

Nashville International Folk Dancers

Invite you to

Autumn Leaves XLI

Friday & Saturday, November 6 & 7, 2026

Joan Bennett

teaching Balkan folk dances

at **Global Education South Studio** in **Casa Azafran**
2195 Nolensville Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37211



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Joan Bennett has been a requested and much-lauded teacher of folk dance for over 50 years. Wherever life has taken her, Joan has been a vital part of her local International Folk and Scandinavian dance groups, serving as a member, teacher, programmer, and leader. Knowledgeable, approachable, and fun, she is also a frequent guest instructor throughout the region.

Joan has a passion for concise, clear teaching and has spent her career engaged in instructing both adults and children. For Joan, teaching is a way to share her love of movement, augment the skills of dancers, explore diverse music from around the world, and increase the general silliness, FUN, and cohesion within the dance "village."

Throughout her distinguished career, Joan has been a featured instructor at prestigious workshops and camps, including Texas Thanksgiving Camp and Oklahoma's Old Country Weekend, while maintaining a 35-year residency with the Salem International Folk Dancers. Her expertise spans International and Scandinavian traditions—notably leading Hambo workshops for the Country Dance and Song Society—and she has partnered with legendary instructors such as Dick Crum and Germain Hebert.

Beyond the dance floor, Joan has brought folk and social dance into academic settings at the University of Oregon and Lane Community College, and she spent over a decade building foundational skills through Austin's Parks & Rec programs. A dedicated mentor, she also conducts specialized workshops on the art of dance instruction and programming, drawing on her deep roots as a former performer, director, and choreographer of multiple folk dance companies.

Please see NIFDdance.com for more information about Autumn Leaves, our group, dances we do, tunes we have, and our dance band, **Tantsova Grupa**.