



Folk Dance Scene



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On the cover: Solvang Dancers perform—September 19, 2009. Photo by Don Krotser.



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 55, No. 5
June/July 2019

Editors' Corner

Heading into summer, we feature Danish folkdances and costumes by Elizabeth (Betchen) Barber, and a cover you might recognize.

Choose your special activities in Calendar and On the Scene, in ads, and a special on Mendocino Folklore Camp.

Hear from your colleagues in Dancers Speak, Recent Events and Poetry Corner.

Clubs Directory is included for your reference as usual.

We take a break in July, so our next issue will be in August.

Be of good cheer!

Pat Cross and Don Krotzser

The Corner

CERRITOS FESTIVAL, June 8, 2019

Cerritos Folk Dancers (CFD) will host their tenth 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 Saturday, June 8, 2019.

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 1, 2019. 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.

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

Wen Chiang

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

DANCES OF DENMARK

Danish folk dancing is above all social. That is, most of the steps are fairly easy so that people of all ages can participate—it's just that you need to know what order the steps or figures are in for a particular dance.

It is also highly traditional. Early in the last century, a group of students from the University of Copenhagen formed a club to go around the Danish countryside and find elderly people who remembered the dances of their youth and to write them down. At the same time they collected from elderly village musicians copies of the handwritten sheet music that went with the dances. In this way, they preserved and published several hundred traditional dances in a series of over 20 pamphlets. It is these dances that form the core of Danish folk dance still today.

Because the waltz and the polka were particularly popular in the second half of the 19th century, many of the dances collected were based on waltz or polka. In fact, one Danish dance that was particularly popular in California in the 1940s, when I began dancing, included *both* the waltz and the polka: we knew it as *Danish Masquerade*. Another Danish dance we loved back then was *Hornfiffen*—a delightful Hornpipe—which got faster and faster each time through.

Like *Masquerade* and *Hornfiffen*, most Danish dances seem to be for couples, although the couples may dance in a ring or in sets. (The traditional chain-dance around the Christmas tree is an exception.) One interesting dance for two couples is *Den Halve Kæde*, literally "The Half Chain." The three figures (performed in the order 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1) include making a back basket which spins so fast that the ladies "fly." The figures are also always separated by a refrain consisting of the "chain" that gives the dance its name: a grand right and left, which, given that there are only four people, is very tight to do. The Danes accomplish it by swinging the moving arm up and over, much as in swimming the crawl!

Because Danish folk dances became essentially fossilized as a tradition with the publication of the descriptive pamphlets a century ago, I found you could go to folk dance groups in Denmark itself and fit right in. When I was working briefly at the Centre for Textile Research in Copenhagen a few years ago, my colleagues decided to give me a treat by all going to one of the folk dance clubs together one evening. The people who ran it, knowing we were coming, made it a point to wear their costumes and gave an extra amount of instruction to help the

newcomers join in the easier set dances. Presently they said that the next dance had a very difficult step in it, so we should just relax and watch. To my surprise, it turned out to be *Hornfiffen*, done just exactly as I had learned it so long ago. When they saw me trying it over in the corner, they grabbed me into it, quite as surprised that I knew it as I was that it hadn't changed a bit in travelling all the way to California.

Solvang, right here in Southern California (between Santa Barbara and Santa Maria), is one place you can see some Danish folk dancing. Every year since 1936, Solvang has celebrated its Danish heritage with a festival called Danish Days (this year, Sept. 20 -22). It used to be that there were lots of folk dance exhibitions during the weekend, but now the dancing seems to be done only for the Friday evening opening ceremonies. (Consult the internet for the schedule, closer to September.) But whatever you do, don't miss the *Æbleskiver* breakfasts! *Æbleskivers* are sweet ball-shaped pastries, something like giant donut holes, baked in a special pan to give them that shape. In olden days, they had small slices (*skiver*) of apple (*æble*) baked inside; but now they generally don't. Instead, they have powdered sugar on top and are usually served with some kind of red jam: raspberry, strawberry, currant, or lingonberry. Yum!

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber



Photo 1: Women from Laesoe, a Danish island off the northeast corner of the Jutland Peninsula; sketched by Frederik C. Lund.

COSTUME CORNER

Danish Costumes

Back in the mid-1800s, a soldier-artist named Frederik Christian Lund found he enjoyed sketching the local people in their costumes as his regiment moved around Denmark (**Photo 1**). His set of 31 colored drawings, published in 1864 as *Danske Nationaldragter*, remains today an anchor for those interested in traditional Danish dress, along, of course, with older costumes surviving in museums or treasured in private families.



Photo 2: Man from island of Fur: note clogs. Girl in Sunday dress from Hedeboegnen (literally, "heath area", the broad fertile farmland between Copenhagen and Roskilde). (Postcards from 1930s.)

