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# Folk Dance Scene

NOVEMBER 97

Volume 33, Number 7





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NOVEMBER 97

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# Folk Dance Scene

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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.

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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.

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**PLEASE NOTE  
EDITORIAL OFFICE ADDRESS CHANGE**



# Calendar

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

## NOVEMBER

Several "Dia de los Muertos" festivals and events throughout Southern California:

- 1 Art in the Park, Arroyo Seco Park, 5568 Via Marasol, L.A., 5-10 p.m. Info: (213) 259-0861
- 1 Galeria Otra Vez at Self-Help Graphics, 3802 Cesar E. Chavez, L.A., 3-10 p.m. Info: (213) 881-6444
- 2 El Pueblo Historic Monument, Olvera St., L.A., 5-11 p.m. Info: (213) 624-3660
- 2 Andres Pico Adobe, 10940 Sepulveda Blvd (at Brand), Mission Hills, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Info: (818) 344-7017
- 1 **San Diego Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Masquerade Dance. Twin Oaks High, San Marcos. 7:30 p.m. Info: Gillian Buchan, (619) 549-42457**
- 3 Drums & Drummers, performance at Daniel Recital Hall, Cal State U, Long Beach. Info: (562) 985-7000
- 7 Irish Fire, Young Masters of Irish Music and Dance. 8 p.m. Concert at Coast Hills Community Church, Aliso Viejo. Info: (818) 342-7664.
- 8 **Beginner's Festival hosted by Narodni Dancers, 1:30-5:30 pm at California Heights Methodist Church, 3759 Orange, Long Beach. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. Info: (562) 865-0873.**
- 8-9 8th Annual Intertribal Marketplace. Music, food, dance, art and craft displays and sales. Southwest Museum, 214 Museum Dr., L.A. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: (213) 221-2164, x-235.
- 8, 9 Ukrainian Shumka Dancers at Carpenter Center, Cal State Long Beach. Info: (562) 985-7000.
- 14-16 **Julian Weekend, San Diego Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Camp Stevens. Info: (619) 549-4257**
- 15 **SCANDIA at Masonic Hall, Redondo Beach. Info: (310) 540-2051.**
- 16 7th Annual Los Angeles Mariachi Festival. 12 - 5 p.m.. Mariachi music, ballet folklorico. Mariachi Plaza de Los Angeles, Donut Shop, First, Boyle and Pleasant Sts., L.A. Info: (213) 485-2437.

- 22 **St. Andrew's Ball. 7:30 p.m. at Clark Hall, 861 Valley Dr. Hermosa Beach. Live music. Sponsored by the Los Angeles Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Info: (310) 473-0921**
- 27-30 **Scandia Festival, Cedar Glen Camp, Julian. Info: (714) 533-3886.**
- 28 **Day After Thanksgiving Party. 7:30 p.m. West L.A. Folkdancers. Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. Info: (202) 6166 or 478- 4659**
- 29 Victorian Ball. Masonic Lodge, Pasadena. Info: (818) 342-3482.

## DECEMBER

- 5 Bulgarian Women's Choir and Throat Singers of Tuva. Irvine Barclay Theater, 8 pm. Info: (714) 553-2422
- 6 **Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Beginner's Dance. 7:30 p.m. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center, 5040 Van Nuys Blvd. Info: (310) 473-0921**
- 14 Hungarian Gypsy Dance Class. Long Beach Dance & Event Center. Info: (714) 641-7450
- 22 **West L.A. Folkdancers' Holiday Party, 7:30 p.m. at Brockton School. 1309 Armacost Ave., W.L.A. Info: (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659**
- 26-29 **Holiday Nostalgia Camp, Pilgrim Pines, Oak Glen. Mihai David and Richard Duree Info: (714) 458-7825.**
- 27 **Scandia Holiday Dance: Women's Club of Orange. Info: (714) 533-3886.**
- 31 **Veselo Selo's New Year's Dance. Hillcrest park, Fullerton. Info: (714) 641-7450**
- 31 **Hogamany Party. L.A. Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Westchester Senior Citizen Center, 8740 Lincoln Blvd., Westchester. Live music. Info: (310) 473-0921**
- 31 New Year's Eve Ball, Long Beach Dance Center. Info: (562) 438-1557

## 1998 JANUARY

- 2 **New Year's Party, Brockton School, 7:30p.m. Hosted by the West L.A. Folkdancers. Info: (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659.**
- 11 **Pasadena Festival. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m.**
- 17 Klezmer Conservatory Band, 8 pm. Irvine Barclay Theater. Info: (714) 553-2422
- 25 **Pasadena Festival. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. Info: (818) 300-8138. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!!**
- 31, 2/1, 2/3, 2/8 Jose Greco II Flamenco Dance Company at Gindi Auditorium, University of Judaism. 15600 Mulholland Dr. Info: (310) 476-9777

## FEBRUARY

- 6-8 **Laguna Folkdance Festival. Ensign Jr. High, Newport Beach. Institutes with Steve Kotansky and Marilyn Smith, concert, parties. Info: (714) 494-7683.**
- 14 Tziganka Russian Dance Co. 8 pm, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa. Info: (714) 432-5880
- 18-21 Cloud Gate Dance Theater concert, 8 pm. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Info: (562) 916-8501
- 20-22 **Westwood Co-op's Hess Kramer weekend, Malibu. Info: (310) 391-7382.**

## MARCH

- 7 **AMAN Institute, Mayflower Ballroom, Inglewood.**
- 14 Victorian Ball, Masonic Lodge, Pasadena. Info: (818) 342-3482
- 19-22 Georgian State Dance Company. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Info: (562) 916-8501.
- 25-29 La Tanya Flamenco Company. Irvine Barclay Theater. Info: (714) 553-2422
- 28 Klezmer and Eastern European music with Miamon Miller and the Bucovina Band. 8 p.m. Valley Jewish Community Center, Sherman Oaks. Info: (818) 786-6310

## APRIL

- 5 **Westwood Festival. Veteran's Memorial Aud, Culver City. 1:30-5:30 p.m.**



# Calendar

**Council meeting 10:30 a.m. Info: (818) 998-5682.**

25 Sephardic and Middle Eastern music with John Bilezikian. 8 p.m., Valley Jewish Community Center, Sherman Oaks. Info: (818) 786-6310.

