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Folk Dance Scene

DECEMBER 1996

Volume 32, Number 8

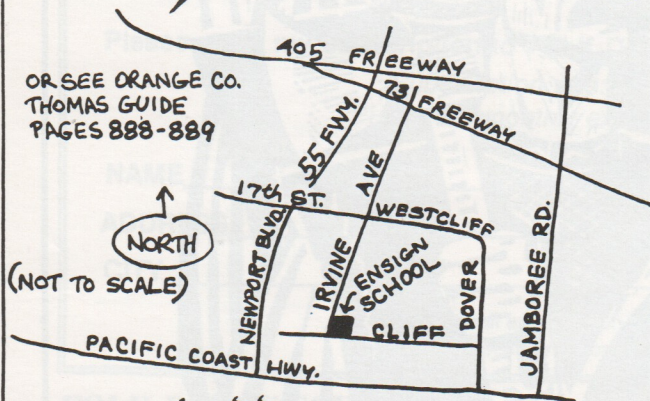


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FEBRUARY 7-9, 1997



Schedule of events

FRIDAY	
DANCE WORKSHOP & WARM-UP	7:30-10:30 } \$8.
AFTERPARTY	10:30-1:00 }
SATURDAY	
ADVANCED WORKSHOP	9:30-11:30 } \$6.
INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP	1:30-4:30 } \$7.
VALENTINE DANCE	7:30-11:00 } \$9.
AFTERPARTY	11:00-1:00 }
SUNDAY	
BALKAN HOUR	12:00-1:15 }
BEGINNER'S CLASS (FREE)	11:45-1:15 } \$8.
DANCE CONCERT	1:30-3:00 }
DANCE FESTIVAL	3:00-5:30 }

All events passport only \$35.

festival address:
 ENSIGN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL GYM
 2000 CLIFF DR., NEWPORT BEACH
LAGUNA FOLK DANCERS IS A MEMBER OF FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 (714) 533-8667; 545-1957; 494-7683

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 LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA 92677



DECEMBER 1996

Volume 32, Number 8

Folk Dance Scene

EDITORS

Marvin Smith
Teri Hoffman

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER

Marvin Smith

CIRCULATION

Sandy Helperin

BUSINESS MANAGERS

Gerda Ben-Zeev
Forrest Gilmore

MAILING COORDINATOR

Sandy Helperin

ART DIRECTOR

Teri Hoffman

PHOTO EDITOR

Marvin Smith

EDITORIAL OFFICE

(213) 936-1025; (213) 939-5098
6150 W. 6th St., L.A., CA 90048

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FOLK DANCE SCENE is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costume, customs, lore, and culture of the peoples of the world. It is also designed to inform them of the opportunities to experience folk dance and culture in Southern California and elsewhere. In addition, it advises readers as to major developments in the Folk dance Federation of California, South, of which this is the official publication.

Views expressed in SCENE are solely the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the magazine or the Federation. Neither the magazine nor the Federation assumes responsibility for the accuracy of dates, locations, or other information sent in. The Editors have the right to edit and modify all submissions.

MANUSCRIPTS & NOTICES. The Editors will attempt to include all news-worthy items which are consistent with the policy of the magazine. News items should reach the Editors by 5 weeks before the month of publication for inclusion. Potential authors of feature articles should correspond with the editors prior to submitting their manuscripts.

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ADVERTISING. Current rates and specifications are printed on the back page of the magazine. Details are available from the Editorial Office. All ads must relate to and be consistent with the purposes of the magazine, must be camera-ready and accompanied by a check for the correct amount.

MEMBERSHIP. To join the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, one may either affiliate with a member club or join directly as an associate member by contacting the Director of Membership.

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH OFFICERS

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Maramureșan forest workers and shepherds wear a *kimir* (broad leather belt), a *straita*, and a *guba* (a fluffy white coat).

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Calendar

Note: Federation events are in bold
 *** Call to confirm all events

DECEMBER

- 1 Yalynka Festival and Open House. Ukrainian festival with music, dance performances by the L.A. Ukrainian Dance Co., foods, crafts. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ukrainian Culture Center 4315 Melrose Ave. Info: (213) 668-0172
- 8 St. Nicholas Christmas Ball. L.A. Biltmore Hotel. Info: (805) 684-5864
- 14 Hungarian Dance Party. Teaching 7:30-9 p.m., followed by dance. Gypsy Camp, 3265 Motor Ave., L.A. Info: 202-9024.
- 15 **Treasurer's Ball, hosted by Westwood Co-op and Hollywood Peasants. 1:30-5:30 p.m. at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood. Council meeting at 11 a.m. Info: (310) 392-3452**
- 21 Andrew Rankine Memorial Christmas Ball, Tustin Sr. Center. Sponsored by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.
- 27 20th Annual Kwanzaa Gwaride Festival. Celebrating the African American New Year and the coming year with songs, rituals, dances. 10 a.m.-dusk at Leimert Park Village, 43rd Place and Crenshaw Blvd. FREE. Info: (213) 789-5654
- 28 Fiesta Navidad, with Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano and Ballet Folklorico Olin. Program of the traditional sights and sounds of a traditional Mexican Christmas. 8 p.m. at the Wadsworth Theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.
- 31 **New Year's Eve Party, hosted by Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Info: (818) 446-5160.**

1997 JANUARY

- 4 Hungarian Dance Party with teaching 7:30-9 p.m., followed by dance. Gypsy Camp, 3265 Motor Ave., L.A. Info: (310) 202-9024.
- 11, 12, 14 Russian New Year Celebration, music & dance performance at the University of Judaism, 15600 Mulholland Dr. Info & tix: (310) 476-9777, x-201/203 or (310) 472-6140.
- 12 **Pasadena Co-op's Winter Festival. Scottish Rites Temple, 150 N.**

Madison Ave., Pasadena (NOTE NEW LOCATION!). 1:30-5:30 p.m. Info: (818) 300-8138

- 24 The Whirling Dervises, performance of Turkey's mystical Sufi sect. 8 p.m., the Veteran's Wadsworth Theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.
- 27-2/29 The Chinese New Year Celebration - 4694, the Year of the Rat. Ongoing festivities including parades, ethnic foods. In the L.A. Chinatown District, downtown L.A. Info: (213) 617-0396.
- 30 Kodo, Japan's drummers from Sado Island. 8 p.m. at the Wiltern Theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.

