



Folk Dance Scene



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On the cover: Ren - A group of dancers, Awa Odori Festival, Tokoshima. Photo Credit: Jose Cruz at Flickr.



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The Corner

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA,
SOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
PASADENA, CA. JANUARY 22, 2017
Meeting called to order at 11:35 a.m.

Editors' Corner

We weather the storms and offer a taste of Japanese culture.

Check your options in Calendar, On the Scene and Club Directory.

Our colleagues communicate in Dancers Speak, Poetry Corner, and Recent events.

We hope to see you dancing...

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

Secretary's Report: Discussion of the minutes from previous meeting (11/6/16). Any corrections needed must be sent by email. If no further changes are required after two weeks, minutes will be considered approved.

President's Report: The Sunshine Statewide Festival will take place May 26-29. Plans and details of the schedule were updated. A meeting is planned for some time in February to finalize the individual cost of the weekend. The Saturday 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. square dance teacher will be Paul Waters. On Sunday 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. there will be the dance concert. Videographer for the event will be Robin Martell. A hotel for Statewide is being selected by Beverly Barr. The Federation pays for four hotel rooms—two for the teachers and two for the Presidents (North and South).

Hess-Kramer: Chair, Beverly Barr, reports that dates for the camp are 10/20/17 to 10/22/17, Friday through Sunday.

Costume Chair: Betchen Barber discussed ethnic costume display to be planned for Statewide.

Insurance Chair: Julith Neff states that all insurance certificates were complete and reported before 1/1/2017. Bob Altman, Membership Chair, created membership packets and sent them out to the clubs.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee Chair is Julith Neff. She is forming a committee to fill officer positions for president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and membership chair to be voted in April. Vacancies will be for president and treasurer.

There is concern about the direction that clubs are going in terms of attendance and recruiting new dancers. Vice president will write article bringing up the issue in effort to bring the clubs together to discuss best practices that might help all clubs to survive and thrive.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Next meeting will be in April. Date not known at time of meeting.

*Pauline Klak
Secretary*

JAPANESE DANCE

The following article was taken from the website http://dance.lovetoknow.com/Japanese_Folk_Dance



JAPANESE FOLK DANCE

By Gray Miller

Japanese folk dance has a strong and vibrant tradition that has continued for over a thousand years for some forms. It provides a fascinating glimpse into the past of this island nation.

Roots of Japanese Folk Dance

Like most folk dances, the forms practiced by Japanese folk dancers evolved out of the community activities for generation after generation. For example, the *So-Ran Bushi*, a traditional song that accompanies the *bon* dance, was developed by the fishermen in Hokkaido centuries ago. Other examples of traditional folk dances are:

- *Iyomanzai* - A New Year's celebratory dance which asks the gods for peace during the coming year. Danced using fans, the performers create shapes such as boats, trees, and birds to symbolize good fortune.
- *Ayakomai* - A dance with a history going back half a millennium; it is a prayer of thanks to the gods.

- *Sakura* - Literally meaning "cherry blossom," this is a dance of spring performed by a woman, happily celebrating the sunny blue skies and bright cherry blossoms in bloom.

Awa Dance Festival: Big Dance Time!

While all of these dances are performed all over Japan, they come together every year in the Awa Dance Festival, which is held every August from the 12th to the 15th. It is the largest festival of its kind in Japan, with over a million tourists coming each year to see the performances going on in Shikoku, Japan (Tokushima Prefecture).



Awa Odori Dance Festival 2009

The Famous Bon Dance

Bon Odori, also known as the *Obon* Dance, is probably the most popular and most recognized of the Japanese folk dance forms. Obon refers to the Buddhist tradition of honoring the ancestors, a very important part of every Japanese person's heritage. The belief is that during the *Obon* festival, the ghosts of your ancestors return to visit their kin.

This is not done in a scary or even mournful way, such as Halloween or even *Día de los Muertos* (the Mexican Day of the Dead, which is more memorial). Rather, it is both a cause for celebration and a display of respect. During the day, a very refined and sophisticated dance called *Nagashi* is performed, which becomes the much more active and frenetic *Zomeki* in the evening. Like any good

community dance, everyone is encouraged to participate - the dances are easy enough that spectators can comfortably join and they are encouraged to do so.

Awa Odori_ Aug 2009 Zomeki



bon-odori-yagura



During the *Bon Odori* a special building called a *yagura* is made of wood for the dancers to move around. The specific moves and patterns (and even music) can vary from region to region, but aside from the basic steps described below, the dance more or less moves in a circular fashion. Occasionally, additional movements that describe a region's history are added into the choreography, which is an appropriate way for a dance to honor the ancestors.

Basic Steps for Bon Dance

The steps to *Bon Odori* are a part of traditional Japanese education, handed down from generation to generation.

- *Men* - Starting with the right side, put the arm and foot forward, just touching the ground with your toes. Cross right foot over left, then repeat the step using the left arm and foot instead. The men's hands form small triangular patterns in the air as they crouch down, arms held above their shoulders.



Male dancer

- *Women* - Very similar in basic steps to the men's, the key difference lies in the fact that traditional kimonos are much more restrictive. The kicks and moves are more precise and short, necessitated both by their clothing and also the *geta* (sandals they wear to perform in).



Female dancers

Folk Dance in Japan Moves On

Japanese folk dancing is far from a dying art -- in fact, aside from being popular in Japan, it is now taught and practiced all over the world. Meanwhile, in Japan, it keeps changing as well -- recently a group of high school students, led by their teacher, added a contemporary rock beat to the *So-ran* dance, creating *Rock'n Soran Bushi*, which became a popular version of the dance. With younger generations enthusiastically dancing alongside older generations,

the dances show no signs of weakening.

