

East European Folklife Center NEWS

ZU Visit, Mendo World Cup Highlight 1994 Mendocino Workshop

THE 1994 EEFC Mendocino Music & Dance Workshop is long over but many memories of camp times remain for the over 200 adults and children who attended the eight day session. The weather was wonderful, with clear sunny days and cool nights perfect for dancing, and for the first time in three years there were no problems with water shortages. Lots of prep work by the Woodlands crew, including laying wood chips around the dance and dining halls, helped cut back on the perennial dust problem, creating a more pleasant environment. Camp ran smoothly thanks to the hard work of the on-site staff of Lisa DeRensis, Nancy Leeper, and Rachel MacFarlane.

One major addition to the workshop this year was the first west coast appearance of New York's Zlatne Uste brass band. Many in attendance had never danced to live brass band music before and ZU opened the evening parties with a terrific, high energy set. A subgroup of the band stayed on the rest of the week, and contributed frequently to the kafana scene (ably run this year by kafanameister Laine Harris).

American folk influences made themselves felt a few times during the week. There was a cajun set at the kafana one night led by Lisa Leung that got everyone hopping, and Lache Cercel's Romanian set later in the week took off for the bayou a few times, to everyone's delight. Jim Garrett turned a bitov set into a clogging extravaganza that Petur transformed into a Bulgaro-American line dance.

EEFC was fortunate to have not one but two Bulgarian singers at Mendo this year. Pepa Koutcheva

and Tatiana Sarbinska impressed all with their singing, teaching and graciousness. The Saturday night party led by them was so highly anticipated that people turned it into a cabaret, listening raptly to these two wonderful performers.

A one-time-only event that marked this camp was the "Mendo World Cup." A simple bet was turned into a festival, complete with cheerleaders (dressed for the occasion), a referee, bands, and half-time entertainment with refreshments. It's hard to convey just how much fun this was. While Petur, Christos, Atilla, Josko, Mike, and Michael were battling it out on the field with surprising intensity, zurlas attacked gajda players, cheerleader incursions were repelled by mass onslaughts, and the brass band could barely play from laughing. It was a real village happening and capped off a great camp.

David Bilides

Musings on Ramblewood '94



WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING things have in common? Mark Levy in purple toga and tiara; Zlatne Uste and friends brass band playing a set in the pool au naturel; Bob Beer in grass skirt and red lips; Yves Moreau reading a Mickey Mouse comic book in Bulgarian; Arootasha, Arootasha, Arootasha-sha. Give up? These were some of the sillier moments of the 1994 Balkan Music and Dance Workshops at Camp Ramblewood, Maryland.

We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Balkan Camps in a new facility on the east coast. Set on 160 beautifully wooded acres amid the lush rolling hills of northeast Maryland, Camp Ramblewood provides a wonderful new home for us with its comfortable cabins, indoor plumbing, a large dining hall and kafana, two pools and plenty of space for classes. Yes, there were some problems, including beds that have seen better days, a dance hall that could have been a lot cooler, and cabins that could have been a little cleaner, but owners Harry and Lisa Leff have big plans for improvements. Next year they will provide new bed boards, a new floor in the dining hall, more vents and fans in the dance hall, and, best of all, a finished hardwood dance floor in the dance hall. We can't wait to see the changes.

The 1994 east coast workshop brought together an enthusiastic staff and campers from across the country. Janet Bradley was back, preparing delicious meals and snacks. Laine Harris, the kafanameister, insured us all sleepless nights with late night snacks, music and that all important liquid refreshment.

We celebrated 20 years of Balkan camps by honoring one of
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1995 Balkan Music & Dance Workshops



*Folk music and dance of Albania, Bosnia,
Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia,
Romania & Serbia*

Mendocino, California
June 24 - July 1

Camp Ramblewood, Maryland
July 22 - 30

sponsored by the
East European Folklife Center
P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403
503/344-6349, e-mail: merakli@aol.com

Notes from the Board

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the East European Folklife Center is pleased that you hold in your hands one of our efforts to remain in contact throughout the year. We hope you find our newsletter informative.

