

Let's Dance!

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See p. 11



Let's Dance!

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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 always welcome. Send to:

Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

153 Race Street

San Jose, CA 95126

Join now! Membership rates: (add \$15 for foreign addresses)

Individual: \$35/year

Household: \$45/year

Students: \$25/year (26 or under and at least half time)

Group/Club: \$40/year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Marcia Rosenblatt, Membership

927 Springfield Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030

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.

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WELCOME OUR NEW FEDERATION MEMBER

Ron Houston, Society of
Folk Dance Historians – Austin TX

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ulrike Narins

Dancing in Japan

I should have started my previous message with “A Happy New Year!” as it was for the January issue, but that did not occur to me when I started writing it in November. So now I wish you all a belated Happy, Healthy New Year with lots of dancing!

Returning once again to our time in Japan...

During our home stay at the Buddhist temple in Yamaguchi, Japan, I learned that my good friend and fellow folk dancer Angel Tam had passed away. The news shocked me and left me quite distraught. Our host mother Masumi and her husband, the head priest at the temple, provided me with great support at that time. The priest talked to Lothar and me about the meaning of death, gave us some prayer beads, and then performed a Buddhist ceremony for Angel. He also allowed us to use the main temple for a special folk dance session for Angel. We coordinated with the people at Changs in San Francisco, so that we could dance in Angel's memory at the very same time—7:30 pm on Friday in California and 12:30 pm on Saturday in Japan. The priest borrowed my cellphone so he could play the dance music we had selected through the temple's sound system. It was the beginning of July and very hot. Lothar and I danced and cried for half an hour, then had to stop dancing, as that part of the building had no air conditioning. Dancing Angel's favorite dances brought us some solace.

Now, on to a more upbeat event.

In addition to holding a monthly open house, the temple occasionally hosted special events for locals. Once during our stay, they offered a day-long workshop where singles might find partners. About 30 young people signed up.

Masumi asked Lothar and me to teach the participants some folk dances. We happily agreed and created a playlist with some couple mixers which we thought were just the right kind of dance for this occasion. We planned for t'Smidje, La Bastringue, and a cute dance called Harukaze no Yuwaku (Spring Breeze Temptation). We worked hard as we prepared the most effective ways of teaching people with no folk dance experience – all in Japanese!

When the day of the event came, we thought we were well prepared. Masumi announced the folk dance part of the singles program, and all the men lined up on one side of the room, the women on the other. When we asked them to form couples, nothing happened! Nobody moved! We tried some other expressions in Japanese to encourage them pair off, but in vain!

Then Masumi came to our aid and urged them to come together, one man with one woman. Still no luck! The men and women stood there, as far apart as possible, with eyes cast down.

Feeling desperate, Masumi took one woman by the hand and walked her over to the first man. That broke the ice, and finally we could give instructions for the dances. The event turned out to be a lot of fun. We had anticipated all kinds of difficulties with the dance steps, never imagining that just forming couples could be a problem!



A NEW DANCE CLASS!

Rebecca Tsai has opened a new international folk dance class on Sundays in Fremont!

Smile Folk Dancers

Parish Center Gym

40382 Fremont Boulevard in Fremont

7:00-9:30 pm \$5 drop-in fee or \$40 for the quarter

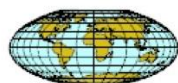
Contact Rebecca Tsai at

smile.folkdancers@gmail.com

We don't usually announce new dance classes, but there has been a lack of folk dance opportunities between Oakland and San Jose for decades. Gigi Jenson hosted a class in San Leandro prior to the COVID pandemic, but she has moved to Oregon.

Rebecca also teaches a class on Thursdays at Age Well Center, 47111 Mission Falls Court in Fremont. Tuesday 11am-1 pm and Thursday 11:15 am-1 pm.

Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2023



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Our trips are for folk dancers, non-dancers,
and anyone with a love of travel and culture.

www.jimgold.com



ISRAEL: March 12-23, 2023

Led by Joe Freedman and Lee Friedman. Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed, Golan Heights

WESTERN CANADA: April 13-25, 2023

Led by Led by Cathie Dunklee-Donnell
with Lee Otterholt and Genci Kastrati Calgary, Banff, Vancouver

PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE: May 21-June 2, 2023

Led by Martha Tavera. Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Quechua Village, Lake Titicaca, Uyuni, La Paz, Atacama Desert

ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA, KOSOVO

May 24-June 5, ext. 5-7, 2023

Led by Lee Otterholt, guided by Kliti Zika. Tirana, Durres, Vlora Festival, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat, Lake Prespa, Ochrid

POLAND: June 8-21, 2023. Led by Richard Schmidt.

Warszawa, Olsztyn, Malbork, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot, Toruń, Kraków

SCANDINAVIA: Norway, Sweden, Denmark June 13-27, 2023

Led by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND

June 14-27, 2023. **Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour**

Led by Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman:

Munich, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Swiss Alps, Lucerne, Zurich

BULGARIA: August 7-20, 2023 **Black Sea Ext. August 20-25!**

Led by Lee Otterholt and Ventsi Milev

Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, Varna

IRELAND: August 5-17, 2023:

Led by Lee Friedman and Kay Cleary

Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin

SPAIN: September 14-27, 2023: Led by Lee Otterholt:

Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

ROMANIA: October 1-15, 2023

Led by Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman

Bucharest, Brasov. Sibiu Cluj, Piatra Neamt, Sighetu Marmatiei

GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: October 7-20, 2023

Led by Lee Otterholt.: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus, **Greek Island Cruise** to Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey)



TOUR REGISTRATION: Reserve my place! \$200 per person deposit.

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Calendar of Events

We reserve the right to edit all submissions; we assume no responsibility for accuracy.
Additional events can be found at www.folkdance.com (Community tab).

- January 27-29** **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS RETREAT.** Monte Toyon Camp Retreat in Aptos. Info: www.berkeleyfolkdance.org. Bruce Hamilton is the guest teacher. Advance registration required at berkeleyfolkdancers.org. *Proof of vaccination, including boosters, and N-95 or KN 95 masks required.*
- February 4** **PENINSULA COUNCIL FOLK DANCE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 3:30-6:30 pm. Info: adony408@gmail.com. (In case you saw an earlier listing that said this was a Tea Party, it has been moved to May when the weather will be warmer.)
- February 11** **CAFÉ SHALOM MONTHLY ISRAELI DANCE PARTY.** Congregation Am Tikvah, 625 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco. 7:30-11:30 pm. \$10. Info: udy@yahoo.com.
- February 12** **FESTIVAL OF THE OAKS.** Live Oak Recreation Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 9 am-5 pm. Morning workshops featuring Farima Berenji (Persian) and Lenore Watson (contras). Workshop and dance party \$30. On-site lunch \$10. Dance program including a Tahitian dance performance in the afternoon. Info: berkeleyfolkdance.org. *Proof of vaccination, including boosters, and N-95 or KN-95 masks required.*
- February 25** **THE 11TH ANNUAL CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL.** Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos. 1-5:30 pm. \$15. Tom Bozigian and Sheree King are the master teachers. Info: chiangwenli@yahoo.com or CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com.
- March 4** **RED & BLACK BALL.** Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue, Santa Rosa. 7-10 pm. \$5 plus tips for the singers/musicians. A special live music and singing set with Gradina, Sonoma County Balkan performing group as well as dancing to your recorded favorites. Please wear red and black.
- March 30** **SARATOGA FOLK DANCERS END-OF-QUARTER PARTY.** St. Michael Archangel Serbian Orthodox Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga. Live music with Da! Mozhem and recorded music during the band's breaks. 7:30-10:15 pm. Sliding scale: \$6-\$10 plus tips for the band. Info: loui@loutucker.com.
- May 6** **CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS 14TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL.** Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos. 1-5:30 pm. Info: CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com.
- May 19** **2023 STATEWIDE FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL - HARBOR VIEW.** Wigwam Hall, 543 Shepherd Street, San Pedro. Featured teachers will be Bata Marčetić (Serbian) and Joan Hantman (Israeli). Contact: Diane Baker 949-244-0666 or see the flyer and registration form on p. 21-22.



THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Aaron Alpert made latkes for the crowd that celebrated Hanukkah at Nirkoda's Israeli dance party in December. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Ray Sunby won the Saratoga Dancers' "Oh My Stars!" Costume Contest with his clever interpretation of the word "stars." *Photo by L. Tucker.*



High-stepping dancers enjoyed the New Year's Eve Party sponsored annually by the Moveable Feet Club. *Photo by C. Dickey.*



Liz Numoto and Alan Rothchild enjoyed dancing together at the Saratoga "Oh My Stars!" Party. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Judy Donaldson (leading the line) celebrated her 80th birthday by hosting dancing to live music by Zabava at Park Hall Community Center in Ben Lomond. *Photo by C. Dickey.*

How the Chicken Dance Saved the Day

by Laura Richardson

Since retiring this past summer, I have been substitute teaching one day per week. I decided this would be a good way to stay sharp, and to give something back to the school district that educated my children. It's a new adventure in flexibility every week.

Sometimes the school's office doesn't really know what class they are offering to me when they call at 7 am. They might have some vague idea, but frequently not an accurate idea. For example, my last assignment was 7th grade math. However, when I arrived and reviewed the lesson plans, the last period of the day was NOT math – **it was listed as Hip-hop!**

I know a little about many kinds of dancing, but Hip-hop is not one of them. The teacher left instructions: (1) make the kids run twice around the track; and (2) give them basketballs to use on the blacktop. Simple enough. **But would this satisfy the needs of 7th grade wannabe Hip-hop stars? Doubtful.**

By the time the last period rolled around, I was fresh out of ideas. Fortunately, it was a beautiful day, and everyone willingly headed to the field with me. I explained the instructions the teacher left for the class, and the students were disappointed. I fully sympathized with them. I would much rather dance than run around a track. While they dutifully began their trek around the track, I scanned my phone for something I might be able to use.

I had music for a few folk dances on my phone, but nothing that seemed like it would be easy enough or fun enough to hold the attention of adolescents. Then I scrolled past the Chicken Dance. Aha! Here was something just silly enough ... maybe. After their laps, one of the boys flopped on the AstroTurf and curled up in a ball to sleep. I prodded him to find out if he was all right, and he said he was just tired. Very well, Napping Child.

I corralled a few of the more outgoing girls and said, "Hey, I don't have your dance tunes on my phone, but how would you like to learn a dance?" and I played the music for Chicken Dance with the phone on speaker. I began to go through the silly motions, and pretty soon five or six of the girls were joining me.

They especially liked the linking arms and skipping around, and switching partners. Then the comatose boy on the AstroTurf sat up and started to smile. Soon he joined us, and then several more boys joined us. A P.E. class rolled out onto the grass, and a few of *them* started doing the Chicken Dance with us! It became a whole thing out there on the AstroTurf. The P.E. teachers looked a little stunned. **It wasn't Hip-hop, nor even remotely like Hip-hop, but we did have a good time Chicken Dancing on the AstroTurf.**

I will not be surprised to see some Chicken Dance moves added to future Hip-hop dance routines on TikTok. And I will know how that got started.



It wasn't Hip-hop, nor even remotely like Hip-hop, but we did have a good time Chicken Dancing on the AstroTurf.

SHE WAS INSPIRED

Melissa Miller was recently looking in her husband Lew's shoe bag and came across a back issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine. Flipping through it, she was inspired to send in an entry for the **Scavenger Hunt** in the **February 2022** issue. She wrote: "It says something about how much of my life is about dance that I was

able to pull this collection together in under ten minutes, including going to the back of the closet for the cowboy boots that I haven't worn since we went on lockdown."

More-or-less clockwise from top:

- A hat
- A folk dance-related t-shirt
- Cowboy boots (Item related to square dancing)
- Finger cymbals (percussion instrument)
- Folk dance book
- Picture of herself (and Lew) dancing
- Indian snack food (dish of ethnic food)
- Record album
- Miniature Greek shoes



TONI DENMARK – Dancer and Artist

by Toni Denmark

Editor's Note: I was introduced to Toni Denmark by Margaret Harrison, a fellow dancer who sent me a holiday card she purchased from Toni that has a reproduction of one of her paintings of opanci on the front. The card intrigued me, so I asked Margaret about it. That led me to an email exchange with Toni and her dancer-and-artist article below.

My love for folk dancing began when I was just ten years old in San Francisco. Like most immigrants wanting to keep their native culture alive, my parents joined a Croatian fraternal club. It surely soothed the hearts that were missing what they left behind in Croatia. I was put in the children's folk dance group at the club. Our teacher, Edith Cuthbert, with her braided hair in a crown and a friendly smile, taught us Croatian kolos.

I continued to dance in my teens and twenties at City College of San Francisco and at the old Mandala with Neil Sandler. Falling in love with more than dance, I married my wonderful husband, Alan. We moved to Palo Alto where I was busy working and raising our child.

In 1991, we moved to Marin and I learned of the new Mandala in San Francisco led by another Edith, Edith Bourbin. A wonderful teacher, she rekindled my love of dancing and brought back my memory of dances I had forgotten. Later, I learned of a group hosted by Irene Croft and Gary Anderson in San Rafael. It had many wonderful "older" dancers whose friendship and wisdom I still cherish.

I finally found my home with Dean Linscott's Kopachka Folk Dancers in Mill Valley. I enjoy dancing in Petaluma and Santa Rosa, but Kopachka is truly my home.

While in Palo Alto, my husband and I attended a fundraiser and silent auction. Alan's bid on an artist's "pochade" (art box) was successful. He brought it to me and said, "Now you don't have an excuse." I must have said, once too many times when looking at art, "I wish I could paint like that." He called my bluff, but I procrastinated until my son was a high school senior in Marin. That year I gave up being PTA President and Chief Bottle Washer at his school. I gave my son the gift of my absence on campus and I enrolled in a painting class at College of Marin.

Taking classes with several talented teachers/artists, I learned to work with oils, egg tempera and to make frescoes. I learned much about painting, but

what really struck me was a comment from one teacher. While I was noting the flaws of my painting in a self-critique, he simply said "It's not as bad as you think." I chuckled at his tact at the time, but I have been happily painting ever since (trying not to be too hard on myself). This comment applies to dancing as well.

