

Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING 03 SEPTEMBER 2023



(2022)

*Smiles were back at
Stockton Folk Dance Camp!*



Members of Changs who attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp the first week. *Photo by C. Dickey.*

Lots more photos inside!

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Let's Dance!

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

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

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

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153 Race Street

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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)

Grp/Club: \$40/year

Mail applications, renewals & checks to:

Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Marcia Rosenblatt, Membership

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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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	<u>1/2 page</u>	<u>full page</u>	
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WELCOME OUR *FIVE* NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Will Aubin, Santa Rosa
Sandra Nelson, Redwood City
Marie Montes, Ventura
LyNann Bertoldi, Jamestown
Jessica Jackman Uy, Claremont

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ulrike Narins

Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2023 – what a rich experience we had, though it was a balmy 107 degrees the first week! I cannot wait to return. Only 350 days to go as of this writing, and when you read it, there will be even fewer left!

Before I explain just why we had such a fantastic time at camp, I'll tell you about the challenges:

- The door to the stairwell used to slam shut quite loudly, so someone taped over the closing mechanism to slow the movement. It required a massive effort to open it, but that strengthened my arms, which did not get as much of a workout as my legs when I danced.
- It was tough to get up after naps; my sleep-deprived body screamed for more time in bed. But the events awaiting me were so enticing that not once did I lengthen my naps.
- We learned some incredibly difficult dances, but once we finally mastered the rhythms, the sense of satisfaction and joy made the effort completely worthwhile.
- Finally, it was hard to say goodbye to all our friends at the end of camp. But parting also marked the beginning of the joyful anticipation of reuniting next year.

We had many wonderful experiences besides dancing, so I will share some highlights with you.

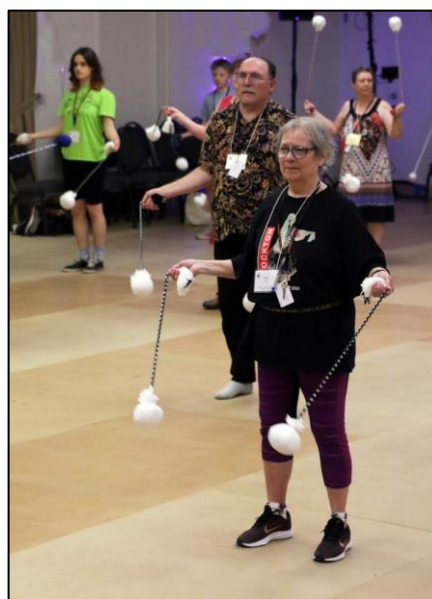
During the welcome talk, Camp Director Gordon Deeg announced there were puzzles in the lobby. The slide he was reading from read "... puzzles, *custom-faculty*, Croatia, Polynesia." Both he and the audience wondered what in the world "custom-faculty" meant. It turned out the puzzles were *customized*, one depicting the current faculty, one of Croatia, and one with a Polynesian theme. If we needed a laugh, we just had to say "custom-faculty."

Roberto Bagnoli introduced the dance Cumajle. At one point in the dance, we move toward the center, stop, stretch our knees, make a small circle with our hips, and wait. While waiting we could hear the lyrics "S... s... s... SEX!" but

each time, the expected orgy failed to materialize! When asked about the words to the song ("Sex" by Goran Bregović), Roberto said he was not allowed to translate the lyrics for us!

The Saturday afternoon talent show included many types of performances – dancing, singing, playing an instrument, putting on a comical game show, and reciting a poem. All were wonderful! When I related this to a friend, she asked, "And who won?" That made me realize that there are no winners or losers in Stockton, but instead a delightful sharing.

During the first week's talent show, Adony shared a video of a talent show act from many years ago in which a woman showed how well (not!) she had learned to handle poi balls. This was appropriate because Kau'i Tuia, one of our teachers this year, was teaching us how to use them. As we gazed at the video projected onto a big screen, we heard the music, but the screen soon turned black, and a message like "waiting for input signal" displayed. Adony didn't realize we in the audience couldn't see the video, so he kept gazing at his laptop, thoroughly entertained, laughing uproariously. In turn, it was fun for us to watch him. He eventually figured it out, found a new cable, and showed us the whole video.



Poi ball class, Maria Montes in the foreground, Kevin Greek in the background. Photo by C. Dickey.

For the second week's talent show, my son Lothar and I worked with four couples to learn the Russian Suite. During rehearsals we had several opportunities to turn the dance into a comic routine, but we kept the dance

continued on p. 8



Jim Gold International Folk Tours 2024

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



Middle East

EGYPT: February 23-March 3, 2024 Cairo, Nile River cruise, Luxor, Aswan

Led by Ventsi Milev or Lee Otterholt

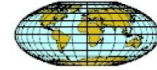
ISRAEL: March 3-13, 2024 Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Safed, Golan Heights. Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Joe Freedman

North America

WESTERN CANADA: April 11-23, 2024 Calgary, Banff, Vancouver.

Led by Cathie Donnel-Dunkel, with Lee Otterholt and Genc Kastrati

EASTERN CANADA: June 28-July 10, 2024 Montreal, Quebec, Saint John, Halifax, Charlottetown, and more. Led by Richard Schmidt



Travel broadens one!

Eastern Europe (The Balkans)

ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA and KOSOVO:

May 22-June 3-5, 2024 Tirana, Durrës, Vlora Folk Festival, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat, Lake Prespa, Ochrid, Kosovo extension. Led by Lee Otterholt and guided by Kliti Zika

BULGARIA and Black Sea Coast: July 22-August 4, 4-8, 2024

Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, Varna.

Led by Ventsi Milev.

ROMANIA: Sept 29-Oct 13, 2024 Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, Cluj,

Sighet Marmatiei Led by Nancy S. Hoffman and Virginia O'Neil

GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: Oct 19-Nov 1, 2024

Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Greek Island Cruise Led by Lee Otterholt and guided by Maroula Konti



Western Europe

SCANDINAVIA: June 18-July 1, 2024 Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg

(Elsinore), Copenhagen. Led by Lee Otterholt

IRELAND: August 3-15, 2024 Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin. Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Kay Cleary

SPAIN: Sept 12-25, 2024 Malaga, Ronda, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Granada



South America

PERU with Nazca and Peruvian Amazon: May 20-29, 2024

Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Puno, Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca, Peruvian Amazon, Nazca extensions. Led by Martha Tavera

BRAZIL: October 21-November 1, 2024 Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Iguassu Falls.

Led by Hilary Almeida

For complete tour itineraries and information go to: www.jimgold.com

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

Register on line at: <https://www.jimgold.com/>

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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).