Men's costumes are (as so often) fairly simple compared to the women's (**Photo 2,3**). Basic was a long shirt of homespun white linen, with a small collar at the neck and its long sleeves ending in cuffs. Pants were knee-length, and today mostly black; but in older times they were sewn of hand-spun and hand-woven wool dyed with whatever darkish vegetable dyes the women of the house could find, for most clothes were made at home. Breeches might even be of leather. In any case knee-high knitted

wool stockings—often in fancy cable-stitch—warmed the lower legs, while the feet occupied wooden clogs or leather boots. Nice black leather shoes came out of the closet for formal or festive occasions, including Sundays, and richer men sported ornate silver buckles over the tongues of their shoes.

Photo 3: Danish folk-dancers in typical costumes. Note men's red caps, double-breasted vests, and silver-buckled shoes.



Men also always wore vests, which now tend to be bright red, but in earlier times the hand-dyed wool was often woven into dark stripes, while the vest always buttoned up the front with a single or double row of buttons. For the rich, these were of showy silver, whereas others made do with tin or hand-carved deer-horn buttons (**Photo 4**). Today vest buttons are usually either silver or gold-hued. For warmth, men added a long-sleeved dark woolen jacket, and topped it all off with a head-warmer: now usually a red woolen cap with a short floppy peak, whereas the rich (and the chimney-sweeps!) donned a tall black top hat.

For women, the base-garment was a long, full, white linen chemise serving as both blouse or undershirt above and long petticoat below. In some areas, the top showed



Photo 5: Woman wearing costume of Roemoe, a small island off the west coast of Denmark.

as a white blouse, but in other regions a dark, long-sleeved cotton calico blouse covered it. Worn directly over that was a scoop-necked, form-fitting woolen bodice (variously laced up or closed with buttons or hooks), which was attached to an ankle-length, voluminous, gathered woolen skirt perhaps of the same material (**Photo 5**). This thick handwoven cloth, called *vadmal*, always used to be black and still is so in many Danish and Icelandic costumes: it can be traced back to at least Viking times as an important product, both for local use and for international trade. But now red or striped *vadmal* seems particularly popular and is frequently decorated and protected with dark green material wrapped over the edges in areas of high wear (neck-line, arm-holes, hem).

On top of the bodice-plus-skirt garment lay a long, full apron, which, according to regional custom, might be hand-woven white linen with handmade lace, or light or dark cotton or wool patterned with stripes, plaid, or some other small all-over design. This apron is just barely shorter than the skirt, and being heavy, it is attached with a sturdy waistband fastened in the back by a silver buckle. For warmth, one could add a long-sleeved woolen jacket and over that a cape. Knitted stockings and clogs (for daily chores) or dark leather pumps (for Sunday best—with silver buckles if affordable) finished off the costume below. Above, a scarf was wrapped loosely around shoulders, neck, and/or head (depending on the part of Denmark), perhaps over an embroidered cap, perhaps merely over one's piled-up braids. For Sundays, one might wear instead a linen or lace bonnet, but, as usual in Europe, the married woman's hair had to be covered. In one area, women even perched a tall black top hat over their white headscarf (**Photo 6**)!



Photo 4: Old northern European buttons hand-carved of antler.



Photo 6: Danish woman in a traditional dress: green striped apron with red and white stripes across bottom, dark red jacket, black and white shoulder scarf, white headscarf and black top-hat.

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber

Cerritos Folk Dancers

喜瑞都土風舞社

Tenth Annual Cerritos Festival



Theme: East Meets West

**Saturday, June 8, 2019
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 1, 2019)**

Finger foods to share are welcome, but not necessary.

Traditional or special costume will add splendid color to the party.

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

(Let 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.

CALENDAR

Note: Federation events are in bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

JUNE

5 Petur Iliev will be teaching Bulgarian dances at Ethnic Express, Las Vegas.

8 Cerritos Festival, Cerritos Folk Dancers. Sat. 1:00-5:45 at Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St., Cerritos, CA 90703. \$6 (or \$5 if paid by 6/1/19) Info: Sue Chen 562.338.2298, CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com or chiangwenli@yahoo.com

8: *Petur Iliev teaching Bulgarian dances at Café Aman, 7:30-8:45pm. Veselba playing one set of Bulgarian dances, approximately 9-10 p.m. DJ Drina Johnson, with possibly a surprise musician. LA DanceFit Studio: 10926, Santa Monica Blvd., LA, CA 90025. Info: Ian Price (818)753-0740; email: ianpricebey@gmail.com*

9 *5th Annual Alma De Barrio Salsa Festival. At Loyola Marymount University (take Lincoln Blvd) 11a.m.-7p.m. Free.*

9 Petur Iliev will be teaching Bulgarian dances at Laguna Int'l Dancers. Info: LeeOtterholt@yahoo.com

13 We will celebrate Narodni's anniversary with a special one-hour workshop with master teacher Petur Iliev. \$10.00 for guests and \$5.00 for Narodni members. Our regular meeting night is Thursdays at the Bellflower Woman's Club from 7:30 to 10:30. For more information contact Julith Neff at (562) 881-9504 (cell). You can also visit our website at www.narodni.org for basic information. See OTS and ad.