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

11/1 President's Grand Ball. Sebastopol, 7-11:30 pm. Info: (707) 546-8877

11/21-23 West Coast Ragtime Festival. Red Lion Inn, Sacramento. Info: (916) 369-7200

11/27-29 Kolo Festival, Russian Center, San Francisco. Info: (510) 652-7859

12/7 Treasurer's Ball, Sebastopol. Info: (707) 546-8877.

5/22-25 1988 Statewide Festival. Russian Center, San Francisco.

## OUT OF STATE

### Hawaii

3/8-15 Scottish Dance Week with Elke Baker, Earl Gaddis, Beth Murray, Ralph Gordon. Dance teaching: John Drewry. Info: (800) 822-3435

### Illinois

11/7-9 Folk Festival with Dick Crum, Atanas Kolarovski and others. Info: (312) 324-1247

### Indiana

11/3-5 Performances by AMA. Indianapolis. Info: (562) 986-4331.

### Nevada

3/14/98 Las Vegas Festival. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m.

### North Carolina

6/24-27/98 National Square Dance Convention, Charlotte, N.C.

### Washington

Events sponsored by the Seattle Center Cultural Festivals Coalition. Info: (206) 684-7200

11/8 Hmong New Year Celebration

11/28-30 5th Annual Northwest Folklife World Market

## FOREIGN

### Canada

11/14-16 Armenian and International workshop with Tineke van Geel. Lachine, Quebec. Info: (514) 382-7166.

### Czech Republic

12/26-1/1/98 Dvorana, Folk Dance Week. Dance, singing, traditions. Benesov Info: Spanielova 38, 163 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic



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# On the Scene

## HOLIDAY CAMP AT PILGRIM PINES

Plans for the 1997 Holiday Camp are well under way. The recreation hall with its wood floor is ready, the folk dancers' menu is ready, the schedule is ready, the dance program is almost ready — all it needs now is for dancers to register and the calendar to get around to it.

Mihai David will teach a blend of old and new Romanian dances from his magical repertoire. Richard Duree will dig into his "60s and 70s repertoire" to revive several of the great old dances of the "glory years", such as *Arkan Kolomeyskiy*, *Shopsko Horo*, *Forgatos*, *Agcheekneroo Par* and others.

Camp begins with dinner on Friday, December 26 and ends with lunch on Monday, December 29, so everyone can get back to their favorite New Year's Eve dance.

A camp video and audio cassette tape will be available. All information will be sent on receipt of deposit.

Cost is \$235/person with a \$75 deposit before October 15 or \$245 for deposits received after that date. Please direct all questions to Diki Shields (714) 458-7825 or Richard Duree (714) 641-7450. Send registrations to: Holiday Camp, Richard Duree, PO Box 1642, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1642.

## HUNGARIAN FOLKLORE LISTSERVE

Anyone interested in Hungarian folk culture is invited to join the Hungarian Folklore Listserv. Members include folklorists, professional and amateur dancers, choreographers, musicians and dance group leaders/artistic directors. Members discuss topics related to the culture, and are able to list their events, including concerts, performances, tanchazes, and camps. Announcements can be made easily by sending e-mail to: [folklor@majordomo.umd.edu](mailto:folklor@majordomo.umd.edu). To subscribe to FOLKLOR, either reply to Sylvia

Balazs: [akovacsindcinc.com](mailto:akovacsindcinc.com), [sbalazs@juno.com](mailto:sbalazs@juno.com) or send e-mail to [majordomo@majordomo.umd.edu](mailto:majordomo@majordomo.umd.edu). In the body text, type: subscribe folklor [your e-mail address is not needed].

## ZHENA FOLK CHORUS AUDITIONS

The Zhena Folk Chorus, a South Bay-based women's ensemble, is holding auditions for singers to sing the folk music of Croatia, Bulgaria, Russia, and the Ukraine. For information, call (310) 831-4457.

## INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE AT UCLA

The UCLA International Folk Dance Club (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays) and the Ballroom Dance Club welcomes new members. For more information, contact James Zimmer at (310) 284-3636, or e-mail at [Intdance@ucla.edu](mailto:Intdance@ucla.edu) for the International Folk Dance Club, at [ballroom@ucla.edu](mailto:ballroom@ucla.edu) for the Ballroom Dance Club or at [rikud@ucla.edu](mailto:rikud@ucla.edu) for the Israeli Dance Performing Group.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Folk Dance Federation of California South membership directories are now available for \$3.00 from Carol Wall, membership Director, 9505 Stoakes Ave., Downey, CA 90240. Make your check out to Folk Dance Federation of California, South.

Please send any updates/additions/corrections/deletions of phone number, area code, address, new president, delegates, etc., so she can change the directory information in the computer. Use the above address or call (562) 862-0521 or e-mail [cwall@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cwall@ix.netcom.com).

