



# Folk Dance Scene



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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.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.** Subscription orders and renewals should be addressed to Gerda Ben-Zeev, see above. The subscription rate is \$15.00 per year U.S.A., \$20.00 for Canada or Mexico, \$25.00 for other foreign countries. Changes of address and circulation problems should be addressed to Gerda Ben-Zeev, see above.

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Size (width x length)	Federation Club	Others	To: <a href="mailto:ads@FolkDanceScene.org">ads@FolkDanceScene.org</a>
1/4 page (3" x 3 1/2')	\$ 10	\$ 15	Folk Dance Scene Ads
1/2 page (6" x 3 1/2" or 3" x 7")	\$ 15	\$ 25	1524 Vivian Lane
full page (6" x 7 1/2")	\$ 25	\$ 40	Newport Beach CA 92660

**On the cover: Near couple Shelly Jones, Krister Strandkov and far couple Erik and Karina Oftebro, doing "Little Man in a Fix" at Danish Days**



# Folk Dance Scene

Volume 45, No. 10  
Dec. 2009 / Jan. 2010

## Federation Corner

Life can be full of surprises. Back in 1960, as a junior in high school, I was encouraged to apply to be an American Field Service exchange student. I decided to apply, expecting that it would be a good experience to go through the application process, never dreaming that I would actually be accepted and live for a summer with a family in Germany (I had had three years of Spanish), nor did I even remotely anticipate the incredible impact that decision would have on my life. At the end of that summer, AFS students in Germany met in Bremen for a farewell banquet, after which, a German folk dancing group entertained us. That seemed quite interesting, but I did not give it much more thought after I returned for my senior year.

In 1961, I went to UC Santa Barbara, as an engineering major, and thumbed through the course catalog trying to find something to satisfy the PE requirement - football, baseball, etc. were not high on my list. There was a folk dancing class, and I thought about the German group I had seen and decided to sign up for that class. We started with Mayim Mayim, Alunelul, and other similar dances. A few weeks after classes had started, I saw signs up around the campus for a folk dancing group that met on Friday nights. I thought I would go and practice for my class. Yeah, right!!! I stumbled all over my feet, in awe of all of these people that could dance all evening, never repeating anything. Everyone seemed to know the dances, except me. I would follow behind, and just begin to see a dance pattern, as it ended. Still it was an immense amount of fun, and everyone was so friendly. The next week, none of the dances from the previous week were repeated - more stumbling. The third week, a woman came up to me and asked if I would be interested in joining their exhibition group. I said, "sure, why not?", and the rest as they say is history.

*David L. Heald's story continues on page 4...*

### Editors' Corner

This issue spans the darkest days of the year around the winter solstice and celebrations thereof. We hope you enjoy the drama of fading and returning light.

We enjoyed the drama of the Solvang's Danish days, as you see in the cover story and Federation Corner. We commend the Solvang Village Folk Dancers for making dance a part of the street scene. The Danish theme continues in ethnic food and paper dolls.

The Scene will be taking a winter break. We wish you happy holidays and will see you next in February.

Be of good cheer!

- Pat Cross and Don Krotser

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

**Dec. 2009 / Jan. 2010**



# Federation Corner

*cont. from page 3...*

Returning home for Thanksgiving, I announced to my mother, Barbara, that I needed a Danish costume, whereupon, she pointed to the sewing machine in the corner. At least I knew what it was. So I cut off some pants below the knee, somehow managed a vest, and with a white shirt, and long white stockings, I had a "Danish costume". Coming home for Christmas, I announced that this time I needed a Ukrainian costume - again, the sewing machine was in the corner. I bought some white cloth, some braid at The Broadway for the shirt, black cloth for the baggy pants, and red cloth for a sash, and that was followed by a visit to a car upholstery shop for Naugahyde (they couldn't believe what I was going to do with it) to make boot tops. Now I had my second costume. Adding half socks and a scarf for my neck to the lederhosen I had purchased while in Germany filled out my initial costume wardrobe. I was hooked!

In my junior and senior years at UCSB I led the folk dancing group, and took on most of the teaching. Later in the 60's, I started dancing with some of the groups in Santa Barbara, where I met the Cretneys, Wes and Rosina, who have become life-long friends. In the summer of 1969 they invited me up to Solvang to practice for Danish Days (every year on the third weekend in September), since the group there was desperate for "bodies". So I went and learned many more Danish dances and participated as the Solvang group did four formal performances on a stage, one in the morning, and one in the afternoon, both on Saturday and on Sunday. I continued the following year, and some of the younger couples decided that the four performances were not enough dancing for the weekend. One of the couples put a record player in the trunk of their car, and between performances, they pulled up on the street, outside of one of the shops, ran an extension cord into the shop, opened their trunk and we had music, and danced on the sidewalk - the current Solvang Folk Dance group was born!

Over the next years, the formal performance group disbanded, leaving only the "sidewalk dancers" for Danish Days, and we became the "Solvang Village Folk Dancers". In 1972 I moved to Buellton and became a Santa Ynez Valley resident, and shortly afterwards, the Cretneys started an international folk dance group, meeting Saturday evenings. My parents, Chuck and Barbara, retired and moved to the Santa Ynez Valley in 1976, after selling their camera store

business in Monrovia, California. I introduced them to their first folk dancing experience at the Cretney's group. Although they had never danced before, they soon became enthusiastic dancers. Later the Cretneys moved to Oregon. I became the group leader, and although my career took me to the Los Angeles area, I returned to Solvang on weekends to teach international dances to the group throughout the year. I also conducted practices during the months prior to Danish Days, introducing some new dances and refreshing older ones for performance and participation. Chuck and Barbara took on the task of coordinating the activities of the group, which included arranging many performances during the year for groups coming to Solvang for conferences or conventions.



Many of the couples who had danced with the original "sidewalk dancers", had also moved out of the area for career reasons, but returned to Solvang each year to participate in

Danish Days. This became an informal, yearly reunion, with more than twenty hours of street dancing each Danish Days weekend. Forward a few years, and there was the next generation of dancers joining in. Fast-forward more years, and there were grandkids, with four generations all dancing, and having a great time together. We made a point of pulling in people who think they are only going to be watching the dancing! Seeing children light up after dancing with us, is so rewarding.

I have met so many wonderful people with the years of folk dancing, including one very special one, Stephanie Johnson. We have worked together for many years now, bringing new dances to the group, and joining together in many festivals and workshops, and performances. Folk dancing has become a major focus for my life outside of career and family, and it has become a "passport" to the world, as I have danced in other states, and other countries with "total strangers", who yet are not "strangers".

*- David L Heald*

# Solvang Village

## SOLVANG~ A TASTE OF DENMARK~ NO PASSPORT NEEDED! LET'S GO!

The city of Solvang was established 98 years ago by a group of wise Danish educators and clergymen, who traveled west to found a Danish folk arts school in a place where they could also escape the harsh midwestern winters. The community was built to reflect the atmosphere and culture of their homeland, and today, although it bears little resemblance to modern Denmark, the architecture, much of which follows traditional Danish style, the ambiance, with horse drawn carriages, costumed shopkeepers, smorgasbord restaurants, and the thoughtfully preserved culture all coalesce to transport one to another time, another world!

This is a world where families come together and find meaning in traditional values and strength in community; a world where comfort foods, guilds and crafts, arts and entertainment speak to and from the heart; a world where music and dance have a cherished place within the whole.

Solvang is a Garden Town, in every sense. The beautiful flower gardens that grace each street are a multi-sensual pleasure and the bouquets of luscious foods, fine wines, gathered families, fine arts, fiber arts, costumes, music and dance delight and inspire!

The most marvelous time to visit this quaint, picturesque town would be the third weekend of September. It's Danish Days! Solvang annually hosts a three day festival, Danish Days, to celebrate its founding in 1911, and to continue preserving the village's authentic Danish heritage. To emphasize the residents' Danish-American heritage, flags line the streets; the red and white Danish flag alongside our Stars and Stripes.

Arrive early enough on Friday to enjoy authentic Danish music, sample some Danish pastries, dine on Danish cuisine or take a tour of the village in the "Honen," a 1915 replica of the horse drawn trolleys once popular in Denmark. The trolley is leisurely pulled through the streets of Solvang by a pair of handsome draft horses.