13-14 *Santa Barbara French Festival. Sat/Sun at SB Oak Park 11a.m.-7p.m. Free.*

15 Veselo Anniversary party, 7:30-10:30 at Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim. Live music by Veselba. See ad. Info: veseloselofolkdancers.com

15 *Croatian Festival/Picnic. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., at St. Anthony's Church, 712 N. Grand, L.A. With Zeljko Jergan. See ad.*

30 Birthday festival. John Filcich and Valerie Daley share a birthday and we will be celebrating with a FUN folk dance party. 1 - 5 p.m. At The Thursday Club in Somis, 5380 Bell St, Somis, CA 93066. See OTS.

JULY

25 Narodni will have another special evening with Chris Bajmakovich on the accordion. \$7.00 for guests and \$5.00 for Narodni members. Our regular meeting night is Thursdays at the Bellflower Woman's Club from 7:30 to 10:30. For more information contact Julith Neff at (562) 881-9504 (cell). You can also visit our website at www.narodni.org for basic information.

AUGUST

10 *L.A. Bal, An Early CA Fandango, at UCLA Bruin Plaza. Learn dances celebrating L.A. Founding 1781 & first 50 years of CA Statehood 1850-1900.*

NOVEMBER

1 Elena Macovei will be teaching at West Valley. 7:30 at 7326 Jordan, Canoga Park. Info: 818.348.6133.

6 Elena Macovei will be teaching at Ethnic Express, Charleston Center, 800 So. Brush St., Las Vegas. Info: rpkillian@gmail.com

10 Elena Macovei will be teaching at Laguna Int'l Dancers. Info: LeeOtterholt@yahoo.com

15-17 Fall Camp in Honor of Beverly & Irwin Barr. At the Brandeis-Bardin Campus of the American Jewish University, 1101 Peppertree Lane, Brandeis, CA 93064 (near Simi Valley). Master teachers Erica Goldman (Israeli) and Caspar Bik (international). Info: visit FallCamp.org or email Dance@FallCamp.org. See OTS.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6/8-15 *Scandia Camp, Mendocino*. Dances and music from Norway, Sweden. At Mendocino Woodlands. Info: Roo@scandiacamp.org, www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org.

6/15-22 *Folklore Camp, Mendocino Woodlands*. After more than 50 years, this will be the last session of this camp! Partial list of teachers: Michael Ginsburg – Balkan dance and brass band, Lynnanne Miller – Polynesian island dances, Robert McOwen – Scottish country dances, Aaron Alpert – Israeli dances. Info: www.mendocinofolkloreamp.com. See article.

6/22-29 *EEFC Balkan Camp, Mendocino*. Info: office@eefc.org

7/21-28, 7/28-8/4 *Stockton Folk Dance Camp*. Two identical weeks with Joe Graziosi, Tineke and Maurits Van Geel, Tony Parkes, Richard Schmidt, Gergana Panova, Miamon Miller, others. Info: www.folkdancecamp.org. See ad.

OUT OF STATE

MAINE

8/18-24, 8/25-31 *Mainewoods Dance Camp*. Session One teachers: Caspar Bik, Penny Brichta, Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu. Session Two teachers: Iliana Bozhanova, 'Bata' Marčetić, Jacqueline Schwab. At Fryburg. Info: info@mainewoodsdancecamp.org

NEW YORK

8/10-17 *EEFC Balkan Camp, Iroquois Springs*. Info: office@eefc.org

VIRGINIA

9/19-22 *The 2019 Tamburitza Extravaganza* will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dulles in Herndon, Virginia (near Washington, DC). See www.ganzadc19.com for registration information and our Facebook page, Ganza Washington DC, for posts about this year's award winners, Email ganzadc19@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

FOREIGN

BULGARIA

8/2-16, 2020 *Tour led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt*. Includes Koprivshitsa Folk Festival. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

CENTRAL EUROPE

6/16-29, 2021 *Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour to Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Switzerland*. Led by Jim Gold. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

Two tours (can be combined) led by Tineke and Maurits van Geel

9/13-23 *Culture tour to Georgia*. Tbilisi, the monastery of David Gareja, hike to caves.

9/23-10/2 *Dance and culture tour to Armenia*. Yerevan and surrounding sights, and a 5-day trip to the east.

To see the complete program or to register, please visit <http://www.tinekevangeel.nl>

GREECE

10/10-23, 2020 *Tour of Greece and Greek Islands*. Led by Jim Gold and/or Lee Otterholt. Athens, Sparta, Delphi, etc. plus cruise to islands. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

IRELAND

7/13-25 *Tour led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman*. Galway, Cork, Aran Islands, Dublin, Killarney, etc. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

ROMANIA

10/21-11/3 *Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour*. Led by Jim Gold and Henry Sapoznik. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

SCANDINAVIA:

6/9-22, 2020 *Tour to Norway, Denmark, Sweden*. Led by Lee Otterholt. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

SPAIN

5/7-20, 2020 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

MENDICINO FOLKLORE CAMP

My name is Daniel Tuutau, and I'm the director of Mendocino Folklore Camp. If you haven't heard the news, 2019 is the 57th and final iteration of this week-long tradition held in the coastal redwoods of the Mendocino Woodlands.

