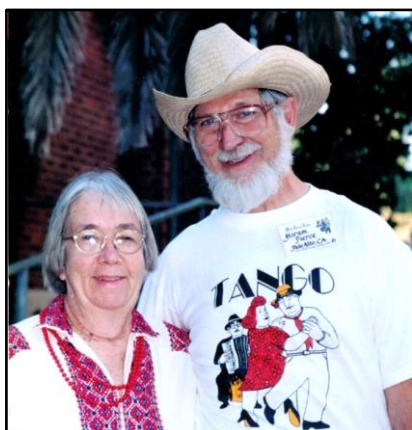


# ARDEN ELAINE PIERCE

March 13, 1928 - September 20, 2021



Arden with Hiram in 1997.

Photo by G. Milton.

Arden starting dancing with Ruth Browns, in a class she taught in the quonset hut on Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. After a short time, she discovered Balkan dancing with Marcel Vinokur in Menlo Park. Stan Isaacs also had a class nearby. Arden encouraged all of her children to dance and took the two oldest to a class for children taught by Shirley Eastman in Rinconada Park. Later, she started Scottish dancing so she could have a place to dance without any of her children. She was also active in Kolo of San Francisco, which had monthly parties during this period.

She met Hiram Pierce at folk dancing, and they married in 1968. They were a great team and inseparable until Hiram's death in 2016. They bought land in the Santa Cruz mountains and ran a folk dance campout there that they called Planina (mountain) for many years. They built an outdoor dance floor as well as an outhouse, and cleared some flat spots for camping. It was very primitive. She ran the outdoor kitchen, often organizing the food for 50 people, which appeared to be no problem for her.

Later, Arden was active on the Peninsula Folk Dance Council. She and Hiram also began going to Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1992, which they continued as long as their health permitted.

Throughout her life, Arden was known for her warmth and compassion. She opened her house to one and all, including numerous people who lived there for short periods. She also invited strays and visitors to family celebrations, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, and encouraged her children to do the same. She loved socializing and

would talk to just about anyone for as long as they were willing to talk.

Arden worked as a physical therapist. She worked for about 20 years at El Camino Hospital and later for the Visiting Nurses Association. She loved her job and often commented that it was amazing she could get paid for doing something she loved so much. She especially enjoyed getting to know all her patients, people in all walks of life.

**In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Planned Parenthood, a Quaker organization of your choice, or a folk dance organization of your choice.**

A memorial service for Arden is tentatively planned for November 6 at 2pm PST on Zoom. For details, please visit [www.cordray.no](http://www.cordray.no).

**NOTE:** Arden had a collection of *Let's Dance!* magazines dating from the 1960s, as well as many folk dance records. If anyone is interested in these items, please contact Alix Cordray at [alix@cordray.no](mailto:alix@cordray.no).

## A SMALL TRIBUTE TO ARDEN PIERCE

by Ken Kaye

I did not know Arden very well, but there was a connection that was important to me.

When I made some tentative steps to return to folk dancing after many years of not dancing, I attended one of Marcel Vinokur's end-of-quarter parties. It was there that I first met Arden. Except for my wife, Nancy, I knew no one. Arden made sure to introduce herself to me, so I spent a few minutes talking with her. It was obvious she wanted to encourage me to return to dancing.

After I finally did return to folk dancing, my wife and I joined the Palomanians in Menlo Park and I became reacquainted with Arden. I cannot recall if she actually remembered me, but it made no difference. She was warm and encouraging. She often helped me with some of the Scottish set dances. In fact, at one workshop she insisted on helping me learn Polharrow Burn. With her help I got through it, but don't ask me now if I can do it again.

Several years after that I had the honor as co-chair of the Heritage Festival of presenting her with the Peninsula Folk Dance Council's Certificate of Appreciation for all her work and help with previous Festivals. She certainly deserved it. After that, I made sure to spend a few minutes with her when she attended a Council party or one of the Palomanian classes.

So, that is my connection with Arden Pierce. She was a lovely and warm person who will be missed.