

## NFO NEWS

THE NATIONAL  
FOLK  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

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Eaton, IN 47338

[www.nfo-usa.org](http://www.nfo-usa.org)

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NATIONAL

# Folk

## ORGANIZATION



Feb.  
2022

### NFO ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, MARCH 30–APRIL 3, 2022, IN EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Jo Crawford, NFO vice president, Westford, Massachusetts

Are you ready to reconnect?

Join us in Chicago for this year's annual meeting and conference! Plans are in place for a fun, educational, and energizing event in Evanston this spring.

Our home base is the [Holiday Inn Chicago North Evanston](#), at 1501 Sherman Avenue. We have negotiated a base rate of \$99/night, plus \$10 for breakfast for each person in the room. Parking is an additional \$18/night. The deadline to receive this rate is March 6, 2022 and your reservation is cancellable until two days before. Our other event and dance venue, the First Presbyterian Church at 1427 Chicago Avenue, is two blocks away. Since the last issue of the *NFO News*, we have confirmed more presenters and announced our Heritage Awardees. (See pages 8–11.)

**Registration:** Full-time online registration will open in February. Your registration fee of \$130 members/\$150 nonmembers covers all NFO activities, including the welcome reception, all presentations and workshops, the Awards Banquet, and the evening dance parties. Access to the session recordings will be made available for free after the event. We will refund your registration fee (minus a \$10 processing fee) if we need to cancel.

Part-time online registration will offer a range of event and price options, and is also refundable (minus a \$10 processing fee).

**COVID:** Attendees must have all vaccinations and booster shots that are available to them, with the last shot within the time frame of October 30, 2021 to March 9, 2022. While we are still watching the COVID situation closely and will be meeting or exceeding the local and state health ordinances, we recommend that you make refundable transportation reservations. Evanston currently (January 2022) requires masks for indoor public settings and proof of vaccinations for indoor events where food and drink are served.

**Schedule:** The Conference begins Wednesday, March 30, at 4 p.m., with hotel check in. The next event is a Welcome Reception at the hotel at 7:30 p.m. After our meetings and presentations on Thursday, the Pourparler



2018, in Tenafly, New Jersey. Photo by Kathy Bruni



Elsie Dunin leading a dance at the 2016 San Jose Conference. Photo by Roo Lester.

(Continued on page 7)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

NFO President Jeanette Geslison, Provo, Utah

It is time to gear up for our annual conference in Evanston, Illinois, this April. The conference committee has been meeting regularly for months, and they are working feverishly to prepare a great gathering with many meaningful experiences. Please refer to Jo Crawford's conference article for more details. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

We have just begun the new winter 2022 semester here at Brigham Young University amid the pandemic at its peak. It feels tricky to navigate all the implications this brings while at the same time providing the highest quality of education for the students. Our performing groups are running technical rehearsals to prepare for performances right now, with each group taking a week's time in our Dance Performance Theater. Many of our students are in quarantine, as they either have COVID or have been exposed, even though all our performing members are vaccinated. As artistic directors, we are having to re-block, make-shift, and find creative solutions to make do without some performers. We keep moving forward despite these challenges, hoping that this pandemic wave will pass quickly.

I felt fortunate that BYU's Christmas Around the World concert took place last month December 3 & 4, since it was canceled in 2020. This annual tradition of cultural dance and music celebrated 60 years with nearly 200



student performers. The students were so excited to be part of this experience as they participated in learning and performing traditional dances from Scotland, Ireland, Colombia, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, India, Romania, and more. Our special guests included the BYU Living Legends Native American students performing the jingle and fancy dances. We also featured Ngoma y' Africa Cultural Center performing a medley of Christmas-centered African songs and dances. This year's theme featured messages of hope, healing, and humanity, brought to life through the Scandinavian Advent wreath and its meaning of welcoming in Christmas as each candle is lit during the four Sundays of Advent leading up to Christmas. The concert was a welcoming and inspiring event amid the pandemic.

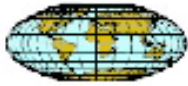
I hope that you are finding ways to stay involved during this challenging time. We must not lose hope that we can find a way through this and that we can still value and appreciate small accomplishments and interactions. In the end, it is really our friendships and human connections that will remain memorable and meaningful as we learn from one another. May this truly be a Happy New Year!



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# Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2022-23



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and anyone with a love of travel and culture.

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**2022**

**ISRAEL:** March 13-24, 2022

Led by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman, and Lee Friedman  
Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed,  
and Golan Heights

**ALBANIA and KOSOVO:** May 2-11 ext. 11-13, 2022

Led by Lee Otterholt. Tirana, Durres, Gjirokaster Folk Festival!  
Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra.

**PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE:** May 21-June 2, 2022

Led by Martha Tavera. Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu,  
Quechua Village, Lake Titicaca, Uyuni, La Paz, Atacama Desert

**NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN:** June 14-28, 2022

Led by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen

**POLAND:** June 8-21, 2022. Led by Richard Schmidt.

Warszawa,, Olsztyn, Malbork, Gdańsk Gdynia, Sopot, Toruń, Kraków

**BULGARIA:** August 1-14, 2022 **Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour!**

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, Lee Friedman  
Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo

**GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS:** October 8-21, 2022

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt.: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia,  
Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus, **Greek Island Cruise** to  
Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey)

**ROMANIA:** Oct 24-Nov 6, 2022 **Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour**

Led by Jim Gold with Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman:  
Bucharest, Brasov. Sibiu

**2023**

**GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND**

**June 14-27, 2023. Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour**

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman:  
Munich, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Swiss Alps, Lucerne, Zurich

**IRELAND:** August 5-17, 2023: Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman

Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin

**SPAIN:** September 14-27, 2023: Led by Lee Otterholt:

Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada



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person deposit. Or register and send deposits on line at: [www.jimgold.com/folk-tours](http://www.jimgold.com/folk-tours)

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## A STORY ABOUT HOW DANCE & MUSIC CAN UNITE PEOPLE ACROSS CULTURAL DIVIDES

Stacy Rose, Coos Bay, Oregon

Photos courtesy of Doug Plummer, Seattle, Washington

“Take Hands” is a documentary film that focuses on two things that you and I think about often: dancing and building our dance communities. Whether you’re a dancer, a musician, or a dance organizer, I know you’ll be excited to watch this film, with a release date in 2022. I believe “Take Hands” will help invigorate our dance journey as we (hopefully!) get back to in-person dancing in 2022.