In one class I started painting shoes instead of the assigned vegetables. Shoes were more interesting! Looking at my collection of shoes I wondered why I bought them when I don't wear many of them (but I still can't let them go). I realized they were a reflection of me ... the woman I am, the woman I used to be, and the woman (I think) I would like to be.

I started painting the shoes that I felt most passionate about, my old Croatian opanci. It may sound corny, but when I dance in them it makes my heart sing. I have also painted Serbian, Macedonian, and Bulgarian opanci as well as other dancing shoes with special meaning for me or their owner. I have painted other styles of shoes – some fancy ones that caught my eye in store windows, and

others that just bring back good memories.

At some point, putting my fear aside, I braved painting dancers wearing their ethnic costumes. My opanci and my ethnic dance paintings are my most treasured works. I have been able to combine the two things that give me such pleasure, folk dancing and painting. I dance even when my body hurts because my heart still sings!

I find that my teacher's comment "It's not as bad as you think" especially applies to dancing. When I teach or review an active dance I tell the dancers that there are three ways to do it. One is the way a hot-shot young buck would do it, wanting to impress the girls, of course. The second is the way a middle-aged dancer would do it, technically correct steps with the right styling but lacking a little in energy. The third way is the way many of us who are 70-plus, with arthritis, artificial hips, etc., do it. That is any way we can as long as we are enjoying it. **So, don't be too hard on yourself. What's important is that you're smiling while those endorphins are flowing and your heart is singing.**





The oil painting above, entitled *The Conversation*, by Toni Denmark is 18" x 24" and it's for sale. If you are interested in purchasing it, please contact her at Toni@HotelSuperior.com.



The cards mentioned in the article featuring the opanci (sample above) are 5.5" x 7.5" and will be reissued if Toni receives enough requests to warrant printing them. Please contact her at Toni@HotelSuperior.com.

SCENIC HOLLAND & ORIENTAL TURKEY – Tours in September 2023 with Tineke & Maurits van Geel and Ahmet Demirbagh



SCENIC HOLLAND € 2450 (early booking) € 2350 a trip to our home country will surprise you with hidden gems, diversity of landscape and picturesque villages.

ORIENTAL TURKEY € 2150 (early booking) € 2050 is a great tour to see some amazing places and dance with local teachers.

BOTH TOURS € 4400 (early booking) € 4200 (direct flight to Kayseri from Rotterdam).

Detailed tour program and registration: www.tinekevangeel.nl

SPEAKING OF DANCING

Finding Folk Dance's New Golden Age: Part 2

by Gigi Jensen

"Are you willing to make the pivot to meet people where they are?"

That was my question in Part 1 of this article. Gen Xers, Millennials, Baby boomers, etc., are different from each other. They are communities of people who share characteristics. The people who lived through the post-WWII era are different in focus and habits than the people who live during the COVID-19 era. Understanding that will help us adapt and grow with them.

The Silent Generation – 1925-1945, ages 77 & older

Baby Boomer – 1946-1964, ages 58-76

Generation X – 1965 - 1980, ages 42-57

Millennials (also called Gen Y) – 1981-1996, ages 27-41

Generation Z – 1997-2012, ages 10-26

Generation Alpha – 2013-2022, >age 10

Generation Alpha: Babies to 4th graders

They've not been alive long enough to have generationally defining characteristics. However, little kids haven't changed all that much except in their relationship to the Internet.

1. They can't remember a life without the Internet.
2. Your Good Old Days are Ancient History to them.
3. Early childhood movement education is important for all children. Sharing it with you makes it memorable.

Generation Z: Older elementary school kids to college

Gen-Z kids expect change; flexibility is the norm. Entrepreneurship is in their DNA. They want to make a difference in the world. They are comfortable with learning skills through non-traditional means, by video tutorials or virtual reality, for example. This generation is self-described as addicted to digital devices, and texting is preferred over phone calls, yet they also value face-to-face interaction. Having fun is important. They put more value on experiences than possessions, preferring instead to create memories. The generation they connect with the most is their grandparents', most likely Baby Boomers.

1. They likely would prefer a variety of dances over dancing one dance for 45 continuous minutes.
2. They go where their peers go. If you invite a kid to a folk dance event, include a friend or two.
3. Take photos for them to post on their social media. Ask if it's okay to post them on yours if they are minors.
4. Enjoy the moment. It may be a one-time thing since they typically are so busy.

5. Introduce them to opportunities for making a difference. Folk dancing builds cultural bridges, fosters diversity, and creates an expanded world view.
6. They get their music via the Internet. Most likely the majority of the dance they see is via digital media and watched on their phones. Watch dance together through virtual platforms like Zoom. Create music playlists together, curate a YouTube dance channel, make short videos together that can be posted on TikTok or other social media platforms. Again, if they are minors, you should get parental permission before posting.



Generation Y / Millennials: Adults busy with forming careers and raising families

This generation is idealistic. Teamwork is important to them and it's how they build personal communities. They don't measure success by traditional life goals such as marriage or home ownership. They want to make a difference in the world, and care deeply about diversity and inclusion. They are used to multi-tasking. Millennials constantly peruse social media. It's how they get and share information. Millennials are considered the generation that exhibits the most curiosity, and they possess a deep passion for learning new things.

1. Folk dance intrinsically fosters diversity, inclusivity, and an expanded world view, but how does your folk dance group translate those into action? Millennials may want to participate in group projects that effect positive change.
2. To attract people in this group, use social media. Which social media platforms are popular changes over time, and every community has its preferences. Ask them and they'll tell you.
3. Providing a babysitter at your folk dance club may entice a parent to join the dancing. Provide a laptop with a pre-loaded movie for entertainment.

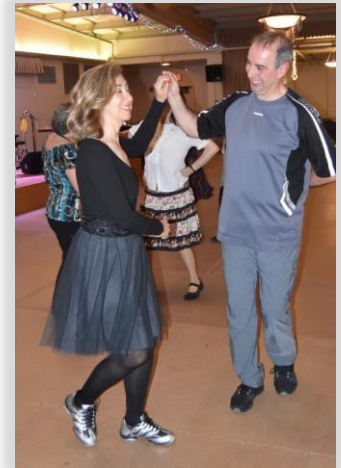
Generation X: Pre-Empty nesters in peak career mode

This is the generation of latchkey kids who had to be autonomous and self-sufficient. They may be simultaneously taking care of kids while caring for aging parents. They were the first generation to have personal computers. They use entertainment technology more than any previous generation, and are accustomed to having multiple televisions and computer games. Work/life balance is a big goal. They value family deeply, and volunteer more than previous generations. They saw big world changes, having lived through the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.

continued on p. 17

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO DANCING COUPLES

Can you identify the couples on the cover and on this page? Answers on p. 26.



From the Editor

The Importance of the First Follower

Before you start reading, please take three minutes to locate and watch at a short video clip. Find your favorite device (pad, tablet, laptop, desktop, phone...) and navigate to YouTube. Search for “First Followers” and find the video that looks something like the screen below. The rest of this piece isn’t going to make a lot of sense if you don’t watch



the video, so please do it.

