



Folk Dance Scene



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Folk Dance Scene

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On the cover: Dancers at Canadian Pow Wow; photo by Sergei Bachlakov



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 57, No. 9
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Editors' Corner

As promised, we continue Native American Dance from last month as our cover story here, with a little lagniappe at the end...

Find your dancing options in Calendar and On the Scene. Hear from your colleagues in the memorials for Gerda Ben-Zeev, in Federation Council meeting minutes, Ojai Festival reports, and Poetry Corner.

Check Club directory for contact information and schedules.

We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.
Be of good cheer!

Pat Cross and Don Krotzer

Table of Contents

The Corner	3
Native American Dance II	4
Calendar	6
On the Scene.....	10
Gerda Ben-Zeev	12
Federation Council Meeting	14
Ojai Festival Reports	18
Poetry Corner	20
Club Directory.....	21

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

The Corner

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A highlight of November is a holiday that reminds us to reflect & express gratitude.

Thank you, Ojai Committee Mindy Belli, Marshall Cates, Terry Gucwa, Leslie Halberg and Carol Smith for giving SoCal folk dancers an opportunity to dance together in a lovely setting.

Thank you, Dick Oakes, for being the most competent and responsive webmaster ever!

Thank you, Jay and the Scene staff, for providing historic and cultural context associated with traditional dance, plus poems, announcements of special events, calendar and a forum for members to "speak."

Thank you, Marc & Jan Rayman & committee, for mind boggling negotiations to (fingers crossed) pull off Fall Camp, given the exceptional & unpredictable virus.

Thank you, officers, chairpersons, council delegates and club leaders for promoting fellowship among dancers and contributing time & wisdom to Folk Dance. Thanks, Techies & Virtual Event Committees for connecting us worldwide.

Thank you, fellow dancers, for being part of the international recreational dance community! Thank you dancers who have passed from earth, but have left us a legacy of your knowledge and commitment.

Thank you (collectively), feet & brains, for merrily dancing day after day!

Next month's column will call your attention to Irisin, the hormone produced in muscles when you use them that improves memory & promotes brain health. Keep dancing!

Diane Baker



NATIVE AMERICAN DANCE II

NATIVE AMERICAN DANCE

Pow Wow

In recent decades (until the Pandemic arrived), the Pow Wow has been a major vehicle for Native American dance. At first a summer event, it now occurs year round. Its format may be a day-long singing-dancing event, or a weekend-long mini-fair with food and merchandise sales, fashion shows, midway rides, and dance exhibitions. The Pow Wow, drug and alcohol free, attracts participants from all tribes and from well outside its locale, along with Native Americans and Whites as spectators.

The Drum, the source of music for a Pow Wow, usually consists of five or six drummers, a few instrumentalists, and a group of singers. When the Pow Wow is held in a large arena it is stationed along one side, leaving the central area for dancers. If the Pow Wow is held in a large field, the Drum will be in the center and dancers will perform in a circle around it.

At the start the performing area will be blessed by a tribal leader. The Grass Dance, an age old Native American dance will likely then be presented. The dancers bow low to the ground, bounce on one foot while dragging the other foot out and around the body and tapping it on the ground (sometimes referred to as "flattening the grass"). At first only men who had been initiated into the Grass Dance Society were allowed to perform; now it is open to anyone wearing a native costume.



A grand opening parade will be led by veterans of the U.S. military carrying the American flag, followed by tribal leaders, and honorees. The colorfully adorned dancers, most of whom have been dancing since childhood, will enter and a series of dances, some all women, some all men, some mixed will take place. A portion of the dances will be inter-tribal using steps common to all tribes. Others will be specific to a particular

tribe. There is one basic rule for Pow Wow dance performances: whether the dance is patterned or free form, slow and gentle or fast and vigorous, dancers must be in sync with the rhythms of the Drum.

Out of the vast array of Native American dances, the following six are Pow Wow favorites, performed by dancers grouped by their age.

Men's Traditional Dance: a slow to moderate progression around the dance area usually composed of steps, taps, and hops. The dancer may incorporate bodily movements to illustrate life events such as a hunt. A dance for men of all ages.

Women's Traditional Dance: Some dancers will bounce in place. Others will walk straight ahead or zig-zag around the circle keeping one foot on the ground at all times to illustrate their connection to Mother Earth.

Men's Fancy Dance: Fancy means fast, vigorous, free form, with lots of leaping, turning, splits. Considerable endurance is required for the dance will last a long time and will accelerate at the end. A dance primarily for young men.

