

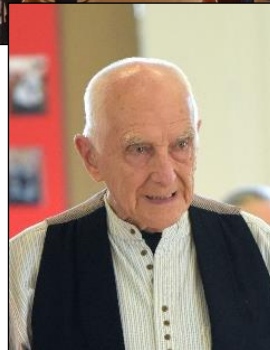
Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING **3** MAY/JUNE 2025

Happy 60th Anniversary, Kopachka Folk Dancers!



Current Kopachka President
Susie Shoaf, with Gail Hurwitz.



Frank Tripi, left, and Jerry Duke, former
Kopachka teachers.



**RIP Sunni Bloland
1927-2025
See p. 11.**

Review on p. 7. *Photos by L. Tucker.*

Let's Dance!

Volume 82, No. 5

MAY/JUNE 2025

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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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Folk Dance Federation Treasurer

153 Race Street

San Jose, CA 95126

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

Individual: \$35/year

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Group/Club: \$40/year

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Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Marcia Rosenblatt, Membership

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

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

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Member clubs	\$50	\$90	All ads are in C O L O R
All others	\$80	\$120	

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San Jose, CA 95126

©*Let's Dance!* (ISSN#0024-1253) is published monthly by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., with the exception of the May-June and July-August issues. Standard mail postage paid at Sacramento, California.

**WELCOME NEW
FEDERATION MEMBERS**
Ukiah Contra – Ukiah

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Laura Richardson

Stockton Folk Dance Camp has been going strong for longer than I have been alive. Just like any vibrant artistic endeavor, it has changed over the years and gone through many phases.

I finally got to Stockton camp for the very first time in 2023. I foolishly signed up for one week of camp, but it was not enough! In 2024 I attended camp for two weeks – much better! For one thing, I enjoyed the flexibility. I had time to take a nap once in a while (and I needed naps!). I relaxed with new friends. The same dances are taught both weeks, so you can strategize when to learn.

Stockton is a world-famous folk dance camp for good reason, and it's right in our own back yard. You will renew old friendships and develop new connections within the folk dance community. Stockton has a terrific lineup of teachers this year, and it's going to be epic. Join the party! **This year it's important to register by 31 May**, due to changes imposed by the University of the Pacific. To find out more about the big plans, check out the website, stocktonfolkdancecamp.org.

Speaking of adventures, I recommend sprinkling your life with measured amounts of risk-taking. Specifically, trying something new and on your own can be wonderful. I am not just speaking of Stockton here, I am speaking of all the opportunities that life throws in your path to experiment, explore, and observe the world from a new angle.

My Dad had some anxiety, and he constantly cautioned me and my brother to be careful. My Mom, on the other hand, was more relaxed with the world around her, and she advised us to use our best judgment. She would say, "What is the worst that could happen?" I am convinced my mother's wise advice has served me the best. She knew that self-confidence arises from *doing*.

I have never regretting trying new things, but I have regretted letting opportunities pass by. Even if the things I tried did not become forever parts of my life, I met new people, and I always learned something along the way that helped me later, sometimes in surprising ways. Knowledge is useful!

I recently dropped in on an Israeli folk dance class in my old hometown while I was visiting the area. I found the class online, and I knew no one in the class. It was really fun! Turns out this class did a lot of dances that I knew. They were very friendly, and my evening was filled with music and joy.

One of the participants expressed astonishment that I had just dropped in alone, out of the blue, without knowing anyone there. I laughed and said, "What is the worst that could happen?" It's a folk dance class and I knew I would find a welcome!

The best way to shake up your life is to lean into learning. Try something you have always wanted to try but held back because you are shy. What is the worst that could happen? Focus instead on the *best* that could happen – new friends, new skills, new horizons. You are stronger, braver, and more capable than you think.

In closing, I must apologize for an error in my last message. I mentioned last month that the date your membership expires is listed on your *Let's Dance!* magazine label. Some of you figured out right away that this is not true. Here's how it really works: Marcia will mail you a reminder envelope when it's time to renew. If you ever wonder when your membership expires, just email Marcia at membership@folkdance.com. Also, please *let her know if you move*. Sorry for the confusion. And thank you for pointing out the error!

Stay healthy and happy and keep moving to the beat!



Laura Richardson. Photo by E. Khuner.



Laura, leading a line of Palomaniacs, keeps moving to the beat! Photo by L. Tucker.



Jim Gold International Folk Tours 2025

Travel, adventure, folk dance, culture



Eastern Europe-The Balkans

ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA and KOSOVO ext: May 21-June 2-4

Led by Lee Otterholt, guided by Kliti Zika: Tirana, Dures, Vlorë Folk Festival, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat, Lake Prespa, Ochrid

BULGARIA-Koprivshtitsa Festival (held every 5 years): July 29-August 11

Led by Ventsi Milev:: Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, Koprivshtitsa

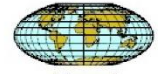
ROMANIA: Sept 28-Oct 12 Bucharest, Brasov. Sibiu, Cluj, Sighet Marmatiei

GREECE-GREEK ISLANDS: Oct 4-17

Led by Lee Otterholt, Maroula Konti, guide: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus. **Greek Island Cruise:** Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi

TURKEY: Oct 17-31

Led by Lee Otterholt: Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Izmir, Kusadasi, Pergamon, Troy, Canakkale, and Bursa



Travel
broadens
one!

Western Europe

SCANDINAVIA: June 10-23

Led by Lee Otterholt: Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen

IRELAND: Aug 2-14

Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Kay Cleary: Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin.

SPAIN: Sept 11-24 Malaga, Ronda, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Granada



South America

PERU-Nazca and Peruvian Amazon ext: May 21-30.

Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Puno, Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca, Peruvian Amazon, Nazca

ARGENTINA: Chile ext: Oct 5-15 Buenos Aires, Salta, Mendoza

BRAZIL: Nov 3-14 Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Iguassu Falls

ECUADOR: Galapagos ext.: Dec 1-14



North America

WESTERN CANADA: April 10-22 Calgary, Banff, Vancouver

EASTERN CANADA: June 27-July 9 Montreal, Quebec, Halifax,

New Brunswick, Peggy's Cove (Nova Scotia), Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Middle East

EGYPT: Feb 20-March 2 Cairo, Nile River cruise, Luxor, Aswan

ISRAEL: March 2-13, November 2-13

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

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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 **folkdance.com** (Community tab).

- APRIL 25-MAY 4** **BAY AREA DANCE WEEK.** It's 10 days of FREE dance events celebrating our dynamic and diverse Bay Area dance community. Your local club may be participating. If not, visit bopsidy.com/h/badw and use the search engine to find local free dance events.
- MAY 1** **INTERNATIONAL DANCE ARTS COLLECTIVE BARN DANCE.** 5373 Pacific Street, Rocklin. 6:30 pm. This both a performance and a fundraiser for this dance school for youngsters in the East Sacramento area. Info: peacethroughdance.org. **See ad on p. 28.**
- MAY 2-4** **STATEWIDE FESTIVAL.** Portuguese Hall, 707 Huasna Road, Arroyo Grande. First session starts Friday, May 2, 1:40 pm. The Portuguese Hall has plenty of parking and is less than a mile off Hwy 101, about five miles from the ocean. There are restaurants in the village and hotels nearby. **See ad on p. 20. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ATTEND!**
- MAY 7** **MONTEREY FOLK DANCERS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY.** Center for Spiritual Awakening, 522 Central Avenue, Pacific Grove. Come celebrate with this happy group of dancers!
- MAY 10** **PENINSULA COUNCIL'S ANNUAL FOLK DANCE AND TEA PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 3:30-6:30 pm. \$10. Send requests to pfdcparty@gmail.com along with any questions.
- MAY 17** **CAFÉ SHALOM MONTHLY 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.
- MAY 24** **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS INTERMEDIATE CLASS PARTY.** Live Oak Park Recreation Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, 2-5 pm.
- MAY 24-26** **LAND DANCERS' FOLK DANCE WEEKEND.** In the Santa Cruz Mountains, off Skyline Blvd near Highway 9. It's FREE! 11 am Saturday-11 am Monday. You can camp out for the whole weekend or just come for the day and enjoy the deck, the creek, the forest, dancing and friends! Contact Betsy at eambetsy@gmail.com or 408-507-7177 for directions or more information.
- JUNE 14** **PALOMANIANS ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND FOLK DANCE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 3:30-6:30 pm. \$10. Palomanians supply the ice cream, toppings and refreshments. Denise Heenan will emcee the dance program. Send requests to pfdcparty@gmail.com along with any questions.
- JUNE 21** **CAFÉ SHALOM MONTHLY 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.
- JUNE 26** **SARATOGA DANCERS QUARTERLY PARTY.** St. Archangel Michael Church in Saratoga. 7:30-10:15. All-requests dance party. Bring a snack to share for the refreshment table. Theme: Sunset Over the Ocean! Info: loui@loutucker.com.



THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Photos by C. Dickey and L. Tucker

Julie Kileen and Sue Williard enjoyed Kopachka's 60th Anniversary Party in March.



The Peninsula Council's monthly party in March had a Roaring Twenties theme. Left to right, Kaele Fine, Nilesh Shah, Elena Hass, and Lisa Michael (front row) and Karen Isaacs (back row) dressed for the occasion.



Suzanne Yeh and Lillian Wang celebrated Spring at the Berkeley Folk Dancers Advanced Intermediate Class party in March.



Arlene Imagawa and Mark Jenkins listened to Janetta Redzic at the Čardak Fundraiser. More photos on p. 13.



Audene Merrilees took second place and Rick Henderson first in the Seeing Spots costume contest at the Saratoga Folk Dancers Party in March.



Martin Frost and Annie Bachar were among the dancers who danced to the music of Taraf de Akácfa in Ben Lomond on a rainy night in March, an event hosted by the Cabrillo Folk Dancers.

Happy 60th Anniversary, Kopachka Folk Dancers!

by Loui Tucker

"Wow! Will you look at the crowd!" was what people were saying when they entered the dance hall at Strawberry Park Recreation Center on Sunday, March 30. By the end of the day, just short of 150 dancers came to the 60th anniversary party for the Kopachkas. It was a smart move to schedule this party in the afternoon because it allowed some of the oldest dancers who can no longer drive at night to attend. While some of the older dancers came to sit on the sidelines, enjoy the music, and watch, it was rare that fewer than 80 dancers were on the floor.

Dancers came from the San Francisco, the East Bay, the Peninsula, Santa Cruz, and beyond, and Jerry and Jill Duke (Jerry taught for Kopachkas for several years) flew in from Montana. Some people wore elaborate costumes while others opted for the casual jeans and t-shirt. Several were seen wearing the commemorative t-shirt that was designed and printed to honor the anniversary.

On the stage was a clothes rack that displayed some of the costumes that the performing group wore over the years. On a nearby table, several of the club's scrapbooks were on display. Toni Denmark took the time to copy the many photographs in the scrapbooks, which were then displayed on posters around the room. Current and former Kopachka dancers spent time browsing the photos, and were delighted to find themselves.

Chubritza International Folk Band came from Arcata to play, and they kept the dancers on their feet and smiling. In the middle of the



Craig Kurumada taught the dancers a Japanese Bon dance. *Photo by L. Tucker,*

both of whom taught the Kopachkas for several years when Dean Linscott could not longer do so, spoke briefly of their experience.

It is a rare event that brings out so many dancers, and celebrating the longevity of a popular dance group is such an occasion. With our aging dance community, we should cherish each such event while we can.

program of mostly Balkan music, band member Craig Kurumada took the floor to teach the Japanese Bon dance Ichi Tasu Ichi no Ondo. Then, to the amazement of many, Chubritza played the Japanese song for the dance, complete with the lyrics in Japanese.

Midway through the afternoon, Chubritza took a break to allow the current Kopachka leadership, Susie Schoaf and Nadav Nur, to acknowledge the Kopachka members who worked on the party. Russell Linscott, Dean and Nancy Linscott's son, came forward to talk about his parents, who founded the Kopachka group in the mid-1960s. Dean died in 2004 and Nancy in October, 2019. A memorial service had been planned for Nancy in March of 2020 but, well, you know what happened in March of 2020. By acclamation, the crowd agreed that the afternoon's event would also honor Nancy and her many years dedicated to the group. Jerry Duke and Frank Tripi,



Margaret Harrison, wearing a 60th anniversary t-shirt, points to herself in an old photo on display. *Photo by L. Richardson.*



A rack displayed costumes worn by Kopachka performers over the years, and a table (right) held Kopachka's collection of scrapbooks and other memorabilia. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

FROM THE EDITOR

While Indexing *Let's Dance!* Magazines

Back in October, I printed this entry: "October 1951: There is a new folk dance group in El Centro that is named the 'B-LO-C Dancers' because El Centro is 50 feet below sea level." I found the names of some of the dance groups so interesting that I started making a list. Of course there were traditional club names like Palo Alto Folk Dancers, Sacramento Folk Dancers, San Leandro Folk Dancers, and so forth, but some clubs really wanted a more interesting name. Case in point:



February 1948: The Petaluma folk dance group is offering a three months' free membership to anyone who will suggest a good, mouth-filling, alliterative name...

Below is a list of some of the unusual club names.

December 1946: The **Castle Promenaders** and the **Mulford Garden Clodhoppers** are now making regular visits to the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital to entertain the patients.

July 1947: The **Wagon Reelers** of Sacramento journeyed to Grass Valley June 1 to picnic and dance.... The **Gay Nighters** of San Jose are the party-loving-est group! ... The **Junior Hey-Makers**, children's group of the **Hayward Hey-Makers**, participated in a Youth Day Junior Folk Dance Festival.

November 1947: The **Grapevine Twisters**, Fresno's newest Federation group, started off with a bang.

August 1951: The Federation has several new clubs, among them the **San Quentin Bars**. Note: It was a club for the employees of the prison, not the prisoners.

August 1958: The **Fresno Frolickers** went to Camp Armenia at Madera Ranch and danced to Armenian music.

November 1959: The **Kalico Kittens** have resumed their fall classes. They are a children's group sponsored by the **Kalico Kutters** adult group. They meet from 7 to 8 pm before the adults dance.

December 1959: The name **Hardly Ables** came into being when they were deciding upon what to call themselves. They decided they were hardly able to dance, let alone have a fancy name. Someone nominated the name, thus the Hardly Ables club came into being.

June 1961: The **Whirlagigs** held a bake sale, proceeds to go to their scholarship fund.

October 1962: A new club has formed in the East Bay. **The Balkaneers** teaches mostly Balkan dances; and no partner is needed to join.

December 1963: The **Whirlaways** had their annual all-you-can-eat Pie and Dance Party.

March 1964: Art and Lois Tabor of Sacramento started dancing in 1944 with Sacramento Folk Dancers and later formed their own club, the **Whirl-A-Jigs**.

February 1968: The **Seminary Swingers** held a party with the theme June in January. The proceeds were given to June Schaal, who lost all her costumes, records, notes and mementos in a fire when lightning struck her studio.

December 1968: According to Jo Buttitta, the **YW Twirlers'** 15th Anniversary Party was a huge success! 300 attended!