No, I mean it. Really.

Go watch the video!

Okay, but don’t say I didn’t warn you.



Because of the title of the video, “Leadership Lessons from Dancing Guy,” you might assume the video you’re watching is a lesson in leadership, how one person can start a movement. If you take the time to watch all the way to the end, you’ll get a slightly different message.

Yes, absolutely, the leader is important, but **if the leader doesn’t have a First Follower, the movement never gets off the ground.** Leadership is really over-glorified. Leaders get all the credit, but there is no movement without the First Follower. It is the First Follower who turns the lone nut into a leader.

First Followers don’t just loyally follow; they show others *how* to follow. After being acknowledged, even embraced, by the leader, the First Follower calls to his friends to join in. Being a First Follower is an underappreciated form of leadership. New followers don’t emulate the leader; they emulate the other followers. Once you get enough followers, you have a movement, an in-crowd, a popular pursuit, and nobody wants to be left out.

As the author of the video says at the end, “If you find a lone nut doing something great, have the guts to be the first person to stand up and join in.”

How does this relate to folk dancing?

International folk dancing was once an important social movement with new people joining daily, and new clubs and dance sessions forming weekly. There were clubs formed just for teenagers! There was a dance party happening somewhere every Saturday and a dance festival once a month that drew hundreds of dancers and included performances by local troupes. The Folk Dance Federation had thousands of members. Ah, the Glory Days.

I am truly doubtful we will ever return to those days, but I also think this video presents an interesting way to turn the tide. **We all should become First Followers.**

As seen in the video, the First Follower demonstrates his connection to the leader. He beckons to his friends, “Come on! This is fun!” When was the last time you beckoned to your not-yet-dancer friends and said, “You should come folk dancing with me! It’s a great way to meet new people, get a little low-impact exercise, learn a new skill, socialize, and listen to interesting music”?

Personal tidbit: I was not initially invited to a dance class. I was invited to dinner. At the end of the dinner, my hosts said, “We’re going to our folk dance class tonight. You should join us.” I was, I admit, reluctant, but they had just served me a nice meal and it didn’t seem right to decline this second invitation. So, I joined them and went to the dance class. I’ve been folk dancing for over 50 years.

It’s a month too late for New Year’s resolutions, but how about making a personal commitment to be a First Follower? Think of the impact if we each brought in one new dancer, if we doubled the number of dancers this year!

74th Annual International Folk Dance Festival of the Oaks



Farima Berenji



Lenore Watson

DATE AND LOCATION

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Location: Live Oak Park

1301 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709

**Proof of vaccination and boosters
required. KN-95 or N-95 Masks
required.**



No partner needed

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

**Institute with Farima Berenji
& Contras with Lenore Watson**
& a performance of Silk Road Folk Dances
by Farima & her Simorgh Dance Collective
9:30 - noon – \$18.00

International Folk Dancing
Dances from around the world,
Institute Reviews & contras
Brief presentation by Tahitian Dance Company
Te Mana O Te Ra
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. – \$17.00

All day – Institutes & Folk Dance Party
\$30.00

Hot lunch
Noon - 1:00 p.m. – \$10.00

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

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

Free refreshments all afternoon

Register and pay in advance at:
<https://tinyurl.com/festivalofoaks>

**To send dance requests for the afternoon
party, or for more info, email:**
rg94610@gmail.com or
yvonneprovaznik@comcast.net

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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS—*Ann Moghaddas*
January dancing fun included our 82nd Birthday Ball on January 8, and the Monte Toyon Dance Weekend in Aptos on January 27-29, which featured Bruce Hamilton. Both were well-attended and enjoyed by all.

On February 12, the Berkeley Folk Dancers will host the 74th Annual Festival of the Oaks, at Live Oak Park. There will be a dance institute with Farina Berenji and contras called by Lenore Watson, an on-site catered lunch, and an afternoon dance party with a brief performance by Te Mana O Te Ra, a Tahitian Dance Company. Proof of vaccinations and boosters required and KN95 or N95 masks required.

Please see the flyer on p. 12 for further details including price and how to register.

And Happy Valentine's Day!

RAZZMATAZZ—*Marilyn Smith*

On Saturday, December 3, we held our annual **Razzmatazz Christmas Folk Dance Party** at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. This is always a joyful occasion and a reunion as we see folks we haven't seen since the last Christmas party or the Red & Black Ball in the spring. It's always good to know that, even if some people don't folk dance on a regular basis, they still come to our parties.

Although we didn't have children at the party this year, I still read our traditional "Twas the Night Before Christmas" as I do every year. Folks were more than willing to sit on the floor in front of me and shout out the rhyming words. Years ago, Rebecca Dwan gave me a wonderful lighted display of Santa in his sleigh with eight tiny reindeer which I set up on the piano in the hall. When I read, "What to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer," there they were on the top of the piano!

The **special part of the whole evening was the music and singing of Gradina**, our local Balkan performing group. Each time they add a few new songs to their repertoire. This year their program included a Pravo, Dospatsko Horo, Hora din Câmpie, Ya da Kalinushku, Sabrali sa se Sabrali, Tervelska Râka, Berançe, Fatiše Kolo, Pomaško Širto, Thracian Râčenica, Širto and a Lesnoto. At the end of the dance program, they sang a beautiful, poignant Ukrainian Christmas carol as we all stood in total silence and awe.

Our folk dance classes will start again on Tuesday, February 7. I'm excited about teaching some more dances from Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2022 as well as to reteach some older dances from the past. **Our annual Red & Black Ball will be on Saturday, March 4.**



The circle of dancers at Razzmatazz's annual Christmas Folk Dance Party. *Photo by M. Smith*

NORTH BAY—*Carol Friedman*

Balkan/International dancing in Petaluma returned in January.

Continuing favorites include Melnik, which has been in the repertoire for decades, and Kune, which I stumbled on while surfing folk dance videos on YouTube. I was honored to be a **guest teacher at Kopatchka Dancers** in Mill Valley in December where I taught both of these dances. It's always fun to dance with a different group and check out their repertoire. Each group has its own particular focus and favorites, and I often discover dances that I share in Petaluma.

The Israeli dance classes resumed in January as well, now held at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. As always, we'll be doing a mix of beginning, intermediate and advanced non-partner dances – and your requests are always welcome.

Despite a certain amount of Zoom fatigue, I continue to attend various Zoom sessions to watch, dance, connect with friends around the country, and discover dances – new and old – that I like. This past month that included Luna Sephardita and Avak Hadrachim, plus Prekid Kolo which I remember dancing with Carol Hirsch decades ago when I first

... AND BEYOND

started folk dancing. I also discovered and choreographed a dance to a wild and fun rendition of Adon Olam that I'll be teaching this month.

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome to join any of these classes. For more information: 415-663-9512 or cjay@horizoncable.com.

SAN FRANCISCO GROUPS—*Linda Milhoan*
Chang International Folk Dancers has welcomed 12 (yes, 12!) new members since March 2022, when we returned to in-person dancing. We've had an increase in our weekly attendance, too.