- SEPTEMBER 9** **CHANGS 85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.** City College of San Francisco, Wellness Center, Studio 301 (entrance at Ocean Avenue & Howth Street), 12-5 pm. Live music by Da! Mozhem & Bill Cope. \$10 suggested donation.
- SEPTEMBER 9** **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.
- SEPTEMBER 10** **FEDERATION BOARD MEETING AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.** All Federation members are encouraged 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.
- SEPTEMBER 10** **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS AT THE SOLANO STROLL.** Solano Stroll, a street fair on Solano Avenue in Albany, 10 am-5 pm. Over 400 vendors at booths offering clothing, food, artwork, jewelry, and more. **BFD members will be dancing at 1 and 3 pm, at 1652 Solano Avenue at Ventura. IT'S FREE!**
- SEPTEMBER 16** **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS INAUGURAL BALL.** Live Oak Recreation Center, 1301 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley. Time, cost, etc. to be determined. Info: folkdance.com.
- SEPTEMBER 17** **SCOTTISH AND ENGLISH COUNTY DANCE WORKSHOP AND DANCE.** St. Bede's Church Hall. 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Teaching by Bruce Hamilton (English) and Fred DeMarse (Scottish). Live music by Lyle Ramshaw and Ben Jackson. 3:15-6:30 pm. \$10. Sponsored by the Palomanians. Info: clemd@acm.org.
- SEPTEMBER 29-
OCTOBER 1** **MOUNTAIN PLAYSHOP WEEKEND WORKSHOP.** Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina, just outside Asheville. Roberto Bagnoli will teach International and Israeli folk dance. \$375 includes tuition, housing, meals, all activities. Substantial discounts for students and children. Info: mountainplayshop.org.
- SEPTEMBER 30-
OCTOBER 1** **MOSAIC FESTIVAL SILICON VALLEY.** Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose. 3-10 pm both days. Dance performances, food trucks and vendors, workshops, visual arts and crafts. All ages welcome! Live music by Da! Mozhem and audience participation in some folk dances (see schedule online). Info: mosaicamerica.org/festival. **IT'S FREE!**
- OCTOBER 21** **THE OFFICERS BALL.** The Folk Dance Federation's annual festival of folk dance with an afternoon dance workshop, on-site dinner, and dance party! This year's theme is *Harvest Hoedown*. Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main Street, Pleasanton. 1-10 pm. \$55 for the entire event if registered by October 17, or pay for workshop/party at the door. See ad and registration form on p. 10. Info: folkdance.com/event/officers-ball-2023.



THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Photos taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July by J. Croco, D. Rawson, C. Dickey, and L. Tucker.



Kevin Greek posed with Diane Baker during the Costume Parade.



Lynn Overtree and Tony Canavarro practiced a Croatian dance.



Emily Saletan sang during the Wine and Cheese Tasting, performed in both talent shows, was Richard Powers' teaching partner, and danced all night long!



From left, Sue Chen, Laura Douglass, Karen Wilson-Bell, and Kathrine Hough posed before the first week's Saturday banquet.

Rebecca Tsai entertained at the second week's talent show.



From left, Lon Radin, Adony Beniares, and Laura Richardson posed for a selfie.



Stockton Folkdance Camp Crash Course: Year 1

by Laura Richardson



The author, decked out for the Hat Kolo. *Photo by C. Dickey.*

Excessively-packed, under-prepared, and over-heated, I arrived at University of the Pacific eager to check a decades-long bucket list item off my bucket list at last! The camp staff were helpful, and soon everyone was dancing together in the beautifully decorated and *air-conditioned* auditorium. The dance floors were marvels of engineering, specially constructed and installed in our three dance rooms. These floors were springy and kind to our feet. This community of dancers has kept the dance magic going for 76 years – quite amazing, considering many times torch-passing had to occur to make each year a success. Like any family, there is a LOT of history in this dance family, and as a newcomer, not knowing the secret handshakes or passwords, I was not sure if I would feel like part of the family or an outsider. The question was answered immediately. I was part of the family from the first moment I was greeted by the camp director, Gordon Deeg, who made it clear he was happy to see me. Welcome! You belong here! I felt warmly accepted at once.

The pros had all scanned the syllabus ahead of time and picked the dances/teachers they wanted to focus on for the week. Not me. I looked like a deer in the headlights, scanning the schedule and scratching my head. So many choices, so many classes – which to do first, second, third? For about five hours a day, we swapped between three dance areas and different teachers; we danced about an hour and then moved to the next class. Monday and Tuesday were teaching days; Wednesday was a review day; then we had classes again on Thursday and Friday, and another review day on Saturday.

I learned right away that getting to every teacher's class would be a mathematical impossibility without cloning myself. Each teacher had marvelous lessons planned; oh, so hard to pick and choose! All the instructors were simply fantastic. Each had a very different style and method. But *all* of them had a passion for dancing and all were eager to help everyone become better dancers.

The band, Chubritza, accompanied us on several occasions, and they were very skilled, and fun to dance to. Iliana Bozhanova had brought Todor Yankov with her from Bulgaria, and his fingers flew over the accordion as he accompanied her during classes. Her dances were spirited and lively. Richard Powers and his kind assistant Emily Saletan taught us the secret of social dancing (and life) which turned out to be empathy, courtesy, and connection, not necessarily in that order.

We went to Greece with Kyriakos Moisidis, who gave us the mountains, the sea, and the islands in our steps and our hearts. We went to Croatia with Željko Jergan, who also taught us to sing and hosted our Croatian banquet Saturday night. We were given the spirit of Aloha in Kau'i Tuia's dances, which carried us to Hawai'i, Tahiti, New Zealand, and Samoa. Roberto Bagnoli gave our feet wings with his dances and hosted an epic afterparty. Tony Parkes had a melodious voice for calling contras and squares, and he presented a lovely selection of triplet dances. Every teacher generously contributed his or her energy and love of dancing to each class.

I learned that dancing, dining, showering, Advil, several pairs of decent dance shoes, and plenty of socks – these were necessary. Sleep? Not a necessity, as it turns out. By the Wednesday review, some of us were clearly running on empty. There is an altered state that kicks in when you've tried to learn more than your brain and feet can absorb. This is when things you knew become things you no longer knew, including your name, today's date, and what you had for lunch (did you have lunch? Hmm). This is the part of camp I will always remember as my "staring off into the abyss" phase. A week flew by quickly, filled with classes, parties, new friendships, and lots of merriment and laughter.

We all have responsibilities and chores, burdens we carry that bend our backs and bruise our hearts. Dancing is healing. It is letting go of stress and breathing in joy and life. It is remembering the music and the steps and forgetting yourself in the dance. There is someone beside you, holding your hand, ready to help you if your steps falter. You may catch someone else who needs a hand. It is stepping outside of the daily struggle, for just a moment, to embrace the eternal. When the Stockton dance family joins together to dance, and to sing the ancient songs, and to remember, it is an energy like no other. I felt very lucky to finally have a chance to attend.



Laura Richardson with Hollis Radin on the dance floor. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

We Got Married!

by Megan Wolf

WHO: Jordan Uggl and Megan Wolf

WHEN: May 20, 2023

WHERE: Al & Teddy Wolterbeek's Dance Deck

Jordan and I met at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2006 as teenagers, when I was in Al and Teddy Wolterbeek's dance group. We were friends for many years, and our friendship and eventual love grew at Al and Teddy's dance barn. When we got engaged last year, Teddy invited us to get married on their property, where they also have a beautiful outdoor dance deck in addition to the dance barn.

We had a small wedding and reception that our guests referred to as a fairy tale. We wanted to have a folksy and romantic wedding and keep our guests safe from COVID. We had many COVID precautions in place, including having the wedding outdoors and wearing masks while dancing.