More fun dance names: **The Pantalettes** (Oakland), **The Aptossers** (Aptos), **Square Rounders**, the **Terpsichoreans** and the **Ming Swingers** (San Francisco), **Merry Mixers** (Santa Rosa), **Fay-Lou Twirlers** (Redwood City), **Suburban Swingers** and **Walnut Whirlers** (Walnut Creek), **Step-Togethers** (Sausalito), **Happy Hoppers** (East Bay), **Left Footers** (Sacramento), **Santa Cruz Breakers** (Santa Cruz), and the **Spartan Spinners** and **Peninsula Polka Dots** (Peninsula).

Companions of the Sun

by Farima Berenji

Article by Kevin Greek

Originating from the cradle of one of the oldest civilizations on Earth, the Iranians gazed upon the cosmos, witnessed the changing seasons, marveled at the incredible forces of nature, utilized sacred geometry, and discovered the mystic powers of plants, animals, and birds. In response, they crafted dances that embodied devotion, passion, love, strength, and courage. The insightful wisdom and refinement of the ancient Iranians left an indelible mark on the intricate music and dance systems of its culture as well as many prevalent contemporary cultures.

Companions of the Sun is a meticulously researched book that delves into the evolutionary origins and practice of Iranian rituals, beliefs, and dances. Author Dr. Farima Berenji explores how Iranian culture permeated global music and dance traditions, developing distinctly from its sister nations. The sacred dances and festivals, where people presented offerings freely and with happiness, became expressions of triumph – of positive energy, power, and strength, light and resurrection, liberty, and order. The basic elements of life, the heavens, and nature were praised and adopted into sacred practices. The interplay of nature in human existence also found a place in sacred practices. These ancient practices transformed into diverse forms of dance and expressive movements, particularly as sacred dances inspired by mystical poetry, music, art, and local legends

Whirling, one of the earliest known forms of Iranian sacred dance, connects the body and soul – a means of meditation and healing in a quest to find union with the Divine. Among ceremonial practitioners it is known as sama. Compared to the Turkish whirling dervish sama, Persian whirling can be more expressive in arm, torso, and head movements, at times bordering wild and unbridled.

Music and dance cannot be disassociated with Iranian culture. Together they were applied in life traditions and transitions such as births, weddings, and funerals. Dance was applied for healing the sick and

the sick of mind. Today, as before, it builds self-confidence and unity in a community. Life's struggle and battle led to ritual warrior and martial arts dances. The tasks, celebrations, and cycles of life became folk dances. In the Qajar royal court (1789-1925), poetry, music, and dance were refined to a classical practice of poetic beauty. The author's research in folkloric, ritual, classical, and sacred dances in Iran and the Silk Road presents these dances in detail.

Iranian music systems have been finely perfected over the ages. For Iranian music and dance the importance of feeling, styling, and expression is always above technique. Music and poetry, art, and dance synergistically combine. Basic Iranian music history, modes, and styling are presented to help the reader understand and interpret the dance.

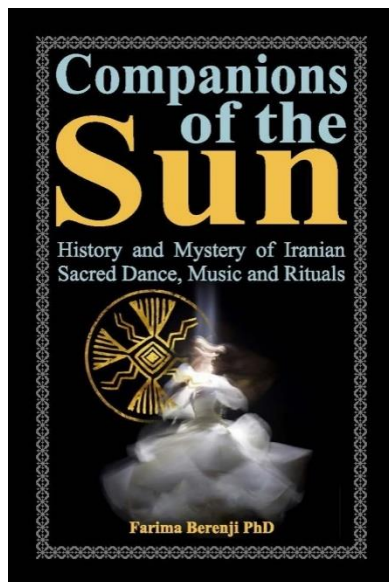
This book is based upon accounts and studies in oral traditions, archaeological excavations, anthropological studies, field research, and interviews conducted and curated by Farima. Her own upbringing among a family of poets, mystics, musicians, and dancers empowered her insight and infectious ambition. I am honored to have worked beside Farima to help put this work to words, providing reviews, editing, and contributions over nearly five years. In

the end, there was enough for two books, the raw material distilled down by literal alchemy into one book that is golden.

The craft of sacred dance requires training in body and mind, in technique and philosophy, a process that is never quite complete. Full of valuable knowledge, insights, and information in mystical music and dance, this book guides sacredness, focus, and awareness into movement.

The pathway to spirit starts deep in our bodies, within nature, and our past. This insightful and comprehensive work reveals how the transformative power of sacred dance may be discovered and practiced based on the legacy of Persian spirituality and heritage.

Companions of the Sun is available for pre-sales from Hohm Press as well as online booksellers such as Amazon. According to Hohm Press's logistics, it should appear in bookstores and in the hands of the author by October 2025 if not earlier. For more details on the author and book, visit farimadance.com.



A SURPRISE IN A PACKAGE

By Loui Tucker

In March I received a package from a woman in Los Angeles who was cleaning out her father's storage unit. At my request, she'd mailed me the issues of *Let's Dance!* that he had saved from the 1940s. There are so few of these issues left, and I'm always looking for a well-preserved copy. The issue from December 1949 that her father had saved contained a surprise.

I am sure you have all received magazines with inserts, either loose in the pages or stapled between two pages. You remove them, don't you? Imagine my delight when I flipped through this particular issue and saw the insert pictured below! What are the chances that, of all the magazines printed (and there were over 1,000 subscribers in 1949), no one had removed this insert – and that issue would be saved, and I'd have it in my hands?



Notice that the price of a subscription was \$2 per year (about \$26 today), so it would have made a nice gift for a folk dancing friend. You could purchase a single copy was 25¢, about \$3 today.

Keep in mind that, in those years, you had to have a subscription to *Let's Dance!* magazine to read it. It was not a benefit of Folk Dance Federation membership as it is today, and it was published 12 times per year, not 10. Individual copies were available for sale at Federation festivals held every month. In the 1950's *Let's Dance!* was available at newsstands in the metropolitan areas of California.

I have handled hundreds of issues of *Let's Dance!* over the years, and this insert is the only one I've ever encountered. This was the December issue, and it specifically mentions a Christmas gift, so it's possible this was a one-time insert.



FEDERATION NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

The Federation Scholarship Committee has funds available to help dancers attend folk dance workshops and camps that they might not otherwise be able to afford. Although most scholarships have been used for **Stockton Folk Dance Camp** (folkdancecamp.org) in the past, scholarships are available for *any* camp or workshop, including



- ✓ **Statewide** (May, folkdance.com/event/statewide-2025)
- ✓ **June Camp** in the Midwest (sites.google.com/site/junecampifd)
- ✓ **Mainwoods** (August, mainwoodsdancecamp.org)
- ✓ **East European Folklife Center Balkan music and dance camps** (eefc.org)
- ✓ **Ti Ti Tabor Hungarian Folk Camp** (tititabor.org)
- ✓ **Lark Camp** (July, larkcamp.org)
- ✓ **Bay Area Country Dance Society camps** (bacds.org/camps)
- ✓ **Kolo Festival** (Thanksgiving weekend, kolofestival.org)

Also check out the listing on the **National Folk Organization** website for more ideas (nfo-usa.com/camps-and-workshops). To apply, fill out the form at folkdance.com/services/scholarship-fund at least 45 days before the start of your event.

➡ **APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FOR STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP?** ⬅
Because the deadline for full payment for Stockton Camp is May 31,
applications for a scholarship must be received by **May 15**.

THE ANNUAL OFFICERS BALL MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, October 4 is the date set for the **annual Officers Ball**. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. This is a fundraiser for the Folk Dance Federation, and your support is appreciated. The Institute Committee will be contacting local teachers about presenting dances at this event. **If you are a teacher and would like to be considered**, or you are a dancer who'd like to **suggest a teacher**, please contact Lon Radin at lonradin@gmail.com.