The official opening ceremony of Danish Days begins with a beautiful torchlight parade through town to Solvang Park where the "Danish Maid" is introduced. A *Velkommen* Street Dance surely follows,

with the exquisitely costumed Solvang Village Dancers!

Saturday morning enjoy the traditional Danish Days breakfast of *aebelskivers* (see next page for recipe) and *medisterpoise* sausages prepared and served from cook carts along the street. The street is already filled with music, dancing, arts and crafts and demonstrations of traditional Danish culture. There's also plenty of time for non-dancers to browse the shops and do a little wine tasting in several tasting rooms scattered throughout town. Be sure to get back in time for the Danish Days Parade! The Solvang Village Band atop the Carlsberg Beer Wagon, the Solvang Village Dancers pulling their music cart, Great Danes, Solvang Village Singers, vintage autos, equestrian groups, high school band and drill team and more travel the parade route through the center of town entertaining a thousand residents and visitors who line the streets.

After the parade, guess what! There is more music, more dancing and quite a show between the musicians on the Carlsberg Beer Wagon, and the Solvang Village Dancers. (And there really is beer in that wagon!)

Danish Days began as a 25th Anniversary celebration, and has continued as an annual event for 73 years. It was heartwarming to hear stories of former residents who return every year for this September weekend to reunite with family and loved ones, and to revisit this magical world of "sunny fields," Solvang.



You'll have to wait ten months to make a pilgrimage for Danish Days, and you might want to mark your 2010 calendars now. But if you'd like to visit before such a long wait, and if you'd like to sample this dancing on the cobblestones, and watch **Frank Tinius** and **David Heald** perform the *Ox Dance*, or *Little Man in a Fix*, every third Saturday the Solvang Village Dancers will don their costumes and dance in the street. Well... Almost every third Saturday. Check their website (<http://svfolkdance.com/>)

for the rare eclipse or switcheroo! They are wonderfully inclusive and ever so much FUN! I hope to see you there.

- Valerie Daley

# Ethnic Food

## AEBELSKIEVERS

Aebelskivers, meaning apples slices, are traditional Danish pancakes in the shape of a sphere. The texture is that of a pancake crossed with a popover - solid like a pancake, but light and fluffy like a popover. A special pan is used to cook the aebelskivers on the stove top. They were traditionally cooked with bits of apple or applesauce. Modern aebelskivers rarely include apples.



### Ingredients:

- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 3/4 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 Tbs sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 3/4 cups buttermilk
- 4 Tbs melted butter
- 1 pint fresh blueberries (or other fruit)
- powdered sugar
- maple syrup

### To Prepare:

In a bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, granulated sugar and salt.

In a small bowl, lightly whisk together the egg yolks and buttermilk. Whisk the yolk mixture into the flour mixture until well combined; the batter will be lumpy.

In another bowl, using an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat the egg whites on high speed until stiff but not dry peaks form, 2 to 3 minutes. Using

a rubber spatula, gently fold the whites into the batter in two additions.

Put 1/2 tsp. butter in each well of a filled-pancake pan (called a monk's pan.) Place over medium heat and heat until the butter begins to bubble. Pour 1 Tbs. batter into each well and cook until the bottoms are golden brown and crispy, 3 to 5 minutes. Put 5 or 6 blueberries in the center of each pancake and top with 1 Tbs. batter. Using 2 wooden skewers, flip the pancakes over and cook until golden and crispy, about 3 minutes more. Transfer to a plate. Repeat with the remaining batter and blueberries.

Dust the pancakes with confectioners' sugar and serve warm with maple syrup. Makes about 40. (from Williams and Sonoma Kitchen)

(There's a story that aebleskivers were first cooked up on dented Viking shields.)

- Valerie Daley



## Let's Dance

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# New Years Eve

# Party



Hosted by

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op  
International Folk Dancing  
Scottish Rite Temple

150 NORTH MADISON AVE.  
PASADENA

8:00 to 1:00

Pot Luck

## LIVE MUSIC BY FIFTH FRIDAY

\$10.00

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Member Folk Dance Federation of California, South



# Calendar

Note: Federation Dance Events are in Bold.

## CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

### 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. See OTS. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659, dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**
- 10 **Holiday Party, Narodni Int'l Folkdancers at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St. See OTS. Teacher: Richard Duree, music by Atlantic Crossing. Info: (714) 932-2513 or www.narodni.org.**
- 11 **Holiday Party Celebrating Chanukah on Friday, 7:30 p.m., 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.**
- 12 *L.A. Cafe Aman, Sat. 7:30 p.m. at Pacific Arts Center, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A. Greek music by Ziyia band from San Francisco. Info: ianpricebey@hotmail.com.*
- 13 *Culver City English Country Dance, Sun. 4-7:00 p.m., Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City. Caller: James Hutson, Music: Interfolk. Info: Annie Laskey (310) 837-3427 or caldancecoop.org.*
- 25 **Christmas Party, Friday, 7:30 p.m., 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. See OTS - details.**
- 27 *Day After Boxing Day Party, Culver City English Country Dance, Sun. 4-7:00 p.m., Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City. Caller: Marsden Macrae, Music: English Roses.*
- 31 **New Years Eve Party, hosted by Pasadena Coop. 8:00 –1:00 at Scottish Rite Temple, 150 N. Madison. Potluck, music by Fifth Friday. See ad.**
- 31 **Narodni/Veselo New Years Eve Party 8:00-Midnight at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St. Live Music: Kriss Larson's Interfolk Band. Info: (714) 932-2513 or narodni.org. See ad**

2010

### JANUARY

- 4 **New Year & New Decade Party, Monday, 7:30 at West L.A. Folk Dancers, Brockton School,**

**1309 Armacost Ave. See OTS. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.**

- 9 *L.A. Cafe Aman, Sat. 7:30 p.m. at Pacific Arts Center, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A. Requests & recorded music. Info: ianpricebey@hotmail.com.*
- 15-17 *Camp Ramah Rikkudiah - Annual Israeli camp in Ojai. Info: (310) 476-8571 or (888) CAMP RAMAH.*
- 17 **Winter Festival, hosted by Pasadena Coop. 1:30 –5:30 at Scottish Rite Temple, 150 N. Madison, Pasadena. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. Info: (626) 792-9118. See ad.**
- 21 **Dance Class with Yannis, followed by dancing to Makedonikos Ichos, Cafe Asteria, Los Angeles. Info: xorepse@gmail.com. (Anne Sirota)**
- 22 **Kypseli's 25th Anniversary! Lesson with Yannis, followed by dance party with Makedonikos Ichos, at Kypseli in Pasadena. Info: Anne Sirota xorepse@gmail.com.**
- 23 *Afternoon Dance & Cultural Workshop with Yannis, followed by food & dancing with Makedonikos Ichos, St. Anthony's Church, Pasadena. Info: paula\_darlas@sbcglobal.net.*
- 24 *Dance Workshop with Yannis Konstantinou, Folk Dance Center at Dancing Unlimited, San Diego. Info: flkdancer@yahoo.com. (Vicki Maheu)*

### FEBRUARY

- 5-7 **Laguna Folkdancers Festival. At Ensign School, 2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach. Teachers: Tom Bozigian, Richard Powers. Info: (714) 893-8888, or info@LagunaFolkdancers.org See ad.**
- 11 **Valentine Day Party, Narodni Int'l Folkdancers, at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St. Info: (714) 932-2513.**

### MARCH

- 27 **Party for Dick Oakes, Veselo Selo Folk Dancers, Sat. 7:30-11:00 at Anaheim Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor Blvd. Music: Veselba. Info: Nancy Atwood (562) 941-0069.**

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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.*



