

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING ❧ DECEMBER 2018



**The 2018 Officers
Ball was a hit!**

More photos on p. 7.

Clockwise from top left, workshop teachers Andre and Yvonne Couvillion, Gigi and Warren Jensen, Kaela Fine, and Denise Heenan. *Photos by J. Croco and C. Dickey.*

Let's Dance!

Volume 75, No. 10

DECEMBER 2018

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News From Around The Bay: Contributions from clubs

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

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

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

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

Join now: Membership rates:

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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

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

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

	½ page	full page	
Member clubs	\$50	\$90	<i>Note: All ads are in COLOR</i>
All others	\$80	\$120	

**Mail checks to: Folk Dance Federation Treasurer
226 Alameda de las Pulgas
Redwood City, CA 94062**

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WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Ross LaFetra – Sunnyvale
Sarah LaFetra – Sunnyvale
(Uncle and niece)

Margaret Lunday – Healdsburg
Crista McGowan – Los Gatos

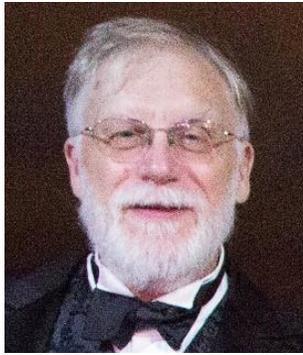
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Joe Croco

I know that as a Federation officer I was involved, so I shouldn't be patting myself on the back, but the Officers Ball was a huge success on many levels. The participants had a great time, some local teachers got a chance to shine in front of dancers who might not otherwise have seen them teach, and the Federation raised funds to support our work. By the way, you can continue to support the Federation by purchasing the items we have for sale: the new water bottles (p. 8), costumed dolls, and dance-related books (p. 10). We also have a few t-shirts and tote bags left as well. They will be available at future festivals and workshops.

We can now look forward to several big dance events coming up in the next couple of months: the **Heritage Festival** in January, the **Festival of the Oaks** in February, and the **Camellia Festival** in March. Event organizers are bringing in some well-known teachers – Željko Jergan, Lee Otterholt, and Bridget Floyd – for the dance workshops, plus performing groups and, in some cases, live music. I hope you will continue to support the folks who take the time and make the effort to put on these events for us.

The Federation is always looking for people willing to participate on the Board level. No experience is necessary. You just have to want to lend a hand. Visit **folkdance.com** and click on **About** and then **Staff & Board**. Take a look at the list of committees and see if one of them appeals to you. I look forward to hearing from you!



FROM THE EDITOR

Thank You and Please

First, my **thank you** goes to **Karen Bennett** for her two years of dedication to *Let's Dance!* magazine. When I took over as editor from Gary Anderson in December of 2016 (first issue January 2017), I asked Karen to be my assistant editor and she has been invaluable. She doesn't just proofread, although that is an important part of the job. She has suggested formatting changes, contributed interviews (Caspar Bik and Roo Lester), and asked relevant questions about content and focus. *Let's Dance!* has been better because she's been a part of it. By the time many of you read this column, she will be working her way through the draft of the January issue, her last. I am really going to miss her!



Which brings me to my **Please: I really need another Assistant Editor!** If you read the last paragraph and spotted the extra "this," then you would be a great candidate!

My best guess is it takes roughly three hours once a month to review the draft. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, but I'd settle for catching grammatical, typographical, and formatting errors. You don't have to live in the San Francisco area, or California, or even in the United States (Karen lives in Toronto). Anyone who currently reads *Let's Dance!* each month is eligible to apply. I wish I could say there is a handsome salary attached to this position but, alas, there isn't. You'll just have gratitude of the editor and the many readers of *Let's Dance!* magazine.

Please won't someone offer to help?

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!

Are you scratching your head over some of the people on your holiday gift list? If they are folk dancers, why not give them the gift of a one-year membership in the Folk Dance Federation? It's just \$35 for an individual, \$45 for a couple. One of the most noticeable benefits is that they will receive *Let's Dance!* magazine 10 times a year, delivered to their mailbox. Such a deal!

Send a check made payable to *Folk Dance Federation* to Membership Chair Alicia La Fetra, 1614 Peacock Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 and provide the name and address of the recipient of your special gift. You can also pay on-line at folkdance.com/join/become-a-member.



December 2018 Calendar of Events

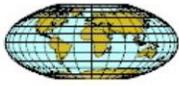
We reserve the right to edit all submissions; we assume no responsibility for accuracy.
Send future events information to Loui Tucker, Editor, at editor@folkdance.com.
Additional events can be found at www.folkdance.com (Community tab).
The deadline for listings is one month prior to the magazine date.

