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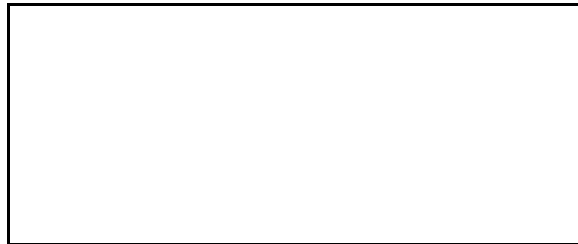
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## Folk Dance Scene

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Folk Dance Scene is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costumes, 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.

**SUBMISSIONS.** Information to be included in the Scene should reach the editor by the 10th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space considerations. *Electronic submission (including all photos) is required.* Views expressed in Scene are solely the opinions of the authors. Neither Scene nor the Federation assumes responsibility for the accuracy of the information sent in.

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*On the cover: Zornitsa women in performance and in rehearsal in Sofia, Bulgaria. See Cover Story page 4.*

# Club Directory

## Beginner's Classes

### CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:00-8:00  
(858) 459-1336 Georgina  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club  
Balboa Park

### CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:30  
(805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren  
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center,  
403 W Hillcrest Dr

### ETHNIC EXPRESS

Wed 6:30-7:15 except holidays  
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian  
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art  
Center, 800 S. Brush St.

### GOTTA FOLK DANCE

Mon 7:30-9:30  
(805) 643-2886 Ann Zacher  
VENTURA, Ventura Christian School,  
96 S. MacMillan Ave.

### HAVERIM FOLK DANCERS

Sun 7:00-9:00  
(805) 676-7705 Nancy Benz  
VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah  
760 Foothill Rd (corner Kimball)

### ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

Mon noon-1:00 Wed 7:30-8:30  
(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern  
L.A., Univ of Judaism Dance Studio  
5600 Mulholland

### KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

Fri 9:30am-10:30  
(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,  
Casa del Prado room 206 St

### PASADENA CO-OP

Fri 7:45-8:30  
(626) 446-5160 Marsha Fenner  
PASADENA, Throop Memorial  
Church, 300 S. Los Robles

## SAN DIEGO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:00-9:30  
(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club,  
Presidents Way off Park, Balboa Park

### SKANDIA FOLK DANCE

Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:00-10:00  
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin  
(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher  
ANAHEIM, Community Ctr,  
250 E Center (Mon)  
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,  
5401 Rhoda Way (Wed)

### WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:30-8:30  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
WEST L.A., Brockton School  
1309 Armacost Ave

### WESTWOOD CO-OP

Thu 7:30-8:00  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly  
(310) 657-6877 Rita  
WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center,  
11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

## Dance Companies and Exhibition Groups

### AVAZ INTERNATIONAL DANCE THEATRE

Wed 7-10  
(323) 663-2829 Jamal  
L.A. Church of Guardian Angel, 1118  
N. Commonwealth Ave.

### BALLET FOLKLORICO JUVENIL DE PICO RIVERA

Mon 6:00 - 8:30  
(562) 699-5183 Jorge Diaz  
PICO RIVERA, Durfee Elementary  
School, 4220 Durfee Rd.

### BALLET FOLKLORICO XIUXTLA

Fri 4:00  
(760) 414-9245 Jose Lucero  
CARLSBAD

## CLAN MACLEOD DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30  
(818) 761-4750 Deanna St Amand  
EAGLE ROCK, Women's 20th  
Century Club, 5105 Hermosa Ave.

### DUNAJ INT'L FOLK ENSEMBLE

Wed 7:00-10  
(714) 641-7450 Richard Duree  
SANTA ANA, WISEPlace,  
1414 N. Sycamore

### INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

(818) 343-4410 Suzy Evans  
VAN NUYS, Dars Art Center,  
7412 Balboa Blvd

### KARPATOK HUNGARIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE

Wed 8:00-10:00  
(310) 514-1706 Livia Gaspar  
LOS ANGELES, Magyar House,  
1975 Washington

### KRAKUSY POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Tu, W, F 7:00-9:00 Sat 2:15-3:15  
(310) 394-3500 Bogna Szupinska  
LOS ANGELES, Polish  
Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd.

### NAMAH ENSEMBLE

Sun 6:00 - 9:00  
(818) 888-8225 Bana Sayyad  
SHERMAN OAKS

### SCANDIA DANCERS

(714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp  
LONG BEACH, Roosevelt School

### UCSB MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE

Tue 7:00 - 10:00  
(805) 967-7125 Scott  
(805) 687-8823 Alexandra  
SANTA BARBARA, Gehring  
Music Bldg., UCSB Campus

# Club Directory

## WESTCHESTER LARIATS

Mon 3:30-9:30  
(310) 215-0010 Gina Cruz  
LOS ANGELES, Westchester  
Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson  
8

## WESTWOOD CO-OP

Thu 7:30-10:20  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
(310) 839-1753 Adele Mortin  
WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center,  
11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

## Non-Federation Clubs

### ANAHEIM INT'L FOLKDANCERS

Wed 7:30-9:30  
(714) 893-8127 Carol Maybrier  
ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church,  
511 S Harbor

### CAFÉ DANSSA

Wed 7:30-10:30  
(310) 474-1232 Gerda  
Worldance1@aol.com Sherry  
WEST L.A., Café Danssa  
11533 W. Pico Blvd.

### CAL TECH INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:30  
(626) 797-5157 Nancy Mulligan  
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church  
300 S. Los Robles

### DESERT DANCERS

Mon (Scottish)  
Thu 7:15-9:30 (International)  
(760) 446-6905 Ruth Dietrich  
(760) 446-6752 Nora Nuckles  
RIDGECREST, Hi Desert Dance  
Center 725 S. Gateway St

### DESERT INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:30-9:30  
(760) 327-8684 Dwight Fine  
(760) 342-1297 Helen Smith  
PALM SPRINGS, Step By Step Dance  
Studio 316 N. Palm Canyon

## FOLK DANCE CENTER

Every Evening Call for Schedule.  
(619) 281-5656  
SAN DIEGO, 4569 30th Street

## FOLK DANCE CLASS

Mon 10-11:30am Wed 10:15-11:45am  
(310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason  
L.A. Robertson Rec Ctr. 1641 Preuss  
W HOLLYWOOD West Hollywood  
Park, San Vicente at Melrose

## INT'L & ISRAELI FOLK DANCE

Sun 7:30-11:30  
(310) 560-4262 Avi Gabay  
NEWPORT BEACH, Avant Garde  
Ballroom, 4220 Scott Dr