Women's Fancy Shawl Dance. With arms fully extended, dancers display their large, colorful, ornate shawls as they dance energetically in their dance space.

Women's Jingle Dress Dance. A legend tells of a medicine man with a very ill granddaughter whom he could not heal. In a dream four women appeared wearing dresses covered with objects which jingled as they danced. The medicine man made a similar dress for himself, replicated their dance before his granddaughter. She was cured. Today jingle dresses are festooned with metal cones. The dance is considered a healing dance and often its dancers will have a particular person in mind to whom their healing efforts are directed.

Man's Prairie Chicken Dance (not the Chicken Dance we know): The springtime maneuvers of a courting chicken are put on entertaining display. Participants report that the dance is very challenging because of the many contortions required.

Videos of these dances are available on the Web. In watching, keep in mind the hoary folk dance saying: "That's how it's done in my village (tribe)."

Today the Hoop Dance may be performed as an exhibition by one dancer who manipulates a dozen or more large hoops with a series of spell-binding maneuvers. (Camille and I witnessed an impressive presentation of this dance at the Gene Autry Museum in Griffith Park.)

The day's agenda may include Round Dancing in which a circle of men and their (usually) unattached partner dance beside each other around the grounds.

The introduction of dancing contests, with cash prizes, a few years ago, opened the opportunity for some of the more talented dancers to create a "Pow Wow Circuit" in which they and their families travel - even year round - to one Pow Wow after another, sustaining themselves on their contest winnings.

Once COVID-19 is history you will be able to attend a Pow Wow as a spectator.

In the literature describing Native American Dance are numerous comments by dancers elucidating what performing their dances means to them. Two themes recur: Through them I feel connected - to my family, to my ancestors, to my Creator. Dance is a powerful way to display the pride that I have in being me.

Sources

- Tara Browner, *Heartbeat of the People*, 2002
- Charlotte Heth, ed., *Native American Dance: Ceremonies and Social Traditions*, 1992
- Adolph Hungry Wolf, *Pow-Wow, Dancer's and Craftworker's Handbook*, 1999
- Reginald & Gladys Laubin, *Indian Dances of North America*, 1977
- Ben & Linda Marra, *Faces from the Land: Twenty Years of PowWow Tradition*, 2009
- Jacqueline Shea Murphy, *The People Have Never Stopped Dancing*, 2007
- John-Carlos Perea, *Intertribal Native American Music in the United States*, 2014
- Karan Pheasant-Neganigware, *Powwow, a Celebration through Song and Dance*, 2020

Many thanks to Kascia Samel, librarian at the American Indian Resource Center, Huntington Park Branch, Los Angeles County Library, for assistance in locating resources.

Carl Pilsecker



CALENDAR

Note: Federation events are in bold.

ONLINE: Events are often scheduled with little lead time and may be canceled or postponed on short notice.

Dale Adamson hosts a Google calendar of online events with weekly classes and special events. <https://daleadamson.com/events-calendar/> and Aaron Alpert maintains a list of Israeli dance online at <http://www.nirkoda.com/virtual> The EEFC maintains a calendar of events including camps and dance and music lessons at <https://eefc.org/calendar/>

FOLK DANCE GROUPS MEETING ON ZOOM

LIFE Balkan Dancers on Fridays, 8-11 pm. Contact Sherry Cochran at worldance1@gmail.com for the link and password. Now hybrid - online and in person at LADanceFit.

***Laguna International Dancers.* Holds regular Zoom dance event Sunday evening from 6-8. We open the waiting room at 5:45 and let people chat and socialize until we start dancing at 6. The teacher/dance leader is Lee Otterholt. The first half hour is teaching and dancing of easier dances and the last hour from 7 to 8 includes teaching and dancing of some more challenging dances. In person dancing Wednesday at Clubhouse 2 on the patio.**

The Folk Arts Center of New England is continuing its workshops with master teachers. Saturdays to be announced at 11 am. <http://www.facone.org/programs-online-events.html>

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/

***Cerritos Folk Dancers.* Cerritos Folk Dancers conduct virtual classes through Zoom every Tuesday evening, from 6:00 to 8:45. It is open to the public. Donation is \$4 each time. Other options to donate are available. The first time participating in CFD's Tuesday class is free of charge. Contact**

***CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com* for the weekly playlists and other details.**

The Peninsula Dancers from Northern CA will continue Zoom sessions every 3rd Saturday of the month from 3-6:30, also broadcast on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PFDCouncil/> Check with virtualfolkdance@gmail.com or check the Facebook page for the Zoom link.