FEBRUARY

- Black History Month. Events include:
- 2/11: Black Cultural Fest at Darby Park, 3400 W. Arbor Vitae, Inglewood, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: (310) 412-5391
- 2/17: "The Afrikans are Coming", an African cultural extravaganza featuring authentic African drumming and dancing from all over the continent. Arts & crafts and African foods. 6 p.m. at the Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro, L.A. Info (310) 412-1136; (818) 361-7075
- 7-9 **Laguna Folk Dance Festival. Ensign Jr. High, Newport Beach. Info: (714) 641-7450**
- 8 Guitar Music of Latin America. Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa. Info: (714) 432-5880
- 18, 19 Preservation Hall Jazz Band concert, Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Info: (800) 300-4345
- 21 The Peking Acrobats. 8 p.m. at Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa. Info: (714) 432-5902

MARCH

- 8 AMAN Institute Reunion-'97. Dance instruction, singing, live music, food, folk arts and crafts vendors. Full dinner available in full package; evening party with live music. Mayflower Ballroom, 234 S. Hindry Ave., Inglewood. Info: AMAN Office, (213) 931-1750.
- 8 Lola Montes & Her Spanish Dancers. Concert of Hispanic dance, music and song. Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa. Info: (714) 432-5902

8-9 **China Lake Dancers Festival, Ridgecrest. Saturday 1-5 and 7-11; Sunday 8:30-noon. Location TBA. Info: (619) 375-6227.**

20-22 Mazowsce Polish State Dance Ensemble at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Info: (800) 300-4345

31 Pysanka Festival and 1996 Easter Open House. Folk art demonstrations, music and folk dance performances. Ukrainian Culture Center, 4315 Melrose Ave., L.A. From 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: (213) 668-0172

APRIL 4-6

Westwood Weekend at Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu. Info: (310) 391-7382

7-13 UCLA's Worldfest '96. A multicultural event highlighting food, dance, art, music theater and writings. FREE. Contact the Cultural Affairs department at (310) 825-9912 for detailed schedule or other info.

13-14 Songkran Festival (Thai New Year). Thai classical dance and music, foods, rituals re-enacted. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. at 8225 Coldwater Canyon, N. Hollywood. FREE. Info: (818) 780-4200 or 997-9657.

13 **Westwood Co-op's Spring Festival. Veteran's Aud, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. 1:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Info: (310) 452-0091 or 478-6600.**

20, 21 "Bunka Sai", Japanese Cultural Festival. All day cultural celebration of Japanese arts - taiko drumming, dancing, martial arts, cultural exhibits. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance. FREE! Info: (310) 618-2930

20-28 Santa Monica Arts Festival: A celebration of Community Roots. All day performances in Clover Park, showcasing the many ethnic groups that comprise the Santa Monica community. Festival on 4/20 from noon-6 p.m. at Clover Park, 2600 Ocean Blvd., Santa Monica. FREE. Info (310) 315-9444; 458-8350

27, 28 Aloha Expo 1996. Continuous multicultural entertainment and demonstrations, foods. Gemming Park, 4000 Dovey Dr., Long Beach. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Info: (310) 549-8724

MAY 4,5

7th Annual Pacific Islander Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, 25820 S. Vermont Ave., Wilmington. FREE. Info: (310) 940-7202; (213) 485-2437; (714) 968-1785