Teddy was the officiant for our ceremony, which included reading our ketubah (Jewish marriage contract) and breaking the glass. Jordan walked down the aisle to the theme from *Bridgerton*, while my entrance was to a string quartet version of the Star Trek: *Voyager* theme. Our first dance as a couple was to the song "Stormans Oga," a waltz Al and Teddy used to play often at their dances.



We have many memories dancing to that song before and after we fell in love. Most of the people at the wedding thought we were doing a choreographed dance, but we just did an improvised waltz.

We were so happy that so many of our family and friends danced with us! David Newitt did an amazing job calling English Country Dancing with live music by Quite Carried Away.

The final dance of the night was La Bastringue. It was so magical to celebrate our love for each other and our love of dance with all our favorite people.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – *continued*

dignified and elegant. The actual performance went well, and we were about to bow toward the audience when our music stopped and without pause a lively tune started, one that contrasted sharply with the slow Russian music for our dance. We could not bow or walk off the stage in the way we had planned. Instead, we laughed along with the audience and exited in a disorderly fashion, so it ended up an unintentionally comic routine after all.

On the first Wednesday, I entered the hall for the wine-and-cheese reception before the live auction and heard pleasant instrumentals and a woman singing. I soon realized the music was not a recording but Emily Saletan singing live. This made the songs for me much more than background music, and I enjoyed her singing a lot. Emily is the young woman who became a singer with the band last year and attended this year's camp as Richard Powers' teaching partner.

During the last Saturday Polynesian-themed party, we had a sing-along with all the ukulele players. What a treat to be able to sing without a mask this year!

John Filcich, age 99, came down from Arcata but developed a fever and had to be hospitalized. For a short time, we had no band because the members of Chubritza, who know John well, took turns sitting with John throughout the night. A few days later John showed up at camp, walking upright, sometimes without a cane. I even saw him running, and he led a kolo once. I hope I can move that well if I live to be 99. John is the only person to have attended each of the 76 Stockton Folk Dance Camps, though he could not afford the tuition for the first one in 1948. He snuck in that first year but had to leave camp midweek when he was discovered.

I want to say a big *thank you* to the staff who prepared, ran, and dismantled the camp and who are still working to provide us with videos. This crew has my full admiration and deep gratitude.

SPEAKING OF DANCING

by Gigi Jenson

Please forgive me. I had so much fun at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2023 that I didn't have the energy to finish my column for this issue. Telling you where we found the choreographer for Chilili will just have to wait.

Instead, here is a puzzle I created for a children's folk dance activity book as part of The Mentoring Project for the National Folk Organization. The book will have outline pictures of folk dancers to color, word puzzles, and more.

Enjoy!



Folk Dance Fun

A C C O R D I O N Q V I B S T A H M D C
 W V O N Y O L Y W Z S A W C T R O H J I
 L A K M U S I C I A N S S A F E P G R R
 A H L J M J R H Y T H M S R C X P N B C
 U V U T T U P M O F R V D F C P I P W L
 G X H E Z Q N K S Q U A R E D A N C E E
 H T B N D O S I D O E U U P E R G B N D
 T W T P X Z B C T J I P M R Q T N I V A
 E C S R S A E K J Y N L U T W N V B K N
 R L W O P W G R N X E H A N H E M V R C
 O L I N E D A N C E O K R Q P R K E U E
 F U N O S M F I D D L E T A P C X T W N
 T M G Q H A N D H O L D R V K I H M I A
 U H J E S K I P P I N G W O M A U R S G

Search through the puzzle above and draw a circle around the following words. They may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

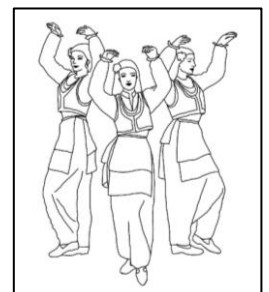
- accordion
- circle dance
- community
- do-si-do
- drum
- fiddle
- fun
- grapevine
- handhold
- hopping
- laughter
- line dance
- kick
- mixer
- musicians
- partner
- polka
- rhythms
- scarf
- skipping
- square dance
- step
- swing
- waltz



Scottish Dancer 1969
by Marian Gault



Polish Couple 1997
by Marian Gault



Turkish Dancers 2002
by Susan Gregory

Answers on p. 22.

THE ANNUAL OFFICERS BALL

HARVEST HOEDOWN

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main Street, Pleasanton

Doors open 1 PM Institute 1:30-5:30 PM

On-Site Dinner 5:30-7 PM Dance party 7-10 PM

Afternoon Institute \$25

Dinner with entertainment by Bill Cope \$20

Evening Party \$25

All-Three Package Price \$55

(must register by Oct. 17 for package price or dinner)

INSTITUTE TEACHERS

Denise Heenan Craig Kurumada

Lothar Narins Alan Rothchild

Marian Snyder Loui Tucker

(maybe one more!)

**Dances will be announced in
late September/early October**

50/50
Raffle

Name #1 _____

Name #2 _____

Pre-register \$55 x ____ = _____

Workshop \$25 x ____ = _____

Dinner \$20 x ____ = _____

Evening Party \$25 x ____ = _____

TOTAL \$ _____

[New members with coupon pay for dinner only]

Any dietary issues we should know about?

Make checks payable to Folk Dance Federation

Mail check and form to Federation Treasurer

Sabine Zappe, 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126

Or pay online at <http://officersball.folkdance.com>



FEDERATION NEWS



Changes in the Federation Bylaws

For most of its existence, the term of Federation officers and the budget year began on June 1. However, having the budget year begin on June 1 created significant issues for the Federation Treasurer when it came to filing state and federal income and sales tax returns. A few years ago, the budget year was moved so it started on January 1. This move had a ripple effect on the officers who were charged with managing the budget, principally the president, who had to work within the limitations set by his/her predecessor.

There was also a desire on the part of the Federation Board to eliminate the need to hold elections every year since officers rarely served fewer than two years. Making this change will require the current officers to serve through December 31, 2024 (an additional six months), but all have agreed to do so.

To read the current version of the Federation bylaws, visit folkdance.com, click the About Us tab, and select the Staff and Board option.

General Assembly Meeting

Our next Federation Board meeting will be on Sunday, September 10, 3:30 pm. This meeting will be our General Assembly meeting of this year that we are required by our bylaws to hold. All Federation members are encouraged to attend. **IT'S ON ZOOM** so it's easy to attend! **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Scholarship Thank-You

by Noelle Cybart

Thank you for the Federation's generous support. I highly recommend this event that I was able to attend to all folk dancers!

Attending the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) Finals in Tampa, Florida, was a thrilling and unforgettable experience. As a dancer, I was honored to be among so many talented performers from around the world who had come to showcase their skills on this prestigious stage. The atmosphere at the YAGP Finals was electric, buzzing with excitement and anticipation. Dancers of all ages and backgrounds filled the venue, their passion evident in every step they took.

For my performance, I had the incredible opportunity to showcase the beauty and grace of Ukrainian dance. Ukrainian dance is rich in tradition and steeped in cultural significance. With intricate footwork, vibrant costumes, and energetic movements, it captures the essence of Ukraine's history and heritage. Through this opportunity, I learned this beautiful style of dance and was able to perform for people from around the world.