One Friday in December we were pleasantly surprised to have **several parents of our former Family Group join us for dancing**. It was great hearing about their young adult children who started with us when they were in elementary school! A couple of weeks later, the Bruxvoort family dropped in with Ben and Ellis, who will both graduate in the spring: Ben from college and Ellis from high school. We're delighted that three of our former Changs kids are now young adult members!

We're currently busy gearing up for our 85th birthday celebration in the fall of 2023. We are planning many special events to be announced.

San Francisco Dance Circle member Julie House **choreographed a line dance to Chanukkah O Chanukkah and taught it to our class**. At our last meeting in December, Matt Miller made a video of the dance, which was then sent to our teacher, Channa Orner, who hasn't been able to dance with us due to health issues. We returned to our regular Wednesday sessions in January.

CHICO WORLD DANCERS—*Memo Keswick*
2023 was a welcome change for us here in Chico. We know COVID is not gone, but we're more comfortable in its presence. Our parties (for now) no longer request masks and social distancing. Our Sunday dancing DOES request masks and social distancing because of the extremely small studio used for dance.

Our local Board decided to resume holding monthly dance parties the first Sunday of each month [4:30-7:30 pm] at our beautiful Chico Woman's Club. Our Sunday club offers dancing 2-4 pm on non-party dates. We also have weekly dance classes offered through our local Chico Recreation District and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute programs. **Hallelujah, and onward!**

Our music scene includes both musicians and singers, and rehearsals are mostly weekly. Both the musicians and singers work on material to perform at our local parties. **Lots of the material is Balkan in nature, but we also include non-Balkan tunes typically heard at international folk dance clubs.**

In 2023 we expect the musicians to keep up their relationships (through festivals and lessons) with professional musicians. This includes working with our favorite groups of Dragni and Petya Dragnevi and Donka & Nicolay Kolevi. Our musicians and singers know that every moment working directly with professional musicians is an incredible gift!

The Chico World Dancers was very successful in fundraising during 2022. We are hoping to use these funds in 2023 to bring a dance teacher to Chico. This has been possible in the past when teachers were invited to the San Francisco Bay Area and offered a Northern California dancing tour. We've been fortunate to have had visits from Aaron Alpert, Michael Ginsburg, Roberto Bagnoli, and Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu. All their visits have been a real treat for those of us living far from the big cities.

We welcome visitors and suggest you reach out to us to confirm that events are happening as scheduled. Contact: chicoworlddancers@gmail.com.

PENINSULA COUNCIL—*Clem Dickey*
The Peninsula Council and its member clubs enticed many local dancers to brave the cold and rainy weather in December to enjoy some great dance parties: The Palomanians' annual Pie Party, the Saratoga Dancers' "Oh, My Stars!" Party [a photo of Ray Sunby, the winner of the Costume Contest, is in the Family Photo Album on p. 6], the Peninsula Council's Christmas Day party, and the Moveable Feet Club's New Year's Eve Party and Lucy Chang Memorial Second Harvest Food Bank Fundraiser.

The New Year's Eve fundraiser, by the way, raised \$10,760 this year, which far exceeded their goal of \$6,000.

The Monday Hungarian/Romanian class led by Todd Wagner is working on Romanian dances from the village of Bonchida in the Mezőség region of Transylvania. **These are all couple dances, and the class could use a few more women.**

The Palomanians have been working on dances from World Camp, Stockton, and Kolo Festival, plus a few old favorites, including Sheyavo, Monchilovsko Horo, Aino Chume, and The Dundee Whaler.

A VISIT TO NEW ORLEANS

by *Craig Blackstone*

In December, Cindy and I enjoyed our first stay in New Orleans. Since we were there for a week, we had plenty of time to see many of the special sights unique to the city known as The Big Easy. We arrived late on Sunday and found our accommodations in the French Quarter near Royal Street. Our week began Monday morning with a stopover at the Café Du Monde across from Jackson Square to snack on their famous beignets (a kind of donut) and listen to a small jazz combo. We then took a hop-on, hop-off tour of New Orleans to get oriented to the city and familiarize ourselves with its landmarks. That evening offered the first opportunity to explore Bourbon Street and its many jazz music clubs. As first timers to New Orleans, we found the number and variety of clubs offering live music in such close proximity to be rather astonishing.

On Tuesday, we took a day trip outside New Orleans. Our package began with a morning exploration of Oak Alley, a sugar cane plantation dating to the 1840s. While the mansion house and its approach avenue of 14 pairs of stately oaks was impressive, we were a little surprised by how small the living quarters in the main house were, and that it did not have internal plumbing installed until the 1920s.



Oak Alley Plantation. *Photo by R. Mangalitsa.*

The plantation's slavery exhibit was most enlightening. Following lunch at a restaurant adjacent to the plantation, a short bus ride brought us to our afternoon's destination, a bayou swamp tour from Cajun Swamp Tours. Our guide was Captain Erik Dumas, a Cajun from Covington, Louisiana, who has



been "running and playing with alligators in the swamps" for the last 36 years. He led us on a two-hour tour of the bayous aboard his vessel, aptly named the Swamp Thing. We saw many, many alligators while learning about alligator hunting, and even got to pet (a very small) one. After dinner, we went to Fritzel's European Jazz Club with two sets of Dixieland Jazz performed by different jazz combos.

On Wednesday, an old-fashioned streetcar ride took us across the French Quarter to the Warehouse District, where we spent the day visiting the National WWII Museum. This is a truly captivating place, with exhibit halls dedicated to all aspects of American involvement in World War II. Even for pacifists such as myself, it is worth a visit.

Upon returning to the French Quarter, we dined at the Bourbon House Restaurant before moving on to Preservation Hall, where I had secured front-row seats for a performance by The Preservation Hall Jazz Band. It was a great show, but I found it a bit disconcerting to have the trombone slide repeatedly coming out to within a couple of feet of my nose.

We relaxed on Thursday morning, saving energy for events yet to come. The first was lunch at Antoine's Restaurant, one of the premier dining establishments in New Orleans. At the conclusion of our delicious meal, we splurged on a dessert order of Baked Alaska, the 180-year-old restaurant's signature dessert. The next stop was a visit to the two buildings of the Louisiana State Museum across from Jackson Square. I found the exhibit on Hurricane Katrina utterly fascinating.

The real highlight of the day was an evening of folk dancing with the Crescent City Folk Dancers. Prior to taking our trip we had researched the availability of a folk dance venue to visit during our stay in New Orleans. Their website included a contact person and telephone number, so I called Nick, their designated contact, to confirm the dancing and to ask about availability of public transit. Nick told me there was no convenient way to reach their venue by public transit, but he offered to give us a ride.

The club was very friendly and welcoming to us as newcomers, and there was no charge for first-time visitors. They had a set program of about 30 dances, composed of requests submitted by the club members. No more than three dances from any single member were included in the program, which was organized and emailed to the members by Tuesday, allowing them some time to review any of the selected dances

on YouTube before their Thursday night dance party. Cindy and I knew about 20 of the dances on the program, although some of those we had not danced in quite a few years. As is usual when we dance away from home, we found that a few of the dances were done differently than we do them. For example, Humppa was danced to Celtic music, and Kohanochka included the follower taking a roundhouse punch towards the head of her partner. All in all, it was great fun, and the program ended nicely with a Lesnoto medley. If you are in New Orleans and are free on a Thursday evening, I highly recommend a visit to this very accommodating club.