Folklore Camp began as a weekend event in the seaside town of Mendocino in 1962. Two years later, the camp moved about 9 miles inland to the Mendocino Woodlands State Park. Madelynne Greene, the founder, wanted to start a camp in a woodsy setting and for it to be a place where not only international folk dances were presented but where music, customs, folklore and ethnic foods set the scene for a truly unique event filled with cultural experiences and celebrations.

For years Folklore Camp has struggled to survive. After Madelynne Greene passed, Folklore Camp was run by a team of directors for the next 30 years. Folklore Camp went from having a long waiting list with a surplus of funds, to breaking even, to losing a little more each year. By the early 2000s Folklore Camp looked like it was nearing its end. Susie Burke stepped in as the single director and restructured Folklore Camp, incorporating more music along with dance and keeping the camp viable for over a decade more.

In 2016 I took over for Susie and did what I could to keep the ship afloat, but there just hasn't been enough support from both paying campers as well as those willing to volunteer as staff members. Last year we were faced with an enrollment of 13 full-paying campers in April, two months before the start of camp. It looked as if we would have to cancel 2018's camp. I knew that if we cancelled, not only would we be out over \$10,000 in deposits, but that would be the end of Folklore Camp. There would be no

bouncing back from a cancellation at that late of a date.

I began to think that what we needed to survive for one more year was to let everyone know that this was going to be our grand finale and that we were going to go out with a BANG. On the day of the board meeting to discuss the future of Folklore Camp where I planned to pitch my "grand finale next year" idea, I received the news that a large sum of money was left to Folklore Camp as part of the final estate of Honora Clark Forscutt, a long-time former director of Mendocino Folklore Camp. The amount left to camp was just over the predicted deficit. It was seriously like something out of a Hallmark movie.

Needless to say, with news of that donation, the board was fully supportive of my plan to give it one more go and to go out on our terms. We decided that 2019 would be Mendocino Folklore Camp's final year. We planned this final year with the exact purpose of having one final good turnout. But, if we were to continue past that, we would find ourselves right back in the same place in a few more years. We can't hope for beloved benefactors to continue to leave camp chunks of their inheritance year after year.

One of the major draws of Mendocino Folklore Camp is also one of its obstacles: the rustic natural location. The Mendocino Woodlands was built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal projects. The facility is beautiful, but it was built 80 years ago and was not designed to fill the needs of an aging population like our folk dance community. Some camps have adjusted by moving into more urban settings where more amenities are standard. We considered this option but ultimately we decided that the location, the Woodlands, is as much a part of Folklore Camp as the dancing, the music, or the parties.

Another strength that has turned out to be a weakness is Folklore Camp's identity. By design, Folklore Camp was not called Folk DANCE Camp. Madelynne Greene wanted the dance, music, crafts, and overall arts of these cultures to be explored and celebrated. With an ever-changing lineup of teachers each year, it's exciting to see what will be offered from year to year. It's the camp with a little something for everyone. That also means it's not locked into a certain demographic for support. There isn't a bloodline for international folk dancers in the same way that there is a blood connection for Balkan, Scandinavian, Middle Eastern, or other cultural



centered camps. Folklore Camp didn't tie into younger generations like it needed to in order to have the support through the generations. I can attest to this since I'm still considered at times as one of the 'kids' at camp, even though I'm in my mid-30s, I bring my own children, and I am the general director.

Despite all the sad reasons why Folklore Camp is ending this year, one fact remains: There is still ONE MORE TIME! This final year has an awesome teaching lineup, fun parties, amazing food, and is going to be a party like no other. While we are filling up, we haven't yet sold out, so there is still likely room for you to join in the fun!

June 15-22, 2019.
www.MendocinoFolkloreCamp.com

Daniel Tuutau



Folklore 2018, Balkan



Narodni International Folkdancers

Present

Petur
 Iliev



Петър
 Илиев

Bulgarian dance teacher

Thursday, June 13th, 2019 7:30 - 10:30 pm
 Admission \$10, members \$5

Woman's Club of Bellflower
 9402 Oak Street, Bellflower, CA 90706

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
narodni.org

ON THE SCENE

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT FALL CAMP

We are thrilled to announce that we will have master teachers Erica Goldman and Caspar Bik at Fall Camp on Nov. 15-17, 2019. Caspar brought his terrific teaching of Georgian, Turkish, Bulgarian, and Roma dances to Stockton in 2017 and 2018. He also taught a wonderfully creative dance from his home country of the Netherlands that he choreographed. Caspar is a talented and gentle teacher, and at 29 years old, he is a rising star in the folk dance community. A future *Scene* article will describe more about him.