# Calendar

- Live music at 4:00. Potluck snacks. Info: Allen King (510) 501-3307 or allenk@mindspring.com.
- Bruce Molsky (Celtic/Balkan Fusion) Concerts. Info: brucemolsky.com/schedule/ or socofoso.com/html/calender.html:
- 12/6 At Cayuga Vault, 1100 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Info: (831) 421-9471 or cayugavault.com.
- 12/9 *Concert & Workshop*, at The New Freight & Salvage, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94704. Info: thefreight.org.
- 12/11 *Concert*, Subud Hall, Sebastopol, CA. Info: (707) 542-3798 or socofoso.com.
- 12/12-13 *Concert, Workshops & Dances*, Arcata, CA. Info: humboldtfolkdancers.org.
- 12/11 *Christmas Folk Dance Party*, Friday, 8-11:00 p.m., Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Bldg. 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa. Info: marilysmith@sbcglobal.net.
- 1/9 *US Debut Performance* with Makedonikos Ichos & Yannis Konstantinou at St. Nicholas Church, San Jose. Info: sofiaefstratiou@mac.com.
- 1/15-16 *Dance with Makedonikos Ichos & Other Musicians*, at FDF Competition, San Jose. Info: www.yourfdf.org.
- 1/15-16 *Heritage Festival* at Community United Church, Elm & Arroyo Sts., San Carlos. Info: folkdance.com.
- 1/18 *Workshop with Yannis*, accompanied by Makedonikos Ichos GreekFeet at Presidio Dance Academy, San Francisco. Info: makaronis@earthlink.net.
- 1/20 *Dance Lesson with Yannis*, followed by dance party with Makedonikos Ichos, Ashkenaz, Berkeley. Info: caroline\_simmonds@hotmail.com.
- 3/19-21 *54th Annual Camellia Int'l Folk Dance Festival*, Jaap Leegwater teaching. CSUS Ballroom, 6000 J. St., Sacramento, CA. Info: Toba Goddard (916) 371-4441 or folkdancesac.org.
- 4/9-11 *Arcata Int'l Folkdance Festival*, Arcata, CA. Info: Craig (707) 822-8045 or humboldtfolkdancers.org
- 6/4-6 *Statewide 2010, Dancing in the Valley of the Moon*, at Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Hall, 126 First St. West, Sonoma. Teachers: Zeljko Jergan & Erik Bendix. Music: Chubritza. Info: Gary (415) 488-9197.
- ## NEW YORK
- 1/15-16 *Golden Festival* (Balkan & Mideastern) New York, NY. Info: (718) 859-4759 or zufestival@zlatneuste.org.
- 5/28-31 *World Music & Dance Camp*, 90 miles outside New York City. Info: ahmet@rcn.com.
- ## OREGON
- 1/16-17 *Veselo Festival*, Eugene. Save the date. Info: Linda (541) 726-7548 or LinKet@aol.com. or Daniel (541) 683-3688 or acadiaadesign@comcast.net
- ## TEXAS
- 3/12-14 *Nelda Guerrero Drury's 52nd San Antonio Folk Dance Festival*, with Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Andy Taylor, George Fogg & Sandy Starkman. Info: safdf.org.
- ## WISCONSIN
- 12/28/09 - 1/1/10 *62nd Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions*, at Folklore Village, Dodgeville, with Lee & Hilde Otterholt. Info: folklorevillage.org.
- ## FOREIGN
- ### BULGARIA
- 8/2-15 *Koprivshitsa Festival Tour!* led by Jim Gold. Festival held every 5 years - register early! Info: jimgold.com.
- ### CHINA
- 6/10 -26 *Yangtze River Cruise & Custom China Tour*, dancing led by Sandy Starkman. Organized by Mel Mann. Info: (510) 526-4033, meldancing@aol.com, www.folkdanceonthewater.org.
- ### HUNGARY
- 3/26-4/5 *Budapest! Spring Festival Tour.* Led by Adam Molnar. Info: jimgold.com.
- ### ISRAEL
- 3/7-19 *Israel!* led by Jim Gold & Joe Freedman.
- 3/19-22 *Jordan Extension.* Info: jimgold.com
- ### MACEDONIA
- 12/22-1/3 *Macedonian Dance Workshop Tour.* Info: suebee9@charter.net.
- ### NORWAY
- 6/12-22 *Midsummer in Norway!* led by Lee Otterholt. Info: jimgold.com.

# On the Scene

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## SUNDAY EVENING DANCING IN LAGUNA BEACH

Susi Q Center, 380 Third St., Laguna Beach, 7:00 - 9:45

December 6 **Shana Winokur** teaches *Delcevsko Oro* (Bulgarian) and reviews *Melnik* and *Abdala*

December 13 **Laura Bremer** and **David Carman** review *Eschebo*

December 20 **Hilde Otterholt** teaches a *hula*, "Hear Comes Santa in a Red Canoe" at Clubhouse 5 with Multi Ethnic Dancers of Laguna Woods. (24262 Punta Alta, Laguna Woods)

December 27 All request Holiday Party hosted by Laguna Woods Multi Ethnic Dancers at Clubhouse 7 (24111 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods)

Info: (714) 893-8888, [www.LagunaFolkdancers.org](http://www.LagunaFolkdancers.org)

- *Diane Baker*

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## NEW SINGING OPPORTUNITY IN LOS ANGELES

I recently taught a singing class at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu. A number of the students were interested in singing for fun on a more regular basis. A dear friend and wonderful singer is willing to start a class for anyone who is interested.

New class in Los Angeles -- Balkan songs. All welcome, no experience necessary.

Contact **Suzanne Ahmed Leonora**, (310) 994-8361, [openvoice@hotmail.com](mailto:openvoice@hotmail.com). Suzanne has been studying and teaching Balkan songs and singing for 35 years. She founded and directed **Mosaic Vocal Ensemble** in the San Francisco area, was choral director of Westwind International Folk Ensemble, and taught at Village Harmony. Her lively, supportive approach to teaching Balkan singing demystifies the melodies, texts, rhythms, ornaments, and techniques of this rich, delightful repertoire.

Any students who still need lyrics from the Camp Hess Kramer weekend may contact me at [joycexopo1@hotmail.com](mailto:joycexopo1@hotmail.com) or (510) 237-1124.

- *Joyce Clyde*

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## TRAVEL & DANCE WITH BEVERLY & IRWIN BARR

Group travel plans are being made for spring of 2010. You are welcome to call us anytime for more detailed information. Call (310)202-6166 or (310)478-4659 or [dancingbarrs@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingbarrs@yahoo.com)

## STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP NEWS

Usually by the end of November we are putting out our early flyer, letting everyone know about the dance teachers we have lined up for next summer. This year we lined up our faculty earlier in the year and both weeks of camp are fully subscribed with waiting lists. We enlarged our main dance floor this year, but couldn't increase the size of camp because the university was remodeling some of the dorm rooms. Next year we will have a larger camp.

This big surge in early enrollment came about because of the real wedding of two of our dance teachers: **Sonia Dion** and **Cristian Florescu**. Everyone wants to be there! We're still working on the details, but we have reserved the Greek Orthodox Church in Stockton for the ceremony, arranged for the priest and the photographer, and are planning the wedding reception in the Grace Covell dance area. We will coordinate rides for those people who do not bring cars to camp so everyone can attend the ceremony.

We will be dancing in the same three halls as last year: Grace Covell, Tiger Lounge, and the Instrument Room. These are all reasonably close to the Grace Covell dorm, where we will be staying.

In recent weeks we have arranged for **California Kapela**, under the direction of **Susan Worland**, to provide live music for camp. We have not yet confirmed a singing teacher. In our 50th and 60th years we offered cameo workshop appearances of some of our former faculty members. We intend to do that again this year. It's going to be exciting!

- *Karen Wilson-Bell, Stockton Folk Dance Camp Committee*

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## DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES WITH THE WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS ON MONDAY, JAN. 4

Dance through the decades at this special party in celebration of the new year, 2010, and a new decade. Dance and celebrate with the West L. A. Folk Dancers on Monday, Jan. 4, 2010. We dance on a beautiful wooden floor at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. in West L.A. Enjoy the fun in dancing through the decades. Bring something special (popular in any decade) for the pot-luck snack table. Request program with Beverly & Irwin Barr. For more information about this fun party or any other information, call (310)202-6166 or (310)478-4659 or [dancingbarrs@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingbarrs@yahoo.com).