## NARODNI'S BEGINNER'S FESTIVAL

Narodni, the only folk dance club in Long Beach, will be hosting a beginner's Folk Dance Festival at United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 8, from

1:30-5:30 p.m. Dances for non-dancers will be taught, assisted by experienced members of the club. This is a fine place to bring someone new to dance.

The church is at the intersection of Orange and Bixby in Long Beach, a few blocks north of the 405 Freeway. For info, call John Matthews (562) 424-6377, Carl Pilsecker (562) 865-0873, or Carol Wall (562) 862-0521.

## 46TH ANNUAL KOLO FESTIVAL

The Kolo Festival, held every Thanksgiving weekend in the San Francisco area, will be at the Russian Center, at Sutter and Divisadero in San Francisco. Teachers this year include Yvonne Hunt (Greek), Tanya Kostova (Bulgarian), Istvan "Kovacs" Szabo (Hungarian), Alma Franulovic Plancich and Binki Franulovic Spahi (Croatian/Dalmatian song), and one other (TBA). Live, music, parties, a dance and music concert, ethnic food, and costumes round out the experience. Register by contacting Joanne Splivalo at (510) 652-7859 or (800) 730-5615. Events begin the evening of Thanksgiving Day.

## "DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING", "HOLIDAY" and "NEW YEAR'S" PARTIES

The West L.A. Folkdancers (Friday evenings) will host their annual "Day After Thanksgiving Party", "Holiday Party", and "New Year's Party", all at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost in W.L.A. (between Barrington and Bundy, 1 1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). The first starts at 7:30 p.m. on November 28th; the second will be held on December 22nd, and the third on January 2, 1998. The programs will be all-request. Bring pot luck snacks and desserts to add to the fun, and come to this happy party. For information, call Beverly Barr at (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659.



# On the Scene

## YVES MOREAU'S PARTY IN HAWAII

Yves Moreau will be 50 years old next summer and has decided to throw a big party for his folk dance friends worldwide from July 16-19, 1998. He is co-organizing the affair with his long-time associate, Hironobu Senzaki, a well-known Balkan dance leader and teacher from Tokyo, Japan, who will also turn 50. It was decided to hold the event in a convenient "half way" spot between Canada and Japan, so Hawaii was picked as a logical and exciting site! Activities include daytime workshops with well-known teachers such as Yves, Jaap Leegwater, Nina Kavardjikova, and Joe Graziosi, exciting Balkan parties with live music led by George Chittenden and friends, Hawaiian luau, banquet meals, and many other surprises.

Registration is limited to the first 250 people. Over 100 persons have already sent in deposits from the USA, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia and Germany. Contact Yves at (514) 659-9271 to obtain your detailed brochure. Also see the ad in this issue of "Scene".

## NEW BULGARIAN DANCE VIDEO

To mark 30 years of active folk dance teaching, Yves Moreau has just released the first of a series of videotapes demonstrating some of his popular Bulgarian material which he has introduced worldwide. Volume 1 includes 20 of his earlier classics such as: *Dospatski, Bicak, Batuta, Sanansko, Gjusevska Racenica and Dobrudzanska Raka*. A matching audio

cassette is also available. Volume 2 is planned for December. Contact Yves for a mail order form at (514) 659-9271.

## NEW YEAR WEEKEND WITH IRWIN AND BEVERLY BARR

This New Year's weekend extends from December 28-January 1st, celebrating the new year traveling and dancing with folk dancers. All transportation from Los Angeles, including all sightseeing, is on a deluxe motorcoach reserved for this group. The 5 day, 4 night trip includes two nights in Death Valley and two in Laughlin, Nevada. Days will be spent sightseeing, and there will be a special, private New Year's Eve dinner and folk dance party at the hotel in Death Valley. For information, call (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659.

In 1998, YVES MOREAU celebrates! Join him in Hawaii for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party:



## Hawaii '50!

July 16-19, 1998  
Honolulu

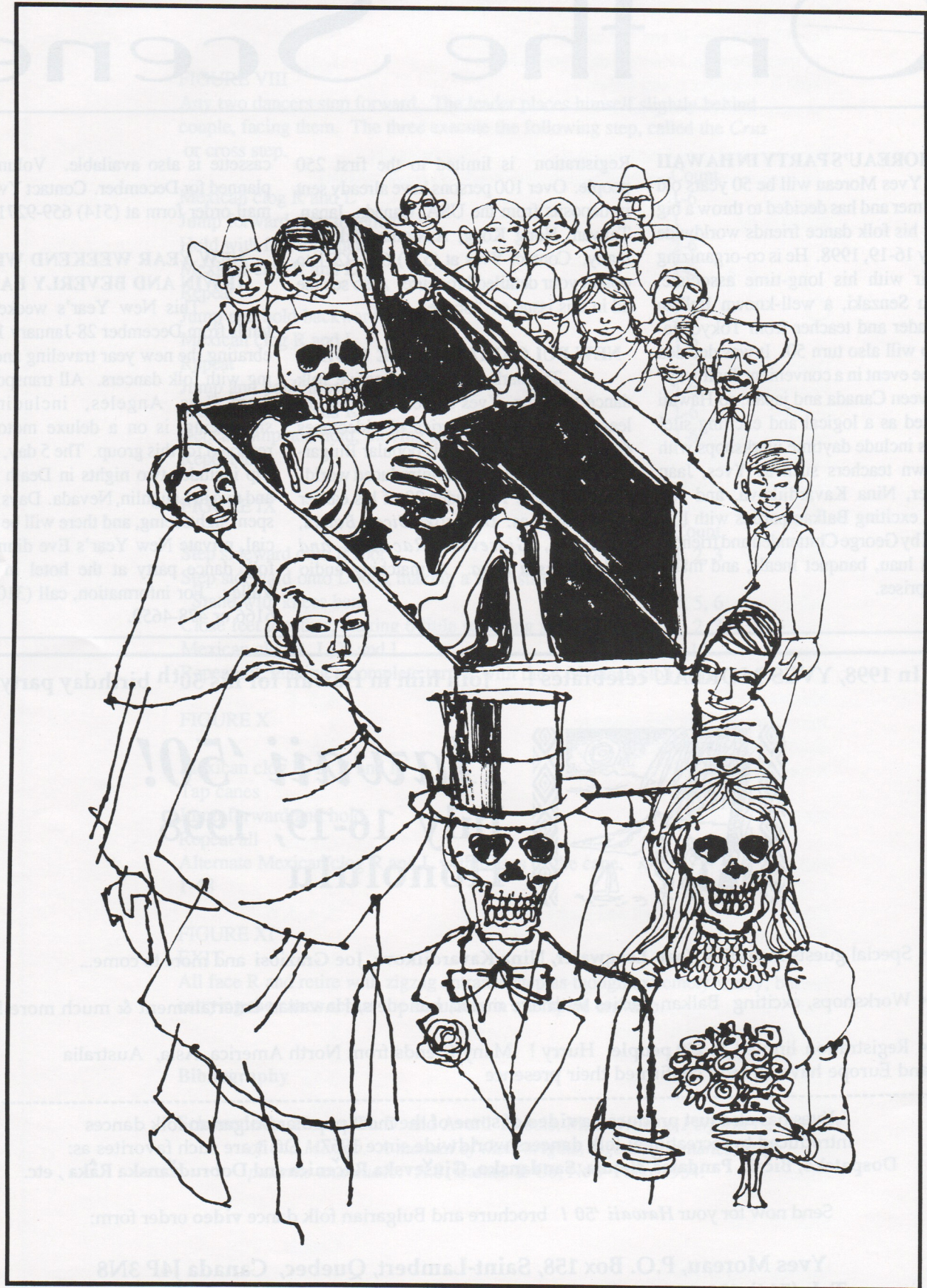
- Special guests including Jaap Leegwater, Nina Kavardjikova, Joe Graziosi and more to come...
- Workshops, exciting Balkan parties with live music, banquets, Hawaiian entertainment & much more!
- Registration limited to 250 people. Hurry! Many friends from North America, Asia, Australia and Europe have already confirmed their presence

Yves has also just produced a video of some of the most popular Bulgarian folk dances introduced to recreational folk dancers worldwide since 1967. On it are such favorites as: *Dospatsko, Bičak, Pandalaš, Batuta, Sandansko, Gjuševska Račenica and Dobrudžanska Raka*, etc.

Send now for your *Hawaii '50!* brochure and Bulgarian folk dance video order form:

Yves Moreau, P.O. Box 158, Saint-Lambert, Quebec, Canada J4P 3N8  
Tel: (514) 659-9271 • Fax: (514) 659-9377 • e-mail: ymoreau@odyssee.net







# El Dia de los Muertos

"Slowly, the lid of the black-painted coffin starts to open. The bony tips of skeleton fingers appear in the opening. Then the rest of the hand comes out, waving in the air. Its whiteness shows up sharply in the dark night. With a creak of rusty hinges, the lid opens wider. Out comes a skeleton arm, waving to the bystanders.

The four young men carrying the coffin show no fear. The men, women and children who follow behind the coffin make believe they are in a funeral procession, but they do not seem sad. The children chatter, point to the skeleton arm, poke at one another, and giggle. This is a strange kind of funeral.

The funeral seems even stranger because a bride and groom walk in front of the coffin. The "bridegroom" is dressed in a formal black suit and high silk hat. The "bride" is actually a young man wearing a long white gown and veil. The faces of the couple are hidden by masks painted to look like human skulls.

A large crowd has gathered to watch the procession as it moves along the main street of the village. Before their eyes, the lid of the coffin opens wide and ribs, shoulders, and grinning skull come into sight. As the skeleton seems about to rise out of its box, the crowd shrieks with delight.

The skull turns first to the right, then to the left. Its hollow eye sockets seem to stare at the people, and it nods to them. The crowd roars with laughter.

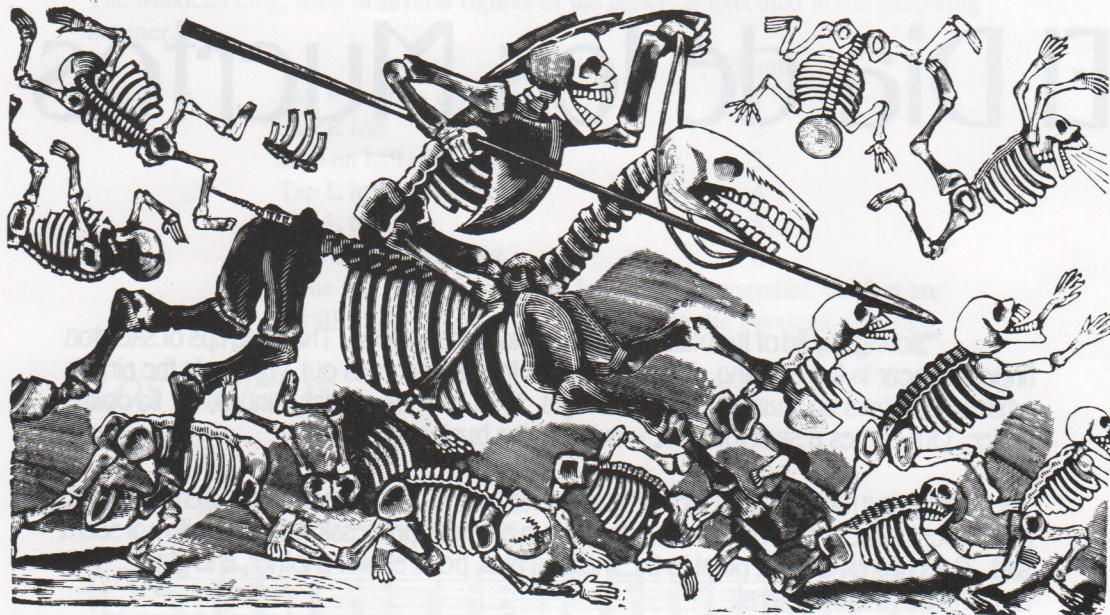
Now, instead of rising all the way out of the coffin, the skeleton slowly falls back into it. The ribs disappear first, then the shoulders and the skull. Soon only the waving arms and fingers can be seen. Then they, too, disappear and the lid slams down into place.

