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Folk Dance Scene Committee				
	Coordinator	Jay Michtom	editor@FolkDanceScene.org	818.368.1957
	Calendar	Gerri Alexander	calendar@FolkDanceScene.org	818.363.3761
	On the Scene	Jill Michtom	ots@FolkDanceScene.org	818.368.1957
	Club Directory	Steve Himel	directory@FolkDanceScene.org	949.646.7082
	Dancers Speak	Sandy Helperin	ds@FolkDanceScene.org	310.391.7382
	Federation Corner	Beverly Barr	fedcorner@FolkDanceScene.org	310.202.6166
	Proofreading Editor	Jan Rayman	proof@FolkDanceScene.org	818.790.8523
		Carl Pilsecker	proof@FolkDanceScene.org	562.865.0873
	Design and Layout Editors	Pat Cross, Don Krotser	design@FolkDanceScene.org	323.255.3809
	Business Manager	Gerda Ben-Zeev	business@FolkDanceScene.org	310.399.2321
	Contributing Editor	Elizabeth Wayland Barber		
	Circulation	Sandy Helperin	circulation@FolkDanceScene.org	310.391.7382
	Subscriptions	Gerda Ben-Zeev	subscriptions@FolkDanceScene.org	310.399.2321
	Advertising	Steve Himel	ads@FolkDanceScene.org	949.646.7082
	Printing Coordinator	Irwin Barr		310.202.6166
	Marketing	Bob, Gerri Alexander	marketing@FolkDanceScene.org	818.363.3761
	Jill and Jay Michtom 10824 Crebs Ave. Northridge, CA 91326	Gerda Ben-Zeev 19 Village Park Way Santa Monica, CA 90405		Sandy Helperin 4362 Coolidge Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90066

Folk Dance Scene

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On the cover: Foothill Folk Dancers, photo courtesy of Jan Rayman



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 53, No. 5 June/July 2017

Editors' Corner

Our cover story features a new group in La Cañada hosted by Marc and Jan Rayman. The broader topic is the shrinking dancer population, and what to do about it.

Besides them, check out other attractions in Calendar, On the Scene and Dancers Speak.

Enjoy the Poetry Corner.

Information you may need is in Club Directory.

Note that this issue presages our summer break. We hope you have a good one! Look for the next issue in August.

Be of good cheer!

Pat Cross and Don Krotser

Table of Contents

The Corner	3
Foothill Folk Dancers	
Calendar	10
On the Scene	14
Dancers Speak	16
Poetry Corner	18
Club Directory	20

Federation South Officers

President	Shana Winokur	949.767.7173
Vice-President	Pauline Klak	310.832.1074
Treasurer	Azar Asgari	
Secretary	Leslie Halberg	661.296.0481
Membership	Bob Altman	714.891.0788
Historian	Wen-Li Chang	626.500.5035

For information about dancing in the area, contact the Federation at 310.478.6600 or Federation website: SoCalFolkdance.org

The Corner

NEW FEDERATION OFFICERS

Here are the new Federation officers as of June 1, 2017.

President – Shana Winokur Vice president – Pauline Klak Secretary – Leslie Halberg Treasurer - Azar Asgari Membership – Bob Altman Historian – Wen-Li Chang

Greetings from your new Federation President:

As I write this, I am hard at work on several fronts to make sure we have a great Statewide. Thus, I have no time to write anything interesting, memorable or quotable about myself and my vision for our folk dancing future. However, I will be open to hearing from any of you at any time.



Here's another lovely idea: Just 2 weeks after Statewide, we have the annual Cerritos Festival, on Sunday, June 11, 1:00 - 5:45 p.m. Before the festival starts, we will have our first Council meeting of the new FDF year. All FDF members are invited to attend the meeting (only official club delegates and officers are allowed to vote on motions).

We have set the start time of the meeting at 11:30. If enough people want me to give an introductory 'speech,' I would be willing to do that at 11:00, perhaps out on the patio while the Cerritos volunteers complete their setup. I will personally talk to members at Statewide about this, and I also can receive email messages. You can use the link from our website, on the page:

www.socalfolkdance.org/officers.htm

See you on the dance floor!

3

Shana Winokur President, FDF of CA, South

June/July 2017

FOOTHILL FOLK DANCERS: A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL

I was asked to write an article about my husband Marc's and my new folk dance group, Foothill International Folk Dancers. I think the reasons we formed the group and how it operates are probably the most interesting things about it.