The following article came from http://dance.lovetoknow.com/Japanese_Dance_History

JAPANESE DANCE HISTORY



By Tamara Warta, Dance Company Director

Japanese dance history is so lengthy and diverse that it actually goes back to ancient times, making an exact start date of creative movement in this culture difficult to pin down.

From the first recorded mythical dances to today's modern routines, Japan has dance woven into much of its history as a nation, and it continues to captivate and inspire artists from around the world today.

Early Japanese Dance History

One of the most popular tales found in Japanese mythology is about someone dancing in front of a cave entrance to open it and reveal *Amaterasu Ohmikami*. This myth is responsible for the origins of dance in religion and mystical circles and continues to flourish in the sects of these ancient religions today. *Ed's Note:*

For more about Amaterasu, see the addition at the end of this article.



Bugaku is an ancient dance originally brought over from China. It thrived in Japan in these early years. *Bugaku* is considered to be a repertoire of dances that were performed at the Imperial Court of Japan.

Accompanied by Chinese and Korean music, the dancers of *Bugaku* wore brightly colored garments that were embroidered to the point of being considered

artwork. These costumes usually came in red, blue or green.

Another form of movement found in early Japanese dance history, known as *Sarugaku*, was more popular with peasants. It is translated as "monkey music" and was found in Japanese theater during the 11th century through the 14th century. *Sarugaku* mostly resembled something you would see in a modern-day circus, incorporating acrobatics in the dancing, as well as pantomime and juggling. Some believe *Sarugaku* was originally developed by Asian farmers, and the terminology is still used today to describe an individual who is considered to be more of the clown of the office than a serious professional.

More Modern History



In more recent centuries, *Kabuki* dancing became popular in Japan as it developed, and you can still see it performed today. The original dance that influenced Kabuki is the ancient *Okuni* dance, rooted in ethnic dancing. Izumo Okuni is often considered to be the founder of Kabuki dancing due to her development of the *Okuni* dance.

Kabuki dancing was not always considered to be the official dance of Japan, however. In fact, even though its roots were found in pure entertainment, for generations it was passed down and performed by prostitutes. By the Edo period of Japan's history, it was illegal to do *Kabuki* dance because of its link to questionable morals. However, despite this reputation, it was continually passed down to future generations and changed in style as the decades went on.

While *Kabuki* was once a simple dance, it is now a full-out performance with theatrical elements and musical accompaniment. It is now known as a story-telling dance performance, and was often used to act out real news stories affecting the Japanese people. While today's *Kabuki* dancing is modernized, the stylings of art -- the music, dance posture and stage

The July 1858 production of *Shibaraku* at the Ichimura-za theater in Edo. Triptych



presence -- are all authentic in form, and a great glimpse into Japan's illustrious past with the arts.

Today in a *Kabuki* performance, you will see pantomime dances known as *Shosagoto*. Usually, *Kabuki* is only performed by men, as this has always been the tradition. However, more modern and mainstream forms of dancing have been inherited by women, and there are plenty of opportunities for females to dance as well. This was taught at first almost exclusively at school to young children, but Japan now plays host to many dance studios for both men and women.

Traditional Dance Attire

Japanese dance features both elaborate and simple costuming. Kimonos are often worn during dance performances, while other garments are minimalistic when the dance is dependent upon the facial expressions and body movements of the dancer/actor.



Japanese dance is, if nothing else, incredibly theatrical, so be sure to check out a *Kabuki* performance or

other traditional Japanese dance performance if you are ever in the country.

Ed's Note: Following is a comment about the cave dance in the above article:

Amaterasu, the ancient Japanese sun-goddess, got furious when her obstreperous brother, the storm-god, dropped a dead horse through the roof of the divine weaving-house where she was working. So she punished everyone by withdrawing into a cave and closing the entrance with a stone so no sunlight could get out to light the world. The gods desperately tried to coax her out, as the world was withering, but to no avail. Finally they brought a rooster and set up a mirror facing the cave, while the young goddess of mirth, Uzume, began a striptease dance atop an overturned washtub. The gods guffawed at her obscene gestures, and finally Amaterasu peeked to see why people were laughing when the world was dying. Her sun-rays hit the mirror, thus hitting her in the face, and made the cock crow, so Amaterasu rushed out to look, thinking a rival sun-deity was displacing her. The gods instantly stretched a magic rope across the cave entrance so she couldn't go back—and thus the world was saved by a dance! (The Greeks had a remarkably similar myth, in which a young woman's obscene dance caused the grain-goddess Demeter

CALENDAR

Note: Federation events are in bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

MARCH

3 *Aspen Santa Fe Ballet*, Friday 8:00 p.m. at Valley Performing Arts Center, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91325 Info: 818.677.3000 or www.valleyperformingartscenter.org

3-5 *Laguna Folk Dance Festival* Friday to Sunday at Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Parkway (Gate 12), Laguna Woods, CA 92637. Teachers: Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion, Romanian; Ahmet Luleci, Turkish; Miamon Miller, Balkan music workshops; Michael Lawson, Balkan singing workshops. See ad. Info and gate clearance: Miriam 949.680.9946 or 7kahnmiriam@gmail.com

4 *Veselo Selo* will be dark because of Laguna Festival.

