



1999

WORKSHOP DATES



MENDOCINO

JUNE 26 - JULY 4

RAMBLEWOOD

JULY 24 - AUGUST 1

BALKANALIA!

AUGUST 26 - 29



NEW FACES AT THE WORKSHOPS

WE ARE EXCITED to feature several new teachers at the 1999 workshops, including Lefteris Bournias, an up-and-coming instrumentalist from the Greek community of New York City, and two celebrated, seasoned musicians straight from the Old Country, Kremena Stancheva and Kurtiš Jašarev.

Lefteris Bournias

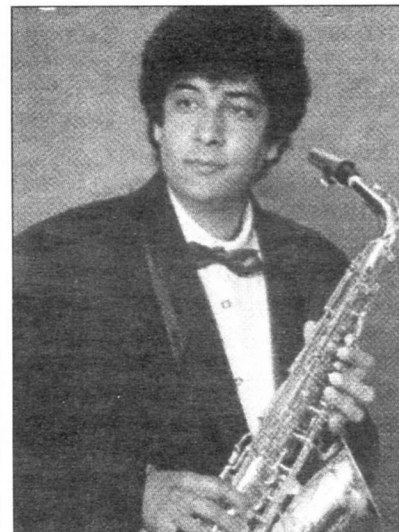
This young (not yet 30!) Greek-American clarinetist will teach intermediate and advanced Greek-style clarinet at the Mendocino workshop. A seasoned performer in his own right—he's played on stage since age 11—his interest in music has led him to seek extensive higher education. He is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Ethnomusicology at City University of New York. While he seeks his degree, he also teaches music privately as well as in the New York City public school system.

Lefteris' playing combines elements from traditional Greek forms, as well as Rom (Gypsy), "ala Turka," jazz, and classical styles. Evident in his playing is use of the microtonal system and maqam. In high demand, he plays in diverse styles with a number of ensembles, including his own *Apollo's Omologia*. He is working on a solo album which will be issued on the Traditional Crossroads label.



Kremena Stancheva

Born in the village of Kovachevtsi in the Shope region around Sofia, Kremena will teach intermediate and advanced Shope village singing at both the Mendocino and Ramblewood workshops. On her way to becoming an economist (she graduated from the Higher



Institute of Economics in Sofia), at age nineteen her fate took a fortuitous turn when she competed for and won a place in the chorus of the Folk Song Ensemble of the Bulgarian National Radio; she went on to join the celebrated, Grammy Award-winning *Mystère des Voix Bulgares* ensemble, with which she continues to sing to this day. Kremena has recorded over 100 songs with the Radio Ensemble, which appear on various recordings; look particularly for those with her late singing partner and beloved friend Vasilka Andonova. She has won numerous prizes for her work, including the "Cyril & Methodius" award for contributions to Bulgarian society.

Kremena is just as much at ease with the complicated polyharmonies of the Kutev/*Mystère* choral arrangements as with the excitingly edgy two-voice songs from her native Shopluk. She

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FROM THE EEFC BOARD

ON APRIL 24-25 the EEFC Board of Directors held its semi-annual meeting, generously hosted by Lynette Garlan in Pittsburgh, Penn. Hard work and serious discussion took place, as well as a necessary dose of bonding among far-flung members. The minutes from the serious part of the meeting will be available soon on the EEFC website (www.eefc.org).

At this meeting, Lynette announced that she would not seek to renew her term with the board. She has served as the Treasurer and chair of the Financial Committee, and, fortunately for us, she will continue in that latter role. Lynette has been a long-time board member, completing two terms on the board, and we'll be sorry to see her go.

Dennis Godfrey resigned earlier this year from the EEFC Board of Directors after serving for five years. Dennis conceived of and breathed life into our newest workshop, *balkanalia!*, whose success is paving the way and providing a model for us to establish future regional weekend workshops in other parts of the U.S. We wish both Dennis and Lynette the best as they return to

their "normal" lives. We are in the process of filling the two board vacancies for the fall term.

In other news, we are investigating the possibility of hiring a professional grant writer. The money that grants might bring could help us increase teacher honoraria, stabilize camp fees, and put the EEFC on a better financial footing, eventually allowing us to expand our programs.

