74th Annual International Folk Dance
Festival of the Oaks

Farima Berenji

Lenore Watson

DATE AND LOCATION

Sunday, February 12, 2023
Location: Live Oak Park
1301 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709

Proof of vaccination and boosters required. KN-95 or N-95 Masks required.

No partner needed

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Institute with Farima Berenji & Contras with Lenore Watson
& a performance of Silk Road Folk Dances by Farima & her Simorgh Dance Collective
9:30 - noon – $18.00

International Folk Dancing
Dances from around the world, Institute Reviews & contras
Brief presentation by Tahitian Dance Company
Te Mana O Te Ra
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. – $17.00

All day – Institutes & Folk Dance Party
$30.00

Hot lunch
Noon - 1:00 p.m. – $10.00

Federation Membership meeting
Folk Dance Federation of California will provide lunch for members attending.
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Pre-owned folk dance costume sale
Bring items to donate.
12:30 – 4:30

Free refreshments all afternoon

Register and pay in advance at:
https://tinyurl.com/3cyhuh5f

To send dance requests for the afternoon party, or for more info, email:
rg94610@gmail.com or
yvonneprovaznik@comcast.net

Sponsored by
Berkeley Folk Dancers &
Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Farima Berenji Bio

Farima is an award winning, internationally acclaimed performing artist, instructor, dance ethnologist, and archaeologist. She specializes in sacred, classical, and folkloric dances of the Silk Road. She is a third generation artist – her devotion to the world of arts was inspired by both her mother and grandmother – performing artists, poets, and musicians of Azerbaijani heritage. Farima has spent her lifetime studying Persian/Iranian and Central Asian dance, culture, and history. Recognized as one of the few world scholarly experts of ancient and mystical dance ethnology, she travels worldwide to record, research, lecture, perform, educate, and to inspire dynamic creativity and rejuvenation through dance and movement.

Farima has lectured, facilitated research projects, collaborated, choreographed, & performed for highly acclaimed internationally renowned companies and institutions such as Avaz Dance Company, Mosaic America (formerly Sangam Arts), ODC, World Dance Fusion of San Francisco, Istanbul Conservatory of the Arts, Vienna Conservatory of the Arts, the National Folk Organization (NFO), the Unique Circle of Manchester, the Tumata Organization of Turkey, UNESCO, SF City Hall, Kansas State University, University of Manchester, University of London, Istanbul University, Stanford University, San Francisco State University, San Francisco City Hall, the Iranian National Museum and Conservatory and many more.

Farima is the founder and artistic director of the Simorgh Dance Collective, Assistant Director and Program Director of Eastern Arts, and advisory council member of Mosaic America. She is honored to be the first Iranian-American woman TEDx lecturer and performer in the field of dance. The Simorgh Dance Collective was the first Iranian dance company, directed by an Iranian woman to perform during a reception for President Obama and President Biden. Recognized as one of few world experts and scholars of Persian dance history, Farima infuses spirituality into her dance and teachings to impassion, empower, and inspire.

For more details and media visit http://farimadance.com

Lenore Watson Bio

Lenore started folk dancing and contra dance in college. She has taught international folk dance since the early 2000's with Redding International Folk Dance. And she has been calling contra dances since 2014 in Redding and Chico, as well as at special events – weddings, festivals, etc. She has called contras in previous years at the Festival of the Oaks and at other events in Northern California, including the Officers Ball and Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Lenore loves calling contras, and seeing the how the dancers connect and collaborate to make it work and have fun. Her favorite explanation of contra dance is that it's like an amusement park ride that we all create together.