# On the Scene

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## WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS - MONDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS TEACHER - BEVERLY BARR

A Holiday party Friday, Dec. 11, celebrating an international holiday time of year. Everyone loves to celebrate during the holiday season and this is a good time, as tonight is the first night of Chanukah, when the first candle is lit. We look forward to you joining the party.

Friday, Dec. 25 is Christmas and we will have a Christmas party. How lucky we are to be able to be together and dance tonight. Our Christmas party will be special, being on Christmas evening. We hope to see you at the party.

Monday, Jan. 4, 2010, a New Year's New Decade party to welcome in 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. All parties begin at 7:30 p.m. and end when you get too tired to dance.

We all look forward to party nights, seeing old and new friends, some that we see and dance with often and others that we always look forward to seeing at our parties. Come join us and dance with one of the friendliest groups around. We love parties, people, and dancing together.

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 (mostly on Fridays). 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. From 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. there is re-teaching of old dances and from 8:00 - 10:30 p.m. is the regular intermediate dancing and teaching. Friday evening is intermediate dancing and teaching from 7:45 - 10:30 p.m. Call for new information on the Friday class.

We dance on a beautiful wooden floor at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost, W.L.A. (Between Barrington & Bundy, 1 ½ blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.) and look forward to seeing you on Mondays and Fridays.

We will not meet on Dec. 18 and Dec. 31 nor on Jan. 1 and 15.

For information call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.

- Beverly & Irwin Barr

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## WORKSHOPS WITH YANNIS KONSTANTINOU

Master dance teacher Yannis Konstantinou returns to California, accompanied by the incomparable Florina brass band, **Makedonikos Ichos** for their first tour to the US in January 2010!

Grab your calendars and note the schedule thus far, for classes, workshops and *glendia* (dance parties). More details about time, price and venues will be posted closer to the date, or you can email the contact person listed for each event.

Saturday, Jan. 9: U. S. Debut Performance: Glendi with Makedonikos Ichos and Yannis Konstantinou, St. Nicholas Church, San Jose, info: sofiaefstratiou@mac.com.

Fri./Sat, Jan. 15/16 - exact date TBA: Evening Glendi with Makedonikos Ichos and other musicians performing at FDF, San Jose.

Monday, Jan. 18: Workshop with Yannis, accompanied by Makedonikos Ichos. GreekFeet at Presidio Dance Academy, San Francisco, info: makaronis@earthlink.net.

Wednesday, Jan. 20: Dance lesson with Yannis, followed by Glendi with Makedonikos Ichos. Ashkenaz, Berkeley, info: caroline\_simmonds@hotmail.com.

Thursday, Jan. 21: Dance class with Yannis, followed by dancing to Makedonikos Ichos Cafe Asteria, Los Angeles, info: xorepse@gmail.com (Anne Sirota).

Friday, Jan. 22: Kypseli's 25th Anniversary! - Lesson with Yannis, followed by Glendi with Makedonikos Ichos, Kypseli, Pasadena. Info: xorepse@gmail.com (Anne Sirota).

Saturday, Jan. 23: Afternoon Dance & Cultural Workshop with Yannis, followed by food & dancing with Makedonikos Ichos, St. Anthony's Church, Pasadena. Info: paula\_darlas@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, Jan. 24: Dance Workshop with Yannis Konstantinou, Folk Dance Center at Dancing Unlimited, San Diego, info: flddancer@yahoo.com (**Vicki Maheu**)

- Caroline Simmonds

# On the Scene

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



Molly Halpern is a special lady who is going to be 100 years old. She is still beautiful and dances 2 nights a week. Molly has chosen to have her 100th Birthday Celebration dancing at the West L. A. Folk Dancers. She offers an open invitation to all who would like to celebrate at her party at the West L. A. Folk Dancers on Friday, Dec. 4, 2009. You are invited as Molly's guest. Her family will pay your admission and will provide refreshments.

The West L. A. Folk Dancers meet at Brockton School and dance on 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 [dancingbarrs@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingbarrs@yahoo.com)

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## VESELO SELO SCHEDULE

Dec. 5 **Hilde Otterholt** will be teaching a novelty dance.

Dec. 12 **Wen-Li & Sue** reviewing and introducing Taiwanese dances.

Dec. 19 Holiday party celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas.

Dec. 26 Boxing Day party.

We will be closed on New Year's Eve to have a joint celebration with Narodni

## January, 2010

Jan. 2 All request

Jan. 9 Closed to celebrate Macedonian New Year's at the church in Whittier.

Jan. 16 Nostalgia night.

Jan. 23 **Anthony Ivancich** teaching. Special event is \$6

January 30 Reviews of Anthony's dances.

- Lu Perry

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## HOTEL FOR LAGUNA FESTIVAL IN NEWPORT BEACH - Feb. 5-7, 2010

The same wonderful hotel reduced their room rate for our group reservation this year.

Join our group reservation for a great hotel with a complimentary full hot breakfast, pool, indoor spa, sauna/exercise facility, inside corridors, underground parking and more.

Price available by contacting Beverly Barr at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or [dancingbarrs@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingbarrs@yahoo.com).

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## FOLK DANCE POSTERS TO ATTRACT NEW DANCERS

Loui Tucker (dancer, teacher, innovator, enthusiast and president of Federation North) has come up with another good idea to advertise folk dancing. (She is the one who thought of, made, and distributed the bumper stickers, and spearheaded the folk dance 'commercial' on the internet.)

Now she has created posters, to be placed where people gather, and which encourage them to find out more about folk dancing. On the bottom there are tear-off portions with the web address: [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com). There they can find out about dance clubs near them.

She is asking each dancer to place one of them at a suitable place near them. If we all do that there is a good chance that some new dancers will be attracted. To download the poster, go to [folkdance.com](http://folkdance.com), and click on 'Publicity Poster' on the left. Then print it (them?) out in color.

Before you put up a poster, comply with any instructions advising you to check with someone before posting. Here are some more of her suggestions for posting:

Before putting up the poster, cut along the dotted lines so people can easily pull off the tags at the bottom.

Consider putting a poster up in places like:

college campuses	senior centers
fitness centers	places of worship
community centers	coffee shops
supermarkets	laundromats
assisted living centers	
other dance classes	

# On the Scene

Be creative. Is there a dance supply store, shoe store, or weight loss meeting room where you can put up a poster? Keep your eyes open for interesting, inventive places.

Check back after a week or two. If the tags are all gone, print out another poster and put it up.

## REMEMBERING BORA GAJICKI

To coincide with the one-year memorial (parastos) of Bora's death and funeral, my dear friend **Paula (Kunzich) Erbay** wrote a touching and sensitive article about Bora for *Serb World*, a bi-monthly publication. After it was published, Paula put the article on her website. If you wish to visit this website and read the article, it is [www.paulaerbay.wordpress.com](http://www.paulaerbay.wordpress.com)

At the end of the article, you may leave comments.

Friends and family were very responsive in donating to the Stockton Folk Dance Camp Scholarship Fund/in memory of Bora Gajicki. Anna and I thank them from the bottom of our hearts. It is not too late to make a contribution. Your donation will assist in getting a young dancer to Folk Dance Camp next summer. Any amount will be gratefully appreciated. All donations are tax-exempt.

Stockton FDC Scholarship Fund/in memory of Bora Gajicki, c/o Bruce Mitchell, 2420 Willow Creek Ct., Cool, CA 95614.

- Marge Gajicki

## CAMP RAMAH

Ramah Rikkudiah, which is an annual Israeli camp in Ojai will be held from Friday, January 15th through Sunday, January 17, 2010. It is at Camp Ramah and for info the numbers are (310) 476-8571 or (888) CAMP RAMAH.

## NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

Thursdays, 7:30 10:30

Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street, Bellflower

### December 2009

December 3rd **John Matthews** reviewing *Stella Di Maggio* (a couple mixer)

December 10th Narodni's Holiday Party. We will have live music the entire evening by **Atlantic Crossing** (except on band breaks, of course). We also

have **Richard Duree** coming to teach big circle dances. Requested donation for this evening will be \$5.