If you'd like to assist with the planning and setup (advertising, decoration, meal planning and preparation, planning the afternoon institute, etc.), another hand is always welcome. Please contact Federation President Laura

Richardson at president@folkdance.com if you are interested.

SUNNI BLOLAND 1927-2025

A specialist in Romanian folk dance, Sunni was a popular teacher, dancer, and bigger-than-life personality. She died April 5, 2025, in her sleep. At 98, she lived a long and full life. The folk dance community has lost another crown jewel.



The July/August issue of *Let's Dance!* will highlight Sunni and her contributions to our dance repertoire. If you would like to share a memory or story, or a photo or two, please email to editor@folkdance.com or loui@loutitucker.com by June 5.

SPEAKING OF DANCING

by Gigi Jensen - *What I Did on My Dance Vacation*

Photo by K. Bruni.

I just got home from a wonderful 10-day trip to Oregon, where I participated in two different folk events: Dance on the Bay 2025 in North Bend, and the annual conference of the National Folk Organization (NFO) in Portland.

First up is the NFO conference. It's only my second time attending this national event. It started at 8:30 am on Thursday, April 3, with the annual meeting. As is now the custom, it was a hybrid event allowing members anywhere to participate in the almost four-hour session. There were some 50 people in the Portland Community College lecture hall and more on Zoom. Various people updated the membership on the status of various NFO programs and projects as well as finances and policies. There was voting for board positions and officers. There was an opportunity to ask questions, though not much time for debate since the bulk of decision-making happens at the committee level. My takeaway is that a fair number of members seem unaware of how much the NFO has grown, and the opportunities it offers. They don't just give free insurance anymore, folks. Visit nfo-us.com and find out for yourself.

Since I was going to present during the three days, I didn't go to as many events as I wanted. There were Armenian, Japanese, flamenco, and many more dance classes. Lectures about Native American textiles, carousels, and the influence of international dance troupes talk given by Aman's Tony Shay were offered along with dance parties to recorded and live music. There was a Polynesian dance performance by the youth dance troupe Süssesfüsse directed by Heidi Vorst. It was a packed schedule highlighting various aspects of folk arts.

I presented a workshop on Japanese sashiko stitching on Saturday morning. While this has nothing to do with dance, it was to complement the Obon dance classes by Chris Dart. I also led a brainstorming session on what NFO could offer its members.



The author, second from right, at her Japanese sashiko stitching session. *Photo by K. Bruni.*

American dances. Those dance lessons were followed by dance performances and the evening dance party to live and recorded music – which cannot be adequately described here. Suffice it to say that the North Bend, Oregon, folks know how to throw a great folk event. And yes – I did get to dance – a lot!



Süssesfüsse youth group performed. *Photo by K. Bruni.*

The four days ended with a banquet during which six Heritage Awards were presented to acknowledge the contributions of people who've given so much over the years to the advancement of folk arts: Tom Bozigian and Sheree King (California); Sherry Cochran (California); William Dentzel (Washington); Steve Himel (Washington); Stacy Rose (Oregon); and Heidi Vorst (Oregon).

Thank you, NFO, for a reminder that the folk arts are varied, deep, and interesting. I look forward to next year's conference, tentatively scheduled for North Carolina. Next year, though, I want to save some of my energy for dancing!

As for the Dance on the Bay 2025 Folk Festival hosted by Stacy Rose, Gail Elber, and a host of hard-working volunteers, that was so much fun! Roo Lester taught Spanish Basque and Scandinavian dances, and I taught Latin

Čardak Fundraiser Brought People Together

by Sabine Zappe

Saturday, April 5, brought several communities together in a fun-filled, high-energy celebration of a young woman's journey towards a dream. Janetta Redzic organized an impressive afternoon and evening starting with an array of ethnic food, a dance performance by Pendari, a Bulgarian singer, a belly dancer, live music for dancing by Fanfare Zambaleta, and ending with more dancing to DJ Ivica. The audience at this Serbian Orthodox church in Moraga included two dozen folk dancers who drove from various parts of the Bay Area to join the party.

Janetta spent some time introducing herself, talking about her dance history, and sharing with a packed hall her dream of starting a performing group. The opening slide welcomed the participants in eight languages, a testament to the outreach she did to bring so many together to help her reach her goals.

Her desire to bring the various Balkan communities in the Bay Area together through the dance was inspirational. She mentioned that, in the past, the only time these various ethnic groups assembled was for a funeral at a cemetery in Livermore. She lamented that so many young people who started folk dancing in the 1970s are now doing their best to keep the dream of folk dancing alive. She said it was time for her generation to step up and renew folk dancing for the sake of the entire community. She thanked the Folk Dance Federation and Kolo Festival for their encouragement and support.

She shared her dream of creating a community center where people who came to the Bay Area from all over the Balkans could gather peacefully. She believes a performing group made up of the younger generation – her generation – can bring the older generation into a shared space with food and music and dance. “In order to be a successful Balkan dance ensemble, Čardak will not tolerate nationalism of any sort. We dance; we don't do politics. I want our group to know of no borders, politics, or religion when dancing.”

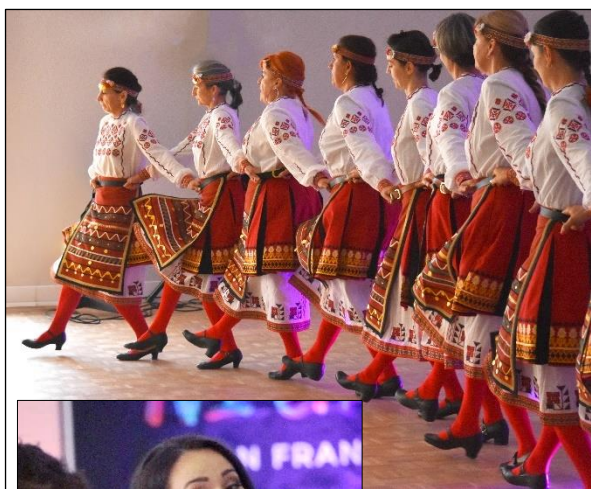
She reminded everyone that renting dance space and making or buying costumes is not cheap, and she outlined the ways the audience members can

donate, enroll their children in the dance classes, and become supporting members of Čardak.

When the performances began, the cellphones came out. Everyone wanted to record this special occasion to share on social media. We all hope that this remarkable young woman's dream comes true.



Janetta speaking to the crowd.



P.S. Janetta reported raising about \$9,000!



Clockwise from lower left, Ionela Guzic sings for dancing; Pendari's performance; sausages on the grill; and dancers wove the line through the audience (can you spot Luoping Zhang?). Photos by L. Tucker.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

There were over 100 people attending our **annual Red and Black Ball** at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa on Saturday, March 29. It is so joyful for me to see so many people from my past folk dance classes. Some I hadn't seen in 15-20 years. Special surprise guests were Jill and Jerry Duke, who came from Montana!



The evening featured an hour of recorded dances followed by **performances by Gradina**, our local Balkan singing group, and a Bulgarian set of **dance tunes played by Yabulka**. Gradina's set included wonderful renditions of Aj Lipo Ti Je, Gorani, Šano Dušo, a hauntingly beautiful Čobankat, Karagouna, a lively Čoček, and other dance favorites.

Yabulka was joined by musicians Nancy McGhee and Clayton Newman. The vocals by Clayton Newman, Andy Toplaarski and Jim Avera were outstanding. It was the first time we heard the three of them singing together. Barbara Babin's gadulka playing was exceptional. The group also featured Jana Muhar on tupan and Ken Genetti on tambura, giving a full sound to the band. Their set included Bulgarian favorites Kopanica, Pajduško, Ruchenitsa, Pravo, Cetvorno, and Sadi Moma among other dances.