9 *Guest Teacher James Hutson* teaching English Country Dancing at Westwood Co-op Folkdancers Thursday 8:00 p.m. at Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles (corner of Corinth). Info: Beverly Barr 310.202.6166 310.478.4659, cell 310.994.0304 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

8-12 *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater*, Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat. 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:00 p.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion, 135 No. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Info: 213.972.7211 or www.musiccenter.org/about/Our-Programs/Glorya-Kaufman-Dance/

11 *Los Angeles Ballet* presents Balanchine: Master of the Dance, Saturday 7:30 p.m. at the Alex Theatre, 214 No Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91203, Info: Customer Service 800.840.9227 or www.alextheatre.org/events

12 *Culver City English Country Dance*, Sunday 4-7:00 p.m., Caller: James Hutson; Music: Jerry Wheeler, Mary Ann & Walter Sereth, Keiko Cadby & Denise Hanna at Lindberg Stone House, Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City 90230. Info: Kevin Savage 310.650.8570 or www.caldancecoop.org

16 *St. Patrick's Day Party* with Narodni Int'l Folkdancers, Thursday 7:30-10:30 p.m. Exhibition by Meredith Lyons Irish Dance School, live music by Irish Fiddler Richard Van Healey, at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA. Info: Julith Neff 562.881.9504 (cell) or www.narodni.org

18 *St. Patrick's Day Party* at Veselo Selo with dances by Meredith Lyons Irish Dance School, Saturday 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim. Info: Lu Perry 714.828.2581

23 & 30 *Guest Teacher Lee Otterholt* teaching at Narodni Int'l Folkdancers Thursday 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, Bellflower. Info: Julith Neff 562.881.9504 (cell) or www.narodni.org

24 *Jaap Leegwater Workshop* 8-11:00 p.m., Friday Night L.I.F.E. at DanceFit LA, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd., West LA 90025. Info: Sherry Cochran WorldDance1@gmail.com

25 *Jaap Leegwater Workshop* at Folk Dance Center in San Diego. Info: Vicki Mayhew flkdancer@yahoo.com

25 *Veselba Band* playing at Veselo Selo, Saturday 7:30-10:30 at Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim. Info: Lu Perry 714.828.2581

APRIL

2 *Westwood Co-op International Folk Dance Festival*, Sunday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., West Los Angeles 90025. Info: Beverly Barr 310.202.6166, 310.478.4659, cell 310.994.0304 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

30 *World Dance Day Festival*, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Beverly Hills Roxbury Park Community Center, 471 Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills 90212. Potluck Snacks welcome. Info: Beverly Barr (See above)

MAY

13 *Martha Graham & American Music*, Martha Graham Dance Co., Monday, 8:00 p.m. at Valley Performing Arts Center, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91325. Info: 818.677.3000 or www.valleyperformingartscenter.org

26-29 Statewide Festival, Friday to Monday at ONE Generation Senior Enrichment Center, 18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA 91335. Teachers: Ercument Kilic, Loui Tucker.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

3/17-18 *Camellia Festival* - Teachers: Jaap Leegwater and Richard Powers. Fri. & Sat at Polish-American Hall, 327 Main St., Roseville, CA 95678. Info: www.folkdancesac.org

6/17-24 *Mendocino Folklore Camp* at Mendocino Woodlands. Teachers: Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion, (Romanian); Roo Lester & Harry Khamis (Scandinavian); & Yannis Konstantinou, (Greek Macedonian), Singing classes, music classes & lots of live music. See ad. Info: www.MendocinoFolkloreCamp.com

7/16-23, 23-30 *Stockton Folk Dance Camp*. Two identical weeks. At University of the Pacific, 3601 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA. Info: www.folkdancecamp.org

ILLINOIS

3/24-26 *Spring Festival*, Chicago. See ad.

MISSOURI

4/6-8 *National Folk Organization Conference*, St. Louis, Missouri. Info: nfo-usa.org

WASHINGTON

5/6 *Balkanarama*, Saturday 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Fairhaven Public Library, 1117 12th St., Bellingham, WA. Info: 360.733.1815.

6/3 *Zakuska*, Friday 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Fairhaven Public Library, 1117 12th St., Bellingham, WA. Info: 360.733.1815.

FOREIGN

CANADA

4/21-23 *Lyrids Folk Dance Festival*, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. Yves Moreau & France Bourque-Moreau. Sat. party with Orkestar RTW. Info: www.LyridsFolkDanceFestival.org or lyridsfolkdancefestival@gmail.com

EUROPE FROM A TO Z

7/3-17 *Amsterdam to Zurich!* Sail the Rhine from Netherlands to Switzerland, stopping at Cologne,

Mannheim, Strasbourg and Lake Lucerne. Info: Marija & David Hillis, 2147 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94704. Info: 510.549.0337 or www.folkdanceonthewater.org or folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com

INDIA

11/7-21 led by Lee Otterholt. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

ISRAEL

3/19-30 *Israel!* Led by Jim Gold with Dr. Joe Freedman. Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed, Golan Heights. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN

6/13-26 Led by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

POLAND

7/21-8/5 *Poland Festival Tour* led by Richard Schmidt. Krakow, Rzeszow, Zakopane, Czestochowa, Gdansk, Olsztyn, Zelazowa Wola, Warszawa, See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

ROMANIA

5/30-6/10 or 9/12-23 *Ethnographic Trips to Transylvania, Cluj & Napoca, Romania* with Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu. Info: SoniaDion@hotmail.com or www.soniacristian.net

8/5-17 *Romania!* Led by Jim Gold. Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighetu Marmatiei, Piatra Neamt, Brasov. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

10/15-29 *Balkan Splendor!* Led by Jim Gold & Lee Otterholt. Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Montenegro. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

SCOTLAND

8/7-20 *Scotland!* Led by Richard Schmidt. Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Inverness, Fort William, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

The Folk Dance Federation of California South

proudly offers:

The 2017 Federation Scholarships




Do you know of someone in your club who has contributed to folk dancing in a significant way?

Club Committee Members may nominate Candidates for a 2017 Scholarship.

Candidates must be participating members of a Southern California Federation Club, and they must not have received a scholarship within the past 3 years.

We will award scholarships that pay up to 1/2 the tuition only for a 2017 camp to candidates, who have demonstrated that they have actively promoted or contributed to Folk Dancing in Southern California. Your Club may nominate more than one candidate. We will announce Scholarship Winners at the Statewide Festival in May.

