



# Folk Dance Scene



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## Folk Dance Scene

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*On the cover: an Alsatian vignette painted by "Oncle Hansi" (born Jean-Jacques Waltz, in Colmar, southern Alsace, 1873-1951). See Costume Corner for more information.*



# Folk Dance Scene

Volume 56, No. 5  
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## The Corner

### Editors' Corner

Here we are—into our 3rd month of “Safe at Home”, at least for those of us who can do it. We hope that you are well, and able to be safe.

There are plenty of surrogate dance opportunities identified in *Virus* and *Dancers Speak*

Our cover story is a continuation of Elizabeth (Betchen) Barber’s *Costume Corner* - covering the Alsace region of France. She recounts personal experience as a child there. Enriching the context of her presentation.

Find out what is and isn’t happening in *On the Scene* and *Calendar*. Note cancellations, and call to confirm before you go.

Café Aman’s history is featured.

Be of good cheer in this difficult time...

*Pat Cross and Don Krotser*

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### FALL CAMP

We are continuing to plan a fun-filled Fall Camp for Dec. 4-6. In addition to master teachers Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu presenting Romanian dances and Roberto Bagnoli presenting International dances, we will have a wide variety of delightfully entertaining activities, as we did at Fall Camp 2019. (We may also include a few painfully boring activities this year if demand is high enough. Please let us know.)

Fall Camp sold out last year, and because it proved to be such a successful weekend, it may sell out sooner this year. We will begin accepting registrations later this summer. When we do, forms will be available for download at **FallCamp.org** and will be in a future issue of *Scene*. As an alternative, email us at **Dance@FallCamp.org** and we will send you the form or mail you a paper copy if you can't easily print the file.

One difference from last year is that, because of the possibility that safety precautions for COVID-19 would preclude our getting together, we can provide full refunds until one week before camp. Of course, we will continue to monitor both the instructions and the recommendations of established health experts, supplemented with our own best judgment if there is any ambiguity. We will make all our decisions based on the well-being of our participants. We will provide updates in *Scene*, and you can get more timely news at **FallCamp.org**. For people who register, we will promptly email important updates.

In last month's *Scene* we invited people who plan to attend camp to suggest new activities to conduct during the weekend, and we are still open to your suggestions. Please email us at **Dance@FallCamp.org** if you have an idea for what you might do. We expect to be able to include only one or two, so we apologize in advance if we can't use yours. But if we select your idea, you will win the opportunity to do it at camp, and everyone else will win the opportunity to do it with you.

*Marc Rayman*

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

# COSTUME CORNER

## ALSACE (NORTHEASTERN FRANCE—see map on page 9)

“Oh, I’d put that one down, dear—it’s so grubby.”

“But *Mommm!* It’s just like the one we saw in the museum in Colmar last weekend!!”

I was 12 years old and we were living in Strasbourg, capital of Alsace, for the year. It was not long after the end of World War II, the province was still a bombed-out, shot-up mess, and many people were hard up for cash. So one Saturday a month they had a kind of vast communal yard sale down along the canal. And that was where I was extracting a crumpled length of black taffeta ribbon brocaded with orangey-red roses out of a big carton of junk.

And it was identical to one we’d seen displayed on a beautiful Alsatian costume—labeled 1868. Southern Alsace, like Hungary, had been famous for its manufacture of such brocade ribbons, in all sizes, colors, and patterns; and Alsatian girls, like Hungarian ones, delighted in adorning their costumes with them.



We had already decided to make Alsatian costumes for my sister and me: I chose the Protestant Strasbourg style with the big black bow, and Ann chose the Catholic style with a slightly smaller colored bow, from the nearby village of Geispolsheim (**Photo 1**). Our sewing machine was back in Pasadena, of course, so a friend found us a seamstress who knew the details of how to make the dresses: a low-cut dark bodice attached to a long woolen skirt (we both picked red). The number of narrow black ribbons sewn around the skirt near the hem depended upon the town or village, so mine had three, Ann’s two. More differences: whereas Ann’s apron was white lace, mine was black taffeta with—did you guess it?—a wide brocade ribbon across it.

Back at our apartment, we washed my grubby ribbon and Mama carefully ironed it. Then we could see clearly how beautiful it was and that there was indeed enough good part to go across the apron; but the last foot or so was rather chewed up. Now, another part of these costumes is a stiff trapezoidal board that you shove down into the front of your bodice—it acts as a rather effective uplift bra. This board is duly covered with black cloth and decorated with embroidery, sequins, ribbon, whatever. So Mama took the ratty end of my ribbon and pleated it so cleverly as a ruffle across the top of my board that you can’t see any of the holes! (**Photo 2**)

**Photo 1.** Our two Alsatian costumes: left, the typical Protestant one from Strasbourg, and right, one from the nearby Catholic village of Geispolsheim.



**Photo 2.** The cleaned-up antique Alsatian ribbon, across my apron and ruffled on my “bust-board” (turned upside down for the photo).



Under the dress, women originally wore a long white linen chemise that functioned as blouse above and full length petticoat below. Most older European costumes, for both men and women, used such a chemise as the base garment (**Photo 3**). We, however, bought long-sleeved white cotton blouses at a store, then removed the collars and shortened the sleeves to elbow length, adding some lace on the ends and tying each just above the elbow with a bright red ribbon. Then we made new, detachable collars: large white rectangles edged with lace that stuck out to the ends of our shoulders and hung down in front to fight with the ruffle on the top of the “uplift” board. Over all that, around one’s shoulders one could wear a scarf or shawl. I eventually found a silk one of those, too, at the Saturday flea-market (**Photo 4, see page 6**). On our feet we were to wear white knit stockings and black shoes.