The evening ended with a dimming of the hall lights as Yabulka played Devoiko Mari Hubava, a beautiful song we wished would last forever.

BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS – Carol Hayden
Berkeley Folk Dancers membership numbers continue to rise – **we have 164 to date**. We build a lot of brand loyalty in our Beginner classes!

Helen Brown, one of the teachers in the Beginner classes for many years, will be stepping down. She will be missed. Her teaching style was always clear, calm, and welcoming. For myself, in the beginning of my folk dancing, she was a great model to which I aspired. Marian Snyder and Cornelia Ghafur will continue to teach the Thursday evening Beginner class. I have heard that the Beginner class participants are very enthusiastic and most of them have become members.

Andy Partos's afternoon class is the most well attended of all our classes, with 40 attendees!

Our next party is scheduled for **Saturday, May 24, 2-5 pm**, which the Intermediate class is hosting. The theme is Mardi Gras Maypole.

At the last party on March 21, we celebrated **Judy Stonefield's 88th birthday!** Judy dances regularly in the Advanced Class on Monday nights and the Advanced Intermediate Class on Wednesday nights. She's also active as a substitute teacher. She doesn't drive anymore, but other dancers arrange to bring her to any class or event she wants to attend.



Judy Stonefield blew out the candles on her cake.
Photo by A. Partos.

... AND BEYOND

PENINSULA COUNCIL – Clem Dickey

The Palomanians have been learning Zajko Kokorajko (Macedonian), Zagorisios (Greece), and Hora Primaverii (Romanian).

Bruce Hamilton visited Saratoga Folk Dancers in March to teach three proper duple minor English Country Dances: The Juice of Barley (1689), Minor Spaniard (2000), and Softly Good Tummas (1718). The group continues working on these dances so they can be mainstays in the repertoire.

Two weeks later **Rick Henderson was spotted winning the best costume** prize at the Saratoga Seeing Spots Party (see p. 6). Rick stood out among the neat polka dot patterns in a t-shirt featuring circles of defiantly random sizes and colors. His original design is reminiscent of Alexander Calder's mobiles.

The **Peninsula Council's annual Tea Party and Dance** on Saturday May 10 is up next at St. Bede's, followed by the **Palomanian's Ice Cream Social** on Saturday, June 14. Details in the Calendar on p. 5.

TURLOCK VILLAGE DANCERS – Judy Kropp

My husband Don's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease has stopped him from attending our regular dance class, so **we tried dancing in our chairs to old favorites**. It brought tears of remembrance to both of us, but it's enough for us now. We recently celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary.



In March, the Village Dancers were invited by Lina Mateus, the dance instructor for Denair public schools, to teach a **few dances during lunch at the Denair Junior High and then again at the high school**. The students joined us between bites of their lunch.

Lina also receives free tickets to dance performances held at the Gallo Arts Center in Modesto and shares them with her students and the Village Dancers. It's a win-win arrangement all around.

The dances we used for students were Caballo Dorado, Haderian's Schottische, Damat Halay, and Raca.



Village Dancers joining the circle are, clockwise starting at the lower right: Dale Philips (blue striped shirt), Lise Swedberg, Amy Philips, Vicki Harmon, Judy Kropp, Michelle McCoy, and (hidden) Alice Schemmel. *Photo by L. Mateus.*

MONTEREY FOLK DANCERS –

Marguerite Fishman

The month of May marks our group's one-year anniversary at our dance hall at the Center for Spiritual Awakening in Pacific Grove. We have had a wonderful year of dancing together in this lovely space and are gearing up for another.

On Wednesday, May 7, 4:30-6 pm, we'll celebrate our anniversary during our regular class time with favorite dances from the past twelve months, snacks, and a seaside theme – we are one long block from Monterey Bay.

Drive over for a late lunch and join us – all are welcome!

Palomanians Early Performing Group

by Loui Tucker

It was very common in the early days of the Folk Dance Federation for folk dance groups to have a performing group. Certainly Changs and Kopachkas were well-known for theirs, as were the Gandy Dancers in Southern California. I hadn't seen any mention of the Palomanians as performers in any of the concerts or exhibitions mentioned in the *Let's Dance!* magazines I have been indexing, so I just assumed the Palomanians never had a performing group. I was wrong.

The photo below was provided by Linnea Mandell. Her parents were members of the Palomanians' performing group, although they are not pictured below. Linnea thinks one of them may have taken the picture. Thanks for sharing, Linnea!

After Linnea sent this photo, I had a closer look at some of the early dance programs and – sure enough – the Palomanians did quite a bit of performing beginning in the late 1940s.



EXHIBITIONS: THE PALOMANIANS

Gopak (Russian)

16. Neapolitan Tarantella Italian
17. Black Hawk Waltz American
18. Tuljak Estonian
19. Weggis Swiss
20. Squares called by Bennie Scorsur
21. Kohonotchka Russian
22. Amanor Waltz
23. Cotton Eyed Joe American
24. Ladies Whim Russian
25. Hambo Swedish

EXHIBITIANS: THE REDWOOD CITY DOCEY-DOE CLUB—American Squares

26. Italian Quadrille
27. Totur Danish
28. Alexandrovskia Russian
29. Russian Peasant Dance
30. Three Sept American
31. Vengerka Russian
32. California Schottische
33. La Jesucita Mexican
34. Spanish Circle American
35. Vo-Sadu-Li Russian
36. Varsouvienne International
37. Hambo Swedish
38. Skaters Waltz
39. Espan Russian
40. Vienesé Waltz

Above is the second page of a program for the Gay Nighters of San Jose's regional festival held October 19, 1947, at the San Jose Civic Auditorium. Notice that they did the Hambo twice!

Wheelchairs Needed

by Cindy Blackstone

I love to do volunteer work! I retired a little over three years ago after working 45 years as a Recreation Therapist, providing recreation programs for children, teens, adults, and seniors with physical and developmental disabilities. I love people, I love to help others, and I am so blessed by opportunities to serve.

I have been volunteering for the American Red Cross, and Meals on Wheels, and now I have added a new group: **Joni and Friends (joniandfriends.org)**. One of the things this organization does is provide wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches for individuals with disabilities around the world, and I was honored to participate in a mission trip to Guadalajara, Mexico, at the end of April to help distribute wheelchairs.

My request: Do you have a wheelchair (manual only) that you no longer need and would like to donate to Joni and Friends (we have enough walkers and crutches at the moment)? If so, please call or text me (415-939-0205) and I can arrange for a pick-up of your donated item.

Thank you so much!

Dancing with Marilyn Smith

by Marina Troost

Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa buzzes on Tuesday evenings, filled with camaraderie, joy, laughter, and familiar sounds. It is Razzmatazz time, time to dance! Beginner classes run from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, followed from 7:00 to 9:00 pm by a crowd of intermediate and advanced dancers.

Razzmatazz (originally called Bulgarian Bandstand) was established in 1977 by Marilyn Smith, based on her understanding of how folk dancing creates community. "It brings folks together from all walks of life, and it introduces us to other cultures which will help us appreciate our similarities and differences. It is so much more than just holding hands." Razzmatazz offers weekly dance classes, two major parties a year – the Red and Black Ball and the annual Christmas party – and until recently, a long weekend at Mendocino Woodlands State Park. It's affordable dancing for all age groups and incomes with Marilyn Smith as it's organizer and master teacher.

Marilyn was born in Vallejo but grew up and attended schools in Healdsburg in Sonoma County. Her mother set the stage at the early age of five when



square in front of the cathedral in Barcelona. It left a deep impression. "I'll never forget the feeling I had watching circle after circle of dancers, all holding

hands and dancing with such passion and intensity." She didn't realize it at the time, but that was a turning point.