Please note:  Nominating Club Committee Members must work with their Candidates to complete the Scholarship application form, located on our website: http://www.socalfolkdance.com/forms/S_ScholarshipApp.pdf

***Email application forms to Kathy Molga, Scholarship Committee Chair, at ad_wiz@yahoo.com, or mail in your applications to:
Kathy Molga, 57 Westgate Laguna Niguel, CA 92677.***

All applications must be received by no later than April 30, 2017.

55th Annual Mendocino Folklore Camp

June 17-24 2017

Folk Dance and Music Workshop Classes
with Themed Parties Every Night!

DANCE

Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion (Romanian)

Roo Lester with Harry Khamis (Scandinavian)

Yannis Konstantinou (Greek/Macedonian)

Additional Dance With:

Billy Burke (Salsa Rueda, International Folk Dance)

Linda DeNike (Sacred Circle, Morning Movement)

Lynnanne Hanson-Miller (Polynesian)

*Come spend a week in the Coastal
Redwoods of Northern California's
Mendocino Woodlands.*

*Experience the joy of relaxing in nature,
vacationing with old and new friends,
feasting, learning, and enjoying the daily
dance parties and fun folklore celebrations!*



Mendocino
Folklore Camp

MUSIC

Beata Bermuda (Scandinavian Ensemble)

Bill Cope (BEG./Int. Bulgarian/Macedonian Tambura)

Michele Simon (Balkan Singing, Balkan Drumming)

Chris Thomas (BEG. Accordion, Polka Band(!))

Beata Bermuda (Folk Songs of Scandinavia)

Michele Simon (Balkan Favorites)

For pricing, more details, and to register visit

www.MendocinoFolkloreCamp.com

ON THE SCENE

VESELO SELO

Our March schedule:

March 4 Dark for Laguna Festival

March 11 Sandy Wodicka's program teaching dancers new to international folk dancing with focus on dance structure.

March 18 St. Patrick's Day with dances by Meredith Lyons Irish Dance School. Don't miss it!

March 25 VESELBA band for your dancing pleasure. This event is \$10.

WESTWOOD FESTIVAL

Westwood Co-op invites you to our Annual Festival where you'll dance on an excellent wooden floor.

When: April 2 from 1:30 to 5:30

Where: Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. in West Los Angeles, between Santa Monica Ave. and Wilshire

Admission Charge: \$5.00

Optional Potluck Snacks

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

March 2 & 9 John Matthews will review *Nao Vas Ao Mar* (Portuguese) and *Imotz* (Basque). *Nao Vas* is a set dance, so invite all your friends and let's have a good time!

March 16 St. Patrick's Day party with exhibition by dancers from the Meredith Lyons Irish Dance School. Don't miss it!

March 23 & 30 Guest teacher Lee Otterholt. This is guaranteed to be a great evening.

Narodni's board has had a couple of special club activities lately: a contest to design our next T-shirt and the creation of our "go green" Narodni water bottle. When you come to Narodni you can buy a bottle and order a T-shirt.

Our regular meeting night is Thursday at the Bellflower Woman's Club from 7:30 to 10:30. If you want to get on the mailing list to receive our weekly email announcements, you can sign up at narodni@callicomp.info.

For more information contact Julith Neff at 562.881.9504 (cell). You can also visit our website at www.narodni.org for basic information.

WESTWOOD COOP

On Thursday evening, March 9th, Westwood Co-op Folkdancers will have James Hutson as a guest teacher. James is well known in California for his teaching of round dances, sets and English country dances. All are welcome to join us for an especially enjoyable evening! It will also be a party night, so bring simple snacks to share. Dancing starts at 7:30 with non-partner dances, and James will teach at 8:00. Admission is only \$4.

Sandy Helperin

BARCELONA DANCE AWARD 2017

Barcelona Dance Award, from April 13 to 17, 2017 (during Easter Time). World championship competitions for dance schools, companies and groups from all over the world. Four days of ballet, contemporary, modern, hip-hop and other kinds of choreography, art, dance team showcases and international performances competitions.

Web info on: barcelonadance2016.xoom.it or barcelonadance.org. If interested, give us your email contact to discuss any questions you may have. Please send to the organizer's email: barcelonadanceaward@katamail.com.

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

You will lose an hour in March with the switch to daylight saving time, but the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op is not going to give up even a moment of wonderful dancing and socializing. We will dance every Friday from 7:30 to 10:30 at Throop Unitarian Church in Pasadena. On March 31, we will have an all-request party (with no teaching) and some dances played by the Fifth Friday Band. Visit the Dances/ This Month page of our website at PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org for the weekly dance program, teaching schedule, dances available for request (many with links to videos as reminders), and much more. To see a zany video capturing an instant of dance action, go to our Events page and click on the link to the Mannequin Challenge video.

Marc Rayman

ROXBURY FOLK DANCERS

Beverly Hills Roxbury Folk Dancers will have a free International Folk & Line Dance Festival in celebration of World Dance Day, Sunday, April 30, 2017 from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Beverly Hills Roxbury Park Community Center, 471 S. Roxbury Dr. 90212, Beverly Hills.

If you would like to contribute a snack of fruit, nuts, or sweets for the potluck table, it would be very welcome and appreciated.

Contact person: Beverly Barr: 310.202.6166 or 310.478.4659 or cell: 310.994.0304 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com.