Tuesday Night Revival (Boston - MIT) meets every 3rd Saturday, 5-8 pm Pacific Time <https://tuesdaynightrevival.com/> or join Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/tnrzoom>

Roberto Bagnoli holds Israeli and Balkan dance parties from Rome, often on Sunday mornings and/or weekdays at noon. Check his webpage <http://morenu.it/> for the current schedule and Zoom links.

***Kypseli* has been presenting Greek dance and music sessions on Zoom on occasional Saturdays, sometimes from Greece. Information will be on their Facebook page and website www.kypseli.org**

Ira Weisburd teaches line dances and hosts a Balkan-Israeli Session, usually recorded for later viewing. Donations requested. <https://www.facebook.com/dancewithira> Ira's classes are now broadcast on his YouTube Channel - his Facebook page redirects to: <https://www.youtube.com/user/iraweisburd>

Vintage Israeli Dance is hosting monthly Zoom meetings. Email vintagedancing@aol.com for the dates and Zoom link or return to in person dancing.

NOVEMBER

6 *Koinonia Glendi Greek Orthodox Folk Dance Community Event* - <https://koinoniaglendi.square.site/> Live music with Diesi Montreal. At St. Sophia Cathedral, 1324 Normandie Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90006.

6 *Folkworks FUN-raiser online.* Live performances on-line with a variety of musical genres. There is a link to register for the Zoom event on this page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1106326096438064/> See OTS.

12-14 Fall Camp. Roberto Bagnoli, Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu. Info: Dance@FallCamp.org, <https://fallcamp.org>

DECEMBER

31 New Year's Eve Chicago Party by Pasadena co-op. 7:00- 10:30 at Altadena Church, 943 Altadena drive. Live music. See ad.

2022

FEBRUARY

26 Cerritos Folkdancers Lunar New Year Festival.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER

26-28 *John Filcich Kolo Festival* with Sonia and Cristian (Romanian), Ahmet & Evren (Turkish), Steve Kotansky (Balkan), John Filcich (Classic Kolos), John Morovich (Croatian), Michel Hardbarger (Family Dances). This will be 'hybrid', i.e. in-person as well through Zoom with Texas Camp <https://kolofestival.org/>. See OTS and ad.

2022

JULY

17-23 and 24-30 *Stockton in person camp* <http://www.folkdancecamp.org/in-person-2022-camp-main-page>

OUT OF STATE

NOVEMBER

26-28 *Texas Camp* – in conjunction with Kolo Festival. A new website <https://texas-kolo.org/> will allow you to register for Zoom access to the Kolo Festival and Texas Camp. Michael Ginsburg will be the master teacher at Texas Camp.

2022

FEBRUARY

14 *Winter Workshop.* Celebrate 50 years of the Florida Folk Dance Council at a winter workshop in Orlando, FL. Feb. 11-14, 2022 with Jaap Leegwater and Mea Nordenfelt teaching Bulgarian and Beyond. Info: folkdance.org

MARCH

31- 4/3 *NFO Conference* in person at Evanston, Illinois. <http://nfo-usa.org/annual-conference-2022/>

FOREIGN

ALBANIA

5/1-11/2022 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt.* Includes Tirana, Durres, Viora FD Festival, Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra. Extension 5/11-13. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

BULGARIA

8/1-14/2022 *Koprivshitsa Festival Tour.* Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

CENTRAL EUROPE

6/14-27/2023 *Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour* to Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Switzerland. Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt and Lee Friedman. Munich, Salzburg, Lucerne, plus. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

GEORGIA, ARMENIA, IRAN

6/2022 *Tour led by Tineke and Maurits Van Geel,* Info: www.tinekevangeel.nl. See ad.

GREECE

10/8-21/2022 **(NEW)** *Tour to Greece and Greek Islands led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt.* Athens, Sparta, Delphi, cruise to islands. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

HUNGARY

10/12-23 *Hungary Dance and Folklore Tour III.* Budapest and NW Hungary. Info: Jeff O'Connor, tours.easterneurope@gmail.com, or Steve Kotansky, stephenkotansky@gmail.com. POSTPONED to 2022.

IRELAND

8/5-17/2023 *Tour led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman.* Galway, Aran Islands, Cork, Blarney, Dublin, plus. Info: 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, 201.836.0362. See ad.

NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN

6/14-28/2022 (**Note change of dates**) *Tour led by Lee Otterholt.* Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE

5/21-6/2/2022 *Tour led by Martha Tavera.* Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, La Paz, Atacama Desert, plus. <http://www.JimGold.com>, 201.836.0362. See ad.

POLAND

6/8-21/2022 (**NEW**) *Tour led by Richard Schmidt.* Warszawa, Krakow, plus. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

ROMANIA

10/24-11/6/2022 (**Note change of dates**) *Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour.* Led by Jim Gold, with Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman. Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

SPAIN

9/14-27/2023 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt.* Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.



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XXL TOUR to GEORGIA, ARMENIA and (OPTIONAL) IRAN

Following the successful XXL Tour to three countries in 2018, Tineke & Maurits are planning a wonderful new XXL tour in June 2022.

Don't miss it!

Registration is open. Payment due in 2022. Info on our website:

www.tinekevangeel.nl



New Year's Eve Chicago



Dance Party



Friday, December 31, 2021

7:00 till 10:30 PM (It will be 2022 in Chicago)



Hosted by

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op

Live music by

Fifth Friday

Plus all-request recorded dance music

Altadena Community Church

943 Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001

Admission: \$10

Fully vaccinated only, masks may be required, and please bring your own water

Please visit our website Events page for updates and full current protocols

<https://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org/events>

ON THE SCENE

FOLKWORKS ON-LINE PERFORMANCE

On November 6 Folkworks will have a FUN-raiser online. There is a link to register for the Zoom event on this page: <https://folkworks.org/event/folkworks-fun-raiser-party/>. Live performances on-line with a variety of musical genres.

There will be hosted rooms for song/tune swaps and chatting. Current hosts include Jackie Morris, Susie Glaze, WB Reid & Bonnie Zahnow, Yael Schy, John Whelan. Featured performers are Nevenka, Suzy & Eric Thompson, Mamak Khadem, John Whelan.

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

We dance together in person every Friday night from 7:00 till 9:30 PM at the Altadena Community Church at 943 E. Altadena Drive in Altadena. Fully vaccinated only, and face masks required while in the building.

This month we'll be teaching the gentle Bosnian line dance *Ne Klepeci*, followed by the lively Romanian dance *Shantel*. See our website Events page for details and updates. <https://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org/events/>

We will be having a New Year's Party – see Calendar, and ad.

Mari Werner

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op Publicity

XXL TOUR TO GEORGIA, ARMENIA AND (OPTIONAL) IRAN

JUNE 1-24 & JUNE 24 - JULY 5

Summer is over and we are very happy to notice that there is great interest to join our 2022 XXL Tour. Maurits and I very much look forward to this wonderful tour. And there is more good news: we have already reached the required minimum number of participants for all three countries. In case you have friends who are interested in the tour, they are still welcome to join.

All information including a detailed program and

FAQ can be found on our website, tinekevangeel.nl

We always visit all our destinations to check everything ourselves and have done our best to avoid exhausting bus rides and to allow enough free time to process travel experiences or to break away from the group and plan your own program.

With increasing travel options, we hope we can meet and enjoy this fantastic 2022 XXL Tour.

Tineke Van Geel

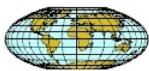
JOHN FILCICH KOLO FESTIVAL - LIVE AND IN PERSON FOR 2021

This festival (formerly called Kolo Festival) takes place in San Francisco, California, the weekend of Thanksgiving, November 25-28, 2021. Details: Sonia and Cristian (Romanian), Ahmet & Evren (Turkish), Steve Kotansky (Balkan), John Filcich (Classic Kolos), John Morovich (Croatian), Michel Hardbarger (Family Dances) and more! Dance workshops, instrumental classes, singing classes, live music dance parties, and other events throughout the weekend! Info: KoloFestival.org. This will be 'hybrid', i.e. in-person as well through Zoom with Texas Camp.

A new website <https://texas-kolo.org/> will allow you to register for Zoom access to the Kolo Festival and Texas Camp. Michael Ginsburg will be the master teacher at Texas Camp.



Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2022-23



Travel
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Our trips are for folk dancers, non-dancers,
and anyone with a love of travel and culture.

www.jimgold.com



2022

ISRAEL: March 13-24, 2022

Led by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman, and Lee Friedman
Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed,
and Golan Heights

ALBANIA and KOSOVO: May 2-11 ext. 11-13, 2022

Led by Lee Otterholt. Tirana, Durres, Gjirokaster Folk Festival!
Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra.

PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE: May 21-June 2, 2022

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

NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN: June 14-28, 2022

Led by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen

POLAND: June 8-21, 2022. Led by Richard Schmidt.

Warszawa,, Olsztyn, Malbork, Gdańsk Gdynia, Sopot, Toruń, Kraków

BULGARIA: August 1-14, 2022 **Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour!**

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, Lee Friedman
Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo

GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: October 8-21, 2022

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt.: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia,
Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus, **Greek Island Cruise** to
Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey)

ROMANIA: Oct 24-Nov 6, 2022 **Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour**

Led by Jim Gold with Nancy Hoffman and Lee Friedman:
Bucharest, Brasov. Sibiu

2023

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LICHTENSTEIN, SWITZERLAND

June 14-27, 2023. Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour

Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman:
Munich, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Swiss Alps, Lucerne, Zurich

IRELAND: August 5-17, 2023: Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman

Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin

SPAIN: September 14-27, 2023: Led by Lee Otterholt:

Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada

TOUR REGISTRATION: Can't wait to go! Reserve my place! Choose your tour. \$200 per
person deposit. Or register and send deposits on line at: www.jimgold.com/folk-tours

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GERDA BEN-ZEEV



Gerda Ben-Zeev, a long-time folk dancer with Westwood Co-op and Tuesday Gypsies, dance teacher and hard-working member of the Scene Committee passed away in October. Below is a bio of her, written years ago by Laurette Carlson:

At the end of WW II Gerda was born somewhere on the road from Czernovitz to Vatra Dormei as her

parents and sister were escaping on the last truck to Rumania before Czernovitz became part of Communist Russia. When a violent new wave of anti-Semitism arose, Gerda's father, a doctor, seeking anonymity, packed up and moved the family to Bucharest. This marked an abrupt end to the happy part of Gerda's childhood. Speaking German only, she knew no Rumanian and was taunted in kindergarten because of her clothes and language. Long lines of people tried to buy scarce food, the milk was diluted, chicken was an unusual treat.

When Gerda was 13, her family managed to get out of Rumania and cross into Yugoslavia. Although the border guards took away the few possessions they had, they felt light and liberated. Then, it was on to Athens and Tel Aviv, where Gerda had to switch to a third language, Hebrew. After high school, during service in the Israel army in the Judean Mountains by the Dead Sea, another happy period began. Gerda studied desert flowers and fauna, participated in archeological digs and built hiking trails. The group's 25 soldiers were like a family; they still hold reunions.

Later, at the University of Jerusalem, Gerda majored in biology and met her future husband. They were married in 1967 after his miraculous return from the Six-Day War. Gerda received her master's degree in biochemistry just one week before the birth of Oren in 1970. He is now an aerospace engineer. Daphna, her daughter, was born in 1971. An attorney, she is newly wed to another attorney. After

graduation from medical school, Gerda's husband took his pediatric residency in New York, so she had to leave her beloved Jerusalem and learn a fourth language. Tal was born in New York in 1975. He is now finishing his law studies and soon to take the bar exam.

When Gerda's husband was awarded a fellowship at UCLA in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, the family was uprooted again. Needing intellectual stimulation, Gerda began working at UCLA doing research in biochemistry. She has continued this absorbing work at the same lab ever since. At that time Gerda's family bought a home in Westwood. Ten years later her husband decided he had had enough of marriage and walked out on her and the children at the time the entire house was being torn up and remodeled.

At this, the lowest point of her life, Gerda discovered folk dancing. Never having danced before she was at first hesitant and shy. The transformation, as she became one of our outstanding teachers, is indeed a marvel. Adding to her profound interest and expertise in dance, she has developed many warm friendships among folk dancers. Gerda is deeply grateful for these positive effects on her life and hopes to maintain her bright outlook for years to come.

Below are some thoughts and feelings about Gerda and her passing:

I met my dear friend Gerda the first year we both started dancing - 1988! Gerda's daughter and my son dated for a while and we had hoped to teach our future grandchildren to folk dance. That never happened yet we remained close friends all through the years. I will miss her terribly.

Gerda had an insatiable curiosity and in her retirement she pursued intellectual enrichment. She became a member of UCLA's Plato Society, researching and presenting in many areas such as art, music, history... Gerda also became more involved in her temple and would present to the congregation as well. Although she was fluent in four languages she also began to study Italian.