December 17th **John Matthews** reviewing *Tango Del Norte* (a couple mixer)

December 24th Dark --- No Dancing Tonight

December 31st Narodni and **Veselo Selo** are co-hosting a super New Year's Eve Party to be held at Woman's Club of Bellflower. We will be dancing in the larger hall to the live music of **Kriss Larson's Interfolk Band** from 8 to midnight! Be sure to schedule a nap and start training for a lot of dancing. When the band was here for Summerfest, people couldn't stop dancing! Of course we will warm up starting at 7:30 and have other music available during band breaks. Requested donation for the evening will be \$8. Both clubs are very excited about this joint venture.

### January 2010

January 7th **Henrietta Bemis** teaching **Tineke Van Geel** Dances (Armenian)

January 14th **Henrietta Bemis** teaching/reviewing **Tineke Van Geel** Dances (Armenian)

January 21st **Allan Hansen** teaching *Schottis* variations

January 28th **Allan Hansen** teaching/reviewing *Schottis* variations

40th Annual Laguna Folkdancers Festival February 5-7, 2010

Info: [www.narodni.org](http://www.narodni.org), Shirley J. Hansen, (714)932-2513.



*Narodni celebrates Halloween!*



Numbers to call:

(714) 893-8888

(949) 586-2044, 646-7082

e-mail:

info@LagunaFolkDancers.org

website:

www.LagunaFolkDancers.org

40th annual  
**FESTIVAL**

February 5-7, 2010

Ensign Intermediate School Gym

2000 Cliff Dr. Newport Beach CA.92663

Presenting Master Teachers

**Richard Powers and Tom Bozigan**

*vintage dances*

*dances of Armenia*

**Live Music**

**Band Showcase:**

**Zimzala, Veselba, Dromia**

Friday evening

**Eastern  
Exposure**

at the Valentine Party

Saturday evening

**Madison Avenue Folk**

at the Dance Party Sunday

afternoon

**Valentine Dance Party - hosted by Veselo Selo**

Saturday night 8:30

**Schedule of Events**

**NOTE: New and Different**

**FRIDAYEVENING**

Dance Party with live music,  
a bit of teaching, and  
"all request" afterparty.....

7:30-12:00 **\$12.-**

**SATURDAY**

Morning workshop.....

9:30- 11:30 **\$10.-**

Afternoon workshop .....

1:30 - 4:30 **\$13.-**

Kolo Hour(6:30), Concert(7:30),  
Valentine Dance & Afterparty(8:15).....

6:30 - 1:00 **\$17.-**

**SUNDAY**

(all dance events)

Reviews.....

10:00-11:30 **\$12.-**

Classic Dances(12:30), Concert(1:30)  
& Dance Party(2:15).....

12:30 - 4:30

\*\*Optional Sunday lunch\*\* .....

11:30-12:30 **\$12.-**

**Passport for all events \$46.- before Jan.27  
\$55.- at the door; syllabi: \$3.- with advance  
registration; \$5.- at the door  
Admission under 18 FREE**

**Register in Advance**

Names for badges \_\_\_\_\_

Number of passports \_\_\_\_\_ x\$46.-= \_\_\_\_\_

Number of syllabi ~ PDF \_\_\_\_\_ x\$ 3.-= \_\_\_\_\_

Number of syllabi ~ paper \_\_\_\_\_ x\$ 3.-= \_\_\_\_\_

Total check.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address (preferred), or phone#  
(for confirmation & pdf syllabus) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with check (before Jan.27) to Laguna Folkdancers, 1524 Vivian, Newport Beach, CA 92660

**Two Dance Concerts!**

Saturday evening 7:30

Sunday afternoon 1:30

**Kolo Hour returns**

Saturday evening 6:30-7:30

**Classic Dances (aka Old favorites)**

Sunday afternoon 12:30-1:30

**optional:**

**Greek lunch in the Gym on Sunday**

(must be ordered by 12:00 noon Saturday;

Price \$12.-)

**Menu:**

Chicken kabob plate or vegetarian plate

**Motel info:**

Travelodge, 1951 Newport Blvd.,

(949) 650-2999

\$61.06 or \$65.83 incl. tax, per night

mention Laguna Folkdancers

**For request-time you may bring your  
favorite MP3,CD, cassette or mini disc**

# Dancers Speak

## Quote of the Month

In the September issue of the *Folk Dancer Magazine*, **Kevin Budd** asks "So what are folk dances anyway?" Kevin is editor of the Ontario, Canada folk dance magazine. He goes on to cite Wikipedia's definitions of folk dance, such as, "dances performed at social functions by people with little or no professional training, often to traditional music ...", "not designed for public performance or the stage...", learn[ed] informally by observing others..."

This seems like the perfect follow-up quote, after last month's article by **Todd Wagner**, teacher of Hungarian and Transylvanian dances in Menlo Park, who wrote about the many newly choreographed dances which he does not consider to be authentic folk dances.

## Question of the Month

If you missed Todd's article last month, read it now and let us know what you think of the question Kevin asks - "So what are folk dances anyway?"

- Sandy Helperin

Send your responses to: DS@FolkDanceScene.org.

## ANSWER TO LAST MONTHS' QUESTION

In answer to the November Question of the Month, about injuries stemming from dancing, **Brenda Koplín** writes:

At the end of *Ahava Pshuta*, the man twists his partner around under his arm so that her back is up against the front of him. Well, in doing so, my elbow hit poor **Milt Jack** in the ribs just the right way to cause a fracture! The following week when he told me, I burst into tears and was really upset, but he assured me he would be okay. My sister-friends gathered around me and said it wasn't my fault; Milt just didn't eat enough calcium! Who said folk dancers are not supportive?

## ETHNIC MUSIC ON "THE NATIONAL PARKS"

Some of the background music for the Ken Burns series on the National Parks was of Celtic origin, including some Scottish reels and Irish tunes. The music was recorded by **Jacqueline Schwab** (English dance teacher, and leader of the group '**Bare Necessities**'), along with her friends.

## DANCING WITH TWO LEFT FEET. (51)



*Dancing doesn't start in your head. It starts in you heart.*

Have you ever found yourself leading a line and unable to not only recognize the song but unable to remember the steps?

When I am in the middle of the line, I often wonder why someone else jumps to the head of the line, when they do not have a clue about the dance we are doing and, sometimes, when I end up leading the line, the same thing happens to me.

This mental malady must be called BLS or Beginning of Line Syndrome. The location of the surroundings of the brain has something to with it. When you are in line, your neighbor's brainwaves from your left and right side of you, even when your own brain is not functioning at full capacity, send out the step information to you.

However, when you are at the head of the line, your right brain must face the empty space ahead of the line and does not get such assistance. Ergo, you cannot remember the steps.

I know that there are many of you who do not depend on such mental crutches, and can start a dance even if awakened from deep sleep. I and, I am sure, many more depend on you and, when stuck at the head of the line, frantically look for you in the room to grab your left hand and have you lead the dance.

I also noticed that sometimes this does not happen to me. Not only am I able to start the dance instantly but I am ready as soon as the first bars of the song start playing.

What is different?

I found out that these are the dances I really like and dance without even thinking about the steps. The whole dance is stored not in my brain but in my heart. I do not have to think which of my two left feet comes first and which one follows. The dance just flows naturally and I just simply float to the music.

So, let the "instant coffee" dancers start all the other dances, you lead your "real coffee" dances that you like best.

- Lou Pechi



# Dancers Speak

## GUATEMALA - RICH

Guatemala is rich in ancient cultures and beautiful indigenous citizens. This September I had an opportunity to go to Guatemala with a group from a Christian church in Canyon Country, California to work with Habitat for Humanity building homes for citizens of the country. The persons who are chosen to have a home built under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity have to apply and prove that they have a clear title to the property the house will be built on. The family also needs to pay Habitat for the materials and the professional assistants that work for Habitat.

The group from California had seventeen members this year including my brother Paul who had gone with the group last year as well. Paul is the one who told me about the trip and got me interested in participating. Our group was divided into three groups of between five or six persons each. Each of the build sites was located near Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Two sites were near the city of Panajachel and the site I worked with was located further away outside the city of Solola.

