

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 03 MARCH 2023



From left, Udy Gold, Joshua and Arielle Herman, and Yoel Sberlo. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

***High spirits and
high kicks!***

AI meets IFD? See p. 10



From left, Nilesh Shah, Alicia Lafetra, and Rick Henderson. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

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.

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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:
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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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Member clubs	\$50	\$90	All ads are in
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**WELCOME OUR NEW
FEDERATION MEMBERS**

Paul Sheldon, Oregon (see p. 7)
Erica Goldman, New York
Sharon Howard, Oregon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ulrike Narins

Dancing in Japan

In a previous message I mentioned that in Yamaguchi, Japan, my son Lothar and I stayed at a Buddhist temple that hosted a monthly open house.

In preparation for the open house shortly after our arrival in Japan our host mother, Masumi, invited a good friend of hers who runs a beauty salon in nearby Tokuyama to come over. This friend gave me beautiful gel nails and arranged my hair. She also did Lothar's hair, but she did his in more of the traditional Japanese way. Then a very influential local woman, a kimono expert, arrived with an assistant. They supplied Lothar and me with traditional Japanese garments and helped us put them on, which was the first time in my adult life that someone dressed me.



We had invited people from local folk dance circles, but before we could dance with them, Lothar and I performed two dances for all the visitors. It was quite something to dance in such unfamiliar outfits in that unusual environment. We chose the dances Liljano Mome from Bulgaria and Sharm El Sheikh from Israel. The latter prompted Mr. Hagi to ask us to teach it to his groups, which we happily did.

At the end of our six-month stay, the host family threw an unforgettable farewell party. They kept many of their plans a secret from us but said

they would invite some folk dancers, including the president of the Yamaguchi Folk Dance Federation. To show our gratitude, Lothar and I practiced two dances to perform at the party—the Ukrainian dance Holubka and a

Mexican dance called La Yaguesita, which required a hat for the leader and a fan for the follower. And of course, we did some dancing, not only with the invited folk dancers but also with the other guests.

At the party they surprised us; in the backyard they had built a “noodle slide” out of bamboo halves placed end to end, the hollow part facing upward. The whole assembly was tilted. Someone would release noodles and water at the top of the slide, and as they flowed down, people lined up along the slide would try to retrieve noodles with their chopsticks.

A big pot at the bottom caught the spaghetti that had bypassed everyone. When they ran out of noodles, they let grapes slide down, and those were much harder to catch with chopsticks! There was also a big banner to wish us well, a little concert, gifts, speeches, some fireworks, and a singalong.

Dancing really creates a community of fun-loving people who want to share lively experiences together. Our folk dancing has added a lot of enjoyment to the lives of the people in and around the temple.



Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2023



Travel
broadens
one!

Our trips are for folk dancers, non-dancers,
and anyone with a love of travel and culture
(Click on links to see itineraries)



ISRAEL: March 12-23, 2023 **Full!**

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

WESTERN CANADA: April 13-25, 2023 **(8 spots left)**

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

ALBANIA and Greek Island of Corfu

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

Led by Lee Otterholt, guided by Kliti Zika. Tirana, Durres,
Greek Island of Corfu, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat, Korca

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

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: **Folk Dance and Klezmer tour**

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.
Register on line at: [Folk Dance Tours 2023](#)

Jim Gold International, Inc.
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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).

- 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 3-5** **LAGUNA FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL.** Clubhouse 2 Ballroom, 24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods. Teachers: Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion, Asya Gorska and Svitlana Selska. \$120-\$135 for package deal, plus meals. See ad on p. 23.
- 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 11** **PENINSULA FOLK DANCE MONTHLY PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 7-10 pm. \$10. Info: adony408@gmail.com.
- March 11** **CAFÉ SHALOM ISRAELI DANCE PARTY.** Congregation Am Tikvah, 625 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco. 7:30-11:30 pm. \$10. Info: udy@yahoo.com or 669-444-1284.
- March 19** **KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS FOLK DANCE PARTY WITH ZABAVA.** Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley. 2-4:30 pm. \$15; \$7 for students. Dance to exciting and soulful music from across the Balkans. Spacious sprung wood floor; lots of free parking. Info: kopachkafolkdancers.com or e-mail president@kopachkafolkdancers.com, or 415-497-4890.
- March 19** **FEDERATION BOARD MEETING.** All Federation members are welcome to join via Zoom. 3-4:30 pm. Meeting ID: 821 4223 9442; passcode: 147746, or use the link on the calendar at folkdance.com.
- March 29-
April 2** **NATIONAL FOLK ORGANIZATION (NFO) ANNUAL CONFERENCE.** Concord Scout House and the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, Massachusetts. More info at nfo-usa.org.
- 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. See ad on p. 24. 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 19-21** **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. 25.



THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Udy Gold and Federation President Ulrike Narins at Café Shalom in January. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Marija Hillis and Renée Marchese at the Berkeley Folk Dancers' Birthday Ball in January. *Photo by A. Partos.*



Phil Heimann and Luoping Zhang at the BFD Monte Toyon retreat in January. The crowns were for the Queen's Court party's theme. *Photo by A. Partos.*



John Nicoara, seen here with his wife Jan, turned 89 years old in January! *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Rebecca Tsai danced with Ori Gold at the Officers Ball. *Photo by E. Khuner.*

PAUL SHELDON'S DANCE JOURNEY

Editor's Note: Paul Sheldon's name came across my desk because he wrote a note to Membership Chair Marcia Rosenblatt when he became a new Federation member. His note included: "I live in Ashland, Oregon... I would like to keep track of what the Federation is doing to support the national resurgence." I was intrigued. I wrote to ask him about his interest and history in folk dance, and this article is a result of my curiosity. More than a personal history, it shares a side of folk dancing in Los Angeles that few people remember. You can read more about Paul Sheldon by doing an internet search for "Paul Sheldon dancer."]

by Paul Sheldon

Pasadena, California, once held an annual art fair on the streets around City Hall every year on a weekend in the fall. Hundreds of local artists displayed their work, while performers and musicians gathered audiences on the street corners. In the 1950s, my parents knew that, from the time I could walk, they did not have to worry that I would become bored or lost at the fair. They found they could park my three-year-old body by the folk dancers, and I would sit happily for hours under a tree, alone or with my sister, watching the colorfully costumed dancers celebrate the folk traditions of Bulgaria, Greece, Japan, Russia, Sweden, Brazil, Appalachia, and other cultures from around the world.

When I was 6 years old, one of these dancers, Mary Zondler, invited me to join in a traditional Bulgarian line dance known as Eleno Mome. I eagerly clasped her outstretched fingers with my little hand, and jumped into the syncopated 7/8 rhythm with all the dancers. It seemed to me that I recognized both the traditional brass band music and the steps.

Throughout the next 55 years, traditional dances of central Europe and the Mediterranean basin would provide a touchstone for me in every community. The United Nations promoted the International Folk Dance Movement as a precursor to world peace. If people shared each other's dance traditions, they proposed, we would be more appreciative of each other and less likely to wage war. In the 1950s and '60s, folk dance was a common curriculum unit, especially in girls' middle school physical education classes. Weekly recreational folk dance groups formed in school gymnasiums, churches, and synagogue recreation halls throughout North America, Europe, and Israel.

The Pasadena Folk Dance Cooperative, a legacy of the communist organizing influences of the International Workers of the World, was founded in 1935. A life membership cost \$2, and members were asked to contribute 50¢ on Friday nights to enjoy an evening of traditional dances. Non-members paid \$1, and first time visitors were free.

It was the members of Pasadena Co-op who danced at the Art Fair every year. From that first dance at the Pasadena Art Fair, for a solid decade, every Friday night, until I finally got a driver's license, our



(L to R) John Hertz, Paul Sheldon, David Katz, Steve Murillo (4th from the right) and others enjoy a Macedonian dance at The Intersection, circa 1976.

father took my older sister and me to Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op, in the auditorium and common room of Lincoln Avenue Elementary School in the heart of Pasadena. Our college professor father sat in the back of the auditorium grading term papers while we learned dances from Israel, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, England, Scotland, Lebanon, Syria, the United States, and a host of other cultures from all over the world. Because my sister and I were the only kids, we enjoyed semi-celebrity status among the several dozen attendees at the weekly festivities. For three and a half hours, from the one-hour dance lessons at the beginning of the evening until the music stopped at 11 pm, we never sat down. Most of the other dancers assumed the old guy sitting in the back of the auditorium was the school janitor.

