

# FOLK DANCE SCENE

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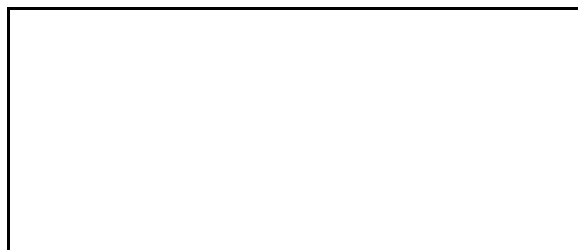
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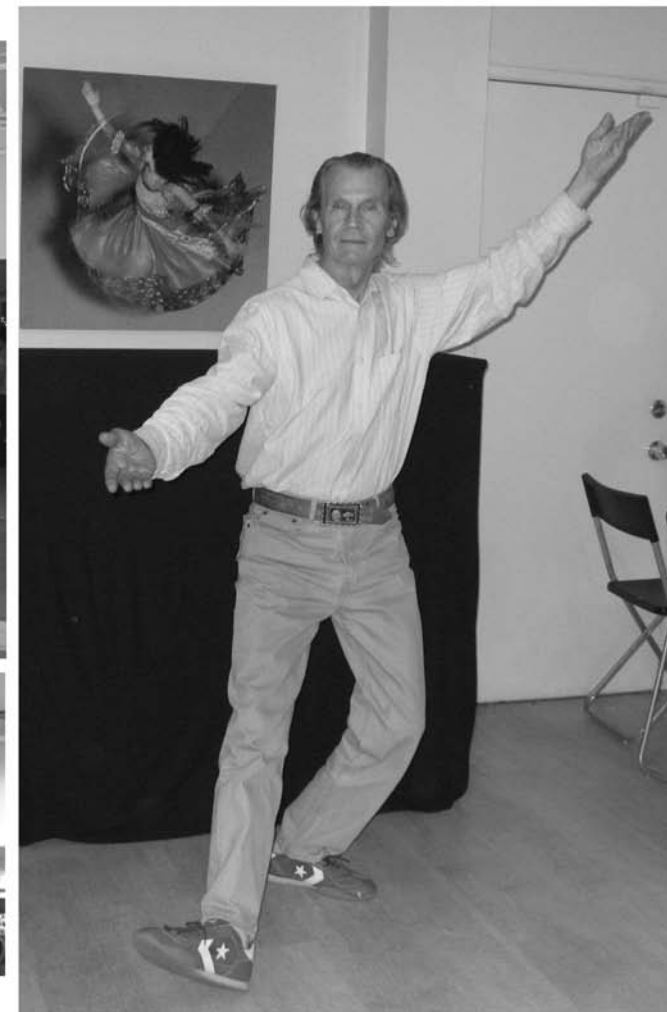
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## First Class Mail



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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: The David brothers - Alexandru and Mihai. Individual photos courtesy of Faith Stevens, photo of both, courtesy of Jane Glaser*

# Club Directory

## 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

## TOPANGA CANYON INT'L Fd

Fri 9:30am-11:00am  
(310) 455-1051 Melanie Kareem  
TOPANGA, Froggy's Restaurant, 1105 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd.

## UCLA BALLROOM CLUB UCLA INT'L FOLKDANCERS

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

## Beginners' Classes

### CABRILLO 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  
(818) 707-7664 Phoebe Rivera  
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center,  
403 W Hillcrest Dr

### ETHNIC EXPRESS

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

### ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern  
L.A., American Jewish Univ. Dance  
Studio, 15600 Mulholland  
Wed 7:30-8:30 Thu 12:05-1:05  
L.A. Shaarei Tefila, 7269 Beverly  
Mon 7:45-8:45 Tue 1:30-2:30

## 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  
(323) 255-3809 Don Krotser  
PASADENA, Throop Memorial  
Church, 300 S. Los Robles

## SAN DIEGO INTL 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 7:30-10:00  
(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 L. A. FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:45-8:30  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
WEST L.A., Brockton School  
1309 Armacost Ave

## Dance Companies and Exhibition Groups

### BALLET FOLKLORICO JUVENIL DE PICO RIVERA

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

### 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 INTL FOLK ENSEMBLE

(714) 641-7450 Richard Duree

## INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

(818) 343-4410 Suzy Evans  
VAN NUYS, 17647 Runnymede St.

## KARPATOK HUNGARIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE

Wed 7:30  
(310) 350-1135 Livia Varsanyi  
LOS ANGELES, United Magyarhaz,  
1975 Washington

## KRAKUSY POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

M, W 7:00-9:30 Sat 2:00-4:00  
(626) 249-2993 Elizabeth Romuzga  
LOS ANGELES, Polish  
Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd.

## SCANDIA DANCERS

(714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp  
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club

## SYRTAKI INT'L PERFORMING GROUP

Wed 7:00 - 10:00  
(949) 715-9788 Lee Otterholt  
LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 1  
Gymnasium

## UCSB MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE

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

# Club Directory



# Folk Dance Scene

Volume 45, No. 9  
November 2009

# Teachers Corner

The following two bios and pictures were obtained from Dick Oakes' web-site: [www.phantomranch.net](http://www.phantomranch.net).



**Alexandru David** was born in Kishinev, the capital of Russian Moldova, and raised in Bucureshti (Bucharest), Romania. He began international folkdancing at the age of ten. He began studying Russian dance as a child at the Pioneer Palace in Bucharest. At the age of 12, he joined the Romanian

## Editors' Corner

We give thanks for a good harvest of articles to intrigue you.

Teachers' corner begins the cover story, which includes an article about an evening of Russian, Romanian, international dancing.

If that touches your Romanian side, check out the recipes in ethnic food.

Dancers had interesting things to say this month. Find out in Dancers Speak.

Be of good cheer!

- Pat Cross and Don Krotzer

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## Federation South Officers

President	Gordon Wall	(562) 862-0521
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Treasurer	Rick Bingle	(626) 914-4006
Secretary	Charlotte Edginton Lynn Bingle	(626) 792-9509 (626) 914-4006
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Historian	Robert Jowitt	(909) 496-4798
Publicity	Sylvia Stachura	(626) 300-8138

For information about dancing in the area, contact the Federation at (310) 478-6600

State Ensemble **Ciocârlia**, which had a school to train professional dancers. The school was based on the Russian method; first ballet classes, then classes in Russian and Romanian character dance.

At the age of 14, after spending three years in the State Ensemble program, he joined a different ensemble, Perinitza. The training there was the same: one ballet class a week and two classes in Russian character dance. The performances the ensemble did included Russian dance. One of the teachers was also the director of the Romanian Army ensemble. He also worked with the director of the big state ensemble, Joc, in Kishinev, and The Music Hall Ensemble, with which he became a lead dancer. Alexandru encouraged his brother, Mihai David, to resign from **Ciocârlia** and join him in The Music Hall Ensemble, which left for Paris two weeks later, but without Alexandru, who was denied because authorities thought he might defect owing to his long-time associations in the West.