Participants at Fall Camp will be fortunate to learn from Caspar and from Erica. For \$325 (double occupancy), you will enjoy their teaching plus the lovely accommodations (including motel-style rooms), meals, parties, more dancing, many of your dance friends, and other activities at the Brandeis-Bardin Campus near Simi Valley.

To learn more about the camp, visit FallCamp.org or email Dance@FallCamp.org. We will have a registration form and lots more information on the website soon and in an upcoming *Scene*.

Marc Rayman

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

June 6 To be determined (or as we say at Narodni, "Tomato Surprise")

June 13 Narodni's Anniversary Party. We will celebrate with a one hour workshop with master teacher Petur Iliev. Invite your friends to this very special evening. \$10.00 for non-members, \$5.00 for Narodni members.

June 20 & 27 Review of Statewide dances

July 4 Red, White, and Blue Party. Show your spirit by wearing our national colors and we will feature as many American folk dances as we can come up with.

July 11 & 18 Julith Neff will review two Turkish dances

July 25 Another special evening with Chris Bajmakovich and his accordion. Come and join us dancing to live music. Guaranteed to be a wonderful time. \$7.00 for non-members, \$5.00 for Narodni members.

Julith Neff

FRIENDS OF THE EAST EUROPEAN FOLKLIFE CENTER (EEFC)

We know describing camp is a nearly impossible task, but here's where I ask you to do it anyway. Aside from dance parties filled with live music and expertly taught classes, our workshops offer some experiences that are a little hard to come by these days—altruism, tolerance, and fellowship, just to name a few. So tell a friend, tell a friend's friend, or some unsuspecting stranger you meet on the street. It's impossible to know who will resonate with camp and who will decide to register.

If you know someone is interested but they need a little help getting there, don't forget to mention these resources:

- Read our **blog** (<https://eefc.org/financing-balkan-camp>) for some tips and tricks to making camp more affordable.
- While we want everyone to stay the whole week, half-week and flexible part-time options can be just what the doctor ordered.
- Become a part of the behind-the-scenes action with a tuition-reducing work exchange position.

The deadline to apply is June 15th for Iroquois Springs (email Nancy at nbutowski@verizon.net).

Register soon, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Melinda Russial, President, EEFC Board of Directors

JOHN FILCICH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION "95 YEARS YOUNG!"

Join us for an afternoon of dancing to commemorate John's 95th birthday. The fun begins at 1p.m. on June 30th at the Thursday Club, 5380 Bell Street in Somis. <https://www.somisthursdayclub.org>

This charming building was built in 1895 and has a wonderfully sprung wood floor just perfect for dancing upon!

To John: Thank you, Ivan, for bringing dance and music to our folk dance groups. Happy Birthday!

Valerie Daley

VISITING MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM

Update on workshops:

Petur Iliev will be teaching at:

Ethnic Express, Las Vegas, Wednesday, June 5
Café AMAN, Saturday June 8
Laguna Int'l Dancers, Sunday June 9.
Narodni Int'l FD, Thursday, June 13

Elena Macovei will be visiting here during the month of November, 2019, and will be available for workshops during that time. She will be teaching at:

West Valley FD, Friday, November 1
Ethnic Express, Las Vegas, Wednesday,
November 6
Laguna Int'l FD, Sunday, November 10.

Contact me to schedule a workshop at your club.

Jay Michtom, VMT Chair
818.368.1957, jaymichtom@yahoo.com

PASADENA FOLK DANCE

For the month of June we'll be reviewing the Serbian line dance *Divčibarsko Kolo* and the USA couple dance *Salty Dog Rag*.

We dance every Friday at the Altadena Community Church at 943 E. Altadena Drive in Altadena. Park in the back to be close to the hall. For more details check PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org

Marshall Cates



Join Veselo Selo Folk Dancers at our **ANNIVERSARY PARTY** **Sat, June 15, 2019**

♪♪ *live music by*



Veselba ♪♪

7:30 – 10:30 pm
\$10 door donation

Unitarian Church
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Anaheim, CA 92805

Free parking. Snacks to
share welcome!

www.veseloselofolkdancers.com

DANCERS SPEAK

MARIETTA SCHUG



Marietta Schug was my friend and fellow dancer for many years. On Feb 27, 2019 she passed, only seven days prior to her 95th Birthday. She and I had begun meeting periodically at her house on her front porch with my dog Rocky whom she had come to enjoy. We'd chat about our dance group and I'd give her the latest news. She would share news of five

kids and grandkids with me. There are five kids but I have no count of grand-kids in my memory unfortunately.

