

# Let's Dance!

THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING **3** NOVEMBER 2025



## Another successful Officers Ball!



The Officers Ball workshop teachers, clockwise from upper left: Adony Beniares from the Palomanians; Craig Blackstone (with Cindy) from Changs; Marija Hillis from Berkeley Folk Dancers; Alan Rothchild from Cabrillo Folk Dancers; Judy Kropp (with Carlos Canto) from Turlock Village Dancers; and Lothar Narins from Changs. *Photos by L. Tucker.*

*See p. 8 for article and p. 9 for more photos.*

# Let's Dance!

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

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Group/Club: \$40/year

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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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## WELCOME NEW FEDERATION MEMBERS

Ulla Schreuder – Sacramento  
Cheryl Schrader – Sacramento  
Luis Barnett – Chico

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Laura Richardson

Autumn has always been my favorite season. The cooler weather wakes me up. Even growing up in Southern California, with feeble seasonal fluctuations (shorts in summer; shorts with a sweater in winter), I enjoyed the fall. We had plenty of maple trees in my home town, and they turned red, gold, and yellow. They knew it was time, even though frosty mornings were rare. My friends and I would pile up leaves and kick through them, we would swim in them, wallow in them, revel in them. We would sandwich them between sheets of waxed paper and iron them to preserve their beauty. We would trace our hands and observe the similarities between our five fingers and the points on the maple leaves. My brain would spin thinking about all the things in the world that are similar in design.

The Santa Ana winds would kick up, bringing hot dry desert winds blowing from east to west, pushing the Los Angeles smog out past Catalina Island. On these nights of wild winds, a drive into the mountains would yield sparkling views of city lights twinkling like a carpet of jewels. One memorable night we were at Griffith Observatory when the winds kicked up, and I remember gazing out over the city lights from that vista. I fell in love with Los Angeles right there.

Griffith Observatory was one of my favorite haunts as a child, a giant Art Deco astronomy/science wonderland. My brother and I never had trouble convincing my Dad to take us there to enjoy the exhibits: meteor rocks and plasma chambers and the enormous Foucault pendulum in the lobby. I remember peering over the edge of the pendulum railing while Dad patiently explained that the heavy pendulum weight on a long cable was moving in a fixed plane of motion; and the little dominos set up around the perimeter of the circle were knocked over one at a time, showing the rotation of the earth beneath the pendulum.

It was hard for 7-year-old me to wrap my brain around planetary rotation, when it felt like my feet were on a stationary object. How could *we be spinning*? We exist on a blue marble, a disco ball of life twirling in the galactic void. All living things are connected here. It is a shame we collectively have such a hard time remembering this.

This summer I have been thinking a lot about a genius manager I had in one of my first jobs when I moved to the Bay Area. He was brilliant at hiring

good people and then letting them figure out how to get work done in ways that best aligned with their own strengths and skills. He was the opposite of a micro-manager. His teams were productive, fun-loving, and filled with people who never wanted to leave. He formed teams devoid of toxicity and one-upmanship. There was always an unmistakable get-the-work-done focus on

these teams. He was able to articulate *the vision* – the goal – but he never dictated *how* to achieve the goal.

Everyone was celebrated for their contributions. He noticed how the work was proceeding and offered solutions to problems. He paid attention and helped with course correction as needed. He walked around a lot and talked to people about their work and their lives. He said thank you and celebrated each win. He encouraged adaptability.

I had a chance to ask him, many years later, how he identified the best candidates for each job. He said he looked for people with the capacity to learn, for those with some measure of humility who could set aside their own ego to get the work done. He looked for people who identified *team success* as a measure of *personal satisfaction*.

He said one clue to these gifts was finding candidates who had a robust *sense of humor*. I thought about my own interview with this manager, and how much fun I had right off the bat, because we were swapping jokes before the interview even started. I did not realize at the time that the first volley of jokes and puns probably was the interview.

This struck me as exceedingly profound, and now I look for these same qualities in the people I invite into my life. Those gifts in abundance on a team – the capacity to *enjoy learning something new*; to learn from mistakes; to play well with others and find pleasure in helping others succeed – are exactly how effective teams/groups thrive. Moreover, a generous team spirit ensures everyone feels ownership of each success, which builds confidence. This resilience enables the team to take risks and to weather set-backs. It's easy to spot teams that function well if you know what to look for. Communication, camaraderie, and having fun are excellent clues.



Laura Richardson. Photo by E. Khuner.

*continued on p. 20.*



# Jim Gold International Folk Tours 2026

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**CROATIA: July 6-20**

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**BALKAN SPLENDOR ~ 5 COUNTRIES: July 26-August 11**

Led by Ventsi Milev: Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Albania, Serbia,

**GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: Oct 3-16**

Led by Lee Otterholt, Maroula Konti, guide: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus.

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**Western Europe**

**SCANDINAVIA: June 9-23**

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

**IRELAND: Aug 1-13**

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 20-29**

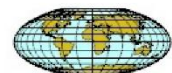
Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Puno, Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca, Peruvian Amazon, Nazca

**BRAZIL: Nov 2-13**

Led by Lee Otterholt Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Iguassu Falls

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See website for details



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**Jim Gold International Youtube Channel** (Videos of folk dancing and folk tours)

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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](http://folkdance.com) (Community tab).

- OCT. 24** **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT.** Łowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. 6 pm reception, 7:30 curtain. Info: [polishfolk.org](http://polishfolk.org).
- OCT. 30** **SARATOGA FOLK DANCERS HALLOWEEN PARTY.** St. Michael's Church, 18870 Allendale Avenue in Saratoga. 7:30-10:15 pm. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Refreshments for the table are welcome. \$25 prize for the best costume, by a vote of those present. Info: [loui@loutucker.com](mailto:loui@loutucker.com).
- OCT. 31-NOV. 2** **FALL CAMP.** Brandeis-Bardin, 1101 Peppertree Lane, Brandeis, near Simi Valley in Southern California. \$270-\$540 depending on accommodations. Main teacher Catherine Rudin. Info: [DanceFallCamp@gmail.com](mailto:DanceFallCamp@gmail.com). **See registration form on p. 27.**
- NOV. 7&8** **FIFTH ANNUAL FESTIVALS OF LIGHT – A Celebration of Traditions From Around the World.** Roseville High School Auditorium, 1 Tiger Way, Roseville. A performance by young dance students presented by International Dance Arts Collective. **See ad on p. 19.**
- NOV. 8** **PENINSULA COUNCIL MONTHLY FOLK DANCE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 3:30-6:30 pm. Beginners/Warm-up dances 3:00. \$10. Laura Richardson and Kaela Fine will emcee the party. Info: [PFDCParty@gmail.com](mailto:PFDCParty@gmail.com).
- NOV. 15** **CAFÉ SHALOM MONTHLY ISRAELI DANCE PARTY.** Congregation Am Tikvah, 625 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco. 7:30-11:30 pm. \$10. Easier dances at the beginning of the evening. Info: [udy@yahoo.com](mailto:udy@yahoo.com); 669-444-1284.
- NOV. 21** **BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS "PAJAMA PARADE."** Live Oak Park Recreation Hall at 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 7:30-10:30 pm. \$12. Sponsored by the BFD Advanced class. Come early and you can help decorate!
- NOV. 28-30** **KOLO FESTIVAL.** Balkan music, singing, and dance. Croatian American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco. Teaching staff: Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion, Roberto Bagnoli, Tanya Dimitrov, John Morovich, Maria Bebelekova. Five bands for evening dancing. **See ad on p. 7.**
- DEC. 6** **OLD WORLD CAROLERS RUBY JUBILEE BALL.** Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue in Santa Rosa. Join The Old World Carolers as they celebrate 40 years of singing for good causes. Waltz to old European carols. There will be a Scandinavian set also. Info: [rrebecca@sonic.net](mailto:rrebecca@sonic.net)
- DEC. 12** **RAZZMATAZZ 'TIS THE SEASON HOLIDAY PARTY** Monroe Hall, 1400 W. College Avenue in Santa Rosa. 7-10 pm. Live music with Gradina and Yabulka. \$5 plus tips for the singers and musicians. Info: [marilynmsmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marilynmsmith@sbcglobal.net).
- DEC. 13** **PALOMANIANS PIE PARTY.** St. Bede's Church Hall, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. 3:30-6:30 pm. Dancing, plus pie and ice cream provided by the Palomanians. Emcee: Denise Heenan. Info: [pfdcparty@gmail.com](mailto:pfdcparty@gmail.com).
- DEC. 14** **FOLK DANCE FEDERATION BOARD MEETING.** Via Zoom. 3:00-4:30 pm. Join the Folk Dance Federation for their board meeting. Various topics such as event planning, membership, scholarships, publicity, insurance, and budget are discussed. Zoom link at [folkdance.com/event](http://folkdance.com/event).



# THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Sarita Bloom and Allen King, on the teaching staff of Café Simcha in El Cerrito, danced together at Aaron Alpert's Israeli dance camp in Sacramento in September. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Alphabet Soup was the theme of Berkeley Folk Dancers' Inaugural Ball, and Andy Partos and Joanna Foley took it seriously. *Photo by R. Marchese.*



Cornelia Ghafur and Thanassi Bothos posed at Berkeley Folk Dancers' Inaugural Ball in September. *Photo by A. Partos.*



Jamie Ramirez (left) with Michele Hardbarger at Changs' Friday Family Night in September. *Photo by C. Blackstone.*



Melissa Miller and Lew Smith danced at the Saratoga Folk Dancers' Citrus Celebration in September. *Photo by C. Dickey.*



Al and Teddy Wolterbeek hosted Dave and Joyce Uggla's 50th wedding anniversary party at their farm in Shingle Springs in September. *Photo by L. Tucker.*



Memo and Judy Keswick from Chico shared a laugh at the Officers Ball in October. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

More photos from the Officers Ball on p. 9.



First-timers  
get  
\$30 off



Students pay  
50%  
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# CALIFORNIA KOLO FESTIVAL



28-30 November, 2025

Croatian American Cultural Center, San Francisco



Cristian & Sonia



Tanya Dimitrov



Roberto Bagnoli



Maria Bebelekova



John Morovich



Fanfare Zambaleta



Sinovi



Veseljatsi "The Revelers"



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[www.kolofestival.org](http://www.kolofestival.org)

# THE OFFICERS BALL 2025

The set-up crew arrived, and the hall buzzed with activity. Sound equipment was set up and cables snaked around the room. Volunteers climbed ladders to tape up decorative flags and posters. Tables were filled with calendars, flyers, costumed dolls, and other items for sale. The kitchen crew brought in pots and pans, bowls and trays, plates and cutlery, ingredients and toppings. Beverages and snacks were set out on counters. All was ready, especially the registration table, when dancers began arriving. Music invited dancers to warm up with easy dances before the workshop began.

The circle of dancers filled the floor for the afternoon workshop with six local teachers.

Adony Beniares – Čapkan Dimčo  
Craig Blackstone – Fjäskern  
Alan Rothchild – Hora Vrânceană  
Judy Kropp – Bridge of Athlone  
Lothar Narins – Karčmaročka  
Marija Hillis – Three's a Crowd

Contact Lon Radin at [lonradin@gmail.com](mailto:lonradin@gmail.com) if you are interested in music, video or written dance notes.

Teaching was interspersed with a variety of new and old favorites, and ample time was spent reviewing and practicing the dances presented. It should be noted that Judy Kropp brought six dancers from the Turlock Village Dancers that she leads.

At 5:30, everyone pitched in to set up tables and chairs, drape tablecloths, and prepare the buffet tables. Out came the meal prepared by Maude Pervere and Marian Snyder of Berkeley Folk Dancers: Brazilian Black Bean Stew (recipe on p. 10) with optional toppings, salad, brownies, berries, whipped cream. Yummy! Will Cope provided dinner entertainment, a sing-along to popular songs.

The table and chairs were put back and the all-requests dance party got under way. It is always good to see how dancers from Redding to Monterey, from Santa Rosa to Turlock, and from Pacifica to Chico joined in the circles, formed sets, paired off for couple dances and mixers. We are a far-flung community with a shared love of dance, as evidenced by the broad smiles and near-constant chatter.

A thermometer on the back wall kept track of ticket sales for the 50/50 drawing during the day. When the drawing was done during the party, a total of \$435 was divided between the Federation and the winning ticket holder – Andy Partos!

By the end of the day, a total of \$6,700 was raised through dancer contributions large and small. The Officers Ball was a successful event on so many levels!



Andy Partos showed off his winnings.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND TOPPED \$13,000!

**The Matching Grant proved to be a terrific incentive for folk dancers to open their wallets. A total of \$6,700 was raised by the end of the Officers Ball and, with the matching grant, the Federation's Scholarship Fund was increased by \$13,400. THANK YOU to all who contributed!**

# SCENES FROM THE OFFICERS BALL 2025

Photos by L. Tucker.



Dancers greeted each other during a mixer.



Lise Swedberg and Julie East shared a laugh on the sidelines.



Janet Newman and Bente Larsen chatted during a break in the teaching.



Chang's members Leslie Huang and Ellen Ron posed for the camera.



First timers Lisa Wolf and Lyn Ayala watched the teacher.



A line of dancers.

# Brazilian Black Bean Soup

2 cups dry black beans,  
soaked in plenty of water for at least  
4 hours (preferably overnight)  
4-6 cups water (depending on thickness preferred)  
1 Tbs. olive oil  
3 cups chopped onion  
6 medium cloves garlic, crushed  
1 medium carrot, diced  
1 medium red bell pepper, diced  
1 ½ cups orange juice (frozen okay)  
2 tsp. Kosher salt  
2 tsp. cumin  
Black pepper, to taste  
Cayenne, to taste  
2 medium tomatoes (Roma)



Optional toppings: sour cream, mango salsa, cilantro

Serves 6-8.

1) Drain the soaked beans. Place them in a kettle or Dutch oven with 4 cups of water. Bring to a boil, cover, and simmer until tender (about 1 ¼ hours)

2) Heat olive oil in a large skillet. Add onion, half the garlic, cumin, salt, and carrot. Sauté over medium heat until the carrot is just tender. Add remaining garlic and the bell pepper. Sauté until everything is very tender (another 10 to 15 minutes). Add the sautéed mixture to the beans.

3) Stir in orange juice, black pepper, cayenne, and tomatoes. Puree some of the soup in a blender or food processor, or emulsify and return to kettle. Simmer over very low heat 10 to 15 minutes more. Serve with toppings and thick, crispy tortilla chips.

## Mango Salsa

1/8 cup finely minced red onion  
1 garlic clove, minced  
1 ripe mango  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
1/8 c fresh lime juice



Maude Pervere and Marian Snyder in the kitchen. *Photo by M. Hillis.*

# FROM THE EDITOR

## While Indexing *Let's Dance!* Magazines



There wasn't room in the October issue for this column. Also, I will confess that Stockton Folk Dance Camp and the photography team with which I was involved left me very little time to work on this indexing project. I'll be digging back through the index for gems to share this month.