The board has also discussed improving our communication with EEFC campers, teaching staff, and members who are concerned with the organization's programs and operations. We've given the board Advisory Liaison, Laura Blumenthal, the authority to respond to issues immediately when they come up (usually via the EEFC e-mail list-serve), without going through a drawn-out process of approval among board members. This should result in quicker and more personal responses to issues. To contact the Advisory Liaison, write to board@eefc.org or liaison@eefc.org, or send a letter to the EEFC office.

All of us are looking forward to the summer camps. Sadly, our attachment to the music and

dance of the Balkans must necessarily lead to concern for the discouraging events in the Balkans, and in particular, Kosovo. We are preparing a list, which will be available at the workshops, of non-partisan organizations that are assisting with humanitarian refugee relief. For a start, here is a partial list:

American Red Cross International Response Fund
800/HELP-NOW; www.redcross.org

American Refugee Committee
800/875-7060; www.archq.org

AmeriCares
800/486-HELP; www.americares.org

Childreach/Plan International
800/556-7918; www.childreach.org

Direct Relief International
800/676-1638; www.directrelief.org

Doctors of the World USA
888/817-4357;
www.doctorsoftheworld.org

Doctors Without Borders
888/392-0392; www.dwb.org

International Rescue Committee
877/REFUGEE; www.intrescom.org

Oxfam America
800/77-OXFAM; www.oxfamamerica.org

Save the Children Foundation
800/243-5075; www.savethechildren.org

US Committee for UNICEF
800/FOR-KIDS; www.unicefusa.org

—Matt Smith



Kef Times is published by the East European Folklife Center, P.O. Box 12488, Berkeley, CA 94712-3488.

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 510/549-2124, send e-mail to office@eefc.org, or visit our website at www.eefc.org. Address all comments or submissions to this newsletter to Editor, *Kef Times*.

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FROM THE EDITOR

THIS IS THE SEASON for registrations, program planning and the coalescing of all the myriad little tasks and volunteer efforts that make the summer music and dance workshops possible. It's easy for me, as General Manager, to get caught up in the bureaucratic details of this year-long process. But I step back now and then, and am blown away by what these three extraordinary gatherings are all about: people coming together for whom music, song and dance are essential to their existence. However, with all the horror going on in our beloved Balkans I wonder sometimes if we're not fooling ourselves by creating a kind of fantasy world, insulated and safe from the politics and bombs. But maybe that's partially the point of it all. I've never subscribed to Balkan camp as a fantasy getaway myself, but it is a safe haven, at least for a few days out of the year, for those from Balkan cultures, and students of those cultures, to come together without fear, to learn from and find joy in each other's talented selves—a place of truce, human connection and life affirmation.

—Rachel MacFarlane

EEFC MISSION STATEMENT

The East European Folklife Center (EEFC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate the general public about the folk music, folk dance and folklore of the Balkans through promoting and sponsoring activities which honor and celebrate the richness of these cultures; and to foster understanding and respect of all peoples through shared experiences of Balkan cultures.

DICK CRUM TURNS 70

IN DECEMBER of last year, the venerable Balkan dance instructor, ethnographer and polyglot Dick Crum celebrated his 70th birthday. Dick's pioneering research in the dance of the Balkans, and his choreographic and recreational dance work formed the popular basis for the Balkan folk-dance movement in North America. Seminars and workshops, such as the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, came into existence and flourish to this day, in large part because of Dick's early and continuing influence. Many of us got our start in this fascinating world of folklore and dance because of Dick's workshops and culture corners, which have spanned nearly fifty years.

A longtime friend of Dick's and our colleague and fellow musician, Miamon Miller, beautifully sums up our shared sentiment:

"For anyone with an interest in folk music, folk dance, folklore (or any other subject with the prefix 'folk'), a brief conversation with Dick Crum reveals an almost casual brilliance. His ability to synthesize seemingly disparate information and make it a cohesive, meaningful whole makes the most complex database program appear a child's toy.

"Whether teaching dance or conducting seminars in technical language translation, Dick is one of those rare individuals who has a gift for recognizing the level and needs of his audience. He neither patronizes the novice nor



At left, Dick (a.k.a. Th. Ünderfüt), appeared on the cover of the October-November issue of *Viltis* magazine in 1954. The photo above was taken at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1997. Photo by Nancy McKnight.

overwhelms the expert. His ability to elucidate a complex thought by finding exactly the right metaphor is legendary.