## ISRAELI DANCING-James Zimmer

Tues 8:00-11:00 Thu 8:00-9:30  
(310) 284-3638 James Zimmer  
Israelidance@yahoo.com  
WEST HILLS, West Valley JCC,  
22622 Vanowen ENCINO,  
Community Ctr 4935 Balboa

## ISRAELI DANCING-Yoni Carr

Wed 7:00-11:30 Thu 7:00-11:30  
(760) 631-0802 Yoni  
COSTA MESA, JCC, 250 Baker St  
LA JOLLA, Beth El, 8660 Gilman Dr

## ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern  
L.A., Univ of Judaism  
5600 Mulholland Mon 10:00am-1:00  
Wed 7:30-10:00 Thu 10:15-noon;  
L.A. Shaarei Tefila, 7269 Beverly  
Mon 6:15-8:45, Tue 10:15a-noon  
Wed noon-1:15

## KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

Fri 9:30am-1:00  
(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,  
Casa del Prado room 206 St

## SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30  
(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club,  
Balboa Park

## SAN PEDRO KOLO DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30  
(310) 832-1074 Pauline Klak  
SAN PEDRO, Dalmatian-  
Aulgarianamerican  
Club, 1639 S Palos Verdes St.

## SANTA BARBARA

### BALKAN FOLK DANCERS

Wed 8:00-10:30  
(805) 682-4511 Luis Goena  
SANTA BARBARA, Oak Park Stage,  
corner Junipero and Calle Real

## SANTA MONICA COLLEGE INT'L DANCE CLUB

Tue, Thu 11:15am-12:35  
(310) 284-3637 James Zimmer  
SANTA MONICA, Santa Monica  
College Clock Tower or LS Bldg  
1900 Pico Blvd

## UCLA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

### UCLA INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

Mon 7:00-9:00 (ballroom dance)  
Mon 9:00-11:00 (folk dance)  
(310) 284-3636 James Zimmer  
ballroom@ucla.edu  
WESTWOOD, UCLA Ackeman  
Union Room 2414

## WEST COAST GAMMELDANS

Wed 7:30-9:30  
(714) 932-2513 Allan and Shirley  
info@wcgc.us www.wcgc.us  
WESTMINSTER, 5361 Vallecito A



# Folk Dance Scene

Volume 42, No. 10  
Dec. 2006 / Jan. 2007

## Editor's Corner

Modern technology – we can't live without it. I am finishing this issue of Scene on my laptop while flying at an altitude of 35,000 feet between Los Angeles and New York (enroute to a Thanksgiving weekend). After I arrive, I will find an internet connection and email the finished issue (in Adobe PDF format) to our publisher in Los Angeles for printing and mailing.

This month's issue features another (and last) cover story from Jatila's and my travels last summer to Macedonia and Bulgaria. While we were in Bulgaria, we attended the BalkanFolk Seminar in Bankya, which is a small town in the hills about 30 minutes outside of Sofia. The director of BalkanFolk is Emil Genov, a choreographer, teacher and director of the Zornitsa Ensemble, the oldest and best known amateur dance group in Bulgaria (amateur by Bulgarian standards, but professional by American standards). You can read more about Emil in the cover story starting on page 4.

— Steve Davis

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## Federation South Officers

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Dec. 2006 / Jan. 2007

# Federation Corner



Jeanne Cate was first introduced to International Folk Dance in her junior/senior years of high school by a wonderful PE teacher in Chula Vista, CA. (Won't admit what years those were, but

long enough ago to have forgotten the teacher's name.) She loved every minute of the high school classes and so continued to take folk dance as an elective every year while working on her Elementary School Teaching Credential at SDSU.

Strangely enough it was after moving to Brawley, Ca., for her first teaching assignment (where there was no folk dancing) that Jeanne found out about the many recreational folk dance groups in the San Diego area. It happened when one of her co-teachers took her to a **Cyngani** performance in El Centro, where she was introduced to a Cygani performer by her friend-- who then invited both to a Sunday afternoon program in Balboa Park the very next weekend.

That introduction, to Sunday dancing in Balboa Park, was the beginning, in that, when Jeanne moved back to San Diego three years later, she was able to find and attend as many folk dance classes as would fit into her schedule. Jeanne has been folk dancing ever since. She plans to continue folk dancing as long as she can put one foot in front of the other to the music. After her move back to San Diego, Jeanne joined **Cyngani** for their final performance year, as well as **Graham Hempel's** performing group at San Diego State University until it disbanded.

Now that Jeanne is retiring from the San Diego Unified School District, she decided that it was time to become involved in supporting International Folk Dance from "behind the scenes", in recognition and gratitude to all those who "did the work to make folk dance happen" for so many years and enabling her, and others, to experience the enrichment and fun during those years. Jeanne, along with **Carol Edginton**, shares the job of Secretary for the FD Federation of California, South.



The office of Balkanfolk is at 74 Ulitsa Upolchenska, in Sofia. I go there to meet **Emil Genov** (above), founder, director, master teacher, and choreographer of Zornitsa, Bulgaria's "number one amateur ensemble." (Bulgarians are by nature very modest people; what they call an amateur ensemble is equal to or better than most professional ensembles in the US and other countries!)

Picture a wide, modern boulevard – Ulitsa Upolchenska. On one side is a small grassy area and an ultra-modern grocery store; on the other side, offices and apartments. In the middle of the block there is a small, run-down building with a balcony. The only indication that the Balkanfolk office is here is one small sticker with a Balkanfolk logo on the door. The hollow metal door from the street opens into a short, dark entrance way, and then onto a courtyard. I go up a flight of broken stairs, to the office with the balcony – and there is the "world headquarters" of Balkanfolk. "Folklore" says Emil, gesturing to his building amidst the surrounding larger edifices that were built during the Communist era.

Emil Genov is the number one choreographer and dance master in Sofia. Daniela Ivanova, who is now well known in the U.S., was at one time a member of Zornitsa. Emil teaches his students year-round, and when he is not teaching at Sofia's Technical University, running the 60-member Zornitsa Ensemble, which holds rehearsals five nights per week, he is managing the Balkanfolk Summer Institute for Practical Folklore. Emil is also an expert accordion player and composer, and is currently writing a book on Bulgarian folk music, with music notation, terminology, words to songs, and notes for dances.