Last but by no means least: preparing the hats with enormous bows for which Alsace is so famous. The bow is anchored to a sturdy cotton cap that covers much of the head and itself is covered with silk, sequins, gold lace, etc. We had become good friends with a 3-generation family of Alsatian artists, the Spindlers, who lived in a former monastery and had an enormous collection of costumes, along with the paintings and marqueteries for which they are famous

**Photo 3.** The author (L), sister Ann (center), and our mother (R), playing dress-up at the Spindlers’ in 1954. Note the long white chemise as undergarment, which provides both “blouse” and “petticoat” all in one. Note, too, the typically dark hues of the older woman’s costume—here a rich one made in silk damasks. Both of us are wearing the large black bows, but I am clutching a cap with a red one for Ann to wear. Behind us is a huge tile-covered “stove” used to keep the room warm.



**Photo 4.** A 19<sup>th</sup>-century Alsatian silk shawl. It was worn around the shoulders folded diagonally, so the black silk with white border stripes has been embroidered with only white on one corner, to wear outermost for funerals and other solemn occasions, and with tangerine-pink and green on the opposite corner to show on festive occasions. You can see by the greater tatters that the festive side was worn outermost much more often!



**Photo 5:** Our two bonnets laid top to top with the ribbons pulled back to display the intricately sequined silk caps, one in silver, the other less densely in gold. Note the initials “O M” and date, 1849, embroidered just inside Ann’s cap (left).

all over Europe. They were able to obtain for us two old caps that were “museum seconds”—not quite good enough to display but too nice to throw away. Old? My sister’s has inside it the cross-stitched date and initials of the girl who made it: 1849 (**Photo 5**). Our seamstress then undertook the very special art of tying the enormous bows, from ribbons about 8 feet long and 7 (the red) to 9.5 (the black) inches wide, and sewing them to the caps. Sort of a pity, because the bows completely hide the magnificent caps!

It wasn’t always that way, however: in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the bows in many villages were quite small. Once again, I was lucky enough to acquire one of those at the flea-market (**Photo 6**), along with an entire spinning wheel which I triumphantly carted back to our apartment on the back end of the trolley car, learned to use, and



**Photo 6.** View from behind of the top of another antique cap with a relatively small red bow—probably from the village of Seebach, near Wissembourg in northern Alsace. Observe the orange and white satin brocade that covers the cap, and the fans of gold lace tacked on around the face-opening (like some on the Strasbourg cap, Photo 5).

**Photo 7.** Two Alsatian girls, one with the great black bow of Strasbourg (and a red-white-blue rosette declaring her loyalty to France!), the other with a white lace headdress more typical of northern Alsace. Drawn by George W. Edwards for the frontispiece of his 1918 book, *Alsace-Lorraine*.



kept until last year. Some of the villages, especially north of Strasbourg, didn't use bows at all, but various forms of white lace headgear (**Photo 7**).

The only local traditional dancing we saw that year, always at the wine festivals (Alsace produces superb white wines), was similar to dances in Germany right across the Rhine River, based on polkas and schottisches. But the dance songs were interesting in that they tended to waffle back and forth between French and German:

Hopsa, Lisele, hopsa, Lisele,  
 Lupf das fuas zum dansa! [Alsatian]  
 Hopsa, Lisele, hopsa, Lisele,  
 Lève le pied pour danser! [French]  
 (*Trans.:* Hop-sa, Lisela, hop-sa, Lisela,  
 Lift your foot for the dance!)

Alsace was that way. My schoolmates spoke both French and Alsatian (an Allemanic dialect of German, like nearby Swiss German), and we knew elderly people who had changed nationality 5 times while living in the same house!

Although museums and collectors all over Europe have many a woman's traditional costume, men's costumes are for the most part very scarce. For one thing, they weren't usually so ornate, and second, for that reason men tended to wear them until they wore out and were relegated to the rag bag. Except for possibly a



**Photo 8.** Author's nephew trying on a typical Alsatian man's long and voluminous shirt in the Spindlers' collection in 1976. Compare **Photo 3.**