Calendar

- 4,5 1996 UCLA Pow Wow, celebrating the cultures of Native Americans. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. at the Intramural Field, UCLA Campus. FREE Info: (310) 206-7513
- 5 UCLA Music & Dance on the Grass. 3 performance areas for music, dance, martial arts, story telling. Ethnic crafts and foods. Noon-6 p.m., Sunset Canyon Recreation Center, UCLA Campus. FREE!! Info: (310) 206-1786; (310) 825-3671 (day of event).
- 17 International Conference on Middle Eastern Dance. Performance by Mona El Said. 8 p.m., Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa. Info, tix: (714) 432-5902
- 18,19 Claremont Spring Folk Festival, showcasing folk and ethnic music. Workshops in several instrument. Special concert Saturday p.m. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Larkin Park and Josselyn Senior center, Claremont. Info: (909) 624-2928; 987-5701.
- 19 36th Annual Topanga Banjo, Fiddle Contest, Dance and Folk Art Festival. Four stages. Six participatory dance areas. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Paramount Ranch, Cornell Rd. near Agoura, in the Santa Monica Mountains. Info: (818) 382-4819.
- 19 Los Angeles Cuban Cultural Festival. Music and dance performance, participatory dancing. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Echo Park, Park & Glendale Ave., L.a. FREE. Info: (213) 485-0709.
- 23-26 **"Dancelore Express", Statewide Folk Dance Festival. YMCA, Whittier. Info: (714) 641-7450. or (310) 867-4495. More info TBA.**
- 25 Tamburitzans of Duquense U, performances at CSUN, Northridge, 3 and 8 p.m. Info: (818) 785-8885.
- JUNE**
- 1,2 10th Annual Cajun & Zydeco Festival. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Rainbow Lagoon, Long Beach. Info: (310) 427-3713.
- 1,2 Ho'ouale'a Hawaiian Festival of the Valley. Featuring hula and Tahitian dancers, Pacific Island music, traditional games and crafts, foods. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Northridge Park, 10058 Reseda Blvd., Northridge. FREE. Info: (818) 366-3967.
- 15,16 22nd Annual Great American Fair and Music Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Santa Anita Racetrack, 285 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia. Info: (213) 480-3232; (714) 740-2000; (818) 503-2511
- 21,22 17th Annual Summer Solstice, Folk Music, Dance and Storytelling Festival. Soka University, 26800 W. Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas. Info: (818) 342-7664
- 22-28 Russian Folk Music Festival, San Pedro. Info: (818) 441-7984 or (310) 547-5350.
- 27 The Los Angeles Russian Folk Orchestra and Firebird concert, 7:30 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Info: Orchestra hotline - (213) 222-5743 or (310) 547-5350
- 28 International Folk Music Concert. Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Info: (818) 441-7984 or (310) 547-5350.
- 29,30 5th Annual Aloha Concert jam Festival. Music and dance performances. Long Beach Rainbow Lagoon, foot of Pine Ave. & Shoreline Dr., Long Beach. Info: (909) 606-9494.
- JULY**
- 13 **San Diego International Folkdance Club festival. Balboa Park Club. Council meeting at 11 a.m. Info: (619) 422-5540.**
- 13-8/3 Bon Odori Festivals. Bon Dance traditional outdoor Japanese folk dancing at several Buddhist temples throughout the southland. All events free.
7/13-14: L.A. Hongwanji Betsuin Temple, 815 E. First St., L.A. 5 p.m. Info: 680-9130
7/20/21: Venice Hongwanji Temple, 12371 Braddock Dr., Culver City. 5 p.m. Info: (310) 391-4351
7/21: Pasadena Buddhist Temple, 1993 Glen Ave., Pasadena. 6:30 p.m. Info: (818) 798-4781
7/21: Senshin Buddhist Temple, 1311 W. 37th St., L.A. 6:30 p.m. Info: (213) 731-4617
7/27, 28: WLA Buddhist Temple, 2003 Corinth Ave., L.A. 5 p.m. Info: (310) 477-7274
7/27, 28: San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple, 9450 Remick Ave., Pacoima. 4 p.m. Info: (818) 899-4030
8/3, 4: Gardena Buddhist Temple, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena. 6:30 p.m. Info: (310) 327-9400
- 13,14 19th Annual Lotus Festival. Featuring various Asian and Pacific Island cultures. Food, dance performances, crafts, exhibitions. Noon-9 p.m. Sat., noon-8 p.m. Sun. Echo Park Lake, Park & Glendale, L.A. FREE! Info: (213) 485-1310.
- AUGUST**
- 4 60th Annual Hungarian Festival. Folk song and dance, performance by "Karpatok". Hungarian food. Alpine Village, 833 W. Torrance Blvd., Torrance. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Info: (213) 463-3473
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**
- 1997
- 2/9 Sweetheart Festival. Info: (707) 258-0519
- 6/21-6/28 **Folklore 1997, Mendocino Woodlands with Billy Burke, Jeliko Jergan, Ingvar & Sally Sodal, and Ron Wallace. To be put on the mailing list for 1997, call (707) 253-7735, 823-4145 or (916) 885-2001.**
- OUT OF STATE**
- New York**
- 12/27- Russian Festival New Year's Camp with Alexandre Antchoutine (Moiseyev Dance Company soloist), Misha and Natasha Smirnov (Barynya Folk Ensemble) and Jim Gold (international dance). At the Best Western Paramount, Parkville, NY. Info: (201) 836-0362
- FOREIGN**
- Mexico**
- 12/27- 26th Festival de Danza Folklorica.
1/297 Mexico. International Winter Camp, Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico. Including dances of Mexico, Israel, Greece, Japan, Mexico, Spain and Colombia. Info: Alejandro Valderrama, Apartado Postal 23-061, C.P. 16000, Mexico, Distrito Federal; phone (5) 676-12-64


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of
International Folk Dance
and
Scholarship Fundraiser

Sunday, Dec. 15, 1996
1:30-5:30

Council 11:00

Plummer Park-Fiesta Hall

7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood



\$5.00

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Freeway between La Brea
and Fairfax

(310) 478-6600
(818) 998-5682

Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California South
Hosted by Westwood Co-op Folkdancers and the Hollywood Peasants

On the Scene

THE TREASURER'S BALL

Folk Dance Federation South and the Hollywood Peasants are this year's sponsors of the annual Treasurer's Ball, to be held at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood from 1:30-5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 1996. Meet with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy the great dancing and refreshments at this popular event. Parking is free!

PASADENA CO-OP'S NEW YEAR'S FESTIVAL

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 North Lake, Pasadena will again be the location of the Pasadena Folk dance Co-op's annual New Year's Party. The party begins at 8 p.m. and continues to 1 a.m. on Tuesday, December 31. This yearly event features folkdancing that is "beginner friendly" as well as a buffet served at 9 p.m., with munchies available throughout the evening. A traditional midnight waltz will welcome the New Year.

PASADENA CO-OP'S WINTER FESTIVAL

The Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op announces a change in venue. This year, the Winter Festival will be held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 150 N. Madison, Pasadena, on Sunday, January 12, 1997, from 1:30-5:30 p.m.

The building has impressive statuary on the front steps which face on Madison. Access to the building and dance area are from the North parking lot. There is free parking on both sides of the building (see ad in this issue of *Scene*). The Co-op is excited to be able to offer a site on its own turf for this annual affair. The building is very close to the 210 freeway and should be easy to find. To protect the wooden floor, dancers are asked to bring dance shoes and change at the Hall. Costumes are welcome. Both couples and singles are invited. There will be a variety of dances to accommodate all.

Lunch will be provided for the Federation Club representatives who attend the Federation meeting held beforehand at 11 a.m.

UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM'S 1996-97 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

From klezmer to chorus, ballet to burlesque, the University of Judaism's International Festival of the Performing Arts at Gindi Auditorium will present an eclectic array of events during the 1996-97 season. The series has expanded from 3 to 4 performances for each event, adding a show on Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. to the regular schedule.