Before I get to that, I want to answer the question I posed in the August/September issue. The interviewees pictured were Shlomo Bachar, Andor Czompo, Graham Hempel, Germain Hébert, Jerry Helt, Mihai David, Bruce Taylor, Tom Bozigan, and Glenn Bannerman. I added this box:

*Nine interviews and only eight photos? Who's missing? How is he different from the others?*

The answer? Graham Hempel is the one whose photo is missing. Of the master teachers listed, he was the only one who did NOT teach at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, which is where they were all interviewed. Graham attended Stockton Camp 16 times between 1975 and 1997, but he was never on the teaching staff.

And now for more interesting items from the back issues of *Let's Dance!* magazine.

August 1946: Hamilton Field Army Air Base in San Rafael has a folk dance club with 300 members, exclusively enlisted men and WACs.

March 1951: A writer for the *San Francisco Examiner* had a column about happy marriages. The end of the article stated that folk dancing is a fine activity for husbands and wives to enjoy together. The *Examiner* also listed folk dance classes in nine recreation centers.

March 1953: An article sent by a *Let's Dance* subscriber in Alaska stated that there are only 400 people in their town, but the folk dance group has ten couples. The group started about a year ago, and they have learned 25 dances. Their first public performance was in July 1952 with eight couples.

June 1955: Looking back, the first Statewide Festival in 1946 was one day; 100 dancers attended and they danced 32 dances. A decade later, in May of 1955, the Statewide Festival was three days long, there were 2,000 dancers plus over 4,000 spectators and hundreds of dances.

January 1963: Harry Paley and Millie Libaw danced a Schuhplattler on the television program *You're Never Too Old*. The Hollywood Peasants dance club entertained dancers with the Inbal Dancers of Israel while they were in southern California filming their part in *The Greatest Story Ever Told*.

November 1969: Claire Tilden of Marin County wrote how she used her copy of "Where to Dance in The West" to find places to dance and people to dance with during her travels. "We were total strangers, but when we said we are folk dancers... so out came the red carpet."

May 1973: In anticipation of hot summers dancing at dance camps, an article had tips for using salt tablets (drink water!) and other ways to combat the heat and sweating.

November 1973: The opening of BART was celebrated by folk dancers dancing at the Glen Park Station. *Sunset Magazine* had an article about folk dancing at coffee houses, recreational clubs, camps, and festivals!

February 1974: Joan McCoy and Fred Sweger were married in December in a Moldavian wedding ceremony in San Rafael. The wedding party was in full Moldavian costumes. The ceremony was short and "timid," but the reception was unsurpassed. Sixty-five bottles of champagne! Sunni Boland was the mistress of ceremonies. Rituals included the groom tearing apart a raw chicken with his bare hands! The couple pulled apart a loaf of bread to determine "who would wear the pants in the family." The wife's portion was then torn into quarters and thrown north-south-east-west to be caught by a girl who would next marry.

GOOD NEWS!

## Ashkenaz

A non-profit Folk Dance & Dinner Co-op has just opened!  
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Monday.....	BALKAN
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Wednesday.....	AMERICAN
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Afterparty 50¢, 9 PM - 1 AM  
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Dancing, Craft Shops, Dinners

In the April 1973 issue.

# WE WENT TO BULGARIA!

by Betsy Moore

This summer, I went to Bulgaria on a culture tour led by Nina Kavardjikova. The tour was recommended to me by dance friends who had gone before and were going again. I'm very glad I went! Aside from a few dance camps, this was my first folk dance related travel experience.

The tour centered around the three-day Koprivshtitsa festival, a gathering of folklore groups from all over Bulgaria which happens every five years.

The festival took place on six open-air stages in the hills above the town of Koprivshtitsa and featured judged demonstrations of music, dance, and village customs. We hiked up to the festival grounds each day and sat on the hillsides to watch the groups perform. In the evenings there were performances in the village by groups who were not part of the festival, including ones from the US. Everywhere there were stalls selling food and drink, souvenirs, costumes, and musical instruments, plus dancing to pick-up bands all around.



The authors Betsy Moore and Arlene Imagawa in Bulgaria.



Dancing on stage at the Koprivshtitsa festival.

One of the highlights of the tour for me was our visit to the village of Professor Ishirkovo, near the city of Silistra. The village has a cooperative organization that runs folklore programs, a restaurant, and farms. During our visit over the course of two days we were treated to a children's singing performance, a dance performance and lesson, visits to the home of some of the villagers, a tour of a farm, and a dinner served at the village association's restaurant, where we had great food, rakia, and a wonderful evening of dancing.

At the end of the evening, the dancers and gajda player followed us out to our bus and danced in the light of the headlights to see us off. The people of the village were very friendly and proud to share with us their culture and the accomplishments of their village cooperative association.

We also had the opportunity to meet and dance with a folklore ensemble in the city of Gabrovo, take dance and singing lessons from master

teachers in Gabrovo, Silistra, and Veliko Tarnovo, and spend an hour dancing with a very high-energy group in the city square in Plovdiv. Many of the folks we met in Professor Ishirkovo village and Gabrovo performed at Koprivshtitsa. While not dancing and singing, we visited interesting historical, cultural, and natural sites along the Danube, in and around the Balkan mountains, and in Sofia and Plovdiv. Our tour guides Nina and Dani were very knowledgeable and organized. We stayed in very nice hotels and guest houses and ate very well. Bulgarian food is similar to other Mediterranean cuisines, and they had many nice vegetarian dishes.

This article just scratches the surface of everything we experienced in just under two weeks. I loved seeing the country that is the source of so many of my favorite dances. It was really great to travel and connect with a group of like-minded folks, and I look forward to seeing them again closer to home or traveling in the future.

by Arlene Imagawa

It's hard even for me to believe this was my sixth trip to Bulgaria and my fourth trip going on one of Nina Kavardjikova's tours (July 29-August 12)!

My relatives are often puzzled by why I love going to Bulgaria, but when I first attended Kolo Festival in 1972, Yves Moreau was teaching Bulgarian dance, and I was hooked! When I got a chance to go with Nina in 1995 with my husband, Mark, and two sons, Greg and Alex, I felt immediately captivated by the gorgeous scenery, delicious food, and especially the warm and friendly people! I had been told that Bulgarian people love Japanese people, and I discovered it is true!

There are so many highlights from this trip. The first came on the second day in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. I first met Tania Skechelieva, the house singer at the Folklore restaurant Chervometo, 10 years ago. She has a gorgeous voice, and I learned that she studied singing at the music school in Shiroka Luka in the Rhodopes, the same school attended by my singing teacher, Maria Bebelekova. Over the past 10 years, Tania and I have traded photos, music, and more.



Arlene singing with Tania.

When we arrived at her restaurant, we had a wonderful reunion. During her break, we sat and caught up with each other. She asked me what songs I had learned, and we sang a few together. She asked me if I wanted to sing a song with her in the restaurant. I didn't expect that! We sang Liljano Mome together – a magical moment!

The second highlight was a visit to the village of Professor Ishirkovo near Silistra where we got to watch a dance and singing performance. and then enjoyed a workshop and dancing with the locals. The youngest, a 5-year-old boy named Alex, stole my heart, singing and smiling with the older kids.

The third memorable moment was a visit to the village of Gabrovo. I had heard about Gabrovo from my teachers Maria and Vasil, that the people here like to tell jokes and have a wonderful sense of humor. We watched a dance performance followed by a dance workshop, dancing with them and their musicians. One of the oldest women in the group is 89 years old and still performing!



Eighty-nine years old and still performing!