Back home in California, folk dance classes at Santa Rosa Junior College with Miss Dove and Caroline Brown set the path for her future. At UC Berkeley, Sunni Bloland instilled a life-long passion for Balkan dances. Marilyn loved the music, the intricate steps, and the rhythms of Bulgaria. This led to visits to the Balkans and extensive research on folk and music traditions.

In 1970 she convinced the Dean at Santa Rosa Junior College to let her teach an Adult-Ed Folk Dance class. It became a class for credit, and she developed additional intermediate and advanced curriculum as well as classes specializing in Bulgarian and Romanian dance.

A second love developed in 1981, this time for French dances, sparked by her first bourrées learned from Germain Hebert. She became obsessed with hurdy-gurdy music played live and yearned to learn more bourrées. At the St. Chartier festival in central France, she danced all day and into the wee hours of the night to live music played by the best musicians, who ended up writing a bourrée especially for her! Dance had become her life's passion, with many more visits to France to research traditional French dance and music.

Over the years, Marilyn attended many workshops with outstanding teachers and taught at many workshops and camps herself. She taught at Stockton Camp, Maine Camp, Mendocino Folklore Camp, Pinewoods Camp, Laguna Festival, the North/South Teachers Seminar, San Antonio Festival, the Chicago Festival, and many more.

Marilyn still works hard, spending two hours each Monday and Tuesday preparing for the dances she'll present that week. Before introducing new dances for the first time, she'll add practices over the weekend. Clear instruction is her key to making the learning process joyful. Students soon realize which parts excite her the most: the music, the steps, the rhythm, or maybe the wonderful feeling when she moves through a dance.

In the end, she says: "If I'm not having fun teaching a dance, you're not having fun learning it."



Can you pick out Marilyn?

she enrolled her daughter in Vallejo's Lodena Edgumbe School of Dance. At age 10, she performed the Irish Jig.

In 1963, as an exchange student, Marilyn was fascinated by the people dancing the Sardana in the

What's Up Down South?

– News from Southern California –

Southern California Federation Takes Folk Dancing to the People

by Diane Baker

Not content to wait for people to come to us in our dance classes, we decided we needed to take dancing to them. Two recent projects demonstrate our progress in this area.

Billy Burke presented “Traditional Recreational Dance – Teaching Strategies & Tips” to 36 teachers from local school districts and recreational dance clubs on Saturday, March 15, at St. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church in Los Angeles. Federation South has long wanted to reacquaint classroom teachers with the joy and benefits of including folk dance in school activities. Comments at the close of Billy’s workshop show that goal was met.

- “I’ve been waiting for this workshop for years! Thank you so much for giving us so much of your knowledge. You are golden! (A LAUSD teacher)
- It was wonderful, thank you!
- LOVE! Keep sharing this workshop!
- I loved this workshop. I couldn’t consider myself a dancer, but I have so much more confidence. Thank you for the best day!
- So much fun, very engaging.
- I loved it! I really enjoyed learning the different stories, strategies, and cultures. (The Obon was my favorite.)
- I really loved this workshop. I had so much fun. It was fun and challenging at the same time.”



Billy Burke (center) surrounded by dancing teachers at his recent workshop. Photo by D. Baker.

Billy authored the book *A Celebration of Diversity—Multicultural Experience Through the Art of Dance* expressly to share the knowledge he gained from 30 years teaching in schools. The music and video package that accompany the book form a comprehensive starter kit for teachers of upper elementary grades through adults. Chat with Billy at Statewide about how to organize a similar workshop for teachers in your community school district.



Participants at the Red Hen Press venue during Pasadena Art Walk in March.

On Friday evening, March 14, recreational folk dance was introduced to the community at the spring City of Pasadena Art Walk. Organized by Toti O’Brien and jointly sponsored by Federation South and the Pasadena International Folk Dance Co-op, a group of seven dancers set up a booth at the Red Hen Press, a local publishing house. The dance program consisted of a brief oral presentation by Toti, followed by performance/demonstration of a variety of dances and audience participation. Throughout the evening the dance program was repeated four times. Toti reported that attendees joined the fun at every session!

Photos from the Southland



Dancers honored Asaka Oshiro at the March celebration of her life. *Photo by W. Chiang.*



The Foothill International Folk Dancers, led by Marc and Jan Rayman, enjoyed an April Fool's Party in late March. They had just done the dance Jungle, which accounts for the animal ears. *Photo by M. Rayman (assisted by his watch).*



Betty Solloway, 105 years young, leads the line for Šetnja (assisted by her son) at the Cerrito Folk Dancers' 13th Lunar New Year Festival. *Photo by J. Chu.*

TURKEY May 6th – 22nd and ARMENIA May 23-June 8 (tentative dates) in 2026
with **TINEKE & MAURITS van Geel** and **AHMET DEMIRBAGH**



Ahmet Demirbagh is a renowned dance researcher, recognized across Turkey, and the founder of folklore teacher training in Turkey. A direct flight from Istanbul to Yerevan, Armenia offers a great chance to explore both countries. Separate bookings for each tour are also available. A detailed tour schedule and registration details will be shared in autumn 2025 on www.tinekevangeel.nl

Note: this tour is in 2026 – so plan ahead!

YOU'LL BE THERE, WON'T YOU?

PREREGISTER BY APRIL 5!

2025 Statewide Dance Festival

May Day in the Village

May 2 to 4, 2025

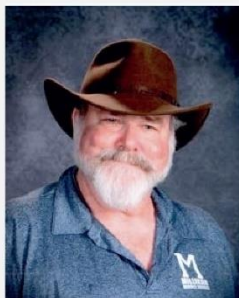


At the Portuguese Hall, 707 Huasna Rd. in the Village of Arroyo Grande, five miles from the beach

Two Master Teachers:



Željko Jergan
Croatian dances



Billy Burke
No. Macedonian
dances & more



More info to follow at
www.statewide.folkdance.com

Live Music by Chubritza

STATEWIDE 2025 *(yes, there's still time to attend!)* FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

May 2-4

Portuguese Hall, 707 Huasna Road, Arroyo Grande

AT THE DOOR

Friday	
Classes	\$35
Party	\$40
Saturday	
AM Classes	\$35
PM Classes	\$35
Party	\$40
Sunday	
Reviews	\$35
Afternoon	
Total	\$220

Host hotel: Hampton Inn and Suites

1400 W Branch St, Arroyo Grande.

Group rates are available; see link on Statewide website.

Ample onsite parking. Generous snacks will be provided. The Arroyo Grande Village is close by and provides a wide variety of dining opportunities.

Statewide registrar, c/o M. Lange, 421 N Las Flores Dr, Nipomo, CA 93444.

Visit the Statewide 2025 webpage statewide.folkdance.com for the latest information about schedules, teachers, hotels, restaurants, parking, directions, etc.

Masks are optional; proof of vaccination requirements will follow CDC, State, and County COVID regulations at the time of the event. Statewide 2025 is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, a non-profit organization.



John Filcich – Still Dancing – is Moving to Vancouver, Washington

by Jana Filcich Ashbrook

There is big news to share. John Filcich and the family are moving to Vancouver, Washington, in early summer 2025. I found a beautiful home in Washougal, Washington. The transition will happen over the next couple of months. The family is happy to be close to both Portland and Seattle dance and music communities.

The prime reason for the move is to access medical care for the family. I worked hard to find a new location that would not only provide the needed resources but also be rich in folk dance community, friends, and family. Our folk dance community is the heart of John Filcich's life, and we couldn't separate him from that.