The Russian New Year will be celebrated by San Francisco's Ballet Russe on January 11, 12 and 14. The performance promises a mad mix of high flying Cossack acrobatics, whirling Ukrainian squat dances, lyrical court dances from Moldavia, vigorous boot-stamping dances from Minsk, Uzbek juggling feats and a 19th Century banquet scene complete with traditional quadrilles, caroling, folk instruments and a czar's fortune in museum-quality costuming.

For tickets and information, call (310) 476-9777 Ext. 201 or 203. Gindi Auditorium is located at the University of Judaism, 15600 Mulholland Dr., off the Mulholland Drive exit of the San Diego Freeway in West L.A.

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND with BEVERLY & IRWIN BARR

The annual New Year's weekend this year will be held from December 28, 1996 to January 1, 1997. An exciting long weekend is planned in San Diego with many special events, folkdancing, and an optional day trip to Mexico by chartered bus. Included in the weekend are 4 nights lodging, special dinners and a New Year's Eve Folk Dance Party. In Mexico, the group will visit the Cultural Center, Museum, Imax, the unique Mexitlan, some of the new hotels, and of course, shopping and dinner at one of the hotels.

This is the 15th annual New Year's Weekend held by Beverly and Irwin. Each year it is held somewhere different from the previous year, and each year is special. A lot of work and planning make this weekend

memorable, but it is mostly the people that come who make it so special. For information, call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659. See the ad in this issue of *Scene*.

WEST LOS ANGELES FOLKDANCERS HOLIDAY PARTY

The West Los Angeles Folkdancers invite everyone to their Holiday Party at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost in W.L.A. on Friday, December 20, 1996, starting at 7:30 p.m. An all-request program will keep everyone dancing all evening. Pot luck snacks and desserts are always a highlight, especially at holiday time. Call Beverly and Irwin Barr at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa will be hosting an International Conference on Middle Eastern Dance from Friday, May 16-Sunday, May 18, 1997. Included in the conference will be a slide show/lecture on the development of Oriental dance in America by Ibrahim Farrah, a keynote address, "Mythology and Symbolism in Middle Eastern Dance", forums/panel discussions on several subjects, two Master Dance classes taught by the Egyptian "super-star", Mona El Said, and a Middle Eastern dance concert on Saturday evening. Anyone wishing to attend the conference may register by phone at (714) 432-5880, Press 1. Call the same number for detailed information and/or to be mailed a brochure and registration form.

Anyone interested in participating in the conference as a presenter should submit abstracts before January 15, 1997 to: Middle Eastern Dance Conference-Panel; OCC Community Education Office, P.O. Box 5005, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-5005, FAX 714/432-5902 e-mail: mroda@lib.occ.cccd.edu. Additionally, vending tables are available in the Gymnasium foyer. For more information on these, write: Attn: Middle Eastern Dance Conference-Vendor, OCC Community Education, PO Box 5005, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-5005.

On the Scene

SCANDIA WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Scandia dance classes resumed in September, teaching material primarily from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Though they start in September with the basics and progress until June, it is still possible to get in on almost the ground floor.

Though Scandinavian dances are almost exclusively couple dances, you don't have to attend the classes as part of a couple....there are always plenty of other singles around, and during the teaching sessions, everyone rotates around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to dance with everyone else.

Check out this warm group of dancers. Call Donna Tripp for Orange County info at

(714) 533-3886 or Jacque Cohl for Los Angeles info at (310) 558-8352.

CAJUN/ZYDECO DANCE SCHEDULE

The Traditional Music and Dance Conservancy will be sponsoring Cajun and Zydeco dances every second and 4th Friday night at the War Memorial Hall, 435 Fair Oaks Ave. in South Pasadena. Live music is featured at each dance, by such groups as the Kent Menard Zydeco Band, the Acadiana Cajun Band, and the Joe Simien Cajun Band (to name a few). Cajun/Creole food is available at each event. Doors open at 7 p.m., with free dance lessons from 7:30-8 p.m. The kitchen opens at 7:30 p.m. and the band starts playing at 8 p.m. Upcoming events are on September 13, September 27, October 11 and October 25. For more information, call the LA LA Line at (818) 793-4333.

UCLA's 1996/96 CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

The 1996/96 schedule lists a number of performances of interest to anyone interested in ethnic music and dance. Included amongst these are Fiesta Navidad, the staging of a Mexican Christmas in December; Kodo, Japan's famous drummers from Sado Island; Olodum, Brazil's reggae/samba group in October; Maria Benitez's Teatro Flamenco in November; the Whirling Dervishes, performing the dance of Turkey's mystical Sufi group; and many others. For more information, or a brochure, contact the UCLA Center for the Performing Arts, P.O. Box 951429, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1429, or call (310) 825-2101.