When I was 15, my friend Steve and I were invited to join Sobranie Macedonian Dancers. With two years of performing experience under our belts, we were invited to join the AMAN International Music and Dance Ensemble, at UCLA. Both because of our youth and our talent, as well as our dedication, Steve and I rose to soloist status within a few years, guided and inspired by great cultural treasures from among the amazing talent of the Aman ensemble. Steve went on to perform with the nationally recognized Duquesne University Tamburitzans.

Following the lead of the folk music coffee houses of Greenwich Village, Los Angeles also boasted several such folk music venues, such as Pasadena's Ice House (which actually was in the former ice house), the Troubadour, the Ash Grove, McCabe's Back Room, and several others. Five different folk dance coffee houses also sprang up, all over the Los Angeles Area. The first was The Intersection.

Rudy Dannes and Athan Karras, with support from Chalo Holguin and Louise Anderson Bilman, founded The Intersection Folk Dance Coffee House in a storefront in Los Angeles. Invited by one of the members of Pasadena Co-op, my sister and I first went to The Intersection the month after it opened for an evening of

continued on p. 8

PAUL SHELDON'S DANCE JOURNEY *continued*

dancing. As I watched the masterful dancers spinning, squatting, and celebrating the dance traditions of so many cultures, I remember thinking, "I could never do that!" Little did I know that not only would I learn to enjoy all those dances, but I would be called upon to perform and teach them for thousands of people in hundreds of communities all over the world.

The vision of The Intersection's founders was to provide a small club where members and friends could celebrate the dance traditions of a different culture each night of the week. Thus, Sunday was Greek Night; Monday was Israeli; Tuesday, Armenian; Wednesday, Balkan; Thursday another Greek night (because Athan, as founder, insisted his rich Greek heritage deserved double credit); and Friday and Saturday were International, featuring a mix of many cultures from all over the world. A small kitchen provided Mediterranean-themed snacks and foods for the dancers.

The Intersection's constituency was largely the young-adult children of Jewish immigrants in the Boyle Heights and Fairfax neighborhoods of Los Angeles, as well as young first- and second-generation representatives of all the cultures featured on the various evenings and more, surrounded and encouraged by other well-wishers, elders, and dancing enthusiasts. A small number of "elders" were honored by being invited to lead the dancing and tell their stories to eager young

listeners, seated on apple and orange crates and cane chairs, around makeshift tables made from large telephone wire spools turned on their sides.

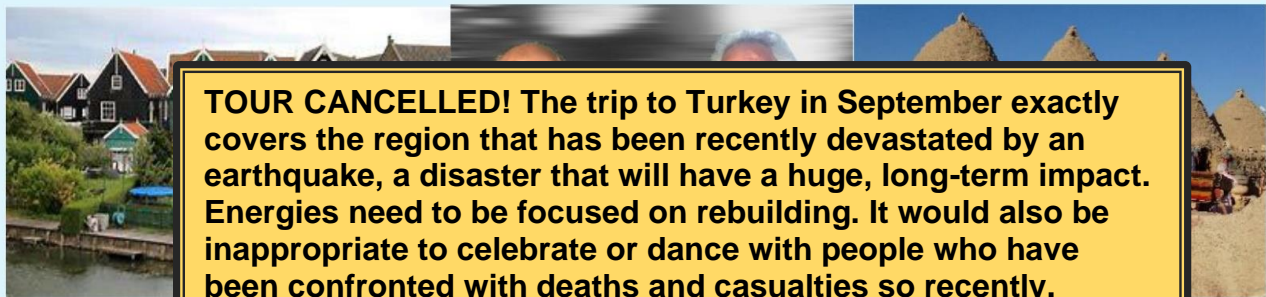
By 1974, after master teacher Dick Oakes moved to Colorado, I was invited to lead the evening of international dancing on Friday nights. Then, when Rudy Dannes retired, I took over his Saturday night class, until I also moved to Colorado in 1981.

Athan Karras, a native of the Epirus region of Greece, often spoke of "the sacred circle of the dance." This sacred circle is ancient, dating back more than 5,000 years, to the times when gods and goddesses walked the earth, and dance rituals anchored the *ekstasis* of transcending mundane states of being, to experience the divine, through dance and song.

Thanks to Rudy and Athan's inspiration and guidance, throughout a dance career spanning more than 50 years, I have been privileged to teach or lead traditional dancing for more than 150,000 people, and have performed before audiences of more than 400,000 people at celebrations, weddings, festivals, and fairs all over the world. The largest group I ever taught in a circle was about 300 people, and the largest audience I performed for was estimated at 18,000 (though most groups were much smaller). This rich dance community has provided a basis for belonging, friendships, and livelihood throughout a long, joy-filled life.

SCENIC HOLLAND & ORIENTAL TURKEY – Tours in September 2023

with Tineke & Maurits van Geel and Ahmet Demirbagh



TOUR CANCELLED! The trip to Turkey in September exactly covers the region that has been recently devastated by an earthquake, a disaster that will have a huge, long-term impact. Energies need to be focused on rebuilding. It would also be inappropriate to celebrate or dance with people who have been confronted with deaths and casualties so recently.

~ Tineke and Maurits

SCENIC HOLLAND 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

BFD'S NEW FAMILY FOLK DANCE

by Marian Snyder

There has been a lot of discussion about how our folk dance clubs are doing their best to attract new members. At our last Federation board meeting, I shared how Berkeley Folk Dancers is doing just that. *Let's Dance!* editor Loui Tucker encouraged me to write about what we have done and our plans for the near future.

Mel Mann, one of Berkeley Folk Dancers' long-time members, has generously made two donations specifically to promote folk dancing. He remembers the old days when our club had twice the membership. One chunk of money is earmarked specifically for scholarships. Any student can come and dance for free. Right now, we have **four middle school/high school students** who come regularly to our Thursday night beginners class and they have become BFD members. They are very enthusiastic dancers and love the class. These students are homeschooled. We are in the process of reaching out to others in this same category of students.

The second chunk of money is for promotion. Mel has had the idea of starting a family folk dance class for years. We are now in the process of making that happen. Starting in mid-March, Berkeley Folk Dancers will be offering eight weeks of folk dance classes specifically designed for families. We will be hosting these classes at Live Oak Park, where we already dance five nights a week. Families can join us on Sunday afternoons for an hour of moving their bodies to the lively tunes of folk dance music. We will celebrate the appreciation of our diversity in this social activity and hope to get them hooked. Learning how to do-si-do, swing to the music, leap to a drum, and skip around a circle will be part of the class. Spinning, marching, running, hopping, and jumping to music from around the world awaits them.

As I write this, I am in communication with a Waldorf School inquiring about teaching folk dancing during a music class to third and fourth graders. The school is right in my neighborhood. Mel Mann is also responsible for this arrangement.

If you are reading this article, you already know the JOY that dance brings. Now that we've danced around the world, let's all continue to spread the FUN.

P.S. Late-breaking news: I just received my first email today from a grandmother who is planning on bringing her 5-year-old and 8-year-old grandchildren!



Page 4 BERKELEY TIMES January 12, 2023

Berkeley Folk Dancers celebrate 81 years at Birthday Ball 2023

70 dancers, including several guests from other Bay Area clubs, attended Berkeley Folk Dancers' "Birthday Ball 2023" at the Live Oak Recreation Center on Sunday, January 8. The celebration marked the 81st anniversary of America's largest folk dance club, which began at the John Hinkel Clubhouse in 1941, and continues today as a stimulating social activity and celebration of human diversity.

This year's Birthday Ball began with an optional midday meal, but mostly featured an afternoon full of international folk dancing. For instance, this year's ball featured Setnja Kola, a non-partner dance from Serbia; Emma's Commencement, a set dance from England; Corrido, a couple's dance from Mexico; and Mona's Festzalf, a fun mixer from Sweden.

All the dances were danced to music broadcast from an iPad; but that's not all! Beginners were awarded their club badges, recognizing their mastery of close to 60 folk dances. Then all joined in a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Up next: Festival of the Oaks
Berkeley Folk Dancers welcome all comers to attend its upcoming 74th annual International Folk Dance Festival of the Oaks, to be held at the Live Oak Recreation Center on Sunday, February 12. The festival will start at 9 a.m. with two workshops: Institutes by Farima Berenji, then Contras by Lenore Watson, including a performance of Silk Road Folk Dances. After an optional hot meal from noon - 1 p.m., the festival will continue with International Folk Dancing from 1 - 5 p.m. Proof of vaccination and boosters required; KN-95 or N-95 masks also required.