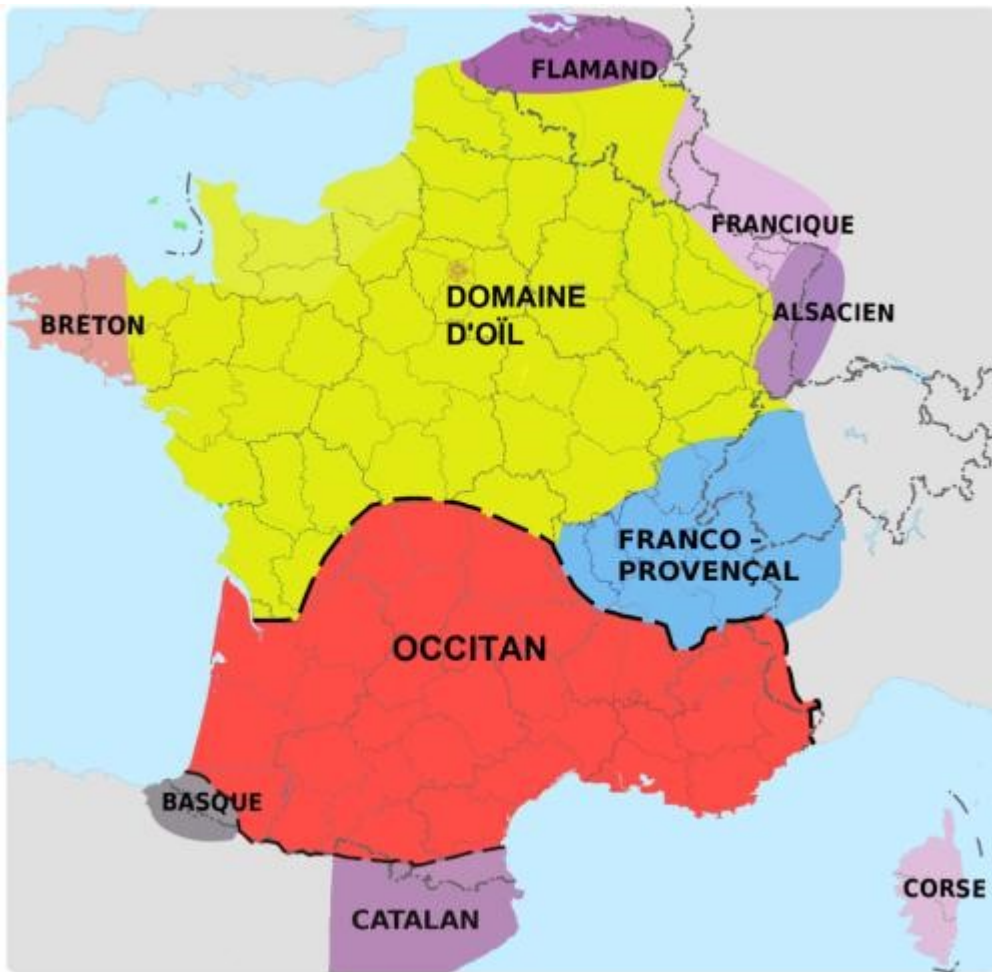
red vest rather than a black one, and some gold buttons, men's traditional Alsatian dress is not showy—black pants, black sleeved coat, black hat, black shoes—though the cuts are somewhat distinctive. Most interesting to me, in digging through the Spindlers' collection, was the man's white linen chemise/shirt (**Photo 8**), which was so heavily pleated across the shoulders and so long that I couldn't imagine how they could stuff all that fabric into their pants!

It's hard even to find pictures of the men. But you can see some in the cover photo (**Cover**), a painting done by the beloved Alsatian artist "Hansi," who rendered so many nostalgic village scenes. In addition to three men (two waiting outside the window), all wearing the very heavy split-tailed black woolen overcoats, and a boy, you see that we weren't the only mother and two daughters who liked to put on their Alsatian Sunday best!

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber

**Cover:** Getting dressed up for church on Sunday: an Alsatian vignette painted by "Oncle Hansi" (born Jean-Jacques Waltz, in Colmar, southern Alsace, 1873-1951). The men wear long, heavy black overcoats over a mostly black outfit, although the shirt is white and the vest sometimes bright red. The heart-shaped wooden chair-back (left) is typically Alsatian, as is the half-timbering on the houses (just visible through the window).





**Map of France** marking the linguistic/cultural regions. People in the yellow, red, and blue areas, which make up most of France (and slop over into Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy), speak dialects of **French**, derived through centuries of gradual change from **Latin** (like Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Catalan, Corsican, Romansh, and Romanian). (See SCENE March 2020.) Languages from several other families, however, are spoken around the periphery (along with French as a national language). The **Celtic** language **Breton** is spoken in Brittany, the westernmost peninsula of France (SCENE May 2020 Costume Corner). Around the northeast edge, people speak various **West Germanic** dialects: **Flemish (Flamand)**, **Francique**, and **Alsatian** (Costume Corner, this issue). *All* these languages are related to each other 5000 years back or less (as “Indo-European” languages). But in the southwestern corner we have the totally unrelated **Basque** language and culture (SCENE Nov. 2017)—people whose language shows they have been living there in the Pyrenees since the Stone Age.

# ON THE SCENE

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## STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP

For more than 70 years Stockton Folk Dance Camp has been in late July/early August. This year? The Stockton Board met in late April and made the inevitable but still very painful decision to cancel the traditional Stockton Folk Dance Camp for this year. Even if the University were to allow summer conferences to take place, travel restrictions, general fears on the part of our aging demographic, and requirements for social distancing would have made camp impossible. However, the Camp is coordinating a **free virtual week of sessions** to be held July 11-18. **You can find details about refund options for 2020 and plans in progress for the virtual camp on folkdancecamp.org.**

*Loui Tucker*

## CAFÉ AMAN

Dear Café Aman Friends,

After much soul searching, Mady and I are considering closing down Café Aman after 18 years. Unless we hear from you that you want us to continue, our final evening will be on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> when we will have a grand farewell bash with live music. We have put much time and effort into Café Aman and for many years it was very successful.

Over the past 6 months or so numbers have been dropping off considerably in spite of the fact that we have had some excellent dance instructors and live bands. Why has this happened? We are at a loss to explain it. We have asked our membership to make suggestions as to how we might improve our attendance, but only a very few of you responded. It takes time and effort to run such a group, so, when we see that our numbers keep dropping, we feel that our efforts are in vain.

We very much appreciate those of you who have maintained your support of Café Aman over the years but, unfortunately, we cannot continue, given the depletion in our attendance.

We are still planning on having Sophie Poster's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party with live music provided by Maimon Miller and his Garlic Band. I believe that this

is now scheduled for October. Chris Bajmakovic will play in November and Veselba will play at our tentative final night in December.