With this big move, the John Filcich Folk Dance Festival will look different than planned for 2025. Last year's three-day festival in Arcata was fantastic and there were plans and efforts made to continue this year. There will now be a one-evening event in Portland on Saturday, July 19 to celebrate John's 101st birthday. New details will be posted on FilcichFestival.com. Music will be provided by John Morovich and Talia McGill (Taman) and members of Chubritza. Please join if you can!

The hardest part about this move is leaving the amazing community in Humboldt. John Filcich moved to Arcata when COVID hit in August 2020. His spirits were kept up by Chubritza's weekly outdoor and distanced rehearsals. Each week John and I would dance in Linnea and Craig's backyard as Chubritza rehearsed. They kept us going! Once the world opened back up, John stayed active and connected every week with many friends in the Humboldt Folk Dance community and the Balkan Meet-Up singing group.

Music and dance stayed a deep part of John's life the last four years. John made it to Stockton Camp, Kolo Festival, Croatia Fest, and many other small music gatherings. It sustained John to be with the amazing folk dance friends and community here in Humboldt. We extend a heartfelt thank you to dear Humboldt friends and community. The connections will not be lost but rather stretched wider.

The family looks forward to building new community with Portland and Seattle area folk dancers. Feel free to reach out to me at Jana.Ashbrook@gmail.com if you would like to visit with John or if there is a music event to which you would like to invite him. From dancing an Irish Waltz in a bar to dancing a Kolo in a hall, John and I would love to be there.

FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



Can you name the dance that Greta Chang and Richard Graham are dancing? The **THIRD** person to provide the correct answer wins \$25 gift card. Send your answer to editor@folkdance.com or loui@loutucker.com.

the Santa Cruz Mountains. On my nights off I took some of the counselors to Ben Lomond and danced outside next to the San Lorenzo River with a wonderful instructor named Bev Wilder. It was so beautiful, especially under a full moon.

After graduating, I worked in the San Fernando Valley as a Recreation Therapist at a Jewish Home for the Aged and joined an Israeli dance class with some of my co-workers. We formed a small group of dancers who performed regularly for the seniors at the Jewish Home. That was fun!

In 1991 I moved to San Francisco for a job at the Recreation Center for the Handicapped, now called the Pomeroy Recreation & Rehabilitation Center. I knew no one in San Francisco, so I decided to find a folk dance group. I found Mandala, danced there for a while, and Louise Heatlie told me about Changs International Folk Dance. I have been dancing with Changs ever since, which is where I met Craig! Craig and I married in 1992 and had a fantastic folk dance wedding reception.

I joined Gail Barton's dance class at City College with Craig and performed in their dance group for many years. I attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp and went on a Mel Mann Dance on the Water cruise to Croatia, and a dance tour of Norway with Lee Otterholt. Craig and I have also been honored to dance with the Solvang Danish dancers annually for over 20 years during Danish Days, under the direction of David Heald.

For the last 10 or so years I have been attending Udy Gold's Israeli folk dance class on Tuesday evenings and dance with a great group of San Francisco dancers on the stage in Stern Grove on Monday afternoons. When I can, I love to attend folk dance parties on the Peninsula and in Berkeley, Statewide, and various workshops.

I have met so many wonderful people through dance and consider dance friends as part of my extended family. I feel very fortunate to dance with Craig and appreciate all he does for the dance community. I love to dance, and I want to thank you all for dancing with me.

In the last issue



That's Max and June Horn at their farm in Martinez, holding a Certificate of Appreciation. Read more about them on p. 23.

Most of the correct answers came from dancers in the East Bay, who probably spent happy hours picnicking and dancing at Max and June's farm.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Cindy Blackstone was the third person to provide the correct answer to the Photo Contest in the last issue. Although Cindy and Craig live in Pacifica, they made the trek out to Martinez and danced with the Horns. Cindy was invited to share her dance history with *Let's Dance!* readers.

I started international folk dancing at Girl Scout summer camp in sixth grade and danced at camps for the next six summers. I then attended CSU Northridge and danced outside on the lawn on Thursday nights for four years. During summers, I worked at an Easter Seal Camp in



Max and June Horn

Three articles were written about Max Horn in *Let's Dance!* magazine over the years – 1998, 2004, and 2011. Rather than ask readers to locate these articles on folkdance.com in order to become re-acquainted with Max and June, this will summarize the contribution of these two avid folk dancers.



Max and June Horn 1977.
Photo by J. Kearns.

Max had early exposure to music and dance in high school, the service, and his early adulthood. He became part of the East Bay folk dance scene in the early 1970s after his first wife died and his children became teenagers. He was soon teaching five dance classes a week and attending a festival or party every weekend. He met June at a dance class, and they were married in 1975. They moved to their farm in Martinez in 1976. It was reported that, when they bought their 100-year-old farm, the farmhouse was in such bad repair the kitchen ceiling was resting on the countertops. Max's experience in construction made renovation possible.

Max and June were active in the Greater East Bay Council in the 1970-80s. He and June were seen at every Statewide and served in some capacity or other for nearly every major event put on by the East Bay Council. When the Council was considering disbanding in 1984, Max offered to take the helm. Under Max's leadership the Festival of the Oaks continued each year, an annual affair put on by the Council since the early 1970s. He kept the Council going as President until 1998, when the treasury was turned over to the Federation and the Berkeley Folk Dancers took over the Festival of the Oaks.

Max's daughter Linda was the editor of *Let's Dance!* magazine, 1975-77, and June was editor for the next nine years (1978-87).

Max and June were fondly remembered for the many years they opened their farm to the dance community for dancing. Max built a concrete platform, picnic tables and barbecue pits. For many years the parties started at 5:30 every Friday evening all summer. Later that was reduced to Memorial Day

and Labor Day weekends, and July 4. Children explored the farm, played in the creek, and visited the many animals on the farm while their parents danced. June's sticky buns were legendary. Dancing at the farm was an official part of the Statewide Festival activities in 1996 and 1998.

Max built a storage facility on the farm specifi-



Dancing at the Horn's farm on July 4, 1988.

cally to hold their collection of dance magazines, photos, and recordings (one report says he had over 50,000 recordings). When Ed Kremers' folk music store closed, Max moved the remaining inventory to the farm. June's collection of photographs that appeared in *Let's Dance!* magazines was stored there as well. When Max died in 2011, June gave the materials stored on the farm to the Folk Dance Federation for its archives. The photo of Max and June that accompanies this article is from June's collection of photos.

June also had a huge collection of costumed dolls. In addition to her own collection, she inherited a similar collection from June Schaal, a prominent teacher in the North Bay. The hundreds of dolls were displayed in over a dozen display cases and tables in their home. That collection also came to the Folk Dance Federation after June died.

When it comes to folk dance celebrities, Max and June Horn qualify!



Dolls in one of June Horn's display cases. Photo by L. Tucker.

STOCKTON

FOLK DANCE CAMP

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



**July 20 – July 27, 2025
July 27 – August 3, 2025**

**Come join us for one or both weeks
of dancing, friendship, and fun at our in-
person camp in Stockton, California**

Check out

**www.stocktonfolkdancecamp.org
for information and registration.**

2025 Guest Artists

Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu – Romania

Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić – Serbian

Gabriel Frontera – Spanish Couple

Richard Schmidt – Polish Couple

Roo Lester – Spanish Basque

Ed Austin – Classic Dances

Stacy Rose – Contrás

and our amazing band

Tom Pixton, Ralph Iverson, and Brian Wilson

<https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org>

Remember, you MUST register and pay in full by May 31!

Auauauau (Roma/Romanian)

Auauauau (ow-ow-ow-OW), the dance name, comes from the nonsense words in the chorus of the song. The dance was choreographed by Daniel Sandu using Roma-style movements to popular Romanian party music. The dance has been taught in various places by Roberto Bagnoli, including at 2024 June Camp, and by Lee Otterholt. Mady Newfield presented it at Pourparler 2024.

