fly to Lisbon, take a train to the town of Castelo Branco (about 35 miles from Monsanto) and he would meet me there and take me to Monsanto. I told him I would wear a red dress so he could identify me. In July 1979, I set out for Portugal.

Before I left, I wanted to hear a little more music from Portugal and I found a Folkways/Smithsonian LP of Portuguese music with regional singers and musicians that included music from the region where I was going, Beira Baixa.

I arrived in Lisbon, found a train going to Castelo Branco, and the hotel concierge kindly phoned Joaquim to let him know when I would arrive. When I got off the train in my red dress, a young man around my age approached me. I think we were both surprised to see that we were contemporaries! He later told me he

thought I would be an older professor with a briefcase in my hand; he seemed pleased that I was a woman close to his age in a red dress and no briefcase.

We wound our way through the valley east of Castelo Branco and Joaquim stopped the car and, looking up, he said, "That is Monsanto." What I saw before me was a huge mountain made up mostly of gigantic boulders. This is where I was going. Many of the streets in the village of Monsanto are very narrow



The village of Monsanto. Photo from the internet.

and it wasn't unusual to see donkeys carrying provisions for the locals. Joaquim and his family lived in a modern house on the lower level of the mountain, accessible by car. Above, there were tiny houses built into the boulders, the rocks often serving as roofs.

I was introduced to his wife, their small children, and their grandmother who lived with them. Though I

didn't speak Portuguese, Joaquim spoke some English and I used my high school Spanish to communicate as best I could.

One night Joaquim arranged a dance party. Many people from the village came and the local dancers would do a dance while I watched. Then they said it was my turn to dance with them. Some of the dances had the feel of Galician dances I had seen. Later that night as we were walking back home, the grandmother said to me in Portuguese, "You dance as if you were born here."

In this village, many of the women play a hand-held frame drum called an adufe. It looks much like a square tambourine, of North Africa origin. They sing songs with the adufe tapping out the rhythm,



An adufe. Photo from the internet.

continued on the next page

AN UNEXPECTED PORTUGUESE ADVENTURE

continued from p. 6

sometimes accompanied by an accordion. I have a wonderful 8mm sound movie of the grandmother and me playing adufes. When I left Monsanto, the grandmother gave me an adufe of my own which I still have.

One afternoon, Joaquim drove me to a neighboring village called Penha Garcia. He wanted me to meet a woman who was famous for her singing and he wanted me to record her singing a special song about St. John (São João). We sat in her small living room and I turned on my tape recorder as she began to sing. The only other sound was her clock chiming at the top of the hour.

When I returned home to California, I picked up that Smithsonian/Folkways record I had bought before going to Portugal. I now recognized the cover photo on the album, though the photo meant nothing to me when I bought it. The cover photo was of Monsanto, the mountain village in the boulders! Then I turned the album over and read the list of songs featured on the album. There was a song from the village of Penha Garcia, the same song about São João, sung by the same woman whose house I visited. I got my tape recorder out and pushed the play button as I put the needle down on the record. The tunes played simultaneously and in perfect unison except for one difference: my recording had the clock chiming in the background.

qualification tests and issue certificates to allow people to join a line? Otherwise, I guess we are going to be relegated to the back of the bus!

I am not talking about a set dance such as a Scottish dance, which I agree should be done only by people who know it or have sympathetic dancers to help them. I often try to bring in novices into a line when the music for a simple dance like a Syrto is being played. Who cares if the new dancer makes mistakes? Of course, everyone has his or her complexity limit. I wouldn't join an acrobatic Georgian dance. But, the decision has to be based on common sense in a particular situation instead of following a rigid rule.

As for some novices not knowing how to hold hands, I can point out people who have been dancing literally for decades who still don't know how to hold hands or how to move their arms up and down. They crush my hands all the time and some have inadvertently tried to pull one of my arms out of its socket on more than one occasion.

If you are doing a performance, nobody wants to interfere. But, if it is a social dance, please just relax and be more tolerant of novices or those who may not know a particular dance perfectly.

– Armen Gabrielian

"And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music."

– Friedrich Nietzsche



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I had missed the letter by the unnamed "Cranky old dancer" in the December 2017 issue of *Let's Dance!* and I was motivated to respond to the Letter to the Editor by Denise Heenan in the January 2018 issue. Both complained about how poor little novice dancers are getting in their way. But, when I saw the president of the Folk Dance Federation repeat the same line in the February 2018 issue, I was beside myself. It reminded me of Dick Crum's old observation:

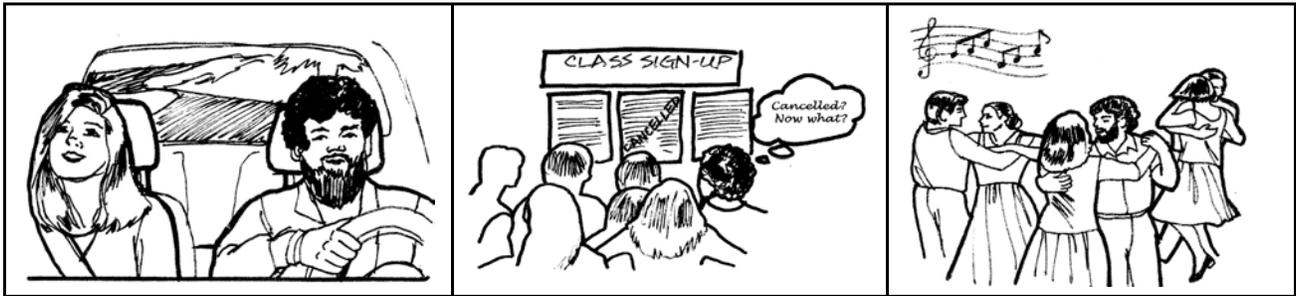
- Beginning Dancer: knows nothing.
- Intermediate Dancer: knows everything; too good to dance with beginners.
- Hotshot Dancer: too good to dance with anyone.
- Advanced Dancer: dances everything, specially with beginners.

I think there is too much elitism in certain folk dance circles. I am not a beginner, but I don't know every dance. At the same time, I claim (maybe it is an illusion) that I can pick up almost any line dance the first time that I see it. So, when am I allowed to join a line? Is the Federation now going to set up

In 2014, *Let's Dance!* began running an occasional cartoon illustrating the answer to the question:

Why did YOU start folk dancing?

Artwork by Susan Gregory; text by Loui Tucker



My sister and I were carpooling to college. One semester I signed up for a lab from 6-8 pm. Not wanting to just sit around for two hours, she signed up for a folk dance class. My lab was cancelled for lack of participants, so I opted to join her folk dance class. I've been dancing ever since!

You can share YOUR story or the story of a friend by emailing the idea to editor@folkdance.com. No names will be included, so your secret will be safe with us.

BEST WESTERN SUTTER IS THE STATEWIDE HOTEL



The Best Western Sutter Hotel

The Statewide 2018 host hotel is the **Best Western Sutter**, located at 1100 H Street in Sacramento.

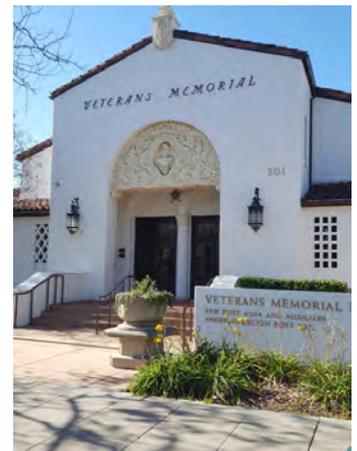
A special room rate of \$156 per night is available **March 1-April 18** (Note the ending date for the special rate!). Call 916-441-1314 and mention the Statewide Dance Festival. All rooms have two queen beds, the rate includes breakfast and free parking, and it's just two blocks from the Masonic Temple where Statewide activities will be held.

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

This year's Officers Ball will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Pleasanton. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

As in past years, the Federation Officers are planning an afternoon dance workshop, on-site dinner, and evening dancing.

The afternoon workshop will again feature new and classic dances taught by local teachers. If there is a particular dance or teacher you'd like to recommend, please contact Federation Institute Chair Lon Radin at lonradin@pacbell.net.



AMAN Ojai Reunion 2018

Join us for a fun Weekend of Reconnecting & Reminiscing - Singing, Dancing, Music.. and more!

Ojai Art Center, Ojai, CA
~ April 20-21, 2018 ~



Register Today!

Friday – “Alumni Reunion Day” (4/20) For AMAN Alumni + Guest
Afternoon “AMAN Tribute” Workshops // Evening Reunion Happy Hour, Dinner & Special Reunion Program // Nighttime “Alumni Cabaret” and Dancing w/Live Music.

Saturday – “Institute & Parties” (4/21) For All - Open to the Public



- Morning Festival/Institute with SUSY & STEVE KOTANSKY
 - ◆ Hungarian Dance Workshop
 - ◆ Balkan/Rom Dance Workshop
- Afternoon “LA Coffee House -Oldies Party” with DJ Billy Burke – recorded program & requests (vintage AMAN t-shirts, belts & opanci are a must)
- Nighttime Ladarke sing along, Dance Party w/Live Music (AMAN musicians & friends), and a Late Night Kafana!

SO... the time is finally here to begin making your accommodations and travel plans for this fun event... we’re going to have a blast!

