

FEDERATION FOLK DANCER

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GREETINGS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The coming of another New Year finds your Federation ever stronger in every way -- more clubs, more active dancers, more projects under way.

Let us carry on, despite the obvious difficulties brought by wartime conditions, in the firm belief that what we are doing has a sufficiently large contribution to make to justify the time and effort we are devoting to it.

With the confident hope that the next twelve-month will bring back those who have had to leave for more serious business, and that our organization will continue to grow bigger and better, again, we say, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Your Officers

A NEW VENTURE

For months the Council has been working toward the time when the Federation could blossom forth with a monthly publication. Many difficulties have held it back.

With the coming of the New Year, it was determined to get the project under way, even though it might be on a very modest scale. This, then, is the beginning.

Suggestions from the entire membership are earnestly solicited. More than that-- active help is needed. Can you "smell" news? Can you write articles interesting to folk-dance "bugs"? Can you type? Do you have access to duplicating equipment?

If you can do any of these, or anything else that will aid in the regular publication of this paper, inform the Federation officers, either personally or through your club representative.

It is hoped that soon the paper may be issued in sufficient quantities so that everyone may have a personal copy. For the present, it is urged that each club be sure that a copy is posted in a conspicuous place in its hall for all of the club members to read.

The officers wish to emphasize that everything about this issue of the paper is purely tentative --- "Subject to change, with notice."

If there is anything you don't particularly like, please suggest something BETTER. Thanks a lot!

FESTIVAL NEWS

Oakland high school will be the site of the next Federation Festival, to be held on Sunday, January 23, from 1 to 6 p.m.

Oakland Do-Si-Do Club, with the help of the Oakland Recreation Department, will sponsor the January affair.

Groups having demonstration dances up their sleeves should drop a note to Isabelle Johnson, 2826 Valdez, Oakland (Templebar 0998), giving name and type of dance.

On the corner of MacArthur and Park Boulevards, the school is very easy to reach. It is a mile or so east of Lake Merritt, just out of downtown Oakland.

Drivers can simply follow MacArthur Blvd (Highway 50). The school is about four miles east of the SF-Oakland Bridge.

If no auto ride is to be had, hop an "A" train, and transfer at First Ave. to a #18 street car, which goes right to the school. "B" train riders should transfer at MacArthur and Grand, to a #57 bus.

Tentative plans are also being made by the Gateawingers to hold the February Festival at the Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Avenue, in San Francisco.

FLASH!!

S F CENTRAL YMCA REPORTS FEBRUARY FESTIVAL TO BE SATURDAY EVENING FEBRUARY TWELFTH STOP VALENTINE THEME TO BE FEATURE OF EVENING!

See you Jan. 23 and Feb. 12!

Dance Patterns! An answer to the query, "Just how is this dance done?"

A very active Research Committee, under the chairmanship of Lucille Czarnowski, of the U. of Cal. Dept. of Physical Education, and adviser of the UC student dance group, is now engaged in the project of preparing written descriptions of the many dances commonly done by folk dance groups in this area.

Other Committee members now working on this big job are Clarice Dechent of Chang's and the S F State College, Henry "Buzz" Glass, past president of the Federation, of Lodi and waypoints, and Ted Lyman of the Berkeley Folk Dancers and the Scandinavian group. The Federation officers are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Definitely planned is the issuance of a set of introductory material, such as brief explanations of standard steps, useful abbreviations to cut down time and effort in describing dances, and similar notes of value to leaders and learners alike.

As for the dances themselves, the Committee is preparing suggested "patterns" based upon whatever material is already available, and upon the members' own wide personal experience in dancing and leading in this area. These outlines will be made available to all who wish to examine them, and comments for possible improvements are urgently invited by the Research Committee.

Patterns will thus be evolved which can be generally agreed upon as being the manner in which the dances will be done at Federation affairs. It is hoped that that will eliminate some difficulties in doing those dances for which the complete patterns are not now uniform throughout the various clubs. Some of these now cause "traffic jams" at Festivals, inter-club parties, and exhibitions.

In order to ensure that all may have an opportunity to contribute ideas, the Committee is now furnishing to each club sample forms showing the plan proposed for presenting the dances. National origin, history, music, references--as well as a detailed description of the steps of the dance itself--are covered. Comments on these forms should be put into the hands of some member of the Committee by January 15, in order that they may be used at a Committee meeting planned for January 16.

It is expected that some dances will be ready in written form for perusal and suggestions at the January Festival. Final copies of a few dances will probably be ready at the February Festival for general distribution.

Dances will be released in loose-leaf form as fast as they can be put into final shape. A small charge will probably be made to cover necessary costs.

Judging from the wide interest which has been expressed in this type of project, it is expected that most folk dancers will want to start personal collections of the dance sheets. Such collections will be of both immediate and permanent value.

Federation Scrap-Book

A "must" for 1944 is the compilation of a Federation scrap-book.

Wanted are pictures, dance programs, posters, newspaper and magazine articles, club papers and cards, any other items of interest.

Comb your minds! Search your attics!

Don't rob your own collections, but send duplicate materials to the Federation's "scrap-pile".

Officers of the Federation

President:

Ed L Kremers, 2486 Shattuck,
#59, Berkeley 4; BERK.4759W.

Vice-President:

Ken Wade, 1295 - 42nd, San
Francisco 22; MONT.8729.

Secretary-Treasurer:

Clarice Dechent, 2739 Geary
Blvd, S.F. 18; WEST 7584.