Live Oak Recreation Center is located at Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave. All day tickets are \$30, lunch is \$10, and the afternoon dance party is \$17. To register and for more details, go to BerkeleyFolkDancers.org (or dr17.wildapricot.org).

This nice article in the Berkeley Times came about due to BFD member Rosemarie Klems. She is a subscriber to the newspaper and she suggested the story to the editor without mentioning it to anyone else. Everyone was surprised and delighted when the reporter showed up at the BFD Birthday Ball. Long live local newspapers!

Artificial Intelligence (AI) meets International Folk Dance!

Shakespearean-Style Tributes to International Folk Dancing

by Marc Rayman

Although I may have been one of the early users of Artificial Intelligence (AI) software, it's catching on fast, so it's conceivable that by the time the March issue of *Let's Dance!* magazine is disseminated, everyone will be using it. I've never been part of or even aware of popular culture, so I don't know what most people know. Maybe it's principally among the science and engineering community that it's becoming so popular, although I have read reports of students using it to write essays and even professors using it on their own assignments to students and finding that it sometimes writes essays that would get high grades.

I gave AI several sets of instructions asking it to produce a Shakespearean-style tribute to international folk dancing.

(Writing by AI under instruction from Marc Rayman)

Soliloquy 1

Oh dance, how sweet the rhythm of thy feet,
As they stomp, spin, and leap across the floor!
With each new step, my heart doth skip a beat,
And all my troubles are forgotten, more and more.

Thou bringest joy from lands both far and near,
With melodies and moves of every kind.
From Scotland's reels to Poland's lively cheer,
Thou dost entice the body, heart, and mind.

But 'tis not just the music and the motion,
That makes thy beauty shine so bright and clear,
'Tis also the diversity of emotion,
That thou dost bring to all who hold thee dear.

Thou art a bridge that joins us all together,
A symbol of the world's rich tapestry.
With every step, we learn to love each other,
And see beyond our differences and history.

Oh dance, thou art the embodiment of life,
With all its joys and sorrows, pain and strife.

Soliloquy 4 (when asked to add some humor, this was the result)

Oh dance, how sweet the rhythm of thy feet,
As they stomp, spin, and leap across the floor!
With each new step, my heart doth skip a beat,
And all my troubles are forgotten, more and more.

Thou bringest joy from lands both far and near,
With melodies and moves of every kind.
From Scotland's reels to Poland's lively cheer,
Thou dost entice the body, heart, and mind.

But tell me, dance, why dost thou make us prance
Like fools, with arms akimbo and a grin?
Is it because thou art a noble chance
To let us all look ridiculous, and win?

Oh dance, thy noble steps do bring such joy,
That even in absurdity, we're overjoyed.

Thou art a bridge that joins us all together,
A symbol of the world's rich tapestry.
With every step, we learn to love each other,
And see beyond our differences and history.

So let us dance and let our souls be free,
In the sweet harmony of diversity.
And if we look a bit ridiculous,
At least we do it with a smile and blissful.

BUT DON'T ASK AI TO CHOREOGRAPH A DANCE

By Lon Radin

I've been asking ChatGPT to choreograph some dances. Since we're in the future now, AI will surely replace human choreographers (who want to get paid).

I got an interesting response last week to "Choreograph a dance to the tune of Take Five." Apparently, ChatGPT doesn't have a good sense of how many steps per beat are humanly possible (i.e., fewer than five), and doesn't have a good sense of alternating feet (RLRLR + RLRLR requires two right feet in a row). And a few other problems with its dance! [See next page.]

When I ask the same question a week later, ChatGPT responded: "I'm sorry, but as a language model, I am not able to choreograph dances." I guess others had been trying to do what I did.

TAKE FIVE

by ChatGPT

Take Five is a jazz piece composed by Paul Desmond, the saxophonist of Dave Brubeck Quartet, and it is considered a classic and one of the most famous jazz compositions of all time. The song is in 5/4 time signature, which gives it a unique and recognizable rhythm. Here's a possible choreography for a dance routine to Take Five.

Begin with the dancers lined up in a row at the back of the stage.

Count 1: The dancers take five steps forward in unison (right-left-right-left-right).

Count 2: They take five steps to the side (right-left-right-left-right).

Count 3: They take five steps backwards (right-left-right-left-right).

Count 4: They take five steps to the other side (right-left-right-left-right).

Count 5: Repeat steps from counts 2-5, but dancers can add an arm movement, such as a swing or a toss.



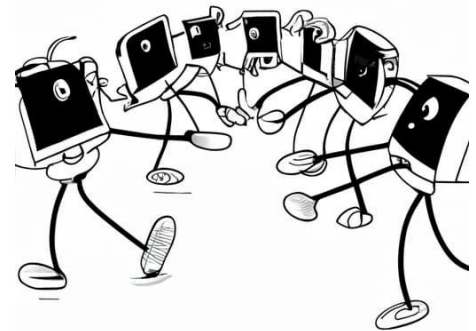
As the song progresses, dancers can add more complex footwork and body movements, such as turns, leaps, and syncopated steps, but always keeping the five-step pattern. The choreography can also include solos for individual dancers or small groups, and the dancers can also move around the stage, creating interesting patterns and shapes.

The dance ends with the dancers returning to the back of the stage, in the same position as they started. It is important to note that this is just an example and can be modified or expanded to suit the skill level and style of the dancers, and the choreographer's vision.

[Editor's Note: One more contribution from Marc Rayman]

I just want to thank you again for sending the bumperstickers and share these Artificial Intelligence ideas for folk dance bumperstickers:

- Join the global dance party
- Dance like nobody's watching ... because they're probably doing their own folk dance!
- Dance your way around the world
- Find your feet and dance with them
- Put the fun in cultural exchange through dance
- International folk dancing: the world is our dance floor
- Find your rhythm and dance with us
- Folk dancing: a passport to fun
- Join the folk dance revolution
- Folk dancing: because life is too short to sit on the sidelines



The graphic above also came from Lon Radin. It was created when he asked AI to generate art "in black and white, computers holding hands, dancing in a line."

SPEAKING OF DANCING

Finding Folk Dance's New Golden Age: Part 3 Shooting for the Moon or How to Make the 18th Ask

by Gigi Jensen

I'm finishing this three-part series on creating a new future for folk dance with a look back at some of the lessons I've learned. If you get new ideas by reading about someone else's, read this with the following question in mind: How would I do that?

I started in the business of dance when I started dancing tango. I learned a lot in a hurry. My hope is that you take what I've learned and use it to grow our folk dance community.

Think long and hard about who wants to get your invitation to folk dance and target them. In my case, I researched who attended dance stage shows. They were people who traveled, saw live performances, and had the money to purchase tickets. They were likely the people who watched PBS, belonged to CSAA, and supported the arts, so I advertised in the places where we would find them. We answered phones at on-air pledge nights for KQED-TV and KCSM radio since they gave free media coverage to their volunteers. Whenever the big arts organizations published their upcoming seasons, I was on the phone the next day with their marketing departments.

We held ticket giveaways for UC Berkeley's Cal Performances, Stern Grove Festival, and a San Francisco Symphony concert, all of which were presenting programs pertaining to Latin America. Sometimes I was able to negotiate inclusion in their print or online marketing. **All of this cost me no money.** It took time and energy, but the payoff was big: creating a network of people who did the kinds of things we were doing, and getting the word out to thousands of people. **Can you do that for folk dance? Of course!**

I stepped outside of my local dance community and looked for organizations who could tuck me under their umbrella. We became members of regional service organizations, such as Dancers' Group and Theatre Bay Area.

We performed and taught dance for companies that held cultural diversity events for their employees. We participated in civic, educational, and cultural events big and small. Sometimes our students gave us tips; other times

referrals were made through the arts community. One example was a photography exhibit about Argentina at EBMUD where we performed a tango show and taught a tango class.

I always looked for offbeat ways to get the word out about Argentine dance. Argentina is famous for their wine so we connected with wine bodegas. We attended Hispanic Chamber of Commerce events. **We donated dance lesson packages** to fundraising events. We coordinated tango and folkloric fashion shows. All of this can be done on behalf of folk dance.