With his "number one" student, Boris Dimitrov ("Bobbi"), now a dance teacher in his own right, Emil maintains the extensive website [www.balkanfolk.com](http://www.balkanfolk.com),



one of the oldest such websites to offer music, on-line shopping, costumes, Bulgarian "ring tones," information about dance workshops all over the world, and an extensive directory of ethnic dancers in every country. When you order merchandise through the Balkanfolk website, you also receive extra "goodies" in your package – stickers, magnets, coupons for your next purchase, and a lovely note from the "Balkanfolk Family." Indeed, to be at the summer institute, be included in the directory, receive monthly newsletters and emails from Emil and Bobbi, it certainly does feel like being part of an international Bulgarian family! And, speaking of family – Emil just became a grandfather in October.

Steve and I have gotten to know Emil over the past two summers, when we have been at the Balkanfolk summer institute. This past summer (2006), I had the opportunity to interview Emil for Scene, and after Balkanfolk, spending two evenings in Sofia, dancing with Zornitsa and watching their rehearsals.

When I asked Emil where Zornitsa practices, he laughed and said, "The end of the Earth!" When I visited their rehearsals, I found out why...

I get a ride in Emil's little red Renault, speeding along the boulevards. First we pick up Plamen, the accordionist who plays for classes after he finishes his day job as a security guard. After about 25 minutes we reach the "end of the Earth..." well, actually it is the outskirts of Sofia. But the metaphor aptly describes the location. It is a broken down martial arts studio, with no running water, no working toilet, no mirrors, and poor lighting. The doors to the dressing rooms don't close completely, and the dance floor has holes in it. Not just nicks and scratches – actual holes, in which the heel of a shoe could easily get stuck.

## Federation Clubs

### CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:00-9:45  
(858) 459-1336 Georgina  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,  
Balboa Park Club

### CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:30-9:30  
(805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren  
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center,  
403 W Hillcrest Dr

### ETHNIC EXPRESS

Wed 6:30-9:00 except holidays  
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian  
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights  
Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

### FANTASY FOLK DANCE CLUB

(626) 454-3181 Diane Chen  
Sun 1:00 - 7:00  
ALAHAMBRA, China Press, 2121 W.  
Mission Rd.  
Wed 7:00 - 10:00  
EL MONTE, eToday TV, 9440 Telstar  
Ave. #5

### GOTTA FOLK DANCE

Mon 7:30 - 9:30  
(805) 643-2886 Ann Zacher  
VENTURA, Washington School,  
96 S MacMillan

### HAVERIM INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Sun 7:00-9:00  
(805) 676-7705 Nancy Benz  
VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah  
7620 Foothill Rd (corner Kimball)

### KERN INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Thu 7:00-9:00  
(661) 831-5007 Delphine Szczepkowski  
BAKERSFIELD, St. Luke's Episcopal  
Church, 2671 Mt. Vernon Ave.

### KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING

Fri 8:00-11:30  
(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller  
PASADENA, Skandia Hall  
2031 E. Villa

### LAGUNA FOLK DANCERS

Sun 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:00  
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin  
LAGUNA BEACH, Community Ctr  
384 Legion Ave

### LAGUANA WOODS INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

Tue 8:30 am Sat 9:00 am-11:00  
(949) 768-6120 Florence Kauderer  
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,  
24232 Calle Aragon

### MOUNTAIN DANCERS

Tue 4:30-6:30  
(818) 248-5804 Chuck Bausback  
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club,  
1424 Fremont Ave.

### MULTI ETHNIC DANCERS

Wed 6:00  
(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn  
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,  
24232 Calle Aragon

### NARODNI INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Thu 7:30-10:30  
(714) 932-2513 Shirley Hansen  
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of  
Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

### PASADENAFOLK DANCE CO-OP

Fri 7:45-11:00  
(626) 446-5160 Marsha Fenner  
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church  
300 S. Los Robles

### SAN DIEGO VINTAGE DANCERS

Thu 8:00 - 10:00  
(858) 622-9924 Harry Eisner  
SAN DIEGO, Normal Heights  
Methodist Church 4650 Mansfield St.

### SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Sun 6:30-9:30 Tue 7:00-9:00  
(805) 682-1877 Elliott Karpeles  
(805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro  
SANTA BARBARA Carrillo Rec Ctr  
100 E. Carrillo St. (Sun); Oak  
Park 300 W. Alamar (Tue-summer);  
Westside Community Center, 423 W.  
Victoria ST. (Tue-winter)

### SKANDIA DANCE CLASSES

Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:00-10:00 Call  
for others  
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin  
(714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp  
(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher  
ANAHEIM, Downtown Community  
Center, 250 E Center (Mon)  
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,  
5401 Rhoda Way (Wed)

### SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS

Sat 7:00-10:00  
(805) 688-2382 Jean Menzies  
SOLVANG, Jonata Elementary School  
301 2nd Street, Buellton

### TUESDAY GYPSIES

Tue 7:30-10:30  
(310) 390-1069 Millicent Stein  
CULVER CITY, Masonic Lodge 9635  
Venice Blvd.

### VESELO SELO FOLK DANCERS

Sat 8:00-11:00  
(714) 738-8008 Phyllis Pivar  
FULLERTON, Hillcrest Recreation  
Center, 1155 N. Lemon.

### VINTAGE ISRAELI DANCING

1 Sat per month confirm 8:15 - 12:00  
(818) 990-8925 Louis  
dovbyrd@aol.com  
SHERMAN OAKS, Anisa's School  
of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd.

### WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:30-10:30 Fri 7:45-10:45  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
WEST L.A., Brockton School  
1309 Armacost Ave.

### WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Fri 7:15-10:00  
(818) 368-1957 Jill Michtom  
CANOGA PARK, Senior Center  
7326 Jordan Ave

## SPRING FESTIVAL

March 16-18, 2007

International House, 1414 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637  
(Hyde Park/University of Chicago)

Dance and Music of Eastern Europe and Mediterranean

FRIDAY, 8:00 pm-midnight, \$10/15/20 workshop & party  
Music by James Stoyanoff and "ORPHEUS" Greek Ens.