Alexandru finally escaped the doom of Communism several years after Mihai's defection in 1966 but at dangerous risk. Mihai had preceded Alexandru's move to the United States where Mihai principally taught Romanian dance to American folk dancers. Although at first, Alexandru was known as "Mihai's brother," it wasn't long before Alexandru established himself as a fine instructor of both Russian and Romanian dance, having logged tens of thousands of miles teaching in many countries throughout the world.

Alexandru has choreographed many suites for dance groups around the world, including **Les Sortilege** in Montréal and **Vonnie Brown's** group in Louisiana.

See page 4 for Mihai David's bio...

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

**WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS**  
Fri 7:15-10:00  
(818) 348-6133 Lila Aurich  
CANOGA PARK, Senior Center  
7326 Jordan Ave

**WESTCHESTER LARIATS**  
Mon 3:30-9:00  
(310) 645-8316 Karen Ricks  
LOS ANGELES, Westchester  
Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson

**WESTWOOD CO-OP**  
Thu 7:30-10:00  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
(310) 397-2450 Laurette Carlson  
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

**BEVERLY BARR DAYTIME CLASS**  
(310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659  
Tue 10:45am-12:30 International  
BEVERLY HILLS, Roxbury Park  
auditorium 471 So. Roxbury

**CAFE AMAN**  
2nd Sat 7:30-11:30. Teach 8:00-8:45  
madelnytaylor@hotmail.com  
ianprice@hotmail.com  
WEST LA, Pacific Arts Center 10469  
Santa Monica Blvd

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

**DESERT DANCERS**  
Tue 7:00-9:00 (Scottish)  
Thu 7:15-9:30 (International)  
(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

**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-Natalie Stern**  
(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern  
L.A., American Jewish Univ Dance  
Studio, 15600 Mulholland Mon  
10:00am-11:45 Tue 10:30am-noon  
Wed 7:30-10:00 Thu 10:15am-1:05;  
L.A. Shaarei Tefila(women only), 7269  
Beverly, Mon 6:30-8:00  
Tue 1:30-2:30, Wed noon-1:30

**ISRAELI DANCING-Yoni Carr**  
(619) 227-0110 Yoni  
NEWPORT BEACH, Avant Garde  
Ballroom, 4220 Scott Dr Sun 7:30-12  
SAN DIEGO, Jewish Academy, 11860  
Carmel Creek Rd. Thu

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

**LIFE BALKAN DANCERS**  
Wed 7:45-10:15  
(310) 310-399-2321 Gerda  
worldance1@aol.com Sherry  
LOS ANGELES, Pacific Arts Center  
10469 Santa Monica Blvd.

**ROMANIAN, RUSSIAN, INT'L DANCE -Mihai & Alexandru David**  
Fri 8:30-12:00 (teaching 9:00-9:45)  
(818) 613-5259 davmichi8@aol.com  
Mihai; (818) 317-2200 Alexandru  
WEST L.A., Pacific Arts Center  
10469 Santa Monica Blvd.

**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-American  
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



**Mihai David** was born in 1946 in Bucureshti (Bucharest), Romania, and began dancing to his uncle's balalaika music. At age eight, Mihai attended the Pioneers Youth Palace where youth interested in dance were schooled.

Two years later, he was selected to attend the School of Choreography in Bucharest and continued

there for eight years, studying classical ballet, character dance, modern dance, and folk dance. While at the school, he danced with the UTM (The Young Communists) ensemble, directed by **Theodor Vasilescu** (the UTM was considered to be the best amateur ensemble in Romania). Even before his graduation at the age of 17, he was dancing with the Romanian State Folk Ballet Ciocârlia and became one of their lead dancers, and continued touring with the troupe throughout Europe for two years.

Mihai resigned from *Ciocârlia* and joined another professional group, The Music Hall Ensemble, with whom his brother, Alexandru David, was a lead dancer. Two weeks later, Mihai traveled to Paris (leaving his brother behind because Alexandru had associations in the West and the Romanian government was afraid that he would defect). Mihai later toured East Berlin, Germany, and Italy. It was in Italy, in June of 1966, the day before the ensemble's last performance, that he defected to the West.

Mihai immigrated to the United States in January of 1967, took various odd jobs to support himself, danced with the Boston Ballet Company, and had his own exhibition group within the Detroit, Michigan, Romanian community. He then moved to California and danced adagio in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was drafted into the U.S. Army from Nevada. While in the service, he danced with the Augusta Ballet Company in Georgia.

In 1969, Mihai dropped into **The Intersection**, a folk dance coffeehouse, where members of the Federation of California, South invited him to teach Romanian dances and his folk dance teaching career was launched. In 1970, he opened and operated his **Gypsy**

**Camp Folk Dance Café** in Hollywood, California, and operated it until its closing in 1976.

Mihai taught Romanian dance at the Kolo Festival in San Francisco in 1972 and the Stockton Folk Dance Camp and Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference in 1973. He was co-director of the Hawaii and Santa Barbara Folk Dance Symposiums and the Catalina International Dance Festival.

Mihai has devoted himself to teaching Romanian folk dance and has introduced many of the most popular Romanian dances being done in the United States, Canada, Australia, and the Orient. His teaching tours have taken him throughout the western hemisphere, the Orient, and Australia. Mihai has conducted several tours throughout the Balkans and the Middle-East. When he is not dancing, he operates his own construction company in southern California.

On March 13, 2004, The San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival honored Mihai as an individual who has made outstanding contributions in the idiom of international folk dancing. In her introduction of Mihai, Vonnie Brown said, "You have been a very fine ambassador for Romania and the impact you have had on international folk dancing has been very good, indeed. You brought a beauty and excitement to the dance that will never be forgotten. From all of us--thank you!"

Mihai has a daughter, Aubrey, who also is a dancer, actress, and singer.

Mihai and Alexandru have produced several recordings of Romanian and Russian dance music that are available at your local folk dance recording outlet or from Mihai himself.

- Dick Oakes

## THE ROMANIAN-RUSSIAN-INTERNATIONAL DANCE EVENING

To spend a Friday night at the Romanian-Russian-International Dance evening run by the brothers David-Mihai & Alexandru – is to experience what can best be described as Controlled Chaos!