Here's some hard-earned advice:

Be proud and loud about folk dancing.

People want to be invited. If you don't do it, who will?

Write a mission statement and description of what you do. You can't tell someone interested in dancing that you'll get back to them because you don't know what to say. If you're in a club, talk with your fellow dancers so that you have a consistent message.

Make a list of what you can offer if you want to participate in performance or educational presentations. There are event planners who need your skills. Being amateur or professional isn't important; being transparent about what you and your fellow dancers can and can't do is.

Your folk dance club can host teachers to perform as guest artists in programs presented by other organizations. My company had to generate income, so I arranged paid work for visiting artists and earned a commission. Organize a workshop or two for them while they are in town, and you will have more opportunities for folk dance outreach, especially if an introductory workshop is advertised at the performance.

Many local papers have an online version and allow you to post a free basic digital ad in their events section. Even in my small town, I see notices about the local contra dance parties, salsa dance classes, and dance performances. Attendees want to find where they can folk dance in their area and most do it by Internet searches. If you're not there, they won't find you.

If an organization presenting you advertises your participation, be sure to do



your own, too. Make all the advertising available to your people so they can pass it along.

Learn to use social media platforms. They differ greatly in focus and scope, so target the ones useful to you. I don't know much about hashtags and influencers, but I'm learning fast. These options have been around for a while, so folk dance organizers need to use them. Part 2 of this series was about how different generations think and act. Finding the people who you want to dance will affect how you reach out to them where they are.

Stop talking about "The Good Old Days." Enough already! Folk dance is NOT dying. It's become almost invisible due, in part, to not updating our skills and using all the tools available to us, and due to fewer opportunities because of the COVID pandemic. Thankfully, that is changing.

I had a business mentor who was the general manager of Beach Blanket Babylon. He gave me the best advice I have received in all my years in dance arts administration. He said, "**People will give you 17 reasons why they can't park their butts in your seats. It's your job to give them an 18th reason why they SHOULD.**" The same goes for folk dance.

If you are interested in knowing more on how to use new tools to increase our folk dance community, let me know. If there's enough interest, I can include that topic in a future column.



From the Editor

First, did you notice that this issue is a bit thicker than previous ones? ***It's 32 pages***, the largest magazine I've produced since I took over from Gary Anderson with the January 2017 issue. Granted, three of the pages are filled with two full-page advertisements and two half-page advertisements, all of which will appear only this month, but that's still pretty impressive. It is certainly a change from the COVID years when it was challenging to fill 20 pages.



On the other hand, it recently came to our attention that we have been overpaying for postage for over 20 years! The Federation has had a bulk-mailing permit since at least the mid-1980s, which saved a lot over First Class postage. I didn't research the history of the various rates, but currently mailing *Let's Dance!* using First Class rates would be approximately \$1.60 per magazine. The bulk rate we have been paying costs us about 55¢ per magazine.

When the Folk Dance Federation became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization back in October of 2010, we qualified for a ***non-profit*** bulk mailing permit, which has even lower postal rates. Sadly, Gary Anderson, the editor at that time, didn't apply for the non-profit permit. Gary died recently, so we have no way of knowing why he neglected to do so.

This permit situation came to our attention only recently when we had to change mailing houses. The owner of the one we had been using for decades retired and closed her business. The new mailing house mentioned that, because we are a non-profit, we should have a non-profit bulk mailing permit. I applied for and was granted the permit. The issue you are reading will be mailed using our new permit, saving us about 10¢ per magazine. It should shave about \$40 a month off our mailing costs.

It was suggested that we might be able to apply for a refund of the over-payment on the bulk mailing permit (about \$400 a year), but as I write this it has not been confirmed that it is even possible.

ENSEMBLE BALKANSKE IGRE

58TH
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SPRING FESTIVAL

BALKANSKEIGRE.ORG



© Steve Cubin Photography

21-23 APRIL, 2023

Dance & Music of the Balkans, Eastern Europe, & Eastern Mediterranean

Concert, parties, workshops, & culture sessions all weekend long!

NW Suburbs of Chicago



For more information:

visit [BALKANSKEIGRE.ORG](https://www.balkanskeigre.org)

or scan QR code



Book now!



*Ensemble Balkanske Igre's
58th Anniversary*



SPRING FESTIVAL

April 21-23, 2023

Dance and Music of the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Eastern Mediterranean

Enjoy the best in Balkan, Eastern European, and Mediterranean dance, music, and culture with master teachers, riveting dance & musical performances. Sing, jam, and celebrate with friends new and old from North America & beyond!

Friday Mini-workshop & Dance Party, 7pm, \$20, Balkanika, 414 Oakton Street, Des Plaines, IL

Dance & Singing Workshops

Saturday & Sunday, 11a, 1p, 2p, 3p, \$10/workshop: Bulgarica Center, 1120 Elmhurst Rd, Mt Prospect IL
Dance Workshops: Valentin & Tania Ivanov (Bulgarian), Galia Miloucheva (Pirin), John Kuo (Balkan)
Singing Workshops: Iliana Georgieva (Bulgarian)

Saturday Concert, Dinner, & Horoteka / Dance Party

Concert, 5pm, \$20 / \$10 for <18 years, Community Recreation Center Theater, 3000 Glenview Rd, Wilmette, IL
Featuring Dance & Music from all regions of the Balkans / Eastern Europe
Dinner & Horoteka/Dance Party, 8pm-2am, \$75, Olive Banquet Hall, 828 E Rand Rd, Mt Prospect, IL

Info/Reservations: 1-847-331-7842 or 1-847-858-9822

balkanske_igre@yahoo.com

Balkanske Igre, PO Box 1418, Morton Grove, IL 60053

www.balkanskeigre.org

Plentiful housing options near festival venues - email us for details. Lodging ~10 minutes from workshops. Program subject to change.
Donations welcome: send checks payable to Eastern European Folklore Society EEFS – a portion to benefit the Bulgarian Red Cross
Note: COVID-19 safety protocols will be in effect as required by the festival venues and the State of Illinois
Spring Festival sponsored by Ensemble Balkanske Igre with support from Bulgarica, Vivanov Dance Group, and Kitka of Gurnee

Please complete and return to John Kuo, 9201 Mason Ave, Morton Grove, IL 60053 - please make checks payable to: "Balkanske Igre" NOTE: EARLY REGISTRATION + WEEKEND PASS OPTIONS YIELD SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS.

Note: Weekend pass is all-inclusive of Friday party, all workshops & Saturday concert, dinner, and party; extra charge for Sunday dinner/party

	Student /Senior	General
Weekend Pass (for biggest discount)	___ \$170	___ \$190 (if postmarked by 4/1/23, \$180/\$200 by 4/10/23, \$190/\$210 after 4/10/23)
Friday evening mini-workshop & dance party	___ \$20	(included in weekend pass)
Saturday concert	___ \$10	___ \$20 (included in weekend pass) lower price if under 18 years of age
Saturday Dinner & Party (reservations required)	___ \$75	Please check if __vegetarian, __vegan, __food allergies: _____
Post-festival Sunday dinner/party	___ \$40	at an ethnic restaurant tba (not included in weekend pass)
Individual dance or music workshop	___ \$10	per workshop
I would like to add a donation in the amount of _____ for a total of _____	_____	_____ donations in any amount to support our programs gratefully accepted

Name _____ Cell Phone _____
 Address _____ Other Phone _____
 City/State/Zip/Country _____
 E-mail Address _____

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS— *Ann Moghaddas*
Welcome to the Year of the Rabbit! As the year moves forward we continue to dance five nights a week at Live Oak and two afternoons a week at Northbrae Church. BFD members, joined by other dancers from Northern California, enjoyed our annual retreat to Monte Toyon, featuring Bruce Hamilton.

February brought BFD's largest annual event, Festival of the Oaks. A shout out to all club members whose hard work made this event possible and thank you to all the dancers who attended!

Beginning March 19, the Berkeley Folk Dancers will initiate a new class on Sundays from 1:30-2:30. This is a class designed for families, adults and children together with a goal of bringing new dancers into folk dancing. Marian Snyder is the teacher, and the class will be held at Live Oak Hall in Berkeley. This exciting new venture is made possible by a generous donation from long-time BFD member Mel Mann. See p. 9. For more information, visit berkeleyfolkdancers.org.