SATURDAY, 6:00 pm-1:00 am, \$25/30/35

DINNER, CONCERT, & DANCE PARTY with  
ORCHESTRA "IZGREV" & ORCHESTRA "PIRIN"  
"BALKANSKE IGRE", "HORO", "KITKA" & others  
FREE for 5 years & under, 1/2 price 6-12 yrs

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, workshops

Bulgarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Rom,  
Serbian, and Turkish Dances with

Daniela Ivanoa      Atanas Kolarovski

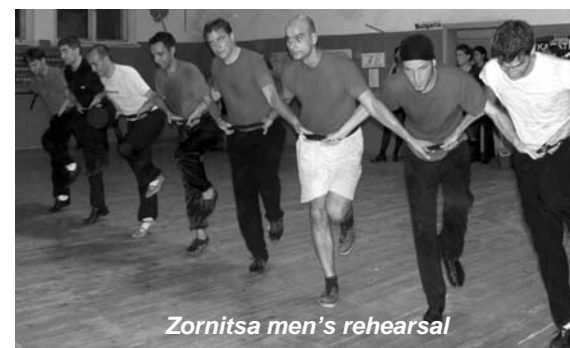
Ahmet Lüleci      Šani Rifati

Daniel Sandu      Yuliyana Yordanov

Bulgarian, Greek, Macedonian, Rom Music Workshops with  
Chris Bajmakovich, Georgi Petrov, James Stoyanoff,  
Petar Vodenov, and others. \$8/10/12 per workshop

Info: (773) 324-1247 24hr voice mail or (847) 965-8495 evenings  
balkanske\_igre@yahoo.com  
Balkanske Igre, PO Box 1157, Chicago, IL 60690

## Master Bulgarian Teacher



Hey, the dancers tell me during a break; this is an improvement. Up until two years ago they were practicing on concrete!

Everyone I meet in Bulgaria, it seems, is quick to explain to me how, during the Communist era there was money for the arts, but now there is none, outside the Koutev Ensemble (national ensemble of Bulgaria) or the degree-granting universities. Emil teaches a two-year course for supplementary qualification in the theory of music, folkloric dance training, and theory of choreography at Sofia Technical University. But for his beautiful student ensemble the university gives no funds. The Zornitsa budget comes from the few leva \* they receive for performances, and the small monthly tuition of ten leva that students pay for the privilege of belonging. This is the oldest amateur ensemble in Bulgaria, founded by Emil in 1981. Originally started as the dance ensemble of the Technical University of Sofia, Emil soon opened it up to students from all universities, graduates, and foreign students.

The Zornitsa rehearsal begins with a series of folkloric footwork exercises which Emil developed to train every part of the feet and legs, to warm up and strengthen. These exercises are now standard in all Bulgarian dance academies, from "amateur" groups to high school dance groups to the universities where one can earn a degree in dance performance, dance teaching, or choreography. The dancers' training is based on classical exercises, but with the style of Bulgarian folk dance. Unlike Macedonia, in which the ultra-stylized technique of dancing almost completely on the half-toe, which evolved in Tanec (the national ensemble) and is now the "norm" among the new generation of dancers, in Bulgaria they have worked

\* Bulgarian currency – one lev is about 60 cents USD.

very hard to maintain a folkloric style for stage that preserves the original village style, only "bigger than life." Emil's exercises train "folkdance feet" in a way that good ballet training trains "ballet feet." Bulgarian folkloric feet must be able to accomplish, for example, the high knees and quick double bounce on the heels of the Shope region, the earthy quality of Dobrudzha, the light quick steps of the Pirin region, the lyrical style of Trakia. And these dancers do it all beautifully.

I had an opportunity to visit Tanec in Skopje, and as magnificent a company as they are (well, what do you expect when they have government funding and a dedicated building with studios, dressing rooms, costume rooms, and offices?), I was more impressed with the level of technique, devotion, exuberance, physical discipline, and much greater versatility of Zornitsa – a so-called amateur ensemble, who practice in a ramshackle studio at the end of the Earth.

Coming from a family of musicians and dancers from the Elin Pelin district, Shope Region, near Sofia, Emil spent a great deal of time in his grandparents' village, where he saw many festivals and weddings, at which there was much music and dance. His great grandfather was a gaidaji; his grandfather played tupan and sang; and his father was, and still is, a great dancer. The people of this region, he told me, want to preserve the dances and songs of their heritage. When he was growing up, Emil traveled with various musicians and friends to different villages where they performed.

Emil began performing with Ensemble Sredets (the ancient name for Sofia) when he was a student, and after that danced in many ensembles. At university he studied ballet, character, historical dance, and Bulgarian folklore, and went on to study music and choreography at the Institute for Choreographers in Sofia, a program for people who want to become directors of ensembles. As a result, in 1981 he started Zornitsa, now in its twenty-fifth year.

I have a plan to bring Emil here for his first US tour in 2008. I have a dream of convincing American folk dancers to adopt Zornitsa as our "sister ensemble" in Bulgaria. With everyone's help, maybe we can raise enough money to help build a new modern studio for these beautiful dancers and their master teacher and choreographer – with decent bathrooms, dressing rooms, offices, – and even a costume room.

Anything is possible in a country where a large mug of beer is only one leva – about sixty cents.

– *Jatila van der Veen-Davis*

# Calendar

Note: Federation Events are in Bold.

**CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS**

## DECEMBER

- 1 *An Irish Christmas*, 8:00, at El Camino College, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance. Info: (310) 329-5345, (818) 784-3805, [www.kerryrecords.com](http://www.kerryrecords.com).
- 1-2-3 *Mojacar Flamenco*, 8:00 Fri. & Sat., 2:00 Sun., at Madrid Theatre. Info: [www.mojacarflamenco.com](http://www.mojacarflamenco.com).
- 4-8 ***Cruise & Dance on the Paradise Cruise Ship with Beverly & Irwin Barr and the West L. A. Folk Dancers, leaving from Long Beach. Info: (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.***
- 9 *Cafe AMAN*, Teaching of Dick Crum's dances by John Filcich and Sherry Cochran. 7:30 at Cafe Danssa, 11533 W. Pico, West L.A. Info: (310) 478-7866.
- 9-10 *Bonnie Rideout Scottish Christmas*, 8:00 at Caltech Beckman. Info: [www.bonnierideout.com](http://www.bonnierideout.com).
- Zeljko Jergan Croatian Workshops*
- 11 7:30 at San Pedro Kolo Dancers, Dalmatian-American Hall 1639 S. Palos Verdes St., Info: Pauline Klak, (310) 832-1074.
- 12 **7:30 at Tuesday Gypsies. Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd. West LA. Info: Millicent Stein, (310) 390-1069.**
- 13 7:30 at Café Danssa, 11533 W. Pico Blvd., West LA. Info: Gerda Ben-Zeev, (310) 474-1232.
- 14 **8:00 at Westwood Co-op Folk Dancers, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., West L. A. Info: Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**
- 16 3:00 at Folk Dance Center, 459 30th St. San Diego (619) 281-5656.
- 21 ***Narodni Int'l Folk Dancers' Holiday Party with live music by Toti O'Brien at Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street, Bellflower, CA. Info: (714) 932-2513 or <http://www.narodni.org>.***
- 21 *The Klezmatiks*, Woody Guthrie's Happy Joyous Hanukkah Tour, 8:00 at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Info: (323-850-2000, [www.disneyhall.org](http://www.disneyhall.org)).
- 22 ***Holiday Party. West L.A. Folk Dancers will celebrate the holiday season with a folk dance party on Friday evening, Dec. 22, 2006, beginning at 7:30 with an all request dance program. Bring***