Beverly Barr

OLD ISSUES OF FOLK DANCE SCENE

I have copies of Scene dating from the 1960's until 1999 (when the current committee took over). They have been in my garage all these years, and rarely get used, so I would like to find a home for them, and reduce the clutter. There is a lot of good material in them, and the last issue has an index, so individual articles can be easily found. I have tried several college libraries, Los Angeles Library, Society of Folk Dance Historians, and Federation historian – all of

these either already have copies or only want electronic versions. If you know of another possibility, or even would want them yourself, please let me know at jaymichtom@yahoo.com, or 818.368.1957. They, of course, would be free to a good home, and I could even arrange to get them to you.

Jay Michtom

MENDOCINO FOLKLORE CAMP

Another outstanding week is in the works for Mendocino Folklore Camp; this year it runs from Saturday June 17, until Saturday June 24. Dance teachers: Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian), Roo Lester and Harry Khamis (Scandinavian), and Yannis Konstantinou (Greek Macedonian). In addition: singing classes in three different ethnicities, music classes, and lots of live music.

Add to that delicious ethnic food, great evening happy-hour parties, friendly people, and all of this in beautiful redwood surroundings complete with swimming hole and nature walks. To register, or just for more information, go to www.mendocinofolklore.com



Dancers, Clean out your closets!

Bring your folk outfits, vests, dance shoes, hats, scarves, and anything "folk" you'd like to donate. We'll even take folk instruments, stationary, dance notes, CDs, books, jewelry and anything else you

haven't used lately that's gathering dust in your closet.

Place all those folk goodies into large bags with your name on them, and bring your checkbook too for the:

**The Statewide Festival
Bazaar and Silent Auction
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Sponsored by Folk Dance Federation of California South, Inc.

DANCERS SPEAK

EDITH CUTHBERT, 1932-2017

Edith knew everyone in our folk dance world and everyone knew Edith. She went everywhere that she could to dance, to festivals all over California and even folk dance camps as far as Wisconsin. She also taught Croatian dances to ethnic communities in San Francisco, Sacramento, and probably in the San Jose area. She was there at the first Kolo Festival in 1952, and never missed any until health and difficulties kept her away just a few years ago. She was on the Kolo Festival committee from almost the beginning and on the board of directors soon afterward.

Edith was very generous with her time and resources. Resources! Edith collected anything and everything pertaining to folk dancing: phonograph records starting with those old 78 rpms, then 45's and LPs ('vinyl'), cassettes, ending with CDs, also books, magazines and all -- a real collection of library proportions. And costumes. Costumes! She had the world covered, and in many cases several from one country, the total must be in three figures! She delighted in taking them to folk dance camps allowing people, mostly women, to wear them for picture taking. I ended up with a Swedish costume from Dalarna she bought from Gordon Tracie which was donated to the Gordon Tracie Museum in Seattle.

We met way back around 1952 when Edith and her sister Vera came to my record shop in the Fruitvale district of Oakland. Edith had just graduated from high school. As it turned out they lived about three blocks away. Years later Edith worked in the record shop as did also Vera and their brother John. When at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, founder Lawton Harris added the "after party" late at night and I was appointed to be in charge. I needed an assistant and Edith took the job of playing the records. Each year she brought what seemed a dozen or more record cases, probably every folk dance ever taught. People would dance as late as 3:00 am, and we had to be there as long as a reasonable number of people wanted to dance. This continued for about ten years when I requested to take only the two Saturdays which were the big nights with other teachers taking the other nights. One Saturday the party lasted till dawn! The group then went to the donut shop nearby, then back to the dorms to pack and go home.

Life for Edith was folk dancing! She did all kinds, learned the most about dances of then Yugoslavia and enjoyed ethnic events. She was very helpful, and a regular volunteer. Even at the first Kolo Festival she helped my mother in the kitchen and also at the sales table (yes, I had tables full of records and imports from Yugoslavia).

Edith already has been missed at Kolo Festival, dance camps, festivals and other places the past few years, and now all the more since she is gone. She was not only a regular and great person, she was a very unique Edith!

John Filcich

THE FOLK DANCE UNDERGROUND - A SECRET SOCIETY?

One of my passions is to try to share the joys of folk dancing with new people. There are international folk dance groups all over the world, but in the United States, folk dancing is mostly unknown to the general public. At most, people remember it as something they did in grade school or junior high. It is as if we folk dancers belong to a secret society. Even though we have not tried to keep our existence secret, that has been the effect, despite many people trying to get the word out in a variety of ways.

Recreational folk dancing is largely an amateur affair, but the groups we are competing with (salsa, ballroom, Zumba, ballet, jazz) are often run by people whose business is to teach and provide dance experiences. We folk dancers are hard pressed to compete.

Perhaps it is time to spend some serious money, consulting a professional advertising agency to help us. I don't know how much it would cost - tens of thousands of dollars? (This amount sounds very large but is within the means of the Federation, and folk dancing might die otherwise.) Perhaps they could help us make a short video ad and we could pay to put it on YouTube, or perhaps the agency would have some other ideas.

Many of us have websites, others have tried newspaper advertising, and some of us have tried Meetup, with some success. Does anyone have any other ideas for how we can reach out to the public and let them know we exist and that we can provide a great deal of fun and companionship?

Jan Rayman

GERAKINA

The Greek dance *Gerakina* was introduced at a folk dance camp by Anatole Joukowski in 1954, after which it quickly spread to the local groups, as I can personally attest. (It is also known as *Yerakina*, because word-initial “ge” in Greek is pronounced “ye.”) The song tells of a girl named *Gerakina* who fell into the well while drawing water, and she tried to attract attention by shouting and by jangling her bracelets. That is the chorus - “*Droun-droun-droun*, her bracelets clashed!” - and we twist our ankles and wrists in imitation. According to the song, everyone comes running, and her boyfriend throws his sash down to get hold of her and pull her out.

