

THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Photos taken by L. Tucker and C. Dickey at the Kolo Festival in November 2023.



River and June Ashbrook, John Filcich's grandchildren, danced together.



Cheryl Fuller and Mike Giusto waltzed.



Linnea Mandell serenaded John Filcich during his 100th Birthday Celebration. John's son and daughter are in the background.



Three past presidents of the Folk Dance Federation – Joe Croco, Craig Blackstone and Memo Keswick – smiled for the camera.



The Bruxvoorts – Barbara, Ellis, Ben and Joel – danced at the Kafana.



Tamara Littlewood and Judy Kropp came with several other dancers from the Central Valley.

Sunni Bloland watched the festivities.



KOLO FESTIVAL HITS THE SPOT

By Betsy Moore

Photos by J. Croco and L. Tucker.

The Kolo Festival, held every year on Thanksgiving weekend, was special this year for several reasons:

First, community members Lew Smith and Melissa Miller, Dale Adamson, Asako Oshiro, and Nadav Nur stepped up and did a great job of leading workshops when, sadly, Sonia and Cristian were unable to be there to teach due to illness. (Imagine the frantic scramble by Kolo Festival Director Bill Cope when he was told, 36 hours before the start, that half of his teaching staff would not be able to appear!)

Second, we celebrated the 100th birthday of Kolo Festival founder John Filcich. John's children and grandchildren joined us as John told us some of his life history and the history of the festival, and a number of people spoke about their appreciation for John and his influence on the dance and music community. John impressed everyone by dancing quite a bit throughout the festival.

I attended both evening parties and the Saturday workshops. A few of the highlights for me: Anna Angelova, teaching Bulgarian dances at the Kolo Festival for the first time, was just wonderful! She taught a great selection of dances, her teaching style is very clear and engaging, and she's also a beautiful dancer.

The Łowiczanie Polish Dance Ensemble performed Rom dances on Saturday evening with beautiful, colorful costumes and high-energy dancing that was very exciting to watch.

I attended one of Maria Bebelekova's singing workshops for the first time, and it was great fun to learn two songs from her and then dance while singing them.

Dancing to live music in the main hall and the kafana is always a highlight of the Kolo Festival, and I particularly enjoyed Sinovi, who led off the Saturday party with their great energy, and John Morovich's lovely singing. I was told that

John also led a dance session on Friday during which he also sang and accompanied himself.

I want to give a special shout-out to the folks who led dances during the parties. Knowing what dance goes to a given piece of live music is something I hope to master one day, but meanwhile many thanks to Paul (beautiful costume!), Sue, Mark, Arlene, Eileen, Lew, Melissa, Jack, Terry, Marina, Joyce, and all the other brave souls who help make the parties so much fun.

(See p. 11 for more photos.)



From left, Lew Smith, Melissa Miller, Nadav Nur, Kolo Festival Director Bill Cope, Anna Angelova, Dale Adamson, Asako Oshiro.