WHY WE STARTED THE GROUP

In 1986, when Marc and I arrived in Southern California and joined the Pasadena Folk Dance Coop, we heard many expressions of concern about how folk dancing here was getting smaller and grayer. There were (and continue to be) noble efforts to remedy the situation, but the problem has remained unsolved for the three decades we have been here. Now, as we are graying ourselves, we are distressed to discover that we remain some of the younger folk dancers in the area. Who is going to be dancing with us in the future?

Several years ago, I starting working to attract more people to dance in Pasadena by creating a website, advertising in Google, forming several Meetup.com groups, and a few other methods. These efforts were effective in bringing in new people, but only a few of those new to folk dancing returned to dance with us for more than one night. I had solved only half of the problem.

At Stockton Folk Dance Camp one year, Loui Tucker gave a lecture about bringing new people to folk dance and making them happy so that they would stay. She and several others in northern California had been quite successful, so Marc and I wanted to try some of her suggestions as well as some of our own ideas.

One of the things Loui emphasized, and that we had already tried as well, was that whenever you have people new to folk dancing showing up at your group, you may have to change your teaching and program to accommodate them. Otherwise, you will miss an important opportunity to gain new dancers. Doing this is easier said than done when your dance

group is relatively large and a co-op. Regular members of the club arrive expecting particular dances to be taught. Teaching duties rotate, and teachers have sometimes worked hard preparing to present those dances. It is so disappointing to them when they are asked to change their teaching whenever new people need something different.

Another point Loui made was that new dancers do better when they are learning with other new dancers. Those of us who have danced for decades and lived through the "golden age of folk dancing" can make new folk dancers feel inadequate, even when we are trying to help them. It can be very disheartening to try to learn dances when most of those around you are already experienced dancers. There are many very accomplished dancers in Southern California who, with their expertise and enthusiasm, unintentionally intimidate new folk dancers. Simple terms that are obvious to all of us, like step-together-step or step-behind, are meaningless or even misleading to new dancers. When you already know a dance, it feels easy to you, and there is a temptation to invite the new dancer into the dance saying, "come on, it's easy." Then when the dance turns out to be a struggle, the new dancer thinks, "There must be something wrong with me, I'm struggling with this easy dance. If even easy dances are this difficult, I had better give up on folk dancing." Also, talking a new dancer through a dance by saying the steps at the moment they need to be done can have a similar intimidating and disheartening effect, because it is impossible for them to keep up.

A small group can be more flexible than a large one constrained by rules and traditions. In a new group in which we are the only teachers, we wouldn't complicate anyone else's plans or hurt anyone's feelings if we decide to change teaching plans at the last minute. Also, a smaller group may be less intimidating to new dancers.

Marc and I wanted to try out some of Loui's proposals and to experiment with some of our own ideas about recruiting and retaining new dancers. With rent, insurance, advertising, and other expenses, we knew it could be expensive to build a group, but Marc had won a monetary award at JPL and we decided to devote it to starting our own folk dance group. We formed Foothill International Folk Dancers at the end of 2015. We meet on Thursday nights at the Community Center of La Canada Flintridge.

HOW IT WORKED OUT

Of course we made some mistakes at first, but we have treated all of them as learning experiences, and we continue to make a great effort to improve. Eventually, we were lucky enough to find (or did they find us?) a couple of enthusiastic and highly effective women who are well-connected in our community and who have been very supportive of our efforts. Things picked up for us when these two women, now close friends of ours, started bringing their friends to try dancing with us. Our group would not be as good if they had not done this. Some of these new people brought their friends.

Not including ourselves, we had 28 people show up for our first session. Fifteen were dancer friends who came to support us. Of the remaining 13, some of them didn't know what folk dancing was or were expecting a different kind of class. We had 20 the next week, with 12 dancer friends coming to support us. The remaining eight new dancers needed a lot of help to get started and some were hopeless, despite our efforts to teach them. We were discouraged, but we kept trying because we knew it could take a long time to build a group. The few people in our tiny classes received a lot of help, allowing them to become folk dancers

I created a website and that has helped people find us. We also got our group listed in our local paper which has a section on what's happening in our community. We attended some local events and handed out fliers, something that isn't easy for a pair of introverts. Marc convinced our local paper to have

a reporter come the first time, and she wrote a nice article about the group.

Over the next 19 months Meetup.com attracted some more people, but only a few who actually stayed and stuck with us. Still, I think that trickle of suitable new dancers makes Meetup worth using. Most of the people who RSVP through Meetup never show up, and many who do discover that folk dancing isn't for them. But that small number who do work out make Meetup worth the effort and the \$15/ month. Word of mouth from our two new friends brought in some of our most loyal members. This fall, I plan to advertise in our local neighborhood news egroup and also get us listed positively on Yelp.