A challenge I encountered at the event was keeping my body warm and ready to perform while waiting for our dance to be called backstage. This event involved thousands of dancers, which meant that every performer had to be patient until it was time to go on stage. Thankfully, I was able to keep myself warm and perform to my fullest.

Attending the YAGP Finals and performing a Ukrainian dance was an enriching and inspiring experience. It reinforced my love for dance and left me with cherished memories that will last a lifetime. I would recommend this experience to other folk dancers because it was an opportunity to showcase a different cultural dance to people who may have never seen it performed before. This experience celebrated artistry, talent, and the universal language of dance.

Thank you again for making this opportunity possible!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY . . .

RAZZMATAZZ

by Marilyn Smith

On July 18, during our Tuesday night folk dancing at Monroe Hall, we celebrated Gloria Coté's birthday. **Gloria has been running the all-requests summer sessions for over 20 years.** She was presented with a glittery birthday crown, and we danced our traditional Zydeco Shuffle to Van Morrison's Gloria with all of us singing along, "G-L-O-R-I-A, Gloria!" Jackie Egbert brought a beautiful chocolate birthday cake for all to enjoy.



Gloria Coté in her birthday crown. *Photo by M. Smith.*

An unexpected surprise on this night was the appearance of Jenny Wright shortly before the evening ended. I hadn't seen her for a few years as she lives out of the area. I've known Jenny since she was a child. Her parents, Laura and Michael Wright, danced with me for decades, and they always brought Jenny and her sister Ana to every Razzmatazz Weekend at Mendocino Woodlands over the years.

Sadly, Laura passed away in 2018. On this night, someone requested Šestorka and I mentioned to the group that this was one of Laura's favorite dances. **Not more than 10 minutes later, Jenny appeared in the hall.** When I asked the group what dance I should play for Jenny, everyone said "Pravo!" This is because we all have this wonderful memory of Jenny leading the Pravo at Razzmatazz Weekend when she was about 10 years old. Her mother, father, and sister were all in the line next to her. Édessa was playing one of their rollicking Pravos and when George Chittinen saw Jenny at the front of the line, he shouted: "Go, Jenny, go!"

So, on this night we played my recording of a pravo by Édessa, grown-up Jenny led the dance, and we shouted: "Go, Jenny, go!" It was a sweet experience for all of us!

PENINSULA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL

by Clem Dickey

There will be no Second Saturday Party in September. Join us instead at **Changs 85th Birthday Bash beginning at noon on September 9** at the San Francisco City College Wellness Center.

The Palomanians will host a **Scottish and English County Dance Workshop and Dance** at St. Bede's at 3:30 pm on Sunday September 17. Denise Heenan will emcee, with instruction by Fred DeMarse and Bruce Hamilton, and live music by Lyle Ramshaw and Ben Jackson.

Back on Thursday, July 6, **Father Vido invited the Saratoga Folk Dancers to tour the nearly-completed sanctuary of our host church, St. Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church.** The church has been in the works since 2007 (!), with multiple setbacks due to lawsuits by the neighbors, funding problems, supply and artisan issues, and, of course, the pandemic. There were plenty of oohs and aahs as the dancers entered the space. The currently white walls will eventually bear religious murals.

Icons of Christ, the Virgin Mary, the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, the apostles, and the Last Supper decorate the templon in traditional Orthodox style. Father Vido briefly described the significance of icons and the layout of the sanctuary.



Saratoga Folk Dancers toured their host church; inset, tile work. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

... AND BEYOND

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS

by Ann Moghaddas

Welcome to Fall! **The Berkeley Folk Dancers' new beginner classes starts Thursday, September 7 at Live Oak Hall from 7:30-9:30.** Tell your friends about this fun way to get some exercise and meet new friends while dancing to music from around the world!

On September 10, the **Berkeley Folk Dancers will have a booth at the Solano Stroll.** This is a yearly (since 1974, except during the COVID pandemic) community event in which the Solano Avenue Association blocks off over a mile of Solano Avenue in Albany, restricting it to foot traffic. The street is filled with over 400 vendors at booths offering clothing, food, artwork jewelry, and so much more. Over 100,000 participants and guests are anticipated! Look up Solano Stroll in a search engine and you'll get more information.

BFD members will be dancing in the street, and we welcome all to join us. The Stroll runs from 10 am-5 pm, and we will be dancing at 1 and 3 pm.

On Saturday, September 16, we will be having our Inaugural Ball. We will be welcoming our new President, Gillian Belcher, as well as returning Board Members.

NORTH BAY

by Carol Friedman

Our Monday night **Balkan/International class fall session at Hermann Sons Hall starts up on September 11.** I'm thrilled that during our summer session several new folks joined the class and that two previous regulars will be returning to dance with us again in the fall.

We will be reviewing Changulovo (Macedonia) plus learning two new dances: L'Homme Qui Marche (France) and Fel Shara (Sephardic). We'll also be resurrecting dances we haven't done in some time, including Valle e Permetit (Albania), Talima (Bulgaria) and Zagarisios (Greece).

The Thursday afternoon Israeli class will start up on September 7, with a 6-week session through October 26.

The fabulous Bulgarian band **Bulgarika will be returning to Petaluma on Monday, October 23, 7-9 p.m.** Mark your calendars now and

come join us that evening in dancing to the beautiful melodies and exciting dance tempos. Info: 415-663-9512 or cjay@horizoncable.com.

CHANGS FAMILY NIGHT

by Erika Opper

On Friday, June 30, **Changs had a soft opening of our Family Dance Program** at our usual venue, the Miraloma Park Improvement Club's clubhouse in San Francisco. What a fun time it was, with plenty of grins and giggles! We had three children and many adults having a great time as our long-time family program teacher, Michel Harbarger, led us through dances from around the world. We hope to begin more regular family nights this fall (date TBA) to be led by Michel and apprentice teacher Clarissa Miller.

Fern Ebeling started dancing at Changs one year ago and promptly became a member. She brought along her seven-year-old granddaughter Gloria, carrying on a family tradition of folk dancing that she documents below as she shared the wonderful experience Gloria had that evening.

My parents, Willam and Gloria Ebeling, met folk dancing in 1956 at the Fun Club in San Francisco, where they were eventually married during a party night! They also danced at Changs.

My father began taking me to Thursday night folk dance classes offered through the Fun Club taught by Gary Kirschner when I was 5 years old. For you devoted folk dancers, it goes without saying how magical that was for me and the kind of father I had.

Even though I didn't continue folk dancing (being a band nerd in adolescence got in the way), some of those dances live in my brain (Ersko Kolo, Corrido, Miserlou, Hambo, and one or two others with names I've forgotten). I know I will discover more of these as time passes. Both of my children danced in Khadra Kids with Brenda Bess.

When it was announced that Changs was going to do a soft start for a Family Folk Dance night, my heart skipped a beat. I knew Gloria was about to continue our folk dancing legacy.

To say Gloria enjoyed herself immensely would be a gross understatement. She is generally a very cautious kid and doesn't just jump into an activity if she's unfamiliar with it. She not only jumped right in and danced her little feet off; she was having conversations with and dancing with complete

continued on p. 14

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY (continued)
 strangers! Bravo to teacher Michel for that
 icebreaker kitty dance!