The song, Ziua-N Care Tu m-Ai Sarutat, is performed by Carmen Chindris and Tariful Rutenilor. The title of the song means “the day you kissed me.”

Music: 2/4 meter Search on the internet for the song name “Ziua-N Care Tu m-Ai Sarutat.” It is available on several music platforms.

Video: An internet search for “Auauauau” will yield several videos.

Formation: Dancers standing individually in a circle or open circle.

Steps & Styling: Roma style. Exuberant, with relaxed knees and shoulder and body movements. Arms move freestyle and expressively.

Two-step: Step R fwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2); hold (ct &). Can be done with opp ftwk in any direction.

Side-Behind: Step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct &). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Meas	2/4 meter	PATTERN
	INTRODUCTION. No action. Start with the vocals.	
	I. FIGURE I (singing). Facing ctr, moving fwd and back.	
1-2	With hands diagonally out to sides, two two-steps moving fwd.	
3	While shimmying shldr, step R fwd with bent knee (ct 1); step L back (ct &); step R next to L (ct 2).	
4	Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk.	
5-6	Repeat meas 1-2, moving bkwd, away from ctr.	
7	Step R in front of L with bent knee and clap with arms stretched forward (ct 1); step L back into place (ct &); step R next to L (ct 2).	
8	Repeat meas 7 with opp ftwk.	
9-12	Repeat meas 1-4.	
13-14	Touch ball of R ft fwd and twist R heel to R while pushing R hip up (ct 1); twist R heel back to left and lower hip (ct &). Hands/arms/shoulders are moved expressively: R hand on hip, L hand over head or R hand up, L hand on waist. Repeat movement three times during the two measures.	
15-18	Repeat meas 5-8.	
19-20	Repeat meas 13-14 (Twist-and-Release).	
	II FIGURE II (instrumental). Facing ctr, moving to R, then to L with turns.	
1	Two Side-Behind steps moving CCW. Clap hands high with each R step.	

Auauauau – continued

- 2 Repeat meas 1 cts 1-&-2, then hold (ct &). Wt remains on R.
- 3-4 Rotating slowly CW in place: step on ball of L fwd and across (ct 1); step R in place to turn $\frac{1}{4}$ CW (ct &). Repeat 3 more times to complete a full 360° rotation. Arms are extended to sides with bent elbow, hands up.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (move to L and turn CCW).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Sequence: Repeat Figs I and II as described above two more times; step R fwd on the final note.



Lyrics (with thanks to Andrew Carnie)

Ziua-n care tu mai sarutat
Mi-a dat toata viata peste cap

Buzele tale dulci ca mierea, ochii tai imi iau puterea
Gura ta imi da fiori
Ce mi-ai facut ca ma omori
Au, au, au, au ...

Nu credeam c-o sa ma indragostesc
Dar inima nu pot s-o opresc
Au, au, au, au ...

Nici noaptea sa dorm eu nu mai pot
Ca tu mai innebunit de tot
Au, au, au, au ...

Translation

The day you kissed me
It turned my whole life upside down

Your lips sweet as honey, your eyes take my strength
Your mouth gives me chills
What did you do to me that you're killing me
Oh, oh, oh, oh ...

I didn't think I'd fall in love
But I can't stop my heart
Oh, oh, oh, oh ...

I can't even sleep at night
You're even more crazy than me
Oh, oh, oh, oh ...

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A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Below is what the Calendar of Events looked like in the May/June issue of 1998, a mere 27 years ago. So much going on, but no websites, no Facebook pages, just phone numbers – and no last names.

May 9, Sat	Sacramento	Royal Scottish Country Dance Soc., 7:30 p.m., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Sts., Patsy, 916-635-3477
May 9, Sat	San Carlos	Docey Doe FD, Potluck, Community United Church, Arroyo at Elm, Bruce, 650-368-7834
May 9, Sat	Petaluma	Hermann Sons Hall, 8-11:30 p.m., Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
May 15, Fri	San Francisco	Changs, 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 1329 7th, Ruth, 415-333-2210
May 16, Sat	Menlo Park	Menlo Park FD, Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma at Mielke, Marcel, 650-327-0759
May 16, Sat	Sacramento	BBKM Party, 8:00-?, Barbara, 916-923-1555
May 17, Sun	Santa Rosa	Rose Festival, 1:30 -5:30 p.m., Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
May 20, Wed	Santa Rosa	Veterans Bldg., Santa Rosa, 2-4 p.m., Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
May 22-25	San Francisco	Statewide, Russian Center (see articles)
May 23, Sat	Napa	Grandview Mobile Home Park, 1-5 p.m., Charlie, 707-258-0519
May 24, Sun	Sacramento	Scandinavianians, 1:30-5:00 p.m., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N St. Sallie, 916-7987 (H), 916-774-5236 (W)
May 24, Sun		First & Last Dancers, Annual Treasure Hunt, Eda, 916-682-2638
May 30, Sat	Menlo Park	Council Party, St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Rd at Monte Rosa Hank, 650-493-8653 or Al, 408-252-8106
May 30, Sat	Fresno	Fifth Saturday Party, Lafayette Social Hall, Fran, 209-255-4508
May 31, Sun	Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale Rec., Ensemble Intl., Sunnyvale Community Ctr, 550 E. Remington, Ned/Marian, 408-395-8026
Jun 6, Sat	Redwood City	Palomarians, First Methodist Church, Denise, 408-249-6104, Broadway at Brewster, or Ruth, 415-333-2210
Jun 6, Sat	Fresno	Installation, Lafayette Social Hall, Fran, 209-255-4508
Jun 6, Sat	Sacramento	Kolo Coalition, 8:00-10:30 p.m., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N St. Leona, 916-739-6014 (H), 424-0864 (W)
Jun 12, Fri	San Jose	Santa Clara Valley FD, 1st Christian Church, 80 S 5th St. Maxine, 408-739-0500, Denise, 408-249-6104
Jun 13, Sat	Sacramento	Royal Scottish Country Dance Soc., 7:30 p.m., YLI Hall, corner 27th & N Sts., Patsy, 916-635-3477
Jun 13, Sat	Petaluma	Hermann Sons Hall, 8-11:30 p.m., Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
Jun 17, Wed	Santa Rosa	Veterans Bl., Santa Rosa, 2-4 p.m., Elsa/Frank, 707-546-8877
Jun 19, Fri	San Francisco	Changs, 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 1329 7th, Ruth, 415-333-2210
Jun 20, Sat	Sacramento	BBKM Party, 8:00-?, Barbara, 916-923-1555
Jun 20, Sat	Menlo Park	Menlo Park FD, Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma at Mielke, Marcel, 650-327-0759
Jun 20, Sat	Berkeley	Open-Teaching night, TENTATIVE, (call ahead if you want to teach a dance), Live Oak Park, Shattuck at Berryman 7:30-11:00 p.m., Ed, 510-526-8413
Jun 27, Sat	Napa	Grandview Mobile Home Park, 1-5 p.m. Charlie, 707-258-0519
Jun 27, Sat	San Carlos	Docey Doe FD, Community United Church, Arroyo at Elm Bruce, 650-368-7834
Jun 28, Sun	Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale Rec., Ensemble Intl., Sunnyvale Community Ctr. 550 E. Remington, Ned/Marian, 408-395-8026
Jun 28, Sun	Sacramento	First & Last Dancers Family Picnic, 11:00 a.m., Herald Park, Herald, CA, Eda, 916-682-2638

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**We should consider every day
lost on which we have not danced
at least once.**

~ Friedrich Nietzsche



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