Marietta and her husband Karl and I met when we found ourselves folk dancing in Whittier. I'd heard about the group from a radio program run by Mario Casetta on KPFK. I learned from Marietta and some of the other experienced dancers in the group. In time she helped me find an apartment closer to her home in



Alhambra. She also introduced me to the Pasadena Folkdance Co-op and its dancers.

She lost her husband Karl in 2002. He had Parkinsons Disease in his later life and still kept on dancing. Sometimes we would each take a hand and help him do a dance he knew so well. Marietta went to a widow's group for some time after losing Karl and it helped. We'd go dancing at the Co-op for a while after that until she let me know she couldn't continue.

Karl and Marietta had been Quakers when living in Whittier. In 1960 they went to the Islands of Palau and Yap with their children. Their youngest, Sarita, was born on Yap in 1962. They returned to the USA in 1965. They lived and raised the three boys and two girls in Alhambra. Marietta used to tell me that the kids went to the Pasadena Folkdance Co-op with them when they danced.

Marietta was a wonderful, patient woman. We all will miss her. Her children are inviting all who knew her to come to her memorial on Friday, June 14, 2019 at 6 p.m. at Throop Unitarian Church located at 300 Del Mar at the corner of Los Robles in Pasadena.

Sylvia Stachura

RESEARCH SOURCES AVAILABLE

For several years I was involved in folk dance practice and research and collected a large amount of materials on folk dance and music (about 12 large boxes). They include books; magazines such as *Viltis* and *Let's Dance*; and dance descriptions, songs, and sheet music from folk dance events in the United States and elsewhere. Many of the works are in various languages from European cultures--particularly from the Balkan areas--Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria. I plan to attend parts of the May 31-June 2 Statewide Folk Dance Festival in Claremont, where I live, and will bring copies of a summary of the materials--in case anyone there would be interested in some of them. You can also contact me by e-mail: nrulyter@uci.edu.

Nancy Ruyter

NE KLEPECI

Below is my response to the *Ne Klepeci* controversy* that is heating up in the folk dance world. I hope it helps explain my view of both international folk dancing and the “folk process.”

*Happy dancing,
Jim Gold*

The Story of Ne Klepeci

I am the folk dance teacher who choreographed *Ne Klepeci*.

Using traditional steps to create such dances has been my love, quest, and passion during my many years of teaching.

I am surprised at the controversy *Ne Klepeci* has generated and the direction it is going.

Since starting my international folk tour company in 1984, I've led 85 tours, mostly to Eastern Europe to learn about the Balkans, its culture, history, geography, and folk dance traditions.

The highlights of these trips are our meetings with folk dance teachers and local folk dance groups. The dances we learn from them often become part of our repertoire back home.

Sometimes curious people ask “Who choreographed that dance?” Or “Is it authentic?”

The answer I give is: All dances in our international folk dance repertoire are choreographed by someone. In fact, most of the dances we enjoy are modern folk choreographies. Cultures borrow from one another, so most of the time when we dance, we don't know who the choreographer is, or even if he or she comes from the same culture.

My tours give the opportunity to see and experience the Balkan traditions and cultures up close and personal. With this knowledge, I try to be faithful to local styles and traditions when dancing or choreographing a dance.

Now to the story of *Ne Klepeci*.

In October of 2014 Lee Otterholt and I led a four-country Balkan tour to Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, and Montenegro. We drove from Osijek (Croatia) to Sarajevo in Bosnia. In the worst rain I'd ever seen, we stopped for gas in the Bosnian town of Banja Luka, where among other things, the owner sold CDs of local music. I asked our guide Gabriella, who was born in Banja Luka, if she could recommend a CD with Bosnian folk music that she could recommend. She picked *Starogradski Biseri (Old Town Pearls) Najljepse Starogradski Pjesme*.

We played the CD on the bus. I immediately fell in love with the first song, *Ne Klepeci*.

When I got back to the USA I listened to the *Starogradski Biseri* CD again and again in my living room. Moved by the haunting melody. I started improvising with steps I had learned in the Balkan countries until I found ones that expressed the beauty, sadness, calm, and solemn majesty of the music. These became the dance steps for *Ne Klepeci*. I wrote down the choreography. Later I began teaching the dance in my folk dance classes and to local groups. Everyone seemed to like it. Our folk dance class “presented” it at the New Jersey Folk Festival in 2015.

(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrbH9AdyFck>)

Soon after that Lee Otterholt began teaching *Ne Klepeci* on the West Coast. Other teachers picked it up, began to teach it, and soon the dance spread.

Ne Klepeci, created with love, appreciation, and respect for the Bosnian culture in particular, and for Balkan dance in general, is now becoming part of the international folk dance repertoire.

What is “international folk dancing?”

I see it as a new art form, unique in structure, influenced by its surrounding culture, and thus different from the historical dances it is derived from. International folk dancing has its own form of authenticity. (More of this in my upcoming book.)

On a larger scale, I'd say the best way to be authentic is to be yourself, whatever culture or country. Couple this with intense study and learning about its traditions, and you're on your way.