My daughter says Gloria has made progress socially this past year in a new school with a very skilled teacher bent on encouraging her out of her shell. I don't want to diminish how all of you are so welcoming, encouraging, forgiving, and just downright friendly to everyone who walks through the door intending to dance. Introducing children to music, movement, learning patterns and sequences creates smarter, happier, and more socially conscious humans!

Thank you so very much.

~ Fern Ebeling



Family Night
 at Changs in
 July 2023.
 Photo by
 L. Milhoan.

PRELIMINARY TALLY

by Lon Radin

Below is a list of the most popular dances taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July, based on a small number (31) of surveys submitted. The tally will be updated in the October issue of *Let's Dance!*

19 votes	Garabneri Bar (Roberto)
18 votes	Kvadrilja (Zeljko) Sunt din Bucovina (Roberto)
16 votes	Eia Hawai'i (Kua'i) Perivoli (Kyriakos)
15 votes	Kahikatea (Kua'i) Troyro (Kyriakos) Cumajle (Roberto)
14 votes	Tourka Nivesta (Kyriakos) Studiu Macedo-Aromăn (Roberto) Xhamadani (Roberto)
13 votes	Cross-Step Waltz Mixer (Richard) Logo Te Pate (Kua'i) Penti Pedia Pouligyra (Kyriakos) Romski Vez (Roberto) Klinček (Zeljko)

I MISS DANCING! (But I'll be back!)

by Barbara Bevan

I knew I loved folk dancing when I discovered it in 1977. It has been a major part of my life ever since, with classes, teaching, performing, festivals, Dance on the Water trips, and Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Recently, two big events dramatically jeopardized the activity I love. First was the COVID pandemic, which prevented us from dancing together. We resorted to Zoom presentations, but it just wasn't the same. When the pandemic finally began to let up, we got back to dancing together with great joy!

Then, for me personally, the second big event hit: I had a bad fall on April 3, onto both knees and shoulders. I cracked bones in one knee and one shoulder and tore a ligament in one upper arm. I went by ambulance to the ER, then off to a skilled nursing facility for six weeks. I was unable to stand up and was completely bedridden.

With wonderful nursing care and daily physical and occupational therapy, I eventually was able to walk with a walker and later just a cane. I was discharged to go home and had six weeks of in-home nursing care. Terrific family and friends helped me to adapt to life at home.

I had originally planned to begin teaching a beginners' dance class in May. Now, hopefully, I will do so in September. All during this ordeal, I would practice folk dances in my mind. As my condition slowly improves, I do some easy dances at home. I truly miss dancing with others at parties, workshops and, of course, attending Stockton Folk Dance Camp. This would have been my 44th year! I was there in spirit!

Barbara (right) with her "Ferrari" walker and monster leg brace.



Channa Orner (1925–2023)

compiled by Erika Opper

Channa Orner, 98, passed away on June 19, 2023, leaving behind her cherished daughter Aviva and a saddened community of dancers. Until age 95, she had been the beloved and inspiring co-teacher of the San Francisco Dance Circle for nearly 20 years. A team of volunteer teachers now leads the Dance Circle and continues Channa's legacy of folk, line, and original-choreography dances, including Channa's Greek-inspired dance Gentle Children.

Channa was born in Brooklyn, New York, and started dancing as a teenager. Beginning in her 30s, she began teaching international folk dancing in New York, specializing in Greek and Israeli dancing. She moved to San Francisco in 1978 where she enjoyed dancing, especially ballroom, while working as a bookkeeper.

In about 2000, she returned to international folk dancing and began volunteering as a co-teacher for San Francisco Dance Circle. There she included American line dances along with her favorite Israeli and Greek dances.

Her synagogue's obituary tells us:

Channa was an avid reader and she loved museums, movies, shows, opera, and lectures. She audited college classes, attended book clubs, Bible class, chair yoga, and line dancing classes. Channa volunteered for various organizations including the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Jewish Coalition for Literacy. She enjoyed travel, and her international travels included visits to Israel, France, England, the Netherlands, Spain, and Italy.

When announcing Channa's passing to the group, San Francisco Dance Circle President Barbara Duhl wrote:

She was both patient and precise in her instruction and always warm and welcoming to everyone who came to dance with us. She built our class into a community, and we will always remember her and be grateful for all she taught us. We will keep her in our hearts and will remember to smile (as she always told us to do) when we come together to dance.

Just before the COVID shutdown, I prepared a book for Channa's 95th birthday with photos and messages from nearly 60 current and former participants in San Francisco Dance Circle expressing how



Channa dancing with Thad Trela in 2018 when Channa was 92. *Photo by M. Miller.*

much she meant to all of us. Her co-teacher, Ann Colichidas, wrote:

I cherish our special bond, and I am so honored to be a co-teacher with you and share in this wonderful experience that we are all building together.

Dancers added many and varied compliments. Dina Martin wrote, "It has been a joy and privilege to have you as my folk dance teacher. I am inspired by your energy, your knowledge, your grace, your ability, your patience, your wit, and your longevity."

Obo Help wrote, "You make everyone feel welcome, acknowledging comings and goings, birthdays, health concerns, and more. You always prepare for class and your teaching is so clear. You have a great sense of humor and make class fun."

Ana Linder wrote, "Your enthusiasm for life and dancing lifts everyone's spirit. People like you, who are positive, kind, and thoughtful make the world better for everyone."

Finally, a poem in tribute to Channa from Barbara Duhl:

Channa says, "Just watch."
and we watch
"Now try it,"
and we do.

"Everybody sing!" she says
and we sing – nice and loud!

"Into the center
And don't forget to smile!"
But, of course, we can't stop smiling.
We're dancing with Channa!

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES

This month's Photo Archives page is dedicated to Gordon Deeg, who recently retired as director of Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Gordon first attended Stockton Camp in 1961 and has attended almost every year since then. Gordon served on the Board of Directors beginning in 1991 and became Camp director after the 2017 Camp. The photographer of the black-and-white photos is unknown. Photographers Georgia Milton, Nancy MacKnight, and Loui Tucker took the color photos.



1963, with Bruce Mitchell and Bruce's mother, Bea.



1968, with Cookie Mitchell.



1978.

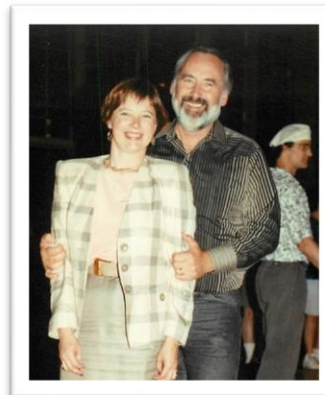
Below are photos taken with Kamrin MacKnight, Gordon's wife, the new director of Stockton Folk Dance Camp.