Friendships came easily to Gerda. She loved travel and made friends everywhere. On a trip to Norway with Lee Otterholt she met three other folk dancers and they became close. The "Norwegians", as she

referred to them, often met and traveled together over the years.

Family always came first to Gerda. She adored her six grandsons and began a tradition of taking each on a trip to the destination of their choice when they reached age twelve. Only her youngest grandson missed this wonderful opportunity because of Gerda's health issues. It was a great disappointment to her that she wasn't able to travel with him.

Gerda not only taught folk dance but was an invaluable member of the Folk Dance Scene committee for many years. She continued to work on Scene until the last month of her life.

Gerda was a very private person and that, combined with the isolation of COVID, meant not many of her friends were aware of how sick she had become. She was a fearless fighter against the onslaught of her illness. Her three children flew into Los Angeles to be with her when she decided the time had come to give up the fight. They were with her constantly to comfort and support her.

Sandy Helperin

Gerda Ben-Zeev was devoted to her family and friends, liked to tell jokes, liked to dress up. She learned to folk dance, enjoyed teaching folk dances and was in charge of subscriptions for Folk Dance Scene, the monthly newsletter. She went on trips all over the world and spoke many languages. She worked in the lab at UCLA, and was active with the Plato society of Los Angeles. She was a good person and a good friend. She was fun to be with and I miss her.

Rita Sklar

In loving memory of Gerda Benzeev, Someone so special will not be forgotten. Gerda will always be remembered for her sharp wit and willingness to learn. After having been with her in three S/DGs, I can attest to her love of history and her striking Polish accent. She was so special to Plato, and our loss will be deeply felt. God bless you, Gerda.

Dr. G. Jay Christensen

Sending loving prayers to all of Gerda's family and wishing you all strength throughout this difficult time. Gerda will be missed.

Laura Riggs

Please accept my deep sympathies for your loss!! Gerda was amazing and all of us in her folk dance world mourn her passing. Rest in peace, Gerda! We miss you!!

Asako Oshiro

My sincere condolences to her family. I so enjoyed spending time with Gerda both on the dance floor and during the High Holidays. She will be greatly missed. May her memory be a blessing.

Joan Hantman

Sad news. May she Rest In Peace.

Yves Moreau

So sad. Gerda was a lovely person and will be missed. May her memory always be a blessing.

Elyse Springer Ellinger

Gerda will be missed so much! Every conversation with Gerda was meaningful; a deeply thoughtful and lovely lady!

Drina Luz Villalobos Johnson

I'm heartbroken to hear this. I loved Gerda very much.

Erica Goldman



FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 9:30 A.M.

Chinese New Year is Feb. 26, 2022 (Note change of date)

East West Workshop will be February 26, 2021, not Feb. 5. Currently the group is using the Cerritos Senior Center. They close at 5 pm. Usually the festival goes from 1 pm to 5:30 pm. If they close at 5, then we would need to close at 4:30 (because we need time to clean, clear, and get out). It depends on next year's schedule which we don't know yet. If it is still 1 – 5, then we will cancel the festival. Wen-Li was asked about holding a shorter festival, but indicated he didn't like the idea. Wen-Li was asked about whether this affects the presence of a guest teacher. He replied that they hadn't invited one yet. Diane asked that they keep posting about the event. Shana suggested having a guest teacher at the June event instead of the Feb. event.

Pasadena Winter Fest

Pasadena is going to hold a Winter Fest, but no location has been identified yet. It may not occur depending on the results at Ojai. When asked what would be the evidence about Ojai that would affect the Pasadena event, the sponsors responded that Ojai is a measure of the number of people that may come. Currently, the rule is that Pasadena requires a mask. It was determined during the conversation that there is no real connection between the 2 events. However, Pasadena is inside, and it is a 4-hour event. Do people want to dance in masks for 4 hours?

Laguna Fest March 4-6, 2022

It's still on for the first week in March. The committee is currently arranging teachers as well as back up teachers, and firming up the facility.

Webmaster's Report

Dick has added website URLs to the Camps listing so dancers may contact a camp to see whether they are closed, on Zoom, or are going live. He has

added, in the History section, a Camps (Closed) page. He continues to keep up the Master Teachers pages, updating biographies, and trying to keep up with folks who are deceased (please let him know of any changes!). Finally, Dick continues to update the Calendar page. Dick also takes care of any problems submitted by appreciated folk dancers! Shana added he makes changes very quickly.