All this time, the bride and groom walk along in front of the coffin. Nobody seems to think it odd that such a couple are part of a funeral. Indeed, the crowd finds it great fun to pretend that two skeletons are going to be married.

The whole procession moves slowly on until it reaches the square in front of the village church. There it disbands. The skeleton bride and groom vanish into the crowd and the coffin is carried away to be stored for the next year.

This particular procession has been walking through the streets of the village of Mixquic, about twenty miles from Mexico City. But in many villages and cities, people join in some kind of merrymaking on el Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. It is the special day for honoring and remembering members of the family who are no longer living."





Special days for honoring the dead exist in a number of cultures throughout the world. Ceremonies for purification and/or protection vary according to the way each community views death. Frequently the ceremonies center around the hope that the ghosts will be kept from troubling the living as much as around affection for the “dearly departed.” In China, for example, important ceremonies are performed in Spring, Summer and Autumn (the second, seventh and tenth month) to give ease and comfort to man’s two principal souls: the spiritual soul which in heaven will hopefully exercise political pressure in favor of its descendants on earth; and the animal soul, which, if it has great vitality, might still animate the corpse and cause terrible trouble amongst the living.

Hindu rituals for the ancestors last for ten days. During this time, the ghost receives food to help it obtain liberation from the ten different hells it must visit. On the first of the new autumn moon, the head of each Hindu family performs ceremonies for the dead of the last three generations. Additional ceremonies are performed on the anniversary on the day of death. Ceremonies for the dead also include the Feast of the Hungry Ghosts in China, and numerous variations of All Souls Eve in Christian communities.

All Soul’s Day (November 2nd), is essentially an adaptation by the Roman Catholic church of the almost world-wide custom of setting aside part of the year for the dead. This is a day on which the souls of the dead that were not yet purified sufficiently will be aided by the prayers of the living. In many Catholic countries, the belief that the dead return on this day is so strong that food is left on the tables for them and people still decorate the graves of their dead. In China and Japan, the festival in honor of the dead is known as the Feast of the Lanterns.

In Germany, the day called *Allerseelen*, is dedicated to tending and decorating the graves and lighting candles for the souls of departed relatives. At noon, church bells may ring for an hour, freeing the soul until the noon bell rings on the following day. According to custom, no knife is left with the blade upturned, lest the souls hurt themselves. Nor is a pan left standing empty over heat. However, stoves are kept lit to warm the spirits, bowls of butter and fat are left to soothe the deads’ wounds, and cold milk is laid out to cool their souls.

*Giorno dei morti*, Dead Day, is celebrated much like a regular festival day in some towns in Italy. A special bread called *pane dei morti* (dead bread) is baked and eaten, and vendors sell everything anyone could want for the happiness of the departed spirits (candles, figurines, monuments for the dead). On the morning of *il Giorno dei Morti* in the Sicily, dead relatives leave gifts for the children in their families.





In many villages and cities of Mexico (as well as several Latin American communities), death is viewed as a continuation of the cycle of life, and so the Day of the Dead is a colorful, joyous celebration. It is believed that when someone dies, they go on to another life, often a happier one. There is rejoicing in the thought that the souls of loved ones are leading happy lives in another world. Actually a three day celebration that runs from October 31 to November 2, the Day of the Dead is the one time of year when the spirits of the dead are said to return to earth. November 1st is *El Dia de los Santos*, a day dedicated to children who have died, while November 2nd (*El Dia de los Muertos*) commemorates adults.

Since this is a celebration of the people, the presence of death is manifested in the form of numerous folkloric objects: white sugar candies formed into skulls, crosses, coffins, tombs, spirits, animals, fruits and birds; wood or clay toys in the form of coffins lined in black; wire skeletons painted white in the form of devils, dancers, musicians, bullfighters, drunkards, salesmen, *charros*, and other popular caricatures; funeral processions accompanied by priests and altar boys; as well as tables set with skulls, candles, food and drink. On November 2nd, bakeries fill with *pan de muerto* in various shapes, representing human being and animals. In candy shops, candies are found in the same forms, decorated with skulls.

In Mexico, city residents build home altars, replete with small plaster or cardboard skeleton figures playing soccer, strumming guitars, watching TV, or even cooking...commemorated the departed's favorite activities in life. In courtyards and storefronts, altars have been built of sugarcane and flowers, decorated with fruit garlands, glasses of water (after all, the spirits are hungry and thirsty after their journey back to earth), family photos, and bowls of mole. Crepe paper squares, elaborately cut out, and figures of skeletons and skulls, are strung across patios.