"As might be guessed, Dick is quick to admit his self-perceived shortcomings and, luckily, his interests go well beyond the academic. For example, there's espresso and the subject of coffee in general.

"Foremost and finally, he is a caring, compassionate person who I'm sure would trade his considerable talents if by doing so it would aid the people he cares for."

We at the East European Folklife Center tip our proverbial hats to Mr. Crum, and wish him long life and health well into the millennium. We still have so much to learn from you, Dick!

— Rachel MacFarlane & Miamon Miller, with the generous assistance of Edith Cuthbert and Bill Cope.



NEW FACES

FROM PAGE 1

currently teaches Bulgarian singing at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia. Kremena's visit to the U.S. is being co-sponsored by the EEFC and the Bay Area women's vocal ensemble, *Kitka*.

Kurtiš Jašarev

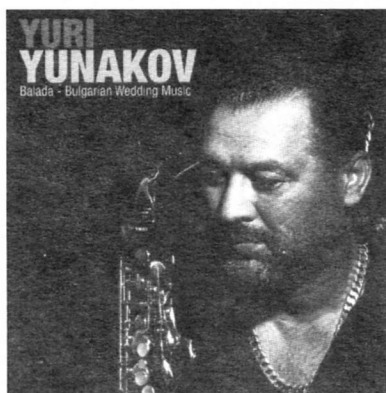
Born into a family involved with music for over 100 years, Kurtiš is a member of the Štip, Macedonia, family of Rom (Gypsy) brass musicians known as the Kadrievs. All male members of Kurtiš's household play music. Already competent on drums, Kurtiš was taught to play trumpet by his father Jusin Kadriev at age 8. He switched over to clarinet and sax when it was clear that the brass instruments were covered by other family members. Kurtiš began studying music formally beginning in elementary school, and, unusual for his community, he went on to graduate from the Skopje Conservatory, after which he worked as a clarinet, trumpet and flute professor at the music school in Vranje, Serbia.

Leader of the dynamic brass band *Braka Kadrievi* (Brothers Kadriev), Kurtiš has recorded and toured extensively with the ensemble. As well as being an accomplished performer, Kurtiš is also a composer of popular melodies and music for theatrical productions and film, most notably for the Emir Kusturica film "Dom za vešanje" ("Time of the Gypsies"). Kurtiš will teach an intermediate class in clarinet and sax, and co-teach the brass band ensemble with Michael Ginsburg at the Ramblewood workshop. The EEFC is happy to co-sponsor Kurtiš Jašarev with the New York-based Balkan brass band *Zlatne Uste*.

— Rachel MacFarlane

NEW BALKAN RECORDINGS & PUBLICATIONS

We are pleased to continue featuring new recordings and other EEFC supporters, all of whose names are noted in back

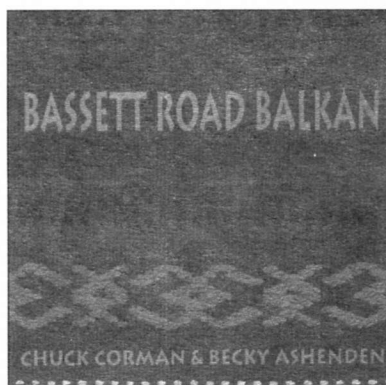


Yuri Yunakov **Balada** **Bulgarian Wedding Music**

Traditional Crossroads 4291

"You've never been invited to a wedding like this before!" proclaims the cover of the second electrifying album by the master of modern Bulgarian saxophone, **Yuri Yunakov**. Twelve songs and instrumentals, ranging from the breakneck wedding-style horos to the sensual kyuchek, Yuri's innovative musicianship is well complemented by guest accordionist Neshko Neshev, as well as our friends **Catherine Foster**, **Lauren Brody**, **Seido Salifoski** and **Carol Silverman**. CD includes an extensive and informative booklet.

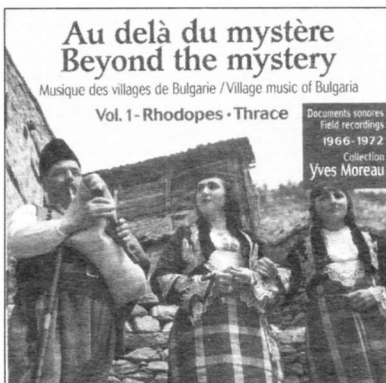
Order from: Traditional Crossroads, P.O. Box 20320, Greely Square Sta., New York, NY 10001-9992; 800/422-6282; www.rootsworld.com/crossroads for \$14 plus \$3 shipping.