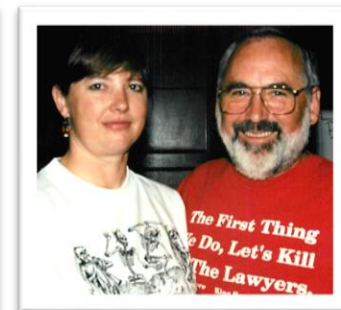
1982



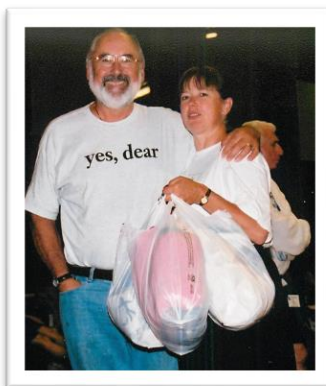
1985



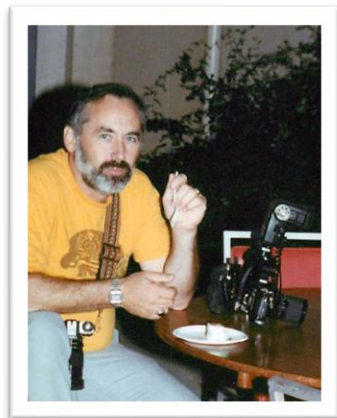
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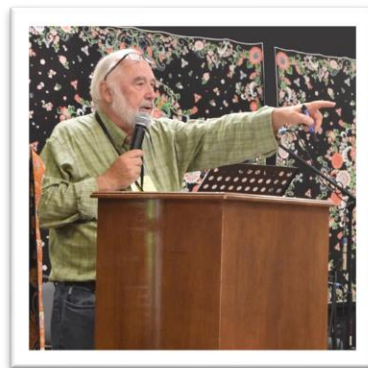
1997



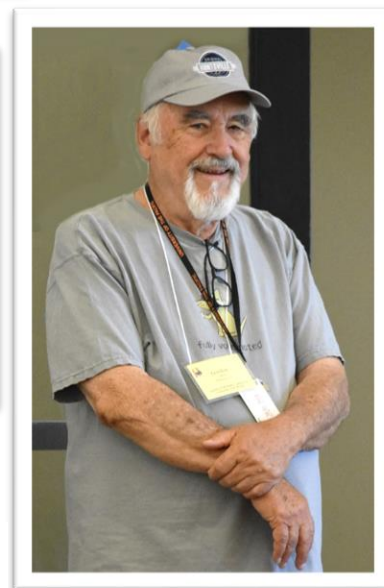
2002



1988, Gordon as photographer.



2018, Gordon as auctioneer.

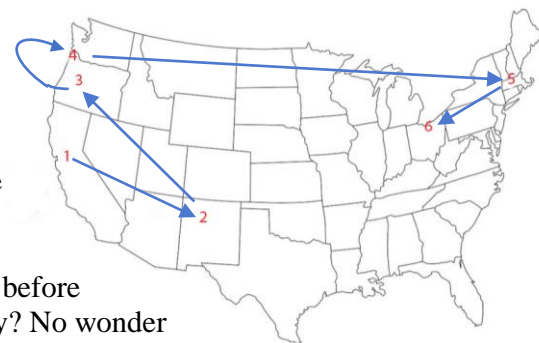


2023, Gordon Deeg, Stockton Folk Dance Camp Director.

A Dance Journey (Part 2)

by Drew Herzig

By 2004 I had been teaching international folk dance for over 20 years and, although I loved teaching, the returns were diminishing. The counter-culture had definitely moved on. It was impossible to get more than a handful of people interested in a beginners' class, and with the ever-expanding folk dance repertoire, could I, in good conscience, encourage people to take up a hobby that might involve years of effort before they could comfortably dance most of the evening at a folk-dance party? No wonder contra dancing was so attractive – minimum investment, maximum rewards.



When the opportunity came to move to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to be with my future husband, the artist Charles Schweigert, I was ready to pack up and go. I thought I would be turning the page and hanging up my dancing shoes. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Santa Fe was a different and bewildering world. Fortunately, there was a Trader Joe's in Santa Fe, so I wasn't totally at a loss! After a much shorter time than I anticipated, I found I needed folk dance, as well as Trader Joe's, to help me cope with all the new experiences life was throwing at me. Folk dance was the "home away from home" that helped me feel connected in this new and foreign land. I couldn't have found a friendlier group than the Santa Fe International Folk Dancers, nor a more welcoming dance leader than Scott Gordon. Almost immediately, Scott had me teaching intermediate dances with the group. Then, since we were both passionate about bringing young people into dancing, Scott arranged for me to teach a beginners' class at the prestigious St. John's College in Santa Fe. What a privilege it was to teach students so eager to learn, so quick to pick up the steps, so ready for a challenge! I will always be grateful to the Santa Fe folk dancers for making me feel so welcome, and to Scott Gordon in particular, for getting me back into teaching.

After I had been in New Mexico for about a year, Charlie and I moved to Portland, Oregon. There I joined the Kyklos International Folk Dancers at Reed College, and the Balkan dance group at The Chalet led by Richard and Jeanne Gibson. In Portland, Jeanne Gibson was the person who reached out and took my hand, both literally and figuratively. She invited me to help her teach a seniors' folk dance class, and before long I was also teaching a beginners' class through a local Parks & Recreation district. In both Santa Fe and Portland, it was interesting to observe the local variations on familiar material, and to learn dances that I had never seen in California. I also found a Japanese Buddhist church that had Obon dancing and learned some new (to me) Obon dances there.

From there, it was on to Astoria, Oregon, a small city at the mouth of the Columbia River. Charlie and I moved there in 2009. (After 52 years in one place, I was making up for lost time – and we're not done yet!) The local community college had a senior enrichment program, so I started teaching a seniors' folk dance class. Astoria also has a very large Scandinavian population and a yearly midsummer festival, so I dusted off my Scandinavian dances and taught a Scandi class leading up to the yearly festival.

After six years in Astoria, we were on the road again. This time we got ambitious, and moved across the continent to Pittsfield, a city in the heart of the Berkshires, in western Massachusetts. That brought me to another community college with another senior enrichment program and another seniors' dance class. (I should mention that somewhere along the way, I seem to have become a senior myself. How strange!) While in the Berkshires, I had the honor of teaching folk dance classes at the annual "community days" at Jacob's Pillow, the internationally famous modern dance venue founded by Ted Shawn in 1931.

Then came COVID, which put an end to in-person dancing. I have managed to keep a small Zoom dance group going, which has been very good for my mental and physical health. And then (I warned you!), we moved again, this time to Cleveland Heights, Ohio, which is where Charlie and I are now.

It feels lopsided to narrate a folk dance teacher's journey without sharing some of the things I've learned about teaching along the way. Proprioception and Entrainment – how we experience our bodies, and how we synchronize with other bodies – have become important concepts that I've introduced to my students. I've found that putting a dance into its cultural context – what a dance meant to the people dancing, and what function the dance served in the community – provides a much richer experience for the dancers. Maybe I'll be invited to elaborate on some of these teaching insights in a future article, and I can share the description of folk dance on Achilles' shield in Homer's Iliad (Book 18). Stay tuned!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



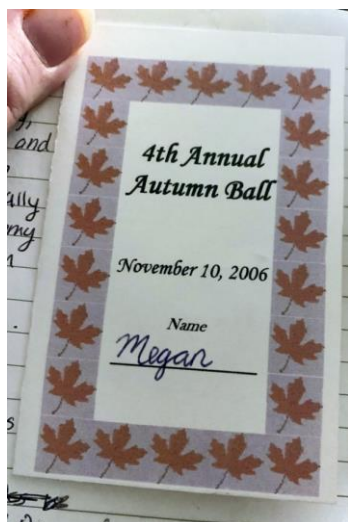
I enjoyed your article about Bonnie Battaglia's dancers in Garden Valley. I went to one of her annual cotillions. I thought you would enjoy my diary entry from November 10, 2006, when I was 17. I know the exact date because I glued the dance card into my diary. I wrote this:

I went to the Autumn Ball on the 10th. It was really fun. Jimmy picked me up in jeans and a t-shirt, so we went back to his house so he could change. We ended up arriving late to Al & Teddy's and we didn't know how to get to the dance. Luckily, Barry showed up late also, so between the three of us got there. It was really fun!