- Dec. 1 **PALOMANIANS PIE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. \$9. A great selection of pies and ice cream will be provided by the Palomanians. hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- Dec. 1 **RAZZMATAZZ ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOLK DANCE PARTY.** Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue in Santa Rosa. 7-10 pm. Includes a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" and a visit from Santa. Dancing to recorded and live music. marilynsmith@sbcglobal.net.
- Dec. 8 **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND SECOND HARVEST FUNDRAISER.** First Baptist Event Hall, 305 N. California Avenue, Palo Alto. 5:30-6:30 pm. 6:30-10:30 pm. Potluck reception, then dancing to recorded music plus quick teaching of fun dances by Loui Tucker and Wendy Brown. Donation: \$15 and/or 10 cans of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank (checks payable to Second Harvest Food Bank). Goal is 300 cans and \$300. LucySChang@gmail.com.
- Dec. 10 **ANNUAL PETALUMA HOLIDAY FOLK DANCE PARTY** with live music. Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. 7-9:30 pm. \$12. First hour will be dancing to old and new recorded favorites, followed by dancing to live music by Peter Bonos and Friends (including members of Fanfaire Zambaleta and Staro Vino). cjay@horizoncable.com.
- Dec. 19 **YEAR END DANCE PARTY.** The Carriage House in Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton. 7:45-10:00 pm. Sponsored by the Carriage House Folk Dancers. Help bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages to share for the refreshments table.
- Dec. 20 **MANDALA'S ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE POTLUCK AND PARTY.** St. Paul's Church, 1399 – 43rd Avenue, San Francisco. 7:30-10:30 pm. \$5. We begin with a potluck meal, then the bell-ringing ceremony around 8:45 pm, followed by request dancing. Bring your favorite bell to ring in the holiday season. Info: 415-648-8489 or paulbourbin@hotmail.com or www.themandala.org.
- Dec. 20 **HOLIDAY SPARKLE-AND-SHINE PARTY.** St. Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga, sponsored by the Saratoga Folk Dancers. Wear your gala sequins and shimmering skirts; bring a snack to share. \$6-\$8 sliding scale (your first visit is free). loui@loutucker.com.
- Dec. 25 **CHRISTMAS NIGHT GATHERING.** Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos. John and Jan Nicoara, and Becky and Adony Beniares host this FREE dance event for the folk dance community. 7-10:00 pm. hollisradin@pacbell.net.
- Dec. 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK DINNER AND PARTY.** All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. 6:30 pm-12:30 am. \$12. Potluck dinner 6:30-7:30; all requests dancing until 12:30 am. Hosted by Moveable Feet Club; MCs Lucy Chang and Loui Tucker. LucySChang@gmail.com or loui@loutucker.com.
- Jan. 11 **LIVE MUSIC WITH DA! MOZHEM AT KOPACHKA DANCERS.** Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley. 8-10:30 pm. \$12. president@kopachkafolkdancers.com.
- Jan. 18-19 **HERITAGE FESTIVAL.** See ad on p. 13.

FROM THE EDITOR (Loui Tucker) and **WEBSITE MANAGER** (Kevin Greek):

The Federation website (folkdance.com) and *Let's Dance!* magazine are both part of the Federation, but they are managed by two different people. While we are in close communication, sending email to one of us about your upcoming event does not necessarily mean the other will know about it. If you want the folk dance community to know about your event, please let BOTH of us know about it.

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Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra



POLAND June 10-24, 2019 Led by Richard Schmidt
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Cork, Blarney, Belfast, Dublin



ROMANIA October 12-24, 2019 Led by Jim Gold
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Says You!

by John Nicoara

During a recent Sunday afternoon public radio broadcast of the popular humorous word-play program **Says You!**, something astounding occurred.

It was when the host challenged the celebrity panelists to come up with the correct explanation of an actual event. In this game, each panelist is given a card, but only one has the real answer; all the others say, "Bluff."

Here's what happened next: the music that began to play during the brief interlude that followed was Olahos, the exact same Hungarian dance music we've enjoyed for years!

"Let's give them another minute or two," said the host, after which I was shocked to hear a brief portion of another favorite, Rustemul! That's two recorded folk dance songs in a row. What's the probability of that?



Hey, Editor, you haven't been printing the From The Photo Archives column (which I really enjoyed) in the past few issues, so I never found out who the dancers were in the photo in the May/June issue. Who are they?

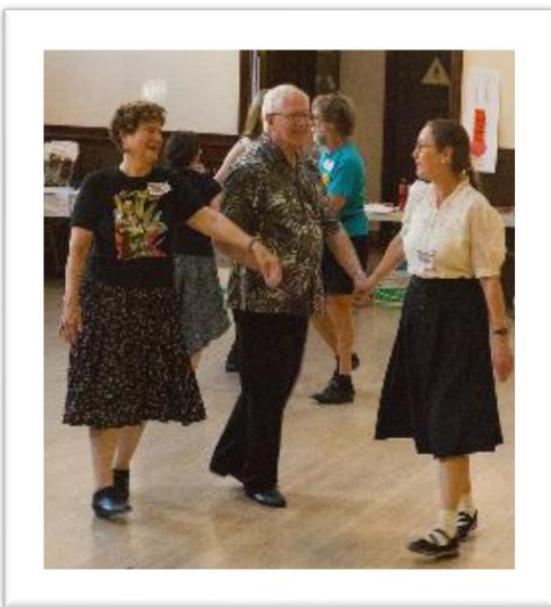
– Laura

Answer: That's Jeff O'Connor dancing with Denise Heenan in the foreground and Al and Teddy Wolterbeek in the background. I'll print the column again when there is room for it.



THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM – At The Officers Ball-Oktoberfest

Photos by J. Croco, C. Dickey, K. Greek, and L. Tucker.



Bruce Mitchell taught Slängpolska with Denise Heenan and Yvonne Covillion.



Katherine Abbott led a line of dancers.



Lenore Frigo from Redding enjoyed dancing after calling several contras.



Helen Brown danced with George Fairbrook.



Bill Cope provided the entertainment during dinner.

The new Federation water bottles went on sale! Contact Loui Tucker (loui@loutucker.com) if you want to buy one. Buy several and give them as gifts to your dancing friends!



THE OFFICERS BALL-OKTOBERFEST WAS A HIT!

by Adony Beniares

I had an absolutely wonderful time at this year's Officers Ball (the fifth held in recent memory). I had missed the last few Federation events and was looking forward to attending. I and the 80+ dancers who attended (the fifth held in recent memory) had an entertaining day of dance and fun.