*Ian and Mady.*

*Ed's Note: This is not a final decision. There is a discussion of this issue on Facebook, and most people are advising to hold off making a decision until things settle down. People who want Cafe Aman to continue can send an email to Ian Price, at: <ianpricebey@hotmail.com>*

## IROQUOIS SPRINGS 2020

After careful deliberation, the Board has decided to cancel our East Coast workshop at Iroquois Springs this year as well as the Mendocino workshop. We have closely followed COVID-19 developments, checking in every week and meeting bi-weekly. In light of expert prognoses about the pandemic, we feel strongly that this is the right decision to protect our community members and to do our part for the wider collective good.

### **If you already registered for our Iroquois Springs workshop**

Our General Manager, Rachel MacFarlane, will be in touch with you soon with the following options. You can:

Receive a full refund.

Apply your deposit/tuition toward Iroquois Springs 2021.

Donate all or part of your deposit/tuition to offset the financial impact of canceling camp this year.

### **Financial Updates**

Iroquois Spring's ownership has very kindly allowed us to apply this year's deposit toward 2021.

We are preparing a report detailing the impact of COVID-19 on our organization's financial health which we will circulate to the community in mid-May.

### **Alternative Events**

While saddened to lose our camps this summer, the EEFC is hard at work preparing other ways to bring the community together.

Our "Virtual Camp" task force is moving fast to prepare online offerings that will allow us to learn and enjoy community connection remotely.

The Program Committee has invited this year's wonderful slate of teachers to join us in 2021, and we hope to incorporate many of them into our digital offerings.

We remain optimistic that we will be able to weather this storm and continue with our mission. We'll have more information soon about ways that you can help—and we all look forward to better days when we can come together once more in person!

Best wishes in music, dance, and health,  
*Alex Marković, President*

### CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS

After our Tuesday dancing on March 10, Cerritos Senior Center announced that it was to be closed until further notice. We skipped the class for one week and then started the virtual dancing on March

24<sup>th</sup>. The Zoom meetings work successfully. Members can watch dance demonstrations and teachings at home. They can meet and chat among one another in the air. But some participants complained that the received video, even some audio pieces, appeared occasionally "frozen" for a few seconds.

*Wen Chiang*

### PASADENA FOLK DANCE

We plan to resume our Friday night dancing as soon as it is safe to do so, whenever that may be. Updates will be posted on our website: PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org. Also we have added a Forum/Blog page to our website to help us stay connected while we're dark, and we welcome you to join us there

*Mari Werner*  
*Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op Publicity*



# CALENDAR

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Note: Federation events are in bold.

**CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS** - many have been postponed or cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## JUNE

**6 Veselo Selo 50th Anniversary Party** with live music from Veselba. Check the website and Facebook page for updates.  
[www.veseloselofolkdancers.com/](http://www.veseloselofolkdancers.com/)

26-28 **CANCELLED** *Ventura County Greek Festival*  
[vcgreekfestival.org](http://vcgreekfestival.org)

## JULY

10-12 **CANCELLED** *South Bay Greek Festival*, Redondo Beach [www.sbgreekfestival.com](http://www.sbgreekfestival.com)

25-26 *Santa Barbara Greek Festival*  
[santabarbaragreekfestival.com](http://santabarbaragreekfestival.com)

## SEPTEMBER

5-7 *Long Beach Greek Festival* [lbgreekfest.org](http://lbgreekfest.org)

11-13 *St. Paul Greek Fest*, Irvine Info:  
[irvinegreekfest.com](http://irvinegreekfest.com)

12-14 *Greek Festival*, Downey <http://stgeorgedowney.org/festival-2/>

12-13 *Cardiff-by-the-Sea Greek Festival*  
[cardiffgreekfestival.com](http://cardiffgreekfestival.com)

## OCTOBER

2-4 *St Sophia Greek Festival*, [lagreekfest.com](http://lagreekfest.com)

9-11 *Greek Festival*, Anaheim <https://ocgreekfest.com/>

10-11 *Temecula Greek Festival*  
[temeculagreekfest.com](http://temeculagreekfest.com)

## DECEMBER

4-6 *Fall Camp*, Brandeis-Bardin Campus of the American Jewish University, 1101 Peppertree Lane, Brandeis, CA 93064 (near Simi Valley). With master teachers Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu (Romanian) and Roberto Bagnoli (International) info:  
[Dance@FallCamp.org](mailto:Dance@FallCamp.org), <https://fallcamp.org>

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6/15-20 **POSTPONED TO 2021** *Scandia Camp*. Dance, music and singing from Norway and Sweden. At Mendocino Woodlands. Info:  
[www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org](http://www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org)

6/20-27 **CANCELLED** *EEFC Balkan Camp*. Mendocino Woodlands.

7/19-25, 7/26-8/1. **CANCELLED** *Stockton FD Camp*. But there will be an online free virtual event <http://www.folkdancecamp.org/2020-virtual-stockton-folk-dance-camp>. See OTS and ad.

11/27-28 Kolo Festival with Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, Joe Graziosi and others, <https://kolofestival.org/>

## OUT OF STATE

### MAINE

8/16-22 and 23-29 *Mainewoods Dance Camp*, Fryeburg. [www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org](http://www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org)

### NEW MEXICO

7/23-26 **POSTPONED** *New Mexico Folk Dance Camp* [www.swifdi.org](http://www.swifdi.org)

### NEW YORK

8/8-15 **CANCELLED** *EEFC Balkan Camp*, Iroquois Springs.

