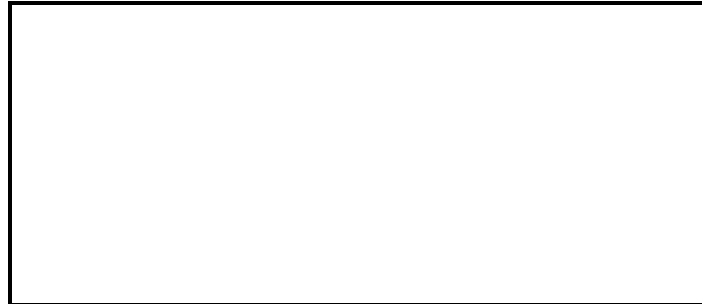


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Folk Dance Scene

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Folk Dance Scene is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costumes, lore and culture of the peoples of the world. It is 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: Los Lupeños de San Jose., Susan Cashion's Folkloric dance group, Photo courtesy of Google

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UniversityDanceClubs@yahoo.com
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WHITTIER, St. Matthias Church,
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7326 Jordan Ave

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Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson

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Overland, Wed 12:30-2:00

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2nd Sat 7:30-11:30. Teach 8:00-8:45
madelintaylor@hotmail.com
ianprice@hotmail.com
WEST LA, Pacific Arts Center 10469
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L.A., Fairfax Senior Citizen Center,
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FRIDAY NIGHT L.I.F.E.
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www.lifebalkandancers.com
worldance1@gmail.com Sherry
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Israelidance@yahoo.com
L.A., Westside JCC, 5870 W Olympic

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Studio, 15600 Mulholland Mon
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Club, 1639 S Palos Verdes St.

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



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 49, No. 8
October 2013

Editors' Corner

Our cover story is occasioned by the sad passing of Susan Cashion, but celebrates a branch of folk dancing and teaching that we might find inspiring further attention. Lives change, as do the seasons, and make us appreciate the opportunities we have.

You can find many in the Calendar and On The Scene.

Check out the Meetup article as a vehicle to grow your group.

Read and see about others' activities in Poetry Corner, Dancers Speak, and Recent Events.

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 or Federation website: SoCalFolkdance.org

Teacher's Corner

Our featured teacher is Ahmet Lüleci, who will be teaching soon in our area. The following bio was taken from Dick Oakes' website: <http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/folkdanc.htm>



Ahmet Lüleci, a native of Turkey, is an accomplished folkdance teacher, performer, choreographer, and musician, as well as a researcher of Anatolian folk culture. Since his arrival in North America in 1985, he has been promoting the Turkish folklore all over the world, to amateur as well as professional groups.

Ahmet has been performing Turkish folk dancing and music since the age of eight. At the age of 15, he became a dance instructor. He taught several ensembles in Ankara, Istanbul, Eskisehir, and Bursa.

He has danced with numerous school ensembles and private associations, many of which won outstanding awards in city-wide and national competitions. Between 1973 and 1985 he participated in international folk dance festivals and competitions throughout western and eastern Europe. In addition, he taught ensembles that appeared in more than 60 programs broadcast nationally in Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Turkey.

Ahmet also served as Director of Dances for *Hoy-Tur*, long considered one of Turkey's leading folk dance associations.

In 1985, Ahmet's research on "The Culture in Southern Anatolia" won the first prize at the national competition held by "Youth Sport and Education Ministry." Since 1985 he has continued his work in the United States and Canada, Asia, Europe, and South America.

In 1988, Ahmet became director of the Boston-based *Kemençe Dance Ensemble*. In 2001, he was the Artistic Director of *Collage International Dance Ensemble* (formerly *Kemençe*), Ahmet received the Dance Umbrella Boston Moves 2001 Award, a commission to create a world-premiere work for Boston audiences.

Ahmet choreographed a dance suite for the Brigham Young University *International Folk Dance*

Teacher's Corner continues on page 22...

Susan Cashion

The following obituary was printed in the Tuesday, September 10, 2013 edition of the Los Angeles Times, and is re-printed here with permission.



Susan Cashion, a former Stanford University dance director and a key figure in the development of the Mexican folkloric dance movement in California, died Aug. 29 after being struck by a commuter train in Palo Alto. She was 70.

The Pasadena native spent more than three decades teaching Mexican, Latin American and modern

dance at Stanford and founded or helped found a string of folkloric companies in the Bay Area that inspired similar organizations up and down the state. In 1969, Cashion and longtime partner **Ramón Morones** co-founded *Los Lupeños de San José*, which in its heyday in the 1970s enjoyed a reputation as the elite folkloric dance group in California, on par with professional companies in Mexico.

As a faculty member at Stanford, Cashion advocated for the study of other non-Western dance forms, such as Afro-Caribbean, and the recognition of ethnic dance as both an art form and a cultural practice.

She also helped establish the first national organization of Mexican folkloric dance groups, the *Asociación Nacional de Grupos Folklóricos*, which holds annual conferences. In 1980 Cashion received an award from the Mexican government "for significant contributions to the culture and teaching of Mexican folklore in the United States of America."

Cashion committed to modernizing and preserving folkloric dance at a time of social change and Mexican American cultural affirmation.

"The whole movement of ballet folkloric has coincided with a cultural revolution," Cashion told the San Jose Mercury News in 1994. "It is part of the awareness of one's own heritage. Dance is so beautiful and passionate you don't need the language to understand it."

Susan Valerie Cashion was born April 20, 1943, in Pasadena. She went to UCLA to study modern dance,

but her life took an unexpected turn when she traveled to Mexico to study Spanish.

There, a traditional Mexican dance performance in Guadalajara captivated Cashion. She changed her studies to Mexican and Latin American dance and ultimately devoted her UCLA master's thesis to Mexican dance.

While researching in Guadalajara, she met Morones, who was studying painting at the University of Guadalajara and dancing with the university's *folklórico* dance company. The meeting sparked a decades-long romance. When Cashion enrolled at Stanford to pursue a master's in anthropology, Morones joined her.

At the time, professional Mexican folkloric dance companies in California were few and far between, with folkloric essentially limited to couples at the family and church level. In founding Los Lupeños de San José, Cashion and Morones engineered a modernized, professional company that translated folkloric dance into a performance genre, marked by sophisticated choreography. They also opened the group to non-Latinos.

By the time of her death, Cashion's name had become well-known among the now-widespread folkloric dance groups throughout the West and Southwest.

"She was very dedicated to the authenticity of the folklore and promoting and touching as many dancers as possible," said Ana de la Tejera, secretary of the Asociación Nacional de Grupos Folklóricos and founder of Ballet Folklórico de Riverside.

Cashion and Morones planned to retire to Cashion's ranch in the Jalisco state of Mexico. But in 2011, Morones was shot and killed on the ranch, reportedly during an argument with an employee.

After Morones' death, Cashion returned to the Bay Area and became co-artistic director of Los Lupeños.