I always have a wonderful time on tours led by Nina. She combines dance workshops, dance parties with musicians, visits to museums and historic sites, plus lunches and dinners in traditional

taverns and restaurants. Her tours are every five years and coincide with Koprivshtitsa Festival, an amazing experience!

## Westchester Lariats Celebrate 75 Years

By Marian Snyder

In late September I flew to Los Angeles to attend the 75th anniversary of the Westchester Lariats. I danced with the Lariats in the 1960s and early 1970s (age 7-18), as did six of my eight siblings, This is how their website describes the organization:

*The Westchester Lariats is a non-profit international youth dance troupe located in the Los Angeles community of Westchester. Our focus is to give children, kindergarten through 12th grade, a unique and educational experience by teaching students international folk dances, American square and line dances, Greek, Bollywood, and exciting "era" dances such as Swing, Charleston, and dances from the 50s.*

The reunion kicked off with a Saturday morning dance class at which I taught Chilli and La Bastringue to alumni and current members. About ten minutes before the class began, a woman approached me and introduced herself. She looked so familiar, but I couldn't place her!

It turns out that Jeanette is *currently a student in my Thursday evening*

*Beginner Class at Berkeley Folk Dancers!* She and her husband just began in September. I was so surprised to discover that she danced with the Westchester Lariats, just like I did! I never met her because she started dancing with them three years after I had left to go to college.



Another wonderful surprise was having the opportunity to dance with one of my very first dance partners at the age of 10. In 1964 Jon Waldron and I performed on television's *Art Linkletter's House Party*.

We were chosen to sit in chairs and answer some questions. I don't remember what I said, but I do remember the audience laughing! Jon and I each brought pictures of ourselves on TV, and at the reunion my sister photographed us holding them. Here we are 60 years later and still dancing!



There was one last it's-a-small-world discovery. Jon's son, who is in his 30s, now plays golf and competes in tournaments with my nephew, who is the same age. What are the chances of that?

You never know what kind of surprises folk dancing has in store for you. Keep on dancing and they will come your way!

# WE WENT TO ROMANIA!

by Hollis Radin

Darkness. Sparks flying. Dancing a hora on a hilltop in the rain.... “In-two-three-touch; left-touch (ahh, warm now), right-touch (too hot!)...“Out-two-three...” and around the fire once again. Our last dance in the magical village of Mărișel, Romania, on a wonderful culture tour led by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu and their good friend Neluțul. Missing, but present in our hearts, was Neluțul’s wife, Camelia, who had organized their many previous tours. Before dying last March, Camelia begged Neluțul, Sonia, and Cristian to continue sharing her love of traditional Romanian folk dance and not cancel this fall’s tour.



Our evening began with a long, horse-drawn wagon train ride through the narrow lanes of the mountain village. Neighbors stopped their work to wave. Horses, cows and dogs – hooves clomping and bells jingling – all came running to investigate the ruckus of the band playing. After the obligatory shot of home brew and a spread of appetizers, anthropologist Răzvan

Roșu treated us to performances on a *tulnic*, a local type of alphorn, which he had learned to play as a child during his summers in this same village. The *tulnic* is a long trumpet made from two hollowed-out halves of a fir tree banded together with rattan, and



was traditionally used by women to communicate across the valleys. Each signal was repeated three times, followed by an ending sound. Local women also demonstrated the process of preparing, spinning, and weaving hemp. And we danced!

Our entire tour was filled with experiences like these. Upon arriving at an event arranged for us in a village, we were often greeted with a beautiful loaf of bread with a bowl of salt, salt once being a very precious commodity. Small shots of home brew (often packaged in large plastic Coca Cola or water bottles) appeared, and usually a spread of delicious appetizers. This was often followed by a bowl of hearty soup and bread, with breaks for dancing while our hosts ate.



We destroyed our suede-soled dance shoes practicing Hungarian pirouettes and stamps on the thin hotel carpet. We danced on hard tile, on loose boards that bounced up and down with the dancers, on wet grass, and in a tiny concrete-floored barn that smelled of manure, changing our dance style to accommodate.

Local dancers also on this tour were: Sara Rigler (Santa Cruz), Violet Ho (Changs), and ex-pat Romanians Cora Gherga and Gabriela Enescu (Berkeley). Be sure to ask them about their favorite moments!



Lon and Hollis Radin (center) dancing with performers.

## We Went to Romania – cont'd

by Sara Rigler

Being in Romania in some ways was like a dream. I felt both far away and like I was taking a step back in time. Our ethnographic trip started in Cluj-Napoca, the second-largest city in Romania and the largest in Transylvania.



It included 35 dancers from all over the United States and one person from London, and was organized by Sonia Dion, Cristian Florescu, and Neluțul Motoc, their good friend, who lives in Cluj.

We were entertained by and danced with a local dance group in Cluj that Neluțul teaches, accompanied by local musicians who've known Neluțul for years. The dancers were mostly young adults and some teenagers, and they had so much energy! Even though I couldn't dance on this trip due to a recent injury, I thoroughly enjoyed watching, listening, and learning with my eyes and ears.

Our trip to the Carpathian mountains in Transylvania included a visit to the village of Suci de Jos, where we were welcomed by the village dancers, musicians and artisans, with a feast of appetizers and pork stew.

We got to visit a ceramicist and his multi-generational family at his studio and home in Baia Sprie and a wood carver in Târgu Lăpuș-Rogoz. We also got to see much of the countryside, including churches built in villages dating from the 16th century. We watched the cows go home on the one-lane road at sunset.



It was a magical trip to fill the senses, and I feel so lucky to have had this experience with so many experienced dancers and travelers. Many thanks to Cora Gherga for helping to translate on nearly all our excursions! Turns out Romanian is a lot harder to understand and speak than I'd realized!

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



Join Ahmet Demirbagh and Tineke and Maurits van Geel, your dedicated tour leaders and experts for these vibrant dance and culture tours. They will be guiding you through rich traditions, dance classes, cultural treasures, and breathtaking landscapes. Direct flights from Istanbul to Yerevan make exploring both countries easy. Tours can also be booked separately. Detailed program available autumn 2025. Want to secure your spot early? Pre-register now and be the first to receive detailed updates and booking opportunities:

<https://www.tinekevangeel.nl/tours/>

Adventure, culture, and dance await—you won't want to miss it!

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY...

## ***BERKELEY FOLK DANCERS*** – Carol Hayden

Berkeley Folk Dancers were very busy in September! First up was the Solano Stroll. This community event happens each fall when the cities of Albany and Berkeley block off Solano Avenue to vehicular traffic for five blocks. The streets are filled with people (an estimated 100,000!) enjoying the food booths, entertainers, and artisans. This year's Stroll was, once again, a rousing afternoon of dancing and community interaction when **BFD members donned their new blue t-shirts and hosted two one-hour dance events.**



The following weekend was the **Inaugural Ball with its Alphabet Soup theme** when BFD members honored their past officers and welcomed new ones. It was very well attended. More photos from the I-Ball are on p. 6.



*Photo by A. Partos.*

Finally, in late September, long-time BFD members and teachers **Marija and David Hillis celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary** with about 100 friends and family. Everyone enjoyed the potluck lunch, recital of vows, and dancing to both live and recorded music. It was wonderful to witness their love, care, and affection for each other. Their words of value to one another touched everyone – there were few dry eyes. David even had some backup singers as he sang *Save The Last Dance for Me* to Marija.



David Hillis (center) with his backup singers (from left) Matute, Maryclare McCauley, Mary McManus and, behind David, Jane Martin.