Here is the sense in which it is chaotic: (1) According to the official listing in this publication, the evening begins at 8:30 pm and ends at midnight. In fact, things rarely get underway before 9:00 pm, so it is advisable to come late rather than early. (2) As advertised,

## Federation Clubs

**BAY OSOS FOLK DANCERS**  
Tue 1:00-3:00  
(805) 534-1501 Anne Tiber  
LOS OSOS, South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave,

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

**CAFE ASTERIA**  
Thu 8:30-11:30  
(310) 229-8947 Jerry Savin  
LOS ANGELES, Pacific Arts Cener, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd

**CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS**  
Wed 7:30-9:30  
(818) 707-7664 Phoebe Rivera  
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr

**ETHNIC EXPRESS**  
Wed 6:30 closed holidays & August  
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian  
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

**FANTASY FOLK DANCE CLUB**  
Sun 2:00 - 7:00  
(626) 454-3181 Diane Chen  
ALHAMBRA, China Press, 2121 W. Mission Rd.

**KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING**  
Fri 8:00-11:00  
(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller  
PASADENA, Skandia Hall 2031 E. Villa

**LAGUNA FOLKDANCERS**  
Sun 7:00-9:45  
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin  
LAGUNA BEACH, Susi Q Community Center, 380 3rd St.

**LAGUANA WOODS INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB**  
Tue 9:00am-11:00  
(949) 768-6120 Florence Kauderer  
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1, 24232 Calle Aragon

**MOUNTAIN DANCERS**  
1st & 3rd Tue 1:30-3:30  
(818) 248-5804 Charlotte Edington  
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave.

**MULTI ETHNIC DANCERS**  
Wed 5:00-7:00  
(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn  
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1, 24232 Calle Aragon

**NARODNI INT'L FOLK DANCERS**  
Thu 7:30-10:30  
(562) 852-0521 Carol Wall  
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

**PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP**  
Fri 7:45-11:00  
(323) 255-3809 Don Krotser  
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church 300 S. Los Robles

**RAINBOW SENIOR CLUB**  
Sun 4:00 - 7:30  
(626) 456-1900 Kevin Sun  
ALHAMBRA, Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave.

**SAN DIEGO VINTAGE DANCERS**  
(858) 622-9924 Mary Jennings  
SAN DIEGO, Normal Heights Methodist Church 4650 Mansfield St.

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY**  
Sun 6:00 Wed 7:30-9:30  
(805) 682-1877 Elliott Karpeles  
(805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro  
SANTA BARBARA Carrillo Rec Ctr 100 E. Carrillo St (Su); Westside Community Ctr, 423 W. Victoria St. (W)

**SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS OF VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA**  
Every other Sat 2:00-5:00  
(805) 604-9608 Madeleine  
SANTA PAULA, Briggs Elementary School 14438 W. Telegraph

**SIERRA MADRE FOLK DANCE CLASS**  
Mon 8:00 - 9:30  
(626) 358-5942 Ann Armstrong  
SIERRA MADRE, Sierra Madre Rec. Center, 661 E. Sierra Madre Blvd

**SKANDIA DANCE CLASSES**  
Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:00 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) 688-7994 Beatrice Djernaes  
SOLVANG, Bethania Lutheran Parish Hall, 603 Atterdag Rd.

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

**VESELO SELO FOLK DANCERS**  
Sat 7:30-11:00  
(562) 941-0069 Nancy Attwood  
ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor.

**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.

# Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op

presents its

## Winter Festival

January 17, 2010

Scottish Rite Temple

150 North Madison

Pasadena

1:30-5:30

\$5.00

Council Meeting

10:30

(626) 792-9118



Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

## Dance Evening

Romanian and Russian dances are taught, but when, during the evening, that happens is variable. It could be at 9:00 pm, at 10:00 pm, or not at all, in which case one or both of the Davids will simply lead the attendees in Romanian and Russian dances that everyone knows or can follow easily. (3) There is no set program. Among the many factors that determine the course of the evening are: who is there, who wants to do a particular dance, whether someone has brought appropriate music, and (possibly) the mood of the two hosts. (4) Just as there is no set program, so too there is no set ethnic origin for the dances played. In addition to Romanian and Russian dances, there will be Scandinavian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Greek, and even the occasional Israeli dance. Furthermore, at some time during the evening, there will be swing and tango.

In spite of the apparent lack of structure, there is control. Newcomers are welcomed and are encouraged to dance. Mihai and Alexandru make a point of dancing next to inexperienced dancers, so that they have someone to follow who knows the dances well. The two hosts are sensitive to the needs of the crowd. Consequently, the level of teaching and of the dances played are adjusted to match the ability level of the dancers who happen to be present that night. For the David brothers, the important thing is that they and their guests have fun. Proof of the fact that people really enjoy the evening is that they come back week after week, even if they have to travel long distances and endure Friday night traffic to do so.

A number of people who teach folk dance on other nights turn up regularly on Friday nights just to dance, relax, and enjoy themselves. For example, **Pat Crosswhite** and **Asako Oshiro** teach on Tuesday and Wednesday nights at, respectively, **Tuesday Gypsies** and **Life Balkan Dancers**; **Drina Johnson** teaches on Thursday night at **Asteria Greek Dance**; **Jim Ling** teaches on Tuesday night at Cal Tech; and Stephanie Johnson teaches on Saturday night at **Solvang Village Folk Dancers**.

Mention must be made of the venue: the Pacific Arts Center (PAC). The studio is the same one that is used by Life Balkan Dancers, Asteria Greek Dance, and Café Aman.

Located at 10469 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles (just east of Beverly Glen), PAC is a very pleasant place in which to spend the evening. For dancing, there is an excellent wood floor and air conditioning. For rehabilitation and socialization, there is a pretty garden area outside lit by twinkly lights. Dancers who venture outdoors will find comfortable chairs and couches plus a tableful of delicious munchies and beverages; most of these are provided by Mihai and Alexandru, but regular participants augment the offerings by bringing their own favorites.

About the two hosts: Mihai and Alexandru are both professional dancers, with considerable training in ballet, modern dance, and jazz. Before they came to the United States, both men performed professionally in their native country and in various European countries as well. They have done extensive research into Romanian and Russian folklore. The brothers are in the United States because they really want to be here, and the circumstances under which they came are dramatic. Both chafed under Communist rule in Romania. Mihai defected from a touring company in 1966, while he was in Italy and requested asylum. Alexandru escaped from Romania and traveled across several European countries before finally reaching France in 1972, where he also sought asylum. He arrived in the United States the following year.

Since coming to the United States, Mihai and Alexandru have toured and taught, not just in this country but also in numerous foreign countries as well. Between 1972 and 1975, Mihai ran a highly successful folk dance café on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood called Gypsy Camp. Both brothers have taught at numerous folk dance camps in the United States, including Stockton, San Diego, and Santa Barbara. Outside of the United States, they have taught in France, Switzerland, Germany, Scandinavia, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil.

The Friday night Romanian-Russian-International dance night is now nearly 2 years old. Those of us who dance regularly with the brothers David on Friday nights consider ourselves fortunate to have such superb dancers and warm-hearted men as instructors and hosts. We hope that it will go on in its own lighthearted, slightly anarchic way for many years to come.