Chuck Corman & Becky Ashenden **Bassett Road Balkan**

Fourteen bright and pleasant accordion and string instrumentals from Bulgaria, Macedonia and Serbia with some original material, performed by two longtime Balkan campers/teachers.

Order from: **Chuck Corman & Becky Ashenden**, 47 Bassett Rd., Shelburne, MA 01370, for \$15 plus \$2 shipping.



Beyond the Mystery/ **Au delà du mystère**

Field recordings by Yves Moreau. BMA Productions: BMA-1001

A valuable three-CD collection of instrumental and vocal village music from all ethnographic regions of Bulgaria, made between 1966-72, it features clear and diverse recordings made by **Yves Moreau**, Bulgarian dance specialist and a teacher at our 1999 Ramblewood workshop. Each CD comes with a descriptive booklet. Vol. 1, Rhodopes, Thrace is currently available; Vol. 2 (North Bulgaria, Dobrudzha) and Vol. 3 (Shopluk and Pirin) will be released in the coming months.

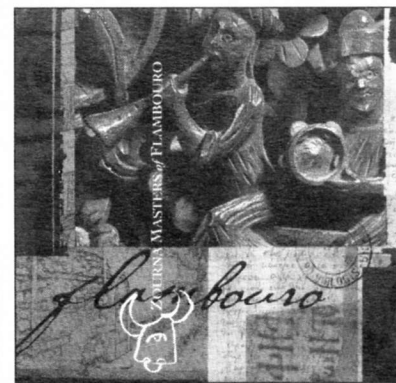
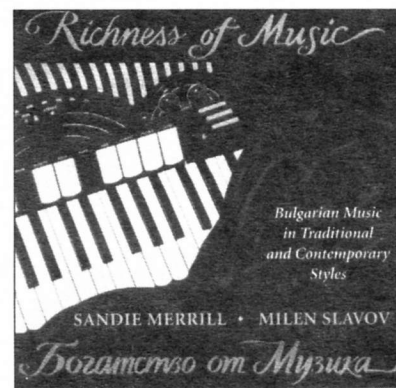
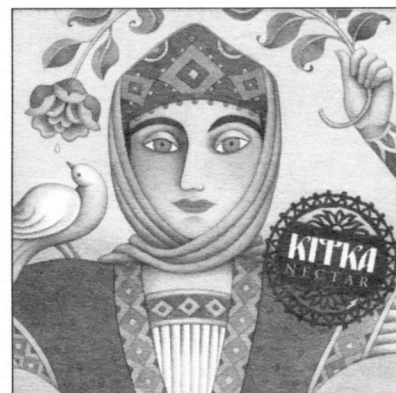
Order Vol. 1 from: Yves Moreau, P.O. Box 158, St.-Lambert, QUE, Canada J4P 3N8; 450/659-9271; ymoreau@odyssee.net. Price US \$15 plus \$3 shipping.



Partners in Time **Ends of the Earth**

Ten cuts from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Armenia and Turkey from a Hawaii-based band: **Kip McAttee**, **Anita Trubitt**, **Larry Ward**, **Ernie Provencher** and **Marcia Kemble**, with guest artist **Souren Baronian**. Partners in Time "plays traditional folk music, but also plays tunes infused with jazz or contemporary styles and even a few original tunes. The result is a truly eclectic mix and a band with a happy identity crisis."

Order from: Marcia Kemble, 234 Madeira St., Honolulu, HI 96813; mkemble@aloha.com, for \$15 (includes shipping).



publications by EEFC associates, including workshop campers, staff and teachers, and type in each entry. Please address future submissions to the Editor, Kef Times.

Kitka Nectar

Diaphonica 098

The San Francisco Bay Area's premier Eastern European women's a capella vocal ensemble presents a tasty mix of 18 songs from Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Macedonia and Hungary, "a collection of traditional and arranged folk melodies deeply rooted in women's experiences in Eastern European village life. The lyrics speak of love, loss, wedding, red wine, the natural world . . . the music is beyond words." The singers of Kitka include: **Shira-Devra Cion, Catherine Rose Crowther, Deborah Dietrich, Juliana Graffagna, Janet Kutulas, Irina Mikhailova, Ann Moorhead and Michele Simon.** CD leaflet includes song translations.