New Year's Eve Party



International Folk Dancing

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1757 North Lake, Pasadena

(818) 794-9493

Hosted By

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op

\$10.00

8:00 to 1:00
Buffet
at
9:00

MEMBER FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op Winter Festival

January 12, 1997

11:00 Council Meeting

1:30-5:30 Festival

\$5.00

Art Work from 1977 Pasadena Flyer

NEW LOCATION

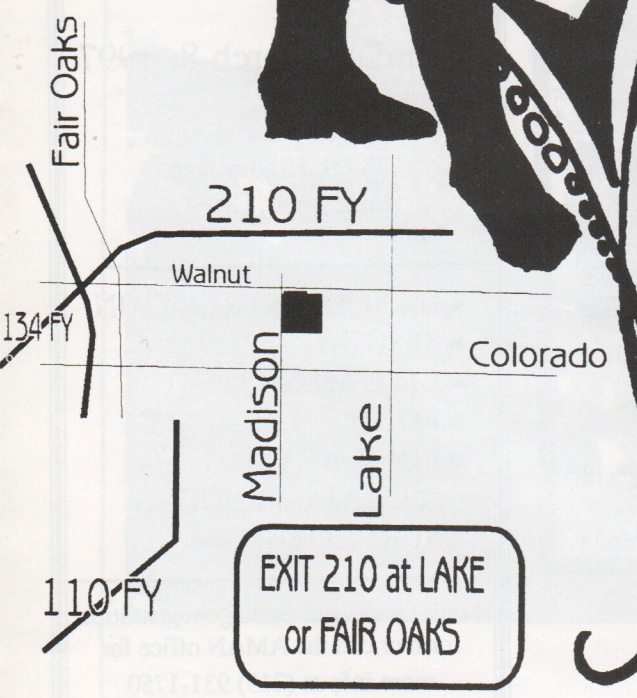
Scottish Rite Cathedral

150 N. Madison
Pasadena

(818) 794-9493



Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South



LOOK ...at what is happening in 1997!

**CZECH & SLOVAK
REPUBLICS**

Vychodna Festival

HUNGARY

International Gypsy Festival
of Music and Dance

ALBANIA

Villages and Folklore

JUNE 17 - JULY 9, 1997

BULGARIA

Pirin Mountains Festival
at Bansko

ROMANIA

Village lore of the

Carpathian Mountains

JULY 30 - AUGUST 15, 1997

possible add-on to Turkey

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On Romanian Costume



The borders of Romania's seven main regions (Moldavia, Dobruja, Wallacia, Oltenia, Banat, Transylvania and Maramures) have shifted several times throughout history. The Magyars (Hungarians) occupied Transylvania from the 9th Century up to 1918, the Turks invaded and occupied Wallachia, and Russia overran Moldavia on several occasions, finally annexing Bessarabia and Bukovina to the USSR. Each invasion and occupation left its mark on Romanian culture, as did the influences of the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. (In the middle ages, the country was invaded so frequently that the peasants built their wooden churches on wheels, allowing "quick get-aways".) Music, dance, costume, even foods, bear the mark of one or more of these influences.

There is a distinct outline of Romanian costume, thought to have derived from the costumes of the Daco-Roman era. The first truly Romanian costumes appeared in the 9th and 10th Centuries. Generally, the costume is characterized by the ample use of white as a background color. Ornamentation tends to be delicate, with geometric motifs. Even when taken from nature, motifs are stylized. Colors are subdued; red, black, dark brown, blue, and some greens and violets predominate.

Starting around the 14th Century, distinct ethnographic areas developed, so that each region, every valley and almost every village developed a distinct style. Differences are especially seen in the embroideries, both in the colors and patterns used and in the placement of them, and in headdresses for both men and women.

Women's Costume

The basic foundation for the women's costume is a long-sleeved blouse or chemise of hemp, flax or cotton, with a rounded neck, heavily embroidered on the arms, collar, and down the front. Over this is worn one or more skirts and/or aprons of wool. Both men and women wear a sleeveless sheepskin short coat with colored embroidery and leather appliqué. All of this, during the cold seasons, is topped by a thick overcoat of

leather or wool. Various headdresses finish the costume.

The woman's blouse is of two main types, based on cut. Except in Maramures, where the neck is cut squarely and somewhat low, the neck is cut to fit tight around the neck. No variant has short sleeves. To emphasize the cut, the seams are usually embroidered with colored thread.

There are four main types of skirt: the *opreg*, the *catrinta*, the *fota* and the *vilnic*. The *opreg*, worn in the Banat region and Hateg (a part of Transylvania), is basically a woven strip of fabric with fringes. Two variants exist: one is a wide strip of material with short fringes woven in dark colors, having matched ornaments in the same dark color(s). The other has long fringes, with bright colored (primarily red) ornamentation. The woven material is very fine, often incorporating gold thread.

The *catrinta*, a rectangular strip of woven material, is worn in the front and the back in Oltenia, Wallachia and south-east Moldavia, but only in the front in Banat. Main variations on this type of skirt lie in the size of the woven strip and in the richness of ornamentation. In Banat and Wallachia, the *catrinta* is embroidered on all surfaces, while elsewhere ornamentation is more limited.

The *fota*, a large piece of rectangular woven material worn wrapped around the body, is found most often in Moldavia and in the north and east of Wallachia. The classic *fota* has an ornamental band on the hem and another vertical one on the side which is wound around the body. The rest of the skirt is of a dark color.

The *vilnic*, a full or pleated skirt, is worn in Oltenia and some parts of southern Wallachia. Two main variations exist: one with a red background, with geometric motifs woven in vertical stripes; and the other with a dark background and the hem embroidered in gold thread and small polychrome ornaments.

There are perhaps as many headdress styles as there are villages in Romania. The headdress has a special social value, being a sign of the age, and civil or social status of the wearer. Young, unmarried girls wear no more on their heads than flowers, ribbons or small chains or strings of beads. Then, two or



Woman's costume worn in the Vlasca area (Wallachia). The skirt is made of three quarters of a *vilnic* and an apron called *catrinta*. The whole is named *pesteman*.



A woman's blouse from northern Moldavia. Hand-embroidered on thin material, the blouse is very full and gathered tight around the neck on a cord. This type of blouse, with fullness around the neck, is called *brezarau*. The composition of the embroidery on the sleeve is in three registers: the *alita* (the shoulder piece), the *incret* (a small monochrome ornamental band) and the *riuri* (the embroidery all down the sleeve).

three Sundays before they are married, and on their wedding day, the girls of certain regions of Romania wear headdresses especially made for the event. Often they are very elaborate, styled from a very old tradition.

Three main types of headdresses exist: the *stergar* and the *marama* (scarves or kerchiefs of various fabrics), various bonnets, and coronets or other types of headdresses usually connected with weddings.