On October 31st, most people stay up all night, preparing and decorating the family altar and cooking for the ensuing days. Amongst the Zapotecan Indians of Oaxaca, the finish of tamale cooking is celebrated by men and boys setting off firecrackers in the streets. Other foods cooked on that night include the Oaxacan *mole*, red *moles*, and chiles. All related tasks have to be completed through the night, for the spirits of the children arrive at 4:00 a.m. When the little spirits arrive, the only evidence may be a fluttering of their candle flames, or a bit of fruit dropping from the pile at their altar. After they leave at 8:00 a.m., the morning of November 1st, the family snuffs out their memorial candles and removes them from the altar.



The adult spirits arrive at 3:00 p.m., greeted at the family altar by large candles, gifts of food and drink. Everyone hopes they will be pleased by these offerings; they may go away weeping if nothing is offered. Bad fortune falls on humans who dare to eat the food on the altar before the spirits come to take its essence. The angry adult spirits may even come and tie up their feet before they awake in the morning. At around 8:00 p.m., the family prays in front of the altar "in honor of the dead. Visitors and relatives come by to pray, talk, and offer gifts (*muertos*) to the souls". Talk often turns to the dead ones being honored that evening. By the flickering lights of the altar in an otherwise dark house, the perfect setting is created for ghost stories. Children gather, shivering with fear and delight to hear the elders tell them.

On the morning of November 2nd, masses are said for the dead, who will depart promptly at 8 a.m. When the adult spirits leave for their own world, the family snuffs out the candles, and people may remove food from the altar and take it around to friends. Prayers for the dead may continue throughout the day.

In some areas of Mexico (e.g., Juarez, Mexico City), this is the time to tend the graves of loved ones. After breakfast on the chosen day, people descend on the graveyards carrying flowers, hoes, rakes and other tools for the cleaning up of the grave sites. This is truly a holiday time: people bring lunches, paint to decorate crosses and headstones, and new plastic or metal crosses. Urchins rush about carrying plastic jugs of water for the families to sprinkle the graves and water the flowers they have brought. After the graves are scraped and re-mounded, weeds pulled and flowers arranged, the families settle down for a picnic at the family grave site. In contrast, another family may be kneeling in prayer at an adjoining grave.

The main activity in the evening on *El Dia de los Muertos* (November 2nd) is, of course, visiting the cemetery to bring offerings to the dead. Cemeteries slowly fill with people carrying flowers and candles to decorate the graves of the dead. Graves are transformed by flowers and the light of candles and long-burning *veladores* into magical tributes. Marigold petals, laid out to form a cross on the grave of each of a family's dead, adds an eerie glow to the scene. The most ornamented graves are those of little children, with everything done in miniature.

In other Mexican villages, such as Janitzio, on a small island in Lake Patzcuaro, the Day of the Dead is a solemn observance, not a day for fun. In the center of this island is a steep hill with an old church at its peak. On the eve of the Day of the Dead, a long chain of moving lights winds up the hill to the church...lights from lanterns carried by children to guide their mothers' way. The women are all carrying baskets of food and flowers up the hill to the church to be blessed. After the blessing, they go on to the cemetery where, by lantern light, they decorate the graves with wreaths and crosses of marigold petals. Then they spread tablecloths on the family graves and set out the food they brought for the souls of their dead. The spirits are not really expected to eat the food...it is there to make them feel welcome if they come to visit. The women also leave food on a table in the church for any souls of the village who may have no family to welcome them back from the dead.

Among the food and flowers on the graves, the women place tall lighted candles. They keep watch there quietly through the night, with only the flickering candles light to brighten the darkness of the cemetery. There is little sadness among the watchers at the graves. Instead, the living feel they have been reunited with the dead; for a few hours, the whole family is together in spirit. As the night wears on and day breaks, most of the candles burn out. Then the watchers themselves eat the food they brought. Afterward, they walk back down the hill to their homes, satisfied that they have once again honored the souls of their loved ones.

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Marcus, Rebecca B. and Judith Marcus. *Fiesta Time in Mexico*. Garrard Publishing Col, Champaign, Illinois. 1974



# Pan de Muertos

Special foods for special celebrations....the pan de muertos (bread of the dead) from Mexico is a special treat, indeed. Each region of the country has it's own special version of the bread; some form the loaves into whimsical likenesses of the deceased; others are crossed with leavened "bones." Natives of Oaxaca make the loaves round, coat them with sesame seeds, and then embellish them with tiny sugar or plastic skulls, or brightly painted bread-dough faces.

## **Bread of the Dead**

1 pkg. active dry yeast  
1/3 C milk  
1/3 C (1/6 lb.) butter or margarine, cut into small pieces  
1/2 C sugar  
1/2 tsp. salt  
3 large eggs  
1 T vanilla  
3 3/4 C all purpose flour  
3/4 tsp. ground nutmeg  
3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon  
2-3 T sesame seed

1. In a large bowl, sprinkle yeast over 1/4 C warm water; let stand about 5 minutes.
2. Heat milk and butter to 110 degrees. Add milk mixture, sugar and salt to softened yeast.
3. Lightly beat eggs. Spoon 1 T eggs into a small bowl, cover and chill. Add remaining eggs and vanilla to yeast mixture. Stir to blend. Add 2 1/2 C flour, nutmeg and cinnamon. Stir to moisten; then beat with a mixer on high speed until dough is stretchy (6-8minutes). Stir in additional cup of water to moisten.
4. Knead dough until smooth and elastic (about 12 minutes). Add flour as needed to prevent sticking. Return dough to bowl.
5. Cover bowl airtight and let rise until it doubles, about 1 1/2 hours.
6. Punch dough down. Knead on a lightly floured board to expel air. Form into a 7" round and set on a buttered 12 x 15" baking sheet. Cover lightly with plastic wrap and let rise until puffy (about 40 minutes).
7. Uncover dough and brush gently with reserved beaten egg. Sprinkle with sesame seed. With a sharp, floured knife, make a slash about 1/2" deep across the middle of the loaf.
8. Bake in a 350 degree oven until richly browned, 35-40 minutes. Serve warm or cool. If made ahead, wrap cool loaf airtight and let stand at room temperature up to one day. Freeze for longer storage.