- Annette Ehrlich

# Calendar

Note: Federation Dance Events are in Bold.

## CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

- 2 **Lois Raab's 90th Birthday Party, 7:30, Monday, with West L.A. Folk Dancers, at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost. All request program; potluck snacks welcome. See OTS. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**
- 7 **Nevenka Concert. Saturday, 2:00 at Universalist Unitarian Church, 1260 18th St. Santa Monica. Guest musicians, reception, live auction. Info: www.nevenka.org.**
- 8 **Culver City English Country Dance - Caller Tom Willson, music by Guinevere Sanger & Friends, 4:00 - 7:00 at Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way. Info: Annie Laskey (310) 837-3427, or www.caldancecoop.org.**
- 18 **New daytime class, 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning Nov. 18. At Felicia Mahood Sr Ctr, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A. International folk and line dancing taught by Beverly Barr. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659, or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**
- 22 **150th Birthday Celebration for Cecil Sharp. Caller Annie Laskey, music by Whirled Peas with David James. 4:00 - 7:00 at Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City. Info: Annie Laskey (310) 837-3427 or caldancecoop.org.**
- 27 **West L.A. Folk Dancers Annual Day-After-Thanksgiving Party, Friday, 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost. All-request program, potluck table. See OTS. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166. (310) 478-4659, dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**
- ### DECEMBER
- 4 **Molly Halperin's Big Birthday Party (100 years!) Friday, 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., West L.A. All invited as Molly's guests. Refreshments provided by Molly. All-request program. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659, or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**
- 14 **Holiday Party Celebrating Chanukah & Christmas, Monday, 7:30. West L.A. Folk Dancers at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. Potluck snacks. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**

- 31 **New Years Eve Party, hosted by Pasadena Coop. 8:00 -1:00 at Scottish Rite, 150 N. Madison. Potluck, music by Fifth Friday.**

### 2010

#### JANUARY

- 4 **New Year & New Decade Party, Monday, 7:30 p.m., West L.A. Folk Dancers, at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. All-request program potluck snacks. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**
- 17 **Winter Festival, hosted by Pasadena Coop. 1:30 -5:30 at Scottish Rite, 150 No. Madison, Pasadena. Council meeting at 10:30. info: (626) 792-9118.**

#### FEBRUARY

- 5,6,7 **Laguna Folkdancers Festival. At Ensign School, 2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach. Teachers: Tom Bozigian, Richard Powers. Info: (714) 891-0788, (714) 893-8888, or info@LagunaFolkdancers.org**

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- 11/6 **Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble, Friday, 8:00 -10:00 p.m. at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro St., San Francisco.**
- 11/7 **Armenian Folk Songs & Dances Workshop, Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Workshop, 8:00 p.m. Concert, St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church, 650 Spruce St., Oakland. Info: www.brownpaperticket s.com/event/85449.**
- 11/8 **Concert (Co-Sponsored by CSUF Armenian Studies & Music Depts.) Sunday at CSUF Concert Hall. Info: www.brownpaperticket s.com/event/85450.**
- 11/27, 28 **Kolo Festival, Croatian Hall, 60 Onondaga, SF. Yves Moreau, John Filcich, Jerry Duke. Info: (415) 759-5136, jcduke@sfsu.edu.**
- 12/6 **Israeli "Oldies" Folk Dance Party-east Bay, Sunday, 1:30-5:30 at Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Live music at 4:00. Potluck snacks. Info: Allen King (510) 501-3307 or allenk@mindspring.com.**

#### COLORADO

- 11/28 **Dick Oakes' 70th Birthday Party, Aurora. Info: (303) 632-6635 balkanbash@phantomranch.net.**

#### OREGON

- 1/16-17/2110 **Eugene Veselo Festival - Save the date. More info to come soon!**

# The Hochzeitsbitter

inviter to consider all the givens and find the most suitable match.

Several weeks before the wedding he would don his coat and hat, take his staff in hand-all decorated with ribbons and flowers- and go through the village, inviting relatives and close friends to the upcoming wedding. He usually extended the invitation in verse. Since it was customary to pay for one's meal, and even to bring your own knife and spoon, he would write the details on the door with a piece of chalk. For his services he was usually given a little "refreshment" by the people visited. By the time he finished his rounds, he had become rather merry.

At the time of the wedding, he fetched the bride, arranged the wedding procession to the church, presided over the wedding feast, and entertained with witty stories and comments during the meal. He also was in charge of the *Abdanken*, a very important custom at the wedding. After the meal, the bridal couple sat at the head table while the inviter invited the guests in a specific order to come up to the head table to present their wedding gift to the newlyweds. During this time he would again be expected to make amusing comments-preferably in rhyme-about the people who

were just presenting their gift. He often had the honor to dance the first dance with the bride, even before she danced with the groom. Of course the details of this custom varied from region to region, but in all cases, the "Wedding inviter" was an indispensable part of the wedding. He was wedding co-ordinator, best man and master of ceremony all rolled in one.

- Karin Gottier

\***Bauer** is the German word for farmer. However, it is also a title. People address the owner of a farmstead as Bauer and speak of him as the Wiesnbauer. His own family name might be Schmid, but he is referred to by the name of his farm-the Wiesnhof (the meadow farm), which does not change regardless of the name of the family who lives there. Bauer is a respected title. It means the owner possesses land, home, animals and has permanent farm hands. In local pubs there was usually a table where the Bauern would sit together, while their young sons would sit at the table for the Knecht. When entering the church on Sunday morning the Bauern had precedence over other members of the congregation.



Entertainers -  
A Taste of Encino

# The Hochzeitsbitter

This article, written by Karin Gottier, was originally published in the May/June 2009 issue of The German Folk Dancer. It is re-printed here with permission.

## THE HOCHZEITSBITTER

Weddings are supposed to be the happiest time in a bridal couples lives, but they are also the most stressful. There are all kinds of complications and touchy situations that need to be navigated with tact and finesse. Today, it is usually the bride's mother who deals with organizing this event. Perhaps even the best man or maid of honor, if -for whatever reason- no one else is available. Contemporary weddings in Germany are quite a bit simpler than those in rural communities during the 19th century. The couple announces its engagement in the paper and by sending out announcement cards. On the appointed day they go to the town hall to be officially married, attended by two witnesses and perhaps a few very close relatives. Only after this can they request the blessing of the church (they must present the certificate of marriage from town hall to the officiating clergy person). In the eyes of civil law, the church ceremony is not binding. Since the couple is already married, both partners approach the altar together. There is no "daddy-giving-away-his-little-girl".

Because, at the time of the official engagement, the couple both place a gold band on their left hand, they now change the rings to the right hand... Therefore it is possible in Germany to tell if a man is engaged if he wears a gold band on his left hand. In recent years brides have also begun wearing a diamond ring, a custom taken from the U.S.