March also brings us to the Spring Equinox ... a time that is celebrated in many Middle East cultures. To learn more about this holiday, do an internet search for "Norooz."

Keep dancing, rain or shine!

NORTH BAY— *Carol Friedman*

Massive storms, flooding, and power outages delayed the start of our local classes, scheduled to begin the week of January 9. **This included three days without power or Wi-Fi, significant flooding, plus periodic power outages and downed trees blocking the roads** through the rest of the week. A huge Monterey Cypress tree branch fell on my property. Luckily, it just missed my garage.

I'm glad to report that the Balkan/International class on Mondays and the Israeli folk dance classes on Thursdays were able to resume the third week in January. Both classes will now be held at Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma. As always, we'll be doing a mix of beginning, intermediate and advanced dances, and requests are always welcome. It's always fun and interesting to see what folks come up with; recent requests on Monday have included Bannielou Lambaol (France), an oldie that sent me online to check out other fun French dances to bring back into our repertoire (Pach-Pi, Le Maître de la Maison).

On Thursday, folks requested Lev Patuach and Hineh Ma Tov (the newer line dance version). I'm also continuing to introduce dances I have choreographed, including one to beautiful music by Kitka (Oj, jak ze bulo) plus a line dance to Dr. John's Iko Iko.

And a heads-up that **the wonderful vocal ensemble Kitka will be performing in my neck of the woods on Saturday, May 20**, at the Dance Palace Community Center in Point Reyes Station. Be sure to mark your calendars for this special event.

SAN FRANCISCO GROUPS— *Linda Milhoan*
A tribute to Lillian Eng, long-time member of Changs International Folk Dancers (since 1951!) was held by her family on January 7. The reception after the service included a group of Changs dancers, most in costume, dancing Lillian's favorite dances. Some of her family members joined us. The energy in the room was one of comfort, love, and appreciation. It was a great testament to Lillian, both as a single mom and folk dancer.



Changs members who gathered to honor Lillian Eng.
Photo by L. Yakas.

Changs members Cindy and Craig Blackstone have recently begun a new endeavor: teaching folk dancing to high school juniors and seniors at the Waldorf School in San Francisco. The school and their students have warmly accepted this new addition to their Physical Education Department. The Blackstones are hopeful that seeds for a lifetime love of folk dance are being planted.

San Francisco Dance Circle continues to grow. In fact, we've reached our limit with a little "wiggle room." We dance on Wednesdays at the Harvey Milk Center.

... AND BEYOND

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

During the month of January, our Tuesday night group danced to all-request programs with emcee Gloria Coté. This is often a good time to dance some of our old favorites and see if we can piece them together without any instruction! In February we began our Spring 2023 15-week session with both beginning and intermediate classes offered. We have had several inquiries from new people asking to join our group as well as current dancers inviting friends to join for the first time. I will be re-teaching some favorite dances that have been requested by our intermediate group as well as new dances that I learned at Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

March 4 will be our annual Red & Black Ball at Monroe Hall. It is always an event that brings out people from every decade that I have taught. It's a fun reunion, and everyone looks especially festive in red and black outfits. We will enjoy the incomparable singing and instrumentals of our local Balkan group, Gradina.

Our Spring classes continue until May 16.
Info at: marilynsmithrazzmatazz.blogspot.com.



Gradina musician Jana Muhar at last year's Red & Black Ball. *Photo by M. Smith.*

KOPACHKA FOLK DANCERS – Nadav Nur

Kopachka Folk Dancers hosted a Balkan Folk Dance Party with live music by Da! Mozhem in October. We had a great turn out and a good time was had by all.



The crowd of dancers a recent party with Kopachka Folk Dancers at the Strawberry Rec Center in Mill Valley. *Photo by S. Shoaf.*

Kopachka Folk Dancers will be hosting **another live music Balkan Folk Dance Party on March 19.** For the first time for Kopachka it will be a **Sunday afternoon event, 2-4:30 pm.** This dance party will feature music by **Zabava**, one of the Bay Area's most popular bands, playing energetic, soulful, and rhythmically dazzling music from throughout the Balkans. This is a special event at the Strawberry Recreation Center in Mill Valley. For all dancing other than parties, Kopachka Folk Dancers will continue to meet on Fridays at the **Almonte Clubhouse** in Mill Valley. See our ad on p. 18 or contact Susie Shoaf at president@kopachkafolkdancers.com.

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Clem Dickey

Saratoga Folks Dancers recently learned Iedera and Zabolera Dunino Golovka. In addition, Loui Tucker recently devised a two-couple dance to introduce and practice contra and square figures which features a Chaos Mixer-style progression. On **March 30 the Saratoga Dancers invite you to a green-themed party: It's Easy Being Green.** There are lots of meanings and connotations for "green," so pick one you like and dress accordingly. And **Da! Mozhem will be there with live music!**

A prominent South Bay dancer, **John Nicoara**, became an 89-year-old, and his wife Jan joined him in the commemorative photo. (See p. 6.)

continued on p. 18

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY *continued*

Winter classes at The Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in Menlo Park continue through March 16:

Monday – Hungarian and Romanian Dances

Tuesday – Palomanians (International)

Thursday – Mostly Balkan

The Monday Hungarian/Romanian class will be on hiatus after March 13; Todd Wagner is departing for his annual sojourn to Hungary.

The Palomanians have been working on a mix of old and new dances. In honor of Dorothy Young's recent birthday, Nilesh Sha led Vallja e Gjilanit to close out January. It's one of Dorothy's favorites. Dorothy isn't keen on disclosing her age, but for next year she could use an extra digit's column. The Palomanians have also recently learned De Boca Del Dyo, Trite Puti from Sliven, and Ned Gault's Triplets Quadrille.

The Peninsula Council's parties continue at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

Saturday, March 11

Saturday, April 8

Saturday, May 13

There are plans to fit a couple of mini-workshops into Peninsula Council parties later this year.

CHICO WORLD DANCERS – Memo Keswick

There's a great band, **Bulgarian Rhythms**, that is organizing a **2023 West Coast tour the end of August**. They'll be playing for both international folk dance clubs and Bulgarian expat groups. They're only here for two weeks so scheduling will be tight. It's best to start contacting us soon. **If you're interested in participating in this tour, please contact me at memokeswick@gmail.com.**

Please give options on different days of the week you might be able to host the four band member group. Besides concerts and dance parties, they offer instrument or vocal instruction.

I look forward to hearing from you about your interests, questions, etc.

ZABAVA

ZABAVA
Sunday, MARCH 19, 2023
2-4:30pm Doors open at 1:30pm
\$15 \$7/students (kids free w/ supervision)
Live Balkan Folk Dance Party
at Kopachka Folk Dancers
Strawberry Recreation Center, Mill Valley
ZABAVA features Bill Cope (gajda, bouzouki, tambura, accordion), Asaf Ophir (sax, clarinet, kaval), Ralph Iverson (gadulka, tambura, violin) and Dan Auvil (percussion). A long-time Bay Area favorite, Zabava plays energetic, soulful, and rhythmically dazzling music, from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, the Romani, Albania, Armenia, and Romania.

www.kopachkafolkdancers.com

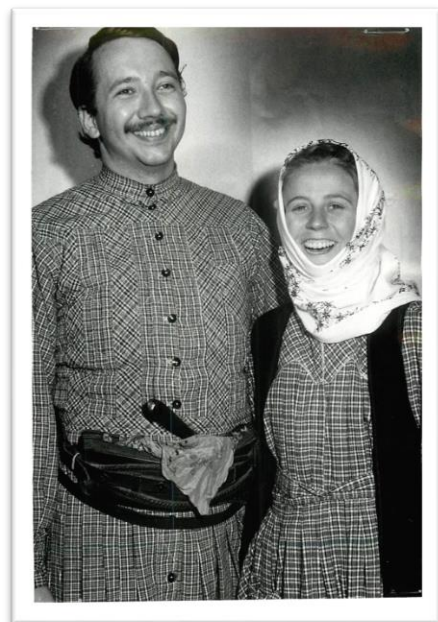
Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley
Spacious sprung dance floor - Additional parking at school across street
president@kopachkafolkdancers.com or 415-497-4890 (Nadav)
Covid protocol: N95, KN95, KF94 masks, vax, boosters required.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Can you identify all four dancers? A \$25 gift card goes to the **THIRD** person who can name them all. The photo was provided by Alix Cordray who found it while clearing out her mother's home in January.