While staying in the little town of Nigrita in Serres county, Greek Macedonia, in 2008, I was amazed to learn that *Gerakina* had been a real girl who had lived there many years ago and actually did fall down one of the town wells. Asking for directions, I went to visit her well. There it sits in a wide spot in the steep street, a small round well walled with grey stones and backed today by lovely green plants and a bench. Unlike what one would gather from the song, however, by the time they got her out, *Gerakina* was dead. So the well has been tightly covered with a thick wooden lid.

Now I think of her, clad in her green skirts and foxskins and lots of bracelets, when I dance her story.

Elizabeth Wayland Barber
(author of *The Dancing Goddesses*)



Renowned Greek folk dance teacher Yvonne Hunt (L) and the author's sister (R) visiting the well that Gerakina fell into, in Nigrita, Greece.)



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www.balkanskeigre.org

Shuttle between O'Hare and Midway Airports and the International House/University of Chicago: www.airportexpress.com or call 888.2THEVAN/888-284-3826. Plentiful housing options near campus; please contact us for details. Program subject to change. Spring Festival is co-sponsored by the University of Chicago International House, CEERES, WHPK, and the Ensemble Balkanske Igre.

Please complete and **return to John Kuo, 9201 Mason, Morton Grove, IL 60053 - please make checks payable to: "Balkanske Igre"**. NOTE: EARLY REGISTRATION + WEEKEND PASS OPTIONS YIELD SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS.

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/FDCC

Seniors

General Note: Friday & Saturday evening concert & parties included

in weekend packages; evening dinners & syllabus are

extra. Individual workshop admission is \$10/\$12.

Weekend Pass (Fri evening through Sun) ___\$150 ___\$170 ___\$160/\$180 after 3/10/2017

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Syllabus ___\$20

Dinner Saturday evening ___\$30 Please check if ___vegetarian, ___vegan, ___food allergies: _____

Post-festival Sunday dinner/party w/live music ___\$40 at an ethnic restaurant tba

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MARCH 3-5, 2017

*Gate clearance needed unless pre-registering. Please:
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simultaneously with the dancing workshops.

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*‘Welcome’
 Band*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY evening dancing 6:00-11:45\$25
 some introductory teaching; live music “DROMIA”

SATURDAY workshops 9:00-12:00 and 1:30-5:30.....\$40

Saturday DANCE PARTY 5:30-11:45.....\$25
 “Happy Hour”, Dinner +sing-along; live music ”THE GARLIC BAND”

SUNDAY all day 9:30 AM-5:00 PM including Concert.....\$30
 live music “MIAMON & FRIENDS”; (Dance Concert 1:00-2:00 PM, \$15 by itself)

*PASSPORT FOR ALL EVENTS:
 \$80 before Feb.20; \$100 at the door
 Dance descriptions: free downloads*

*Catered food available on the premises - orders
 are to be placed by Feb.20 using registration
 form*

**Registration forms will be posted on
www.lagunainternationaldancers.com**

POETRY CORNER

HAIKU FOR SPRING

Haiku in any language is an art of few words, many suggestions; it starts us thinking and feeling. Each little poem is usually read twice through.

sunflowers dance
in concrete blocks...
squirrel-plantings

chain link holding fast
sapling sambas through
gnarled victory

vines boogie down
across sea-salted sands
ignoring saline stop-signs

Camille Dull



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Folk Dance

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Sunnyvale, CA 94087

LIMERICK

You've learned all about the Big Bang;
You've heard the bells of Notre Dame clang.
But life's not complete
'Til you've moved arms and feet
To Zhan Zai Gao Gang Shang.

Carl Pilsecker

April is National Poetry Month.
Be a part of it by submitting
your poem to Scene by March
10th!

RECENT EVENTS

MACEDONIAN NEW YEAR'S PARTY

On January 14th there was a New Year's party at St. Mary's Macedonian Orthodox Church in Whittier. Macedonia is a region, partly in Greece, in what used to be Yugoslavia, in Bulgaria, and a sliver in Albania. St. Mary's congregation is Slavic Macedonian, mostly from Bitola. They use the old (Julian) calendar for religious holidays. New Year's Day is St. Basil's day - this was the nearest Saturday night. A \$25 charge covered dinner and dancing - a bargain. There was a cash bar. The house band gets a rest and musicians are brought from other parts of the country, this year Chris Bajmakovich, Walt Mahovich, Paul Morrisett, and Rumen Shopov.

It's a guests-welcome party, about half Macedonians and half everybody else, so the room is full of singing, and, if you don't join the line next to other folk dancers you're next to people who've done these dances all their lives, *Pajdusko*, *Sareni Corapi*, *Kucano*, *Eleno Mome*. People dress up - it's New Year's - and there's a raffle to see who draws the lucky gold coin (a \$5 gold piece, *zlatniki* are harder to come by) from the St. Basil's cake. I hear it ran into the wee hours but I had to work the next day.

Nancy Milligan

REFLECTIONS ON A NEW YEAR

What a great Sunday, January 15, 2017 was. After a nice long walk with my dog, it was time to join friends for a folk dance festival in Pasadena.

On arrival, I said hello to our great dancers and hard-working helpers, Lynn and Rick Bingle. They were preparing lunch and snacks for the coming dancers and had to present the treasurer's report at the Federation meeting held in another part of the Mason's Hall. They also had snacks and coffee/tea for the members of the board and club representatives at the meeting.

The meeting was good and those at the meeting brought up some important thoughts, questions, concerns and ideas to help all who enjoy folk dance keep it going and continue to grow. It takes this kind of exchange and work to pull groups of dancers across Southern California together.

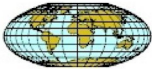
Meantime, hard working members were clearing and cleaning the dance floor, putting out chairs and putting away tables, decorating walls, and setting up sound equipment, getting snacks ready, etc. All this so that the dancing folks could meet, embrace, greet one another and DANCE, and Dance and Dance and Dance!!!