Upon her retirement from Stanford in 2007, Cashion founded a nonprofit organization called the Cashion Cultural Legacy, dedicated to preserving and archiving Mexican dance and culture. The organization funds a U.S.-Mexico exchange program for dancers and choreographers and now awards a scholarship in Morones' name.

She is survived by a brother, Michael.

Devin Kelly

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SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Balboa Park Club, 2144 Pan American

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xorepse@gmail.com (310) 508-9676
WEST LA, Pacific Arts Center 10469 Santa Monica Blvd

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CERRITOS, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St.

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LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon

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(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller
SHERMAN OAKS, The Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Avenue

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(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
LAGUNA BEACH, Susi Q Community Center, 380 3rd St.

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Wed 6:15-8:15
(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn
LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy

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(626) 355-9220 John Meursing
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave.

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(562) 867-4495 Julith Neff
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

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(818) 790-8523 Jan Rayman
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church 300 S. Los Robles (at Del Mar)

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PRESCOTT: Granite Peak Unitarian Church, 882 Sunset Ave.

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ALHAMBRA, Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave.

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(858) 622-9924 Mary Jennings
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(805) 604-9608 Madeleine
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SANTA PAULA, Briggs Elementary School 14438 W. Telegraph
1st Sun 5:30-7:30
SANTA BARBARA, Carillo Rec Center Studio 1, 100 Carillo Street

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(626) 358-5942 Ann Armstrong
TEMPLE CITY, Temple City Christian Church, 9723 Garibaldi Ave

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(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher
ANAHEIM, Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center (Mon)
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way (Wed, some Sat.)
BELLFLOWER, Women's Club, 9402 Oak St. (some Sat.)

SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS

Sat 6:00-9:00 except 3rd Sat 1:00-3
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SOLVANG, Bethania Lutheran Parish Hall, 603 Atterdag Rd.; Corner Alisal & Copenhagen (3rd Sat)

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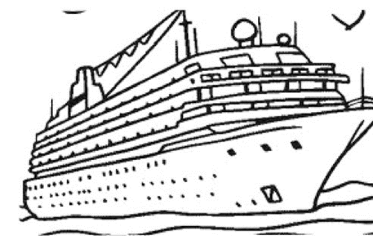
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Calendar

Note: Federation Dance Events are in Bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 5 *So. California Playford-to-the-Present Ball.* Dance Leader: Chris Page; Music: Bonfire. Info: Annie Laskey (310) 895-1571 or www.caldancecoop.org
- 8 *Yeseta Brothers Tamburica Band*, playing at Caltech Folkdancers. John Filcich guest teacher. 7:30 at Dabney Lounge, Cal Tech campus, Pasadena. Info: Nancy Milligan, (626) 797-5157, franprevas@yahoo.com
- 11 *Zeljko Jergan* teaching at the Friday Night L.I.F.E Balkan Dancers, 8:00-10:00 p.m. followed by an all-request program hosted by Sherry Cochran, at Pacific Arts Studio, Back Studio, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles. Info: worldance1@gmail.com
- 12 *Seaside Scottish Highland Games*, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., at Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 West Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001. Info: (805) 648-3376
- 14 *Beverly Barr's Sherman Oaks Daytime class*, Monday, 1:30-3:00 p.m., will NOT meet (Columbus Day). Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com
- 14 ***Beverly Barr's West Los Angeles Evening class***, Monday, 7:30-10:30 p.m. will meet at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., West L.A. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com
- 16 ***Folk Dance Workshop with Ira Weisburd*** Wednesday, 6:30-8:45 p.m., Ethnic Express at Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Info: (702) 286-7137.
- Turkish Dance Workshops with Ahmet Luleci*
- 17 Thursday, 8:00-10:30 p.m., Narodni Int'l. Folkdancers, Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower. Info: Julith (562) 404-4383 or narodni.org
- 18 Friday, 8:00-10:00 p.m., L.I.F.E. Balkan Dancers, Pacific Arts Center, Back Studio, 10469

- Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles. Info: worldance@gmail.com
- 19 Saturday, 8:00 p.m., Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th St., San Diego. Info: (619) 466-4043
- 20 **Sunday, 7:00-9:45 p.m., Laguna Folk Dancers, Susi Q Community Center, 380 3rd St., Laguna Beach. Info: (714) 893-8888 or www.LagunaFokdancers.org**
- 22 **Tuesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m., Tuesday Gypsies, Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd., Culver City. Info: (310) 390-1069**
- 23 **Wednesday, 6:30-8:45 p.m., Ethnic Express at Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Info: (702) 286-7137.**

- 18-20 **29th Annual Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend in Malibu, CA.** Teachers: Beverly Barr, Suzanne Rocca-Butler & Israel Yakovee. See OTS and ad. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com
- 18-20 *Nederlands Dans Theater 1*, at The Music Center Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.
- 20 *Annual Macedonian Festival* - See OTS. St. Mary's Macedonian Church, 10550 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90606
- 25 **Halloween Party, Pasadena Co-op.** See OTS. Info: JanRayman@charter.net
- 28 **Halloween Party, West L.A. Folk Dancers, Monday, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., West L.A.** All request program & potluck snacks. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com
- 31 **Halloween Party, Narodni Int'l Folkdancers, Thursday, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower. Info: Julith (562) 404-4383 or narodni.org**

NOVEMBER

- 1 **An Evening With Erica Goldman, Friday, 8:00 p.m., at the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-**



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OCTOBER 5 & 6 2013

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PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

On Friday, September 13, for our monthly **And Now For Something Completely Different**, we danced Unagappa Ondo - The Real Thing! We secured bowls of water to our heads and danced this water sprite dance in a highly mature manner, flicking water onto one another from the cups of water on our heads. It was a warm night so we dried off fast.

Many thanks to Valerie Daley for teaching us the wonderful dance!

Jan Rayman

You can view a video of this at our website: http://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org/Recent_Events.html



Continued from page 3...

Ensemble and had the troupe's costumes specially made and shipped from Turkey. Some of the other notable performing ensembles with which he has worked include the famed *AMAN* Folk Ensemble of Los Angeles (in 1991, Ahmet joined *AMAN*'s artistic staff as resident choreographer), *Mandala* of Boston, Massachusetts, *Komenka* of New Orleans, Louisiana, *Tamzara* of Boston, Massachusetts, *Les Sortilèges* of Montréal, Canada, *Vinok* of Edmonton, Canada, *Omega* of Honolulu, Hawaii, *Tam ti Delam* of Sept-Îles, Canada, and *Kineskamie* of Baie-Commeau, Canada. In his native Turkey, he has choreographed for *Hoy-Tur*, *Tur-Hoy*, and *Gehem* of Ankara, *Anadolu Universitesi* of Eskisehir, *Butfod* of Bursa, and *Folkrur* of İstanbul.