Specially shaped bonnets are worn in Hunedoara and Banat. The *ceapsa* of Hunedoara is small, with a pointed end, from which hangs a white kerchief whereas the *conci* of Banat is a small bonnet made of gold thread and coins or of silk, with two horns (the *conci*).

The special wedding headdresses vary considerably in the ethnographic regions where they are worn, and are compulsory in those areas. In one region of Transylvania, young girls wear two ornaments above their ears made of feathers and beads, called *paunite*. These are worn only at the two or three Sunday horas before their wedding and on their wedding day. In another region, a coronet of green leaves and flowers, the symbol of virginity, is worn on the eve of the marriage. A more complicated bride's headdress, made of fine lace net over which an artificial flower coronet rests, is seen in Oas, where it is made by an expert.

Men's Costume

The basic elements of the male costume includes loose linen pants (*izmene*), tight linen pants (*itari*), or tight woolen trousers (*cioareci*). The trousers are topped with a white shirt, a sleeveless sheepskin coat and a thicker coat of leather or wool. Several different types of hats or caps complete the costume.

Variations of the *cioareci* are worn in all regions of Romania during the winter months. Though plain in some regions, certain parts of Banat embellish the trousers with black soutache designs. Summer trousers, on the other hand, show regional differences. In Moldavia, they fit tightly, are very long, and gathered. In Wallachia and Oltenia, they are long, and of average width, while in North and west



A popular costume from the Mehedinti area, consisting of a pleated *vilnic*, a blouse with classical embroidery, a waistband and a vaporous *marama*.

The costume worn by the young men in Oas (Transylvania) includes very full trousers, a short shirt with wide sleeves and the main ornament on the shoulder completed by a *straita* — a small sack with straps — and the *clop*, a small hat of felt or straw, trimmed with a feather and *zgardane* made of felt or straw. The young women wear a characteristic blouse with a yoke embroidered in many colors, a full skirt and an apron with a floral design.



Transylvania, they are very wide and fairly short.

Men's headdresses, the *caciula*, are of three basic types. There is the skull cap, a style formerly worn by serfs, the tall *caciula*; worn by free men, and the *caciula* with a narrow base and wider top. In addition to the *caciula*, men wear hats with turned up brims or wide-brimmed hats. Shepherds in the Carpathian range and in north Transylvania wear hats with very small brims. Men in the Ouvas region are given a small round straw hat when they are children, and wear the same one until old age. Women of this region wear shirts embroidered with stylized flowers and geometrical figures of bright red. The basic shirt ornament is a heavily embroidered rectangular inset at the neck.

Some regional variations:

The monochromatic embroidery on the woman's shirt in Craiova (part of Oltenia) falls in three registers down the sleeve and front. It is complemented by the skirt, or *vilnic*, woven in polychromatic stripes, with red the predominating color. It is worn tight at the waist, falling down over the hips in loose folds. The woman's head covering, or *marama*, is made of embroidered silk and worn draped over the head and wrapped around the neck and upper bust. Each region has its own type of *marama*. Married women tie it under their chin, allowing no hair to show, while younger women wear it in several different ways.

Moving east towards the more mountainous Pitesti region (in Wallachia), the costume colors brighten, primarily due to the use of gold thread woven into fabric and used in the embroidery. The woman's skirt, the *fota*, consists of a dark-colored rectangle of fabric richly and colorfully embroidered along the edge, worn tightly wrapped around the hips, often with the bottom corner turned up and pinned in place.

The main feature of the costume in the Maramures region is the intensive use of wool as a raw material. The women's shirt reaches down to just above the ankles. Over this are two striped (generally black



Ancient costumes worn in the Sibiu area. The women's headdress, called the *valitoare cu ciure*, consists of a piece of white linen wrapped around the head. The man wears a shepherd's *caciula*, peculiar to the Sibiu sheep breeders, and a *bitusca*, a long sheepskin coat with very long sleeves. In wet weather, the coat is worn inside out to let the water trickle down.

stripes alternating with red, orange or yellow ones) woolen aprons, the *fota*, one worn in front and the other in back. The vest is a sleeveless sheepskin coat richly ornamented with wool embroidered colored flowers.

In Hunedoara, a highland plateau region in southwestern Transylvania, the woman's costume is more sober. It consists of an ankle length hemp shirt with geometric ornaments placed in dark rectangles on the sleeves and chest. Two black aprons of coarse wool are worn in front and at the back. On the head, they wear a small black cap (*clapsa*) made of wool or goat hair, with a white cloth attached

hanging down the back. *Opanci* are worn on the feet. Additionally, the sleeveless leather coat, heavily embroidered in dark colors (predominantly red and black), is worn.

Ouas country, in the Baia Mare region, in the north of the country, shows Ukrainian, Slovak, and Hungarian influence overlying basic Romanian elements in the costume. The men's costume is of very loose trousers of hemp, reaching just below the knees and a very loose sleeved shirt so short that it fails to cover the abdomen, allowing the elaborately tooled, thick leather belt to be seen. Embroidery on the shirt is usually brown. All is topped with a small felt or straw hat with a narrow brim, and a feather stuck into it.

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Colindatul and Other Winter Festival Customs

Festive winter customs begin on Christmas Eve or on the day before it, and last until Epiphany. According to Tiberiu Alexandru in his book on Romanian folk music, the most important of these is *colindatul* (carol singing). Bands of *colindatori* (carolers) go from house to house singing ancient luck-wish songs (*colinde*) to the occupants. Though important, luck-visit songs are not found in all areas of Romania. *Colinde* are rare in Moldavia, Oltenia and the southern Banat.

The bands of carolers are made up of children, youths, girls, and/or adults, either separately or in mixed groups, differing from one place to another. In turn, the ceremonial is variable. The carolers may sing at the window, at the window and inside the house, or only inside the house.