Makes one loaf, about 2 pounds.

FROM: *Sunset Magazine*, October 1997 issue







# Los Viejetos

(The Dance of the Little Old Men)

Probably originating in the state of Michoacan, the *Danza de los Viejetos* is thought to be one of the oldest dances of Mexico. To this day, this dance is performed as part of the on New Year's Eve celebrations on the island of Janitzio in Lake Patzcuaro.

The *Danza de los Viejetos* is always danced by strong young men, as the steps require muscular control and great endurance. Several young men of the town are made up as bent, stiff-jointed, wrinkled old men with masks that grin toothlessly. The "Little Old Men" make their way out onto the dance area leaning on their sticks and moving as if it pained them to take each step. They lean forward heavily upon canes, appearing feeble and shrunken in stature. They totter, stumble, slide, and fall as their sticks slip out from under them. The tallest man leads a line of dancers while the shortest man, so bent and shaken that his chin almost drags on the ground as he walks, comes last.

Suddenly, all the dancers leap and hop about like young boys! They don't keep this up for long...soon they act as if they were about to collapse. Then, after a few moments, they gain new strength, and

prance around again in a lively manner, all to the sound of the audience howling with laughter. But soon they become bent old men again, rubbing their aching backs as they limp off the dance area on shaking legs.

The costumes are as amusing and original as the dance itself. Wide-brimmed, low-crowned hats of fine palm are embellished with multicolored ribbons crisscrossing the crown, ends hanging a few inches over the edge of the hat brim. The faces of the dancers are covered with warm-colored clay masks representing the faces of old men set in laughing expressions. A white fibrous material hangs in long strands from under the hats, representing hair. At the neck of a red or pale blue shirt is a loosely-knotted, bright colored kerchief. Covering the shirt is either a rectangular garment made of coarse cotton cloth elaborately embroidered in red thread or a small gray or red below-the-waist overcoat with fringed edges. A sash is plain and hangs well to the knees of the trousers cut extremely wide at the bottom. The handles of the canes are carved. Black or brown shoes have specially built heels so that the heel taps executed in the dance can augment the sound of the canes.

Without doubt, this is one of the most unique dances of the state of Michoacan, where it originated. The steps, though very similar in most towns where it is danced, vary according to the artistry of the leader. The dancers, numbering from 4-8, keep their knees deeply bent throughout the dance, with the Mexican clog step used in several figures.



Following is one choreography of the dance, taken from the text, "How to Perform the Dances of Old Mexico", by Averil Tibbels, M.A.

The Mexican clog, used in several figures of the dance, is executed in the following manner.

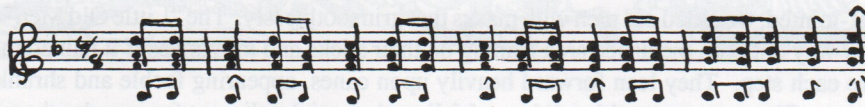
	Counts
Tap R heel on the floor	1
Tap R toe	2
Step on ball of R foot	3
Tap L heel on the floor	4
Tap L toe	5
Step on ball of L foot	6

The feet and knees should be kept close together; the feet are parallel and the knees well bent during the Mexican clog step.

## Los Viejetos

### ENTRANCE

Rhythm. Instruments: jarana and drum



	Counts
Keep the knees deeply bent and the weight supported on the canes.	
With each step wobble from side to side.	
Step R foot across L	1, 2, 3
Step L foot across R	4, 5, 6
Repeat, alternating R and L as long as desired.	
Finish in a straight line facing front.	

### FIGURE I

	Counts
Tap R heel on the floor 6 times.	
Repeat.	
Tap cane on the floor 5 times, holding on count 6	
Repeat	
Repeat all	

### FIGURE II

	Counts
Slide forward R, leaning on cane	1, 2, 3
Tap L toe, L heel, L toe	4, 5, 6
Repeat L	
Repeat all	

### FIGURE III

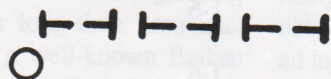
	Counts
Twist head to R	1, 2, 3
Twist head to front	4, 5, 6
Repeat to L	
Twist trunk to R	1, 2, 3
Twist trunk to front	4, 5, 6



Repeat to L  
 Cross L foot over R and fall on it,  
 at the same time twisting entire body to R 1, 2, 3  
 Cross R foot over L and fall on it,  
 at same time twisting entire body to L 4, 5, 6

Repeat, stepping and twisting to R and L. This movement  
 is done more slowly than the preceding head and trunk twisting.

FIGURE IV



	Counts
Dancers face in couples	
Beginning slowly, tap the floor with the R toe, increasing the rhythm	1 - 12
Mexican clog step R and L	1 - 6
Decrease rhythm, tapping with R toe.	
Finish facing front	1 - 12
(These taps imitate the chattering of old men.)	