Although there are brides maids and grooms men, they are not as important as in an American wedding, although usually the Godparents of the groom and bride are honored in some way.

One person who was of great importance in rural weddings during the 19th century has disappeared altogether: the *Hochzeitsbitter*- the wedding inviter. This was a man who was prominent in the village, perhaps the schoolmaster or the mayor. His greatest asset was that he was eloquent. Often he was also a matchmaker in subtle ways.

Because the wedding was an event that not only concerned the couple, but both families and the entire village, he was at hand to see that all went smoothly. When the children of farmers married, people did not

ask so much if the couple were compatible, but that the farms were of equal or greater value. The groom and bride literally married the farm. It was the wedding inviter's job to negotiate the dowry and the bride gift on behalf of the groom. Only after these negotiations, the bride and her parents went on the "Beschau", the inspection of the animals, the fields and physical structures; the groom and his parents then did the same if he married onto the bride's farm. The wedding inviter accompanied the party. At this meeting the legal details were worked out: how many animals the bride would bring into the marriage, if there was acreage to be transferred, if there were monetary gifts etc.

In the case of the groom, if he was the eldest son and would become the *Bauer\**. The father of the groom had to negotiate when he would turn over the farm to the son, and under what conditions. There had to be provisions for elderly parents as to living arrangements, how much of the product of the farm would be set aside for the use of the parents, how many animals they would be allowed to keep for their own use, and if they would share any monetary profit realized during the year.

If there were younger siblings, agreements needed to be made for their provisions. Usually the boys either stayed on the farm as *Knecht*- farm hand, or hired themselves out to other farmers. This applied to the sisters also, however the oldest brother had to provide for her dowry. With all these considerations, it was a tricky business to find a suitable marriage partner. Often what would appear to be an ideal match in circumstance and property, would not have been so ideal in the view of the personal attraction of the couple. This latter aspect, however, did count for very little in this undertaking. So it was up to the wedding



# Calendar

## TEXAS

11/26-29 *Texas Folk Dance Camp*, Bruceville.  
Teachers: Ercument Kylyc (line & couple dances of Turkey/Azerbaijan); Monique Legare (Poland/Ukraine/Hungary); Anne-Louise Schaffer (singing classes). Info: (512) 453-8936, or [www.tifd.org](http://www.tifd.org).

## WASHINGTON

11/14 *Norwegian Dance Workshop*, 10:00 - 4:45 at Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 - 52nd W., Lynnwood.  
Info: Elaine Mathies (206) 524-5403, [emathies@att.net](mailto:emathies@att.net), or [www.skandia-folkdance.org](http://www.skandia-folkdance.org).

## FOREIGN

### CHINA

6/10 (or 13)-26/2010 *Yangtze River Cruise & Custom China Tour*, dancing led by Sandy Starkman.  
Organized by Mel Mann. Info: (510) 526-4033, [meldancing@aol.com](mailto:meldancing@aol.com), [www.folkdanceonthewater.org](http://www.folkdanceonthewater.org).

### INDIA

11/6-15 *Rhythm of India*, Workshop on Folk Dances of India Institute of Performing Arts, Chandigarh. Info: (M) 009815374046 or [cipa.india@yahoo.com](mailto:cipa.india@yahoo.com).



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Tom Bozigan  
Dances of Armenia

## NEW YEAR'S PARTY - WEST L.A. FOLKDANCERS

Dance Through the Decades at this special New Year's party in celebration of the New Year, 2010, and the new decade. Dance and celebrate with the West Los Angeles Folk Dancers on Monday, Jan. 4, 2010 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. in West L.A. and enjoy the fun, dancing through the decades. Bring something special (popular in any decade) for the pot-luck snack table.

We dance on a beautiful wooden floor.

For more information about this fun party or any other information, call Beverly & Irwin, (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.

## NEVENKA EASTERN EUROPEAN FOLK ENSEMBLE CONCERT AND FUNDRAISING EVENT

Saturday, November 7 at 2:00, at Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 1260 18th Street, Santa Monica.

The full concert will be followed by a reception with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and music by the **Milkmaids of Swing**. Then join us for a live auction of remarkable and intriguing goods and services. This is an afternoon event, so you will still have your evening free. Please help support us in our goal to travel to Bulgaria next summer!

Tickets \$25.00. Nevenka is now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization - donations are tax deductible!

To pre-order tickets with Paypal, visit <http://www.nevenka.org/shows.html>. Pre-ordered tickets will be held at Will Call.

Or send a SASE with check/money order to: Nevenka, 4207 Matilija Ave, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information, contact [info@nevenka.org](mailto:info@nevenka.org).

## LOIS RAAB'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - MON. NOV. 2, 2009

In celebration of Lois Raab's 90th Birthday, she offers an open invitation to those who would like to celebrate with her at a folk dance party at the West L. A. Folk Dancers on Monday, Nov. 2. You are invited to the dance party as Lois's guest. She will also provide the birthday cake and welcome other snacks. At 90 years old, Lois dances 2 nights a week.

The West L. A. Folk Dancers meet at Brockton School and dance on a beautiful wooden floor. Party begins at 7:30, 1309 Armacost, W.L.A. (Between Barrington & Bundy, 1 1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). For info: Call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.

## DANIEL SANDU AVAILABLE FOR WORKSHOPS WINTER 2010

I am coordinating a U.S. tour for Daniel Sandu (Romanian, lives in Amsterdam) in late January/early February. Please contact me at: [a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com) if your group is interested.

- *Bart Carpenter*

## BEVERLY BARR'S NEW DANCE CLASS

Beverly's new International Folk Dance Class will be held at Felicia Mahood Senior Center on Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. - 12:45p.m. in the auditorium. This new class will begin Nov. 18, 2009. Felicia Mahood Senior Center is located at 11338 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles, 2 blocks west of the 405 freeway.