Visit www.amansociety.com

For more detailed information on: Event Schedule, Registration, Meals, Workshops and Local Accommodations (motel/hotel/camping)

(*Note: Saturday dinner is NOT part of any package, sold separately)



PAST AMAN INSTITUTE (1970'S)

*Presented by Aman Alumni Society / Event Chairs: Susie Burke & Barbara Gordon
with support from the California Multicultural Arts Institute (CMAI)*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

The Willits Elementary Charter School Dance Club performed at their school's annual fundraiser (their fourth appearance). This year 23 students grades 3 to 5 participated, including three boys! Half of the group performed Eastbourne Rover (which they learned recently from Bruce Hamilton) and the other half performed 't Smidje.



The Willits Dancers performing Eastbourne Rover at their school's fundraiser in March. *Photo by J. Ugglá.*

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

Our **Annual Spring Party** is on **Saturday, April 21**, 7:30-10:30 pm at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. The first hour will feature dancing to old and new recorded favorites followed by a live music set with Staro Vino playing Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Greek music. Staro Vino consists of Greg Jenkins on clarinet and vocals; Mark Jenkins on percussion and vocals, Peter Bonos on trumpet, and Balder ten Cate on accordion and vocals. This is always a well-attended event. Please join us!

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Hollis Radin

We are happy to celebrate **the 80th birthday of Cliff Jenkins, a long-time dancer.** Cliff danced for decades with Marcel Vinokur as well as local Scottish groups, and currently dances with the Saratoga Dancers on Thursdays. He co-founded **The Land Dancers** (landdancers.org) which holds free, twice-a-year folk dance celebrations (Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend) in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Cliff invited everyone to his birthday party on March 11, and the hall was packed with his fans and supporters. Congratulations, Cliff!

Upcoming events include **monthly Peninsula Council parties** at St. Bede's Church in Menlo Park, on April 14 and May 12, and the **Moveable Feet English/Scottish Workshop** on April 22. See the



The Willits Dancers. Megan Wolf, Director on the left; Jordan Ugglá, Assistant Director, on the right. *Photo by B. Lockhart.*

Calendar on p. 4 for details.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

I'm delighted to **report on the 70th Annual Festival of the Oaks on February 11**, co-sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation. This huge success was planned by Ruthie Gasser, Yvonne Provaznik, and Marian Snyder and their hard-working committee members.

At 9:30, Michael Ginsburg picked up the trumpet to begin the institute which gathered 91 dancers to learn six dances of various levels. This was followed by a lunch prepared by committee members.

After lunch, the Antika Bulgariah Folk Ensemble sang beautiful songs and performed lively dances to live music. Everyone joined them on their last dance, which also signaled the beginning of the dance party. The dance party brought in almost 60 additional dancers. In addition to the dance program, and four dances from the institute, Lenore Frigo of Redding called two contras and Blackstone did a quick teach of Blackstone Jig.

BFD wishes to thank all those who made this so wonderful, especially our friends from afar.



Antika Bulgariah Folk Ensemble at Festival of the Oaks. *Photo by A. Partos.*

... AND BEYOND

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan
Changs International Folk Dancers will celebrate Bay Area Dance Week in a big way! First, Family Night will be on the fourth Friday (April 27) with a Maypole Dance to honor Changs' history of Maypole celebrations. Next, Changs will celebrate with the **BLOSSOM FESTIVAL at City College on Sunday, April 29** (see p. 18). To close out the 10-day Bay Area Dance Week, Changs' First Friday dance program on May 4 is titled "**Around the World with Easy Partner Mixers**" and will focus on easy mixers and dances designed for new dancers.

Changs meets on Friday evenings, 7:30 to 10:30, at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 31st and Clement in San Francisco. Check out Changs on Facebook and/or contact Craig at crb2crb@comcast.net.

The Mandala Folk Dance Center will participate in Bay Area Dance Week as well with Balkans and Beyond on Thursday, May 3. The Mandala Folk Dance Center is located at Bowcock Hall, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 1399 - 43rd Avenue in San Francisco.

We also note with sorrow the **recent death of Leo Pasco, a long-time folk dancer at Community College** of San Francisco where he was part of their performing group. In the photo below, which appeared on the cover of *Let's Dance!* magazine's July/August 1998 issue, Leo is the one on the left in the lederhosen.



SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – Barbara Malakoff
The excitement is building as we hammer out the plans for **Statewide Festival, May 18-20.**

There is one important deadline, **April 15**, for the host hotel (Best Western Sutter, 1100 H Street in Sacramento) reservations at our special group rate of \$156 per night for a room with two queen-sized beds, and includes breakfast and free parking. Call 916-441-1314 and mention the Statewide Dance Festival.

Registration is open now, and you can go to our web page (folkdancesac.org) and download a registration form to fill out and mail in. You can also pay on-line with a

credit card. A registration form is also on p. 15. The reduced price of \$100 for the entire weekend lasts until May 11, when the package price will be \$110. Of course you can also attend only some events and pay at the door.