By the time the first dancer arrived, the Veterans Hall in Pleasanton had been decorated with an Oktoberfest theme, with welcoming dance music pulling everybody onto the floor for a few warm-ups. Over in the corner was a table with various Federation and folk dance items for sale; the dolls and books sold especially well this year. As an added surprise, the Federation also unveiled and sold their newest merchandise, branded water bottles. Available in metallic blue, red, green, or orange, you'll soon have the opportunity to pick up one of these handy bottles at your club or event.

The official program started off at 1:30 with the dance institute. Teachers from across California taught dances from around the world. Starting with Mamanyushka Branila, a couple dance from Russia taught by Yvonne and Andre Couvillion, and finishing off

with Denise Heenan

teaching Berovka, a recent

Macedonian dance, I and the other dancers had the opportunity to learn from a talented group of teachers. Equally well taught were Belčova Tropanka by Katherine Abbott, Arabim Fellahi by Kaela Fine, Prince William by Marija Hillis, a few different Argentina Tango steps by Gigi Jensen, with Warren Jansen as her partner, and Slängpolska for Three taught by Bruce Mitchell. Lenore Frigo also called two fun contras, cueing us as needed. As always, I found having multiple teachers wonderful, seeing and learning from people's different styles made the afternoon lightly challenging and very interesting.

What kept the teaching from feeling long were the breaks between every 3-4 dances, where Loui Tucker would play a few favorite dances, giving everybody the opportunity to either dance or catch-up with friends. The great mix of learning, reviewing, and just dancing kept everybody engaged and the institute moving. For the first time, the Federation did not publish a syllabus or CD; for those who wanted the music or notes, the Institute chairman, Lon Radin, was available to email them as needed.

After the Institute, everybody pitched in to set up and decorate the dinner tables; attendees were then served an Oktoberfest-themed dinner with sausages, sauerkraut, potato salad, and associated side dishes. Marija Hillis and Marian Snyder were in charge of the

Continued on page 9



Cordelia Gharfur and Andy Partos



Joe Croco and Laura Douglass.

OFFICERS BALL *continued*

wonderful dinner and did an amazing job coordinating dinner for over 60 people. The remaining dancers took advantage of the downtown location of the hall and visited local restaurants for dinner.

Seated at communal tables in the Veterans Hall, conversations were about the dances that were taught that day, catching up with friends, and what everybody was looking forward to over the next year. I had the opportunity to have lengthy conversations with friends whom I either see only once per year, or only talk to in the few moments between dances at the regularly held parties and classes around the San Francisco Bay Area.

The evening party, organized by Lucy Chang, filled the rest of the evening with current favorites, old standards, and a significant number of requests made from the attendees. We danced for over three hours, finishing off the evening with a group lesnoto. As with dinner set-up, the remaining dancers pitched in, dismantling and packing up the sound system, kitchenware, and decorations until the next event.

The traditional 50/50 lottery drawing was held where the money made selling raffle tickets was split between the winner and the Federation. This year the winner pocketed more than \$210, with the other half going to the Federation to support future events.

Congratulations to the co-chairs , Loui Tucker and Lucy Chang, as well as Lon Radin, the Federation’s Institute Chair, on a wonderfully executed event. As always, the entire Federation board pitched in to help make sure this event went smoothly from beginning to end.

I could not have had a better time and look forward to the next event, both to have fun and support the great work the Federation does.



Marija Hillis (who also taught at the workshop) and Marian Snyder prepared an Oktoberfest-themed dinner with sausages, sauerkraut, potato salad and more!



A line of dancers, from left, Lesley Bone, Marian Snyder, Lothar Narins, Ulrike Narins, Lucy Chang, and Richard Graham.



Julie East (left) and Cynthia Lambert were among those who dressed for the occasion.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY.....

NORTH BAY – Carol Friedman

The **Annual Petaluma Holiday Folk Dance Party** is Monday, December 10, 7-9:30 pm. The first hour will be dancing to old and new recorded favorites followed by dancing to live music by Peter Bonos and Friends (including members of Fanfaire Zambaleta and Staro Vino). Come to Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma.

International folk dancing in Petaluma continues through December 10. After that we'll take a holiday break, starting up again January 3, 2019.

For those looking for daytime classes, you can drop in any time at the Israeli Folk Dance class 1:30-4 pm, January 3 through February 14 at the Osher Jewish Community Center in San Rafael. The next session of College of Marin International Folk Dance (2:10-3:30 pm) is January 30 through February 6.

I apologize for ending on a sad note, but our dear friend and fellow dancer **Bill Pinkus** passed away in early October. Bill was such a lovely man – kind, fun, witty, and a beautiful dancer. He was a stalwart at Monday night dancing in Petaluma for decades. He was also a lawyer, a pilot, an environmental activist, and the beloved husband of Thora Lares. Shortly after he died, we held an impromptu memorial for Bill at our Monday night class. We lit candles, we cried, we hugged, we shared memories of Bill, and then we danced all of the dances he loved. He will be deeply missed.

THE DANCE CLUB IN WILLITS – Megan Wolf

Our three folk dance groups are growing steadily. Our elementary group now has about 20 kids, the middle/high school has six kids, and the adult group regularly gets eight people.

In October, we took Tiffany, one of our adult dancers, and two of our teen dancers, Willow and Aidyn, to the **Bay Area Country Dance Society's Fall Frolick** at Monte Toyon. The camp offers full work-trade scholarships to people under 30, which was greatly appreciated! We got to dance lots of great English country dances and some contra too.

Willow and I also attended an **outdoor modern dance day on the beach in Mendocino**, which was truly magical. There's really nothing like dancing outdoors.

We also continue to ferry some of our younger dancers to the monthly **Ukiah Contra Dance** and are looking forward to some school folk dance performances in the future.