### OHIO

9/24-26 Tamburitza Extravaganza, Holiday Inn Cleveland South <https://www.tamburitza.org/>

## FOREIGN

### BULGARIA

6/9-17 *Rose Valley Workshop* and a special late summer workshop 7/28-8/5. Info: [RoseValleyWorkshop@gmail.com](mailto:RoseValleyWorkshop@gmail.com)

7/30-8/5 **CANCELLED** *Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance*, Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
[www.folkseminarplovdiv.net](http://www.folkseminarplovdiv.net)

8/2-15/2021 *Tour led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt*. Includes Koprivshitsa Folk Festival. Info: [www.JimGold.com](http://www.JimGold.com), 201.836.0362. See ad.

*Editor's Note: Since Koprivshitsa has been postponed to 2021, I suspect that the following tours are also postponed*

8/3-17 *Tour led by Petur Iliev* includes Koprivshitsa, Sofia, Plovdiv, Veliko Turnovo, the Rodopi mountains: Smolyan / Shiroka Luka, Pirin Macedonia: Sandanski / Melnik, the Black Sea Coast: Cape Kaliakra / Balchik, more. Info: [ilievdance@gmail.com](mailto:ilievdance@gmail.com)

8/5-24 *Culture Trip to Bulgaria and Romania* with Nina Kavardjikova includes Koprivshitsa, Zheravna Ethnic Costume Festival and more. Info: [ninalk20@hotmail.com](mailto:ninalk20@hotmail.com) or +31-6-2878-4821.

### CENTRAL EUROPE

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

### GREECE

8/6-17 *Traditional Greek Dance Seminar "From Prespes to Epirus"* with Yiannis Konstantinou/Lygkistes with Elli Kazakou. Info: [yankost@otenet.gr](mailto:yankost@otenet.gr).

10/10-23 *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](http://www.JimGold.com), 201.836.0362. See ad.

### HUNGARY

9/23-10/4 *Hungary Dance and Folklore Tour* with Steve & Susan Kotansky, Zoltan Farkas & Ildeko Toth and Jeff O'Connor. Budapest and NW areas of Hungary. Info: [tours.easterneurope@gmail.com](mailto:tours.easterneurope@gmail.com)

### IRELAND

8/7-19/2021 *Tour led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman*. Info: [www.JimGold.com](http://www.JimGold.com), 201.836.0362. See ad.

### ISRAEL

3/13-24/2022 *Tour led by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman and Lee Friedman*. Info: [www.JimGold.com](http://www.JimGold.com) or 201.836.0362. See ad.

### MACEDONIA

7/31-8/19 *Macedonian Pearl Folk* - Seminar Goran Alachki - <http://goranalachki.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/718034864954865/>

### PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE

5/22-6/3/2021 *Tour led by Martha Travera*. Info: [www.JimGold.com](http://www.JimGold.com), 201.836.0362. See ad.

### ROMANIA

10/4-17/2021 *Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour*. Led by Jim Gold with Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman. Info: [www.JimGold.com](http://www.JimGold.com), 201.836.0362. See ad.

### RUSSIA

10/4-14 *Yuval Ron Ensemble's tour to Russia*. Music, cuisine, workshops, architecture, dance, history, meetings and parties. RSVP at <https://yuvalronmusic.com/yuval-ron-ensemble/russia-tour/> or email [apricottours@gmail.com](mailto:apricottours@gmail.com)

### SCANDINAVIA

6/8-21/2021 Norway, Denmark, Sweden. Led by Lee Otterholt. Info: [www.JimGold.com](http://www.JimGold.com), 201.836.0362. See ad.

### SPAIN

9/16-29, 2021 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada. Info: [www.JimGold.com](http://www.JimGold.com), 201.836.0362. See ad.

# DANCERS SPEAK

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## COPING WITH STAY-AT-HOME

If anyone had asked me last year how I thought I'd make it through something like this, I am sure that I would have said: "DANCE!"

I am dancing; in my socks on the carpet with no handholds. It isn't the same. Duh!

Peninsula, FACoNE, Lee Otterholt, Sherry Cochran, these leaders have been so very giving. I try to get to every session.

What surprises me though, is that it is singing with Bill Cope and the group that shows up there on Zoom.

That best keeps me afloat. I'm not sure what that says about me.

I don't know if any of you know this, but I have an MFA in acting. I was once asked "what kind of an actress would you like to be?" I said that I'd like to sing my heart out like Barbra Streisand and be like a combo of Joanne Woodward/Liv Ullman/Maggie Smith/Judy Dench. At that time I had never seen Meryl Streep, or she would have been in there for sure!

Instead of "acting", I got married, had kids, worked with animals, taught fiber arts for 4H, and directed plays with kids for 10 years. Shakespeare. 10 years! Shakespeare is still rolling in his grave with how I chopped up his plays!

Right now, I can sing. Softly, because ...well, I'm pretty sure that I don't sound all that great!

And I can MUTE myself! (When I remember to!) Aye-yi-yi!

*Valerie Daley*

Recently I was sitting on the loveseat beneath our backyard orange tree, admiring my rose garden. My legs were extended, toes resting on a cement block and pointed up. Along came a large lizard who climbed up the side of my slipper, did a few pushups, then sat there for many minutes just looking around. I asked him to be gentle with my

foot since I needed it for folk dancing. He was.

*Carl Pilsecker*

As far as dancing is concerned, although Jill and I sorely miss the group in-person sessions, we have replaced that with: Zoom'ing with other members of West Valley, watching Lee's class and others, seeing our old videos of camps and festivals we have been to, looking at YouTube dance videos that have been forwarded to us, refreshing our memories of dances by looking at the dance notes on the Federation web-site.