This year we are offering **ethnic buffet meals** catered by local restaurants. There will be a Balkan buffet dinner on Saturday for \$18, and a Mexican lunch for \$12 on Sunday. These options save you time and money, trying to find a restaurant, and you can't do better for the company!

The schedule will be jam-packed with fabulous workshops by Bruce Hamilton and Steve Kotansky as well as live music by Chubrtiza. Lenore Frigo will be calling contras on Sunday.

Many dancers are wondering about the cost of parking. If you stay at the Best Western hotel, the parking is free, and the walk is about two blocks to the Masonic Hall. There are city-operated parking lots nearby and the going rate is \$5 for two hours. There are other lots that are more expensive, but the city ones are large and handy. There will be a list of those with your registration materials.

The Masonic Hall is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, and it is gorgeous, possibly the nicest dance hall in all California! It has wonderful, spacious wood floors that are ideal for dancing.

We hope to see you there!

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith
On **Saturday, March 3**, circles of dancers, 125 or more from Sonoma County and beyond, filled Monroe Hall to capacity, the room vibrating with dancers dressed in red and black for the annual **Razzmatazz Red & Black Ball.** When Jerry's Èòèk started, the energy in the room seemed to skyrocket.

continued on page 12



A crowded hall at the Razzmatazz Red and Black Ball. Photo by E. Torgerson.

continued from page 11

After the recorded portion of the evening, we assembled in the dining hall for refreshments and socializing while the musicians set up in the center of the dance floor for the live music portion. Local band Druzhina expertly played Balkan favorites Èòèek, Pravo, Dospatsko and the beautiful Pomaško Širto. The band included Ken Genetti, tambura; Gaelen Genetti, kaval and doumbek; and Jana Mariposa, tupan.

Then our local Balkan choral group, Gradina, took the floor singing a mix of dance songs, from the hauntingly beautiful slow tunes like Glava Li Ta Boli, Bibilicos and a mesmerizing slow Pravo to a lively Tervelska Raka and Legnalo Rodne.



Marilyn Smith leads the line at the Razzmatazz Red and White Ball. *Photo by E. Torgerson.*

Perhaps the most ethereal moment (there is no other word for it) was the rendition of Isu Byala Nedo. As we danced around the singers, their voices seemed to reverberate inside us. There was a collective sigh in the room after that song. As the evening ended, we felt gratitude for the gifts of these talented musicians and singers from beautiful Sonoma County, and that we were all gathered together as one extended family, our folk dance family.

KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS LOVE DANCING TO LIVE MUSIC!

By Nadav Nur

Kopachka Folk Dancers love dancing to live music, and the group has hosted three different bands in the past six months, with a fourth band on the schedule for June.

In October of last year, the Bulgarian band, Kabilé, on their national tour, provided for an exciting night of dancing to their dynamic renditions of traditional Bulgarian dance music.

On January 12, the ever-popular local band Da! Mozhem played a wide variety of tunes for 65 enthusiastic dancers from around the Bay and beyond.



Da Mozhem! played for the Kopachka January party. *Photo by S. Shoaf*

On March 9, the talented, versatile, Bay Area band Zabava! played for a celebration of the 80th birthday of a longtime Kopachka member and folk dance instructor, the inimitable Jerry Duke. Jerry and his wife Jill hosted the free party, with Jerry's friends, former students, and dance enthusiasts joining them in celebrating this milestone event.

Kopachka Folk Dancers have one more live music event coming up. On June 8th the club will host another exciting band from Bulgaria, **Balkan Chili**, a trio of musicians from the city of Varna making their first U.S. visit. Balkan Chili promises to provide an evening of dancing that will be hot, hot, hot!

In the March 2018 issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine, Federation President Joe Croco discussed "the tree of dancing," its various branches, and the clubs that tend to specialize in specific types of couple dances. Kopachka Folk Dancers are proud of their Linscott heritage, a heritage that offers diverse dance forms – kolo, couple, set, solo, line, and more, from many countries. Our Balkan repertoire features dances ranging from Lesnoto and To Milo to "higher-octane" dances such as Sa, Levendikos, and Krajdunavsko Horo. We also do a number of couple dances, swing, waltz (including Cajun style), bourrées, and Scandinavian turning dances – Rørospols being one of the club favorites. Our group enjoys country western style line dances, too, such as Queen of Hearts.

Kopachka Folk Dancers meet on Fridays from 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm at the Strawberry Recreation Center, Mill Valley. The first Friday of the month is all-request night. No dancing on April 6th due to the facility being booked for another event.

Go to: www.kopachkafolkdancers.com for the Kopachka calendar, directions, parking, and other information.

BAY AREA DANCE WEEK



Participating Folk Dance Events Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of N. CA.

Friday April 27 to Sunday May 6, 2018

All dance. All week. All free.