Baglama and *davul* are the folk instruments Ahmet most enjoys playing. Indeed, his college major was music, with specialization in voice. Ahmet's love of folksongs and fascination with folk dance led him to conduct scholarly research into the historical, social, and cultural background of the costumes and spoon dances from Turkey's Mediterranean coast. In 1997, Ahmet completed a second degree in Fine Arts, specializing in Graphic Design.

Ahmet has taught at the major folk dance camps in the United States and Canada, including the San Francisco Kolo Festival and the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in California, and continues to teach workshops throughout the United States from his home base in Boston, Massachusetts. He has taught workshops and camps in Japan, Holland, and Germany.

Ahmet is co-founder and co-director of the annual World Music & Dance Camp at Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Among Ahmet's publications is an exhaustive, 400-page folklore study on the folkdances of Turkey for which he was awarded First Place in the 1985 national competition in research on the folk dances by the Turkish Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Education.

op, Throop Unitarian Universalist Church, 300 S. Los Robles, Pasadena. Info: JanRayman@charter.net

- 3 *Ira Weisburd Workshop. Sunday, 12:00 Noon Potluck Lunch, 1:00-6:00 p.m. workshop teaching & dancing at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., West L.A. Info: Beverly Barr (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com*
- 8 *Ira Weisburd teaching West Valley Folk Dancers, Canoga Park. See ad and OTS. Info: lila@aurich.com or (818) 348-6133*

DECEMBER

- 12/29/13-1/1/14 *New Year's Weekend at Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu, CA. Flexible stay. See OTS. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- 10/26 *M&M&M – Medleys, Mixers and More! FD Federation Officers Ball. Veterans Memorial Hall, 522 South L St., Livermore. Info Lucy Chang, LucySChang@gmail.com*
- 11/29-30 *Kolo Festival 2013 – 62nd Annual – San Francisco – Friday & Saturday at Croatian-American Cultural Center, Onondaga at Alemany. Dance classes by Yves Moreau, Bulgarian; Lee Otterholt, Balkan: John Filcich, Kolos; France Moreau, Breton; Jerry Duke, Greek. See ad and OTS. Registration & Information: <http://balkantunes.org/kolofestival>*

ALASKA & SEATTLE

- 5/17-26 *7-Day Alaska Cruise*, round trip from Seattle, WA followed by 3 days attending the Northwest FolkLife Festival in Seattle, WA. With Beverly & Irwin Barr. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

FLORIDA

- 2/14-17 *Presidents' Day Weekend Workshop*, Mihai David, Steve Kotansky, at Holiday Inn,

Kissimmee. Info: www.folkdance.org, Jack Seltzer, seltzerjl@gmail.com

NEW YORK

- 10/11-14 *International Folk Dance Camp Columbus Day Weekend*, at Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction, NY, on beautiful Sylvan Lake. Master Teachers: Moshe Eskayo, Susan & Steve Kotansky, David Vinski, Monique Legarre, Susan Hargraves. Info: (212) 942-4143, mosheskayo@gmail.com or <http://www.ifcreunion.homestead.com>

FOREIGN

ALBANIA & CORFU

- 10/6-20 *Folk Tour to Albania & Corfu* led by Jim Gold & Lee Otterholt. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com

CANADA

- 4/25-27 *Lyrids 2014 Folk Dance Festival* in Burnaby, British Columbia, (replacing Salt Spring Island Festival). Info: info@lyridsfolkdancefestival.org

ISRAEL

- 3/8-21 *Folk Tour to Israel* led by Jim Gold & Joe Freedman. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

- 1/25-2/8 *Exotic Cruise to the So. Caribbean* with Yves & France Moreau plus special guest teachers Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion. Info: (450) 659-9271 www.folkdancecruise.com or info@gourque-moreau.com

TURKEY

- 10/6-22 *Tangents Turkey Music Tour*. Info: Dore Stein, (415) 584-4367 or tangentsturkeytour@gmail.com

On the Scene

CALIFORNIA KOLO FESTIVAL TO FEATURE YVES MOREAU

That wonderful time of year is on its way—Kolo Festival is coming. Join the crowds planning a long Thanksgiving week- end in San Francisco!

The 62nd Annual Kolo Festival will be Friday and Saturday, November 29 and 30 at the Croatian-American Hall at Onandaga and Alemany. It is four blocks from the Balboa Bart Station and we recommend that you use public transportation if possible.

Say it isn't so!!!—Rumors abound but often they aren't true! It has been rumored that Yves Moreau wouldn't teach at any more festivals! Not true! We look forward to having him as a featured attraction at this year's California Kolo Festival. He only does special events and we are fortunate to have him. Dance classes will feature **Yves Moreau** teaching Bulgarian dances, **Lee Otterholt** teaching Balkan, **John Filcich** teaching Kolos, **France Moreau** teaching dances of Breton, and **Jerry Duke** teaching Greek. There will also be singing and music instrument classes, plus performances and Culture Corners.

There will be live music in two halls every night, from 8:00 pm until midnight.

Advance registration is strongly recommended to save money and time at the door. Space is limited! Don't be left out. Information: <http://balkantunes.org/kolofestival> or Jerry Duke, chair, jcduke@sfsu.edu or 415-759-5136

Gary Andersen

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND - DEC. 29, 2013 - JAN. 1, 2014, CAMP HESS KRAMER IN MALIBU, CA.

Our 3rd consecutive annual New Year's Weekend at Camp Hess Kramer is coming up soon. It is held at the same wonderful facility as the October Folk Dance Workshop Weekend and previous New Year's Weekends. This is a recreational weekend to celebrate the new year and to get the musicians, folk dancers, Contra dancers, and other dancers, as well as singers and others together to enjoy many activities. Anything new that someone might want to introduce at the camp weekend is welcome. There will be opportunity for people to teach a new or old dance; for musicians jamming on their own, or

creating a new band, or playing for contra dancing, or other dancing, or performing for the camp attendees. It is an all around fun place to be over the long weekend.

The weekend stay is flexible: options includes: 4 days, 3 nights lodging, 9 outstanding meals, 3 days, 2 nights lodging, 6 outstanding meals, as well as snacks, coffee, tea, milk, and other beverages available at all times, ice cream social, Happy hour with wonderful food and drinks, including wine. There will be a huge New Year's Eve Party with a Happy Hour, special dinner, lots of music and dancing, and a midnight New Year's Eve champagne toast.

Children are welcome. Arrangements can be made for children to stay in the same room or adjoining room with their parents or grandparents. We have had wonderful experiences with children who have attended in the past.

There are 4 levels of accommodations, priced accordingly. There will be a full page ad in the next issues of Scene.