Some sing *a capella* while others are accompanied by a variety of instruments. In Western Romania (including Hunedoara and the neighboring regions in Transylvania and the Banat), the caroler's main instrument is the *duba*, a small drum made of a broad wooden hoop over which two skin membranes are stretched. In some villages, every caroler carries a *duba* adorned with greenery. The *duba* is usually beaten with a single wooden stick. The carolers themselves, in this case, are called *dubasi*, and the instrumental tune played while they travel from house to house is called *Zicala dubei*.

Most luck-songs are "dedicated" to marriageable young girls and youths, to newly-married couples, to the householders, and sometimes to those following certain occupational callings (fishermen, shepherds, hunters). Those addressed in the *colinde* are praised, congratulated, greeted with good wishes for happiness, health and wealth.

Colinde can be secular or religious. Secular variations center on various folk myths, and on tales of everyday life. One example is the tale of the matchmakers requiring a huge dowry of a young marriageable girl's family, and then renounce these demands upon seeing the beauty and diligence of the girl. Religious variants constitute a kind of folk Bible, singing tales of God and the saints, but scattered with pagan elements at every opportunity. God and the saints are humanized; God, like any other shepherd, blows the flute to his sheep; God and St. Peter, dressed as beggars, are chased away from the house of the rich man, but are well received in the poor man's house, and so on.

The carolers are given *colaci* (a kind of pretzel), smoked pork, drinks, money, or other gifts, by the occupants of the houses they visit. At the receipt of each gift, the leader of the group thanks the host singing suitable verses, full of humor. In some parts of Transylvania, the carolers then perform a few dances, making sure that they dance with the marriageable girls and young wives they find in the household.

In some districts (southern Banat and northern Oltenia, and some parts of Transylvania), bands of children called *pitarai* go luck-visiting. They carry *colinde* in their hands (hazel twigs striped black and white), while rhythmically reciting wishes for abundance.

Another greeting of prosperity, long life and health is the Muntenian *sorcovit*. On New Year's morning, children go from house to house with *sorcova* (an apple or pear twig.

kept at home to blossom). With this, they lightly touch the host in time to the rhythm of their recitation.

The most important New Year custom is the greeting of the *plugusor*, *plugul mic*, *plug*, *plugu mare* or *buhai* ("little plough", "plough", "big plough" and "bull"). This ancient agricultural fertility rite is celebrated on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in Muntenia, particularly in Moldavia and Bucovina. Against background "music" provided by the bellowing of a friction drum (the *buhai*), a sung verse recitation is delivered, depicting work in the fields: "the epic of the field work, beginning with ploughing, going on to the sowing of the harvest, the threshing of the wheat, and ending with the grinding". The luck-wish is punctuated by the tinkling of a small bell or of a cow bell, and is interrupted by yelling, whip cracking, and the hallooing of the bands of luck-wishers who go through the village with a fancifully decorated plough drawn by one or two pair of oxen, likewise decorated. The *buhai*, the principal instrument of the custom, is used only in this connection. It is made of a wooden milk pail whose top is covered with a sheep-skin membrane, tightly stretched. Through the perforated center of the membrane is passed a tuft of horsehair, knotted on the inside. The tuft is pulled alternately with the hands wetted with snow or water, and emits a low, tuneless sound, imitating the bellow of a bull. Children go round without a plough, *cu clopotelul* (with the little bell).

The *lautari* of Muntenia and Moldavia go round on New Year's Day with the *Vasilca*: a pig's head put on a tray and decorated with all sorts of adornments. The *Colinda de Vasilca* tells of the Christmas pig.

Other festive winter customs center around dance. There are a number of masked dances performed throughout the country at this time of year, including the Moldavian *capra* ("goat"), the Muntenian *brezaia*, the Transylvania *turca*, and the *cerb* or *cerbut* ("Stag" or "little stag") of the Hunedoara-Banat region. All of these dances employ zoomorphic masks as emblems of fecundity. The muzzle of many of the masks used are made of two pieces of wood that are clacked together to mark the rhythm of the dance. Added to this is the sound of the sheep or sleigh bells that adorn the costume of the "animal".

In north-central Moldavia and Bucovina, the dance custom involves a large number of villagers. Many "she-goats" and a "billy goat" are led by a "goatherd" who calls them with an alphorn. "Dealers" wander amongst the "goats", offering to buy them. they haggle with the "goatherd" who finally agrees to sell them, but the "goats", via a comical pantomime, chase them all off. While all this is going on, a host of other characters add their antics to the "play": an old hunchback and old woman, a group of Gypsy blacksmiths or coppersmiths with their wives, the months of the year, a bride and bridegroom, emperors and their counselors, four or more "button-sellers" who wear several belts on which are sewn metal buttons or coins, "beautiful" and "ugly" people, "devils" playing tricks, a "bear leader" with a chained "bear" that growls and dances while the "bear leader" beats a drum and shouts at the top of his voice or sings to the "bear", and/or a group of up to 15 or 20 *caiuti* (hobby horses) representing youths on horseback, who perform a spectacular, heroic dance.

The tinkling of the small bells and the clang of the large cattle bells, the loud beating of the drums, the bellow of the *buhai*, the calls of the alphorn and horn, and the sound of all the music instruments all contribute to the exuberant uproar with which the New Year is greeted, especially in Bucovina and Moldavia. The variety of noise-making instruments is probably a reminiscence of old times when people thought that their noise would frighten away evil spirits.

This article has been excerpted from the book "Romanian Folk Music", written by Tiberiu Alexandru, and published by the Musical Publishing House In Bucharest, 1980.