It was just me, Jimmy, Reena, Jake, Cody, and Jen. I did meet one guy, and he asked me to dance twice! Well, it was probably just because I actually knew the dances, but that's beside the point!

One of the girls had the prettiest outfit. I want to copy it for Prom! It was a light pink dress with black ribbon Empire-style with a train and long, black gloves. Sara says if I find a pattern she could make it!

By the way, I wore my light blue dress with my new long white gloves, and I curled my hair pretty good! Overall, a great party!



~ Megan Wolf

I just got my *Let's Dance!* July/August issue and zipped to your Garden Valley clip. How refreshing and inspiring and hopeful in this dance drought! Cheers for unearthing such delights.

Kudos,

~ Susan Akana

Editor's Note: I have the videos bookmarked and, when I'm feeling a bit down, I play one of them and it never fails to make me smile.



Let's Dance

A Poem by Alison Cassidy

To live life as it is unfolding
under my nose
Right now

To accept myself as I really am
in the core of my being
Right now

To let go of the need to change the way I am
and love myself warts and all
Right now

To move to the rhythms of my true self
and allow myself to feel the tenderness within
me
Right now

Life — I offer you my hand
Let's dance...

If you see a photo in a past issue, this issue, or any future issue, and you'd like a full-resolution copy, just ask! Send an email to loui@louisutucker.com or editor@folkdance.com.



A ČOČEK STORY

by Marilyn Smith

I taught folk dance at Santa Rosa Junior College for 46 years. During that time, I had many high school students take my class so they could get high school physical education credits. The first small group of high school students who registered for my class didn't want to take it. They wanted to take a yoga class, the Pilates class, or the Hip Hop class. Unfortunately, those classes were full and only my beginning folk dance class still had openings.

They came in with sullen faces and low energy. I asked who was in the class to get high school P.E. credits and everyone in the group raised their hands. I told them, "Well, you just got lucky because this is a really fun class!"

I saw some roll their eyes and I imagined they were thinking, "Oh, no, she really thinks we're going to enjoy this." I told them that this could be the longest 100 minutes of their week, or it could fly by. I would give them 100% and I was just looking for a little bit back from them.

It took several weeks, but I saw them beginning to really dance rather than just going through the motions. I think one of the turning points was the night I gave a scarf to one of the high school students for her to lead a čoček. The transformation was electric. She was the leader, and I could see the joy she was experiencing.

The next semester I was stunned when about 25 high school students came into the gym for my beginning folk dance class. I found out later that students from the previous class were teaching dances to their friends during lunch at their high schools.

There was a night when it was so magical, when I could feel that everyone in the room was in sync, enjoying the feeling of the dance, and I said to them, "Were you on the same merry-go-round I was just on?" And they all said, "Yes!"

I said, "You will always have this memory, and no one can take it away from you. You don't know where and you don't know when. It could be 10 years from now, but you'll turn to a friend and say, 'Remember that night when we were doing that dance?'"

Fast-forward now to 2023. I received an email from a former high school student who had been in my class in the 1990s. She now lives in New Zealand, and she wrote, "I took Balkan folk dancing at Santa Rosa Junior College while in high school from 1995–1999, some semesters with friends, some on my own. I still love folk dancing, although I rarely get to participate in it these days. I've been able to find some of the songs we danced to online, but a few of them have eluded me. I've been searching high and low for the specific čoček we used to dance to in class, which was my absolute favorite..."

I was so happy to hear from her, and I sent her that recording. You don't know where and you don't know when, but you can be sure that teaching folk dance is a gift for you to give and a gift that you receive.

You will always have this memory, and no one can take it away from you. You don't know where and you don't know when. It could be 10 years from now, but you'll turn to a friend and say, "Remember that night when we were doing that dance?"



T-SHIRTS CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET

With the last issue's contest to see who had the oldest dance-related t-shirt, eight t-shirts with a chance of winning were submitted. Most were from the 1990s, with one estimated to be from the late 1980s. **The winner, however, was Marilyn Smith of Santa Rosa**, who provided a photo of the t-shirt that was produced for the first Razzmatazz dance camp in 1981 (right).



Honorable Mention: The Saratoga Folk Dancers from the late 1980s, submitted by Alan Rothchild.

The most interesting submission was sent by Steve Himel.

Steven wrote:

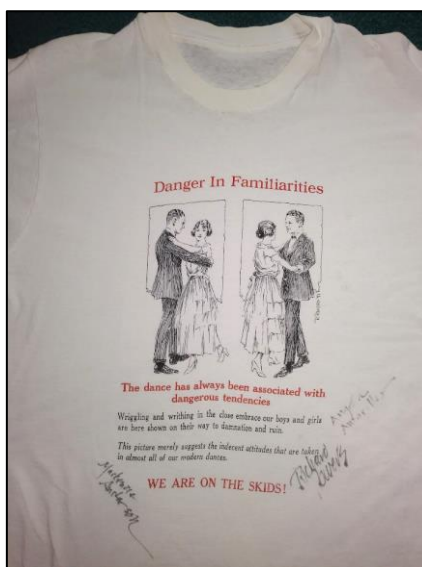
This t-shirt has printing on both sides and was sold by Richard Powers. I probably bought it in the mid-90s. It is the first folk dance related t-shirt I ever bought (and I'd been folk dancing for 20 years). It's a bit faded now.

A few years after I bought it, I mentioned to Richard that it was my first folk dance t-shirt and he commented, "So your first dance t-shirt is one that says, 'Don't dance.'" Yep! Still my favorite.

So that you don't have to get out your magnifying glass to read the text, here it is:

FRONT: Danger in Familiarities. The dance has always been associated with dangerous tendencies. Wriggling and writhing in the close embrace our boys and girls are shown on their way to damnation and ruin. This picture merely suggests the indecent attitudes that are taken in almost all of our modern dances. **WE ARE ON THE SKIDS!**

BACK: A TRAGIC END! Only One of the Many Victims of the Church Parlor Dance. MODERN DANCING And IMMODEST DRESS STIR SEX DESIRE: leading to Lustful Flirting, Disease, Destruction and Judgment.



A New Crop of Dancers

by Donna Frankel

When my kids graduated from Lynbrook High many years ago, I volunteered with the parent organization putting on grad night. Instead of being a parent security guard, cupcake baker, ticket taker, or on the decorations or clean-up committees, I offered my services to teach some hula dances, since my daughter's grad night had an Island of Paradise theme.