Cultivating this new group has taken a lot of effort. Some of our dancers help out by carrying our equipment, setting up chairs, and providing additional refreshments. We also enjoy the support of some of our friends from the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op who attend our new group now and then. Valerie Daley has danced with us a few times and even taught once, despite the long commute, and she allows me to use her pictures in my advertising efforts. Sherry Cochran also supported us by dancing with us on our first night and bringing a friend.

Patience and persistence pay off. Our class remains small, but it is slowly growing. Most weeks now we make the rent. We now have 15 or so dancers, and a typical evening has about 10 in attendance, plus Marc and me. About half of our dancers were entirely new to folk dancing when they started with us, perhaps a third were folk dancers returning after a long hiatus, and a few came to us as experienced folk dancers. I think one reason this mixed group works is that most of the expert folk dancers understand that we are trying to nurture the newbies and they try to help us by being patient. We have a couple of semi-regular dancers who may be in their 40's, but most of our dancers are in their 60's, graying like ourselves. Recently two very experienced dancers have started to attend and to bring their inexperienced wives to our class so they can benefit from Marc's basic and clear instruction.

WHAT WE DO

Like most teachers, Marc and I try to be very clear and patient with new dancers. We have devoted a great deal of thought and observation to how to teach new dancers, focusing as much on what not to do as on what to do. We select material that is relatively easy but that also has beautiful, exciting, or interesting music. We never tell people a dance is easy. It isn't necessary, because they are going to try the dance anyway. Rather, we leave it to them to feel gratified with their success when they are able to do it. The introductory dances build upon one another, so that the grapevine and step-together-step learned in one dance can be used in the next dance.

Sometimes we find it difficult to select material to please everyone, and we often have to change our plans at the last minute when someone new shows up. Similarly, when a very experienced person shows up we try to have at least one dance they can enjoy (and show off with, if they are that kind of person). Sometimes a dance new to everyone will please both the experienced and new dancers. Each week we have plans and also contingency plans, because it's hard to predict what mix of dancers is going to show up. We always treat our plans as tentative. And we have quite often decided on entirely different teaching when we saw the mix of attendees.

The hardest lesson we learned was that there are some people who are just not going to do well in recreational dancing. We try to silently identify those people and to move on with the teaching, gently leaving them behind. At first we continued to repeat the instruction, working with them in every way possible. In doing so, we held everyone else back and the dance sessions were too slow. This was the big mistake we made in our first few weeks, and we still struggle with this issue when uncoordinated people show up. I recall vividly one very nice couple possessing four left feet. They attended for many weeks and tried to learn, but they were never able to do basic steps or move in time with music. Finally, we had to move on and accept that they were not going to get even the fundamentals. Eventually they stopped coming. Marc especially finds it hard to

leave people behind, but he is working to accept it and not always aim all of his teaching at the people who have the most difficulty. Nevertheless, we still focus some of our teaching on them. Even if someone clearly will never do well at dancing, we want them to feel both that they had some level of success and that we appreciate their having tried.

These days we aim to strike a better balance. Moving to music is the reward people get from making an effort to learn. With a remote control, we play bits of music quickly and repeatedly, to keep people moving while they are also getting practice. Sometimes we slow the music down, or record and play just parts of it, so dancers can focus on the more challenging portions of a dance.

I think the most important lesson we learned is to try to make people feel good about themselves. We try to acknowledge the efforts of new dancers to learn. It is satisfying for all of us when they do a good job. I also enjoy pointing out the expertise of our experienced dancers when we have them. It's wonderful when they show up and show off a little. Because the expert dancers are clearly a minority and something special, it's less intimidating to the new dancers.

Dancing is a social activity. We try to learn a little bit about each person to make them feel special and not simply generic participants - this is easy when the group is small.

MORE ABOUT OUR GROUP

I mentioned in advertising for the Pasadena Co-op that our group has people who have known each other for decades. Eventually, I realized that this isn't necessarily a good thing from the perspective of new dancers who feel like outsiders. Our current group hasn't known one another that long, but it is a joy to see that friendships are forming. Most of our newbies are still intimidated about dancing in other groups with other dancers. There is something cozy about being in a small group where you know most of the people.