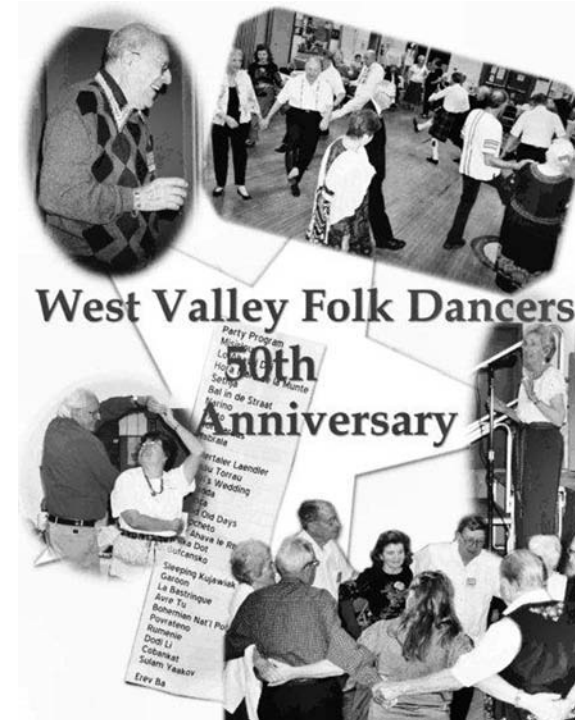
Beverly's class at Roxbury Park Recreation Center in Beverly Hills will continue on Tuesdays, 10:45 a.m. / 12:30 p.m., in the auditorium. Roxbury Park is located at 471 So. Roxbury Dr. in Beverly Hills, about one half block south of Olympic Blvd. For information contact Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

## HE WHO HESITATES.....IS LEFT WITHOUT A PLACE TO STAY FOR STATEWIDE 2010

Statewide 2010 is coming, Statewide 2010 is coming! "Dancing in the Valley of the Moon" will be happening on Friday through Sunday, June 4, 5 and 6 in the beautiful town of Sonoma. The committee would like all of you folk dancers who are planning to attend this wonderful event to be aware of some important details about lodging. The cost of most lodging in the town of Sonoma proper is quite expensive; and, additionally, places fill up well in advance because it is a popular destination for weddings, vacations, getaways, wine tasting, etc. Therefore, if you think you would like to stay in Sonoma, we would strongly urge you to make your reservations NOW. If you change your mind at a later date, you can always cancel within a time frame closer to the event, as almost all places of accommodation allow cancellation in advance without

is still dancing, but several couples who joined in the next year or so are still part of the group. We celebrated with a beautiful party on Friday Oct. 9th. Quite a number of former members joined us that night and danced to a great program of old and new dances. Come and join us on Friday night, we welcome newcomers. For info: Lila Aurich (818) 348-6133.

- *Jill Michtom*



## SAN DIEGO OKTOBERFEST



On the weekend of Sept. 25 San Diego had its annual Oktoberfest in Balboa Park. It's always a warm friendly festival in the beautiful Balboa Park Club on a wonderful wooden floor. There are classes, exhibitions, dance walk-throughs and good food. If you've not been, remember it for next year, it's worth the drive down



*Pride of Erin Irish Ceili Dancers*



*Balboa Park Performing Folk Dancers*



# Recent Events

## TUESDAY GYPSIES MEMBERS ART SHOW



We are the Tuesday Gypsies and we love dancing together every week. And because we love to dance, we spend minimal time chatting. To remedy this, we had an art and craft show on October 10 and spent the day talking and learning about each other's works---from fragile painted eggs to ceramics, wood carving,

embroidery, clothing, knitting, furniture and homemade wine. The weather was perfect and we capped the day with an al fresco dinner of salad, pizza, sweets and coffee. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

P.S. Since there is no cure or substitute for music and dancing, we also danced! Fran Slater is in the photo, getting back to dancing after major surgery. Also in the picture, from l. to r., are Millicent Stein, Fran, Meredith Gordon (hostess of the show), Pat Crosswhite, and Sandy Helperin.



Come join us on Tuesday at the Culver City Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd. For info: (310) 390-1069.

- *Millicent Stein*

## TASTE OF FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE



On Sunday, October 11th folk music and dance were celebrated at the Encino Community Park. Part of Ventura Blvd. was closed to traffic, local restaurants had food booths, and stages were set up for music and dancing of different kinds; all under the auspices of California Traditional Music Society and The Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest. It was a great day from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

- *Jill Michtom*



## WEST VALLEY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF JOYFUL DANCING.

It's hard to believe, but in 1959 three couples decided to start a club in the Valley at Canoga Elementary School in a small space between the stage and rows of seats. It grew and moved several times, and is still healthy, dancing at the Canoga Park Senior Center at 7326 Jordan Ave. None of the three couples

# On the Scene

a fee. However, if you wait too long to make an initial reservation, then your chances of finding any availability later on, and closer to the time of the event, will be extremely difficult, and therefore even more expensive.

Here is a link from the Visitors Bureau, with listings for lodging in or near Sonoma: <http://www.sonomavalley.com/index.php/Table/lodging/>

For those of you who discover that the cost of staying in Sonoma proper is prohibitive, there is another alternative. We have blocked out a number of rooms in Santa Rosa at The Sandman Motel at 3421 Cleveland Avenue. The motel is located just off Highway 101, not far from the exit for Highway 12, which leads to Sonoma. The drive is approximately 30 minutes away. Their telephone number is (707) 293-2100, website: [www.sandmansantarosa.com](http://www.sandmansantarosa.com). The cost of a room in this facility is \$95.50, plus tax, totaling \$103.01 per night. Mention the code "FOLK" to get this special rate. The Inn will be holding a limited number of rooms for our group until approximately three weeks prior to the event, when any unused rooms will be released to the general public.

Also, there are reviews you can read about this facility at Trip Advisor: [http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g33055-d577309-Reviews-Sandman\\_Motel-Santa\\_Rosa\\_Sonoma\\_County-California.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g33055-d577309-Reviews-Sandman_Motel-Santa_Rosa_Sonoma_County-California.html).

For more information contact: **Gary Anderson**, Statewide chairman at: [Editor@letsdancemag.net](mailto:Editor@letsdancemag.net).

- *Kay James*

## VESELO NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

November 7 **Lee Otterholt** teaching. This event is \$6.

November 14 Reviews of Lee Otterholt dances.

November 21 Nostalgia Night.

November 28 Turkey Day Party.

- *Louise Perry*

## SUNDAY EVENING DANCING IN LAGUNA BEACH

Susi Q Center, 380 Third St., Laguna Beach, 7:00 to 9:45 p.m.

November 1 **Laura Bremer** teaches a dance introduced at No/So (Macedonian) and reviews a dance taught by **Tineke Van Geel** on October 4 (Armenian)

November 8 **Lee Otterholt** teaches 2 dances he introduced at Stockton '09, *Valle e Qemalit* (Albanian) and *Kiladiotiko* (Greek)

November 15 **Shana Winokur** teaches *Melnik* (Bulgarian, introduced by **Jaap Leegwater**) and *Abdala* (Bulgarian, introduced by **Yves Moreau**)

November 22 Lee reviews dances he taught at Stockton and teaches *Balleristos* (Greek)

November 29 All request

Info: [info@LagunaFolkdancers.org](mailto:info@LagunaFolkdancers.org)

- *Diane Baker*

## MOLLY HALPERN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, FRIDAY, DEC. 4, 2009

Molly Halpern is a special lady who is going to be 100 years old and is still beautiful and dances two nights a week. She has chosen to have her 100th Birthday Celebration dancing at the West L. A. Folk Dancers on Friday, Dec. 4. She is inviting all those who would like to celebrate and dance at her party and she will also provide refreshments.