On Friday we explored the shopping opportunities of the French Quarter. We casually strolled through the French Market and the adjoining flea market where we met several talented artists, jewelers and writers offering their works for sale. Cindy took

The real highlight of the day was an evening of folk dancing with the Crescent City Folk Dancers.

the evening off to rest, while I went out to do more exploring. First, I strolled along Frenchmen Street in the Faubourg Marigny District,

where locals hang out for some of the best jazz and food in New Orleans. Later, feeling in the mood for some Cajun music, I made my way to Mulate's, where a three-piece combo played Cajun tunes while patrons danced. After that, I climbed aboard a St. Charles line streetcar for a nighttime excursion through the Garden District to see many of their magnificent mansions ablaze with holiday lights and decorations.

Saturday was our last full day in New Orleans, with two items on our schedule. The morning brought us out on another St. Charles streetcar ride to the Garden District for the annual New Orleans Preservation Resource Center Holiday Home Tour. This was a walking tour through six fine homes and gardens in the exclusive Garden District. At two of the stops, we were serenaded by small choirs singing Christmas songs, while another featured a barbershop quartet. After a rest back at our hotel, we took the Riverfront streetcar to the Mississippi River waterfront for a Creole dinner and jazz cruise aboard the paddlewheel steamer *The City of New Orleans*. As this was a combination of sightseeing, New Orleans jazz music and delicious food, it was a fitting choice for the final event of our visit to New Orleans.



The Crescent City Folk Dancers. "We are a voluntary village."

Speaking of Dancing – continued from p. 10

1. This generation is so busy that they may not have time for regular folk dancing. Invite them to events that don't require a long-term commitment.
2. They inhabit a multi-generational world, so family folk dance activities could be an attractive option.
3. Tap into their desire to belong to a community. Share the social aspect of folk dance.

My big takeaways

No matter the generation, people still need connection. Some prefer in-person togetherness; others prefer distance. The Internet is a tool that, for some, redefines how we interact with others. Life goals have changed. Long-term contracts for stability have been replaced with adaptation, flexibility, creativity.

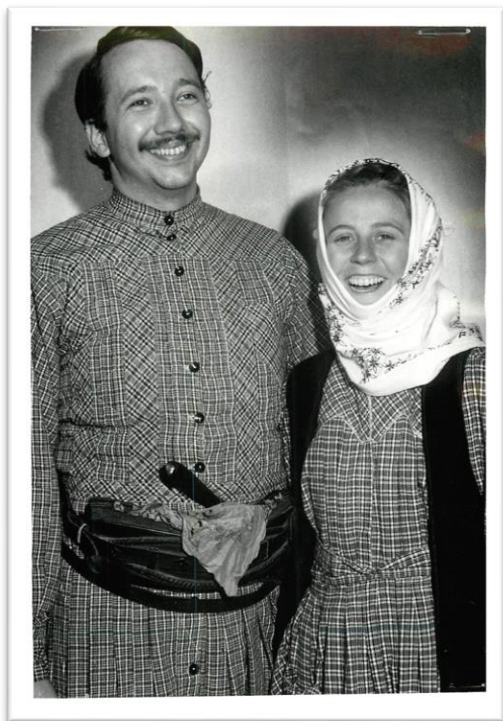
There is a new optimism in creating a better world and a balanced life. How we tap into that to benefit fostering community through dance is a work in progress. The first step is in opening our minds to new possibilities, and then tailor how we make that happen.

Resources This was written after extensive online research. Some of the articles are listed below. An Internet search for the title of each will yield the entire article.

- Understanding Generation Z Culture
- How Gen Z Is Redefining Fun
- 11 Millennial Characteristics You Should Know Before Hiring Them
- 10 Common Characteristics of the Millennial Generation
- 5 Gen X Characteristics That Anyone Born In this Cohort Will Immediately Identify With

I love talking about dance. Feel free to write me at dance@tangoandmoredance.com.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Can you identify the couple shown above?
The FIRST person to identify them will win a \$25 Visa gift card. Email your response to either loui@loutitucker.com or editor@folkdance.com.



Hadi Babazadeh (left), born February 27, 1921, in Rasht, Iran, died December 6, 2022, in El Dorado Hills, California. He and Barbara Bevan (right) were partners for 30 years. The photo above was taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1992. Barbara will share her memories of Hadi in next month's issue of *Let's Dance!*

Last month's photo



That's Lucille Czarnowski and Henry "Buzz" Glass dancing together at Stockton Camp. We believe the photo was taken in 1972 when both attended the 25th anniversary of Stockton Camp. Both of them served as president of the California Folk Dance Federation.

Buzz Glass founded the Folk Dance Federation and was its first president (1942-43); Lucille was the fourth president (1945-46).

We have a winner!

Lynne Clark was the first person to correctly identify Lucille Czarnowski and Buzz Glass. She recognized Lucille easily because she took dance classes from her! Read Lynne's story on p. 19.

LYNNE CLARK'S DANCE JOURNEY

by Lynne Clark

Oh boy, I'm the winner! How exciting! Please, keep the money for the fund. Just the idea of winning is enough.

I met Lucille Czarnowski at Cal Berkeley when I was a student in 1957. She was so good. She introduced me to international dances, exciting dances, exotic dances: Hofbrau Haus, Marklander, Dodi Li (one of my favorites, the way she taught it), and the Hambo. I learned both the man's and woman's part. It made a lot of difference in understanding the dance.

I took lessons for a number of years. We danced in the Hearst Gym on the second floor. I believe it was on a sprung wood floor. It was heavenly. We also danced on Fridays on the lawn next to the gym.

After college I got away from folk dancing for a decade or so. When I was living in Napa, I joined a group led by Annalie Myal, another excellent teacher.



That's Lynne on the left.

It was then that I met the love of my life, Joe Clark. We were married for over 38 years. He died in 2021. Oh, do I miss him!

When we moved to Port Angeles, Washington, we built a house in 2005 with a large living room with a maple floor. It has held up for 17 years so far. We've had all kinds of dances here: folk dances, free-style couple dances with a live band, line dances, and contra dances. Also, I have taught folk dances to my friends for 10 years.

When COVID hit, we moved to the garage. Of course, we didn't hold hands and we distanced ourselves. We were there for over two years, but we have since moved back into the house.

I can carry on, can't I? My hubby, Joe, always said, "You should get out there and do it: Dance, Dance, Dance." And that's what I'm doing.

~ Josette Lynne Richardson Clark

P.S. Please publish my letter in *Let's Dance!* magazine. THAT'S my prize!



Lynne with her dance group in Washington.

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? Have you read a dance-related book, seen a video, or visited a website that you think others would enjoy? Have you been taking photos at dance events? Why not share them with *Let's Dance!* readers? **Do you have a dance story to tell?**

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. Contact *Let's Dance!* Editor at editor@folkdance.com to discuss.

FEDERATION NEWS



CAN YOU HELP WITH FACEBOOK?