The Board has been busy with plans for 1995 and beyond. Thanks to the hard work of our Development Director, Craig Kurumada, EEFC received a substantial grant from the NEA to help run our 1995 camps. Craig's work will continue throughout this next year. The Board also welcomes our newly reorganized staff members, Nancy Leeper and Rachel MacFarlane.

The Board is fortunate to have two new members whose experience and thoughtfulness will greatly aid the decisions we will make to improve our service. Vlad Popovich, from suburban Buffalo, N.Y., and Jeanne Busch, from Columbia, Md., were present for their first Board meeting in September. The care they took in their discussions and deliberations during that meeting impressed us all. Continuing to serve the EEFC as your Board of Directors are: David Bilides, San Mateo, Calif.; Michael Leach, Rochester, N.Y.; George Long, Albany, N.Y.; Christine Montross, San Diego, Calif.; Laura Pannaman, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Steve Ramsey, Nevada City, Calif.; and Danilo Yanich, Hockessin, Del.

As a final note, the EEFC wants to acknowledge the contributions of a few people who greatly helped our efforts in the past year. Our thanks go to former Board members Margaret Loomis and Rachel MacFarlane. In addition, we would like to acknowledge former staff members Lisa DeRensis, Sandie Merrill, and Suze Stentz, as well as East Coast Advisory Coordinator, Jan Williams, for all their hard work. Thanks to all who have worked to make the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops such terrific experiences. We look forward to seeing you at camp in 1995!

Steve Ramsey
Publicity Committee Chair

Ramblewood from page 1

its driving forces. We held a coronation for Mark Levy, complete with purple toga, twinkling tiara, sceptre, a royal dancing girl, a food taster and the Ethnic Police—all to the off tune strains of "God Save the Queen." What better way to say thank you?

Our Hawaiian auction saw enthusiastic bidders spend outrageous sums of money for items that ranged from the sublime (\$500 for a gourmet meal prepared by chef Janet Bradley) to the ridiculous (\$75 for Yves Moreau to read a Mickey Mouse comic book in Bulgarian). Our auctioneers Jerry Kisslinger, George Bradley, and Yves Moreau were assisted by the always lovely Bob Beer, who appeared in true island style in a grass skirt ensemble, complete with duck decoys. Where is a good picture when you need one? The auction was interrupted only once, when Bob led us all in the Arootasha ritual.

The pools provided blessed relief from the summer heat. It was also the scene of the now famous Zlatne Uste & Friends underwater, in the buff, brass band set. You

haven't lived until you've heard a tuba under water.

What camp was really about, though, was music and dancing. To paraphrase a recent evaluation by an anonymous camper, you couldn't throw a rock in a bush without hitting someone trying to wrestle a gajda into submission. Ramblewood echoed with the hot sounds of Yuri Yunakov and his clarinet classes, the big sounds of Catherine Foster and the Brass Band, the informal classes held by guest of the board, Radoy Guergiev for the advanced tambura and gudulka players, the beginning tupan class that started each day in the barn (and that serenaded me each morning as I meditated). If you listened more closely, you could hear Brenna MacCrimmon's Macedonian singers or Pepa Koutcheva and the bitov ensemble singers. In the dance hall, Zeljko Jergan's classes worked to master his wonderful Croatian dances. You couldn't help but feel good and contented, surrounded by all the music and dancing.

At the end of the week we all had a hard time leaving. One

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From the staff

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE OF *EEFC News*! This issue replaces our regular fall mailing, but you will still receive a brochure with complete information on the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops later this winter. EEFC has seen many positive changes over the past few years, and this newsletter is a way that we can share more information on the organization and the Workshops with you. In the spirit of two-way communication, we also invite you to send us your comments and suggestions for this new venture.

Subsequent issues will include brief articles on special events planned for the workshops, calls for volunteer and scholarship assistance, information from the Board of Directors, teacher profiles, and other items of interest to those interested in Balkan music and dancing.