**something for the potluck table. Brockton School in West L. A., 1309 Armacost Ave. (between Barrington & Bundy, 1-1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). Info: Call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**

29-1/1/07 *CTMS New Year's Camp* at Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu. See OTS. Info: [www.ctms-folkmusic.org](http://www.ctms-folkmusic.org).

29 – 1/1/2007 ***New Year's Weekend with Beverly & Irwin Barr and the West L. A. Folk Dancers. For information, call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.***

31 ***New Year's Eve Party, hosted by Pasadena Co-op. Throop Church, Pasadena. See ad.***

## 2007

### JANUARY

1 ***A New Year's Day Celebration. Party with the West L. A. Folk Dancers. All-request dance program, potluck table. 7:30 at Brockton School in W. L. A., 1309 Armacost Ave. Info: Call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310)-478-4659.***

*Yuliyana Yordanov, Bulgarian Workshops:*

- 3 Las Vegas (Ethnic Express)
- 4 Los Angeles (Narodni)
- 6 San Diego (Folk Dance Center)
- 7 Laguna Beach
- 8 San Diego

See OTS for more info.

13 ***Cafe AMAN, Music by Eastern Exposure. 7:30 at Cafe Danssa, 11533 W. Pico, West L.A. Info: (310) 478-7866.***

14 ***Winter Festival, hosted by Pasadena Co-op. 1:30 - 5:30 at Scottish Rite Temple, Madison St. Pasadena. Council meeting at 10:30 am. Info: Marsha (626) 446-5160.***

14 *Macedonian Music & Dance* with Goran Alacki & Friends and special guest artists. Dance performances & open dancing at Soho, 1221 State St., Santa Barbara. Full dinner theater club with 3 shows.

17 *Ljupco Manevski* teaching Macedonian dance with accompaniment by Goran Alacki, at Cafe Danssa, 11533 West Pico, West L.A.

# Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op

presents its

# Winter Festival

January 14, 2007

Scottish Rite Temple

150 North Madison

Pasadena

1:30-5:30

Council Meeting

10:30

(626) 792-9118



\$5.00



Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

# Laguna FolkDancers Festival

February 9-11 it will be time, again, to gather at Ensign School for the annual Laguna Folkdancers Festival. This is one of the few multiple day folk dance festivals remaining in Southern California. Preregister before February 1 for only \$42 for the entire weekend of workshops and dance parties (see ad and registration form in this issue).

**Lee Otterholt** will teach dances of eastern Europe and **George Fogg** will teach English country dances and maybe throw in some contras during the weekend. This will be George's first workshop in California. He says "I did do a couple of school affairs when I visited Arizona once, that was a close as I got to California."

A couple of local motels offer discounted rooms for festival participants if you mention Laguna Folkdancers when making reservations. The Travelodge at 1951 Newport Blvd. is has about 58 rooms with outside entrances. The Cozy Inn is new on the list for this year. Cozy Inn is at 325 W. Bay St. just west of Newport Blvd. and has only 29 rooms, all of which are nonsmoking. Make your reservations early, before they fill up. The Ramada, used in past years, is still available but no longer on the discount list.

## Who is George Fogg?

George A. Fogg was born in Newburyport, MA, and began English dancing with the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre, Inc. In 1968, he became the teacher/leader of the "Cardigan Dance/Hiking Weekend" held near Bristol, New Hampshire, and has been teaching English Country Dance ever since.

Besides teaching hundreds of "one-night stands," George has taught many organizations, dance camps, and workshops. He has also reconstructed Early American dances and steps. George is well known as a regular at the Mainwoods Dance Camp, whether he's on the staff or helping wherever needed or teaching at the evening parties. Although George is quick to remind you that he teaches English Country Dance and Colonial dances, you might find him teaching a Scottish dance occasionally, too!

George is particular about finding great recordings for the dances he teaches, so the music is often a beautiful experience in itself. He has a talent for teaching style with a wry smile, and, with his thick New England accent, has a real knack for getting you into the spirit of these dances.

— *Steve Himel*

## Macedonian Visit in January



**Goran  
Alacki  
Adrijana  
Alacka  
Ljupco  
Manevski**



Jan. 13: Macedonian New Years in Whittier

Jan. 14: Concert at Soho in Santa Barbara

Jan. 19: Dance Workshop in Mountain View

Jan. 16: Classes in Santa Barbara in dance & music

Jan. 17: Dance Workshop at Café Danssa, L.A.

**Schedule subject to change or cancellation. Call (805) 403-7935 for confirmation**

# Calendar

18 *Ljupco Manevski/Goran Alacki Macedonian dance workshop* in Santa Barbara. Info: Jatila at (805) 964-5591 or [jatila@physics.ucsb.edu](mailto:jatila@physics.ucsb.edu).

*Hungarian State Folk Ensemble performances:*

19 7:30 at Fred Kavli Theatre, Thousand Oaks. Info: (805) 583-8700, [www.tickermaster.com](http://www.tickermaster.com).

21 2:00 at Haugh Perf. Arts Ctr, Citrus College, Glendora.

20 *Jane Austen Ball*, hosted by California Lively Arts. Pasadena Masonic Hall. Info: [lahacal.org](http://lahacal.org).

27 *Viennese Ball*, hosted by San Diego Vintage Dancers. Pasadena Masonic Hall. Info: [lahacal.org](http://lahacal.org).