In the non-dance category, we have been: meeting twice a week with our neighbors at a driveway (with distancing enforced), playing music, going for walks, Zooming or Skype'ing with family (for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last month we had a simultaneous virtual visit with 12 locations around the country, so I could see and talk with many people I rarely meet with), doing crafts (Jill knitting, me wood carving), taking scenic drives, lots of phone calls and Emails, looking through old photo albums, household and garden chores, and, of course, working on Folk Dance Scene.

*Jay Michtom*

I found the quarantine rather soothing. At first it was alarming, but after I got used to the idea and looked around at all my interesting projects waiting to be completed, it became an interesting, 'novel' experience. Even being freed from the many fun things to do -- and freed from having to choose among them -- was kinda nice! It felt like a 'stay-cation.' I don't watch TV or look for the latest 'virus news update' -- I don't like the constant agitation, preferring to keep informed, as necessary, by looking up facts from reliable sources (especially after I sent out info from what appeared to be a bona fide missive from John's Hopkins...but wasn't... I became even more careful about how I got information). Taking a vacation from news was important.

We have a very pleasant back yard and it is delightful to sit on the love seat under the orange

tree with Carl and enjoy his rose garden and all the fluttery, darting wildlife attracted to our yard. We have a bird feeder and water for the birds and trees and other habitat, including milkweed for monarch butterflies. We are entertained by the birds squabbling and drinking together and feeding their young. A visiting possum comes by evenings and digs around for snails and slugs and more out of our compost pile. As my 10-year old niece Samantha said with a satisfied sigh: Life is good.

*Camille Dull*

## **BUMPER STICKERS**

Years ago Loui and Sabine came up with these cool Folk Dance bumper stickers. They are extremely useful for finding the parking lot of a dance venue!

I've had a number of fun, funny or at least interesting experiences involving this bumper sticker.

The latest one, last week, quarantined and going stir crazy, but allowing my son to use my car to do deliveries, a newish neighbor saw the bumper sticker and called him over. "Are you a folk dancer?"

He said, "No, but you could talk to my mom."

This new neighbor had been a folk dancer years ago. She and her hubby came to my door and brought me her old albums of dances that we still do today.

I hope that when this virus problem is resolved, I will have a new neighbor in my dance class!

Meanwhile..... singing and dancing in cyber!

*Valerie Daley*

Once while driving down highway 33 out of Ojai, a lady behind me started frantically waving. We both pulled over and she said she was so excited to see my bumper sticker. Her Mom was a dancer. I cordially invited her to check out our Ventura group. However, she hasn't turned up but it's a great way to attract potential new dancers.

I need a new sticker since my bumper needed be replaced

Who has them?

*Thanks and stay well,  
Carol Smith in Ojai*

Twice I've seen a car in my neighborhood with a Nevenka bumper sticker. I tried to follow and see if I might recognize the driver but both times he/she has gotten away. My niece used to dance with AMAN and sing with Nevenka. And I have been approached while shopping and wearing a folk dance tee shirt and asked about dancing. Opportunities to get new dancers!

*Sandy Helperin*



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# VIRUS

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+ There will be a virtual week of Stockton Folk Dance Camp from July 11-July 18, free to all (but donations and tips are welcomed). The website <http://www.folkdancecamp.org/2020-virtual-stockton-folk-dance-camp> will be updated with more specifics.

+ The Folk Arts Center of New England is continuing its very successful series of master teachers, which has attracted over 400 folk dancers from around the world. <http://www.facone.org/programs-online-events.html>

## Weekly classes

+ Ethnic Dance Chicago, Illinois Fridays at 7:30 -11 CDT (5:30 - 9 pm Pacific Time) 1st half hour warm ups, discussion, with more discussion following after 8 pm. Pacific Time Schedule and info at [www.ethnicdance.net/virtualdanceroom/](http://www.ethnicdance.net/virtualdanceroom/) Please RSVP to [virtualdanceroom@ethnicdance.net](mailto:virtualdanceroom@ethnicdance.net) to receive the Zoom link. A number of California folks attend this and leave at 8pm (or later) PDT to go to Sherry Cochran's LIFE Balkan Dance Session.

+ LIFE Balkan Dancers on Fridays at 8 (contact Sherry Cochran at [worldance1@gmail.com](mailto:worldance1@gmail.com) for the link and password).

+ Laguna International Dancers Wednesdays and Sundays 6:00-8:00. The link is on the website <https://www.lagunainternationaldancers.com/> and the class is also being broadcast on Facebook live under Lee Otterholt's page.

+ DEBA Bulgarian Dancers on Thursdays (link from their Facebook group).

+ The Peninsula Dancers from Northern CA have been holding Saturday afternoon Zoom sessions usually on the third Saturday on Zoom and Facebook live. Email [virtualfolkdance@gmail.com](mailto:virtualfolkdance@gmail.com) or check the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PFDCouncil/>

+ Tuesday Night Revival (Boston - MIT) meets on Saturdays. <https://tuesdaynightrevival.com/> Tuesday Night Revival is a series of Balkan dances, aimed at experienced dancers. The repertoire and name come from the old MIT Folk Dance Club Tuesday night Balkan dances which were held from around 1965 to the late 1990s. TNR virtual dances are held every 3rd Sat at 8 pm Eastern Time (5 pm PDT) There will sometimes be early teaching from 7 to 8 which will be announced through the mailing list. To subscribe, send a message to [sympa@lists.brandeis.edu](mailto:sympa@lists.brandeis.edu) with the body subscribe tuesday. You can join through Zoom at the URL <https://tinyurl.com/tnrzoom>.