Our group left LAX at 11:45 p.m. on September 11 and arrived in Guatemala City at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 12. Our first act was to find our rooms and then meet in the dining room for breakfast. After a nap we began a tour of the Museums of Archeology and then the park where many Mayan ruins are located near Guatemala City. Many of the citizens of the city were out that day and had come in colorfully painted school busses to spend their Saturday enjoying their ancient history. There was an air of festivity beginning to build in all areas of Guatemala because on Tuesday, the country would celebrate its Independence Day. We had lunch in a marvelous restaurant that overlooks the city of Guatemala and then we went to a small artisans market. We drove through the city of Guatemala, which is quite large, population - 3 million, and ended at a mall in the city. By that time we were exhausted and ready to return to the Vista Real, our hotel, for a rest and preparation for dinner. The next morning, we needed to get up early to eat, again, and then board a bus which drove us to the next hotel where we would begin the work of house-building on Monday.

We reached Hotel Atitlan in the afternoon and readied ourselves to go into the nearby city of

Panajachel for a meeting at the Habitat for Humanity offices. We boarded two vans and were driven up the long hotel driveway to the Habitat office in the city. At this meeting all the families that we would be working with were in attendance. Each of the three families was presented. After a number of speeches, the group was treated to cake and punch. Then we all went to the patio for a group picture and an opportunity to meet and converse with our particular family. I was so pleased to meet Fulgencia Ixtol-Alva and her son Henri. I was also very pleased to be able to communicate with them in Spanish. Although Guatemalans speak Spanish as their principal language, there are many more languages spoken throughout the land. Many of the languages are of Mayan origin and many from numerous indigenous groups in Guatemala. After this function, we returned to our hotel.

Hotel Atitlan is located on Lake Atitlan with a volcano directly across the lake. The grounds and rooms were astounding. Next to the room I occupied with my roommate was a lovely garden housing four macaws, two caged parrots and a caged toucan whose song astounded me. One of the parrots said "Hola". Close to this area were lovely and colorful plants. We had a great dinner and retired for the evening to be ready for the early call to work.

Monday, September 14, found us all in the hotel dining room having breakfast and then boarding one of the three vans that would take each group to its work site. The group I was on worked on Site 1 outside the town of Solola. We began our work for our family and the events went nicely. So we all finished our day back



# Dancers Speak

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at the host Hotel Atitlan and spent September 15, Guatemalan Independence Day, zip-lining across some beautiful forests. We did not work on that day.

Wednesday was back to real work on house construction but the evening had a special surprise for all of us, especially for me. At Hotel Atitlan on Wednesday, September 16, in the evening, we all met in a special room to listen and watch a wonderful group called "Rumam Chamalkan". The group had its own marimba and three musicians played it while a troupe of dancers performed in costume for us. The first was a simple peasant dance. The male dancers were dressed in white shirts and pants with straw hats. They wore a wide red sash around the middle and red neckerchiefs. The ladies wore traditional long skirts and *huipiles* as they danced with the men. A *huipil* is a colorful and traditional poncho like 'blouse' or top worn, and often woven, by the indigenous person wearing it. The skirts are long pieces of woven cloth wound around the woman's waist and they do not allow for large and flamboyant movements. The dance steps were very simple but the dancers moved in various configurations across the dance floor to add variety to their presentation.

The group took a break but only to change costume and this time their costumes were totally opposite from the peasant costumes. For their second dance they were dressed in very ornate costumes some of which made fun of the Spanish conquerors and others that were animal-like spirits or legendary figures. The dancers had on ornate masks as well as costumes and the dance was done by pairs of dancers that danced across from one another in the dance hall.

Finally, the dancers invited us to participate with them on the dance floor, doing a simple step swing to the live music. The evening was most enchanting and for me as a folk dancer, the cherry on the Guatemalan cake. What a beautiful memory to have for the rest of my days; the water lapping against the shores of Lake Atitlan in the dark and velvety night in a gorgeous hotel, among some of the most charming, friendly, curious, accepting and loving people a person could hope to meet and live with for a short but productive period of time.

We ended our construction work in Solola and Panajachel by the following Saturday. Then we traveled to Antigua, Guatemala, where we spent one

more day before returning to the U.S. Antigua was full of churches, parks, and colorful homes. We toured the city on foot and had our final opportunity for America's popular pastime, 'shopping'. While on the Antigua tour, we saw the volcanoes so often seen in this beautiful country and one of them was sending us a smoke signal that his/her life was not yet finished. All the adventure has left me with a spirit of wanderlust and a desire to know more. Thank you, Guatemala.

- *Sylvia Stachura*

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## SECOND MYSTERY BOOK WITH A FOLK DANCE SLEUTH

**Alexandra Schiller**, longtime folk dancer and teacher (was San Diego, now Oregon) has published the second in her series of mysteries in which the protagonist is a folk dancer - probably the only folk dancing detective in literature. Each story is set within a different religious environment, and challenges those values. This one is titled *The Case of the Imaginary Imam* and was published by Conscious Publishing, Portland, OR. (The first in the series is titled: "The Case of the Suave Swami".) Both are available from Powell's, as well as other book sellers.

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## KYPSELI CELEBRATED HALLOWEEN!

Costumed dancers and ethnic, professional, Greek instruction by **Joe Graziosi**

Because we were there, we were really glad  
Let's talk about what enjoyment we had

The Friday evening was far from dull  
When you looked at Helen and Al Hull  
They portrayed the serial (cereal) killer  
As might each, strong, Kypseli pillar

Another special night is planned and will be coming soon  
All are welcome to join in with a familiar Greek tune

Next special event, Holiday Party, "Ziyia Greek Ensemble", Friday, December 11.

Kypseli, Fridays at eight  
2031 Villa Street, Pasadena

- *Marilynn Pixler*



Travel  
broadens  
one!

## *Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2010*

[www.jimgold.com](http://www.jimgold.com)

# **ISRAEL/JORDAN ! BULGARIA! GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS ! HUNGARY! NORWAY! POLAND!**

**Travel with international folklore and folk dance experts:  
Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, Adam Molnar**

### **Tours in 2010**

**ISRAEL and JORDAN! . . . March 7-19, 19-23. Led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman.**

Meet the people of Israel, learn their songs and dances, visit historic sites. Meet and dance with Israeli, Arab, Druze, Balkan, Yemenite, Bedouin, and Kurdish cultural groups. **Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Galilee. Jordan extension: March 19-23. Petra, Amman, Wadi Rum, Jerash!**

**BUDAPEST! . . . March 26-April 5. Led by Adam Molnar. Spring Festival Tour!**

Gypsy music, csardas, and folk dance in the fiery Land of the Magyars.

**NORWAY ! . . . June 12-22. Led by Lee Otterholt.**

Norwegian and International Dancing with breathtaking scenery in the Land of the Mountain Kings! **Midsummer in Norway! Oslo, Bergen, Hovin (Telemark), Fjord Cruise, and Voss.**

**HUNGARY ! . . . July 27-August 4. Led by Adam Molnar. Magyar adventures in Budapest, Eger, Jaszbereny Folk Dance Camp! (Can be combined with Bulgarian tour!)**

**BULGARIA ! . . . August 3-15. Koprivshtitsa Festival Tour! Led by Jim Gold.**

The one you've been waiting for! Sofia, Bansko, Plovdiv, Veliko Turnovo, Koprivshtitsa. Colorful, unforgettable, mountain-top Folk Festival held every five years! Register early.

**POLAND ! . . . September 3-17. Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Wroclaw, Torun, Malbork, Gdansk.**

**GREECE, Crete, and the GREEK ISLANDS! . . . October 9-24.**

**Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt.**

Dance hasapicos, syrtos, and more! Mountains, markets, archeological wonders, and sun-kissed islands! Classical tour of Mycenae, Sparta, Byzantine Mystra, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora. Four glorious days on Crete! Greek cruise extension to Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Ephesus, Santorini. Oct. 24-29. Santorini extension includes Ochi Day!: Oct. 28-31.

**For itineraries and details: Visit [www.jimgold.com](http://www.jimgold.com)**

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** I can't wait to go! Sign me up. Enclosed is my \$200 per person deposit.