The place is Brockton School with a beautiful wooden floor. Party begins at 7:30 p.m., 1309 Armacost, W.L.A. (Between Barrington & Bundy, 1 1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). For info: Call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or [dancingbarr@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingbarr@yahoo.com)

## WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS - MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

Teacher: **Beverly Barr**

Come and celebrate Lois Raab's 90th Birthday on Monday, Nov. 2. See above article.

Our annual "Day- After- Thanksgiving Party", Friday, Nov. 27, is always a great time for a party. After Thanksgiving dinner and the holiday enjoyment, it's time to dance with your friends and have a happy time doing what we all love, dance-dance-dance. We look forward to greeting you.

Another really big celebration: "A 100th Birthday Celebration" on Dec. 4 for Molly Halpern. See above article.

A Holiday Party on Monday, Dec. 14, celebrating the international holiday time of year, a good time to celebrate Chanukah and Christmas. We look forward to your joining us for a big holiday celebration.

# On the Scene

A New Year's Party on Jan. 4, 2010, to welcome the new year. See above article.

All parties are all request programs, played by Beverly & Irwin Barr. Bring snacks or desserts for the pot-luck table. Don't miss these happy party nights which begin at 7:30 and end when you get too tired to dance.

Do you want to learn the new dances taught at the October Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend? Do you want to keep up with the dances that are done at festivals and still get to dance the great oldies? On Mondays and Fridays we introduce some new dances and keep the favorite oldies alive. Scottish & English Set Dances and couple dances are also taught. We also do a variety of international dances and individual line dances. Come visit our group and enjoy the teaching, the dancing, and the dancers.

We meet every Monday and Friday evening, beginning at 7:45. We dance on a beautiful wooden floor at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost, W.L.A. (between Barrington and Bundy, 1½ blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). Call for information on the new format of the Friday class.

We will not meet on November 6.  
For information call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.  
*- Beverly & Irwin Barr*

**KOLO FESTIVAL 2009 -- THE 58TH ANNUAL!**  
Friday & Saturday of Thanksgiving Weekend, November 27th & 28th at the Croatian American Cultural Center at 60 Onondaga Ave., San Francisco.  
The festival consists of dance, music and singing classes, live music, culture corners, and specialty food.

**Teachers:**  
Yves Moreau -- Bulgarian  
Jerry Duke -- Greek Macedonian plus...  
Bob Gardner -- Greek (Epirus)  
Sani Rifati -- Romani (Gypsy) from Kosovo  
John Filcich -- Kolos  
Singing -- Dragi Spasovski & Michele Simon  
For additional information, please contact: Jerry Duke: email: jcduke@yahoo.edu.  
If you'd like to help as a volunteer, please contact: Jan Raines: email: sherpajmr@yahoo.com or phone (925) 682-3727

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- Beginners and all ages welcome
- Check out the class any time

These classes in So. California do a wide variety of dances, from easy, fun mixers to couple turning dances such as Hambo and Polska, which can be delightfully challenging and rewarding to master. Partners are rotated during teaching and dancing. Skandia South also has monthly dances with live music, and teachers. Musicians visit from Scandinavia several times during the year.

**Smooth leather soled shoes are recommended.**

### SCANDINAVIAN DANCE CLASSES – So. California

#### ANAHEIM CLASS. MONDAYS, 7 PM –

Downtown Comm. Center, 250 E. Center St. Ted Martin, 714/ 893 8888, [tedmart@juno.com](mailto:tedmart@juno.com).

#### CULVER CITY CLASS. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 PM –

Lindberg Park Hall. Rhoda & Virginia Ave. Sparky Sotcher, 310/ 827 3618, [fsotcher@yahoo.com](mailto:fsotcher@yahoo.com).

#### SANTA PAULA CLASS. ALTERNATE SATURDAYS, 2-4 PM –

Briggs Elementary School, 14438 W. Telegraph. Madeleine Waddell, 805-604-9608, [mdejoune@aol.com](mailto:mdejoune@aol.com).

# Dancers Speak

doesn't mean we have to do full length versions of authentic folkdances.

When teaching a long involved choreography (yes, I'm also guilty) I have this vision of an elderly man leading a dance in a Bulgarian village. At the end his wife comes up to him and says "Janos, what are you doing? We always do figure 4 three times. It says so right here in the syllabus..." Probably doesn't happen over there!

I originally took up folkdancing because I was interested in foreign cultures and traditions (and, of course, to meet women). Isn't this why people are attracted to folkdancing in the first place? We advertise camps, workshops, and parties with words like "International folkdancing" and/or "world dance".

So now that camp is over try sitting back with your syllabus and reading the list of dances you learned. Ask yourself the following question: "If I were in <pick a country> on a Saturday night, would they do <pick a dance>?" If the answer is no, and that doesn't bother you, perhaps you should try Jazzercise.

*- Todd Wagner*

Todd teaches Folkdances of Hungary and Transylvania every Wednesday night at the Menlo Park Recreation Center.

## DANCING WITH TWO LEFT FEET. (50)



*It's not how heavy you are.  
It's how light you dance.*

We just returned from a Caribbean family cruise. Besides the beautiful scenery of endless beaches and blue waters, what struck me most was the amount of food on board.

No matter when the urge to eat struck you, one could find food 24 hours a day. Many of the passengers, including me, took advantage of such a convenience and stuffed themselves around the clock; our round shapes showing the results of these efforts.

I started thinking about our folk dancers and how comparatively thin we are. Look around when you dance and I bet you will not find many heavy people. As a matter of fact, I am willing to bet that some of you,

slim as you are, think of yourselves as being overweight and in need of losing a few pounds.

Is this the result of lack of food at most of our weekly dance sessions, or some other reason?

It must be that stuffing oneself with folk dance music does not add any calories to your body and dancing certainly burns calories.

I am not a doctor, and am not qualified to recommend folk dancing as a cure for obesity, but in my humble opinion it certainly would not hurt.

I know that folk dancing has kept us all not only slim and in shape, but has contributed to our mental well being. The companionship and friendship with the many people I have met and known over the years has been a big part of my life. No matter where in the world I go, I speak the common dance and music language that binds us together despite our differences.



After our cruise I am almost afraid to show up at the next folk dance event due to my own bulging belly. It must have grown as a result of lack of folk dance and folk music for more than a week. Sadly, I have to admit the real reason for the bulge is that I spent too much time in the buffet line rather than in the belly dance line.

Belly or no belly, I promise to keep on dancing.

*- Lou Pechu*



SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS  
KEEPING FIT AND REAL

# Dancers Speak

## Quote of the Month:

*There are three steps you have to complete to become a professional dancer: learn to dance, learn to perform, and learn how to cope with injuries.* - David Gere.