Order from: Kitka, 1201 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, CA 94612; 510/444-0323; www.kitka.org, for \$16 plus \$2 shipping.

Voluta Vox

A sassy and exciting collection of 14 Rom, Bulgarian and Macedonian tunes from the Santa Cruz, California-based ensemble, featuring the instrumental and vocal talents of **Dena Bjornlie, Anne Cleveland, Lisa Ekström, Mary Hofer**, as well as Peter Romeo and Doug Robinson.

Order from: Anne Cleveland, 503 Hanover St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062; 831/429-5164; annecl@surfnetusa.com, for \$15 plus \$2 shipping.

Milen Slavov & Sandie Merrill Richness of Music Bulgarian Music in Traditional and Contemporary Styles

Thirteen traditional and original compositions by composer/performer **Milen Slavov**, who charmed Mendocino audiences last summer with his hot accordion work. Here he teams up with Bay Area vocalist **Sandie Merrill** for an eclectic mix of new sounds in the Bulgarian style.

Order from: MS Music Agency, Sandie Merrill, 2375 Sunny Vista Dr., San Jose, CA 95128, 408/984-8223; msmagency@aol.com; for \$15 plus \$2.50 shipping. A booklet with texts, translations and melodies from the CD will be available soon.

Zourna Masters of Flambouro

This phenomenal Greek/Rom trio of two zournas and daouli, led by C. Karakostas, wowed dancing audiences on their U.S. tour last year. **Christos Govetas**, on staff this year at the Mendocino workshop, has done an exemplary job of recording the band, and along with co-producers **Yvonne Hunt and Neal Sandler**, presents here fifteen cuts, featuring the stunningly precise and virtuosic work of these musicians from Northern Greece. CD leaflet includes information in English and Greek.

Order from: Christos Govetas, 7607 142nd Ave. E., Puyallup, WA 98372; zournadjs@aol.com, for \$15 plus \$2 shipping.

PUBLICATION

A new language text which will be of interest to our readers:

Christina Kramer

Macedonian: A Course for Beginning and Intermediate Students

Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1999. Book, 480 p., ill. with companion CDrom. ISBN: 0299161749 (book); 0299161706 (CD).

EEFC member and avid folk dancer **Steve Salemsen**, Associate Director of the Univ. of Wisconsin Press, initiated a series of Balkan-language textbooks there, of which Kramer's book is the first. This text will fill a longtime gap for Balkan-language aficionados, who have had to make do with inadequate study materials for years now. An intensive one-year course, the book integrates language learning with culture, history and literature in a lively format. A companion multi-media, interactive CD developed by Profs. Kramer and Grace Fielder will be available this fall.

Order from: The University of Wisconsin Press, c/o Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 S. Langley Ave., Chicago, IL 60628; 773/568-1550. Book: \$34.95 plus \$3.50 shipping; CD: \$24.95 plus \$3.50 shipping.

1999 CAMP NOTES

MENDOCINO

STAFF UPDATES

Due to work obligations, Pero Teodosijev, who was to teach intermediate and advanced accordion, will be unable to attend. In his stead we welcome Strahil Vankov, who taught at the Mendocino workshop several years ago. Strahil, a student of Vassil Bebelev, has performed gajda and accordion with his brother, Nasko, on Bulgarian radio and TV, and with a number of Rom wedding orchestras, including those of Ivo Papasov, Ferus Mustafov and Yuri Yunakov. An enthusiastic and spirited musician who currently resides and plays in the Chicago area, Strahil is well versed in all styles of Bulgarian folk music.

Lefteris Bourmias, because of prior obligations, will begin his classes at the workshop on Monday instead of Sunday. We felt that the opportunity to have Lefteris teach outweighed a missed class day, and we beg the indulgence of the students of Greek clarinet.