We have tried to provide a broad repertoire for our group, and we always encourage people to tell us which dances they like and which they don't. Some dances that have become particularly popular are Zemer Atik. L'Homme Qui Marche. Senin Canina. and Eastbourne Rover. I Walk the Line was such a big hit that we do it every night. This was the first non -trivial dance that core members mastered and they take pride in knowing it. We had a fun series for a while of doing *Damat Halayi* to different music every week for six weeks. The activities page of our website Foothill.Dance lists all the dances we have taught and danced (along with amateur videos). (Note that we used a website address that ends with .dance instead of the more familiar .com, .org, or .net.)

One of our dancers is a professional musician and teacher who (like some other people with musical backgrounds) initially hated the overly sweet music of the Japanese dance Believe. Then the music grew on her and she ended up loving it so much she taught it to her third graders.

Another of our new dancers who is knowledgeable about music requested that we repeat the dance we taught earlier, "the dance that has music in a minor key." It was some time before Marc and I, with our

musical ignorance, discovered she wanted *Hora Veche*.

We dance more challenging dances in our second hour after our snack break. Some of the new dancers saw the more advanced dancers doing Vlaško, and they became determined to learn it. They were persistent and enthusiastic, and after working on it for quite a few weeks, they now can dance it and are thrilled when they do.

Now that our group has grown to a comfortable size, summer is almost here. Last year we took the summer off to accommodate everyone's conflicting plans. This summer we hope to meet at least occasionally so we don't lose all our momentum. Unfortunately, our class is on the same day as a very popular summer music series at nearby Descanso Gardens, so we might meet on the dance deck of our home on a night other than Thursdays.

We are committed to introducing folk dancing to more people. We hope Foothill International Folk Dancers contributes to the endurance and vitality of an activity that all readers of *Scene* have long appreciated.

Jan Rayman





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Led by Richard Schmidt: http://bit.ly/2IGOLgA Kraków, Rzeszów, Zakopane, Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Olsztyn, Żelazowa Wola, Warszawa



SCOTLAND August 7-20: http://bit.ly/2IGWzR7

Led by Richard Schmidt Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Inverness, Fort William, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond



ROMANIA August 5-17: http://bit.ly/2IQNUvO

Led by Jim Gold Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighetu Marmatiei, Piatra Neamt, Brasov

BALKAN SPLENDOR October 15-28

http://bit.ly/2mp1Ydz Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina. Montenegro







Tours in 2018

ISRAEL: March 11-22, 2018. Led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman JAPAN: April 1-14, 2018. Led by Richard Schmidt NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN: June 12-25, 2018. Led by Lee Otterholt WOW! 5 BALKAN COUNTRIES! Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania, Greece! July 29-August 12. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt SPAIN: October, 2018. Led by Jim and Lee Friedman

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8

Folk Dance Scene

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E-mail: info@bourque-moreau.com Phone: (450) 659-9271

CALENDAR

Note: Federation events are in bold. CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

JUNE

- 2-4 Greek Festival, Friday 5-12:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. at St. George Church, 10830 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241, Info: 562.862.6461
- 3 Veselo Selo 47th Anniversary Party with music by Garlic Band, Saturday 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim. Info: Lu Perry 714.828.2581.
- 3-4 *Greek Festival*, Saturday 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 232 E. Foothill Blvd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405. Info: 805.546.8337
- 4 Miamon Miller's Garlic Band will perform at Noble House Concerts, 5705 Noble Ave., Van Nuys. Co-sponsored by Folkworks, Sunday 7:30. Tickets \$18, \$16 for Folkworks members. Info: 818.780.5979.
- 8 Narodni Birthday Party with live music by Zimzala, Thursday 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA. Info: Julith Neff 562.881.9504 (cell) or www.narodni.org
- 8 Beata Bermuda House Concert Swedish violinand-singing trio perform at a house concert in Northridge Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Donation \$15. Reservations essential. See OTS. Info: 818.368.1957 or JayMichtom@yahoo.com
- 9 Beata Bermuda Concert & Dance, Friday 8:00 p.m. at Skandia Hall in Pasadena. See OTS.
- 9-11 *Greek Festival*, Friday 5-10:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. at St. Spyridan Church, 3655 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92103. Info: 619.297.4165
- 11 Cerritos Festival, Cerritos Folk Dancers, Sunday 1:00 – 5:45 at Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703. \$6 (or \$5 if paid by 6/4/17) Info: Sue Chen 562.338.2298, CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com or ChiangWenLi@yahoo.com