If you are an avid user of Facebook, would you like to help the Federation keep its Facebook page active and exciting? Please contact Kevin Greek at greek1@ix.netcom.com.

FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Federation is always looking for ways to increase membership. We are currently offering new members a coupon good for one free Federation festival, which, in some cases, is like getting your first year of membership for free. The Federation Board decided to sweeten that deal by **offering the same coupon to the current member who is responsible for that new member joining the Federation.**

Just talk about the Federation to a new dancer in your club, or someone you meet at a dance party or festival, and encourage them to join the Federation. Tell them about folkdance.com, the event calendar, the interactive map showing the many places to dance, and *Let's Dance!* magazine. Tell them about the coupon that they will receive when they become a member!

Then tell them that all they need to do to join is click the Join tab on the menu bar when they visit folkdance.com. Ask them to put YOUR name in the Instructions box and add that you told them about becoming a member of the Federation when they pay for their membership – **and you will BOTH get a coupon for a free Federation dance event.**

SEND A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF LET'S DANCE! MAGAZINE

If you think that receiving a complimentary copy of *Let's Dance!* magazine will encourage a new dancer to become a member of the Folk Dance Federation, send their name and address to loui@loutucker.com and she will arrange to have a free copy mailed to them.

CORRECTION!

Are you a member of Society of Folk Dance Historians? Did you get a copy of the Folk Dance Problem Solver this fall? You should be aware that there were some errors that the author, Ron Houston, would like to correct:

We mailed out the 2022 *Folk Dance Problem Solver* last September. If you did not receive your copy, email us at: SFDHist@gmail.com

Astute readers found a mistake. On page 15, the line Eastern (Caucasian) Armenia pronounces "Q" as "K" while Western (Anatolian) Armenia pronounces it as "G."

should read:

Eastern (Caucasian) Armenia pronounces "Q" as "G" while Western (Anatolian) Armenia pronounces it as "K."

Please correct your copy. We continue to archive the history of folk dancing, and we appreciate greatly the archival and monetary donations that people send, even though we no longer require a membership fee. Many thanks to all. -- Ron

THE FEDERATION PROMOTION FUND

Have you got an idea that would increase attendance at folk dance gatherings, particularly an idea that will attract younger dancers?

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.)

1. Projects should promote folk dance in the broadest sense.
2. Grants will be made up to \$2000 with a maximum annual expenditure by the Fund of \$6000.
3. Applicants must be individual or family members of the Federation, or belong to a member club.
4. Application procedures are available on the Folk Dance Federation's website, folkdance.com, under the Services tab.

Promotion Committee Chair
Marija Hillis
marijahillis@gmail.com



HARBOR VIEW

STATEWIDE 2023

SAN PEDRO

Featuring:
Miroslav "Bata" Marcetic
teaching dances of Serbia
and
Joan Hantman
teaching dances of Israel

May 19 – 21, 2023
Wigwam Hall
543 Shepard St.
San Pedro, CA 90731

Featuring the Bands
Sans Frontières, Veselba and Tzidia

The art for our flyer was developed from an original watercolor by Don Krotee.

Check
<https://socalfolkdance.org/statewide.htm>
for schedule, parking, covid regulations,
parking, registration, hotels, optional
excursions & Sunday p.m. gathering.



STATEWIDE 2023 REGISTRATION FORM

Wigwam Hall, San Pedro

(Please register individually, one form per person)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

E-mail: _____ City: _____ State: _____

FESTIVAL PACKAGE

(Includes ALL workshops and parties; **\$135 after pre-reg closes**)

- \$100 when payment received by February 1, 2023
 \$120 when payment received by April 1, 2023
 \$125 when payment received by May 7, 2023 (final day to preregister)

All Events Saturday (Morning, afternoon, and evening; **\$85 at the door**)

- \$75 All day Saturday

Individual Events (\$30 each at the door)

- \$25 Friday evening party \$25 Saturday evening party
 \$25 Saturday AM instruction \$25 Sunday morning review
 \$25 Saturday PM instruction

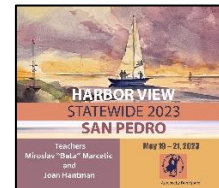
Children under 18 are admitted free with a paying adult. Young adults aged 19-21 can receive a 50% discount if they volunteer for 1-2 hours. **Work scholarships are available.** Contact Diane at diane.baker@diandden.net.

Subtotal: \$ _____

Additional offerings: (meals only available with pre-registration)

- \$12 **Saturday lunch** Gourmet sandwich, salad, fruit with meat vegetarian
 \$25 **Saturday dinner** Pollo Veracruzano or Chile relleno with meat vegetarian

- \$30 T-shirt designed by Elyse Ellinger & Don Krotee
Crew neck V-neck Unisex Size S, M, L, XL, 2XL
All tee shirts are heather colored and include this image (right):



- Tax deductible donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

To register with this mail-in form: Send your completed form with your check or money order payable to **Folk Dance Federation of CA, South** to: **Statewide Registrar, Stefanie Holzman, 5702 Kern Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649**. Online registration will be available starting January 20, 2023.

Visit the Statewide 2023 link on webpage at socalfolkdance.org/statewide.htm for the latest information about schedule, opportunities for cultural excursions, post-festival Sunday afternoon gathering, teachers, music (bands & playlists), hotels, restaurants, parking, directions, etc. **Mask and proof of vaccination requirements will follow CDC, State, and County COVID regulations at the time of the event.** Harbor View Statewide is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, a non-profit organization.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I noticed an error in Dick Oakes' letter in the January 2023 issue of *Let's Dance!*

Csárdäs is Hungarian

Čardáš is Slovakian



It should say Csárdás is Hungarian. There is no ä in Hungarian.

~ Todd Wagner

It's nice to know *Let's Dance!* has such attentive readers.

(Dick responded: Oh, absolutely correct! I just snagged the incorrect character from my Emoji & Symbols file. Sorry!)

Bumper Stickers Are a Hit

We have loved folk dancing for many years, but our most fun dancing for the past few years (even preceding the pandemic) has been our Foothill International Folk Dancers group that meets in La Cañada (near Pasadena and Glendale). Most of our members started with us as beginners, and we have built up a core group of more than 30 dedicated dancers. We continue to welcome newcomers and work hard to ensure everyone from the experienced dancers to those who have never danced before, has a fun, rewarding experience.

Two of our enthusiastic members, who are 27 years old (each, not combined), joined in August. One of them happened to see Jan's car and loved the **Dancers Without Borders** bumper sticker. (Normally we take Marc's car to dancing, but he has too many nerdy bumper stickers to include one about folk dancing.) We were delighted that she asked for one of these cool bumper stickers. We greatly appreciate Loui Tucker sending us several so we can encourage still others in our group to display their love of folk dancing (if their bumpers aren't already full).

Thank you very much!

~ Jan & Marc Rayman

I would like some bumper stickers to share with our group. I like that you keep coming up with ways to promote folk dancing. Thanks!

~ Glyn Webber

The bumper stickers were a great idea, and you sent us a batch some years back. They are still on at least three cars who bring dancers to our group every week. Our car, unfortunately, bit the dust this fall and the bumpersticker went to the junkyard with the car. Could you send us a few more?

