

Folk Dance Federation of California, South  
Research Committee  
Notes by Marion Wilson, Bob Moriarty

**AHAVAT HADASSAH**  
(Israel)

*the love of Hadassa (Esther)  
actually refers to  
love of country*

Presented by Dani Dassa at the 1961 Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference

**MUSIC:** Record: Folkraft 1434

**FORMATION:** "Caravan": No ptr necessary. Facing LOD, place R hand on L shoulder of person in front; first, third, fifth, etc. dancer reaches back with L hand to hold L hand of person behind him, hand held close to body. Ft in a forward stride position, R ft in front.

**MUSIC 4/4**

**PATTERN**

Measures	INTRODUCTION, 4 Measures
A	CHORUS: <u>CARAVAN</u>
1	Shift wt fwd to R ft, leaving toe on floor, bend knee slightly (ct 1-2); shift wt bwd onto L, R toe remaining on floor (ct 3-4).
2	Step fwd and down onto R, bending L knee so as to raise L heel in back (ct 1-2); step fwd and up on L (ct 3-4).
3-8	Repeat "caravan step" (meas 1-2) three more times, stepping fwd on R ft (ct 1) on meas 3-5-7.
B	I. FACE CTR, DROPPING HANDHOLD
9	Step swd to R on R, foot flat, L toe on floor to L (ct 1-2); step on L across in front of R, R remaining on floor, knees bent. At the same time, cross forearms, R over L, and snap fingers once (ct 3-4).
10	Step swd to R on R (ct 1); step swd to L on L (ct 2); step swd to R on R (ct 3); step on L across in front of R (ct 4); thus progressing swd to R. During this meas, hands drop to sides.
11-16	Repeat action of the above two meas. (9-10) three more times.
A	CHORUS
1-8	Repeat Chorus "Caravan", meas 1-8.

*continued...*

- B**                    **II. FACING CTR, HANDS JOINED AND DOWN**
- 9**                    Leap fwd onto R (a low leap), L ft raised but close to R ft, joined hands raised to shoulder height (ct 1-2); Leap a low leap back onto L in place (ct 3-4), lowering joined hands.
- 10**                  Dance one Yemenite step to R: Leap swd to R on R (ct 1); leap on ball of L in back of R (ct 2); leap on R across in front of L (ct 3); Hop on ball of R (ct 4). Make leaps small.
- 11**                  Reversing ftwork, repeat the low leaps of Fig. II, meas. 9.
- 12**                  Reversing ftwork, repeat the Yemenite step to L (meas 10).
- 13**                  Step (do not leap) fwd twd ctr on R, L toe remains on floor (ct 1); plie (ct 2); shift wt back onto L (ct 3); plie (ct 4).
- 14**                  Step swd to R on R (ct 1-2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3-4), thus progressing to R.
- 15-16**              Repeat action meas 13-14, Fig. II. Repeat dance from beginning.