- 11 Ventura Intl. Folk Dance Party, Sunday 3:00-5:30 p.m. at Ventura YMCA, 37660 Telegraph Road, Ventura 93003. Bring a \$5.00 donation and photo I.D. unless you are a member of the YMCA. Info: Valerie Daley 805.647.1634 or dancingvalerie@gmail.com
- 15 Narodni T-Shirt Night, Thursday 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA. Wear a folk dance club t-shirt and admission is only \$3.00! This is an all-request evening. Info: Julith Neff 562.881.9504 (cell) www.narodni.org
- 17 St. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church 68th Annual Festival, Saturday at St. Anthony Parish Center, 714 Alpine St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. See ad.
- 23-25 *Greek Festival*, Friday 5:00-10:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at St. Demetrios Church, 3100 E. Ponderosa Dr., Camarillo, CA 93011. Info: 805.482.1278.
- 23-25 *Greek Festival*, Friday 5:00-10:00 p.m., Saturday 12:00-10:00 p.m. Sunday 12:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Paul Church, 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92714. Info: 949.733.2366.
- 23-25 Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg: Tchaikovsky, Friday, Saturday & Sunday (check for performance times) at the Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Info: 213.972.7211.

JULY

- 14-16 *Greek Festival,* Friday 5:00-10:00 p.m., Saturday 12:00-10:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Katherine Church, 722 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach, CA 90277. Info: 310.540.2484.
- 29-30 *Greek Festival*, Saturday 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at St. Barbara Church, 1205 San Antonio Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111. Info: 805.683.4492

OCTOBER

20-23 2017 Camp Hess Kramer Camps' Review Weekend in Malibu, CA. Teachers: Beverly Barr, Gary Diggs, Denise Heenan & Israel Yakovee. Save the dates and look for flyer in

August issue. Info: Beverly Barr 310.202.6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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. Info:

www. Mendocino Folklore Camp.com

- 6/24-7/1 West Coast Balkan Music & Dance Workshop at Mendocino Woodlands. Info: https:// eefc.org/balkan-camp/west-coast/
- 7/16-23, 23-30 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Two identical weeks. At University of the Pacific, 3601 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA. See ad. Info: www.folkdancecamp.org

OUT OF STATE MAINE

8/13-19, 8/20-26 *Mainewoods Dance Camp 2017* at Fryeburg, Maine. Info: www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org

MISSOURI

8/18-21 Hora Eclipse, an Israeli FD Camp tied to the total eclipse of the Sun (which will happen on August 21). At YMCA Trout Lodge and Camp Lakewood about 75 miles from St. Louis, Missouri. Info: hora-eclipse.com

NEW MEXICO

8/3-6 New Mexico Camp. at Montezuma. teachers Andy Taylos Blenis and Miroslav Marcetic. Info: www.swifdi.org or Dorothy Stemer stermer@comcast.net

NEW YORK

8/5-8/12 East Coast Balkan Music & Dance Workshops at Iroquois Springs near Rock Hill in the Catskill Mountains. Info: https://eefc.org/ balkan-camp/east-coast-balkan-music-danceworkshop/

WASHINGTON

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

FOREIGN

FUROPE FROM A TO 7

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

NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN

6/13-26 Scandinavian Tour led by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen. See ad. Info: Jim Gold iimgold@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

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

BALKAN

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

SPAIN

6/28 – 7/2 DanceGrandPrix in Barcelona, Spain. Info: barcelonadance.org/europe.html See OTS.



Join Sonia and Cristian for an eleven-night adventure

September 12-23, 2017

information: sonia_dion@hotmail.com

Cerritos Folk Dancers

喜瑞都土風舞社

Eighth Annual Cerritos Festival



Theme: East Meets West

Sunday, June 11, 2017 1:00 to 5:45 P.M.

Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703

Suggested donation: \$6 per person at the door (\$5 if prepaid by June 4, 2017)

Finger foods to share are welcome, but not necessary.

Traditional or special <u>costume</u> will add splendid color to the party.

Each group is welcome to perform, lead, and/or request one or more dances.

(It is better letting us know in advance to schedule your time.)

Info: 562-338-2298 Sue or CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com

Sponsored by Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc.

ON THE SCENE

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Always working to have as much fun as possible, the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op is going to pack *two* months of dancing into this one issue of the *Scene*. In addition to our regular format in June and July, on June 30 we will have an all-request party (with no teaching). Visit our website at

PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org for our weekly dance programs, teaching schedule, and much more.

Marc Rayman

VENTURA INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE PARTY

Val's Gals are having another folk dance party at the Ventura YMCA Sunday afternoon, June 11 from 3 - 5:30 in the Y's lovely studio. Come dance with us! Bring your requests! We will have light refreshments, and there are drinking fountains at the Y, but your own water bottle will keep you from having to walk down the hall to stay hydrated.