It all started in 2013. Doug Plummer, a renowned contra dance photographer from Seattle, announced a Kickstarter campaign to fund his 2014 contra dance calendar. His annual calendar featured the blissful joy of contra dancing, with scenes of people from various communities doing contra dancing. I sponsored Doug’s Kickstarter campaign at this level: “I’ll come to your regularly scheduled community dance and photograph it, and you can use the photos for publicity.” What an opportunity! Doug came to Coos Bay, Oregon, to photograph South Coast Folk Society’s contra dance in 2014. The photos in this article are some of the pictures Doug took at our dance.

Also in 2013, the Country Dance & Song Society (CDSS) announced plans for its 2015 centennial celebration. To commemorate the organization turning 100 years old, CDSS would select six communities across America and Canada from among their 300 affiliate groups. CDSS would send musicians, dance leaders, and song leaders on the road to each of those communities for a week-long celebration tailored to each community’s needs. On behalf of South Coast Folk Society, I applied. Remarkably, we were one of the six organizations chosen to host a leg of the CDSS Centennial Tour—the only West Coast location. There we are, on the far left side of the map!



So when Doug came to Coos Bay to shoot publicity pictures in 2014, we were deep in the throes of planning Folk Week, our week-long CDSS extravaganza. The convergence of two interesting events had begun.

While in Coos Bay, Doug learned of South Coast Folk Society’s plans for Folk Week. Although we are a rural community, we serve as a hub and resource to the Oregon coastal community—smaller towns up and down the coast. We want to provide activities that welcome all comers and develop the skills of local dancers, dance leaders, song leaders, and musicians, while raising public awareness of our activities.



Doug decided to make a documentary about what we were doing to create a larger dance community while strengthening the core community already

in place. Doug returned to Coos Bay many times over the next two years to shoot footage for his film.



The culmination of Doug’s work over the past eight years is being realized. What began as a small investment for publicity pictures has grown into even more publicity for South Coast Folk Society—in the form of a documentary film! I’m overjoyed that the South Coast Folk Society is the subject of this film. I couldn’t be prouder. In a rural community, making music and dancing together with our neighbors transcends the kinds of divisions that have become all too common over the past few years. This is a film of hope that shares the National Folk Organization’s passion for advancing folk dance. I encourage you to look at the “Take Hands” website, where you can see the trailer, meet the characters and crew, and sign up for updates about where you can see this film.

## PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Sally Martin, Chatham, New Jersey  
Rules and Regulation Chair

The increase in NFO’s membership during the last year has resulted in much higher expenses. The NFO Board members reside in different geographical areas. In order to avoid difficulties in paying our bills, the Treasurer recommends that the following change be made to the Bylaws:

### Article XII: Execution of Instruments

Section 1. All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the Corporation by the Treasurer, or in his/her absence or inability to serve, by the President. Checks exceeding \$500-\$1,000 each must be countersigned by such officer(s) as the Board of Trustees shall from time to time designate for that purpose. Either the President or Treasurer may sign checks in the amounts not to exceed \$500-\$1,000 each without requiring counter signatures. The President and Treasurer and any other officer empowered to sign or countersign checks and other instruments shall be bonded to the extent required by the laws of the states in which they reside, or as required by the Board of Trustees.

This proposed bylaw change will be voted on during the National Folk Organization’s Annual Meeting on March 31, 2022.

## DISCOVERY GRANT AWARDED

Bobi Ashley, Redmond, Oregon

Since COVID hit, the NFO Grant Committee has not received any Discovery Grant applications, and a few had to be cancelled. We also had one that was simply postponed, and has now been reactivated. Georgia Beatty, of Portland, Maine, applied to attend the Landskappleiken Festival in Rjukan, Tinn, Norway, in June 2021. When the festival was cancelled, she requested that her application be held over until this year. She is now planning to attend this year, June 22–26.

The Landskappleiken is an annual national festival of traditional Norwegian folk music and dance. In the days preceding and/or following the festival, Georgia plans to make use of her time abroad by visiting local fiddlers, such as Lars Erik Oygarden and dance teacher Alix Cordray, as well as local museums and archives of hardingfele music and dance. We sincerely hope this festival will not be cancelled again, and we look forward to reading Georgia’s final grant report next October.

As festivals and folk dance camps return, this is a reminder that there are NFO Discovery Grants available to help with

travel expenses up to \$500. The application is available on our NFO website: [nfo-usa.org](http://nfo-usa.org).

You need not be a member of the NFO to apply, and should be aware that the next deadline for applications to summer events is May 1, 2022.

## VANCOUVER SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP PERFORMS IN NUTCRACKER

Geri Stuart, Vancouver, Washington

The Vancouver Scottish Country Dance group has been doing limited in-person dancing since September, following the guidelines of the ballet company where we rent a studio for classes. We have been participating in their Nutcracker performance for a couple of years, so December has been busy with rehearsals and performances. This year was special, with the debut of a new Act 1 based in Fort Vancouver, Washington, in 1845, using beavers instead of mice and fur trappers instead of soldiers. Plus, Geri collaborated in choreographing Scottish Country Dancing for the party scene.



Did you know you can pay your NFO membership fees and make donations online using PayPal or a credit card?

## NEW MEXICO FOLK DANCE CAMP: 39 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Linda Knight and Scott Lowry, co-directors for 2022

The Southwest International Folk Dance Institute (SWIFDI) has been organizing a folk dance camp in New Mexico every summer (except one) for 39 years.