SACRAMENTO COUNCIL – Barbara Malakoff

Our **Scholarship Ball** (Theme: Good Vibrations!) is coming up Sunday, January 27, 1-6 pm at the Polish American Hall in Roseville. The first hour will be games and a sing-along, including non-dance songs.

This is a **fund raiser** for our Scholarship Fund, used to send dancers to dance camps. It is always a great party, because the dances are “bought” by the dancers, to raise money.

We are also looking down the road to our **Annual Camellia Festival** on Friday-Saturday, March 29-30, also in the Polish American Hall. Stay tuned for the details.



Photo taken at the Sacramento Council's annual Membership Bar-B-Que at the Wolterbeeks' outdoor dance floor.

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

December 1 is the **Razzmatazz Christmas Folk Dance Party**, 7-10 pm at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. It will feature live music with Gradina, Sonoma County music and choral ensemble, a reading of “The Night Before Christmas” and a visit from Santa Claus for the children. Bring a snack to share. \$5 for adults plus tips for the musicians. Children are free and welcome!

... AND BEYOND

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Hollis Radin

So much is happening this month! The Palomanians kick it off with their **Fabulous Pie and Ice Cream Party** at St. Bede's Church in Menlo Park **December 1**. Apple, pumpkin, cherry, apricot, chocolate, berry, and more . . . yum!

Movable Feet follows with its **Holiday Celebration and Second Harvest Food Bank Fund Raiser** potluck and folk dance party at First Baptist Church in Palo Alto **December 8**. Bring 10 cans of food or a \$15 donation.

Stanford Folk Dancers' **Trio Cope-a-Cabana Dance Party** with Bill Cope and Friends will be held at the All Saints Episcopal Church **December 12**. The Carriage House Dancers welcome you to their **year-end party** at Holbrook Palmer Park in Atherton **December 19**, and the Saratoga Dancers will be hosting their holiday **Sparkle-and-Shine Party** at St. Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church in Saratoga on **December 20**.

This year's **Christmas Night Folk Dance Gathering** will be held at the beautiful Garden House in Los Altos **December 25**. Once again, it is free and open to all, and starts at 7 pm. Bring your family, visit with old friends and dance off all those goodies!

To finish out the month, Moveable Feet will be hosting a **New Year's Eve Party** at All Saints Episcopal Church in Palo Alto with Lucy Chang and Loui Tucker as MCs. The evening begins with a potluck supper at 6:30, and dancing continues to 12:30 am!

It's time to pre-register (and save!) for the **2019 Heritage Festival** with Master Croatian dance teacher Željko Jergan. The program includes a warm up Club Night party in Los Altos on **Friday, January 18**, and a full day of activities on **Saturday, January 19** in Belmont. Saturday's program includes an afternoon dance workshop, an optional on-site meal, a Croatian singing workshop, an exhibition by the Croatian youth group Koraci (featuring dances choreographed by Željko), and an evening of your favorite international folk dances. The Heritage Festival **registration form is on p. 13**. You can also download and print the registration form and a map to the two venues at folkdance.com. If you mail your check and registration, you can pre-pay for the dance music and the instructional video. Register online at heritagefestival2019.brownpapertickets.com.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Naomi Lidicker

December is an exciting month. We are gearing up for our annual **New Year's Eve Party** on (what other date would it be?) **December 31!** From 9:00 pm to midnight we'll dance the old year off and welcome 2019. Live Oak Park Social Hall, Shattuck and Berryman, Berkeley. Invite your family and friends to join us!

NO DANCING on December 24 or 25, or January 1. Happy Holidays and a Marvelous New Year to everyone!



Berkeley Folk Dancers Marija Hillis, Neil Collier, and Marian Snyder danced Slängpolska at the Officers Ball. Photo by J. Croco.

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE GROUPS – Linda Milhoan

On October 6, sixteen members of **San Francisco Dance Circle** participated in a San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department event honoring their volunteers. The Dance Circle's teachers, Channa Orner and Ann Colichidas, **taught easy dances from five different countries** while members encouraged a large group of about 40 participants to join in, including beautifully-costumed members of a Chinese dance group. Reminder: Dance Circle will not meet during December.

Mandala's Annual Winter Solstice Potluck and Party will be held **Thursday, December 20**, 7:30-10:30 pm, at St. Paul's Church, in San Francisco. Bring a dish for the potluck meal and a bell for the bell-ringing ceremony around 8:45 pm. Request dancing until 10:30. paulbourbin@hotmail.com or visit www.themandala.org.



A selection of the dolls available for sale by the Archives Committee. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

FEDERATION ARCHIVES COMMITTEE HAS DONATED DOLLS AND BOOKS FOR SALE

The Federation Archives Committee recently accepted a large donation (hundreds!) of costumed dolls and dance-related books. The dolls are being sold for \$5 each and the books for \$2 each. Some of each will be available at up-coming Federation events such as the **Heritage Festival** (January 18-19), the **Festival of the Oaks** (February 10) and the **Camellia Festival** (March 29-30).

HOWEVER, if you have a strong interest in seeing the entire collection, contact Kevin Greek at greek1@ix.netcom.com to make appropriate arrangements to visit the Archives Storage Locker in Sunnyvale.

You can also request that someone bring a selection of the dolls and/or books to your next event.