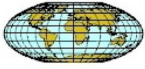
When this happens, as you create, you'll remain faithful to its traditions. I improvise and choreograph from that base.

Most important: Never give up the joy, freedom, and total fun of moving to music. Dance on with joy and gusto!

Jim

Ed.s Note: Some dancers, e.g. Cheryl Spasojevic in an article entitled “Cultural Appropriation” in December 2018 Northwest Folkdancer, have questioned whether it is appropriate for a non-native to choreograph a dance to an ethnic song. Especially concerning is that Ne Klepeci is a sad song about a deceased mother. The question is whether dancing to it may be objectionable to Bosnians.

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SPAIN: May 7-20, 2020:

Led by Lee Otterholt Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

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- 2-3 PM Official Program
- 3-4 PM Kolo Clinic with Zeljko Jergan
- 4-6 PM Musician From Croatia
- 6 PM Raffle Drawing
- 7 PM Music and Dancing

712 North Grand Ave Los Angeles CA 90012



RECENT EVENTS

SOPHIA POSTER CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTH-DAY

Sophia Schulner Poster was born June 2, 1919 in New York. She took up folk dancing and modern dance while a student at UCLA. She graduated with a degree in psychiatric social work that provided her a lifetime career.

Sophia was a widow and a single mother. She fell in love with Bulgarian music and dance, traveled often to Eastern Europe, especially Bulgaria, and learned the Bulgarian language. She brings her interesting experiences of the Bulgarian culture to all of us in the folk dance community.

How many 100-year-old folk dancers do we know? She still leads us in a Macedonian line dance, *Rumelaj*.

She suggests if you wish longevity, eat a piece of dark chocolate every day.

CONGRATULATIONS, SOPHIA!!!!!! You are an inspiration to us all.

Sandy Helperin



Sophia, Sandy Helperin, Nancy Bott and Harry Evans dancing Rumelaj



NARODNI EVENTS

Spring Fling

In April Narodni did Spring Fling

The couples danced gaily La Bastringue

We wore bonnets with glee

There was nary a bee

And that's how Narodni flings their Spring

The caption was written by Cheryl and Ralph. The photo is by Ralph

Earth Day At Narodni

Narodni dancers were greeted with giant tissue flowers and home-grown produce for their Earth Day event on April 25. Kathy Draper hung Sprouts' new *fabric bag*, for produce and bulk items, on the Tip Board, among slogans like **Refuse What You Can't Reuse** and **Let's Kick the Plastic Habit**. Dancers also perused some sobering news articles such as: "A massive floating island of plastic between California and Hawaii is growing rapidly and is now three times the size of France (ABC news 3/23/18)" – and - MILAN (AP) An 8-meter (26-foot) sperm whale was found dead off Sardinia with 22 kilograms (48.5 pounds) of plastic in its belly. – and - The United Nations report 5/5/18 "...human beings are...choking the world on trash..."

POETRY CORNER

INVESTING

Two retired schoolteachers
Floated out of the movie theater
After seeing Mad Hot Ballroom
About fifth graders in Brooklyn
Being taught ballroom dancing...

Kids living on mean streets
Lifted out of the chaos of their lives,
Learning about respect and rapport,
Persistence and purpose, becoming
Bright with confidence and charisma

Inspired, two retired schoolteachers,
Undaunted by underfunded arts programs,
Invested precious retirement dollars
To birth and nurture Best Foot Forward
To dance kids beyond shy, out of their shells.

It started with a few 5th graders and swelled
To an 'investment return,' 13 years later,
Of 2,800 students from 18 low-income LA schools
Strutting their stuff in the boys' gym in Woodland Hills,
As competent dance teams cheering each other on.

The two retired school teachers danced too.
No Wall Street return
Could be better than that.

Camille Dull

P. S. The above is a 'found poem', inspired by an article in the LA Times 4/21/19 about Gloria and Larry Weinstein and written by Dennis McCarthy. The article is entitled Valley Couple Put Savings into Student Ballroom Dancing. The article was sent to me by my dear and generous friends Bonnie and Kris Rigdon who know how much I love to dance.



Organic and Home Grown



Also displayed were sources to educate us out of our bad habits, like: a book which is a best seller, entitled: *Zero Waste Home* by Bea Johnson – and – a zero-waste grocery guide on the internet <https://www.litterless.com/bulk-food-guide/california> - and - a news article entitled How to Clear Out Your Closet the Green way - and - Try a bamboo tooth brush instead of plastic.

Camille Dull



Let's Dance!

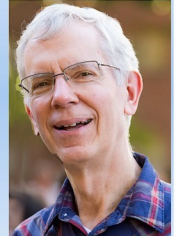
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Tony Parkes - Squares & Contras

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Tineke van Geel - Armenian

Gergana Panova - Bulgarian

Maurits van Geel - International

Workshop teacher

Rebecca Tsai - Chinese

Live Music

Miamon Miller & Free Range Organic

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for more info!