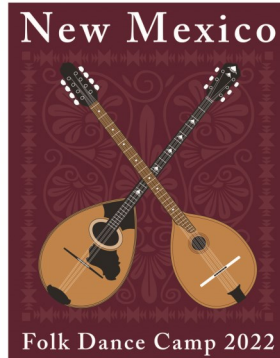
Two years ago, in 2020, we planned a camp with teachers Jaap Leegwater and Mea Nordenfelt. Unfortunately, COVID prevented camp from happening at all. Last year (July 2021), Jaap and Mea were enthusiastic about teaching at camp and it looked like in-person camp would actually happen. As it turned out, we were able to hold camp for fully vaccinated attendees. Unfortunately, at the time of camp Jaap and Mea were not able to enter the U.S., due to travel restrictions on arrivals from Europe. At the last possible moment, Lee Otterholt graciously agreed to come to teach dances from the Balkans and Beyond at our camp, along with Bruce Hamilton, who taught English Country Dance. The Parson Sisters provided live music for the English Country Dancing, and live music graced the evening parties. In addition to folk dance teaching, we were delighted to have a class in rhythm and drumming for folk dancers, taught by our very own Polly Tapia Ferber—an internationally known percussionist specializing in music from the Balkans, Middle East, and Spanish Andalusia. We had an in-person camp and it was a great success!

In July 2022, we will try for a third time to bring Jaap and Mea to our camp. They say the third time's the charm. We hope so! Jaap will be teaching Bulgarian dances and Mea will be teaching international dances. They'll be accompanied by live music from accordionist Jan Wollring. If you have seen Jaap and Jan together on Zoom, you know how special this is!

We're also excited to have Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi teaching Greek dances this year. Joe has taught Greek dance around the world and is an authority on regional Greek dance. Joe has taught at New Mexico camp before, and he is continually requested on camp surveys.

Polly Tapia Ferber will return this year for more rhythm and drumming classes! Her class in 2021 was enthusiastically received and this year we will have two sessions. Campers are encouraged to bring doumbeks or other drums, or just a surface on which to drum.

Each night there will be a party with a different and fun theme.



The 2022 New Mexico Camp will begin at noon on Thursday, July 28, and end after lunch on Sunday, July 31. Tucked away from the world on the campus of New Mexico Tech in tiny Socorro, N.M., just an hour south of Albuquerque, camp is a magical island in time. Unpretentious and welcoming, our New Mexico Camp is challenging and fun, restful and exciting, silly and serious, friendly and easy. This is all in an atmosphere that, like New Mexico itself, is enchanting.

For more information, go to [swifdi.org](http://swifdi.org) or get in touch with our registrar, Mirinisa Stewart-Tengco at [mirinisa.st@gmail.com](mailto:mirinisa.st@gmail.com). And be sure to like us on Facebook!

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Diane Vadnais, Whidbey Island, Washington

The National Folk Organization offers two special memberships. Lifetime membership in the NFO is for individuals who want to show monetary commitment to the Organization. It is a \$1000 gift you would purchase for yourself or a friend. The bylaws clarify this as an "individual" membership. This membership is not intended for groups or clubs.

The other membership type is Honorary Membership. This is an opportunity to recognize and honor a leader in your community who promotes the values of the NFO, though not necessarily a member of the organization. We would like to honor their contributions, and enrich the NFO by giving that person an Honorary Membership. Our website lists people who have received honorary membership in the past.

If there is someone in your community who has made extraordinary contributions to your dance community or one of the other folk arts, please present their name and biographical information to the membership committee, along with two letters of recommendation for consideration. The nominee need not be a member of the NFO. Nominations will need to include the following: (1) contact information for both the nominator and the nominee; (2) the reasons for the nomination, and specifically how the nominee fulfills the guidelines; (3) a brief biography with emphasis on aspects that support the folk arts; (4) at least two letters of support for the nomination; (5) any other supporting documents felt appropriate.

Please begin to think about this. The membership committee is not required to nominate a person every year, but we are limited to two a year. Nominations should come to the membership committee sooner rather than later, but absolutely before the end of November. Thanks.

Membership committee contact: Taunya Lund (treasurer) at [lglund@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lglund@sbcglobal.net).

(*CONFERENCE*, continued from page 1)

Committee will be hosting a Music & Dance for All Ages session that night. Although there is no concurrent festival during the Conference this year, we've made up for it by arranging a day of workshops on Saturday, April 2 (included in the full-time registration; special all-day pricing on the part-time registration). We've invited a mix of local and out-of-town teachers, including Stephen & Susan Kotansky, Marcie Van Cleave, Adony Beniares, Alex Marković, and Roo Lester.

**Meals:** Boxed lunches will be available every day for an additional fee, taking into account a variety of dietary needs and preferences (see registration forms). With only one hour scheduled for lunch, we have offered this convenient option for the last few years to help us stay on schedule and to allow time to network together. Most evening meals will be on your own, though we are curating a list of nearby (no car needed) welcoming and safe restaurants. Consider inviting family and friends in the area to our Awards Banquet Saturday night at the hotel (COVID protocols will be in place). See part-time registration on the website.

Registration options, hotel info, transportation links, schedule, and a lot more are on the website:  
[www.tinyurl.com/2022NFO](http://www.tinyurl.com/2022NFO).

**Questions:** Please let registrar Linda Bernfeld or me know if you have any difficulties with the online registration or concerns. Linda: [nfo2022registrar@gmail.com](mailto:nfo2022registrar@gmail.com) or (508) 655-2496. Jo: [nfovicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:nfovicepresident@gmail.com) or (978) 692-6217. Please leave a message, since we won't recognize your number on caller ID.

If you enjoyed last year's virtual NFO Conference, come join us in person!

**Getting there:** There are two airports in the Chicago area. [O'Hare airport](#) (ORD), is southwest of Evanston and has a full range of airlines.