DANCE ON THE WATER

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Please write to get on our email list: folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com
Marija & David Hillis, 2147 Parker Street, Berkeley CA 94704 - (510) 549-0337

HERITAGE



FESTIVAL

2019



Exhibition by Croatian Youth Group:

KORACI

Featuring dances choreographed by
Željko

Bring Snack to share

FRIDAY, January 18th

7:00 to 10:00 pm

Garden House, Shoup Park,
400 University Ave, Los Altos

Early Bird

\$35

Opening Party (\$10)

*Come share your favorite club dances
Meet Saturday's Workshop Teacher*

Željko Jergan



SATURDAY, January 19th

Twin Pines Community Center, Belmont

Workshop 1:30 - 4:30 pm (\$15)

Željko Jergan:

Master teacher and
respected Choreographer of Croatian Dance

Dinner Break 4:30-6:30

Enjoy dinner in town

Or order a wrap to enjoy on site (\$15)

Singing 6:30-7:00

Come learn to sing *Grad Se Beli*

Party 7:00- 10:00 (\$15)

(ethnic dress welcome)



Pay **BEFORE** January 16th and save! Both Friday **AND** Saturday for only \$35 (\$50 with supper)
Heritagefestival19.brownpapertickets.com

Please visit folkdance.com for registration form and maps. Doors open 1/2 hour in advance.

Email dance requests, questions and registration to

heritagefolkdance@gmenl.com

Sponsored by: the **Peninsula Folk Dance Council** and the **Folk Dance Federation of California, North**

ŽELJKO JERGAN TO TEACH CROATIAN DANCE AT THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

By *Ellie Wiener*

We are so fortunate to have Željko Jergan as the guest teacher at the 2019 Heritage Festival. Željko is known for his vast knowledge not only of Croatian dance, but of how it relates to the costumes and culture of Croatia, which is very interesting to most folk dancers. People learning from Željko also appreciate his sense of humor and the fact that he's so much fun.

Željko has taught at every major folk dance camp and festival in the US, Canada, and many parts of the world. In California alone, this includes the following, each more than once: Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Laguna Folk Dance Festival, Mendocino Folklore Camp, Kolo Festival, Life Camp, North/South Folkdance Teachers' Seminar, Croatian Festivals in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and numerous Statewide festivals.

Željko was born in Varaždin, Croatia, 20 miles from the Hungarian border. When Željko was seven, his father took him to see Lado, the National Folk Dance Ensemble of Croatia. When one of the dancers (Željko later learned it was Nena Šokčić, who taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, 1986 and 1987) turned to the audience and began to sing, Željko said to his father, "I want to do that." The next day he asked his mother to enroll him in folk dance and music school, and a future star was born.



Željko dancing in Lado.

At 18, Željko went to audition for Lado, but left before his turn because he was intimidated by the singing he heard. This may seem unbelievable for those of us who have heard Željko's beautiful bass voice. He did eventually audition



Željko Jergan in 2016.

and earn a spot in Lado. At that time, Željko was also studying architecture at the University in Zagreb. Although he left his apartment at 7:30 am and didn't return until 10 pm, he continued with both Lado and the university for 1½ years until Lado's traveling schedule made it impossible to continue with both ventures. He chose to stay with Lado – the right decision considering he became a leading performer and soloist for 12 years.

With his love of Croatia and such a successful career, why did Željko move to the United States? The answer won't surprise you: for a woman. Cindy, an American of Croatian heritage, was the first American to perform with Lado. A year and a half later after she joined Lado, Željko and Cindy got married and moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he has built a successful career and raised his family. He has two grown children.

During his 32 years in the US, Željko has spread his love of Croatian dance and culture by teaching in the recreational folk dance community. Željko has worked with numerous collegiate and amateur folk ensembles, including the Tamburitzans of Duquesne University, the Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble, and Les Sortilèges, the former professional folk dance group in Montreal. Željko has also developed children's groups, providing these students with the foundation to move to higher level performing groups as they become teenagers and young adults. Lastly, Željko is the Artistic Director for nine folk dance groups in Croatian communities, creating an average of four

Continued on page 15

ŽELJKO JERGAN *continued*

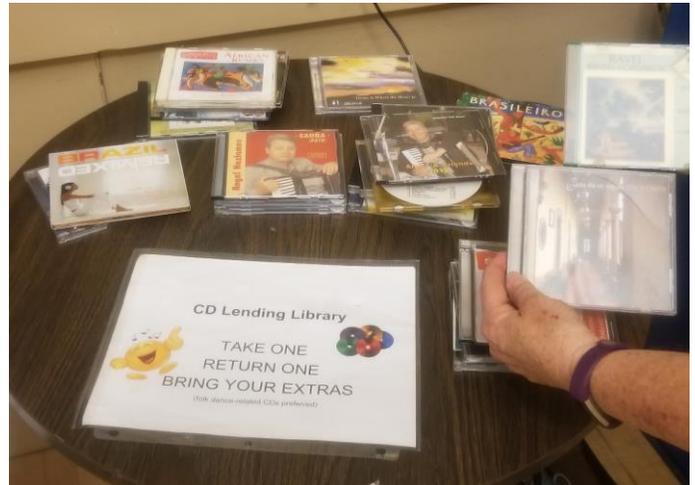
choreographies per group per year. Each choreography includes music, singing and dancing for an annual show and yearly festivals. One of these communities is right here in San Jose; Željko has been working with their Croatian folk dance group, Koraci, for 12 years. A group from Koraci will perform one of Željko’s choreographies Saturday night at the Heritage Festival. Because singing is such an important part of Croatian dance and culture, this year’s Heritage Festival schedule includes a half hour between dinner and the Saturday evening party for Željko to teach us the lyrics to a dance we’ll learn at the Institute. This is an upbeat, fun piece of music that everyone will love.

Željko’s passion for his country, culture, song, and dance is contagious, whether listening to him at an ethnic talk, having a private conversation with him, or watching him teach dance. When asked which region’s dances are his favorite, Željko’s response was, “I don’t have a favorite region. There is something to love from every one of them.”