Berkeley Folk Dancers prides itself on welcoming all who are interested in learning. *Photos by A. Partos.*

Looking ahead, on **Friday, November 21, 7:30-10:30 pm**, the advanced class will host a **dance party with the theme Pajama Parade**. (Will they be dancing in their bare feet? In slippers?)

# ... AND BEYOND

## MONTEREY FOLK DANCERS – Marguerite Fishman **Our World Map Origins Project**

Are you curious about your fellow folk dancers' ancestry? Like me, do you wonder if there's an overlap between dancers' countries of origin and their interest in international folk dance? To find out, I created an in-class project that fostered an enthusiastic buzz amidst our group.

On a bulletin board-sized world map, each dancer placed colored stickers on his/her birthplace and/or countries-of-origin and those of parents and grandparents. This revealed the locations where we grew up and where our ancestors came from.

Half of the stickers are spread across the US from California to the East Coast, with a few from Canada (Ontario and Quebec). For the rest of us, our parents and grandparents were born overseas: Europe (mainly Western and Northern, with Ukraine and Russia to the East), Asia (S. Korea, Japan, Thailand, China), the Southern Hemisphere (Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand) and Colombia, S. America.

Reluctant to draw conclusions, I did infer from the map (only 13% from California) that most of us are currently living far from our places of origin. Also, by way of conversation, we found that many of us have moved around a lot, living in a wide variety of locations in the United States and abroad. **As a project, our World Map Origins was a fun, informal way to discover more about our dancing friends.**



The Monterey Folk Dancers with their World Map.  
*Photo by Y. Ha.*

## TURLOCK VILLAGE DANCERS – Judy Kropp

Six of our Turlock Village Dancers accompanied me on the trip north to the Veterans Hall in Pleasanton to attend the Officers Ball in early October. I was one of the workshop teachers and taught **Bridge of Athelon, a favorite of the Turlock Village Dancers.** We all had a great time and had only one mishap – Lise Swedberg forgot to change out of her dance shoes at the end of the evening and realized when she got home that she'd left her street shoes in the hall. Fortunately they were discovered by the clean-up crew and were mailed back to her.



Turlock Village Dancers at the Officers Ball. Standing, from left: Judy Kropp, Michelle McCoy, Tamara Littlewood, Alice Schemmel, and Lena Tereshchanko. Front row: Carlos Canto (kneeling) and Lise Swedberg.  
*Photo by L. Tucker.*

## RAZZMATAZZ – Marilyn Smith

Our fall beginners' class will run through November 25, and our Intermediate class will continue until December 9.

We're looking forward to our annual **'Tis the Season Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13** at Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. We'll begin with recorded favorites for the first half hour, and then feature the beautiful singing of our local choral group, Gradina, followed by lively Bulgarian tunes played by Yabulka. In between sets I'll read our traditional "The Night Before Christmas" and we'll present a couple of traditional Hanukkah songs. Admission is just \$5 at the door and tips for the singers and musicians are greatly appreciated!

This is one of two parties that Razzmatazz organizes each year, bringing together folk dancers from throughout the 55 years as well as folk dancers from groups near and far to celebrate our vibrant community created through folk dance.

*continued on p. 18.*

## News from Around the Bay – *continued*

### SAN FRANCISCO GROUPS – *Cindy Blackstone*

An Avalanche in Autumn? No one would ever believe it unless you were **folk dancing with Michel Hardbarger at the Summer Family nights at Changs** in San Francisco. Yes, we had snowballs made up of dancers in a circle who started avalanches that literally roared through the dance hall. It was a blast (without the cold).

Michel had the dancers get some driving practice in dancing the Low Rider dance. We all learned how to move and groove in our Low Rider cars.

Then we rode a canoe in the ocean near Hawai'i. Children and adults sat on the floor and quickly learned to paddle under the stars. Everyone navigated the big waves together, and it was a magical journey.

The evening began with a wooden musical frog being passed either right or left in a set of three chairs followed by two of the dancers creatively dancing down the middle of two long lines of dancers. No one hopped, but everyone enjoyed the musical frog.

**Michel leads a wonderful children's night the fourth Friday each month at Changs** and we all appreciate her very much! We thank her for giving all the young children and the older children-at-heart a great adventure! Everyone is welcome and there is no entrance fee if you bring a child.



### INTERNATIONAL DANCE ARTS COLLECTIVE

*Alex Shadle*

We hope to see some members of the folk dance community in the audience for our **Fifth Annual Festivals of Light dance performance**. Our students prepare for many months to put on two full-length productions in the Roseville High School Auditorium.

We offer two performances: **Friday, November 7 at 7 pm and Saturday, November 8 at 3 pm**. This year's presentations include dances and songs from India, Spain, Quebec, Peru, Mexico, Italy, Scandinavia, and Ukraine, as well as dances from the United States including clogging. **Tickets at [peacethroughdance.org](http://peacethroughdance.org) or at the door.**

Our mission is to foster peace, love, and appreciation of all cultures and people within our local community and beyond. We do this by providing education and performance opportunities for children and youth through world, cultural, and historical dance and music.

**Come join our celebration!**

INTERNATIONAL DANCE ARTS  
COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

# FESTIVALS OF LIGHT



A CELEBRATION OF TRADITIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

NOV. 7<sup>TH</sup> *at* 7:00PM

NOV. 8<sup>TH</sup> *at* 3:00PM

1 Tiger Way, Roseville,  
CA 95678

Info and tickets at  
[www.peacethroughdance.org](http://www.peacethroughdance.org)

# FOLK DANCE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2025

There is still time to respond to the membership survey. As of October 13, 197 responses have been received. **The survey will remain open until November 30.** The questions below are the same ones used in the 1945 survey of California folk dancers who attended a festival in October (minus the question about income).

## Preliminary results based on current surveys

Average age: 72.

Gender: 73% female, 27% male.

Home ownership: 80% own their residence.

Marital Status: 50% are married.

1. **Gender**
2. **Marital status**
3. **Occupation (if retired, former)**
4. **Age**
5. **Birthplace**
6. **Birthplace of parents (country)**
7. **Birthplace of grandparents (country)**
8. **Rent or own?**
9. **Frequency of dance activity (average per month)**
10. **Frequence of attendance at special events (average per year)**
11. **How long have you been folk dancing?**
12. **How did you find folk dancing? (short answer)**
13. **Other hobbies/interests**
14. **Why do you folk dance? (short answer)**

## How to participate in this survey:

- Go to [folkdance.com/survey2025](http://folkdance.com/survey2025) and fill in your answers on the form provided.  
--OR--
- Write your responses to the questions on the left and email them to [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com).  
--OR--
- Print out your answers and mail them to Editor, 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126.

## **President's message** – *continued from p. 3*

I was very lucky to have a mentor like this early in my career. He modeled the behaviors he wanted from people on his team. He continued to grow and learn; he stayed flexible and positive despite setbacks. I worked for subsequent bosses who always wanted the work done their way. They wanted to direct every task; they were bottlenecks on the road to success. There was no creativity or joy on these teams. They often took credit for the work of the whole team. I was lucky to not have to endure those folks very often in my career. But, as I tell my kids, a negative example can be just as instructive as a positive one.

If you are on a team, learn to pull people into the fun of getting stuff done. Celebrate the different ways people approach a task. No one knows everything – but we all know *some* things. It's worth the effort to try to learn from each other, and to help one another succeed. A purpose for this life? Just extend your heart and hands to those around you.

Stay healthy and happy and keep moving to the beat!