[Midway airport](#) (MDW), served by Southwest Airlines, Delta, and a few others, is in downtown Chicago to the south.

Amtrak services downtown Chicago and the closer suburb of Glenview, Illinois; there are local transport options from both stations to Evanston. The local train system's closest station is two blocks from the hotel.

If you share your arrival information on the registration form, we will see if anyone else is arriving around the same time and will help you to connect with them and potentially share rides or other transportation to Evanston.

Lyft, Uber, and taxis are available at all airports and train stations.

Info: Jo Crawford, at [nfovicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:nfovicepresident@gmail.com).

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

Sarah Christensen, Fairview Park, Ohio

The nominating committee has put together this list of potential board members. The election takes place at the annual conference, this year slated to be held in Evanston, Illinois. More nominees may be added at the conference.

1. Ed Austin
2. Greg Lund
3. Sarah Christensen
4. Jessica Roncevic
5. Dale Adamson

## DO YOU PREFER PDF?

The *NFO News* is available in PDF. If you prefer to receive your copy as an attachment to an email, please contact NFO News Editor Kathy Bruni at [kdbruni@gmail.com](mailto:kdbruni@gmail.com) and you will receive the NEXT issue as a PDF file instead of hard copy. The photos that appear in black-and-white in the hard copy will appear in color in the PDF, and the hyperlinks will work!

## XXL TOUR TO GEORGIA, ARMENIA and (optional) IRAN

June 2022



Following the successful XXL tour in 2018, Tineke & Maurits van Geel plan to organize a second XXL trip to 3 countries in 2022. It is not the first time we have these countries in our program but we will visit some new territories. We worked hard to make it a wonderful experience enjoying dance, culture and nature.

For detailed information on the program and registration please visit our website:  
[www.tinekevangeel.nl](http://www.tinekevangeel.nl)

## KEYNOTE PRESENTER FERNE CAULKER

### *Creative Genius on Top of her Game*

Excerpted and reprinted from *Milwaukee Magazine*—  
*MilMag 2020 honorees 11/4/2020*. Used with permission.  
Online at [www.milwaukeeemag.com/the-winners-are-here-meet-the-2020-bettys/](http://www.milwaukeeemag.com/the-winners-are-here-meet-the-2020-bettys/)

Growing up in Sierra Leone, Ferne Caulker was surrounded by music. “We lived up on a mountain, where the breeze carried sounds of traditional drums and people singing,” recalls Caulker, age 72. “My father also loved classical music.”

Those early memories would continue to imbue Caulker’s creative life for decades. As a young woman, Caulker, who moved to Milwaukee in high school after her father’s death, studied under master modern dancer Katherine Dunham. But a 1969 trip to Ghana inspired Caulker to take her own, unique path. “I was standing at Elmina Castle, one of the stops on the Atlantic slave trade,” says Caulker, “and it hit me: I can be a connector.”

When she returned to Milwaukee, Caulker developed her own dance form, one that pulled from both ballet and traditional African dance. She called it the “Caulker method” and built her 51-year-old pioneering dance company, Ko-Thi, around it. “It is about rethinking what stories we tell,” says Caulker, who served as the company’s artistic director until January. “What we did was create something new based in something very old.”



Photo credit: Aliza Baran

## 2022 CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

### **Peter T. Alter: Presenter**

*Presentation: Peter will show photos and talk about the history of Chicago, focusing on the waves of European immigrants who made it their home. He will also talk on the Settlement House movement in the early 20th century.*

In his role as the Chief Historian and Director of the Studs Terkel Center for Oral History, Alter works on exhibitions and online projects and teaches in DePaul University’s



Peter T. Alter

public history program. As the director of the Studs Terkel Center for Oral History, Alter develops new Museum oral history projects. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Arizona (2000) and has worked at the Museum for more than twenty years.

### **Adony Beniares: Presenter and 2022 Heritage Awardee**

*Presentation: Connecting the World via Zoom*

A first-generation Greek American, Adony moved to the San Francisco Bay area from Wyoming. Since the age of 18, he has either lived or worked in Sunnyvale, California. Adony and his wife Becky currently share their home with four adorable cats. A folk dance generalist, he loves being on the dance floor.

Adony is an instigator and innovator, with a tremendous amount of energy and the ability to coordinate large and complex projects. When COVID struck in 2020, he suggested taking folk dancing online via a Zoom party. Shortly after, Adony and many friends took on the task of taking folk dance camps online. Adony is the project lead of the four successful online Stockton Folk Dance Camps, and as part of various teams works on 10–15 other events.



Adony at the 2016 NFO conference.  
Photo by Roo Lester.

### **Paul Collins: Presenter**

*Presentation: “The Unique Journey of a Folk/Square/Round/Contra Dancer”*

Paul Collins began dancing with his parents at the age of eight and has been an ethnic folk dance leader and square/contra dance caller since high school. While dancing with his parents’ adult group, he had the opportunity to call his first square dance at the age of 12.

Beginning with the safety of social isolation mandated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Paul founded the Virtual Dance Room

([virtualdanceroom.net](http://virtualdanceroom.net)) and recruited a team of dance instructors and leaders to deliver high quality and fun virtual dance sessions.



Paul Collins

### **Alexander Durtka, Jr. and Sharon Durtka: Presenters**

*Presentation: A Culture of Weaving Community; A perspective on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage*



will be explored as a means of weaving community and its role in living together in a multicultural society.

Alexander P. Durtka, Jr. is President and CEO of the International Institute of Wisconsin and director of the Holiday Folk Fair International. Al continues to reweave social networks to create new spaces for recognition, reconnection, and conversation locally and internationally.



Al and Sharon Durtka

Sharon Rae Landergott Durtka is a Cardinal Stritch University graduate and received a master's degree from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Doctorate from Berne University International Graduate School—St. Kitts-Nevis. She enthusiastically shares her expertise in education and her global perspective with teachers, learners, and communities throughout the world.