Tour(s) desired \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

No. of people \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Jim Gold International, Inc. 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A.  
(201) 836-0362 [www.jimgold.com](http://www.jimgold.com) Email: [jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com)**

# Folk Dance Dimensions

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## THE MANY FACETS OF FOLK / ETHNIC DANCE

Folk dance has benefited us in more ways than we can imagine. The physical exercise alone has enhanced and preserved our health and active life style far beyond that of the vast majority of the population. It is not unusual to have active members well into their 80s in our midst, hale, hearty, healthy, happy and dancing still.

The dance has created and inspired an appreciation for artistic and cultural concerns in a way few activities can. Our fellow dancers have a more understanding view of cultures which are viewed with mistrust and even contempt by less enlightened folk. We have been blessed with a view of the true heritage of cultures behind the posturing of politicians and aristocrats. We travel. We study. We appreciate. We learn.

To give the dance the true depth of understanding it deserves, we need to learn to view the dance as a messenger with a story to tell. That story is about the question: "Why do people dance the way they do?" This question and the quest to answer it will be folk dance's greatest gift.

To more fully realize the potential value of folk dance as both a social / recreational hobby and a field of serious study, its unique make up needs to be understood. Simply, there are four ingredients which combine to create folk dance which do not apply to any other dance form:

1) The Ethnology of the Dance - Who danced the dance? Where? When? And why? What role did the dance play in their secular and religious life? Marriage market? Rite of Passage? Easter?

2) The Character of the Dance - Often called "styling," now we ask "why do people dance the way they do?" This will be discussed in a moment.

3) The Relationship to the Music - Interestingly, there are folk dances that are not accompanied by music and there are other dances that do not have a definite rhythm. In either case, the dance has a powerful control that holds the dance together in spite of the lack of musical rhythm. They are, however, rare exceptions; musical accompaniment is an integral part of the dance event and adherence to the rhythm is considered to be of utmost importance.

4) The Choreography - The arrangement of steps, figures and motifs. Though the least important element of the dance, this is where too many folk dancers focus their attention, neglecting the first three. It should be noted that in some dances it is considered rude and inappropriate to deviate from the prescribed steps, where others have no such limitations and improvised variations are admired and skill at the dance is an enhancement to one's social status. Whichever custom applies should be understood and respected.

Folk / ethnic dance exists for one basic reason - and hundreds of directly related ones: It fulfills or satisfies the aesthetic needs and standards of its creators. If those social urges that foster the dance are removed, the dance declines and disappears. Only those of us who love it solely as an art form and recreational hobby - and the occasional rare academic - are committed to saving it.

What are those aesthetic forces that shape the dance? Why does the dance of Telemark in Norway differ so profoundly from that of Seville in Spain? Or from Radomir in Bulgaria? For that matter, why does the dance of the Shope region differ so much from that of Novo Zagorsko, just a few miles away in Thrace?

In Transylvania, why do Romanians delight in nurturing highly complex syncopations in their dance, while the Hungarians living in the next village are perfectly happy with dance rhythms in 4/4? Why are the Hungarian men's dances competitive, while the Romanian men dance together as one?

Why do some Balkan chain dances circle clockwise, while others go counter? (It's been offered that one of them follows the direction of the sun across the sky.)

These are questions that learned ethnologists in many countries spend their entire lives happily exploring for answers. They are questions that can give folk dance the depth that gives this dance more educational value than any other. They are questions that can teach us to "read" the story the dance tells us of people few of us will ever meet.

Let's explore some of the possible answers to "why people dance the way they do."

Topography - The people's response to the land that they inhabit, particularly in non-technical cultures, determines many things: how they dress, form of

# Folk Dance Dimensions

shelter, diet, their concept of the horizon. Mountain dwellers have a more stationary and vertical concept of the world than do those riding freely across the steppes. Observation: Poland's Gorale people in the Tatra Mountains dance in place with rapid footwork, displaying prized leg strength and stamina; while the people of nearby Krakow have developed the rapidly-moving *krakowiak* which mimics the view of the horseman.

**Livelihood** - How people feed and shelter themselves is determined by what is available to them. To the nomad, mountains are a barrier to be crossed in search of open grazing land for their herds of animals. They may be a horse culture, constantly migrating to follow the seasons and demonstrating a very limited dance repertoire. Those who live in the mountains are more likely to be loggers or miners, developing powerful legs and lung capacity and dancing with sure-footed speed and agility.

Lands with fertile soils will be populated with sedentary farmers and may be relatively wealthy compared to nomads and mountain dwellers. Their dance will be earth-bound, frequently gentle like the crops they grow and communal in nature as they are in life.

**Climate** - Norwegian winters are not like Spanish winters. Weather changes much more slowly in Scandinavia than in Iberia and the Mediterranean, directly opposite the hot winds of North Africa. Observation: Could the slow change of seasons from winter to summer have some bearing on the typical calm of the Norwegians and Swedes, while the radical difference in day and night temperatures in Spain effect the rapid and intense mood changes of the "hot-tempered" Spaniard? Can the extreme anger and volatility witnessed in Middle Eastern desert countries be caused by the constant irritation of the extreme heat?

**Clothing / Footwear** - It's a rare horse culture that does not use boots - heavy boots. Working around horses can be hazardous to one's feet and riding through brush endangers the lower leg. Heavy boots are not the best footwear for climbing mountain paths where a sure step is necessary to prevent injury or worse. Stamps and heel-beats are a natural in boots, not so in a lightweight moccasins (*opanke*) that permit

light, rapid steps and flexible gestures. And stamping is rarely applied when the dance surface will resonate.

The width and length of women's skirts will affect how they will be used in the dance; either left alone or standing straight out in a spin or to create beautiful images and gestures as in the dances of Vera Cruz and Jalisco in Mexico.

**Foreign Occupation / Cultural Fusion** - The world is populated by cultures which have dominated or been dominated by others through armed invasion and conquest or by economic dependence and trade. Dominant cultures impose their values upon the vanquished, frequently attempting to erase their language and culture. People whose behavior is controlled by an unkind conqueror over many generations will tend to tread quietly and carefully; those accustomed to imposing themselves on less aggressive folk will dance with greater force and bravado. Observation: The Macedonian *lesnoto oro* gently tests the ground as it shifts weight; the Ukrainian *hopak* does not, rather, it displays a confidence and aggressiveness born of generations of hard-riding warfare.

What does *u Sest* tell us about the Serbs? Or the *verbunk* of the Hungarians? Can we discern the customary differing relationship between the sexes in *sevillanas* and *hambo*?

What might the almost total absence of couple dances in the Balkans tell us about their history? That the Muslim values of 500 years of the Ottoman Empire might have prevented the influence of the Renaissance of Western Europe? That the chain dance form predates that of dancing with a partner? Let your curiosity run wild.

This is what dance ethnology is about - the quest for answers. As one enters into the study of the dance, the questions will come with the knowledge. The enrichment comes in the quest for the answers.

- Richard Duree



# Laguna Folkdancers Festival

## LAGUNA FOLKDANCERS FESTIVAL

The Laguna Folkdancers Festival runs from Feb. 5 - 7, and kicks off Friday evening with an informal party with the teachers (**Tom Bozigian** - Armenian and **Richard Powers** - Vintage) and a



*Laguna Festival teachers:  
above: Tom Bozigian  
at left: Richard Powers*

combination of requests and live music by three different bands from 7:30 until midnight. **Zimzala**, **Veselba**, and **Dromia** will play during the evening with recorded music and short dance lessons before, after, or in between.

Saturday's activities start with teaching sessions by Richard Powers and Tom Bozigian in the morning and afternoon with a break for lunch. After a dinner break, we kick things up a notch with the annual Valentine dance and after-party until 1:00 a.m. If you're ready to boogie then hang around because the party features live music by **Eastern Exposure**, followed by an all-request after-party.

Sunday begins with a final dance workshop from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Then hang around and enjoy Greek lunch with your choice of a chicken kabob plate or a vegetarian plate plus baklava and a drink. The lunch from Daphne's costs \$12 and requires reservations in advance. Although we can take last-minute lunch reservations until Saturday morning at the festival, please reserve with your registration if possible so we can give Daphne's an early approximate count. Then we'll put our party hats back on and dance in the afternoon to the dulcet tones of **Madison Avenue Folk**.