To receive flyers, information or to request the accommodation of your choice, contact Beverly or Irwin Barr (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

BEVERLY BARR'S DAYTIME CLASSES

"Note" Change of location for the Tuesday class in Beverly Hills

Tuesday - 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the new location, La Cienega Community Center in the dance room. The Community Center is on the northwest side of La Cienega Park, 8400 Gregory Way, one block north of Olympic Blvd., on the east side of La Cienega. Free parking lot on the west side of La Cienega Blvd. Enter the parking structure driving south on La Cienega. This is an intermediate class learning international folk dancing and line dancing. Beverly will be introducing new dances taught at the recent folk dance camps as well as continuing to keep the class up to date on popular dances and bringing back some oldies but goodies that are requested. Everyone is welcome. Beverly Hills residents \$1.00 and non-residents \$2.00. We will meet every Tuesday in October.



Recent Events

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PALS MEET UP AT SUNNY BALKANALIA! LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Yulian Yordanov and **Bata Marcetic** were the featured dance teachers. Music played non-stop for dancing at evening parties in the Lodge. Meals were bountiful! Sunshine flooded Camp Angelus, situated along the Sandy River outside of Portland during the Bakanalia 2013 festival. Laura Carman, now living in Granite Falls, WA, fetched **Stephanie Johnson** and **Diane Baker** at the Portland airport en route to camp. Other Southern Californians on the dance floor included **Pauline, Ed** and **Sara Klak** (joined by daughter **Ana**, who now lives in Portland), **Connie Strohbehn** (San Diego), and the **Varimozzi** family who both danced and played. Kudos to **Susan Reagel**, festival manager and her hardworking crew! Everything was beautifully organized! Instructions to campers told us what to bring (supplies for happy

hour, raingear), when to arrive, how to get to camp and what to expect. Volunteers coordinated ride sharing, table set up for meals, dish washing, registration, etc. etc. **Hristo Kolev**, the head chef of Bulgaria at Night Restaurant cooked up an amazing variety of tasty, ethnic dishes. A highlight for me was dancing to the tunes of **Kafana Republik**, featuring **Michael Lawson** on accordion, and the rousing beat of **Fanfare Zambaleta**, a California bay area brass band. I heard about the excellent singing and instrumental classes and also the lively late night parties around the campfire. Children were welcomed on the dance floor at parties. During the day they played games on the grass and participated in music and dance classes for youth. If you're wondering how to celebrate a joyous Labor Day 2014, put Balkanalia on your calendar and bring the family.

Diane Baker



Mondays - 1:30 - 3:00 P.M. Sherman Oaks Senior Center 5056 Van Nuys Blvd., one block south of Magnolia, on the southeast corner. A new Senior Center with free parking at the corner of Van Nuys Blvd. and Hartsook. Attention dancers in the Valley. It is very centrally located for those living in the Valley. Enjoy some good daytime international folk dancing and line dancing. The dance room has a beautiful wood floor.

Beverly will be teaching some new dances taught at the recent folk dance camps. Everyone is welcome. \$5.00. We will not meet on Oct. 14, Columbus Day, as the center is closed.

Wednesday - 12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Culver City Senior Center - northwest corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvds. We dance in the dance room on a wood floor inside the main building, on the first floor. We learn and dance international folk dancing and line dancing. This is a good class for newer dancers. Most dances are taught or reviewed. \$4.00 We will meet every Wednesday in October.

For information about any of our classes, call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

SUNDAY EVENING DANCING IN LAGUNA BEACH

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

October 2013 Teaching Schedule

October 6 **Shana Winokur** reviews the Macedonian dances *Mogilce* and *Debarska Svatba*. If time, the Bulgarian dance *Vlashko Oro* will also be reviewed.

October 13 **Diane Baker** reviews *Gulli* and *He Cane*, two Turkish dances introduced by **Ahmet Luleci**, that were taught at Laguna in 2009.

October 20 Special workshop features **Ahmet Luleci** for extended instruction. Ahmet will teach dances from his 2013 collection, *Inaduna*, *Gun Ola*, *Hinney*, and others.

October 27 review of Ahmet dances, teacher to be arranged

Save the date Sunday November 10 **John Filcich** presents "Old-Tyme Kolos" as collected by Richard Krum. These classic dances of the immigrants will include *Veliko Kolo* and other favorites of John.

Info: (714) 893-8888, www.LagunaFolkdancers.org

Diane Baker

WORKSHOPS IN OCTOBER FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Fri., Oct. 11 **Željko Jergan** teaching at the Friday Night L.I.F.E. Balkan Dancers, 8 - 10 p.m., followed by an all-request dance program hosted by **Sherry Cochran**. Pacific Arts Studio, Back Studio, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd., W Los Angeles. worldance1@gmail.com

Ahmet Luleci's Workshop Schedule:

Thurs, Oct. 17 Narodni International Folkdancers, Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, Corner of Oak & Clark Sts. 8:00 p.m.; narodni.org

Fri, Oct. 18 Friday Night L.I.F.E Balkan Dancers, Pacific Arts Center, Back Studio, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd, Back Studio, W Los Angeles. 8 - 10 p.m.; worldance1@gmail.com

Sat, Oct 19 Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th St., San Diego, 6 - 8 p.m.; (619) 466-4043

Sun, Oct 20 Laguna Folkdancers, Susi Q Community Center, 380 3rd St., Laguna Beach. 7:00-9:45 p.m.; info@lagunafolkdancers.org

Tues, Oct 22 Tuesday Gypsies, 8:00 – 10:30, Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd., Culver City, (310) 390-1069

Asako Oshiro

VESELO SELO IS MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION!

Veselo Selo is excited about our move to a new location, because we now have a beautiful wooden dance floor! On September 21, we started dancing at the Downtown Anaheim Community Center (ACC) in the Fine Arts Room. 250 E. Center St., Anaheim Ca. 92805, (Between Anaheim Blvd. and Philadelphia St.) ACC Center Phone Number (714) 765-4510 For more details, please see us online at: <http://www.veseloselofolkdancers.org>

Our hours of dancing are changing too, so please make a note of the new hours:

Saturday nights from 8 p.m. – 11 p.m. (that's 3 hours).

Calendar for the remainder of 2013 (Note we are no longer dancing every Saturday)

Saturdays 8:00p.m. – 11 p.m. Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and 30, Dec. 7, 21 and 28

We are looking forward to seeing you on our new dance floor.

Kathy Molga

WEST L.A. FOLKDANCERS - BEVERLY BARR

Mondays 7:45-10:15 p.m.

We will meet every Monday evening in October, including an all request party night with pot-luck snacks on Columbus Day, Oct.14. This is an intermediate class of very friendly dancers learning and dancing great dances. We will review many of **Ira Weisburd's** dances so we can enjoy doing them with Ira when he does his workshop on Sunday, .Nov. 3 at Brockton School. This class keeps up with the popular new dances and the keeps the great old ones alive.

Beverly will also teach some of the dances that she will teach at Camp Hess Kramer. Join us for an enjoyable friendly dance evening.