Weaving community is a way of life and a state of mind, not a series of actions. As humans we long for honest, deep connections, self-identity, self-esteem, and relationships with others.

The National Folk Organization weaves together music and dance and crafts from around the world, and even from our next-door neighbors, bringing us together to build community.

**Jeanette Geslisen: Presenter**

*Presentation: Jeanette will teach Gækkebreve, a Danish spring tradition, at the 2022 NFO conference.*

Jeanette is Assistant Professor of Dance at Brigham Young University and serves as Artistic Director of the International Folk Dance Ensemble, working with students to create cultural presentations from around the world. She currently serves as the President of NFO. Hailing from Odense, Denmark, she brings native cultural awareness to her pursuits.



Jeanette Geslisen



Steve Kotansky. Photo courtesy of Stockton Folk Dance Camp

**Steve Kotansky: Presenter**

*Presentation: Stephen Kotansky is a featured dance teacher at the 2022 NFO Conference Events.*

Stephen Kotansky began folk dancing in his youth, performed with many groups, has lived and traveled in Europe, and has made many research

trips to the Balkans and Hungary. He is a versatile dancer and teacher who shares in-depth knowledge and intense joy in dancing.

**Susan Snyder-Kotansky: Presenter**

*Presentation: Táncház—Revival or Survival?*

Susan performed with the George Tomov, Kálmán Magyar's Hungária, and Ungaresca ensembles in NYC. She spent a year living in Budapest, attending the Folkdance Section of the State Ballet Institute and studied with the Bartók Ensemble under the direction of Sándor Timár. She has made many research trips to Hungary and Transylvania and, together with her husband Stephen Kotansky, founded the Guzsaly Ensemble.



Susan Snyder-Kotansky. Photo by Roo Lester.

Stephen and Susan were instrumental in planting the seeds for the Táncház movement in the U.S., teaching classes and inviting teachers from Hungary. Together they teach Hungarian, Balkan, and international dance classes worldwide.

**Roo Lester: Presenter**

*Presentation: Roo will teach international and Nordic dances*



Roo Lester

A "La La Lander"\* by birth, Roo Lester began folk dancing as part of "rainy day" PE at school and hasn't stopped yet. The experience sparked an interest that eventually led to a Master's in Dance with a focus on Dance Ethnology from UCLA. Roo is an international and Scandinavian folk dancer, researcher, teacher, camp director, and consultant for a variety of events, and is active with the National Folk Organization. Her

hallmarks include clear, positive teaching that incorporates basic concepts of dance for dancers of all levels in a fun and lighthearted manner. Roo lives in the SW suburbs of Chicagoland.

\*La La Lander—La La Land as in Los Angeles and used in the movie.

**Alex-Marković: Presenter**

Alex Marković received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Chicago. His thesis focuses on identity politics and musical performance among Romani brass musicians in Vranje, Serbia.

He is a dancer, educator, and musician who actively researches, teaches, and performs folk dances from the

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

Balkans, particularly Serbian, Romani, and Greek. Alex contributed a fascinating article to EEFC's Forum Folkloristika: "Beat That Drum! Exploring the Politics and Performance among Roma Brass Musicians in Vranje, Serbia." It is available to read on the EEFC website.



Alex Marković

## Dit Olshan: Presenter

*Presentation: Dit Olshan and Edith Spear will share their lifelong dance adventures at the 2022 NFO conference.*

Dit Olshan has been teaching international folk dance in the Chicago area for more than 40 years, at one time leading three separate groups each week. Currently, Dit leads a Wednesday night group at the Skokie Park District.



Dit Olshan. Photo by Linda Schub

While teaching math in the Chicago Public Schools, Dit implemented an extra-curricular program of international folk dance at the district level, conducting district teacher workshops while teaching classes at her own school. She has traveled, studying dance in Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Scotland.

## Edith Spear: Presenter

*Presentation: At the 2022 NFO conference Edith Spear and Dit Olshan will share their life-long adventures.*

The date was March 5, 1929. Edith Spear was born, then raised and educated in Chicago, as were both of her parents. When she was about five years old, she was enrolled in a dance class and performed at Soldier Field!



Edith Spear

Edie earned a B.S. in Mathematics from Roosevelt College, now University. That led to working on the Nautilus, the first nuclear submarine at Argonne National Laboratory.

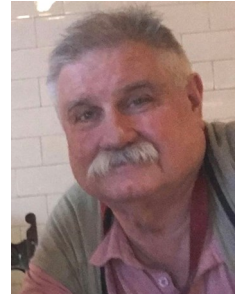
Al Spear and Edie began dating and on their first date, he took her folk dancing at the University of Chicago, to a group under the direction of Vyts Beliajus. Al & Edie really got along and married a year later. They kept going folk

dancing and danced with Vyts for many years. To this day, we find Edie at many dance events.

## John Parrish: Presenter

*Presentation: The Rites of Spring, an exploration of folk customs in the season of renewal*

John Parrish has been interested in folk traditions since his youth as an army brat in Europe. In the mid '70s (coincidentally, his current age) he took up the tapan (double-sided folk drum). He organized a folk festival and special workshops in Chicago from 1989 until the late '90s and has assisted in events run by others.



John Parrish

John sings in a variety of languages, some of which people recognize. His most frequent folk activity of late has been singing and playing music on Zoom events.

## Marcie Van Cleave: Presenter and 2022 Heritage Awardee

*Presentation: Connecting the world through Zoom (with Adony Beniares)*

Marcie Van Cleave spent her "growing up" years in Michigan, where the only dance experience she had was at the Girl Scouts' fourth grade Father-Daughter Square Dance. She moved to Boston after college. In 1988, Marcie took on the role of Executive Director of the Folk Arts Center, a non-profit organization established in 1975, dedicated to promoting the traditional folk arts, particularly music and dance. She is still at the helm of FAC and is as excited about the possibilities for the organization, its programs, and the people who enjoy them as she was 33 years ago!