Invite your family and friends to these free dance events

| Day | Location | Event | Presenter |
|---------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Fri. April 27 | Menlo Park | Join Hands for World Dance | Stanford International Folk Dancers |
| | Mill Valley | Ethnic Dances from the Balkans and Beyond | Kopachka Folk Dancers |
| | San Fran | Family Folk Dance Party | Changs Folk Dancers |
| | Berkeley | International Folk Dance Party | Berkeley Folk Dancers |
| Sun. April 29 | San Fran | Blossom International Folk Dance Festival | Folk Dance Federation of CA, N |
| Mon. April 30 | San Fran | Step into the World of Greek Dance | Greek Feet |
| Tue. May 1 | Berkeley | International Dance in the Afternoon | Berkeley Folk Dancers |
| | Berkeley | Beginning International Folk Dance | Berkeley Folk Dancers |
| | Santa Rosa | May Day Balkan Dance Celebration! | Razzmatazz Folk Dance Club |
| Wed. May 2 | San Fran | Fun Folk Dancing! | San Francisco Dance Circle |
| Thu. May 3 | Santa Rosa | Afternoon World Dance | Santa Rosa Folk Dancers |
| | Saratoga | Introduction to International Dance | Saratoga International Folk Dancers |
| | San Fran | Balkans and Beyond | Mandala Folk Dance |
| | Berkeley | Intermediate International Folk Dance | Berkeley Folk Dancers |
| Fri. May 4 | San Fran | Around the World with Easy Partner Mixers | Changs Folk Dancers |
| | Berkeley | International Folk Dance Party | Berkeley Folk Dancers |
| Sat. May 5 | Menlo Park | Scandinavian Dance Party | Nordic Footnotes |

Look online for locations and times

SEARCH Bay Area Dance Week *online* to find *many more* free dance classes, performances, and more by specific artists, dates, or locations



bayareadance.org
folkdance.com





2018 Statewide Folk Dance Festival

Sacramento, California

"GATEWAY to the SIERRAS"

May 18-20, 2018

Masonic Temple, 1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Friday: Evening party with live music

Saturday: Workshops, special catered Balkan dinner, evening party with live music

Sunday: Reviews, special catered Mexican lunch, afternoon party (recorded music)

Guest Teachers:

STEVE KOTANSKY BALKAN DANCE (Non-partner)

BRUCE HAMILTON ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE (Partner)



Live Music by **CHUBRITZA** 

Sponsored by Sacramento International Folk Dance & Arts Council

Information: www.folkdancesac.org

Members of the Folk Dance Federation of California & the National Folk Organization - all 501(c)3 organizations

Statewide 2018 - May 18-20

Gateway to the Sierras

Pre-Registration Form - Please register individually

 \$100 before Friday May 11, / \$110 at the door.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone _____ Address: _____

ALL EVENTS (pre registration by Friday May 11- Package Price \$ 100 _____/\$110 at the door.
(Includes all workshops, parties, and snack bar. **Does not include SPECIAL OFFERINGS items.**)

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY: (Live music with Chubritza)..... \$20 _____

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOP:..... \$25 _____

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOP:..... \$25 _____

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY: (Live music with Chubritza)..... \$20 _____

SUNDAY MORNING TEACHER REVIEW:..... \$25 _____

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PARTY: (Dancing to recorded music; contras with Lenore Frigo)..... \$10 _____

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

DVD of all workshop dances taught \$ 20 _____

Paper Syllabus Note: Syllabus will be available on line at SIFDAC & the Federation... \$ 8 _____

MEALS (PRE-ORDERS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED - limited extras)

SATURDAY BALKAN DINNER: (Citrus Plaza Catering - menu available on-line) \$18 _____

SUNDAY MEXICAN LUNCH: (Martha's Taqueria - menu available on-line) \$12 _____

Total: \$ _____

Payment Options

- Make your check or money order to payable to SIFDAC and mail to Cookie Brakebill, 3404 Chugwater Court, Antelope, CA 945843.
- Pay on-line at statewide2018.bpt.me

Look for details about hotels, parking, menus, schedule, etc. at folkdance.com

Note: Reduced rates for students up to the age of 23 for Individual Events: Contact Barbara Bevan for information at (916)923-1555 or [<dancesong20@att.net>](mailto:dancesong20@att.net)

Statewide 2018 *Gateway to the Sierras* Additional Information

THE PLACE: Masonic Temple, 1193 J Street, Sacramento (100 years old this year). It has a spacious, wood dance floor with an adjacent dining room where two catered meals will be served.

HEADQUARTERS: Best Western Sutter House, 1100 H Street, Sacramento. Special room rates are available March 1-April 18. (Note the ending date for the special rate!) Call 916-441-1314 and mention the Statewide Dance Festival. All rooms have two queen beds, and the rate includes breakfast and free parking. It is an easy walk to the Masonic Temple.