David Gere is a professional, improvisational dancer and dance critic. He teaches at UCLA, in the department of World Arts and Cultures. He has co-edited a book called Taken By Surprise: A Dance Improvisational Reader. He has also written How to Make Dances in an Epidemic: Teaching Choreography in the Age of Aids, in which he "examines the interplay of AIDS and choreography in relation to gay men, ... he sees a continuum in the world of performance in which dance, protest, and emotional expression have become indistinguishable. (www.bn.com)

## Question of the Month:

Of course we are not professional dancers, nor do we do improvisational dance for the most part, but we do have to cope with dance related injuries. We would like to hear from our readers with stories of injuries stemming from dancing, and how you have dealt with those injuries.

*Send your responses to DS@FolkDance Scene.org.*  
- Sandy Helperin

## ANSWER TO OCTOBER'S QUESTION OF THE MONTH

*The question was: Do you think music and dance evolve naturally or does each generation try to outdo that of their parents' in shock value?*

*Here is an answer from a reader:*

Shock value comes with adolescent territory whether they try or not. Each generation longs to be different - special - innovative - and winds up looking weird to the rest of us. However, what starts as weird (piercing, tattooing, loud music) gradually gets assimilated into the general culture. We start out saying terrible! and wind up pierced, tattooed, and..., unfortunately, deaf. I think music and dance evolve naturally with each generation because they are easy avenues for young folks to leave their generational stamp on the world. Shock value will probably only increase because of our immense communication system called the internet. I just hope folk dancers are the last to capitulate...

because I like us the way we are. It would appear that folk dance has a good chance of being immune to the excesses of pop culture because folk dance is not merely for entertainment. Tradition is a strong tap root for folk dance which keeps it well grounded using far fewer decibels (thank goodness!)

- Camille Dull

## LET'S DO MORE REAL FOLKDANCES

*The following article appeared in the October 2009 issue of Let's Dance, and is re-printed here with permission.*

The summer folkdance camp season is over and I'm depressed. I'm depressed about the onslaught of new folkdances (isn't that an oxymoron?) that have never been done in the countries they represent. Somewhere along the line we have morphed from doing authentic village dances to learning the product of various choreographers' fertile imaginations.

I have enormous respect for people like Yves Moreau and the late Dick Crum who only used choreography to make an otherwise authentic dance fit the available recorded music, but if a Jazzercise instructor makes up a routine using Israeli music is it a folkdance? Why are Dutch people making up new Bulgarian and Armenian dances?

What's the problem here? It can't be that there is a shortage of real folkdances. I've been studying Hungarian dances for 30 years and have barely scratched the surface. Some people have told me that authentic dances are too hard. Actually, most village dances are very simple and can be done by anyone who can walk upstairs while chewing gum. Even the village idiot can participate. Others have said that real dances are too easy or boring. Don't worry, we've also got some hard ones.

Another argument is that real folkdances are too long. If a village has a repertoire of only half a dozen dances then they will play each of them for a really long time to make an evening of it. In the village it's not about the footwork. It's about talking to your neighbors, listening to the music, and singing the songs while doing fairly simple steps. Here the average "folkdance" is about 2 minutes 49 seconds long (563 dances in Marcel's music collection total 1584 minutes). That



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# Ethnic Food

## ROMANIAN RECIPES

*Cele mai bune legume este carne de pui?i în cele mai bune carne de pui este carnea de porc.*

The best vegetable is chicken meat and the best chicken meat is pork.

Pork is the favorite main dish among most Romanians but you will also find great beef, lamb and chicken dishes. Savory fish dishes are typical of the Danube Delta. The rich and tasty food in Romania is influenced by foreign invaders that have occupied the land in the past, the Greeks, Hungarians, Germans and Turks. These past influences have allowed Romania to create its own unique cuisine. Several traditional Romanian dishes, such as *mamaliga* (or polenta) and *sarmale* (stuffed cabbage) are considered native Romanian dishes.

For really authentic sarmale at Christmas you need to start now with the process of pickling your cabbage. Place whole cabbages in salted water in a closed container. Rotate frequently to refresh.

If you didn't start on time and need a short cut, here are two options. Freeze the cabbage overnight. This will soften the leaves and make them pliable for stuffing or core the cabbage and par-boil in salted water with a little vinegar.

Stuffed cabbage rolls are served hot with sour cream and mamaliga. Don't worry about making too many. They are even better after a day or two in the refrigerator.

There are many recipes for making sarmale depending on the different geographic regions of Romania. (Moldova, Transylvania, Olden). This is one of them.

### Sarmale

1 Lb. ground pork  
1 Lb. ground veal or beef  
1 large onion, minced  
1 cup rice (white)  
1 sm. can tomato sauce (non-spiced)  
2 cloves garlic  
1 Tb. paprika  
1 tsp. freshly ground pepper  
1 1/2 tsp. salt  
1 Tb. marjoram  
1 Lb. sauerkraut  
4-5 sprigs of fresh dill or parsley  
1 - 2 bay leaves

1 Tb. canola oil  
6 cups chicken broth

In a large pan, sauté the minced onion and garlic with the oil for about 5 minutes, add the paprika and take off the heat. Mix this in a large bowl with the ground pork, veal (or beef), rice, ground pepper, salt, marjoram, half of the dill, chopped.

Scoop heaping spoonfuls onto individual cabbage leaves and roll. To roll properly, start at the vein side, wrap vein side over the top of the filling, then fold sides over onto filling lump, then continue rolling to edge of leaf and lay edge side down into a large roasting pan in which you have laid a bed of sauerkraut. Tuck the cabbage rolls tightly into the pan in a single layer. Fill up the center space with the remaining rolls, sprinkle about 1 tsp salt, pepper to taste, add the bay leaves, 3-4 sprigs of dill, and add the remaining sauerkraut on the top. Don't top the pot to the rim because the rice will expand while cooking pushing the entire sarmale up. Leave about one inch to the rim. Add the tomato sauce and broth making sure that the liquid level comes up to the top level of rolls. Cover and place in oven at 325° for 2 hours. Uncover and bake for about one more hour.

Placinta, a type of pie, is an ancient dish from the Dacian-Roman period. Just as there are many variations of sarmale, the recipes for placinta differ from region to region

### Eggless Pastry (Placinta)

2 cups flour  
3/4 Lb. butter  
3 Tb. heavy cream  
1/2 tsp. salt

Cut butter into sifted flour. Mix in heavy cream. Place in refrigerator for 2 hours. Divide dough in two. Roll out one layer and set in a 9" rectangular pan. Fill with spiced applesauce, cherries, cottage cheese to which egg white and more sugar has been added or any fruit filling. Place other layer over the top and dab with a little cream. Bake at 350 for about 20 min.

Thanks to **Dana Leu** and the internet, source of all my knowledge Romanian.

- Pat Cross

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