EEFC is currently managing the Workshops and other activities out of our offices in Eugene, Oregon and Arcata, California. If you have any questions about the upcoming workshops, or about EEFC in general, feel free to contact Nancy Leeper or Rachel MacFarlane at the mailing address, phone, or e-mail address listed in the column to the right. Inquiries on fundraising/donations should be made to Craig Kurumada at 707/822-8045 in Arcata (e-mail: ckurumada@aol.com).

EEFC IS GEARING UP FOR ANOTHER season of exciting music and dance activities at the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops in California and Maryland. Once again we are requesting your assistance in helping us publicize the camps. If you wish to distribute the flyer included with this mailing, please photocopy it on bright paper and post or distribute it in your area. Some suggestions are listed on the following page for ways to help with our publicity.

One particularly useful way to assist us with publicity is to distribute copies of the complete brochure at events in your area when it becomes available in February. Please fill out the reply form on the next page if you are able to assist us in this manner.

Last year over 130 of you helped with publicity by distributing flyers and brochures at events, and many, many more helped by telling others about your experiences at one or both of the workshops. We would

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East European Folklife Center News is published by the East European Folklife Center, P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403.

For information about the East European Folklife Center, the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, or to be included on our mailing list, contact us at the address above, call 503/344-6349, or send e-mail to merakli@aol.com. Address all comments or submissions to this newsletter to Editor, EEFC News.

EEFC Administrative Staff, 1994-95

Nancy Leeper,
Administrative Director
Rachel MacFarlane,
Program Director & Office Manager
Craig Kurumada,
Development Director

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Jeanne Busch
Michael Leach,
Secretary
George Long,
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Christine Montross
Laura Pannaman,
Advisory Liaison
Vlad Popovich
Steve Ramsey
Danilo Yanich,
President

Advisory Coordinators

West Coast
Ann Norton
415/873-5063

East Coast
position vacant

Minutes from the Sept. 1994 EEFC Board of Directors meeting are available from Michael Leach, Secretary. Contact him at 88 Highland Parkway, Rochester, NY 14620 (or e-mail: mikeg@gauss.math.rochester.edu).

You can help!

YOU CAN HELP ensure continuing success for the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops by distributing flyers and brochures at regular and special events in your area. We have listed different ways to help us spread the word about our Workshops below.

Preliminary Flyers. This year, to help conserve EEFC's financial resources, we would like to ask you to photocopy the enclosed flyer for distribution in your area. If this is impossible, please contact us and we will send a packet of flyers to you as soon as possible.

Brochures. Complete information on the Workshops will be mailed in February. If you are able to distribute brochures for us, please let us know by filling out the form on this page and returning it as soon as possible to our office.

- **Post copies of the flyer** in places where it will be seen by others interested in Balkan music and dance, such as churches, community centers, and ethnic clubs or restaurants.
- **Musicians:** If you perform or teach, carry flyers to your concerts, workshops and classes.
- **Dancers:** Pass out flyers to your folkdancing friends and acquaintances and encourage them to join our mailing list.
- **At ethnic music and/or dance events,** as organizers if you can put flyers out on a table for participants to pick up.
- **Distribute a few flyers to ethnic dance and music performing groups** in your area. Remember our outstanding vocal classes—pass out flyers to members of choral ensembles.
- **Post flyers at dance studios, schools, and universities,** especially in the music and dance departments.
- **Talk about the workshops!** Our best advertising is the good will you spread when you tell others about your experience at a Balkan Music & Dance Workshop!

Dear Friend of Balkan Music and Dance:

The East European Folklife Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization which sponsors the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, which take place every summer on the east and west coasts. They are unique opportunities for learning and enjoying the music and dance traditions of Southeastern Europe and of Balkan communities in the U.S.

We need your financial support to ensure the continuation of the Balkan Workshops. Each year our expenses increase and our financial resources continue to be very limited. We are applying for grant funding from government and private sources, but competition is fierce.