## FEBRUARY

9-11 **Laguna Festival, hosted by Laguna Folkdancers and Veselo Selo. Institutes with Lee Otterholt and George Fogg, concert, dancing. At Ensign School, 2000 Cliff Dr. Newport Beach. Info: Ted (714) 893-8888, [info@LagunaFolkdancers.org](mailto:info@LagunaFolkdancers.org).**

12 **Valentine's Day Party with the West L.A Folk Dancers. An all request dance program will be played by Beverly & Irwin Barr. Potluck snacks. 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**

## MARCH

25 **Westwood Co-op's Spring Festival, 1:30 - 5:30, at Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, at the S.W. corner of Overland Ave. & Culver Blvd. in Culver City. Free festival & free parking. Federation Council Meeting at 10:30. Info: (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**

## APRIL

13-15 **Westwood Co-op's Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu. See OTS. Info: (310) 452-1538.**

## MAY

5-25-28 **Statewide Festival, Oxnard, CA**

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

12-8 *Marilyn Smith's Dec. Party*, 8:00-11:00 at Santa Rosa Veterans' Building. Info: [marilynmsmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marilynmsmith@sbcglobal.net).

12-8 *Winter Greek Party*, at St. Gregory of Nyssa, 500 DeHaro St. San Francisco. 7:45 Leslie Bonnett, Lucia Comnes & Lily Storm sing a capella. 8:00-11:00 Dance to music of Turlu.

## 2007

*Hungarian State Folk Ensemble performances:*

1/12/2007 UC Davis: [www.mondaviarts.org/events/byname.cfm](http://www.mondaviarts.org/events/byname.cfm)

1/13 San Rafael: [www.co.marin.ca.us/SysApps/Calendar/pub/EventDisplay.cfm?event=10029](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/SysApps/Calendar/pub/EventDisplay.cfm?event=10029)

1/14 Campbell: [www.ci.campbell.ca.us/heritagetheatre/moreinfohungarian.htm](http://www.ci.campbell.ca.us/heritagetheatre/moreinfohungarian.htm)

1/16 Carmel CA:

1/12-13 *Heritage Festival. Warm-up Party with Marcel Vinokur on Friday evening. Federation Institute on Saturday, followed by dancing with live music & exhibitions. Community United Church, 1336 Arroyo Ave. between Elm & Walnut Sts., San Carlos. Info: Arden Pierce (650) 494-1631 or [ardenhiram@aol.com](mailto:ardenhiram@aol.com).*

*Kitka in Concert with Trio Kavkasia*

1/25 8:00, St. John's Church, San Francisco.

1/26 8:00, Holy Cross Church, Santa Cruz.

1/27 4:00, First Unitarian Church, Oakland.

3/9-11 *Camellia International Folk Dance Festival, featuring Lee Otterholt, Balkan; Hilde Otterholt, Hawaiian; Lee & Hilde, Norwegian. Live music by Chubritza. Sunday dance concert. Info: [www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil](http://www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil).*

4/21-22 *Egyptian Festival & Workshops* with Raqia Hassan at Odd Fellows Hall, 839 Main St., Redwood City, CA. Info: (408) 246-1129 or <http://www.haladance.com>.

## FOREIGN

### AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

12/22/06 - 1/5/07 *Dancing with Donna Frankel - Cruise Auckland to Sydney. Info: (800) 745-7545 or [cruises3@pacbell.net](mailto:cruises3@pacbell.net).*

### CARIBBEAN

12/27/06-1/7/07 *Cruise & Dance in the Caribbean with Sandy Starkman. Info: (416) 663-4852 or [sandydancing@juno.com](mailto:sandydancing@juno.com).*

### VIETNAM/CAMBODIA

12/18/06-1/2/07 *Vietnam/Cambodia Tour - Dancing led by Lee Otterholt. Info: Mel Mann, (510) 526-4033 or [www.folkdanceonthewater.org](http://www.folkdanceonthewater.org).*

## On the Scene

### SAVE THE DATE \*\*MARCH 3\*\* FOR SCENE PARTY

The Folk Dance Scene is having a **party!** It will be Saturday evening, March 3, 2007 at the Westchester Senior Center. The details will be in the next Scene, but in the meantime, save the date!

### WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS

On Monday evenings, dances from the recent Camp Hess Kramer Weekend will be taught. Easier dances will be taught beginning at 7:45 p.m. Followed by intermediate dances. We dance until 10:30 p.m.

On Friday evenings we will teach some new and review some old set dances from various countries: Scotland, Ireland, England, and more. Reel of the Royal Scot will be taught, as well as dances taught at the recent Camp Hess Kramer Weekend. Our regular program includes international line, circle, Individual, and couple dances. Dancing from 7:45 to 10:30 p.m. We will be closed on Monday, Dec. 4.

We all look forward to Monday and Friday nights and seeing some of our old and new friends. Come join us and dance with one of the friendliest groups around. What fun we have dancing and learning good dances.

We meet every Monday and Friday evening and dance on a beautiful wooden floor. The place is Brockton School, 1309 Armacost, W. L.A. (between Barrington & Bundy, 1 1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.).

We look forward to seeing you. For information call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

— *Beverly & Irwin Barr*

### WESTWOOD CO-OP'S CAMP HESS KRAMER

You are cordially invited to join us at Camp Hess Kramer, from Friday afternoon, April 13th through Sunday afternoon, April 15th, 2007. Westwood Co-op Folkdancers put on a relaxed yet fun-filled weekend. There are dance teachings and dance parties, loads of food, and a wonderful variety of other activities.

In past years we have had such diverse activities as talks on the human genome and stem cell research, by Gerda Ben-Zeev, joke sessions with a group of 'local' comedians, drawing and writing workshops led by actual artists and authors, where everyone was surprised at their newfound abilities, bird watching morning walks led by reknowned birders, Lee Freehling and Paul Cooley, wine making

demonstrations led by our resident winemaker, Jay Michtom, etc.

We love to greet those who come for the first time. Next month's Scene will have an application form. For information in advance, call me at (310) 391-7382. Come and enjoy the weekend in Malibu with us!

— *Sandy Helperia*

### YULIYAN YORDANOV, BULGARIAN WORKSHOPS, JAN 3-8

Yuliyan Yordanov, a Bulgarian performer and teacher, will be visiting from Plovdiv to give dance workshops. The schedule is as follows:

- Jan 3 Las Vegas (Ethnic Express)
- Jan 4 Los Angeles (Narodni)
- Jan 6 San Diego (Folk Dance Center)
- Jan 7 Laguna Beach
- Jan 8 San Diego

Details available from Jean Cate in San Diego, [jcate@nethere.com](mailto:jcate@nethere.com), Bio and syllabus available at [www.sfmsfolk.org/events/Bulgarian\\_Weekend\\_Oct\\_14-15.pdf](http://www.sfmsfolk.org/events/Bulgarian_Weekend_Oct_14-15.pdf).