IRA WEISBURD AT WEST VALLEY

Save The Date: Friday, November 8 @ 7:00. Popular choreographer and teacher **Ira Weisburd** will be coming to the West Valley Folk Dancers to teach his latest international folk dances. Space is limited, advanced reservation are strongly advised. \$10 before November 5, \$15 at the door. The Canoga Park Senior Center is easy to find; two blocks east of Topanga Canyon Blvd., one and a half blocks north of Sherman Way at 7326 Jordan Ave. See ad in this issue. For additional information: (818) 348-6133 or email lila@aurich.com

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

Teaching Program

October 3 **John Matthews** reviews *Ruka* and *Tervelska Tropanka*

October 6 (Sunday) Narodni Board meeting

October 10 Julith Neff reviews *Slappin' Leather* and *Staro Pomasko*

October 17 Mark your calendars: Special guest teacher **Ahmet Luleci**

October 24 Review of Ahmet's dances

October 31 Narodni Halloween party

All teaching is subject to change. For more information contact Julith Neff at (562) 404-4383 or visit our website at www.narodni.org

Julith Neff

CAMP HESS KRAMER WEEKEND

The 29th year of the outstanding Camp Hess Kramer Weekend of learning great new dances is almost here, Oct. 18-19-20, 2013. Don't miss it!

Learn folk dances from several camps. Great teaching, wonderful dance parties and lots of fun at the Saturday night theme party. Theme will be listed in the trip sheet that you will receive about 2 weeks before camp, with information about the weekend. You may call Beverly Barr for any information any time, including the Saturday night "Theme".

Of course we have to mention the exceptional food cooked from scratch in their own kitchen by the camp's chefs, Saturday night ice cream social, and best of all, the wonderful friendly attendees. Don't forget the Silent Auction held every year. Time to donate items that are in good condition, but you don't use them anymore, or clothing that you don't wear anymore. The best part of the Silent Auction is going home with a treasure or many treasures for a small amount of \$. This is a very affordable, not to be missed, annual weekend. If you have not registered yet, it is time to do it now. There is a flyer in this issue of Scene.

For information: Contact Beverly or Irwin Barr (310) 202-6166 or (310)478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

PASADENA CO-OP

October's introductory teaching will be by **Ann Armstrong** who will teach *Ashrei Ha'ish* (from Israel) and *Bufcansko Oro* (from Macedonia). If there's time, she will also teach *Ini Vitui* (from Romania). In our intermediate teaching slot, **Marsha Fenner** will teach *Rokoko* (from Croatia).

There will be no teaching on October 25. Instead, we will have a **Halloween Party**. Our Fifth Friday Band will play some dances and the rest of the program will be all-request. This same night we will have our **And Now For Something Completely Different** activity. We will learn to sing the lyrics of the popular Israeli dance, *Od Lo Ahavti Dai*.

November 1, will be a special **Erica Goldman evening**. She will begin by teaching *Jungle*, a very easy and exceptionally fun dance, suitable for children and light-hearted adults. The rest of her teaching has not been decided yet, but check the Upcoming Events page of our website as the date approaches for more specific information. Our program that night will also contain a number of Israeli favorites such as *Adama Veshamayim*, *Debka Dor*, and *Tarbouka*.

We dance on Friday evenings at Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles (at Del Mar). Parking is free in the church's lot. We are a 10 minute walk from the Del Mar Metro Station. Several of us drive

row by row – forming lines for a Grand March toward refining their minds. Pass out paper and pens. Penmanship begins. OOO's and more OOO's. Now iii's and more iii's. then III and mmm. Later kkk and ppp. Movements on paper, movements in space. Recess! Time to run free – take a turn on ropes, rings and merry-go-round.

Back to the classroom. Pass out blank paper and yellow pencils. The teacher forms numbers on the chalkboard. The students copy them on paper. 3+1 (three steps right and one to the left) 2+ 2 (two step forward and two steps back) 4+4(grapevine right and grapevine left). The dance goes on!

The school bus arrives. I find a seat by the window. Buildings and houses pass by –The bus stops outside a Spanish style building. Off the bus— Stroll by desert plants and enter a warm room filled with shelf upon shelf of books. The librarian sits in a chair smiling. We children arrange ourselves on the carpet and watch the librarian open a book. She

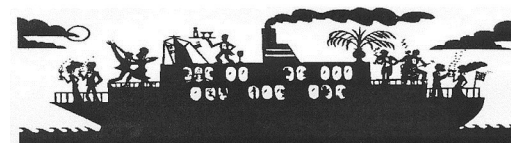
begins to read. A whole new world opens up. Animals talk and walk like humans. Fairies flit about. Forests appear. New ideas for the Dance emerge.

Check out books. Walk back to the bus. Pass by parks, over little bridges, curve around a bubbling stream – Stop. Get off the bus. Carry my books up the hill to the welcoming arms of my grandmother. A victrola sits in the living room. I wind it up and put on a record. Music fills the room. My body begins to move. A dance begins.

Now at 85 the dance still goes on. My body gyrates to mid-eastern music. My feet step briskly to Balkan rhythms. I hold hands with friendly people for the last dance of the evening – the *lesnoto*. As the music fades, the people smile, wave and drift off happily to their homes. Silence falls. Sleep tight. We'll dance again another night.

Memories by Henrietta Bemis

July 2013



DANCE ON THE WATER Folk Dance Cruising for the past 30 years

June 20-July 5, 2014: 14 days in SLOVENIA, CROATIA & the ADRIATIC

Visit Ljubljana, Bled, Postojna, Opatija, Plitvice, Trogir, Split, Dubrovnik.

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Visit a bull ranch, see an equestrian show & the Alhambra.

(details to follow soon)

COME to BERKELEY on SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2013

for MEL'S RETIREMENT PARTY

**Dance with Mel, Esther, Marija, David and many folks who have "DANCED ON THE WATER" with Mel on his 30 years of trips
Live Oak Community Center 1301 Shattuck Ave 7:30 PM**

**Mel Mann & Marija/David Hillis (jointly)
e-mail: folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com
www.folkdanceonthewater.org**

**DANCE ON THE WATER
2147 Parker St. Berkeley, CA 94704
telephone (510) 459-0092**

Dancers Speak

Question of the month, from Rich Duree: What has International Folk Dance taught you about the people whose dances we do?

I have learned that the artistic spark exists and cannot be extinguished in even the poorest and most suppressed people. And that the character of the people is the true essence of a country, not the government leaders. And that the dance was created to meet and satisfy the aesthetics of the people and that by observing the dance we can learn much about those who created it.

Sandy Helperin

MARGE @ LARGE – REFLECTIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

Just a short drive over two bridges from Long Beach to San Pedro and there we were for the Zena Folk Chorus CD Release Party. The venue was a unique San Pedro institution – the Corner Store (across the street from Zena's home base). How close can you get? Seating was limited but quite a few folks were accommodated after the Corner Store pushed the movable racks around to make room for the chairs.