## **WANT A WALL CALENDAR?**

Have you seen the new 2026 Folk Dance Federation wall calendar? Do you want one for yourself? Your options:

1. Mail a check for \$13 made payable to Folk Dance Federation with "Calendar" on the memo line to Treasurer, Sabine Zappe, 153 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126. [The extra \$3 covers the mailing costs.]
2. If you want **multiple** calendars mailed to you, email Loui at [loui@loutucker.com](mailto:loui@loutucker.com), and tell her how many calendars you want. She will weigh them and provide you with the mailing costs to add to the price of the calendars. Then mail a check as noted in #1 above.
3. After getting the total owing in #2 above, pay online at [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com) using the Donate option on the menu bar.
4. Check with your local teacher. Some of them have a supply.

## **WANT TO SEE THE CALENDAR?**

[folkdance.com/calendar2026](http://folkdance.com/calendar2026)

# SPEAKING OF DANCING

by Gigi Jensen

I was in the mood for some fun and games this month:



## FOLK DANCE WORD SCRAMBLE\*

- DMNLLAEEA \_\_\_\_\_
- KBDAAWRC \_\_\_\_\_
- TKBASE DLHO \_\_\_\_\_
- ICIFLOARNA RLTIW \_\_\_\_\_
- GEHANC RPREATSN \_\_\_\_\_
- KASIAEHRYCS \_\_\_\_\_
- RATNOC EACND \_\_\_\_\_
- BUICMA \_\_\_\_\_
- KLOF CEAND PACM \_\_\_\_\_
- OOKRTFW \_\_\_\_\_
- WFRDOAR \_\_\_\_\_
- VEEPNIGRA \_\_\_\_\_
- BAHOM \_\_\_\_\_
- NMPVITOASIRO \_\_\_\_\_
- LOOK \_\_\_\_\_
- ENLI FO ERIDNITOC \_\_\_\_\_
- XIMRE \_\_\_\_\_
- PDRNAOEEM \_\_\_\_\_
- HHOTSSCETI \_\_\_\_\_
- YTEEEIMM \_\_\_\_\_

\* *The underlined letter is the first in each word.*

Answers on p. 23.

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**How many dance teachers does it take to screw in a light bulb?**

*Five! ... Six! ... Seven! ... Eight!*

– OR –

*Just one, but at least three other teachers will notice and remark, "That's not how I was taught to do it!"*

**What has 400 feet and dances in circles for hours?**

*Kolo Festival dancers on Saturday night.*

# DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL *New Year's Eve* International Folk Dance Party and *Lucy Chang Memorial Fundraiser*

sponsored by the Moveable Feet Club

**December 31, 2025**

7 pm – 12:15 am

**All Saints' Episcopal Church**

555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto (same location)

Emcee: Loui Tucker

***This event is free!***

Please consider making a generous donation to Second Harvest Food Bank!

**Help us reach our \$9,000 goal! (We raised over \$14,000 last year!)**

*Potluck dinner*

7~8 pm

Bring a favorite dish!

Moveable Feet provides drinks, plates, and utensils.



SECOND HARVEST  
of SILICON VALLEY

➔ Donate early to Second Harvest Food Bank at [impact.shfb.org/MoveableFeet25](https://impact.shfb.org/MoveableFeet25) so your support is available immediately  
-OR-

➔ Bring cash, checks, or cellphone (if you plan to use a credit card) to the party. You can also bring cans of food, jars (peanut butter), bags (rice, pasta), and boxes (cereal, cake mix) to be delivered to SHFB.



SCAN ME!

*Parking is free in downtown Palo Alto on New Year's Eve, with no time limits.*

Info: [MoveableFeetClub@gmail.com](mailto:MoveableFeetClub@gmail.com)



# Exploring Teaching Strategies for Folk Dance

Presented by The Mentoring Project and the National Folk Organization

NFO F.O.L.K. Chat

Panel Discussion

Saturday, November 1, 10 am PST



This virtual presentation will explore folk dance teaching methods that support both experienced and emerging teachers.

## Panel:

**Bruce Hamilton, California**

**Sue Hulsether, Wisconsin**

**France Bourque-Moreau, Quebec**

\*\*\* ON ZOOM \*\*\*

Zoom link at [nfo-usa.org/nfo\\_folk\\_chats](https://nfo-usa.org/nfo_folk_chats)

The committee invites the public to suggest discussion topics or request more information at [NFO.Mentoring.Group@gmail.com](mailto:NFO.Mentoring.Group@gmail.com).

## REVISED Results of the Stockton Folk Dance Camp Survey of Dances

by Lon Radin, Federation Institutes Chair

An additional 15 surveys were located and added to the tabulations. The only significant change was that Zoriuszka, which was at the end of the prior list, is now at the top of the list.

Dance name	Votes
Zoriuszka	35
Ropoțelul	34
La nuntă	34
Aromân Sirto	31
Duško Moje	31
Kolomijki	29
Bobocica	29
Hegi	29
Holubka	29
Karčmaročka	28
Sobótki	28
Joc din Jina	28
Hora din Vețelu	28
Dol'ava Karička	28

From p. 21.

### Folk Dance Word Scramble Answer key

ALLEMANDE  
BACKWARD  
BASKET HOLD  
CALIFORNIA TWIRL  
CHANGE PARTNERS  
CHERKASSIYA  
CONTRA DANCE  
CUMBIA  
FOLK DANCE CAMP  
FOOTWORK  
FORWARD  
GRAPEVINE  
HAMBO  
IMPROVISATION  
KOLO  
LINE OF DANCE  
MIXER  
PROMENADE  
SCHOTTISCHE  
YEMENITE

## SEND A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF *LET'S DANCE!* MAGAZINE

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



## FROM THE *LET'S DANCE!* PHOTO ARCHIVES



There isn't a prize this month for identifying the two people in this photo, but you can send your guess to [editor@folkdance.com](mailto:editor@folkdance.com) or [loui@loutucker.com](mailto:loui@loutucker.com) if you want verification.

**The photo contest is more challenging this month. See p. 26.**

call Denise about something else and mentioned she was missing the two last names. Denise told her. Judy admitted she probably should NOT qualify because Denise had helped her. I made the executive decision to make them co-winners. Why not – it's just a game.

*In the last issue*



From left: Eliot Khuner, Drew Herzig, Asha Goldberg, and Bob Gardner. The photo was taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1981.

## WE HAVE A WINNER!

Actually, this month we have co-winners. Here's how it happened:

Jane Tripi correctly identified three of the four men. Then Denise Heenan got all four of them. With a little prompting Jane, amended her responses and got all four. I still needed a third correct answer.

Judy Kropp came up with two correct names and two more that were the correct first names only. Judy happened to



Beginning in 1950, the Federation had these four-color decals printed for dancers to put on their car windows. Cost? 5¢ each, available by mail order. A club in Fresno boasted that it had 100% of their members with decals on their cars!

# Make Plans to Attend Statewide – June 12-14, 2026!

by Memo Keswick

Up in Chico, we are busy planning Statewide 2026. We have invited teachers **Ahmet Lüleci** (Turkish Dance), **Konstanin Marinov** (Bulgarian Dance), and **Peter Aleksiev** (Bulgarian Music). **Da! Mozhem** will be providing live music for evening dance parties. We understand that the musicians of Da! Mozhem are working on new material to share with us. This will be the first time for these artists to present their talents in Chico. The overall theme will be **Village Dances**, a common phrase in folk dance circles. It will be interesting to hear the interpretations of this concept by our visiting artists.

There's a lot of work going on behind the scenes to make an event like this happen. Thanks to the Federation Board members as well as local Chico World Dancers. Thank you also to the Statewide organizers from southern California who shared so much of their 2025 work with us. It takes a village to make things happen, and it is amazing to see so many folks contributing their administrative talents towards this festival's preparation!