PARKING: There is one level of limited parking next to the Masonic Temple, and a high-rise parking garage at 10th and I Street behind the Masonic Temple. There are other parking facilities in the area. Parking on the streets is expensive.

OUR TEACHERS:

Steve Kotansky: He lived in Europe for a number of years, and worked with many ethnic communities while living in Germany. He took advantage of his proximity to study and research the dances in the Balkans and Eastern European countries. Dick Crum praised his abilities very highly.

Bruce Hamilton: He is a well-respected thoughtful and energetic teacher of English and Scottish dancing with 45 years of experience. He has taught workshops all around the United States and in the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan and Australia. He recently taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

LIVE MUSIC: **Chubritza** is well-known throughout California; they have been featured in several dance camps as well as past Statewide Festivals. They are known for their variety of international musical tastes and textures while retaining a Balkan and Eastern European emphasis.

THE SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY May 18

6:30 pm: Doors open
7-7:30: Dancing to recorded music
7:30-10:30: Dancing to live music by Chubritza
Teachers will be introduced during the evening

SATURDAY May 19

9:00: Doors open
9:15-9:45: Dancing to recorded music
9:45-11:15: Dance workshop with Steve Kotansky
9:50-12:15: Dance workshop with Bruce Hamilton
Lunch on your own
2-3:30: Dance workshop with Bruce Hamilton
3:30-5: Dance workshop with Steve Kotansky

SATURDAY EVENING May 19

7:15-8: On-site catered Balkan Dinner
8-10:30: Balkan Party with Chubritza, plus an exhibition of Croatian dances and singing by Skalinada. Several of the dances introduced by our guest teachers will be danced during the evening. Be sure to wear something Balkan.

SUNDAY May 20

9:30: Doors open and warm-up dancing
10-12:20: Teacher reviews
12:20: On-site catered Mexican Lunch
2-5: All requests dance program to recorded music; Lenore Frigo will call some contras

OUR MEALS: The **Saturday Balkan Dinner** will be catered by the Citrus Plaza Catering Service. (v indicates vegetarian dishes) Greek salad (v); olive appetizer; cabbage salad (v); eggplant rolls (v); puff pastry triangles; special Ukrainian plate of koreyskava morkava (v); cabbage rolls (v); chicken kabobs; mashed potatoes and gravy (v); rice pilaf with beef; German bread; Russian Napoleon cake.

The **Sunday Mexican Lunch** will be catered by Martha's Taqueria make-your-own tacos with carnitas, shredded chicken, fritos and rice and chips with two different salsas.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



They appeared on the cover of the July/August issue of *Let's Dance!* in 1988. Do you recognize them? Hint: They were dance leaders in the North Bay.



The photo in the last issue was of Mihai David. He taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp four times and introduced dances such as Floricica, Ciuleandra, Cimpoi, and Rustemul.

HISTORY CHANNEL

I often spend time browsing back issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine. Most recently I've been enjoying the ones from the 1950s. I often have to laugh while reading the names of some of the dance clubs. Of course there were plenty of the usual (Name the City) Folk Dancers, but you can also find the Valley of the Moon Swingers, Merry Whirlers, Bustles and Boots, Calico Clickers, Pantalooners, St. Bruno's Frolickers, Ambling Antlers, and Lumber Jacks and Jills. (No, I am not making them up!)

There are all sorts of delightful tidbits if you're willing to dig for them. Dan McDonald wrote a column called "Tell it to Danny" that was about one-third announcements, one-third reporting, and one-third gossip. He wrote about upcoming and past events, mentioned visitors from other states and who from California had been traveling, and congratulated dancers who married, had children and grandchildren, got a new job, etc.

1. In May 1951, Dan announced: **As of March there were 26 folk dance classes under adult education in...FRESNO. At their second BEGINNERS FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL March 2, the Memorial Auditorium was filled to capacity with seven rings of dancers....** Aaaah, those were the days!

2. I spotted this in the July 1951 issue: **THE SAN FRANCISCO POLIO WHEELERS responded to an emergency April 29 at the Spring Fling in Richmond... to fill in for an exhibition.** Folk dancing was evidently so popular, people wanted to figure out how to do it in wheelchairs.

3. The June 1951 issue offered this: **Our fun is far-reaching – we now have groups on ALCATRAZ, and the SAN QUENTIN BARS have sent in their application.** That *IS* far-reaching! It was the prison guards and their families, however, not the prisoners themselves, who were doing the dancing.

4. In the September 1951 issue I found this: **Wonder if the LICK OBSERVATORY DANCERS use the "Starlite Schottische" for a theme, and if they do that square "One Like Venus, One Like Mars."** Of course my eyes locked on "Lick Observatory Dancers." Folk dancing at Lick Observatory? Really?