Zena performed some lovely songs from Eastern Europe and Georgia. Zena prides itself in singing in colorful folk dress and to that end, they have a variety of costumes in their extensive wardrobe. This time the singers were decked out in the Bulgarian Kjustendil costumes that I made for the ensemble some years back. The black saya (an overdress somewhat like a lightweight coat with short sleeves) trimmed with colorful braid is beautifully complemented by the gold trimmed apron. The headdress consists of a bright gauze headscarf and flower. The costume also includes a lace-trimmed chemise, stockings and *opanke*, coin necklace and earrings, and is completed with a sash and pafra (metal decorative buckle).

Eve Percich, Zena's long-time director, introduced each vocal number and translated the gist of each song – some humorous, some serious - all nicely sung. The small venue made it "up close and personal."

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance that was followed by a reception. So many home

made delicious goodies! In addition, Zena's new CD "Sedenka" with 18 songs was available. And, you can order from: www.cdbaby.com

Marge Gajicki



Eve Percich, Marge, and Sylvia Duran

THE DANCE OF LIFE

Life is a dance: Balance to the right, balance to the left, swirl and arabesque. Balance to the left, balance to the right, chasse left, leap and turn. Movement has begun. The music plays. The body responds. The time to dance is on—

School bells ring. New experiences await. Time to learn readin' and writin' and 'rithmetic. Children sit

by the Gold Line Station and would be happy to pick you up and drop you off there. Teaching is 7:45 - 9:00. Programmed and requested dances follow until 11:00. Dance programs for the current month and other information are posted on our website: PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org. For more information contact Jan at JanRayman@charter.net or call (818) 790-8523.

Jan Rayman

A SPECIAL WORKSHOP WITH IRA WEISBURD-SUNDAY, NOV. 3, 2013

Ira will be teaching some new dances from his latest CD and will review some others. The day will begin at 12:00 noon with a pot-luck lunch (nothing that needs to be heated). Teaching and dancing from 1:00-6:00 p.m. This wonderful afternoon will be at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., West L. A. The school has a great wood floor and lots of free parking on the school grounds. Save the date and come and enjoy an exciting and enjoyable afternoon. For information call Beverly or Irwin Barr at (310)202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CAMP

The camp will be held Columbus Day Weekend, Oct 11-14, 2013 at Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction NY, on beautiful Sylvan Lake. Facilities include air conditioned/heated rooms, large wooden dance floor, delicious meals, wireless high-speed internet, and multiple sports areas; (only 1 hour from NYC!)

Master Teachers include: Moshe Eskayo, Susan and Steve Kotansky, David Vinski, Monique Legarre, Susan Hargraves for a special Belly Dance workshop!

To register, or for more information please contact; Moshe Eskayo, mosheskayo@gmail.com (212) 942-4143, www.ifcreunion.homestead.com

Joan Hantman

ALASKA CRUISE & NORTHWEST FOLK-LIFE FESTIVAL IN SEATTLE, WA. - MAY, 17-26, 2014

Ten days of fun and excitement. All of the fun that the cruise ship has to offer, plus our own folk dancing on board, and at the one of a kind, and the largest and most impressive folk festival of its kind. Our hotel accommodations in Seattle are walking distance to the Festival; a wonderful 10 day combination trip - a luxury Alaska Cruise, visiting some of the best Alaska ports and Victoria, BC, and

the exciting Northwest Folk-Life Festival, with only one round trip to Seattle.

Look for a flyer soon in the Folk Dance Scene. You don't want to miss this one. Please feel free to contact us at any time for more information. We would love to hear from you. Call Beverly for details and reservations, (310)202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

Beverly & Irwin Barr

FOLK DANCE WORKSHOPS IN LAS VEGAS Workshop With Ira Weisburd

In this workshop you will be introduced to the terrific dances of International award-winning choreographer Ira Weisburd. Come join us to explore and celebrate the dances and spirit of Mr. Weisburd's choreography.

Oct. 16, 2013, 6:30-8:45 p.m., \$5.00 Admission, pay at the door.

Turkish Dances Workshop With Ahmet Luleci

Join us for this Turkish Dances workshop with Turkish choreographer Ahmet Luleci on Oct. 23, 2013. The internationally known choreographer and very experienced dance trainer will present and teach dances reflecting Anatolia's cultural richness to the participants.

Oct. 23, 2013 6:30-8:45 p.m. \$5.00 Admission, pay at the door.

Each of the above workshops will be at the Charleston Heights Arts Center located at 800 S. Brush St., Las Vegas, Nevada 89107. Brush St. runs north from W. Charleston Blvd. and is at the first traffic light west of S. Decatur Blvd. Call (702) 286-7137 for more information.

Please come join us. You'll have a great time!

Betty Grant

ANNUAL MACEDONIAN FESTIVAL

St. Mary's Macedonian Orthodox Church in Whittier extends an invitation to all folk dancers to their Annual Festival on Sunday, October 20, noon 'til dusk.

St. Mary Macedonian Orthodox Church
10550 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90606

There will be ethnic food, dance performances, various folk bands, and open dancing for everyone. Take the 605 and exit on Whittier; go east a block and a half and there you are! (street parking)

THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH, INC.
PRESENTS the 29th annual
CAMP HESS KRAMER WORKSHOP WEEKEND

"Camps Review & MORE"

Attendees say this is the best folk dance weekend of the year

October 18 - 19 - 20, 2013

**Beverly
Barr**

INTERNATIONAL
Including New Mexico Camp

**Suzanne
Rocca-Butler**

INTERNATIONAL
Including Stockton Camp

**Israel
Yakovee**

ISRAELI &
YEMENITE

THE WEEKEND INCLUDES: 2 nights lodging, 6 outstanding meals, endless snacks, teaching sessions, review sessions, evening dance parties, happy hour, ice cream social, and if you can find the time, hiking, beach strolling and other outdoor activities.

Camp Hess Kramer is located at 11495 E. Pacific Coast Highway, in a verdant canyon in Malibu, California, one mile north of the Ventura County Line.

THERE ARE 4 LEVELS OF ACCOMMODATIONS FROM DORMITORIES TO THE DELUXE ROOMS IN THE CONFERENCE CENTER

\$165 \$195 \$230 \$270

FOR INFORMATION CALL

BEVERLY or IRWIN - 310-202-6166 or 310-478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

MAIL APPLICATION TO: Gerri Alexander, 19137 Kenya St., Northridge, CA. 91326

Registration on a first come first serve basis

Please make check payable to CAMP HESS KRAMER COMMITTEE

Name _____	\$165 Per person\$ _____
Address _____	Dorm: 2 to 5 persons - Bring bedding & towels
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	\$195 Per person\$ _____
Home # _____ Work # _____	Room in Redwood Bldg., Semi or private bath, Sleeps 2 or 3, bring bedding & towels
E Mail _____	\$230 Per person\$ _____
Roommate _____	Room under dining hall, semi-private bath sleeps 2, with bedding, towels & maid service
Smoker _____ Non Smoker _____ Vegetarian _____	\$270 Per person\$ _____
Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____	Deluxe room in the Conference Center, private bath, with bedding, towels, maid service
	<u>Single Supplement</u> \$40.00\$ _____
	Syllabus: \$5 each \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Another memorable weekend camp experience is planned

Coming to the West Valley Folk Dancers

AWARD WINNING CHOREOGRAPHER

IRA WEISBURD

TEACHING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCES

Friday, November 8, 2013

7:00 to 9:30 pm

Canoga Park Senior Center

7326 Jordan Avenue

Canoga Park, CA 91305

Admission (before Nov. 5) \$10 - at the door \$15.