ALLAN CLINE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A half-scholarship is available this year for a first-time camper to attend the 1999 Mendocino workshop. This scholarship is a gift of Nancy Klein, in memory of her husband and our good friend, musician, and longtime Balkan camper, Allan Cline, who died three years ago. We invite interested candidates to send a brief statement with your reasons for seeking this scholarship. *Submit your statement by May 31, 1999 to: EEFC, P.O. Box 12488, Berkeley, CA 94712-3488. (If you're not eligible, please tell others who might benefit from the scholarship, but who may not be on our mailing list. Thank you.)*

RAMBLEWOOD

Get your registrations in soon! Note that you can attend just an evening dance party for \$20; or the Friday evening Kafana Night festivities, or the Saturday afternoon Lamb Roast: \$35 per event. So that we can plan ahead, reserve your spot for these events with the EEFC office. For more information on the live auction (theme this year: May Day festivities complete with mummers), contact Judy Stafford at 919/383-7172, or staff001@mc.duke.edu.

BITOV ENSEMBLE AT RAMBLEWOOD

One can never proofread enough, it seems! We inadvertently left out of the brochure our very own Mark Levy, who will be teaching a class of Bulgarian Bitov Ensemble at Ramblewood. We regret this error and extend our apologies to Mark, who has been most gracious about the matter.

SLOVENIANS AND CROATIANS LOVE THE PRAVO!

WHILE RECREATIONAL folkdancing may be less popular these days in North America than in the sixties and seventies, it has been experiencing some growth in other sectors of our planet. For several decades international folkdance groups and organizations have been active in such countries as Japan, Australia and Western Europe, but more recently new groups have also appeared in Brazil, Lithuania, Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia.

In March 1999, I had the pleasure of being invited to lead a weekend workshop of Bulgarian and French-Canadian dances for the "Skupina za Mednarodno Folkloro" (International Folklore Club) in Novo Mesto, a lovely town in Eastern Slovenia on the Krka river halfway between Ljubljana and Zagreb. This group was established in 1995 by Dunja Gerić and Emil Balažić whom I had met several years before while teaching at a folk dance



Yves Moreau teaches enthusiastic folkdancers at a workshop at Smarjeske Toplice, Slovenia in March 1999.



Participants came from folkdance clubs in Novo Mesto, Slovenia; Zagreb, Croatia and Zadar on the Dalmatian Coast.

camp in Switzerland. The workshop was held on the grounds of beautiful Smarjeske Toplice, a mineral springs complex just 20 minutes east of Novo Mesto. About 25 people attended including several members of another international folkdance club based in Zagreb and a woman from Zadar on the Dalmatian Coast.

So, how did recreational folk dancing get there? Dunja and Emil lived in Zagreb before moving to Slovenia. They were introduced to recreational folk dancing as members of the "Ivan Goran Kovačić" Student Cultural Organization which started a special international folkdance club in 1981. The founder and leader of the Zagreb international folkdance club was Nenad Bičanić, who first got turned on to the concept of international folk dancing through Francis Feybli, a folk dance leader from Zürich, Switzerland who regularly

continued on back page

FEELING LEFT OUT? JOIN THE CROWD!

SUPPORT EEFC BY BECOMING A MEMBER FOR THE 1999 CALENDAR YEAR

Please mail this form (or copy) with your payment to EEFC, P.O. Box 12488, Berkeley, CA 94712-3488. Thanks!

YES!

I (we) want to help sustain the community of the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, and would like to join as a member for the **1999 calendar year**.

name(s) _____

address _____

city/state/zip _____

phone _____ / _____

e-mail _____

☐ I wish my contribution to be anonymous.

*All contributions are fully tax deductible.
This membership is good through December 1999.*

MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ \$30 Individual
- ☐ \$45 Family
- ☐ \$20 Student/Low income

I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF:

- ☐ \$25
- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ \$1,000 Benefactor
- ☐ other \$ _____

I CAN'T JOIN EEFC TODAY

but here is my donation in support of the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops:

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ other \$ _____

Remember, your 1999 membership entitles you to a \$10.00 kafana credit card at Mendocino or Ramblewood!

1999 CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Thanks to all of you for your generous support of the East European Folklife Center! So far, our 1999 membership drive has brought in over \$12,300 in membership fees and additional donations. Over 290 of your households have joined us in support of EEFC's programs.