5. In April 1952, Dan announced: **Incidentally, MILDRED BUHLER's radio program, "Calling All Folk Dancers," KVSM, is now on 12:15 p.m. on Sundays instead of 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** When was the last time you heard folk dance music on the radio?

You can look through the old issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine yourself. They were scanned and are on folkdance.com, under the Resources tab.

-- Professor History

“SF Bay Area Dance Week FREE EVENT”



***Blossom International
Folk Dance Festival***

Sunday, April 29, 2018

**Federation Meeting (Assembly): 10:30am
Dances for All Ages (Beginners): 12:30pm-1:30pm
General Dancing: 1:30pm-5:00pm**

**City College of San Francisco
Wellness Center, 3rd Floor, Studio 301
50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco (enter from Howth Street)**



Info. & Dance Requests - contact: crb2crb@comcast.net or 650-359-7486

**Parking: \$3.00. Buy tickets at kiosks in parking lots.
Yellow machines, cash. Grey machines, debit/credit.**

**Sponsored by:
CCSF PE & Dance, the Folk Dance Federation of
California, SF Folk Dance Groups, & CCSF Faculty Jeanne-Marie Hughes**

CANDIDATES FOR FEDERATION OFFICES

by Craig Blackstone, Nominating Committee Chair

The election of officers will be held at the Federation Assembly meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Blossom Festival on Sunday, April 29 at City College of San Francisco. The Assembly is open to all Federation members, and you are invited to attend. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time.

Joe Croco – *President* Marian Snyder – *Vice President* Clem Dickey – *Secretary* Laura Douglass – *Treasurer*



JOE CROCO has been folk dancing since 1973. He married Laura Douglass (they met folk dancing) and dropped out of dancing, except for an occasional party or festival, until resuming in 2003. They have since then taken up ballroom dancing, specializing in West Coast Swing. They added Hungarian couple dances in 2007. Joe served as Federation Archive chair before becoming the Federation President in 2017.



MARIAN SNYDER started dancing at the age of 6 with Irish step dance, later joining an international folk dance group called the Westchester Lariats. She learned dances from all over the world, as well as tango, swing, waltz, and square dancing, traveling each summer to perform around the continental US, Hawaii, and Europe. After a 30-year break (college, teaching elementary school, and raising her daughter), she joined the Berkeley Folk Dancers. She has become a dance teacher, served as BFD's vice president for two years, and joined the Festival of the Oaks Committee.



LAURA DOUGLASS was aware of folk dancing even as a child, her parents being early members of Changs. She didn't begin to dance until after high school, when she took every folk dance class at UCSC she could. During summer breaks, she went to Marcel Vinokur's class in Menlo Park. She met Joe Croco at a dance festival and they were married in 1977. The demands of a career and two children meant she and Joe stopped dancing for about 20 years, returning in 2003, to focus on several forms of couples dancing. They get their folk dance fix at Peninsula Council, Palomanians, and the Moveable Feet parties, supplemented by the Kolo Festival and Stockton Folk Dance Camp.



CLEM DICKEY has been serving as Federation Secretary since 2015. He danced in college, followed by a 30-year lapse, punctuated by square dancing, the occasional Greek festival, and short stints with clubs in Winona, Minnesota and San Jose State University. He resumed folk dancing when he came home one night to discover that both kids had left for college and his wife was away at a tap dance class. He currently dances with Ned Gault's group on Monday nights in Santa Clara, and with the Saratoga International Dance Family on Thursdays.

THE FEDERATION PROMOTION FUND

The Folk Dance Federation of California established the Folk Dance Promotion Fund to promote international folk dance. The assistance provided can be in the form of a grant or a loan, to promote a specific dance event or folk dance in general. (See *Let's Dance!* Dec. 2005.)

- ✓ Projects should promote folk dance in the broadest sense.
- ✓ Grants will be made up to \$2000 with a maximum annual expenditure by the Fund of \$6000.
- ✓ Applicants must be individual or family members of the Federation, or belong to a member club.
- ✓ Application procedures are available from any member of the Committee (see list below) or from the Folk Dance Federation's website, www.folkdance.com, under the **Services** tab.