Last month's photo



That's John and Paula Pappas. They attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp 1967-87, and John was on the staff for nine years, teaching Greek dances.

We Have a Winner!

Judy Kropp was the first person to correctly identify John and Paula Pappas. She wrote, "We especially enjoyed dancing to their music at Yasoo Yanni's restaurant in downtown Stockton in the 70s and 80s.

"Excellent issue as always, Loui. I enjoyed Gigi Jensen's article about the different generations and realized that Don and I have family members in all the generations. I also enjoyed Craig Blackstone's article on his and Cindy's trip to New Orleans. I wanted to book a tour today.

"Your article of the importance of the First Follower was very interesting (I did watch the video first). It made me appreciate the wonderful dancers who helped us keep our group going after Floyd Davis and his partner Barbara Summers could no longer dance.

"**We now have up to eight different teachers each night**, each with something different to offer. We even have **four college students dancing with us**. The first student had Vicki Harmon, one our regulars, as a teacher. Vicki is very well liked by her students. The young woman came and brought her mother and then later brought three friends. One of those friends, Elizabeth, attends the local college and just took to dancing, as did one of her friends. They don't come every week, but seem to make it twice a month. It was word of mouth and maybe because Vicki posts photos of our performances on Facebook. She also was in charge of student activities at the high school and always taught a lively dance for International Day at the school. Vicki's changed schools now and hopes to retire soon, but her former students still love her."

~ Judy Kropp, Coordinator, Village Dancers, Turlock



Judy Kropp. Photo by E. Khuner.

FEDERATION NEWS



ELECTIONS 2023

by Adony Beniares

Based on the number of people who voted in our 2022 election and the positive feedback about the online process, we have decided to hold our 2023 election electronically as well. This will be handled via the two-step process covered below.

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following proposed slate of officers:

President: Ulrike Narins

Vice President: Laura Richardson

Secretary: Clem Dickey

Treasurer: Sabine Zappe

All candidates currently hold the office they are nominated for and have agreed to serve an additional term.

Nominations from the membership are now open, allowing Federation members to nominate any additional candidates for any of the four offices. If you wish to nominate an additional candidate, you must first confirm with the nominee that they are willing to serve in the office for which they are being nominated.

Nominations must be submitted by March 15 via one or two methods:

(1) Our online form at tinyurl.com/FDF2023-Nom, or

(2) email me, Federation Nominating Committee Chair, Adony Beniares, at adony408@gmail.com.

Following the close of nominations, the election will be held by sending all Federation individual and family members a link to an on-line ballot that will include all properly nominated candidates. The voting will close on May 22, with all responses to the ballot received by that date tabulated to determine the winning candidate for each office. We encourage you all to participate in our election of officers for the coming year. Participating in our voting process makes a difference.

STATEWIDE 2024 NEEDS YOU!

Do you want to be in “The Room Where It Happens”?

Volunteer to lead us to the **2024 Statewide Folk Dance Festival**, which will be held in northern California. Some preliminary preparations are already underway, but **we need a dedicated chairperson** at the helm. Many people are willing to help, but you can be in charge and get the satisfaction of making it happen.

You will be supported by past chairpersons and by written guidelines of what needs to be done and when. Confer with your folk dance club and make yours the room where it happens! Contact Federation President Ulrike Narins at president@folkdance.com if you're interested or want to discuss the position.

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.



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.

Top Ten Folk Dance Videos on folkdance.com

by Kevin Greek

Ever found yourself struggling to remember a folk dance or wish you had its music to play for dance? **The Folk Dance Federation website has a collection of folk dance videos** to enjoy for review and to dance to online anytime. Browse or search by name from a list of 300 (and growing) folk dance videos, from 27 countries and one ethnic diaspora, the Roma. Each entry includes a short description of the dance and related dance suggestions. For many entries, look for a link to notes or more videos on the dance. These videos have been collected from online sources produced by folk dance advocates and contributors. Videos may feature instructors or well-practiced dancers, but often it is any group fond of dancing together. When there is a choice of recordings for a dance, the most professional recording and easy-to-follow performance found is featured first on folkdance.com.

Without further ado, here are the top 10 videos by view on folkdance.com (folkdance.com/videos):

	Title	Views
1	Pata Pata (South Africa)	2917
2	Adama V'Shamayim (Israel)	2680
3	Vallja e Pllanes (Albania)	1104
4	Branle De La Fosse Aux Loups (France)	923
5	Adir Adirim (Israel)	862
6	An Dro Retourné (Brittany, France)	815
7	Al Sadenu (Israel)	808
8	Cigansko Horo (Bulgaria)	805
9	Valle Pogonishte (Albania)	797
10	Tik (Greece)	766

Although videos are being added monthly, these videos in the top ten list were posted between April 2020 and January 2021. One would think that, the longer dance videos are listed on folkdance.com, the more views they would have overall, regardless of entry. If that were the case and visitors browse any or all videos equally over time, then there would be a correlation for an increasing number of visits per dance over time. A plot of the dance visit data to the present time shows no such correlation, however. So, the ten highest-scoring dances by visits are uncommonly high because they are quite naturally favorites among visitors. Nevertheless, videos on folkdance.com need about 4-6 months' web residency before they develop a signature for their popularity.

What can be said about the top three in this list? Pata Pata, the South African dance popularized by "Mama Africa" Miriam Makeba, is foremost in popularity. I admit I wouldn't have thought this. However, a Google search for Pata Pata results in over 100 different videos, music recordings, remixes, discussions, and history, proving it is very popular. It plays at many parties, it's simple to teach and pick up, it is still included in some school Physical Education programs, and kids love it. Next, at number two, is Adama V'Shamayim, a high-energy Israeli dance that grows in speed with quick, reversing spins offering just enough pause to catch your breath between running steps or turns. At number three, the video for the Albanian handkerchief dance Vallja e Pllanes appears exclusively on folkdance.com, and that probably adds to its visit popularity (music for this dance is not playable elsewhere, such as YouTube, because of copyright issues).

Come to your own opinion and visit the folkdance.com video collection at folkdance.com/videos and watch or try some of the top 10 selections at your next dance party. The video collection page is one of the most popular pages visited on folkdance.com today. Try browsing the collection yourself.

If you have a dance video to suggest for the collection or have comments, you can reach me at webmanager@folkdance.com.

What's Up Down South?

– News from Southern California –

The year 2023 is putting smiles on the faces of SoCal dancers. **Special events are bringing crowds back to dance sessions.**

In January Dr. Andonov introduced new-to-us Bulgarian dances at Laguna International. Michael Ginsburg visited Sherry Cochran's LA LIFE where we danced to the East of 405 Jam Band.

At San Diego Folk Dance Center's annual membership party Tzidia and Koureloudes played for dancing after performances by St. Spyridon's youth ensemble and Denitsa Bogomilova's Bulgarian troupe.

And there were even more events on the calendar! In February, the East West Lunar New Year Celebration was in Cerritos, and Joe Graziosi taught at various clubs, and led dances at Kypseli's Pontian Night with live music.



In March, the Laguna Festival will take place in Clubhouse 2 with Sonia & Cristian (Romanian), Svitlana Selska and Asya Gorska (Ukrainian), and multiple bands.

In May, **Harbor View Statewide is scheduled for San Pedro.** See p. 25 or find the Statewide schedule posted on the socalfolkdance.org, with a link to online registration via Eventbrite. Saturday afternoon will include a tea dance inspired by Richard Powers' illustrated lectures, a Sea Shanty sing-along led by Toti O'Brien, and a house concert by a local Serbian ensemble. Order Saturday meals in advance so you don't miss any of the fun!

53RD ANNUAL LAGUNA FESTIVAL

Laguna International welcomes the world to the 53rd Annual Laguna Festival March 3–5, 2023. in Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods. A glance at the highlights below will speed you to the website, lagunainternationaldancers.com to register and download program details and schedule.

Christian Florescu & Sonia Dion return to Laguna Festival to premier Romanian dances. **Asya Gorska and Svitlana Selska** will teach dances of Ukraine at their Laguna Festival debut.

Ukrainian born, Asya is currently the artistic director of the ensemble Chervona Kalyna in Los Angeles. She is both a vocalist and choreographer.