Space is limited, advance reservations are advised

Send checks to:

West Valley Folk Dancers

23428 Canzonet Street

Woodland Hills CA 91367

For information, Contact Lila:

Phone: 818~348~6133

e-mail: lila@aurich.com

Canoga Park Senior center is located 2 blocks east of Topanga
Cyn and 2 blocks north of Sherman Way - Ample parking
adjacent to facility



Poetry Corner

SEASONS

All June inside, he danced *Lipa Ma Maryca*
bursting forth with buds of enthusiasm
that arced him across the floor to stomp on the wall
and twirl around her with thrilling ease.

Sharing circling smiles,
she swished her skirt, movement minimal --
her best years now suspended in solution.

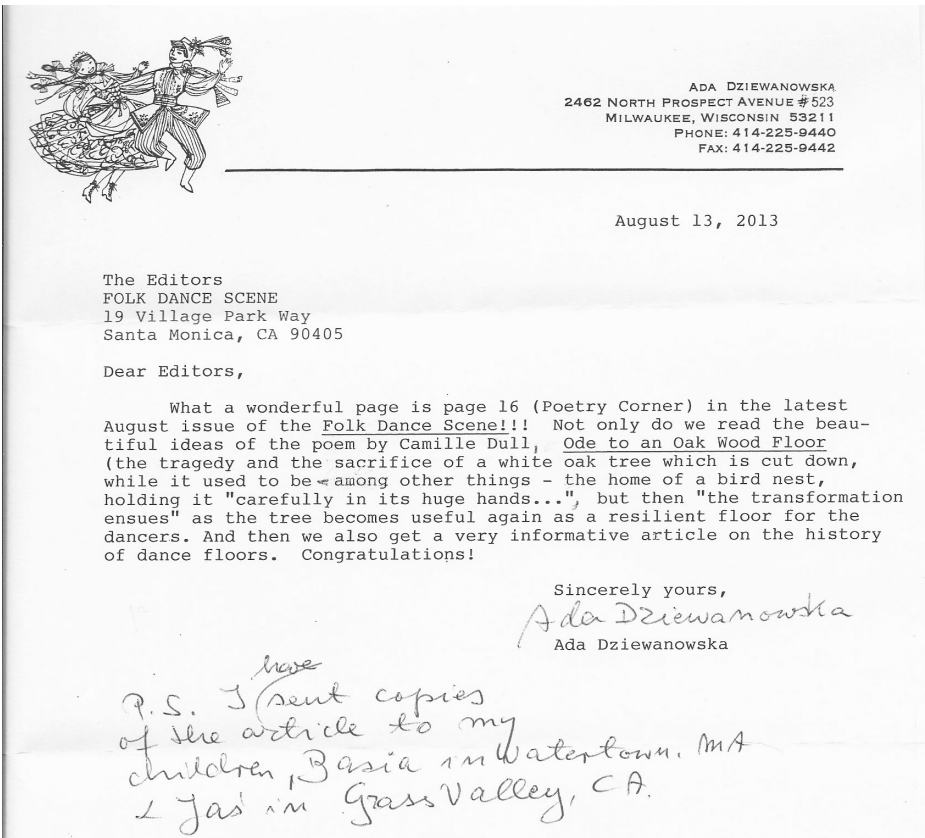
He all June in extravagant bloom
She all October when warmth turns stiff with cold:
The prom king asking the wallflower to dance.
The morning star dancing with the waning moon.

Camille Dull

LIMERICK

They left the dance where they met with a smile;
Tried dancing together a short while.
But it wasn't a go:
He liked *Mari Mariiko*,
And *Haroa Haktana* was her style.

Carl Pilsecker



Kolo Festival 2013 - 62nd Annual - San Francisco



Friday and Saturday, November 29-30, 2013, Croatian-American Cultural Center
60 Onondaga Avenue, at Alemany (three blocks from Balboa Bart station)

Dance classes by Yves Moreau - Bulgarian; Lee Otterholt - Balkan;
John Filcich - Kolos; France Moreau - Breton; Jerry Duke - Greek
Singing and instrument classes will be announced.

LIVE MUSIC, 8-12 p.m., Main Hall and Kafana
ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

<http://balkantunes.org/kolofestival> (will be up soon)

We're back in the black! Many thanks!

The Kolo Festival Board wishes to thank the Northern California Folk Dance Association for their Folk Dance Promotion Fund grant towards the 2013 festival and Mark Angel for managing a funding event. We also thank the many supporters who responded generously to the donation campaign. Also helpful were loans from the KF Board members and pre-festival financing of the 2012 festival by the festival director.

Kolo Festival 2013 Advance Registration

Please use one per person. Make copies, or go to <http://balkantunes.org/kolofestival>.
Mail by Nov. 15 to: Kolo Festival, c/o Kaela Fine, 3482 South Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (for confirmation) _____ Phone: _____

Or, include e-mail or stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Advance prices: (\$100 at the door)

(Full Day, Half-Day, and Evening registration will be available at the door.)

General Student (Full-time) Youth (11-18)

Full Package except Syllabus ___\$80 ___\$70 ___\$40 Syllabus ___\$5

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Checks payable to Kolo Festival) \$ _____

Food: Delicious, reasonably priced meals will be available on site. They may be pre-ordered, but not prepaid.
For menu choices, prices and reservations, please contact Jan Rains at (925) 682-3727 or sherpajmr@yahoo.com by 11/16. A list of nearby places to eat will also be provided at the door.

Festival Chair: Jerry Duke, jcduke@sfsu.edu, 415-759-5136

Music Director: Bill Cope, Bill@TheCopes.com

Volunteer/work exchange, Jan Rains (925) 682-3727 sherpajmr@yahoo.com

Meetup.com

PUBLICIZING FOLK DANCING WITH MEETUP.COM

As the person responsible for publicity for the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op, I have made a concerted effort to attract new participants and have had some success. We have about two new people every week now. Of course, only a small percentage stay with us and become regular members, but this is quite an improvement over recent years. Of course we are thrilled when this happens. More than a third of these new people come from Meetup. (Even more learned about us because the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op website (<http://PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org>) turned up in Google searches. That's a separate story.) Everyone recognizes the need to attract more dancers, and I wanted to share with you one component of our successful efforts. So this article is about making good choices when setting up a Meetup group for your folk dance organization. I am not a Meetup expert, but I made some mistakes along the way and you can learn from me what to do and not do.