~ Brent Kaiman



The **Dancers Without Borders** bumper sticker is **FREE** as long as you commit to putting it on a vehicle. Send an email to Loui at loui@loutucker.com and she will mail you as many bumper stickers as you'd like. Ask for several so you can share them with other dancers in your group.

LET'S DANCE! LYRICS

Metziut Acheret, an Israeli couple dance, was introduced at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2006. The dance has been popular in Peninsula and South Bay dance sessions since then. The Berkeley Folk Dancers membership recently voted to add this dance to the repertoire on a trial basis this year.

The song is sung by Eyal Golan, a very popular (though controversial) Israeli singer and songwriter. It's time to share the lyrics, which express a longing for a lost love.

METZIUT ACHERET

Nifgashnu me'uchar midai,
amart li she'at me'ohevet,
shebanit ito bayit,
shetov lach ito
ve'ulai, me'uchar midai.

Nifgashnu me'uchar midai,
ra'iti she'gam at nis'eret,
ra'adt me'at
shehibat't be'einai,
ach ulai, me'uchar midai.

Ulai biz'man acher,
ulai bim'tziut acheret,
tihi bishvili - bishvili me'usheret,
veyofi'ech yelatef et chayai,
ach ulai, me'uchar midai.

Nifgashnu me'uchar midai,
ech he'aznu lakum lalechet
im p'gishah kmo zot
lo mikrit bevadai
ve'ulai me'uchar midai.

Remember that what is written as a "ch" when transliterated from Hebrew is pronounced like a hard "h," as if you were clearing your throat.

ANOTHER REALITY

We met too late,
you said that you're in love,
that you have built a home with him
that you're happy with him
and maybe it's too late.

We met too late,
I saw that you are also shaken,
you trembled slightly
as you looked in my eyes
but maybe it's too late.

Maybe at another time
maybe in a different reality,
you would be happy for me
and your beauty will caress my life,
but maybe it's too late.

We met too late,
how did we dare to get up and go
because an encounter such as this
surely is not accidental,
and maybe it's too late.



The Astonished Archaeologist

(England)

The Astonished Archaeologist was created by Philippe Callens. The tune is *Goff Hall* by Dan Lanier. Philippe wrote this dance in the autumn of 1992 and dedicated it to Mik Lammers (who has a degree in archaeology), the piano player with the band The Little Tinkers.

This dance was presented by Bruce Hamilton at the 2022 Stockton Folk Dance Camp at University of the Pacific.

Music: 2/4 Meter CD: Bare Necessities, *At Home*

Video: On Folkdance.com / Resources / Dance Videos / English. Or an internet search for “Astonished Archeologist” yields several results.

Formation: 3-couple longways set, proper.

Steps & Styling: Steps are energetic with weight forward.

Back-to-Back: Facing dancers move fwd passing R shldrs and move bkwd to place passing L shldrs. Also called a Do-Si-Do.

Left Shoulder Round: Making eye contact at least occasionally, dancers move CCW completely around one another and fall back to place. Hands hang freely at the sides.




Half Hey: A weaving pattern.

Proper: Two lines of dancers, partners facing, one line (traditionally Men) with left shoulder to the top, the other (traditionally Women) with right shoulder to the top, where the top of the set is typically the music or the caller.

Meas	2/4 meter	PATTERN
2 notes	INTRODUCTION. No action. Prepare to move.	
	I.	FIGURE I.
1-4	Set to ptr and turn R hands halfway.	
5-8	Repeat, but with L hands.	
9-12	All dance back-to-back on the R diagonal. If you don't have a R diag ptr, do nothing.	
13-16	All do a 2-hand turn with ptr 3/4 (into a single line), then turn R (CW) in place to end with back to ptr.	
	II.	FIGURE II.
1-4	Half Hey for six, passing R shoulder to begin. If facing out, loop L and immediately pass L shldrs. Continue until facing ptr.	
5-8	Left Shoulder Round with ptr to end on original side, across from ptr.	
9-12	With hands joined, lines fall back and come forward.	
13-16	Top two couples circle L halfway and cross R shoulder with ptr, while bottom couple does a 2-hand turn.	

The order is now 2, 3, 1. Repeat from these new places.

WEDDING VOWS PAID OFF... FOR EVERYONE

 <p>I met my wife when we were both 50 years old. She was a lifelong dancer; I had never danced. She said, "My first husband was not a dancer – I'm not going through that with you!"</p>	 <p>So it was written into our wedding vows that I had to earnestly try to dance. No, she didn't have to make a similar vow – I was the one groveling!</p> <p>*actual words from wedding vows</p>	 <p>Twenty years later, I teach the Intermediate class at the Berkeley Folk Dancers.</p>
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WHY DID YOU START FOLK DANCING?

Late one night after dancing, a group of dancers shared stories of how or why they started folk dancing. The reasons were as varied as the people. *Let's Dance!* has published a series of cartoons highlighting some of the more amusing accounts.

If you'd like to share YOUR story, email editor@folkdance.com or loui@loutucker.com and share YOUR reason. You could also share someone else's story if you think they might be too shy. Susan Gregory, the Federation's resident artist, will draw the cartoon and it will appear in a future issue of *Let's Dance!* No names will be mentioned, so your story will be safe with us!

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DANCING COUPLES

On the cover

(Clockwise from upper left) John and Jan Nicoara, Laura Douglass and Joe Croco, Julie and Bill East, Andre and Yvonne Couvillion, Cornelia Ghafur and Andy Partos, Megan Wolf and Jordan Uggla, Marcia and Yale Rosenblatt, Melissa Miller and Lew Smith, Rebecca Tsai and Evan Chu.

On page 11

Top row: Jan and Marc Rayman, Hollis and Lon Radin, Al and Teddy Wolterbeek, Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu.

Middle row: Draga and Dragan Djordjevic, Cindy and Craig Blackstone, Lucy Chang and Richard Graham, Sandra Biroc and Daniel Unger.

Bottom row: Lynn Overtree and Tony Canavaro, Sue Chen and Wen-Li Chiang, Kamrin MacKnight and Gordon Deeg, Maxine and Don Burnham.

Photo credits: L. Tucker, C. Dickey, E. Khuner, J. Croco, D. Rawson, M. Giusto.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST –

Ah, the Sweetheart Festival! This yearly dance event was sponsored by folk dance groups in the Petaluma/Napa area north of San Francisco. **In 2001 the 30th annual Sweetheart Festival was held.** Sadly, the last one was held in 2007. In 2008, the sponsors faced dwindling attendance, competition for their venue, and the aging dancer population.



30th Annual

Sweetheart Festival

Sunday, February 11th from 1:30 to 5:30
Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1226 Salvador Avenue in Napa

*Get in the mood for Valentine's Day with an afternoon of dancing
in the HEART of the beautiful Napa Valley!*
*Our varied program has dances for both newcomers and old-timers
and our location is bright and airy. We hope you'll
put on your dancin' shoes (and your valentine finery) and join the fun!*

The Napa Valley Petaluma International Folk Dancers

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OF CALIFORNIA, INC.
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Millbrae, California 94030

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*To watch us dance is to hear
our hearts speak.
~ Hopi Saying*

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