One of the things that will be different at this festival is the **classes on Bulgarian music being offered simultaneously** while the dance teachers are presenting. We plan to distribute the music scores to those indicating interest so musicians and singers will be able to practice before arriving at the festival. Peter Aleksiev will then be able to fine tune the various musical abilities and efforts. If you are interested, be sure to indicate your interest in the music workshops on the Registration Form (coming soon!).

If you bring non-dancing family members or friends, there are a lot of activities in Chico to keep them entertained, including local museums, tours of the Sierra Nevada Brewery, hiking and bicycling in Bidwell Park, and visiting the California State University campus in Chico. If you are interested, plan to come a day or two early or stay a few days after Statewide and enjoy our great community. Statewide 2026 will occur after school graduations but before Father's Day. This should mean visitors will find a slower-pace Chico community. As it gets closer to the festival date, more activities may be highlighted!

**The Registration Form is close to completion.** We are working with a local hotel to provide a good housing discount and of course we have to work with local caterers and restaurants about meal selections. There will be discounts for registering early, so watch for those dates!

We look forward to seeing you at Statewide 2026!



**Save the Date!**

**Statewide 2026**  
**June 12-14, Chico, CA**

**Special Guest Artists:**

**Ahmet Lüleci - Turkish Dance**  
**"Kotse" Marinov - Bulgarian Dance**  
**Peter Aleksiev - Bulgarian Music**  
**Da! Mozhem - Dance Band**

**Registration materials will be available soon at**  
**folkdance.com**

## PHOTO CONTEST FOR NOVEMBER

In the photo below taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1985 there are roughly 35 people (there are two partial faces). They represent the teaching staff, Board members, and support staff. How many can you identify? You can make this a group project if you like. Take this issue to your local dance class and see if you can come up with a list. **If you can name just half of them (18) correctly, you and/or your group can win a \$50 gift card.**



**Save the date!**

***Festival of the Oaks***

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**

**Morning workshops & afternoon  
dance party – 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Live Oak Recreation Center  
1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA**

***Featuring: Andy Taylor  
teaching dances from  
Carpathian Europe.***

# Fall Camp

## Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2025

**with Catherine Rudin presenting an eclectic mix of classic and new dances**

Dance in a beautiful climate-controlled room, located in a tranquil, park-like setting. Enjoy teaching and review sessions, evening dance parties, and other activities. The weekend includes 5 meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast), snacks, and two nights in motel-style rooms (with heating and air conditioning, private bath, bedding, and towels). **Space is limited. Register soon!**

Fall Camp is at the Brandeis-Bardin Campus of the American Jewish University, 1101 Peppertree Lane, Brandeis, CA 93064. (It is near Simi Valley in Southern California, just south of the 118 Freeway.)

Prices this year are lower for double and triple occupancy, and all prices are again subsidized by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South.

Single room	\$540
Double room	\$440 per person
Triple room	\$395 per person
Commuter (No room, 5 meals)	\$270 per person

Please enter an amount from above ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *One form per person*

Sunday lunch \$ 27 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider an **entirely optional donation** to help keep our prices affordable ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Refund policy: You may cancel until Oct. 6 for a full refund. We can't guarantee full refunds after then.

First name (for your badge) \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of roommate(s) \_\_\_\_\_

We will try to accommodate special dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (name & phone) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Federation requires campers to sign a General Liability waiver, which is available on [FallCamp.org](http://FallCamp.org)**  
**If you have already signed that waiver for another Federation event, check here: [ ]**

Please complete a separate **registration form** (and waiver if needed) for each camper. Make your check payable to **Folk Dance Federation of CA, South**, and mail it with your form(s) and waivers (if needed) to:

Mindy Belli 321 S Vista del Canon, Anaheim, CA 92807

Questions not answered here or on [FallCamp.org](http://FallCamp.org)? Email Mindy at [DanceFallCamp@gmail.com](mailto:DanceFallCamp@gmail.com).

## Klapok from Łowicz

(Poland)

Klapok from Łowicz (KLAH-pohk [from] WOH-vich) is a clapping (*klapać* means to clap in Polish) dance meant to be done for fun by people of all ages from young children to the very old. It was presented by Richard Schmidt at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2025. He first learned this dance in 1989 during the World Festival of Polish Folklore in Poland, where Sławomir Mazurkiewicz, well-known Łowicz expert from Łódź, used it in his choreography for the finale number involving many dance groups from around the world.

There are many variations of the dance. Ada Dziewanowska taught a version at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1983.

Music: 2/4 meter Can be obtained by contacting Richard Schmidt at richard@folkdance.ca or from someone who attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2025.

Video: A search on YouTube yields several similar Polish dances called Klapok. To view this specific dance, contact someone who attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp and ask for permission to view their copy of the video. In July 2026, the video will be posted on the Stockton Folk Dance Camp website.

Formation: Circle of cpls facing CCW side by side in a large circle with left shoulders toward the center. Closest hands are joined down.

Steps and Styling: Closed Social Position: Partners face to face, M's R hand at center of W's back above waist. W's L hand on M's R shoulder. M holds W's R hand in his L hand near waist. Unlike Ballroom Position, M's L and W's R are held *palm down*, M's hand on top of W's.

Clapping Sequence (8 Meas): Partners face each other.

(Meas 1) With knees bent slightly, slap hands on thighs (ct 1); straightening knees, clap hands together in front of chest (ct 2).

(Meas 2) Twisting torso L, clap R hand with ptr (ct 1); face twd ptr (ct 2).

(Meas 3) Repeat meas 1.

(Meas 4) Repeat meas 2 with opp hand and direction.

(Meas 5): Repeat meas 1.

(Meas 6); Twisting torso L, clap R with ptr (ct 1); twisting torso R, clap L with ptr (ct 2).

(Meas 7): Repeat meas 1.

(Meas 8): Clap both hands with ptr, M's L to W's R and M's R to W's L (ct 1); release or hold, depending on what follows (ct 2).

Note: Generally when each clap is released, the hands separate and remain at shoulder height for the remaining count in the measure.

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Measures	Meter 2/4	PATTERN
		INTRODUCTION. Dancer announces the dance name, "Klapoka."
	I.	WALKING FORWARD. M's ftwk is noted. W use opp ftwk.
1-2		M: Step L fwd (ct 1); touch R next to L (ct 2). Continue fwd with opp ftwk.
3-12		Repeat meas 1-2 five times.
13-16		Walk 8 steps in a small circle leading away from ptr. M beg L and circle CCW, W beg R and circle CW. End facing ptr with M's back to ctr.

---

Klapok from Łowicz – *continued*

II. CLAPPING.

1-8 Clapping Sequence face to face.

9-16 Clapping Sequence while walking and cpl rotates CW. Both beg L. End with M facing CCW, W facing CW facing M. Hands are palm to palm, M's L to W's R, M's R to W's L.

III. TRAVELING – MAN FWD AND WOMAN BKWD.

1-8 Cpls travel CCW with 15 running steps, then touch the free ft with no wt to close on last count, hands remaining palm-to-palm. M beg R moving fwd, W beg L backing up.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, with opp ftwk and direction.

IV. CLAPPING.

1-16 Repeat Fig II with M facing CCW and W facing CW. End with M's back to ctr of circle, W facing M.

V. TRAVELING SIDEWAYS.

1-8 In Closed Social Position, move CCW. M step L to L while raising joined hands to shldr height (ct 1); step R next to L, bringing joined hands down to waist height. (ct 2). Repeat meas 1 seven times. W uses opp ftwk. M touch R on last count to free R ft for next Fig.