FIGURE V

	Counts
Fall sideward on R foot	1, 2, 3
Close L to R	4, 5, 6
Repeat L	
Mexican clog R	1, 2, 3
Mexican clog L	4, 5, 6
Jump forward with feet together	1
Hold with feet together	2-6
Repeat all	

FIGURE VI

	Counts
Fall forward onto R foot	1
Fall backward onto L	2
Continue falling forward and backward	3, 4, 5, 6
Repeat all	
Mexican clog R and L	1-6
Jump to R forward with feet together	1
Hold with feet together	2-6
Fall sideward R onto R foot	1
Fall sideward L onto L foot	2
Continue falling R and L	3-12
Mexican clog R and L	1-6
Jump forward with feet together	1
Hold	2-6
Repeat all	

FIGURE VII

	Counts
Mexican clog R and L	1-6
Tap cane on floor	1-12



### FIGURE VIII

Any two dancers step forward. The leader places himself slightly behind couple, facing them. The three execute the following step, called the *Cruz* or cross step.

	Count
Mexican clog R and L	1-6
Jump forward, feet together	1
Hold with feet together	2-6
Mexican clog R and L	1-6
Repeat	
Jump and hold backward together	1-6
Mexican clog R and L	1-6
Repeat	
Jump and hold, moving sideward R	1-6
Mexican clog R and L	1-6
Repeat jump and hold, moving sideward L	1-6
Repeat all	

### FIGURE IX

	Count
Step sideward onto R foot	1, 2, 3
Step sideward onto L foot, making a wide stride.	
Stand with knees bent	4, 5, 6
Close feet together, making 6 little stamping steps	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Mexican clog R, L, R and L	1-12
Repeat all, making a complete turn R with the 4 Mexican clog steps	

### FIGURE X

	Count
Mexican clog R, L, R and L	1-12
Tap canes	1-6
Jump forward and hold	1-6
Repeat all	
Alternate Mexican clog R and L with 6 taps of the cane.	
1-48	

### FIGURE XI

#### EXIT

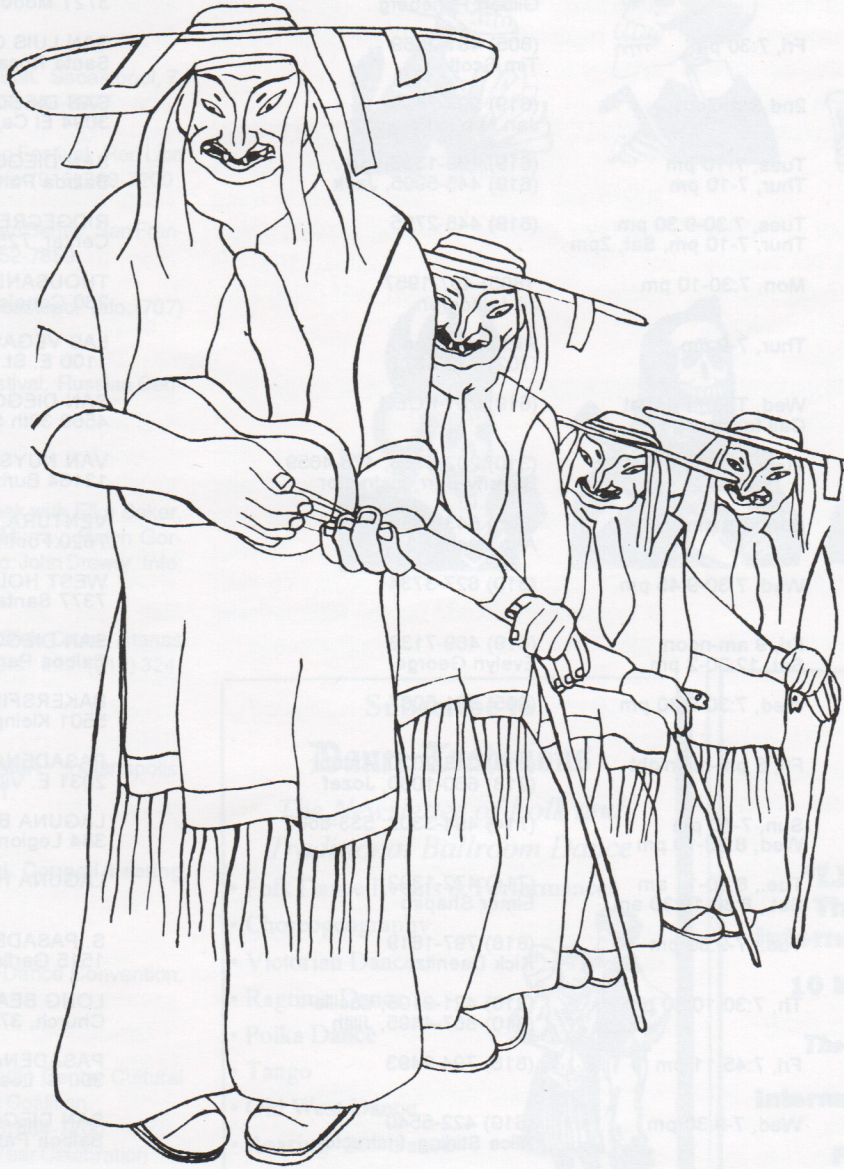
All face R and retire with zigzag entrance step as though extremely weary, but carrying the canes across the shoulders in attempted bravado.

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# CLUB ACTIVITIES

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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.

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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.



# CLUB ACTIVITIES

NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY BEGINNERS	Thurs, 7:30-9:30 pm	(613) 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
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 Watseska
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, 7:30-9:30 pm	(714) 530-6563 Pat (714) 265-1691 Veselo	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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