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KYPSÉLI	Fri, 8 pm-midnite	(818) 248-2020	PASADENA, 2031 Villa St.
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OJAI FOLK DANCERS	Wed, 7:30-10 pm	(805) 649-2367 Rachel Pratt	OJAI Art Center 113 S. Montgomery
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LONG BEACH JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER	Sun 7-10:30 pm	(310) 275-6847	LONG BEACH 3801 E. Willow
MIXED PICKLES	Fri, 7:30-10 pm	(714) 530-6563 Pat Thomas	FULLERTON, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1155 N. Lemon
NORTHRIDGE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS	Thur, 3:30-5 pm call to confirm	(818) 340-6432 JoAnne McColloch	RESEDA, Reseda Sr Citizen Center 18255 Victory Blvd.
OUNJIAN'S ARMENIAN DANCE CLASS	Tues, 7:30-9 pm Thur, 7:45-9:15 pm	(818) 845-7555 Susan Ounjian	VAN NUYS, 17231 Sherman Way L.A., 4950 W. Slauson Ave.
SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCERS	Mon, 7:30-10 pm	(619) 460-8475 Evelyn Prewett	SAN DIEGO, Recital Hall. Balboa Park
SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCERS	Wed, 8-10:00 p.m. Tue, 10:45-12:30	(805) 967-9991	SANTA BARBARA, Carillo Rec. Center Flora Codman 100 E. Carillo St.
SHAAREI TORAH	Tues 7:30-9 pm	(310) 275-6847 David Ebery	ARCADIA, 550 N Second Ave.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH	Mon, 1:00-3:00 pm	(310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason	MAR VISTA, 11827 Venice Blvd.
WESTSIDE JCC ISRAELI DANCERS	Tues & Fri 9 am-noon	(213) 938-2531 x2228 Naomi Silbermintz	WEST L.A., Westwide Jewish Ctr., 5870 N. Olympic Blvd.

BEGINNER'S CLASSES

ARMENIAN DANCE CLASS (8 week series)	M-F, 6:30-10 pm	(310) 941-0845 Tom Bozigian, instructor	Different locations each night. Call for details.
CABRILLO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS	Tues, 7-8 pm Thur, 7-8 pm	(619) 445-5995, Jack (619) 459-1336, Lu	SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club Balboa Park
CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS	Mon., 7:30 pm	(805) 496-1277	
CRESTWOOD FOLK DANCERS	Mon, 7-8:15 pm	(310) 478-4659; 202-6166 Beverly Barr, instructor	WEST L.A., Brockton School 1309 Armacost Ave.
DANCING FOOLS	Fri, 8:30 pm - 1:00 am	(310) 204-1513 Jeffrey Levine	WEST L. A. Gypsy Camp 3265 Motor Ave.
DESERT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS	Tues, 7:30-8:30 pm Call to confirm	(619) 342-1297 Helen (619) 323-7259 Shelley	PALM SPRINGS, Village Center 538 N. Palm Canyon Dr.
HAVERIM FOLK DANCERS OF VENTURA	Sun, 7-9 pm	(805) 643-2886 Ann Zacher	VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah 7620 Foothill Rd. (corner Kimbal)
ISRAELI DANCE	Tues, 7-8 pm	(213) 938-2531 x2228 Jeffrey Levine	LOS ANGELES, Westside Jewish Community Ctr., 5870 W. Olympic Blvd.
ISRAELI & INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS	Tues, 7:45-10 pm	(310) 375-5553 Ginger McKale	REDONDO BEACH, Temple Menorah 1101 Camino Real
KAYSO FOLK DANCERS	Sat, 12:30-3 pm	(619) 469-7133 Rochelle Abraham	SAN DIEGO, North Park Rec Center, 4044 Idaho St.
LAGUNA BEGINNER'S FOLK DANCE CLASS	Sun, 7-7:45 pm	(714) 494-3302; 533-8667	LAGUNA BEACH, Community Center, 384 Legion Ave.
NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY BEGINNERS	Thurs, 7:30-9:30 pm	(619) 747-1163 Faith Hagadorn	ESCONDIDO, Methodist Church Rec. Hall, 4th & Kalmia
OJAI FOLK DANCERS	Wed., 7:30 pm	(805) 649-1503	OJAI, Ojai Art Center
PASADENA CO-OP BEGINNER'S CLASS	Fri, 7:45-8:30 pm	(818) 794-9493	PASADENA, Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles
SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLASS	Wed, 7-8:15 pm	(619) 422-5540 Alice Stirling	SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club Balboa Park

CLUB ACTIVITIES

SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCERS	Wed, 7:30 pm	(805) 967-9991 Flora Codman	SANTA BARBARA. Carillo Rec. Center 100 E. Carillo
SIERRA MADRE FOLK DANCE CLASS	Mon, 8-9:30 pm	(818) 441-0590 Chuck Lawson	SIERRA MADRE, Sierra Madre Recreation Bldg, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
SKANDIA FOLK DANCE CLASSES	Tue, 7:30-10 pm Wed, 7:30-10 pm	(714) 533-8667 (310) 558-8352	ANAHEIM, Senior Center, 280 E. Lincoln CULVER CITY, Peer Gynt Hall, 3835 Watseka
SOUTH BAY FOLK DANCERS	Fri, 7:45-8:15 pm	(310) 377-6393, Bea (310) 370-2140, Ted/Marilyn	TORRANCE. Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., (310) 781-7150
VESELO SELO BEGINNER'S CLASS	Thurs, 7-10 pm	(714) 893-8127, Carol (714) 530-6563, Pat	FULLERTON. Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1155 N. Lemon
WESTCHESTER LARIATS	Mon, 3:30-4:30 pm Mon, 4:30-5:30 pm	(310) 288-7196 LynnAnne Hanson	L.A., Westchester Methodist Church Emerson & 80th Pl.
WESTSIDE JCC ISRAELI DANCERS	Tues & Fri, 9-10 am	(213) 938-2531 x2228 Naomi Silbermintz	WEST L.A. Westside Jewish Ctr 5870 W. Olympic Blvd.
WESTWOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS	Thurs, 7:30-9 pm	(818) 998-5682 (310) 476-1466	WEST L.A., Emerson Jr. High Gym, 1670 Selby, behind Mormon Temple

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