We need your help! Please consider a donation of \$25 or more. The EEFC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization, so your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

NOTE: Please consider sponsoring a fund-raising event in your area to benefit the EEFC and the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops. An event such as a concert, dance, or film showing could raise funds, publicize the Workshops, and could be great fun too! Let me know if you are interested; we can facilitate your event in a number of ways. Also, if you donate supplies which are used at camp (everything from copy paper to drink coolers) please let us know as well!

We especially thank our regular participants for their ongoing support! Your generous responses to this letter and our fund-raising auctions have helped our financial situation a great deal.

Sincerely,
Craig Kurumada
EEFC Development Director, 707/822-8045



EEFC Songbook

160 Songs from Albania, Bosnia,
Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece,
Macedonia, Romania and Serbia
with full translations and index

\$13.00
includes shipping

Send check or money order in U.S. funds to
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P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403

- ☐ Yes! I want to help the East European Folklife Center and the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops with a contribution.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___\$100 ___\$___

- ☐ Yes! I would like to help publicize the workshops.

I'll photocopy the enclosed flyer for distribution now, but please send me a packet of ___final brochures when they're ready in February.

- ☐ Yes! I'd like to purchase an EEFC Songbook.

I am enclosing a check for \$13 (\$10 plus \$3 shipping).

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Tel & e-mail: _____

Please make checks out to the **East European Folklife Center.**

Mail to: East European Folklife Center, P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403.

Balkan Music & Dance Workshops 1995 T-shirt design contest

You can't keep it from us! We know you've been suppressing that secret desire for years now. You know—that desire to see your idea for the perfect Balkan Music & Dance Workshops t-shirt design emblazoned proudly across the chests of Balkan musicians and dancers from coast to coast. Here's your chance! Enter your creation in our first annual Balkan Music & Dance Workshop T-shirt Design Contest!

- Designs should be suitable for one color of ink on various colors of shirts. Submit suggested colors (both ink and shirts) along with camera ready line art by January 31, 1995 to the address below.
- Designs will be judged by a committee to be selected by the Publicity Committee of the Board of Directors, and the winner will be notified by the end of February.
- Designs should reflect the character and spirit of Balkan Camp, and must incorporate the text "1995 Balkan Music & Dance Workshops" (logo is available from us if you need it).
- The winner will receive an award consisting of 10% off Workshop tuition for one 1995 workshop, two t-shirts, fame, glory, and a guaranteed huge fuss to be made over you at the 1995 Balkan Music & Dance Workshop of your choice.

For complete contest information,
contact the EEFC office at 503/344-6349 (or merakli@aol.com).

Send designs to:
EEFC, P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403

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like to thank everyone who helped us in making the 1994 workshops a rousing success.

We WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS opportunity to thank those who have participated in our workshops in the past and to invite those of you who have not attended to join us this year. A complete brochure, which includes information on instructors, accommodations, and registration for both workshops will be mailed in February. Once again, we are offering undergraduate or graduate credit through the University of Oregon.

Nancy Leeper, *Administrative Director*
Rachel Macfarlane, *Program Director/Office Manager*
Craig Kurumada, *Development Director*

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minute you're celebrating with a few hundred of your friends, the next minute you're on the Jersey Turnpike. The transition is not an easy one. What makes it bearable? The knowledge that next year we'll all be doing it again. See you at Ramblewood in '95.

Laura Pannaman

Get on the 'net

The EEFC e-mail list is for discussion of all issues concerning the East European Folklife Center, and the events it sponsors, including the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops and EEFC fundraisers. We also encourage general discussions of Balkan music and dance. If you have any questions about the EEFC list, send them to
rich@ccrwest.org.

To subscribe, send the message
subscribe eefc
to majordomo@ccrwest.org.

EEFC Board of Directors Committees

A list of committees, their membership, and a brief description of the function of each is available through the EEFC office. Send business size, self-addressed stamped envelope to EEFC, P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403 for your copy.

East European Folklife Center
P.O. Box 3969
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