Marcie Van Cleave

## Anne Von Bibra: Presenter

*Presentation: Drawing on her thirty-plus years teaching at St. Olaf, Anne will provide a glimpse of her work with the Veselica ensemble and the challenges of mounting a concert during the pandemic. Then she will delve into a discussion of the impact of shifting gender perceptions on the transmission of "traditional" dance forms in higher education, drawing on ethnographic work with her students.*



Anne at the 2016 NFO Conference in Santa Clara.

Anne von Bibra is a long-time member of the Dance Department at Saint Olaf College, where she

Photo by Roo Lester.

teaches social/ballroom dance, international dance, and world dance traditions. She is also the artistic director of Veselica International Dance Ensemble, one of two dance companies in the department. Anne has also had an active performing career, dancing with Avaz International Dance Theatre and Karpatok in Los Angeles and with Ethnic Dance Theatre and Sumunar Gamelan and Dance Ensemble in Minneapolis/St. Paul.



*Veselica performing an Uzbek suite.  
Photo by Stephen Conger Garcia (used with permission).*

## NFO CONFERENCE “FRINGE” EVENTS

Jo Crawford, Westford, Massachusetts

If you have the time, there are several non-NFO events and locations that could be added to your visit. The Annual Chicago Spring Folk Dance Fest will be held the weekend before: March 25–27. See more information at <https://www.balkanskiigri.com>.

Downtown Chicago boasts great theaters, restaurants, and museums. Visit the Chicago Art Institute, the Field Museum (especially First Nations and Asia collections), the Museum of Science and Industry, and the National Museum of Puerto Rican Art and Culture. Buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright are scattered throughout the area. Many ethnic Chicago neighborhoods, like the Irish, Haitian, Ukrainian, Greek, Polish, etc., boast their own museums.

Evanston offers the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian and the Halim Museum of Time & Glass (clocks and stained glass). The local Evanston Monday Night Folk Dancers should be meeting nearby on April 4. Let me know if you are interested in coming early or staying late, and perhaps we can line up some group tours.

## SAN ANTONIO FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

Warm wishes for 2022, and for better days for dancing together! Enjoy the compilation below of festivals past and visit [SAFDE.org](http://SAFDE.org) for updates on this year’s events. The first one takes place March 25–27, 2022. We hope you join us!

We are “Better When Dancing”: [youtu.be/dRYmjtrbFFk](https://youtu.be/dRYmjtrbFFk)

We’re planning to host an in-person festival on our traditional dance space at the International Folk Culture Center on the campus of the beautiful Our Lady of the Lake University. We will also broadcast portions of the festival on Zoom, so you can join us remotely!

⇒ World-class teachers:

- Jaap Leegwater (dances of Bulgaria)
- Mea Nordenfelt (international dances)
- Andy Taylor-Blenis (international dances and stretching sessions)
- Mihai David (dances of Romania)

⇒ Dance parties with live music and a surprise dance performance or two

⇒ Culture corner

⇒ Dance performances on Sunday at Rolling Oaks Mall

With COVID-19 still around us, we are taking precautions to safeguard everyone’s health.

OLLU is our event host, and SAFDF is obligated to abide by OLLU’s COVID-19 policy. This policy evolves with the surrounding COVID-19 circumstances. Currently, this policy requires everyone on the OLLU campus to wear a mask, and encourages everyone to be COVID-vaccinated.

At the festival, we will provide:

- A face mask for you if you don’t have one.
- Hand sanitizer
- A temperature-checking station.

If the COVID situation gets even worse around festival time, please understand and forgive us if we have to cancel the in-person festival. We have alternate plans for still having great dance fun virtually, and we’ll communicate them to you over e-mail and on this site. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding!



## **“SEGREGATED LINES FOR RAVNO ORO”: AN EXCERPT FROM THE UNIQUE JOURNEY OF A FOLK/SQUARE/ROUND/CONTRA DANCER**

Paul Collins, Chicago, Illinois

As a high-school student and a young college student, one of the folk dance groups that I attended regularly was Sunday night dancing at the University of Chicago’s Ida Noyes Hall on the northeast corner of 59th St. and Woodlawn Ave.—directly across from the world-famous Rockefeller Chapel.

During the school year, this group met on Sunday evenings from about 7:30 to 11 p.m., and it usually had between 80 and 120 dancers and hangers-on in attendance each week. Many of the key players in this group were also in the student performing group *Balkanske Igre*, which had rehearsals on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In the summer quarter, this group moved to meeting on Friday evenings outdoors in the parking lot between Ida Noyes Hall and the Woodward Commons dormitory. Dancing outdoors gave the group great public exposure, and attendance swelled to between 90 and 140 for multiple reasons. The Hyde Park neighborhood was a hotbed of folk dancing, and one could dance almost every night.

Each summer, locals who were away at college returned to dance. Many high schoolers who participated in the U of C’s hosted National Science Foundation (NSF) program who resided in Woodward Commons came out to see what was going on and joined in. U of C alumni who had danced in the group before moving on came back for a summer visit. And, many people who just happened to be walking or driving by the area and who heard the music or saw the action often drifted in to watch.

Yellow construction sawhorses were set up at the ends of the parking lot to block traffic, and these sawhorses proved a secure barrier for those who were unsure about joining in. Each year, a number of those drop-ins would cross that barrier after watching for a while, and they would join in the dance. Every year, a number of these watchers became hooked on folk dancing, and some who displayed dance acumen even made it to the big-time by being asked to join *Balkanske Igre*.

The Ida Noyes group (later known as the U of C Folk Dancers when I organized the more formal student organization in 1967) drew not only from the student body, but also residents from the greater communities surrounding the University and Hyde Park. Participants came from areas that included Woodlawn, Kenwood, South Shore, Washington Park, Lake Meadows/Prairie Shores, Roseland, Park Manor, and Avalon Park. There were also folks who lived in or near downtown, and even from as far

North as Old Town. Participants also included outliers from the North, West and Far South sides of Chicago, as well as a few suburbanites.