Promotion Committee:

(Chair) Marija Hillis (marijahillis@gmail.com) Gary Anderson (wildwood_press@comcast.net)
 Bruce Mitchell (dancebruce@aol.com) Lucy Chang (LucySChang@gmail.com)

STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP

JULY 15 - 22 & JULY 22 - 29, 2018

OUR 2018 FEATURED GUESTS



Aaron Alpert
Israeli (non-partner)

Caspar Bik
Balkan (non-partner)



Kay Munn
Scottish (partner)



**Cristian Florescu &
Sonia Dion**
Romanian (partner)

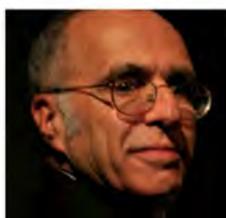


Roo Lester
Scandinavian (partner)



Rebecca Tsai
Chinese (non-partner)

Joe Graziosi
Greek (non-partner)



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www.folkdancecamp.org/

EC EC

(Albania)

Ec Ec (EHTZ EHTZ), meaning “go, go” is a dance in the Arbëreshë style choreographed by Roberto Bagnoli to the song “Ec Ec” by Skanderband. The Arbëreshë are an ethnic and linguistic Albanian minority community living in southern Italy, mostly concentrated in scattered villages in the region of Calabria, but also with a few minor settlements in the regions of Apulia, Basilicata, Molise and Sicily. They are the descendants of mostly Tosk Albanian refugees who fled Albania between the 15th and 18th centuries as a result of the Ottoman Empire’s invasion of the Balkans. The Arbëreshë speak Arbëresh, an old variant of Albanian spoken in southern Albania, known as Tosk Albanian. Ec Ec was presented by Roberto Bagnoli at the 2017 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Ethnic Journey 2017*, Track 4
 Video: *2017 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD*. Camp videos can be viewed by contacting a Camp participant who purchased the DVD.
 Formation: Mixed lines of dancers facing center, hands joined in W-pos.

| Measure | 2/4 meter | PATTERN |
|---------|---|---------|
| 16 meas | INTRODUCTION. No action. Begin dance with singing. | |
| | I. <u>FIGURE I.</u> | |
| 1 | Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2). | |
| 2 | Step sideways three steps (R-L-R) moving CCW (cts 1, &, 2). | |
| 3 | Step L in front of R (ct 1); step R back in place (ct 2). | |
| 4 | Turning to face CW, step on L heel to L (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); step on L heel to L (ct 2); step R next to L (ct &). | |
| 5 | Facing CW, step L fwd (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2). | |
| 6 | Three steps (L-R-L) continuing CW (cts 1, &, 2). | |
| 7 | Step R in front of L (ct 1); step L back in place (ct 2). | |
| 8 | Turning to face ctr, sway R to R (ct 1); sway L to L (ct 2). | |
| 9 | Step R to R (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2), lifting L and starting to turn R to face CCW. | |
| 10 | Two steps (L, R) completing the turn and ending facing CCW (ct 1-2). | |
| 11 | Three steps (L-R-L) moving CCW (cts 1, &, 2). | |
| 12 | Turning to face ctr, small leap R to R (ct 1); small leap L to L (ct 2). | |
| | II. <u>FIGURE II (INSTRUMENTAL).</u> | |
| 1 | Facing CCW, three steps beg R (cts 1, &, 2), bouncing on balls of the feet. | |
| 2 | Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk. | |

Ec Ec — continued

- 3 Step R fwd (ct 1); hop on R swinging L ft around to the side and back (ct 2).
4 Step bkwd on L, keeping R on the floor and twisting R heel to R (ct 1); twist R bringing R heel to L (ct 2).
5-12 Repeat meas 1-4 twice.

Sequence: Dance repeats as written above, then Fig II, meas 1-4.

Lyrics

Ec Ec nde mëma jote
E strati të bëtë japi
E ndë shtrat nëng nga të pënzosh
Pënzo mua se më katë martosh
Çë nëng do të më martosh
Lisi të qupëve të bëtë ngradosh

Go, go to your mother
And ask for the bed
But don't think of the bed
Think of me, the one you're going to marry
And if you don't want to marry me
The cypress tree you will fatten for me

Ec Ec nde mëma jote
E sandone të bëtë japi
E ndë sandone nëng nga të pënzosh
Pënzo mua se më katë martosh
Çë nëng do të më martosh
Lisi të qupëve të bëtë ngradosh

Go, go to your mother
And ask for the bed sheet
...

Ec Ec nde mëma jote
E sakona të bëtë japi
E ndë sakona nëng nga të pënzosh
Pënzo mua se më katë martosh
Çë nëng do të më martosh
Lisi të qupëve të bëtë ngradosh

Go, go to your mother
And ask for the mattress
...

Ec Ec nde mëma jote
E senduq të bëtë japi
E ndë senduq nëng nga të pënzosh
Pënzo mua se më katë martosh
Çë nëng do të më martosh
Lisi të qupëve të bëtë ngradosh

Go, go to your mother
And ask for the chest
...

Ec Ec nde mëma jote
E shtëpin të bëtë japi
E ndë shtëpin nëng nga të pënzosh
Pënzo mua semë katë martosh
Çë nëng do të më martosh
Lisi të qupëve të bëtë ngradosh

Go, go to your mother
And ask for the house
...



Arbëreshë women dancing at a festival in southern Italy. *Photo from the internet.*

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