Fall Camp Marc Rayman and Jan Rayman, Fall Camp co-chairs

Registration opened on July 17 with an email announcement to more than 800 recipients. The dates of the camps are Nov. 12-14, 2021, Nov. 11 – 13, 2022.

US policy on entry for Italian citizen Roberto Bagnoli is planned to be relaxed in time for his travel to Fall Camp. (We learned that some people mistakenly believed there were relevant restrictions on entry to the US for Canadian residents Sonia & Cristian, but that was incorrect.)

Fall Camp continues to be threatened by the pandemic. The contract with Brandeis-Bardin specifies that if we cancel between today and Oct. 13, the Federation pays a penalty of \$7500. If we cancel after that date, the penalty is \$15,000. We requested direction from the Federation president and Finance Committee regarding how much money the Federation was willing to risk losing for conducting Fall Camp 2021 or canceling it. They established a limit of \$7500.

Well-intentioned health-based constraints on Fall Camp will be imposed by federal, state, and local governments as well as by Brandeis-Bardin. We have conducted two polls of campers to gauge the level of interest in attending under some specific credible scenarios. In addition, we are continuing to devise and consider alternate plans to aid in deciding whether we can conduct a safe, comfortable, fun camp without risking exceeding the Federation's limit. It is too soon to know.

Scholarship Shana Winokur

Shana stated that the recipients of scholarships were announced. They received 3 requests and all 3

were approved for Fall Camp. She suggested that if Fall Camp is cancelled, then the committee could offer them other camps to attend. Scholarships were approved in Aug. for Fall. Shana suggested that they could open scholarships in April for next year's summer camps. Marc thanked the scholarship committee for its work for Fall Camp.

Insurance Julith Neff

Insurance goes from Nov. to Nov., so any active clubs need to send in forms to Julith by mid-Oct. Diane added that the insurance contact could go to the Federation website, then to publications in order to find the insurance forms. Since our current insurance provider has a contract period that runs from November 9 to November 9 of the following year, Julith will need to send for new certificates for any active clubs around mid-October. She states that some groups may have changed venues since starting up again. **Therefore, she would like to receive written certificate requests from all clubs who will be dancing from now to the end of the year with your current dancing location.**

It was suggested that we could send out the information to club presidents. If a club has not changed location, then send information to Julith that the location is the same, and who the contact person is with their email address. Julith stated that NFO insurance is cheaper because we are not paying by member. Shana asked in the past we needed to keep the old sign-in sheet for 5 years, is that still necessary under NFO? Julith will ask about this as we no longer submit rosters. Mindy suggested that people should still sign-in for insurance purposes. Diane added that the membership packet for 2021 did not include insurance information. Julith is now asking for insurance information because she wants to stay current so that clubs are covered. Diane will send a letter to all club delegates; if the delegate is not the insurance rep, they need to forward it to the person who is in charge of insurance ONLY if the club is currently dancing now. Diane stated that the insurance policy continues through Feb and that we are just doing a continuance of insurance.

Old Business

Membership Renewal/Insurance for 2022

Packets are to be sent to Delegates on October 31, 2021. Renewal dues and forms to be submitted by **Dec. 15, 2021**. Diane researched about the

Federation paying for 6 months of membership after they resume dancing as stated by Marshall during June 27 meeting. Diane could not find any evidence of this. Marshall stated that the Federation Relief was about insurance starting in the middle of the year. The Federation would pay for all insurance for the year for 2021. However, Marshall commented that the membership dues were never covered. It was the insurance that was covered.

It was clarified that if a club starts dancing, then the club needs to start paying membership dues. The Federation sent out a package for membership for 2021 to each club. Diane commented 7 or 8 clubs have already paid for their membership.

Amy Dale reports that 8 clubs have renewed Federation Membership. The membership packet was sent out on April 7, 2021. The due date is 1 month after dancing has resumed in person.

Resumption of in person dancing. Report from clubs

Fantasy just started dancing last Sunday. We plan to dance every Sunday from 3 -7. We ask everyone to wear a mask and to check their temperature. We are thinking about asking for vaccine records.

Tuesday Gypies- nothing so far. We did a 1-time afternoon dance, but we haven't decided on another one. The facility is available, but we are waiting.