See you and Željko at the Heritage Festival!

A CD LENDING LIBRARY

Want a nice addition to your club? How about a CD Lending Library? Encourage your members to bring in dance-related CDs and display them on that table you have with all the flyers. When they are not dancing, dancers can browse the titles, borrow a few, and bring them back when they have had their fill.



HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2019 — Advance Registration		How Many	Each	Total
Both days	Friday, January 18 (7-10 PM in Los Altos) AND Saturday, January 19 (1:30-10:00 PM in Belmont)		\$35	
All day Saturday only	Saturday, Jan 20 (1:30-10:00 PM in Belmont)		\$30	
Željko’s DVD (no filming please!)			\$20	
Željko’s CD:			\$15	
Paper syllabus (must be ordered in advance: .pdf notes are free)			\$2	
Saturday Dinner: LARGE WRAP plus GREEK SALAD Must pre-order by Wednesday, January 16th!				
<input type="checkbox"/> Hummus with eggplant/zucchini wrap (VEG)	<input type="checkbox"/> Falafel wrap (VEG)		\$15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lamb+beef shawarma wrap	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken shawarma wrap		\$15	
Please register online at heritagefestival2019.brownpapertickets.com OR Mail this form with your check (payable to Peninsula Folk Dance Council) to: Lesley Bone, 112 Club Drive, San Carlos, CA 94070 by January 16th			TOTAL:	
REGISTRATIONS: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:		Questions? Email heritagefolkdance@gmail.com		
Name:		Name:		
Contact Email:		Contact Phone:		

HELP WANTED

The Federation is looking for people to fill two important positions: (1) **Insurance Chair** and (2) **Statewide Chair**.

For the **Insurance Chair**, a knowledge of insurance would be an asset, but it is not required. Because the insurance program is already in place, this is now largely a clerical position. Training will be provided.

The **Statewide Chair** (it could be co-chairs) would be in charge of organizing the Statewide Festival in May 2020. It isn't too early to start working on this event because popular venues, teachers, and musicians are often booked years in advance.

Please contact **Federation President Joe Croco** at president@folkdance.com if you are interested in serving in either position.

WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT?

Do you have some interesting news or information about your community, an event, or some aspect of folk/world dance or culture that would make interesting reading in *Let's Dance!* magazine?

- ✓ Why not tell the *Let's Dance!* readers how great the dance scene is in your area and what you and your group have done to make it great?
- ✓ If you've done some traveling that involved folk dance, music, art, etc., consider writing something to share with *Let's Dance!* readers.
- ✓ If you've read a dance-related book, seen a video, or visited a website that you think others would enjoy, please submit that information.
- ✓ If you are or were involved with a workshop, festival, performance, or the like, consider writing an article.
- ✓ If you've been taking photos at dance events, consider forwarding them for inclusion.

Take a look at the last issue or two to see the kinds of articles that are typically printed. Or, if you look and think to yourself, "Why don't they have an article about...," consider writing that article yourself! Deadline for submissions is 30 days before the date of the magazine (January 1 for the February issue). Contact *Let's Dance!* Editor at editor@folkdance.com to discuss.



Rada Radomirka

(Bulgaria)

This dance is from the Shopluk area in west-central Bulgaria. Rada Radomirka is the name of the song, but this dance is danced to many different melodies from this region. The dance is also named Selskoto Horo or Shopsko Lito. Because the pattern is ten measures in length, it will not conform to the phrases in the music.

Rada Radomirka is a traditional Bulgarian folk dance to a contemporary folk tune that is currently popular in Bulgarian folk dance clubs (horotekas). Typically this dance is danced as a slow part before a quick(er) Graovsko Horo or Sitno Shopsko Horo takes over.

Caspar Bik taught this dance at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July 2018. He learned it from Dilyana Kurdova, a Bulgarian dance teacher and researcher of Balkan dances and folklore.

Pronunciation: RAH-dah Rah-doh-MEER-kah Translation: Rada, girl from Radomir

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Balkan and Beyond*, Track #1

Video: *2018 Stockton Folk Dance Camp Video*, which can be viewed by contacting a camp participant who purchased it.

Formation: Circle of dancers facing ctr, L hand on waist, R hand linked in L elbow of dancer to the R.

Steps & Styling: Cheerful and bouncy. Note variation on meas 6-7: Lift, step, step (cts &, 1, 2).

Measures	Meter 2/4	PATTERN
1-32	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . No action.	
1	Step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2).	
2	Repeat meas 1.	
3	Facing diagonally R, step R slightly fwd and lifting L in front (ct 1); hold (ct 2).	
4	Step L in front of R (ct 1); hold (ct 2).	
5	Face ctr and sway R to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2).	
6	Step L to L (ct 1); step R in front of L (ct 2). Optional: small hop/lift on R on the “&” before ct 1, before stepping on L.	
7	Step L to L (ct 1); step R behind L (ct 2). Optional: small hop/lift on R on the “&” before ct 1, before stepping on L. Note: Meas 6 and 7 comprise a grapevine step moving L.	
8	Sway L to L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).	
9	Sway R to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2).	
10	Sway L to L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).	

Sequence: Repeat figure until the end of the music.

The song is performed by Georgi Giolski. Assistance with the transliteration and translation from Ekaterina Karaslavova is appreciated.