Svitlana joined Chervona Kalyna in 2021. She studied dance at the Terebovlya College of Art in Ukraine. After moving to Chicago, Svitlana performed with the ensemble Horlytsia and began teaching dance. In addition to Ukrainian dance, she is accomplished in salsa, ballet, ballroom and contemporary styles. Chervona Kalyna seeks to preserve and transmit to the modern generation of Ukrainian-Americans the cultural heritage of Ukraine and to share Ukrainian culture with people in other communities.

The Laguna Festival celebrates music as well as dance. Bill Cope will lead an instrumental music jam and both Balkan and Pop sing-alongs. Melanie Lawson's ukulele group will jam Saturday afternoon and perform during Sunday's concert. **Five bands will play for dancing!** Tzidia will open the party Friday evening at 7:15. Zimzala, Sans Frontières, Veselba and Interfolk will also play sets during festival parties.

Lodging information is included on the website. Book your flight to John Wayne airport now and party with the SoCal dance community and far-flung visitors who have joined Laguna International via Zoom for the past three years.

More information is in our ad on p. 23.



Interfolk

Laguna Folk Dance Festival March 3-5, 2023



Cristian Florescu
& Sonia Dion
will teach Romanian dances



Asya Gorska and
Svitlana Selska will
teach Ukrainian dances



JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN-FILLED FESTIVAL

in the beautiful Clubhouse 2 Ballroom
24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods, CA



Bill Cope will lead Balkan
instrumental jams
& Balkan singing

**WORKSHOPS in
ROMANIAN & UKRAINIAN DANCES,
DANCE PARTIES with 5 BANDS!
BALKAN JAMS & SINGING,
UKULELE JAMS, plus FOOD, WINE,
a CONCERT, and MORE!**



Melanie Lawson is back
to lead ukulele jams

For more information & registration, visit www.lagunainternationaldancers.com
or call Greg at (972) 467-1406

For Laguna Woods residents & their guests. Tell the gate you were invited to the folk dance festival hosted by the Laguna International Dancers (President Miriam Kahn).

The *Saratoga International Dancers* invite you to our spring dance party:

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN!

WHEN: **Thursday, March 30, 7:30-10:15-ish**

WHERE: **St. Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church**
18870 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga

COST: \$6-8 (and bring cash for tips for the band)

Da! Mozhem will be playing two 45-minute sets during the evening.

7:30-8:15-ish recorded music for dances for beginning dancers.

Dancing to recorded music for 15-20 minutes during the band's break.

Our theme for this party is **It's Easy Being Green. Why Green?**

St. Patrick's Day is in March, and we associate **green** with that holiday.

Tax preparation is in full swing and money is **green**.

Spring is around the corner and the trees will be leafing out with new **green** leaves.

Earth Day is coming soon, and that's all about being **green**.

People would be **green** with envy if they knew how much we enjoy dancing together.



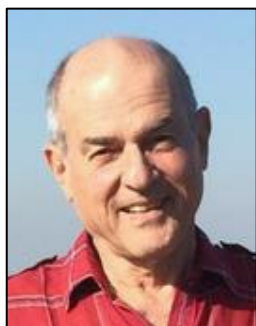
\$25 gift card for the dancer voted to have the best "green" costume.

JIM GOLD, Long-time *Let's Dance!* Advertiser

by Loui Tucker

Most *Let's Dance!* readers know the name Jim Gold, and many have participated in his cruises and tours over the years. Jim has been

leading folk dance tours and cruises since the early 1980s and he currently has a standing order for a full-page ad in *Let's Dance!* magazine (see p. 4).



The first ad I could find that advertised Jim's "FOLKTOURS" was on p. 19 in the January 1990 issue – an unusual vertical half-page ad (right). Jim continued placing ads in *Let's Dance!* for several years, often business-card-sized. A half-page ad appeared in the February 1993 issue.

Then, in January of 2006, Jim got serious and placed his first full-page ad. I suspect that Gary Anderson worked out a deal with Jim to give him a 10% discount for placing ads in the 10 issues printed each year. In September of 2011, Jim upgraded to full-color ads, which were more expensive at that time.

Since I assumed the role of Editor from Gary Anderson in 2017, Jim has continued his advertising campaign in *Let's Dance!* Even during the years when COVID made foreign travel, cruises and dance tours all but impossible, Jim continued to put ads in *Let's Dance!*

Thank you, Jim, for your ongoing support of *Let's Dance!* and international folk dancing in general.

Jim Gold International

FOR PEOPLE WHO LIKE PEOPLE . . .
TRAVELS TO TREASURE

FOLKTOURS 1990

Historic! Folkloric! Cultural! Fun! Everyone Welcome!
Meals, parties, discussions, workshops, meetings with villagers, musicians, and artists. Historic sights, excellent guides, great accommodations, fun times with good folks.

• **AMERICAN SOUTHWEST** •
Albuquerque Santa Fe Taos
August 5 - 12

• **CZECHOSLOVAKIA & HUNGARY** •
Prague Straznice Bratislava Budapest
May 11 - 25 August 3 - 17

• **EGYPT** •
Cairo Luxor Aswan Nile Cruise
February 23 - March 4 June 29 - July 8

• **GREECE & TURKEY** •
Istanbul Athens & Greek Isle Cruise including
Crete, Rhodes, Santorini, Ephesus, Mykonos and more
May 4 - 17 July 13 - 26

• **IRELAND** •
Dublin Galway Tipperary Cork Limerick Killarney
May 11 - 23 July 27 - August 8

• **ISRAEL** •
Jerusalem Haifa Tel Aviv Galilee Bethlehem
March 5 - 15 July 9 - 19

• **SOVIET UNION** •
Moscow Leningrad Tallin Riga Vilnius
June 25 - July 10

FOLK DANCE PLUS WEEKENDS

(various resort hotels in the Catskill region)
Entertainment, folk dancing, workshops, chamber music, golf,
tennis, swimming, bridge, special guest teachers

Winter Weekend
Washington's Birthday Weekend...Spring Weekend
Special International Weekend in April.
June Weekend



For Brochure & Information
JIM GOLD INTERNATIONAL

497 Cumberland Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666 201-836-0362



HARBOR VIEW

STATEWIDE 2023

SAN PEDRO

Featuring:
Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić
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, 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.

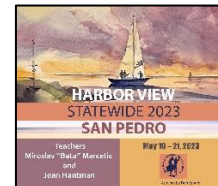
Subtotal: \$ _____

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 recently learned that actor Jesse Eisenberg and his wife went to a Balkan folk dance camp! He was on a television program talking to Seth Meyers about it. You can watch it by doing an internet search for “Jesse Eisenberg Balkan dancing.”

Jesse says, “It’s not so much dancing; it’s like formations and geometry and rules, and those are three things I love ... It requires complete rule following, and to me that’s great.”

He is very twitchy and hyper, and he’s not exactly the kind of actor who would draw a big crowd of fans to go with him to camp.

Nonetheless, it’s some publicity! Possibly worth mentioning in *Let’s Dance!*

~ Lon Radin

To the *Let’s Dance!* Editor:

In the span of 11 days, I lost the two most impactful women in my life.

My mother Bobby Burke passed away January 1, 2023. She was my first dance teacher, my first dance partner and my first best friend.

My wife Susie passed away January 11, 2023. She was the love of my life, my best friend and truly my smarter half.

Each spent the better part of their lives promoting, performing and teaching music and dance that celebrated various cultures of the world.

Should anyone wish to remember them through a donation to ethnic music or dance, please do so by supporting a person or group that celebrates multiculturalism through music or dance. This could be a direct donation or even just by going to a concert or arts event. Introduce a friend or, even more importantly, a young person to the joy and wonder of world music and dance.

~ Billy Burke

A Visit to New Orleans, revisited

There was an error in my article in the last *Let’s Dance!* issue. **When Cindy and I went folk dancing in New Orleans**, the local group we danced with was the **Crescent City International Dancers**, not the **Crescent City Folk Dancers**. There is actually another folk dance group in New Orleans called the Crescent City International Folk Dancers. As we did not dance with the latter group, our recommendation does not apply to them.

~ Craig Blackstone



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.

LET'S DANCE! LYRICS

The dance **Fado** as it is danced in the international dance community is not from Portugal. Portugal is not known to have circle dances. There are many who attribute the dance to Nanni Kloke, who has choreographed many dances to fado songs for the Sacred Circle dance community.