Of course, that's why they came! And what a joy it was to see them all! Many had not seen each other for such a long time. There were new faces and old faces and young faces but all vibrant faces. The music played and bodies moved to the exciting rhythms from all over our planet. There were not enough words to express the JOY! Thank you for being there and hugs to all these friends for such a wonderful kick-off to 2017!

Sylvia Stachura



Photo courtesy Marc and Jan Rayman



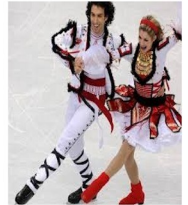
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SCOTLAND August 7-20

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ROMANIA August 5-17

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BALKAN SPLENDOR October 15-28

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Looking Ahead: 2018-2019

ISRAEL March 11-22, 2018. Led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman. \$3995

NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN: June 12-25. Led by Lee Otterholt. \$3495

MACEDONIA AND BULGARIA: August, 2018. Led by Jim Gold

GREEK ISLAND TOUR: Oct. 2018 Crete/Santorini:

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1:30 - 5:30 pm

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for info call Beverly (310)202-6166 dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

**Sponsored by the Westwood Co-op Folk Dancers
Members of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South**

CLUB DIRECTORY

Most groups welcome beginning dancers. The groups with an * below have sessions specifically for beginners.

Federation Clubs

Bay Osos Folk Dancers: Tue 1:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, **LOS OSOS**. (805) 534-1501 Anne Tiber

***Cabrillo Folk Dancers:** Tue 7:00-9:30 (Beg 7-8). Balboa Park. Balboa Park Club, 2144 Pan American, **SAN DIEGO**. (858) 459-1336 gbsham@gmail.com Georgina

Cafe Asteria: 4th Sat 7:30-11:30. LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, **WEST LA**. xorepse@gmail.com (310) 508-9676 Anne Sirota

Cerritos Folk Dancers: Tue 6:00-8:45. Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS**. (562) 338-2298 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen Chiang

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 7:30-9:30. Conejo Rec Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, **THOUSAND OAKS**. (206) 849-1190 dancermmm@gmail.com Marie Montes

Ethnic Express: Wed 6:30 except holidays. East Las Vegas Community Ctr, 250 N. Eastern Ave, **LAS VEGAS**. (702) 732-4871 rckillian@gmail.com Richard Killian

Fantasy Folk Dance Club: Sun 4:00 - 7:00. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd, **MONTEREY PARK**. tiggerbyc@yahoo.com (626) 458-8851 Sophie Chen. *Fri 8:15-10:45. El Monte Chamber of Commerce, 10505 Valley Blvd EL MONTE.* (626) 429-9008 *Vincentyhcheng@gmail.com Vincent Cheng*

Int'l Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods: Tue 9:00am-11:00. Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon, **LAGUNA WOODS**. (949) 454-0837 friedagorelick@hotmail.com Frieda Gorelick

Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing: Fri 8:30-11:30. The Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Ave, **SHERMAN OAKS**. www.kypseli.org (310) 508-9676 Anne Sirota xorepse@gmail.com

Laguna Int'l Dancers: Wed 6:00-9:00, Sun 6:00-9:00. Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, **LAGUNA WOODS**. (949) 770-7026 7kahnmiriam@gmail.com Miriam Kahn

Mountain Dancers: 1st & 3rd Tue 1:30-3:30. Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave, **S. PASADENA** (626) 355-9220 johnmeursinge@gmail.com John Meursinge

Narodni Int'l Folkdancers: Thu 7:30. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BELLFLOWER**. (562) 862-0521 wall9505@gmail.com arol Wall

***Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op:** Fri 7:30-10:30 (Beg 7:30-8). Throop Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles, **PASADENA**. mrayman@alumni.princeton.edu (818) 790-8523 Marc Rayman

Prescott Int'l Folkdancers: Sun 3:00-5:00. First Congregational Church, 216 E. Gurley St, **PRES-COTT, AZ**. (928) 925-8995 Dick Weston

Rainbow Senior Club: Sun 3:00-6:00. Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave, **ALHAMBRA**. (626) 456-1900 ksun310@yahoo.com Kevin Sun

San Diego Vintage Dancers: Dance Place, 2650 Truxton Rd, **SAN DIEGO**. (858) 622-9924 drjenma@pacbell.net Mary Jennings

Scandinavian Dancers of Ventura & Santa Barbara: Some Sat 2:00-5:00. Briggs Elementary School, 14438 W. Telegraph, **SANTA PAULA**. (805) 216-9526 mdejoung@gmail.com Madeleine.

Skandia South Dance Club: Mon 7:00-10:00. Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center, **ANAHEIM**. (714) 893-8888 Ted Martin. *Sat 3:30-10:00 (once a month). Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, CULVER CITY.* (562) 732-4990 Cameron Flanders

Solvang Village Folk Dancers: Sat 6:30-8:30 (except 3rd Sat). Bethania Lutheran, 603 Atterdag Rd, **SOLVANG**. 3rd Sat 1:00-3. Corner Alisal & Copenhagen, **Solvang** (805) 688-3397 dlh4362@gmail.com David Heald

Tuesday Gypsies: Tue 7:30-10:00. Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, **CULVER CITY**. (310) 390-1069 jstein1927@gmail.com Millicent Stein

Veselo Selo Folkdancers: Sat 7:30-10:30. Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor, **ANAHEIM**. (714) 828-2581 Lu Perry

Vintage Israeli Dancing: One Sat per month 8:16-12:00. Anisa's School of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd, **SHERMAN OAKS**. (818) 881-7494 (after noon) Louis, dovbyrd@aol.com

***West Los Angeles Folk Dancers:** Mon 7:30-10:00 (Beg 7:30-8). Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave, **WEST LA.** (310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr

West Valley Folk Dancers: Fri 7:15-10:00. Senior Center, 7326 Jordan Ave, **CANOGA PARK.** (818) 348-6133 lila@aurich.com Lila Aurich

Westchester Lariats: Mon 3:30-8:30. Westchester Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson, **LOS ANGELES.** (310) 689-9176 veniceii@yahoo.com Ina Hall

Westwood Co-op: Thu 7:30-10:00. Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd, **WEST LA.** (310) 202-6166 dancingbarrs@yahoo.com Beverly Barr

Exhibition Groups

Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble: Wed 8:00. United Hungarian House, 1975 Washington, **LOS ANGELES.** (310) 350-1135 Livia Schachinger

Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble: Tue 7:00-9:30 Sat 2:15-4:15. Polish Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd, **LOS ANGELES.** (626) 827-7338 Ela Romuzga

Scandia Dancers: Woman's Club, **BELLFLOWER.** (714) 356-7745 Stefanie Holzman

UCSB Middle East Ensemble: Tue 7:00-10:00. Gehringer Music Bldg, UCSB Campus, **SANTA BARBARA.** (805) 729-645 scottmarcu@aol.com Scott Marcus

Non-Federation Clubs

Beverly Barr Daytime Classes: Mon 1:30-3:00 Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd, Sherman Oaks. *Tue 10:45am-12:30. Roxbury Park Rec. Center, 471 So. Roxbury, Beverly Hills.* Wed 12:30-2:00. Culver City Senior Center, northwest corner Culver & Overland, Culver City. (310) 202-6166

Cafe Aman: 2nd Sat 7:00-11:00. Teach 7:45-8:45 LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, West LA, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com ianprice@hotmail.com

Cal Tech Folkdancers: Tue 7:30. Cal Tech Campus, Dabney Hall, **PASADENA,** parking off Del Mar. (626) 797-5157 Nancy Mulligan

Claremont Israeli Dancers: Mon 7:00-10:00 Masonic Lodge, 272 W. 8th St, **CLAREMONT.** (909) 921-7115 Yael

Desert Dancers: Thu 7:30-9:30. Hi Desert Dance Center, 725 S. Gateway St, **RIDGECREST.** (760) 371-5669 Nora Nuckles

Desert Int'l Folk Dancers: Thu 7:30-9:30 Oct.-May. Leisure Center Dance Studio, 401 S. Pavilion Way, **PALM SPRINGS.** (760) 342-1297 Helen Smith

Folk Dance Center: Every Evening. 4569 30th St, **SAN DIEGO.** (619) 466-4043, www.folkdancecenter.org

Folk Dance Class: Thu 10:15-11:45am. Pan Pacific Senior Center, 141 S. Gardner St, **L.A.** (310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason

Friday Night L.I.F.E.: Fri 8:00-11:00. LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd **WEST LA** www.lifebalkandancers.com worldance1@gmail.com Sherry

Israeli Dancing-James Zimmer: Tue 8:00-12:00. Westside JCC, 5870 W Olympic, **L.A.** (310) 284-3638 James Zimmer israelidance@yahoo.com

***Israeli Dancing-Natalie Stern:** Mon 10:00am-11:45 & noon-1:00(Beg); Tue 10:30am-noon; Wed 7:00-9:30; Thu 10:15am-12:00, 12:05-1:05(Beg). American Jewish Univ Dance Studio, 15600 Mulholland, **L.A** (818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern

Israeli Dancing-Yoni Carr: Mon 7:00-11:30 Beginners at 7:00. Infinity Sport Dance Center, 4428 Convoy St, **SAN DIEGO.** (619) 227-0110 Yoni

Kayso Folk Dancers: Fri 9:30am-12:00. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 206, **SAN DIEGO** (619) 463-7529 Joe Sigona

San Diego Folk Dancers: Mon 7:30-9:00. Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, **SAN DIEGO** (858) 278-4619 Jeanne Cate

San Pedro Kolo Dancers: Mon 7:30-9:30. Dalmatian-American Club, 1639 S Palos Verdes St, **SAN PEDRO.** (310) 832-1074 Pauline Klak

Santa Barbara Balkan Folk Dancers: Wed 8:00-10:30. Oak Park Stage, corner Junipero and Calle Real, **SANTA BARBARA.** (805) 682-4511 Luis Goena

Santa Monica College Int'l Dance Club: Tue, Thu 11:15am-12:35. Santa Monica College Clock Tower or LS Bldg, 1900 Pico Blvd, **SANTA MONICA.** (310) 284-3638 James Zimmer

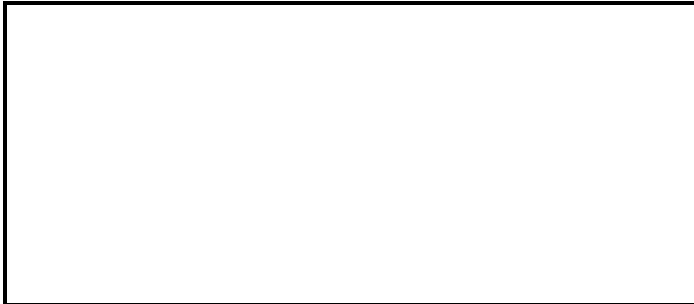
Topanga Canyon Int'l FD: Fri 9:30am-11:00am. Froggy's Restaurant, 1105 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd, **TOPANGA.** (310) 455-1051 Melanie Kareem

UCLA Ballroom Club & UCLA Int'l Folkdancers: Mon 7:00-9:00(ballroom), 9:00-11:00 (folk). UCLA Kerckhoff Hall, **WESTWOOD.** (310) 284-3636 UniversityDanceClubs@yahoo.com James Zimmer

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