TRANSLITERATED BULGARIAN

TRANSLATION

Snoshti oyдох na sâbora radomirsko po livagje
Ubavi momi da gledam nevesta da si izberem

Last night I went to the festival in the Radomir meadows
to watch beautiful girls, to choose a bride

Refrain:

More Rada radomirka
Gazi trava zelena iz livagje kosena
Radomirka na o kolo
Vodi oro u kolo oro vodi zasmeyana

Refrain:

Hey, Rada from Radomir
She walks on the green grass, all over the freshly mowed
meadow grass. Rada from Radomir leads the winding
kolo; she leads the kolo and keeps smiling

Pokray mene Vakarelki ubavitsi se napeli
A pa do nih Sofiyanki
Site so beli kapeli

All around me there are girls from Vakarel, all beautiful,
all buxom. Next to them are girls from Sofia, all wearing
white hats

Ya si gledam moma Rada shto ubavo krâstche
vie Sitno oro mi igrae
Ot mene ochi si ne krie

But I look only at the maiden Rada, how she weaves her
beautiful thin waist. She dances Sitno horo; her eyes do
not shy away from me.



DA! MOZHEM

Live at Kopachka Folk Dancers
Friday, JANUARY 11, 2019
8-10:30pm \$12
Balkan Folk Dance Party

Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley
SPACIOUS SPRUNG DANCE FLOOR | FREE PARKING
president@kopachkafolkdancers.com or 415-497-4890 (Nadav)

www.kopachkafolkdancers.com

71st Annual International Folk Dance

Festival of the Oaks

Registration begins at
9:00 a.m.

Institute with Lee Otterholt
International Master Folk Dance Teacher
9:30 - noon – \$14.00

International Folk Dancing
Dances from around the world & Institute Reviews
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – \$12.00

All day – Institute & Folk Dancing
\$24.00

Hot lunch
Noon - 1:00 p.m. – \$6.00

Federation Membership meeting
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Folk Dance Federation of California will be providing lunch for members attending.

Exhibition Dance Performance
1:00 p.m.

Pre-owned folk dance costume sale
12:30 – 4:30
Bring items to donate
Consignment sales accepted

Free refreshments will be served all afternoon

Sponsored by
Berkeley Folk Dancers &
Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

For more information:
<http://www.BerkeleyFolkDancers.org>
or email: rg94610@gmail.com



Sunday, February 10, 2019

**Live Oak Park
Community Center**

1301 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709



No partner needed

What's Up Down South?

~ News from Southern California ~

MIHAI DAVID **at California Statewide 2019** **"ETHNIC TREASURES"** **May 31 — June 2, 2019**

Pomona College Campus in Claremont

by Diane Baker

Where and when did we first dance Floricică? How did those challenging steps become a favorite of recreational dancers? What was Mihai's first teaching gig in the US? How did he become a dancer? These are questions I had in mind as I chatted with Mihai David this month.

Mihai was born in Bucharest. He began to study dance at age 8, was accepted into the School of Choreography, and rehearsed with the amateur ensemble UTM. He performed with the ensemble Ciprian Porumbescu, and later with the Romanian State Ballet, Cicarlia, while still a student.

Joining the Music Hall Ensemble provided Mihai the opportunity to tour internationally in 1966. The last stop on the tour was Italy, and since he spoke Italian, Mihai seized the chance to request political asylum in the US. Upon learning that he was a professional dancer, the US State Department sent Mihai to Boston, home of the Boston Ballet, and thought to be one of the most cultured cities in the US.

He was hired by the Boston Ballet, but was also assigned a draft number. When the Boston Ballet closed for the season and the draft board sent a notice to enlist, Mihai accepted an invitation to move to Buffalo, New York, where he learned diamond cutting while working in a jewelry factory. Manufacturing jewelry was not his career goal so, when the draft board ferreted out his new address, it was time to move on!

Mihai went to Detroit, home of a large Romanian diaspora, where he found his way to a Romanian church. The priest, confusing "choreographer," with "typographer," and needing some printing work accomplished, invited Mihai to move in with his family and get to work. Fortunately, the priest also needed a choreographer/soloist. After Sunday service the priest took Mihai to the church basement and said, "Show me what you've got."

Like audiences around the world, the priest was impressed with the impromptu exhibition. This Romanian Orthodox Church sponsored a dance ensemble that participated annually in a spring competition between all the Eastern Orthodox

churches in the Midwest. Mihai trained the ensemble, choreographed two suites, and performed as soloist in the competition. Holy Trinity received the loudest ovation and took home the trophy which had, up until then, been won by the Russians. Then the draft board found his Detroit address, and off he went again.

In 1968 after a cross-country road trip, Mihai was hired to dance in Las Vegas, where his act on a stage was a pas de deux with an accomplished partner, both of them scantily dressed. Mihai later visited California, dropping in on a festival in San Diego, where he performed a

Transylvanian solo wearing boots borrowed from a Gandy Dancer.

In 1969 he taught Rustemul, Cimpoi and Mindrele at the Kolo Festival. During a break, Madelyn Taylor said, "These are easy dances; show us something flashy!" Someone put the needle on a recording of music from Oltenia, and Mihai launched into showy kicks, stamps and clicks like he had performed on stage with Cicarlia. Madelyn shouted, "I want to learn that!" And, she did, but later, after

Continued on p. 21



Mihai had finished choreographing the steps for the second half of Floricică Oltenească.

He had been avoiding draft notices by providing Sunni Bloland's address while working in Las Vegas, but the draft board caught up with him once again. Mihai was bussed to Fort Ord for basic training, and assigned to Military Police school in Augusta, Georgia. While in Augusta he found time to take some dance classes with Edward Villella before the army sent him to Maryland. There he was discovered by Phyllis Diamond, who ran a folk dance club in Bethesda, and directed the holiday dance camp, Buffalo Gap in West Virginia. She invited Mihai to visit while on leave, and Mihai was a featured instructor for numerous Buffalo Gap Folk Dance Camps.