Unless you are a member of the Y, bring a photo ID and a \$5 donation.

This is a fun, welcoming group of avid folk dancers.

Valerie Daley

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

June 1 – Bob Altman Teaching: Bačvanka and Dror Yikra

June 8 – Narodni Birthday party with live music by Zimzala. Don't miss this one! An evening with Zimzala is always guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

June 15 – Narodni T-Shirt Night. Wear a folk dance club t-shirt and get in for only \$3.00. This is an all-request evening.

June 22 & 29 – Ann Armstrong teaching: Blue Hills and *Na'tane*.

July 6 & 13 – Camille Dull teaching *Sonata* and Julith Neff teaching *Katonti*

July 20 & 27 - John Matthews will be teaching *Brîul Lui Ioşca* and *Staro Planinko Kolo*

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.

Julith Neff



BEATA BERMUDA

Innovative Folk Music from Sweden! The magical synergy of three violins and three voices intertwined creating a distinctive groove that broadens the sense of what fiddle music can be. The Swedish trio Beata Bermuda plays both traditional and contemporary folk music. Self-composed as well as 100 year old music on violin, vocals and glockenspiel with features of indie-pop and singer/songwriter gives them their unique voice in the Swedish folk music landscape. Since their start in 2012 the band has toured extensively in Sweden, Denmark and Germany. In 2014 the band released their debut album Beata Bermuda at the prestigious Euroradio Folk Festival that was broadcast throughout Europe. Their recordings and live concerts continually receive many enthusiastic reviews. Members Linnea Aall Campbell, Hanna Andersson and Samantha Ohlanders are all educated at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. Sweden.

Here are some of the great reviews the group has received:

"...profound lyrics, beautiful, headstrong and ethereal. Clearly gifted.", Peter Ahlbom, Spelmannen Magazine / Sweden "...unbounded energy and verve." Steve Ono, Fresno Folklore Society / California, USA

"The group uses their violins in a very exciting way that definitely gives a taste for both folk music and its fusion with modern indie and singer/songwriter tradition." Maria Dahlström, Hela Hälsingland / Sweden

Beata Bermuda will tour throughout California in the summer of 2017, offering a variety of concert programs and workshops in Mendocino, Berkeley, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Fresno, San Louis Obispo, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and Pasadena. They will be in residence for the weeklong Mendocino Folklore Camp, playing for nightly dances and daily dance classes, and teaching music and songs. In addition to playing concerts, Beata Bermuda offers workshops in Swedish fiddle tunes, traditional Swedish songs, and Scandinavian folk music band. Master classes and private lessons can be arranged.

Here are the two events in Southern California:

Thursday, June 8 - House concert in Northridge, 7:00 at 10824 Crebs Ave. \$15 at the door, advance reservations essential. Contact:

JayMichtom@yahoo.com, 818.368.1957.

Friday June 9 - concert and dance at Skandia Hall in Pasadena, at 8:00pm. The event will begin with a sit-down concert with both traditional music and the trio's contemporary self-composed songs. Later in the evening they will clear space for dancing. If you are so inspired please join in for a waltz, schottische, or polska! Or stay to hear more of their enchanting folk music arrangements. Advance tickets are \$15, and if your club or group buys 10 or more tickets they are discounted to \$12. On the day of the concert tickets are \$20, so plan ahead! Visit www.beatabermuda.brownpapertickets.com for tickets and information, or call Julie Ann Keller at 626.529.3949

Julie Ann Keller

VESELO SELO

June 3 Veselo Selo 47th Anniversary. Celebrate with us and dance to music of the Garlic Band. This event is \$10.

June 10 Sandy Wodicka teaching for beginners, basic dance steps.

June 17 Teaching by Diane Baker June 24 Diane reviews dances taught on 17th. July 1 Independence Day party and Ice Cream Social!

July 8 Sandy Wodicka basic dance steps for beginners and others.

July 15 Teaching by Bob Altman
July 22 Teaching by Maria Pahos-Benson
July 29 Maria reviews dances taught on 22nd.

Lu Perry

CERRITOS FESTIVAL, June 11, 2017

Cerritos Folk Dancers (CFD) will host the eighth annual Cerritos Festival. The festival is to be held at Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703, from 1:00 to 5:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, 2017.

This event is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc. Attendees are expected to make a donation of \$6 per person, or \$5 if the payment is made by June 4. Finger foods or other treats to share with other dancers are encouraged. You are encouraged to wear traditional or special costume to the party.