What is “fado”? It is typically defined as being a form of music in Portugal characterized by mournful tunes and lyrics, often about the sea or the life of the poor, and infused with a sentiment of resignation, fate and melancholy. This song “Fado” is not, in fact, in the fado musical style, but about fado songs and music.

The singer is Marisa dos Reis Nunes, known professionally as Mariza.

Mariza was born in Lourenço Marques, Portuguese Mozambique, to a Portuguese father, José Brandão Nunes, and a Mozambican mother, Isabel Nunes. When she was three years old, her family moved to Portugal, and she was raised in Lisbon's historic quarters of Mouraria and Alfama. While very young, she began singing in a wide variety of musical styles, including gospel, soul, and jazz. Her father strongly encouraged her to adopt fado; he felt that participating in the traditional music would grant her greater acceptance in the Portuguese community. Mariza has sold over one million records worldwide.



Fado Português De Nós

Nasceu de ser Português
Fez-se à vida pelo mundo
Foi p'lo sonho vagabundo
Foi pela terra abraçado
Bem querido ou mal amado
O Fado

Viveu de ser Português
Foi alegre e foi gingão
Por ser um fado é canção
Por ser futuro é passado
Mal querido ou bem amado
O Fado

Cada vez mais Português
Anda nas asas do vento
Às vezes solta um lamento
E pede p'ra ser achado
Ele é querido, ele é amado
O Fado

Portuguese Fado by Us

Born to be Portuguese
Made a living around the world
It was for the vagabond dream
It was embraced by the earth
Beloved or unloved
The Fado

Lived to be Portuguese
It was happy and it was cool
Because it's a fado, it's a song
For being the future, it's the past
Bady loved or well loved
The Fado

Each time more Portuguese
Ride on the wings of the wind
Sometimes it lets out a cry
And asks to be found
It is dear, it is loved
The Fado

Yar ko Parag (Armenia)

Yar ko Parag (YAR koh pah rahg) loosely translates as, “Darling, I love your slim shape.” Tineke van Geel choreographed this dance based on traditional Armenian steps and styling. Tineke presented it at a number of workshops, including Dance for All Ages at the 2019 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at University of the Pacific. This dance has also been widely taught by Lee Otterholt, although his styling is slightly different.

Music: Contact Tineke van Geel at vangeel@xs4all.nl

Video: Do an internet search for “Yar ko parag dance.” There are several videos posted on YouTube.

Formation: Open circle of dancers facing ctr, hands joined and down in V-pos.

Steps & Styling: Slow and smooth, not bouncy.

Meas	meter varies	PATTERN
2		INTRODUCTION. Start on “Yar.”
	I.	FIGURE I. Vocal. Facing ctr. (6/8 Meter)
1		Step R to R (cts 1-3); step L in front of R (cts 4-6).
2		Step R to R (cts 1-3); step L behind R (cts 4-6).
3		Repeat meas 1.
4		Sway R to R (cts 1-3); sway L to L (cts 4-6).
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4.
	II.	FIGURE II. Instrumental. (6/8 Meter)
1		Step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L behind R (cts 4-6).
2		Sway R to R (cts 1-3); sway L to L (cts 4-6).
3-8		Repeat meas 1-2 three times.
	III.	FIGURE III. Meter varies.
1		(5/8 Meter) Small step R to R (cts 1-3); small step L fwd (ct 4); step R in place (ct 5).
2		(6/8 Meter) Small step L to L (cts 1-3); small step R fwd (ct 4); step L in place, start raising R knee (cts 5-6).
3		(3/8 Meter) Bend L knee (ct 1); touch R, full foot, beside L, stretching knees (cts 2-3).
4-6		Repeat meas 1-3.
<u>Sequence:</u>		(Fig I, Fig II, Fig III) 3 times Fig I, Fig II to the end of the music

Yar ko Parag — continued

Lyrics

Western Armenian transliteration

Gananch derevit madagh
 Yar ko parag boyit mernem
 Che tud aseyn kez garnem
 Yerek dari miyan al kez vra sovorel em
 Yar ko parag boyit mernem
 Che tud aseyn kez garnem
 Namakov hishele indz
 Prnadz parevit madagh
 Yar ko parag boyit mernem
 Che tud aseyn kez garnem
 Namakov hishele indz
 Kez vra sovorel em
 Yar ko parag boyit mernem
 Che tud aseyn kez garnem

Yar = darling
 ko = your
 parag = thin or slim
 boy = shape or height
 boyin = of your shape
 mernem = let me die

Armenia, officially the Republic of Armenia, is a landlocked country in the Armenian Highlands of Western Asia. It is a part of the Caucasus region and is bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, the Lachin corridor (under a Russian peacekeeping force) and Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the south. Yerevan is the capital, largest city and financial center.

Poetic meaning

I am prepared to sacrifice myself for your youth
 Darling, I love your slim shape
 Even if they say no, I want to take you
 For three years I did nothing but study on you
 Darling, I love your slim shape
 Even if they say no, I want to take you
 S/he mentioned me in a letter
 I am prepared to sacrifice myself for your greeting
 Darling, I love your slim shape
 Even if they say no, I want to take you
 S/he mentioned me in a letter
 I studied that letter over and over
 Darling, I love your slim shape
 Even if they say no, I want to take you



Tineke van Geel presented Yar ko Parag during the Dances for All Ages workshop at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2019.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST –

Think about how we have moved from 78 rpm records to cassette tapes to CDs to mini-discs to laptops! Ah, technology! The advertisements below appeared in various years in *Let's Dance!* magazine.

KISMET RECORD COMPANY
 227 EAST 14TH STREET NEW YORK 3, NEW YORK

One of the oldest established independent manufacturers of those gay, lilted, international folk dances.
 Available on plastic and shellac.
 If your nearest dealer cannot supply you please communicate with our West Coast distributor for information.

W. M. VAN DEREN
 2806 San Pablo Avenue Berkeley, California

June 1950 – plastic and *shellac*?

Folk Dance Records
 Phone KEllogg 4-4246
 for FREE CATALOG
 Specializing in Mail Order Service

Slav-Art Music
 (Fruitvale Record Shop)
 3257 E. 14th St. Oakland, Calif.
 (Listen to our program on KLOK—10 a.m.)

December 1953 – records *and* a radio program!

LO 9-9188 **SOUND SYSTEMS**
 WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS
 Engineered or Standard Systems
 to meet all Dance Club requirements

SOUND EQUIPMENT COMPANY
 14087 E. 14TH STREET
 SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA

May 1960 – we all needed the best in sound equipment.

RECORDS OR TAPES COPIED TO
 HI – FI DISCS
 Phone or Write for FREE Price List

DICK VANCE – STUDIO D
 3409 Grand Ave. HI 4-8746
 Oakland 10, California

April 1961 – a great service

H-T AV Service



Audio Visual
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Phono and Tape Recorder Parts
 and service

928 NO. Fresno St.
 Fresno, Calif. 93701

Phone (209) 485-5033
 JIM HAMPSON

October 1979 – Don't toss it; repair it!

**DUAL CASSETTE
 VARIABLE SPEED
 TAPE RECORDER**

Combination AC / DC Dual Cassette Recorder / Player
 & Portable PA System

<p>STUDIO B</p>  <p>\$300.00 <i>Shipping additional</i></p>	<p><i>Featuring:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stereo playback, with optional speaker • 20 watts output, RMS; 30 watts peak • Dual cassette unit, weight 19 lbs. • Variable recording and playback speeds, 10% slower to 10% faster • 5 selection music find on both decks • 2 microphone inputs, microphone included • 3 way sound mixing capability • Adjustable echo control • Optional extension speaker \$75, wt. 11 lbs • Input and output jacks • AC or battery operation • One year warranty
--	---

WORLD TONE MUSIC
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*Also: Dance records, tapes, books, shoes, audio equipment
 — Write or call for free catalogs — 9/92*

September 1992 – variable speed was important.

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.
927 Springfield Drive
Millbrae, California 94030

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*No matter your age, or the time or place,
don't just stand; begin to dance.
~ Shah Asad Rizvi*

advertisement



This (almost) monthly publication has folk dance events in California and elsewhere, folk lore articles, ethnic recipes and lots of good reading. To get a **free** copy, just call Sandy: (310) 391-7382, or Email: circulation@FolkDanceScene.org

To subscribe, it is just \$18 a year for 10 issues - \$10 for an Email version.
Send to Jan Rayman, 4827 Grand Ave., La Canada, CA 91011