In 1971 he left the army and he drove to California. He found his way to the Intersection for Wednesday evening Balkan dancing. Ruby Vuceta invited him to teach at the Intersection, and also at her Hollywood Playground classes. Dances taught at his first gig which included Bruil lui Iosca and Tarina de la Abrud. His career as a featured folk dance teacher flourished at camps and clubs such as Zorba's, Café Dansa, Gypsy Camp.

Mihai's life purpose is dance. Performing on stage as a child, Mihai found the audience response intoxicating. The magic has continued through many years of performing and teaching crowds of eager dancers around the world. The magic will continue at Statewide 2019 in Claremont, CA. Which dances from Mihai's repertoire would you like new members of your local club to learn? Please suggest dances for Mihai to teach at Ethnic Treasures Statewide Festival to: vicepresident@socalfolkdance.org.

See you at the Statewide Festival "Ethnic Treasures" in Claremont May 31, 2019!

You can read an interview with **Mihai David** published in *Let's Dance!* in **November 1973** on folkdance.com. Click on *Community - Dance Leaders*. The dance leaders are listed alphabetically by last name.

VENTURA FOLK DANCERS' FALL FESTIVAL (Part One)

by Marc Rayman

The Ventura International Folk Dancers (on behalf of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South) hosted a Fall Festival in Somis on October 21. As it turned out, there was no "falling," but 40+ participants did enjoy 81 dances on a lovely sprung hardwood floor at the Somis Thursday Club. It was typical autumn weather, with a high of almost 80 (fortunately, that's Fahrenheit, not Celsius). You would expect that I would report that everyone had a wonderful time. Well, everyone DID have a wonderful time!

VENTURA FOLK DANCERS' FALL FESTIVAL (Part Two)

by Valerie Daley

Though we are a small group, many of you have danced with some of us either at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Kolo Festival, Danish Days in Solvang, Laguna Festival, or even here in Ventura, where we host a First Sunday Dance Day at the local YMCA.

Last weekend, our Ventura International Folk Dancers, along with the amazing help of Jan and Marc Rayman, also hosted a Sunday Folk Dance Festival in Somis, CA. (That's why I wasn't at the Officers Ball.)

Cricket Rayburn danced with us last week while she was here on a mission to find an NFO conference site for 2020. That was a treat for me!

Dance with joy!



Dancers at the Fall Festival. Photo by M. Rayman.

– SAVE THE DATE –
49th Annual
LAGUNA FOLK DANCE
FESTIVAL
March 1-3, 2019
Clubhouse 2 in Laguna Woods



Clubhouse 2 in Laguna Woods

We are proud to announce our teachers this year: Bata Marčetić (Serbian folk dances) and Steve Kotansky (International folk dances). Bata is well-known both from his appearances at Stockton and from his teaching at the Laguna Festival several years ago. He is an energetic teacher with great dances and music, and a warm and friendly personality. And Steve, a perennial favorite, needs no introduction. We are lucky and proud to have them both teaching at the festival this year.

Miamon Miller will play at our festival, putting together a band of great musicians and playing for us both Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Michael Lawson will again be leading his popular sing-alongs.

Friday evening will feature three bands: Madison Avenue Folk, Zimzala, and Veselba.

There will be no organized Balkan music workshops, but everyone who plays an instrument is encouraged to bring it and add to the festivities by playing at sing-alongs and jamming with others in a room set aside for musicians.

Catered food will again be available for both Saturday and Sunday lunches and the Saturday banquet.

More information about how to register coming soon!

DANCING V

by Pat Cross, Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op

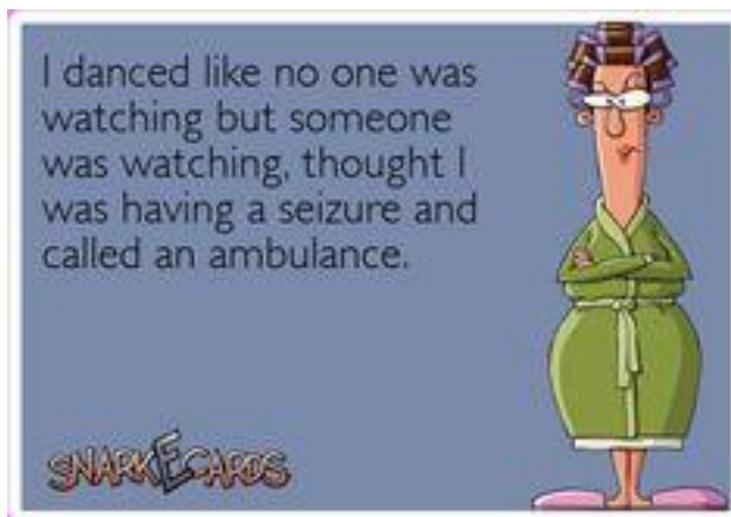
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As she dances
she makes me believe
in auras.

Hers is golden –
not the harsh gold
of commerce and greed,
but the exotic gold
of saffron, turmeric.

The tune is Turkish.
Her shoulders shimmy
hips sway, eyes close.
She is lost to the music.

Our eyes are drawn to her
her joy, her abandon.
There is no other,
only the music and the dance.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND

ETHNIC TREASURES

Statewide 2019 Folk Dance Festival

May 31 – June 2, 2019

Edmunds Ballroom, Pomona College
170 E 6th St, Claremont, CA 91711

Guest Teachers:

Mihai David, Petur Iliev, Sevi Bayraktar, Israel Yakovee, plus
Sunday Salsa Rueda with Cesar Garfiaz

Evening parties feature the band:

Miamon Miller & Friends –
Bill Cope, Michael Lawson & Simeon Pillich

Host Hotel Doubletree Hilton, Claremont

Information & Registration:

<http://socalfolkdance.org/>



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