Years later, my son's grad night had a country/western theme with everyone in jeans and t-shirts, and they gave out cowboy hats. I volunteered to teach country line dances in the gym. Somehow my name got on a list, and I've been called to continue volunteering at grad nights at this high school off and on for years, so I was not surprised when Lynbrook called me to teach line dances for the 2023 grad night, for 90 minutes any time of my choosing between 11 pm and 4 am.

My biggest concern was having a loud enough sound system for the 300 grads since this party would be outdoors. A parent showed up with a good sound system, was willing to act as DJ and handed me a microphone. They had put me behind the theater, where no one could see us on a circular cement area with a tall light pole in the middle. The rickety stage someone had rigged was too small to dance on. To attract any dancers, competing as I was with a full buffet of fancy multi-cultural delicacies, all types of games, a giant 30-foot-tall bounce house and a loud, very popular Karaoke, I played Cupid Shuffle.

I have renewed hope that this next generation may bring back dancing to colleges that have recently removed their dance departments and classes. Having students ask for dance classes is far more powerful than a teacher doing the same thing.

One male grad who knew the dance followed my music to where I was standing, with three of his buddies tagging after him. The Cupid Shuffle meant that, with my back to them, my feet could be easily followed by total novices, without my teaching it first. Soon another 10 students showed up, mostly males, so I played the dance again to give them a chance.

Then I had a dozen women join in. Even the nearest security guard/parent had her feet moving. I taught two beginning block formation upbeat dances in less than 50 seconds, which were enthusiastically received. More people showed up and jumped into the dances, trying out the steps, to amazing hoots and

hollering, which only brought in more participants to see what was going on. The first guy who came shouted, "Just follow Donna."

"That one was too easy. Got anything with hops or jumps?" I quickly taught Cotton Eyed Joe, a very easy mixer that they danced in twos and threes around the light pole. The music ended and they wanted it again. Okay, it's their party. While I had a circle of couples and was no longer worried about the metal lamp post, I taught t'Smidge and it went over very well too. I explained it was an international folk dance and, if they enjoyed it, they should check out folk dancing in the colleges and universities they might be heading for, or whatever community they lived in.

A parent organizer came by with three envelopes of cash to use as prizes for a dance contest. To conclude the session, I set up a competition, letting those interested form groups no larger than four. Each group, using the same song, were to make up a dance that they could repeat four times and perform to applause for the prize money. There were six groups, and they were quite creative. One involved tumbling and another some cancan moves. Some were four-wall dances, and at least one was danced in a curved line.

For me the biggest surprise was that young men outnumbered the women dancing. They were polite and supportive of each other and to me, many stopping me as I was leaving to thank me. Perhaps the COVID pandemic, which robbed these graduates of most of their in-person high school years, meant that just being together dancing was even more special.

I have renewed hope that this next generation may bring back dancing to colleges that have recently removed their dance departments and classes. Having students ask for dance classes is far more powerful than a teacher doing the same thing.

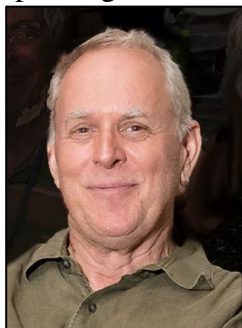
What's Up Down South?

– News from Southern California –

Fall Camp is Coming Soon!

by Diane Baker

Dancing friends, Fall Camp registration is open! Reserve your place at **Fall Camp, November 10-12, 2023**, at fallcamp.org/registration-and-waivers. Download the registration form, fill it out and mail it with your payment to registrar Kelley O'Neill. The two Federation waivers are also posted on this webpage, but they only need to be signed and submitted if you have not previously done so at Federation events in the past two years. Kudos to the executive committee of Fall Camp, Lee Otterholt, Jan Rayman and Kelley O'Neill, for sprinting out of the starting gate in April and opening registration by July 1!



This year's teachers are Steve Kotansky and Gergana Panova. Read all about them on the camp website, fallcamp.org. You can also enjoy glimpses of Fall Camps held previously in Simi Valley and at Camp Hess Kramer and remember the good fellowship of meals, crafts, music making and poetry.

By the way, Lee Otterholt will be recuperating during September from surgery on his hip. You can send get-well wishes to Lee at 1046 Katella St., Laguna Beach, CA 92651, or email leeotterholt@yahoo.com.



Happy summer dancing at camps, club meetings, Greek festivals, weddings, anniversaries, and while traveling on land or sea!

A DANCER'S NECKLACE



The necklace above was worn by Marilyn Smith at Stockton Folk Dance Camp this summer. Look closely and you'll see there are interlocked circles of dancers.

Marilyn explained: "I bought this silver necklace in Barcelona (Catalonia) Spain in 2001 at the Tous Jewelry store. The dancers on the necklace are dancing the Catalan dance the Sardana.

"I first saw the Sardana danced in front of the cathedral in Barcelona in 1963 when I was an exchange student there for the summer. It's a beautiful necklace and matches my Sardana ring also made by Tous jewelers."

Photo by L. Tucker.

Answers to Puzzle on p. 9

KEY: Folk Dance Fun

A	C	C	O	R	D	I	O	N			S	H	C			
W	O										C	T	O	I		
L	A	M	U	S	I	C	I	A	N	S	A	E	P	R		
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U		T	U							D	F	P	I	L		
G		Z	N	K	S	Q	U	A	R	E	D	A	N	C	E	E
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A BLAST FROM THE PAST – 30 years ago!

Page Mason was the Federation's Treasurer 1988-2002. One of her responsibilities as Treasurer was to oversee the Treasurer's Ball, the Federation's fundraiser held each December, and it was a financial success every year she managed it. Page's efforts followed decades of this yearly tradition. However, the Federation treasurers who followed Page were not interested in taking on this job, so the Treasurer's Ball was not held for seven years.

The annual fundraiser was resurrected in 2010 as the President's Ball and then morphed into the Officers Ball in November 2011, the name it has retained since then. Below is the advertisement that appeared in *Let's Dance!* magazine's December issue for the Treasurer's Ball held in 1993.

Treasurer's Ball

Veterans Memorial Bldg.
126 1st Street West
Sonoma, CA

December 5, 1993
1:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Federation Meeting, 11:45

COME ONE COME ALL!

Donation \$5.00
1st Prize - \$100.00



A Message from the Treasurer

This year has flown by so quickly. I find it hard to believe that plans are again being made for the annual Treasurer's Ball. This year it will be held on December 5th, at the Veterans Building, 126 1st Street, Sonoma. Dancing will be from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Frank Bacher will provide the usual fine dancing program.

There will be a raffle drawing as before. The Federation has donated \$100, and a folk dancer will give a \$50 cash prize as well. We also have a convection oven to give away - a value of well over \$100! These prizes should provide a great incentive to purchase lots of raffle tickets. There will also be many door prizes as well as homemade cookies and coffee to go along with the fun you will have on that day. Be sure to mark your calendar so that you don't miss this special event. See you ALL on December 5th!

Page Masson, Treasurer

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Let's Dance! December, 1993

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OF CALIFORNIA, INC.
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Millbrae, California 94030

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*A great king once visited a healer in ancient Persia
asking for advice upon his ailment. The healer
responded by asking "When did you stop dancing?"*

~ Farima Berenji

(from lecture/unpublished paper)

advertisement



Folk Dance Scene

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:

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