— *Bart Carpenter*

### ENJOY BRANSON IN THE SPRING WITH BEVERLY & IRWIN BARR

Beverly & Irwin Barr will again lead a group on an enjoyable trip to Branson (plus more) in the Spring of 2007. They have experience taking groups to Branson and know how to make this trip a real vacation of pure enjoyment and entertainment. People request this trip over and over.

The trip is now in the planning stages, but we want to let everyone know what we are planning so you can make plans also.

We would love to hear from you so we could share our trip plans with you. Our trips are planned with having a good time being our first priority. Join us if you want to go on an enjoyable trip to have fun with a great group of friendly people.

Call Beverly & Irwin for information and details, (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

### NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS

Thursdays, 7:30 - 10:30 pm, Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street, Bellflower, CA 90706.

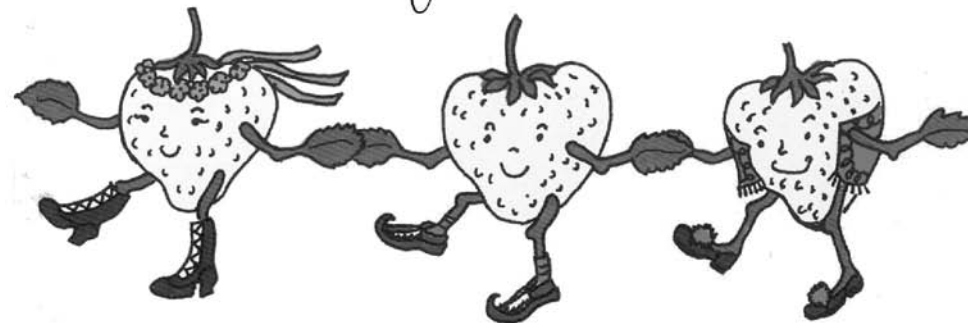
## FOLLOW THE DANCING STRAWBERRIES

### TO

# Strawberry Statewide

## May 25 thru 28 2007 Memorial Day Weekend

## Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center



### *Institute teachers:*

*Zeljko Jergan*

*Sonia Dion*

*Cristian Florescu*

*Presented by  
Folk Dance Federation of California, South*



## DANCING WITH TWO LEFT FEET (20)



Some times writing this column just happens. I get a thought and the words just flow. And, sometimes nothing happens. I would like to share a moment with you when nothing happened:

A blank page is your friend. It is a stranger that comes into your life with a promise of a lifetime opportunity. Treat it with kindness. Don't fight it.

Open your soul to it. Let it know who you are, where you have been and where you dream of going. How are you going to get there? What will you see on your journey? How will you feel during your trip? Whom will you meet on the way? What are their stories? Where have they been?

And, when you get there, what will you see? As you cross the mountains, lakes and rivers, look around. Take a stroll through the countryside. It is quiet, peaceful. It is even safe to close your eyes and daydream.

Suddenly, like a clap of thunder, a flock of birds darkens the sky as their chirping is drowned by the rhythmic sounds of drums and trumpets. The darkened sky gives light to a village filled with happy people moving in unison to the music. They are dancing to the beat of a gypsy band. The smell of roast lamb wafts through the air. You join hands in the winding dance circle next to a beautiful girl. She smiles at you. You smile back. She says something to you, but you do not understand. It is a foreign language. You respond, but the words are lost in the noise of the music. She smiles at you. You smile back.

The music stops. She holds your hand and leads you to a table with her relatives. She offers you a glass filled with wine. They raise their glasses and toast you. You lift your glass and sip the wine. They laugh. One of the men offers you a plate of roasted lamb. You try to refuse. He insists. You reluctantly accept. There are no forks. You grab the bone and take a bite. The meat melts in your mouth. They refill your glass of wine. You take another drink. The music starts again and the young girl leads you into the circle. The beat is fast and you can barely keep up. You don't mind. The dance circle spins faster and faster. The faces are a blur. Slowly the village melts and you are staring at a page brimming with words. Your blank page friend is gone, only to return tomorrow.

Maybe some of the folk dancers out there would like to book a date with my blank page friend and contribute to the Folk Dance Scene

— *Lou Pechi*

## WANING FOLK DANCERS

In addressing the question of waning folk dancers (Folk Dance Scene, Nov. '06), I find myself fortunate to have learned to dance at an early age as a teenager in the late '50s. I was living in Stockton, CA which I realize now as being a major hub of folk dancing.

Because my main interest then as a teenager was one very cute girl, who "oh by the way" also folk danced. Well.... duh?!...did I almost immediately get a clue? I did!

At that time **Bea Mitchell**, mom to the director of the Stockton Folk dance Camp **Bruce Mitchell**, was teaching at least two dance groups, a youth group and an adult group. **Ardith "Cookie" Mitchell** was my dance partner for a while in that youth group.

That was many years ago and the girl "got away", actually so did "Cookie", alas but I was hooked on folk dancing, even danced for a short time with a performance group in San Francisco known as Sokoli, in the early 60s.

But had it not been for that youth group, I probably would not have stayed interested in folk dancing. I mean dancing with a group of kids my own age was a definitely way cool. Also in those days, anyone over 30 was, you know, over the hill, eh? Well, has that thinking changed any these days?

My point is, how many folk dance youth groups are there anymore? How many of us over 30, or under for that matter, would be interested in forming, directing and teaching a youth group in our own hometown? For some of us that could be a seemingly daunting task, I imagine.

Yet what better way to get the youth interested in folk dancing. **Ron Houston's** comment (FDS, Nov. '06), "...the movement [folk dancing] aged, repelling more young people.", is unfortunately accurate.

Presently, I help teach our group here in Prescott, AZ but admittedly I probably will not be one of the first to get out there and start a youth group, even though I think that endeavor would be at least a partial answer to the question of the waning folk dance scene.

— *Dick Weston*

## Teaching Program

December 2006

- 7 **Julith Neff** teaching/reviewing *Salsa Rueda*
- 14 **John Matthews** teaching *Crnogorka*
- 21 **Holiday Party** with live music
- 28 **John Matthews** teaching/reviewing *Crnogorka*

January 2007

- 4 Bulgarian workshop with **Yuliy Yordanov**
  - 11 **John Matthews** teaching *Sedi Donka*
  - 18 **Anthony Ivancich** teaching Country Western Dances
  - 25 **Anthony Ivancich** teaching/reviewing Country Western Dances
- ~ all teaching is subject to change ~

Board Meeting: December 21 (details tba)

For more information, please contact **Shirley** (714) 932-2513 or [Shirley@Hansen-Family.us](mailto:Shirley@Hansen-Family.us), or **Carol** (562) 862-0521 or [g-cwall@earthlink.net](mailto:g-cwall@earthlink.net).