There were a number of U of C faculty and staff, as well as students, faculty, and staff from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), the University of Illinois (The Circle), and other colleges who attended this group. A significant number of Chicago-area high school students were regulars in the group, including me, Donna Banks, Sharon Banks, Freddie Penn, Winston Trotter, Debbie Ginzberg (Szajnberg), Sharon Johnson, Maria Jackson, Darice Crawford (Griffin), Lynn Karjala, Marilyn Bergstrom, Connie Davis, Victor Friedman, Eric Reid, Diana Schwartz (Alsberg), and Karen Schwartz (Allen), to name a few. The Ida Noyes group leaders, Steve Sachs (Albuquerque, NM) and Nahoma Weinper Sachs (Asha Clinton, Caanan, NY), knew about us high schoolers and told us to keep our mouths shut about our age and school status, and looked the other way. Steve and Nahoma were very supportive of our love for folk dancing, and they still are today.

Another sub-group of participants included immigrants who were looking for some connection to the “old country,” as well as for ways to make connections with Americans. Those included “George” (Greek, owner of the “Campus Foods” grocery store), who would come on Sunday nights so he could do acrobatic flips in the *Tsamikos*; Russka and Slavka (Bulgarian mother and daughter), who loved to lead *Pravo Trakiysko Horo*; and Alex and Vele (Macedonian brothers), who liked to lead *Lesnoto* or *Sadilo Mome*. So the music and dancing from so many places provided a relatively safe haven for cultural and social exchanges on many levels.

I diverged greatly from the intended theme of this article to provide some background information about the diverse demographics of the Ida Noyes group at that time.

On one particular Sunday night, (my best guess is March or April of 1966), I had sensed something very unusual. I noticed that there were some 35-plus persons of color in attendance that evening. This was about twice the usual and customary number of persons of color in attendance at a Sunday-night dance.

The dances were announced by either Steve or Nahoma, and sometimes by Carl Sharp, a Hyde Park hanger-on. Carl would often say something like, “For the Israeli individual, the next dance will be *Haroa Haktana*.” Steve would invite people to a mixer by saying, “Partners all for a dance from Czechoslovakia, *Doudlebska Polka*.” Steve would usually invite people to dance *Ravno Oro* by announcing: “Segregated lines for *Ravno Oro*”—meaning that dancers were segregated by gender in the Macedonian style.

I looked around and came to the conclusion that having 35-plus (I lost count) persons of color at a regular folk dance evening might be an extremely rare occurrence, (i.e.,

that statistically, this would probably never happen at a regular IFD dance group again).

So I said to the folks nearest me, “Segregated lines—let’s do it! We won’t ever have a second chance for this.”

I then went around the hall recruiting all people of color (regardless of gender) to join us in a “segregated line.” The extremely long introduction of Ravno Oro gave me plenty of time. As I recall, the line consisted of African-Americans, Dominicans, Haitians, Nigerians, Indonesians, Indians, Pakistanis, Mexicans, Brazilians, Turks, and Arabs. As I reflect on this today, people in this line probably included Paul Collins, Carl Sharp, Freddie Penn, Winston Trotter, Tisa Warren, Sharon Johnson, Maria Jackson, Antonio de Sadier, Bill Lee, Hoshang Khambatta, Jim Morris, John Stanislaus, Donna Banks, Sharon Banks, Sam Banker (Bangor), Shamshir Sharif, Maria Paznik, Frieda Murray, Jerome Norris, Vijay Ramakrishnan, Donn Allen, et al.

Keep in mind that this happened right in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement, and that segregation and desegregation were terms and concepts that were on most everyone’s mind every day.

I did this tongue-in-cheek. My objectives were satire and irony.

When a couple of white males tried to join in our line, I requested them to form their own line by gender, or by whatever category they desired.

I recall that one of these men (who shall remain nameless) became so angry at being refused admission to our “segregated line” that he grabbed his jacket, stormed out of the room, and went home before the long introduction to Ravno had even finished.

I felt neither regret nor remorse for refusing admission to people who were not like us—not that “we/us” were all alike, anyway.

I instigated this merely as a prank, not to make a political statement, although there probably was an implicit political statement therein.

After Ravno ended, I recall that about ten people came up to me to give feedback. Half of them said, “That was very cool,” and the other half said “That was in poor taste.”

I would surmise that the guy who left, and some others (who may have been or felt excluded), had now experienced and felt what many of those of us of color have experienced and felt in thousands of everyday situations in real life—far beyond the artificial constructs of the international folk dance (and other similar) communities.

## MAINEWOODS DANCE CAMP 2022

Fryeburg, Maine



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

### Session One, Aug 14-20

Aaron Alpert, Israeli  
Ercüment Kılıç, Turkish and more  
Steve Kotansky, Balkan  
Musicians: Pixton-Poirier Band  
Plus Scottish Country Dance  
with Patricia Williams

### Session Two, Aug 21-27

Roberto Bagnoli, International  
Monique Legaré, Hungarian  
Miroslav Bata Marcetic, Serbian  
Musicians: Balkan Fields Band  
Plus Oldies with Mainewoods Staff

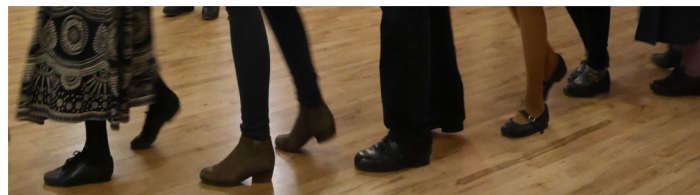
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Full page 7.5" wide x 10"	\$150
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1/4 page 3.5" wide x 5"	\$75 (1 time) \$65 each (2+ issues)
Business card 3.5" wide x 2"	\$40 (1 time) \$35 each (2+ issues)

Payment is due when the ad is placed; payment must be included with each ad.