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registration form
from the website!

CLUB DIRECTORY

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

Federation Clubs

Bay Osos Folk Dancers: Tue 11:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, **LOS OSOS.** (805) 534-1501, annetiber@charter.net 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.

Cerritos Folk Dancers: Tue 6:00-8:45. Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS.** (562) 865-8854 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen Chiang

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 7:30-9:30. Conejo Rec Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, **THOUSAND OAKS.** (805) 492-0914 lauripiano7@gmail.com Laurie Allen

Ethnic Express: Wed 6:30 except holidays. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 So. Brush St, **LAS VEGAS.** (702) 732-4871 rkillian@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 6, 24061 Algarrobo, **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 asirota@gmail.com

Laguna Int'l Dancers: Wed 6:00-8:30, Sun 6:00-8:30. Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, **LAGUNA WOODS.** (949) 770-7026 7kahnmiriam@gmail.com Miriam Kahn

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

Narodni Int'l Folkdancers: Thu 7:30-10:30. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BELLFLOWER.** (562) 881-9504 julithilona@gmail.com Julith Neff

***Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op:** Fri 7:30-10:30 (Beg 7:30-8). Altadena Community Church, 943 E Altadena Dr, **Altadena.** (626) 914-4006 ricklynnbingle@gmail.com Lynn Bingle

Prescott Int'l Folkdancers: Sun 3:00-5:00. First Congregational Church, 216 E. Gurley St, **PRESCOTT, AZ.** (928) 925-8995 raweston@earthlink.net 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

Skandia South Dance Club: Mon 7:00-10:00. Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center, **ANAHEIM.** (714) 893-8888 tedmart@juno.com Ted Martin. *Sat(usually first) 2:30-5:30. Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, CULVER CITY.* (562) 732-4990 cameronflanders@gmail.com Cameron Flanders

Solvang Village Folk Dancers: Sat 6:30-8:30 (except 3rd Sat). Buellton Recreation Center, 301 2nd St, Buellton. 3rd Sat 1:30-3:30. Corner Alisal & Copenhagen, Solvang (805) 688-3397 dlh4362@gmail.com David Heald

Tuesday Gypsies: Tue 7:45-10:30. Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, **CULVER CITY.** (310) 391-7382 sandyhelperin@icloud.com Sandy Helperin

Ventura Int'l Folkdancers: Tue 1:15, Thu 1:45, 1st Sun 3:30. Ventura YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd, **Ventura.** (805) 647-1634 dancing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie Daley

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) richterlouis@aol.com Louis

West Valley Folk Dancers: Fri 7:15-10:00. Senior Center, 7326 Jordan Ave, **CANOGA PARK.** (818) 346-5152 jpwaller2@earthlink.net Paul Waller

Westchester Lariats: Mon 4:00-9:00. United Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson, **LOS ANGELES.** (310) 689-9176 veniceii@yahoo.com Ina Hall

Westwood Co-op: Thu 7:30-9:40. Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd, **West LA.** (310) 657-6877 rwsklar@yahoo.com Rita Sklar

Exhibition Groups

Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble: Wed 8:00. United Hungarian House, 1975 Washington, **LOS ANGELES.** (323) 374-3836 sissykf@earthlink.net Csaba Varsanyi

Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble: Tue 7:30-9:30 Sat 2:20-4:20. Polish Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd, **LOS ANGELES.** (626) 827-7338 elistarr@yahoo.com Elizabeth Romuzga.

Scandia Dancers: Tue 7:00-10:00. Woman's Club, **BELLFLOWER.** (714) 356-7745 sholzman1@verizon.net 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: *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 Milligan

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

Desert Dancers: Thu 7:00-9:00 Nov-April. Hi Desert Dance Center, 725 S. Gateway St, **RIDGECREST.** (760) 371-5669 Nora Nuckles

Desert Int'l Folk Dancers: Thu 7:00-9:00 Nov-Apr. 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

***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 Cochran

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

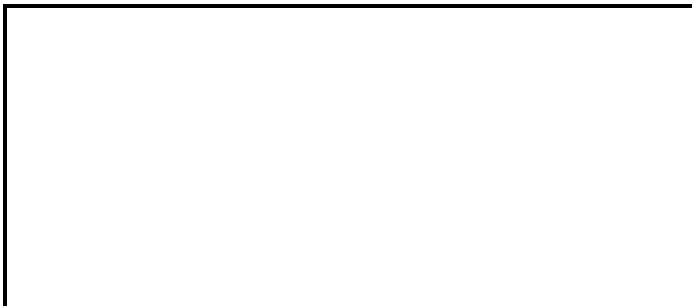
UCLA Ballroom Club & UCLA Int'l Folkdancers: Mon 7:00-9:00(ballroom), 9:00-11:00 (folk). UCLA Kerckhoff Hall, **WESTWOOD.** (310) 284-3636 UniversityDanceClubs@yahoo.com James Zimmer



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