## CTMS NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND

Last year the California Traditional Music Society (CTMS) brought back their wonderful New Year's Camp to rave reviews. This year let's make it even better! Four days and three nights of traditional music, singing and dancing, Dec.29, 2006-Jan.1,2007.

There will be music workshops, jamming, dancing, and just plain fun. It's at Camp Hess Kramer, 100 yards from the Pacific Ocean on Pacific Coast Highway above Trancas Canyon near Malibu. There's always lots of good food (Kosher-style kitchen), a silent auction, and a wild New Year's Eve costume ball. There are two levels of accommodations left starting at \$180 to \$380. Please call the CTMS office for more info. at (818) 817-7756.

## WESTWOOD CO-OP SPRING FESTIVAL

Save the date, Sunday, Mar. 25, 2007. The annual Westwood Festival, always a highlight of the year, will be held the last Sunday of March. The place and time are the same as all the years before. The Veterans Memorial Auditorium at the S/W corner of Overland Ave. & Culver Blvd. in Culver City.

The festival is free and the parking is free. For info: Call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310)478-4659.

## VESELO DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Veselo meets at Hillcrest Park 1155 N. Lemon in Fullerton on Saturday night 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.  
December 2 - **Fun For All** night with hostess **Carol Maybrier**. Fun and easy dances with a few walk-throughs. This is a good time to bring in friends. They will have a good introduction to the music and dances that we love and be able to join in with ease.

December 9 - **John Matthews** will be teaching *Gaida* and have a review of *Hora Dupa Anton Pann*. The music for these dances is great! Come and enjoy them.

December 16 - **John Matthews** will be following through on last week's class.

December 23 - **Winter Solstice**. We are celebrating the shortest day of the year... the longest night... so wear your black and/or white to represent which side of the moon you are on. Bring goodies to share... they don't have to be black or white.

December 30 - **Dark...** big party on Sunday.

December 31 - **New Year's Eve Party** with our annual pot-luck dinner at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share at this event we all look forward to enjoying. Music starts at 7:30 to warm up and we'll have live music by the **Veselba Musicians** playing Bulgarian and Macedonian music. This special event is \$12.00.

January 6: Guest teacher **Larry Weiner**

January 13: Dark for Macedonian Party in Whittier.

January 20: Reviews of **Larry Weiner** dances

January 27: We'll do a lot of dances taught during 2006.

— *Lu Perry*

## CROATIAN WORKSHOPS WITH ZELJKO JERGAN

Mon, Dec. 11 - 7:30 at San Pedro Kolo Dancers, Dalmatian-American Hall 1639 S. Palos Verdes St., Info: Pauline Klak, (310) 832-1074.

Tues., Dec. 12 - 7:30 at Tuesday Gypsies, Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd. West LA. Info: Millicent Stein, (310) 390-1069.

Wed, Dec. 13 - 7:30 at Café Danssa, 11533 W. Pico Blvd., West LA. Info: Gerda Ben-Zeev, (310) 399-2321.



# Dancing the Tango



Why in the world would anyone with a sore leg choose to attend the Stockton Folk Dance Camp? To learn to tango, of course! After learning a little about its history, (see *Let's Dance!* May/June 2006), I decided why not. It looks so elegant when done properly, while at the same time so

natural. It should be easy for an experienced folk dancer to blend right in.

In Stockton one week later: "Yeah - right!".

A murmur overheard on the dance floor: "I found him so into himself in the tango. He turned to his left. When he turned back to the right I was gone."

Murmur No 2: I asked a woman what it was like to tango with another woman. "It was so good," she responded, "I asked her to marry me."

Murmur No. 3: Man: "Tango is easy. There's nothing to it". His Partner: "He simply would not lead! It was quite an experience dancing with him."

In tango the man leads. No question about it. The woman responds. No question about that either. Occasionally she will find herself standing motionless, waiting for something to happen. Her partner has to move first and doesn't. It can be even more difficult for the man who has never before been concerned with deciding exactly what he will do next. But this is tango, and now he must lead his partner into what he wants her to do.

It's all up to him. Initially, the woman finds herself standing, held close in her partner's arms. A tango embrace is a warm safe feeling, she loves it. He, on the other hand, feels very much in control while at the same time more than a bit unsure of himself and his immediate future. She can do nothing until he decides to move. He stands holding her close. He has learned

three, four, perhaps five dance patterns in rapid succession. So has she. Hers, however, are different moves entirely. Aside from a smooth floor they have nothing but the music in common.

He really has to begin now. The music is playing. Which pattern shall he start with? It has all become a blur. The music plays on. It offers no help. There is no fixed point at which one begins the tango. The dance simply begins when the man begins. How simple can it get?

Begin, already! Finally, a decision. They begin to move with the music. The woman follows her partner using her strangely different, yet uniquely blending footwork. It looks and feels marvelous. They do the chosen pattern twice, three times. They are delighted. He, the macho in charge, now finds himself trying to recall another pattern. Any other pattern. Can he lead her smoothly into it? Perhaps. Who knows? But which pattern? They keep dancing. They repeat the old pattern once more.

He smiles at her while waiting for his brains to function. Suddenly he remembers, no one smiles when doing the tango. Now he knows why. He realizes there is a lot of time and practice ahead of them. Tango is a soulful, serious dance not to be learned in one session, not two, or three, or even more. Finally, they sweep into a new pattern. The music continues. They glide smoothly around the room. The music is wonderful. It is very much like the man. Macho. Intense. In charge. It glides smoothly ahead. It does what it wants. It pays no attention whatever to the dancers who must join with it whenever and wherever they can.

The result of it all is that at any given moment, if there are five couples on the floor, there will be five different expressions of tango in progress. The music itself may be considered yet a sixth expression in that it has completely ignored the dancers and is also doing its own thing.

The man's relation to his woman, her response to her man, their individual relation and response to the music, and the music's response to an unseen god causes one to wonder what can it be like in Argentina? It is true, the man in that country is the "Macho", but who exactly is the "Jefe"?

— *Sidney Messer*

*This article first appeared in the October 2006 issue of Let's Dance!, and is reprinted with permission.*



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