Ed Abelson & Amy Denenberg	Jerry Duke	Luba Kazacoff	Primack/Pollock Family
Mike Adams & Jan Root	Richard Duree	Marcia Kemble	Jane Anne Rapp
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Joan Bauer	Shelly Finver	Allan Levenberg & Paula Phipps	Jo Ann L. Saban
Meir & Rose Beer	Flo Fooden & Ross Mohn	Roberta Levine	Bruce Sagan
Jeanne Benioff	Mark Forry & Frances Hatfield	Mark & Nesa Levy & Carol Silverman	Salem International Folk Dancers
Michelle Benoit	Carole Frank	Sue Lindner	Steve Salemsen
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Gail Berlin	Gloria Fulton	Jim Little & Linda Persson	Betsy Schiavone
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Ben Chang	Francesca Guido	Larry Morandi & Karen Pazucha	Terri Taggart
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George Chittenden & Lise Liepman	Prof. Elizabeth A. Hanley	Al & Terrie Murray	Jan Tominaga
Morgan Clark	Ken Harstine & Sandy Ward	Masaru Nagae	Dimitar Trifonov
Anne Cleveland	Jim & Marie Hayes	Ruth Neifeld	Randy Trigg
Joyce Clyde	Jo Farb Hernandez	Judy Newland	Deborah Trimm
Tim Coffey	Biz Hertzberg & James Hoskins	Carol Newman	Mary Turlington
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Vanya Daicoff-Dumas	Norma D. Huff	David Owens	Wally Wahlen
Janice Darling	Melinda Hunt & Matt Smith	Laura Pannaman	Elizabeth Wartluft
Dorothy Daw	Arlene Imagawa & Mark Jenkins	Susan Patterson	Elizabeth Wartluft
Darrell Deeds & Sema Saatcioglu	Fred Jacobowitz	Pat Peterson	Cynthia Wetmore
Naomi Segal Deitz	Mark & Shirley Johnson	Tom & Barbara Pixton	Jane Wieman
Kathryn N. Demos	Susan M. Jones	Alma Franulovic Planchich	Stephen Wolownik
Joyce DeSaussure	Nicholas Jordanoff	Janet Platin	Loretta M. Yam
Susan Cohen & Tony DeStefano	Andy Kacsmar	Barbara Polk	Alan Zemel & Marlis Kraft-Zemel
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and five anonymous donors

Thank you!

FOLKDANCING

FROM PAGE 6

attended the Zagreb Smotra Folklor Festival each summer. Feybli then started a tradition of annual workshops in Zagreb for the Croatians, who now include a performance of this international repertoire during annual galas of the student organization. Dunja and Emil became some of the most enthusiastic members of this club and began attending folklore camps and workshops in Switzerland and Austria. Even after moving to Novo Mesto, they travelled for many years weekly to Zagreb to teach the group. Today, one of the most enthusiastic members of the Zagreb international folkdance club is Gordana Potočnik, wife of well-known musician and arranger Zlatko Potočnik. Gordana is a fine singer and she told me of her love for Macedonian and Bulgarian songs over lunch at her home near Zagreb.

The Novo Mesto and Zagreb groups work closely together and have a fairly common repertoire which includes dances from Switzerland, Romania, Israel, Greece, Bulgaria and the U.S. Members of those groups are mostly adults in their thirties or older. There are many couples and many of these people have danced in amateur performing groups in the years of former Yugoslavia where they had in fact been exposed to "other cultures" such as Serbia and Macedonia. Many of the Slovenians in the group work for Renault which has a huge assembly plant in Novo Mesto. There has even been participation from some of the French staff of the factory on occasions.

What struck me during my visit there was the same spirit of friendship and openness one would find in other folkdance clubs in North America or elsewhere. The weekly dance was an occasion to socialize, have fun, move to interesting new music and discover other cultures. During that weekend at Smarjeske Toplice, I had the opportunity to meet and converse with the participants on a variety of subjects. The conflicts in the Balkans were much on everyone's mind. Many expressed the thought that folk dancing was a way to discover how cultures were similar rather than different and in that sense helped ease tensions.

The day I left Slovenia, the bombings started in Yugoslavia.

—Yves Moreau

EEFC MEMBER TIM COFFEY DIES

We must pass along a sad report on one of the names in the membership list on the preceding page. Several months after we received his generous membership renewal, we were dismayed to find out that Tim Coffey, an avid and active folk dancer in the Bay Area and Portland, Oregon, and founder of the Portland performing group "Ciganski Igraci," suffered a fatal heart attack on January 9.

We at EEFC extend our condolences to Tim's family and to his many Portland dance friends.

EAST EUROPEAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

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