Each folk-dance group may request, lead, and/or perform a dance. To do so, please send the music of your choice to the CFD to be scheduled in advance. Alternatively, you may bring your own music CD to the event. CFD will try to schedule your request if time permits.

Info: (562) 865-8854, CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com, or ChiangWenLi@yahoo.com.

Wen Chiang

DANCE GRAND PRIX

Dance Grand Prix in Barcelona, Spain, is inviting all dancers, choreographers, performing arts educators, teachers, arts managers and "dance and theatre lovers" to a choreography competition from June 28 to July 2, 2017 - the largest dance competition in Europe for dance schools and groups from all over the world. There will also be ballet, contemporary, modern, hip hop and many other kinds of dance art in Barcelona, the European capital of culture, lessons/stages, with international dance teachers, will be included in the entry fee.

Web info is at barcelonadance2017.xoom.it or barcelonadance.org/europe.html.

DANCERS SPEAK

THE SUMMER RUSÁLII

Many cultures in Earth's temperate zones celebrate the solstices, which provide key benchmarks in reckoning the agricultural year. Whereas the Winter Solstice provokes rituals to bring back the diminished light, at the Summer Solstice people celebrate light's abundance and the flourishing growth that sunlight can bring. Thus in Scandinavia, Finland, and elsewhere around the Baltic Sea, masses of people bedeck themselves with flowers and go out into the fields on St. John's Day (as Midsummer is often called) to dance all day and all night with their neighbors, usually around a bonfire.

A bit farther south, however, in the Slavic lands, farm families were very aware that it takes not just sunlight but also water to grow the crops. So, in addition to jumping over St. John's bonfires "for continued health" (for one thing, it killed fleas!), they celebrated the spirits thought to bring the crucial rain. These somewhat cantankerous creatures, the rusálki or vily, were believed to be the souls of girls who had died before having any children. So (it was reasoned), because they had not used up their godgiven stock of fertility but still had it, they could bestow it on others at will. The trick was to get them to give it to you - your family, crops, and livestock by leaving them gifts such as honey and by dancing in their honor on their special holidays. The most important of these holidays was St. John's Day, also called the Summer Rusálii. (Rusálka and Rusálii

come from a Slavic root *rus* or *ros*, referring to moisture, especially dew. *Vila* is an older word used in both Slavic and non-Slavic languages of Europe, including, probably, English *willy*, as in "That spooky noise gives me the willies!")

We encounter these willies in several of the dances we do. They are mentioned, for example, in the refrain of Ya Da Kalínushku Lomála, in which the girl sings of cutting boughs of the snowball trees (kalina), which grow along the riverbanks where the vílv hide. The Polish dance **Sobotki**, on the other hand, was inspired by a St. John's Day ritual performed by unmarried girls: each girl makes a wreath of flowers and casts it into the water. Originally these were for the willies: the wreath that floated the farthest had pleased the willies best, and its maker would soon marry and have children, but if a wreath sank, that girl would soon die childless. This ritual used to be depicted proudly on murals in the Kiev airport, and I actually watched it being carried out in northern Poland on St. John's Day in 1993. Now that most people no longer believe in willies, however, the ritual has been reinterpreted, and girls merely hope that their true love will find the wreath and come marry them. Also connected with the Rusalii and known to a few California dancers is the very difficult dance *Floricica*, but that has a story of its own.

Elizabeth Wayland Barber author of *The Dancing Goddesses*



COMINGS AND GOINGS

Some of you may not be aware of some dancers who have moved into or out of Southern California. So here is a start with some going and some coming.

Billy and Susie Burke Where Are You?

Billy and Susie have been happy residents of Los Osos, California for the last 9 months. We are 10 minutes away from Morro Bay, and we can actually see the "Rock and the three stacks" from our house. We have just a short 20-minute drive to San Luis Obispo (we all call it SLO up here).

Billy retired from LAUSD after 37 years in the classroom in September. Susie officially retires from the animation field in November.

Billy is now in charge of the "Bay Osos Folk Dancers" who meet every Tuesday from 1:00 to 3:00 in the local community center. Please drop in if you are ever in town. He is also starting a children's after school class. He is still playing tambura every week with Charlie Eisen over the internet. Billy is also now a happy member of the Big Rock Balalaika Band playing alto balalaika. He is also an official member of the "Baywood Navy" and looking forward to a summer of kayaking and sailing.