As if all this dancing and learning is not enough to pack into the weekend, you can watch performances by 5 or 6 dance groups at two concerts, one Saturday evening and the other on Sunday.

There will be several "request dance" opportunities during the weekend. Now, we have quite a large collection of dance music, but we may not have what you want. So, you can just bring the music for dances you'd like or check with us ahead of time at [info@LagunaFolkdancers.org](mailto:info@LagunaFolkdancers.org). We can play music from mp3 files, CDs, cassettes or minidisks (sorry we can't play those round vinyl things with the grooves).

A syllabus containing notes for the dances taught will be available for purchase. Buy your syllabus before Jan. 27 for \$3.00 and choose whether you want a printed paper copy or a PDF file to keep safely on your very own computer. The PDF file will be emailed to purchasers before the festival. Syllabi at the door will cost \$5.00 and will mostly be limited to the PDF version. So if you want a paper syllabus, let us know in advance so we print the appropriate number.

Accommodations for the weekend are available at local motels or hotels. The Travelodge at 1951 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa has rooms with one bed for up to 2 people at \$61.06 and with 2 queen beds for up to 4 people at \$65.83 including tax. Call Travelodge for reservations at (949) 650-2999 and mention Laguna Folkdancers for these discounted rates. Beverly Barr also arranges group reservations at a different local motel. Contact her at (310) 202-6166 or [dancingbarrs@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingbarrs@yahoo.com) for more information. There is also a new Motel 6 at 2274 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa. This is a newly remodeled motel that was formerly a privately-owned motel. It has some rooms with inside entrances in addition to the traditional exterior room entrances.

The festival is at its usual location at Ensign Intermediate School, 2000 Cliff Dr., in beautiful Newport Beach. Registration for all dance events at the door will be \$55, but send in your registration before Jan. 27 for the discounted price of only \$46. See the ad and registration form in the center of this issue of Scene. For full festival information see our website at [www.LagunaFolkdancers.org](http://www.LagunaFolkdancers.org) or call (949) 586-2044, (714) 893-8888, or (949) 646-7082.



# NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

Co-sponsored by Veselo Selo &  
Narodni International Folkdancers

Featuring live music provided by  
***Kriss Larson and his  
Interfolk Band***

Thursday, December 31st, 2009  
7:30 - midnight

***WOW, Dance until you drop!!!!***

\$8.00 donation per person.  
Beautiful wooden floor & lots of parking!  
Bring a finger food or non-alcoholic drink to share.

**Woman's Club of Bellflower**

9402 Oak Street, Bellflower, CA 90706

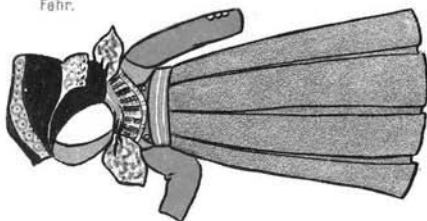
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([dancingsigns@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingsigns@yahoo.com) or 562/941-0069).

[narodni.org](http://narodni.org)

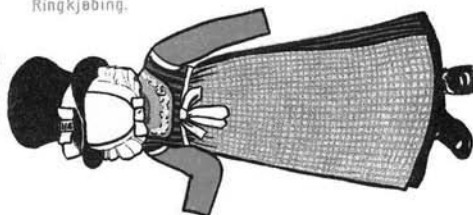
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# Danish Paper Dolls

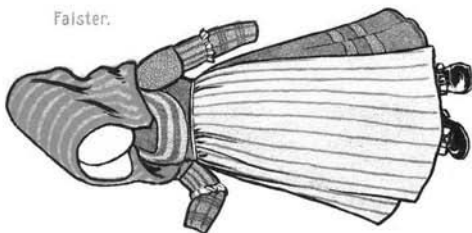
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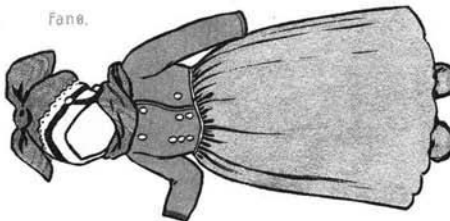
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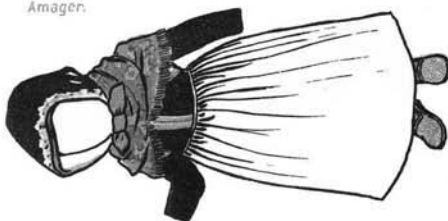
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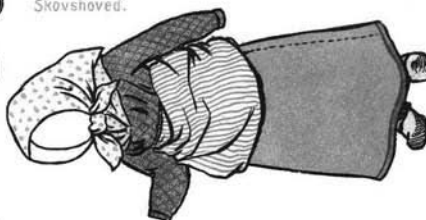
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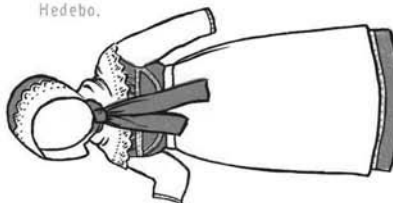
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Hedebo.



Dansk påklædningsdukke / Danish paperdoll – 1910



# Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op

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## 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

# Club Directory

## 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

### CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS

Tue 6:00 - 8:45  
(626) 303-2761 Wen Chiang  
CERRITOS, Cerritos Senior. Center,  
12340 South St.

### 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.

### KYSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING

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

### LAGUNA FOLK DANCERS

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 8:30am-11:00  
(949) 707-0605 Mikki Revenaugh  
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,  
24232 Calle Aragon

### MOUNTAIN DANCERS

1st & 3rd Tue 1:30-4:00  
(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  
(714) 932-2513 Carol Wall  
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of  
Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

### PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Fri 7:45-11:00  
(818) 790-8523 Marc Rayman  
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church  
300 S. Los Robles

### RAINBOW SENIOR CLUB

Sun 3:00 - 7:00  
(626) 614-8625 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 6:30 - 9:30 Wed 7:30-9:30  
(805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro  
SANTA BARBARA, Westside Com-  
munity Ctr, 423 W. Victoria St. (W);  
TBD (Sun)

### 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; Sat  
7:00 - 11:00(once a month)  
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin  
(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher  
ANAHEIM, Downtown Community  
Center, 250 E Center (Mon)  
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,  
5401 Rhoda Way (Wed, some Sat.)  
BELLFLOWER, Women's Club, 9402  
Oak St. (some Sat.)

### SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS

Sat 7:00-10:00 except 3rd Sat 2:00-4  
(805) 688-7994 Beatrice Djernaes  
SOLVANG, Bethania Lutheran Parish  
Hall, 603 Atterdag Rd.; Corner Alisal  
& Copenhagen (3rd Sat)

### TUESDAY GYPSIES

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

### VESELO SELO FOLK DANCERS

Sat 7:30-10:30  
(714) 738-8008 Phyllis Pivar  
ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church, 511 S.  
Harbor.

### VINTAGE ISRAELI DANCING

1 Sat per month confirm 8:16 - 12:00  
(818) 990-8925 Louis  
dovbyrd@aol.com  
SHERMAN OAKS, Anisa's School  
of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd.

# Club Directory

## 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 7:30-9:45  
(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 7:30-10:30  
(310) 452-0991 Forrest Gilmore  
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 CLASSES

(310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659  
BEVERLY HILLS, Roxbury Park  
auditorium 471 So. Roxbury  
Tue 10:45am-12:30  
WEST L.A., Felicia Mahood Senior  
Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd  
Wed 10:45 am-12:30

### CAFE AMAN

2nd Sat 7:30-11:30. Teach 8:00-8:45  
madelyntaylor@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 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 I.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

## 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

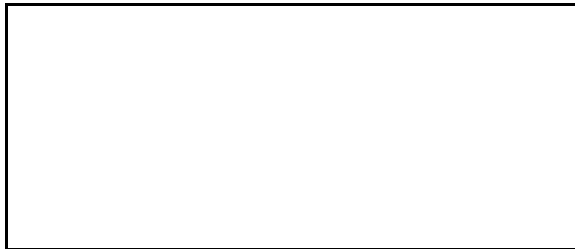
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