+ Roberto Bagnoli has online Zoom events from Rome - donations requested. The Zoom link is on his website <http://morenu.it/>

Every two weeks: Sunday 8 am Pacific Time - Balkan Party

Every Tuesday 11:30 am Pacific Time - Israeli

Every Thursday 11:30 am Pacific Time - Balkan

+ Ira Weisburd has been teaching on Facebook Live. He does line dances and a Balkan-Israeli Session, and they are (usually) recorded for later viewing. Donations requested. <https://www.facebook.com/dancewithira>

+ Israeli Dance sessions are too numerous to list. Aaron Alpert has a list at his website

<http://nirkoda.com/virtual>

There is also a list at:

[http://horawiki.org/page/Virtual\\_dancing\\_in\\_response\\_to\\_COVID-19](http://horawiki.org/page/Virtual_dancing_in_response_to_COVID-19)



# CAFÉ AMAN

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Thanks to Dennis Gura, Ian and I started Cafe Aman at Cafe Danssa in July 2004 and were there until January 2007. Long-time owner, Carolyn Hester, decided to close the iconic folk-dance club a year after her husband, David Blume, passed away.

After a meeting to discuss our situation, we decided to move together. A number of us from each of our 3 groups, divided up possible places and went hunting for a new Westside venue.

Conveniently between a dental appointment and my Pilates class, I drove by the Pacific Arts Center. It was love at first sight ... the beautiful wooden floor opened on to a charming patio, filled with plants, tea lights, assorted couches and a fire pit.

After meeting Shida, the studio owner, and finding out some of the basics (i.e., rent good, parking not so good), I asked her to "pencil in" CA for the 2nd Saturday in March. Before I got to my car, I had called Ian, Sherry, Asako (LIFE) and Drina, Anne and Jerry (Asteria). We met at the studio the next day to check it out - then excitedly went to a neighborhood Bulgarian cafe to discuss our situation. We were rushed because Shida was about to put the studio on Craig's List.

Within two months we had moved to the Pacific Arts Center and Cafe Aman was there from March '07 - July '14.

Cafe Aman took our usual - every 2nd Saturday 6:30-11:30 pm. Sherry started on Wednesdays, a little later than optimum, but soon got her full time slot. Asteria was on Thursdays.

After we got started, I called good friends, Mihai and Alexandru David, to join us at PAC. I had loved teaching the Balkan Dance evening at their well-known Gypsy Camp in the '70's. They took Friday nights, with mostly Romanian dances. Alexandru added Russian and other ethnic material.

I also called dear friend and well-known teacher, David Katz, who took one Saturday a month for an Israeli dance evening.

Both nights were filled with excellent dancing and knock out refreshments. These popular teachers stayed for a long while, but then needed to move on. At the Davids' suggestion, LIFE Balkan dancers switched over to Fridays.

There was a 2nd smaller studio, which we often used for our refreshment tables when we had overflow crowds! A strong homey aroma of garlic wafted over from the adjoining Italian bistro, Carmine's, which is straight out of "The Sopranos". The food was Italian, but the music filling Santa Monica Boulevard was ours!

We three groups were there until July '14, when a new Marley floor was installed. Oh our aching knees and ankles! We were dark for a month, while a group of us scoured the Westside for a new home.

While visiting a venue nearby, good luck brought Drina (our gifted DJ) to our current home, DanceFit LA. Is it really possible that we are in our 4th year here?

The rest is history - lots of great dancing and superb live music, provided by well-known bands, large and small as well as soloists, some local, some from abroad. Our outstanding teachers -from LA to other states and countries - added depth of knowledge and skill to all in their classes. Special workshops and "Pathways to Tradition" cultural gatherings rounded out what CAFE AMAN was created to be - for YOU and for US...

Cafe Aman is/was about spending quality time with good friends - old & new.

Please post your personal stories about your Cafe Aman experiences at our Facebook page. Let's recall the great times we have shared - at Cafe Aman - do you believe - 206 Saturday nights!!!

Keep well until we meet again –

*Mādy Taylor & Ian Price*

# POETRY CORNER

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## DANCE OF THE CLOWNS

dancing on  
tightropes of despair  
balancing while  
music roars and  
umbrellas collapse  
slippery uncertainty

look up  
to the sun  
to stars  
to cavorting clouds

look down and  
curl your toes  
around ropes of steel

alive, strong  
upright, aloof  
quivering to harsh notes  
and applause echoes

alone, together  
swaying, still balanced  
not forgetting  
how to dance

*Lillian Rodich 4/2000*

"Where are the clowns  
Send in the clowns  
Don't bother they're here"



## MARCH 2020

Day 10 of most people's quarantine  
day 16 of ours  
our nightly talk shows are dark

we find the dusty remote of the Roku  
begin our search  
we settle on *Our Planet*

Emmy loves it  
walrus, penguins, polar bears  
movement captures her eyes  
she wants to touch them, meet them

she knows nothing of their struggle  
her food bowl filled at a meow or a rub  
or a shoulder jump

But in the wild  
each day a struggle to  
find food  
protect the young

Their days are our days now

*Pat Cross*

## AN ODE – BY PAUL COLLINS

### An Ode to Dancers while Zooming during Social Distancing

I hope that we will all soon be dancing again in face-to-face mode;  
Yet the best that we can do now is to join hands virtually, each from one's own personal abode;  
While these virtual sessions do help decrease this imposing social distancing load;  
And while we encourage our technophobic dance friends, whom we goad;  
To join us as we put yet another virtual dance production on the road;  
And then reap the harvest of our efforts when in our virtual environment they finally showed;  
Then zoomed with us in sessions where audio/video streams started, stopped and slowed;  
Though many got lost in search of that elusive and/or missing Zoom URL and password code;  
While Zoom (with all its flaws) was perceived (eventually) as a saving prince charming, instead of as an  
ugly toad.