Susie has spent months cruising the internet finding just the right furniture for the house. She just about has it done and it looks great. We have a real guest room so friends are welcome to come visit. Susie is maintaining the website for the local community center

www.southbaycommunitycenter.com. She has started a singing group called "Balkan Central", we are in the Central Coast you know. Susie has made some good friends who play different games in the afternoons and some evenings.

Both Susie and Billy are working on promoting the book "A Celebration of Diversity: Multicultural Experience Through the Art of Dance". This is a full text with two CDs of dance music and a DVD of the dances being done by students. The website is going up very soon.

Well, that is some of the latest. We are happily settled and delighted to be a part of this great community.

Julie Ann Keller now a SoCal resident.

After living in the Bay Area and then Fresno for the last 35 years, Julie Ann Keller has returned to her "SoCal" roots and now resides in Altadena. California. Last year she organized a house concert for Bulgarika, reminding her of how much she loves to produce concerts - and RhythmJulie Productions was born. As a producer and project manager, her passion is to create opportunities for touring musicians to play and connect with California lovers of world music and dance. (Almost as much as she loves to travel and hear them play in their communities!) Her current project is the Pasadena concert and dance for Beata Bermuda, and next up she will be hosting concerts in Fresno and Pasadena for Kabile, the legendary Bulgarian Wedding Band, coming to the Los Angeles area in October.

In addition to being a long-time folk dancer, Julie is a drummer. She plays Bulgarian tupan, Balkan and Middle Eastern dumbek, West African djembe and dundun, and Afro-Cuban congas. Her band Hlopka plays Balkan folk music, and with John Gibson on kaval and Julie on tupan they have been gaining experience playing for dancers. They are excited that their band is growing into a larger Balkan ensemble, with tambura, gadulka, and violin.



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POETRY CORNER

CELEBRATING SUMMER WITH ALL COMERS

Dancing to the tune of a cool breeze on a hot day And a mint julep like a tulip in your hand...it's grand! Celebrating summer with all comers...

See that road stretching far as the eye can see? Mountains blending with the sky....you know why? 'Cause there's no real line between mountains and sky... Or you and I...atoms all, as you'll recall.

So get in line; we've got all kinds of time. To linger on every street, on each beat, in cold or heat Listening for whispers pulsing music to our feet.

We're not out for miles; we'll sail for smiles With time to wonder about a bird you just heard.... Maybe among the chaparral you'll find a pal.

So slow down and let 'em pass...hurry's not our worry... We're making new tracks on a dusty road, Skidding and slipping sideways... that's how to find byways

Dancing little steps on our big journey --By the merest of chance -- endlessly danced.



Camille Dull

TENUOUSITY

Now that my friend has moved far away All that warmth is missed, like a cloudy day Not often to see that smiling face Consoled that she has found her place Yet now I dance with a little less joy

N A Louie

WINDOW PAIN

Das Fenster introduced me to Kay;
Through our window her charm flowed my way.
It was love at first stare,
I was dancing on air.
But another guy stole her! Oy, vey!

Carl Pilsecker

ST. ANTHONY CROATIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 68TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL





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713 North Hill Street (at Alpine Street), Los Angeles, CA 90012

ST. ANTHONY PARISH CENTER 714 Alpine Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

11:00 A.M. Mass with Tamburica Orchestra & the Parish Choir

Musical Program
with St. Anthony Tamburica Orchestra
St. Anthony Croatian Children School
& Kolo Club CROATIA

Continuous Entertainment & Kolo Dancing Throughout the Day

Games for the Kids

MUSIC - DANCING - Bocce Tournament

Noon: Festival Opens

1:00-2:00 P.M.: Kolo Dancing

3:00-4:00 P.M.: Official Program

4:00-5:00 P.M.: Kolo Dancing w/ Željko Jergan 6:00 P.M.: RAFFLE Drawing Mo:

7:00-Midnight: Dancing

Food Served All Day:

Barbecued Lamb & Pork

Sausages- Ćevapčići

Povitiča (Nutroll)

Mostaccioli — Apple Strudel

Homemade Pastries

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 dancermm@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 rpkillian@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, PRESCOTT, 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 mdejounge@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 3:3010:00(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 Eastern Ensemble: Tue 7:00-10:00. Gehringer Music Bldg, UCSB Campus, SANTA BARBARA. (805) 729-6453 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

*Foothill Folk Dancers: Thu 7:30-9:30.

Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr., LA

CAÑADA (818)790-8523 JanRayman@charter.net

Friday Night L.I.F.E.: Fri 8:00-11:00. LA

DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd WEST

L.A 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

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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