Several years ago at a Pasadena Co-op board meeting, **Pat Cross** suggested we try joining Meetup.com. At that time, in our ignorance, the board decided not to do it. I forgot all about Meetup, although in the intervening years, I became responsible for publicity. Early this year one of our other members, Linda Ryan, suggested I try setting up a Meetup group in order to promote our group. Meetup is a social media company that you can use to promote your folk dance group. This for-profit company helps local groups organize and promote themselves. You can use it to try to get new members for your group. Organizing a group costs \$45, but membership for individuals is free.

I enter our group in many different online listings, so, when Linda suggested we join Meetup, I quickly set up a Meetup site before dashing off on a short ski vacation. When I returned, to my thrill and horror, I discovered we had 32 Meetup members, all new people! We were not prepared for this. To make things worse, because I had explicitly stated that people did not need to RSVP, our group did not know how many people to expect that night. Was it going to be 2 or 32? I alerted our group, we brought extra food, and hoped for the best. Only two new people showed up. The next week, much to our surprise, we had about eight new people, all beginners, so **Marc Rayman** (who is responsible for teaching) altered our teaching plans on the spot to

accommodate them. *Suggestion 1: don't disable the RSVP function; you need to have an idea what to expect.*

Suggestion 2: Be prepared. About 72 hours after you set up the Meetup group, an "e-mail blast" will go out to every Meetup member (who shares an "interest topic" with you) within a 50 mile radius of the zip code you give for where your group is located. That e-mail blast will never occur again, so you need to do everything you can to show the new visitors a good time so they will stay with you. If you have a good number of RSVPs, be prepared with good informational signs as to where to park, where to enter the building, and use your best teachers to teach your best beginning dances. You might even persuade some of your regulars to park in less desirable places that first night so the newbies can park in the best locations. Of course, you want everyone to be especially friendly to the newbies.

Suggestion 3: The 15 topics for your group are crucial. They can be different from those you use for yourself when you join Meetup. Use **topics** that reach out to a lot of people, so many will receive information about your group during the e-mail blast. About half of the new people we attracted had never heard of folk dancing until they received the Meetup e-mail announcing our group. I had good success by selecting: New in Town, Exercise and Fun, Dance, Night Life, Newly Single, Friends, Fun Times, Social, Make New Friends, Dancing, Dance Lessons, Contra Dance, Folk Dancing, and International Folk Dancing. Bad choices would be things that are too specific, like Romanian folk dance, unless that is the focus of your group. If you want to reach out to those of middle age and beyond (as we do), include topics such as: Retirees, Widows and Widowers, and Seniors. A new topic I especially like is Empty Nester. As you enter your 15 topics, Meetup will suggest additional related topics. You should read these carefully because they can help. After you have finished choosing topics, Meetup will let you know how popular each topic is. Then you can change your topics if you wish.

Suggestion 4: Give strokes. Whenever someone joins at Meetup, you will receive a notice. You should send that new member a welcoming message. I usually sent a message like, "I'm delighted that you joined the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op. This is a perfect time to join us because we are having a month of beginner-friendly teaching. If you haven't already, see our website at

PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org. Let me know if you have any questions. I hope to dance with you soon." You can set up your Meetup site so that these welcoming messages are automatically generated. I don't do that, but you can. I look at each new member's Meetup public profile to see if he or she appears particularly promising. I look at their picture, the interests they have, what other groups they have joined, etc. If they look like they will be a good fit for our group, I try to personalize my welcoming message to them. For example, if they are holding a cat in their picture, I would mention that I am a big cat fan. Many of your new Meetup members will join but never show up to dance. It is easy to click to join a Meetup group, but much more difficult to walk into a room full of people you do not know and try to do something new to you. Many of your new members will never show up, but they are more likely to do so if they feel they know you. Marc and I make an effort to arrive early every week and attend beginning teaching, just so we can make sure new people have friendly advocates there in our group who will be helpful but not overwhelming. Of course, other members of our group are especially friendly to new dancers, but we never know who is going to be getting there early.

You should know that Meetup is visited by many, many single people in their 20s and 30s who tend to join Meetup groups, apparently hoping that someone of interest to them will also join the group, so they can exchange messages and perhaps date. These people will visit your Meetup site frequently at first, but will not show up at your group unless they see that someone they like has said they are going to your group. It's a waiting game for them. No amount of friendly messages from you is going to get them to show up and dance. If you are lucky and have your RSVP option enabled, perhaps they might show up if someone interesting to them RSVPs.

Suggestion 5: Create buzz. Get some of the more articulate and computer savvy members of your regular group to join the Meetup group. Remember, it is free to join; it only costs if you create a Meetup group. Ask them to comment to you and to one another about how much fun they had dancing in your group. They should not use it for routine communications but rather to let others see that you have a friendly, welcoming, fun group. People should write things that might interest or attract prospective members. Comments to others in your group with "inside" information are not helpful, and describing your many decades of dance experience may make it seem that your group is only for long-time, serious dancers.. The objective of every single post should

be to say, "Whether you already know how to dance or not, you will have a good time with our group."

Suggestion 6: Know when to quit. After the first two and a half months, the number of new people showing up from your Meetup site may have slowed to a trickle or stopped. Now it is time to decide whether to spend another \$45 (cost may have changed) to renew for another three months. I have heard that some people take their site down, let it rest for a few months, and then restart it, thereby benefiting from the "email blast" a second time. One reason not to do this is if you have some promising looking members in your existing Meetup group who haven't shown up yet, but might do so in the near future. If you take down your Meetup group, you will no longer be able to contact those people and they won't receive updates about what is going on in your group. We continued to have new members join even three full months after I started the Meetup group, so I have continued it.

Suggestion 7: Instead of quitting your old Meetup group, start another Meetup group and benefit from the email blast a second time. For your \$45, you can have three Meetup groups. You don't want to have exactly the same name on the new group, so think of a variation. Perhaps you want to try to attract a different kind of new member, so you can start a group with a slightly different name and change your **topics** list. For example, for our group, people of middle age would be desirable new members. So I am planning to alter the name of our group slightly and include in its topics list topics to attract an older population.

Suggestion 8: Be aware of geography. Our group is in Pasadena, but I have had people join from Pacific Palisades and from Thousand Oaks. Most people are not as dedicated as Valerie Daley, and would be discouraged by a horrific drive across town on Friday nights. I tell them I would be delighted to have them dance with us, but they might enjoy some other group I suggest (perhaps even your group!) which is closer to where they live. Sometimes I suggest the metro, since our group is near two metro stops.

Meetup is not the only success we have had in attracting new dancers, but it is one that many of you might not know about. International folk dancing has so much to offer but many people don't know about it. I hope that if your group is trying to bring new people in, you will find some of my experiences to be valuable.

Jan Rayman