VI. SIDE STEPS IN A SQUARE.

M and W use same ftwk, beg R. With fists on hips, move in a square around ptr.

1 Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2).

2 Step R to R (ct 1); pivot ¼ R (ct 2).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction but pivoting again to R to face ptr.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 to complete a square.

In short: sideways R, back-to-back, sideways R, face-to-face.

VII. CLAPPING.

1-16 Repeat Fig. II. End facing CCW, left shldr twd ctr, inside hands joined.

Sequence: Dance is repeated once.



Two views of Klapok.

Left, Renata Jarko and Richard Schmidt (Figure II).

Right, Benjamin and Anna Bruxvoort (Figure III).



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## LET'S DANCE! ❤️ LYRICS

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The dance description for **Zoriuszka** was printed in the October issue, but there was no room to include the lyrics. The words were translated from Russian by Elena Hass. The lyrics on the left provided below are in Polish, but Elena said the song we dance to is sung in Russian.

Oj, zaria ty, zoriuszka, zoriuszka wiecz'erniaja  
Oj, liuli, liuli, zoriuszka wieczerniaja  
Zoriuszka wieczerniaja, sołnyszka waschożeje  
Oj, liuli, liuli, sołnyszka waschożeje  
Wysako sounce wschadi a dalioka swietila  
Oj, liuli, liuli, a dalioka swietila  
I na lies I na polie, I na sinieje morie  
Oj, liuli, liuli, I na sinieje morie  
Tak na siniem-ta morje, tam liażała dosteczka  
Oj, liuli, liuli, tam liażała dosteczka  
Dosteczka dubowaja, pieriekladka sasnowaja  
Oj, liuli, liuli, pieriekladka sasnowaja  
Tak po etaj-ta dosteczkie, da nikto nie chazewał  
Oj, liuli, liuli, da nikto nie chazewał  
Da nikto nie chaz'ewał, nikawo nie ważewał  
Oj, liuli, liuli, nikawo nie ważewał  
Pierieszoł da Lioniuszka, pierieszoł Wasiliewicz  
Oj, liuli, liuli, pierieszoł Wasiliewicz  
Pierewioł za saboju maładoju baryniu  
Oj, liuli, liuli, maładoju baryniu  
Maładoju baryniu, da Ninu Wasiliewnu  
Oj, liuli, liuli, da Ninu Wasiliewnu

Oh, my sunset, my dear sunset  
Oh, liuli, luili, dear sunset  
Dear sunset, dear sunrise  
Oh, liuli, luili, dear sunrise  
Sun is rising high, and shines far away  
Oh, liuli, luili, shines far away  
Shines on the forest, and the field, and on a blue sea  
Oh, liuli, luili, and on a blue sea  
On that blue sea a wooden plank is lying  
Oh, liuli, luili, there is a wooden plank lying  
A plank from oak, with pine inlaid  
Oh, liuli, luili, with pine inlaid  
And on this plank nobody ever set foot  
Oh, liuli, luili, nobody ever set foot  
Yes, nobody ever set foot, nobody ever brought anyone  
Oh, liuli, luili, nobody ever brought anybody  
Vaniushka<sup>(1)</sup> crossed it, Vasilievich<sup>(2)</sup> crossed it,  
Oh, liuli, luili, Vasilievich crossed it  
Led the young lady along with him,  
Oh, liuli, luili, led the young lady  
Led the young lady, Nina Vasilievna  
Oh, liuli, luili, Nina Vasilievna

(1) endearing name for Ivan

(2) Ivan Vasilievich means Ivan son of Vasily

### Additional information about the song provided by ChatGPT

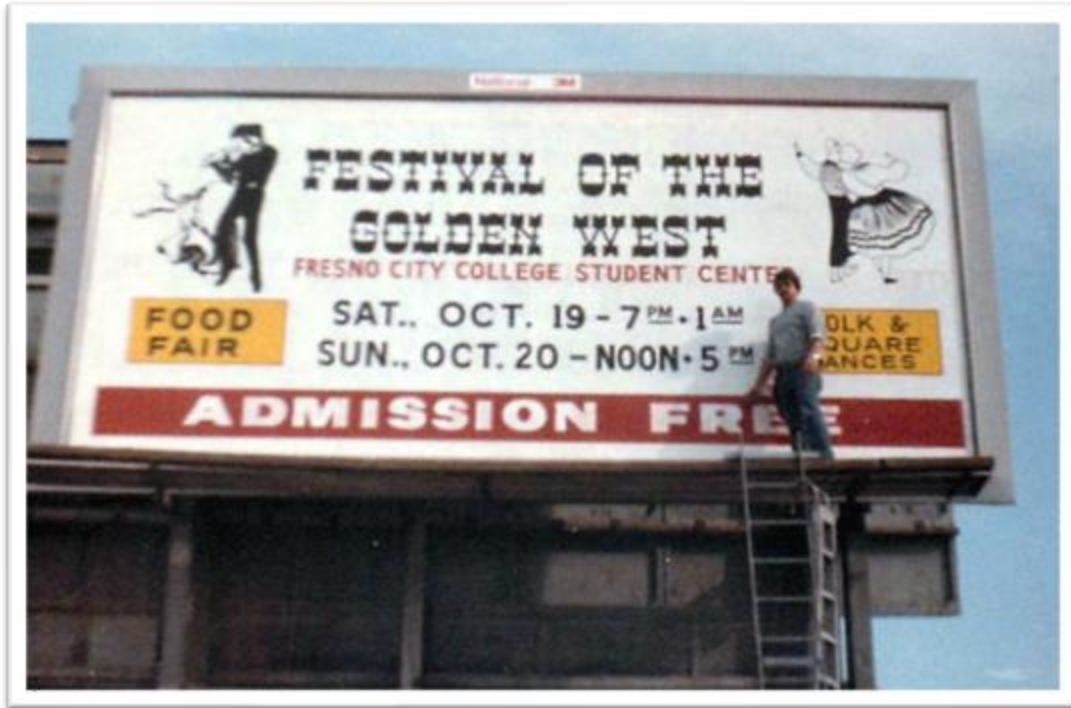
The song **Oy, zarya, zoryushka** belongs to the group of Russian traditional lyrical drawn-out songs.

- It originates from the peasant folk repertoire of Central Russia (Tula, Ryazan, Oryol, Kaluga provinces).
- The first recordings were made by 19th-century ethnographers and folklore collectors. The song was performed as a girls' lyrical song, sung at evening gatherings, during work, and sometimes as part of wedding rituals.
- The lyrics address the dawn (zoryushka) as a living being, asking or lamenting, a typical motif in Russian poetry and folklore.
- Like many folk songs, it has no single author or exact date of creation. It was transmitted orally and changed from village to village and from generation to generation.

In the 20th century, the song found a stage life. It was included in the repertoire of the Pyatnitsky Choir, the Kuban Cossack Choir, and the Rossiya Ensemble led by Lyudmila Zykina.

# ***A BLAST FROM THE PAST***

Forty years ago, in October of 1985, Fresno hosted a folk dance event they called the **Festival of the Golden West**. They had the funds to pay for a billboard! This was a two-day affair with the Saturday party running from 7 pm to 1 am – and there was probably an after-party. And free admission!



Oscar Faoro (left) was Federation President that year.

Audrey Silva (right) was the chair of festival committee. See the multiple rows of metal boxes? They contained record albums and 45s!



Recognize anyone in that line of dancers?



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**It's better to notice a smile on the  
face than an error in the feet.**

**~ Leslie Pryne  
(*Let's Dance!* editor 1973-74)**

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