Make checks payable to the NFO and send to:

Taunya Lund, NFO Treasurer  
15221 N. CR 400 E.,  
Eaton, IN 47338



## JUNE CAMP 2022

Mady Newfield, St. Charles, Illinois

Mark your calendars for June 2–5, 2022! June Camp will be held on the campus of Trinity International University (not sponsored by Trinity International University), with featured teacher Caspar Bik.

We are very pleased to be returning to an in-person camp this year at our new location in the Northern Chicago suburbs. With a well-maintained wood floor, air-conditioned housing, and award-winning food services, we feel sure that you will enjoy the venue. In addition to Caspar Bik's workshops, we will continue our traditions of evening dance parties with live music, a dance exchange featuring local teachers, and ample time to socialize. Further information, including pricing, scheduling, and registration, will follow.

The 2022 June Camp Committee is: Adony Beniares, Elizabeth Bretscher, Jennifer Forbes-Bailey, Nina Lusterman, Kathleen Mazurek, Mady Newfield, Cricket Raybern, and Steve Salemsen. Find us online:

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/junecampifd/>

Facebook: [facebook.com/June-Camp-106219465213965](https://www.facebook.com/June-Camp-106219465213965)  
and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/junecamp>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/junecampifd/>



## National Folk Organization Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Individual/Organization (please include name of contact person)

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the National Folk Organization? \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Dues\*

Student.....	\$15 US
Individual. ....	\$30 US
Household. ....	\$40 US
Groups: recreation, festivals, performing . . . . .	\$50 US
Lifetime Member.....	\$1,000 US
Library subscription.. . . . .	\$15 US

*\*International postage surcharge please add \$4 US*

New Member     Current Member

Brief description of your interests:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: NFO Membership Services, 15221 N. CR 400 E., Eaton, IN 47338**

## FOLK DANCE EVENTS NETWORK

*Due to COVID-19, events may be virtual. Please refer to the event websites for information.*

**February 11-14: FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL WINTER WORKSHOP**, Orlando, Florida. Celebrate 50 years of the Florida Folk Dance Council, with Jaap Leegwater and Mea Nordenfelt teaching Bulgarian and Beyond. Info: [folkdance.org](http://folkdance.org).

**March 13-24: FOLK TOUR TO ISRAEL**, led by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman, and Lee Friedman. Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed, and Golan Heights. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**March 25-27: SAN ANTONIO FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL**, in person. Teachers: Jaap Leegwater (Bulgarian), Mea Nordenfelt (international), Andy Taylor-Blenis (international, stretching sessions), and Mihai David (Romanian). Info: [safdf.org](http://safdf.org).

**March 25-27: SPRING FESTIVAL** and Balkanske Igre's 57th anniversary, Chicago, Illinois. Info: [balkanskeigre.org](http://balkanskeigre.org).

**March 30-April 3: 2022 NFO CONFERENCE** in Evanston Illinois. Info: [tinyurl.com/2022NFO](http://tinyurl.com/2022NFO).

**May 2-11: FOLK TOUR TO ALBANIA AND KOSOVO**, led by Lee Otterholt. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com) or (201) 836-0362.

**May 21-June 2: FOLK TOUR TO PERU, BOLIVIA, AND CHILE**. Led by Martha Tavera. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**May 27-30: NORTHWEST FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL**. Currently planning a hybrid festival, with both live and online events. Info: [nwfolklife.org](http://nwfolklife.org).

**June 1-24, 2022: TOUR TO GEORGIA & ARMENIA** with Maurits and Tineke van Geel. Info: [tinekevangeel.nl/tours](http://tinekevangeel.nl/tours).

**June 2-5: JUNE CAMP**, Trinity International University, Deerfield, Illinois. Featuring Caspar Bik. Info: [sites.google.com/site/junecampifd](http://sites.google.com/site/junecampifd).

**June 8-21: FOLK TOUR TO POLAND**. Led by Richard Schmidt. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**June 14-28: FOLK TOUR TO NORWAY, DENMARK, AND SWEDEN**. Led by Lee Otterholt. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**June 24-July 5, 2022: TOUR TO IRAN** with Maurits and Tineke van Geel. Info: [tinekevangeel.nl/tours](http://tinekevangeel.nl/tours).

**August 1-14: FOLK TOUR TO BULGARIA**. Koprivishitsa Festival Tour! Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**August 10-21, 2022: TOUR TO CZECH REPUBLIC** with Folk Arts Center of New England and Dvorana. Info: [facone.org](http://facone.org).

**September 4: SCANFEST**, Vasa Park, Budd Lake, New Jersey. Info: [scanfest.org](http://scanfest.org).

**October 8-21: FOLK TOUR TO GREECE AND THE GREEK ISLANDS**. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**October 24-November 6: FOLK TOUR TO ROMANIA**. Led by Jim Gold, with Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

## 2023

**June 14-27: FOLK TOUR TO GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, AND SWITZERLAND**. Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour. Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**August 5-17: FOLK TOUR TO IRELAND**. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

**September 14-27: FOLK TOUR TO SPAIN**. Led by Lee Otterholt. Info: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com). (201) 836-0362.

If there is an event you would like see included on the Folk Dance Events Network list (page 15) in the future, please contact NFO News Editor Kathy Bruni at [kdbruni@gmail.com](mailto:kdbruni@gmail.com), before January 10 for the February issue, April 10 for the May issue, August 10 for the September issue, and November 10 for the December (conference-focused) issue.

You may also choose to pay for an advertisement; the deadlines for ads are the same as for events.



National Folk Organization  
15221 N. CR 400E  
Eaton, IN 47338

FIRST CLASS

# 2022 NFO Conference

## Evanston IL March 30 - April 3

[tinyurl.com/2022NFO](https://tinyurl.com/2022NFO)



*Photo credit: Patrick Hughes, Jr.*