### NOVEL DANCING TO A NOVEL VIRUS

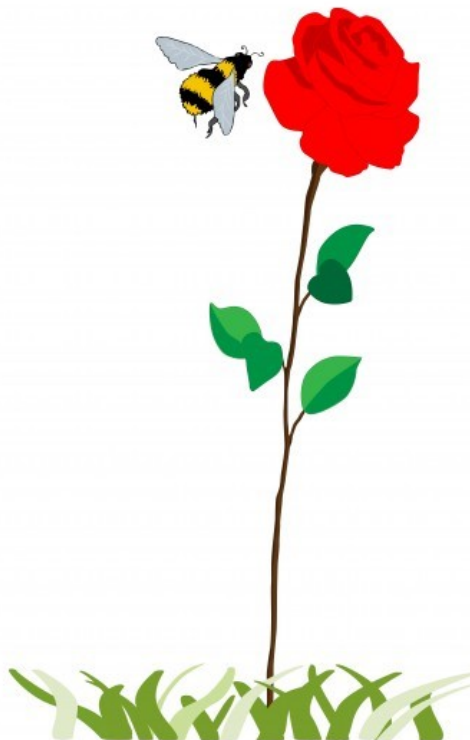
Mask thyself! Keep your distance! Self-isolate!  
An insidious virus schemes to prune the population!  
Shutter bars and banks, offices and churches!  
*Off Limits* are parks and ski slopes, beaches and dance halls!

But computers and cell phones leap state lines,  
Transgress time-zones, and *Zoom* into living rooms  
Bhangra and Cobankat, Dorozhka and Debka Dor  
And we dance together..... Separately.....

Outside the screen door, nature dances with us...  
As we samba and sashay on grey carpet or vinyl,  
Butterflies flirt and flutter, sparrows sing in the bird bath,  
Lizards leap and listen, do push-ups on the pavement,

And bees hum, nuzzling Carl's roses bursting with buds  
In brilliant rebirth after heavy winter pruning.

*Camille Dull*



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## **ALBANIA and KOSOVO:** May 4-16, ext. 16-18, 2021

Led by Lee Otterholt. Tirana, Durres, Vlora Folk Dance Festival! Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra

## **PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE:** May 22-June 3, 2021

Led by Martha Tavera. Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Quechua Village, Lake Titicaca, Uyuni, La Paz, Atacama Desert

## **NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN:** June 8-21, 2021

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## **BULGARIA:** August 2-15, 2021 **Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival Tour!**

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Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu

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# CLUB DIRECTORY

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

## Federation Clubs

**\*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) 495-6491 mar601@earthlink.net Marion Miller

**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) 688-9245 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-12:00. 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 (323) 660-1030 jozefbilman1030@aol.com Jozef Bilman

**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 www.lagunainternationaldancers.com

**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) 808-0361 mari2@workableeconomics.com Mari Werner

**Prescott Int'l Folkdancers:** Sun 3:00-5:00. First Congregational Church, 216 E. Gurley St, **PRESCOTT, AZ.** (928) 925-8995 prescott.intl.folkdancers@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 7:00-9:45. Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center, **ANAHEIM.** (714) 893-8888 tedmart@juno.com Ted Martin.

**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 7:45-10:15. 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.** veseloselo1@yahoo.com (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) 348-6133 lila@aurich.com Lila

**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 7:30-9:45. 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.** (805) 341-9640 sissykf@earthlink.net Sissy Keresztes-Fischer

**Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble:** Tue 7:30-9:30 Sat 9:00-10:00. Szarotka Retirement Home, 3400 W Adams Blvd, **LOS ANGELES.** Sat 2:15-4:15. 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. Gehring Music Bldg, UCSB Campus, **SANTA BARBARA.** (805) 729-6453 scottmarcu@aol.com Scott Marcus

## Non-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.

**Cafe Aman:** 2nd Sat 7:00-11:30. Teach 7:30-8:30 LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, **WEST LA,** ianpricebey@gmail.com, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com

**Caltech Folkdancers:** Tue 7:30. Cal Tech Campus, Dabney Hall, parking on California Blvd. or Throop Church, 300 Los Robles, **Pasadena.** (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. Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, **La Mesa.** (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 www.Foothill.Dance

**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 @ AJU-Natalie & Pat:** Mon 10:30am-1:00, noon-1:00(Beg); Thu 10:30am-11:30. American Jewish Univ Dance Studio, 15600 Mulholland, **L.A** 818-642-3585 Pat Jordan

**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:** Mon 6:00-8:30, Wed 12:30-2:00, Wed 8:00-10:00. Oak Park Stage, corner Junipero and Calle Real, **SANTA BARBARA.** 805.895.4885 Michal Lynch soriasusan@gmail.com Susan Soria

**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

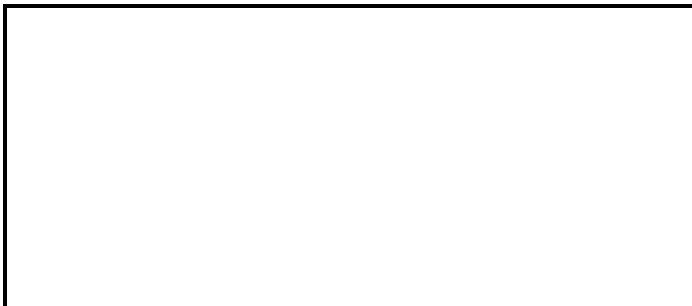
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