Vintage Israeli – We've met once, we're planning to meet next Saturday. Not too many people have expressed interest; there is lots of fear. We require vaccination proof. It's optional to wear masks. If we require masks, we would only have a handful of dancers and we couldn't pay for the rent. Diane asked if the facility was ventilated? Yes, it has AC and the windows can be opened. The Fire Dept. has checked it out and said it was OK.

Conejo Valley – We started in July, dancing weekly. We have about half the people we normally would have. We are not required to wear masks. Some do, some don't.

Ethnic Express – Not dancing yet.

Prescott – Still active, but it's a small group.

Mountain Dancers are disbanding.

Veselo Selo – Started up in Aug. We are dancing weekly for 2 hours instead of 3. In the past, most

people left after 2 hours so we shortened hours. We require proof of vaccination, but we don't require masks.

Laguna International – We are dancing every Wed. 5 – 7 outside. Zooms on Sunday.

West Valley – We are hoping to resume dancing at a private facility, reasonable price, nice floor. We will ask for proof of vaccination and may also ask for masks.

Cerritos – We started in Aug. - every month 2nd and 4th Thursday from 1:30 – 4:30 at Cerritos Senior Center. We are following the cities requirement's – 6 feet distance, and wear masks. The city didn't ask about vaccination status, but in our club we have our own regulation and require members to sign that they are completely vaccinated. The city doesn't allow us to check the certificates, so we just ask the people to sign the declaration. We will continue the Zoom class on Tuesdays as long as the Senior Center

allows us to continue. We will not meet in November because the Senior Center is not available. Also in Dec. the 2nd and 5th Thursday because of Christmas.

Other

Steve Himel reminded people that they should send updated days, time, and place to the Folk Dance Scene and Website so the information is up to date. Steve will send the info to Dick Oakes if clubs want him to.

Membership packet includes new contact name, email address, time and place of dancing, insurance contact and email. Mindy stated that the forms need to include all this information. Diane responded that it is all on the form, but not everyone reads this information.

Save the Date!

Pastoral Fandango

Statewide Folk Dance Festival

May 20 - 22, 2022

Featuring:
Ahmet Luleci
Bruce Hamilton
Gergana Panova
Chubritza

.....
More details to come!

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OJAI FESTIVAL REPORTS

After some [not too much] deliberation Jay and I took the beautiful drive to Ojai for the first in-person festival since Covid started. We wondered would many people come? Would we be wearing masks? And actually holding hands? Well, it was great! The space, as many of us know, is lovely. There were about 50 people at 2 o'clock, and I don't know how many more were there earlier. It was wonderful to see so many long-missed friends. We all recognized each other even tho' just eyes were visible. The program was well-balanced, and although I didn't dance much, when I did get up from my walker seat, was welcomed into the line. At age 90 and 91 we didn't go to the classes, but the obvious enjoyment of all those we saw there, it must have been well received. In our next lifetime we'll learn some new dances! All in all, it was a wonderful day, and I would say a huge success. Many heartfelt thanks to all those who put it together, and manned their posts till the end. We wound up the day with a great seafood dinner in Ojai and a nice drive back to the Valley.

Jill Michtom



*Photos clockwise from upper left:
Jan and Marc Rayman dancing Hey Gidi Gidi,
dancers follow Terry Gucwa in Cumbia Semana,
Richard and Jana Julian,
Jan Wright and Jill Michtom*



Kudos to the Folk Dance Federation, South for a wonderful dance event in beautiful Ojai, Saturday October 2nd. Dancing together again with folk dance friends was such a joy. We were masked and vaccinated to ensure everyone's safety to our best ability. Holding hands or keeping distanced was up to the individual, in order to keep comfort zones honored. Many thanks to the committee for finding and securing the lovely Ojai Art Center venue. Thank you Madame President, Diane Baker for all you do, and for pulling together such a hard-working, gifted team! The music was gathered and played flawlessly by Terry Gucwa. I am way too often on the opposite end of being a "flawless" provider of folk dance music, so I readily recognize how fortunate we are to have Terry in our midst and willing to take on the challenges! Teaching in the morning was fun and diverse, with Joanie Hantman, Asako, Diane Baker and me bringing dances to reflect our Pandemic zooming sessions. At 12:15 there was a time slot for request dancing before the afternoon party. Thank you, Diane Baker, Carol Smith, Marshall Cates, Terry Gucwa, Mindy Belli, Leslie Halberg, and the Folk Dance Federation of California, South for bringing folk dancers together with joyful DANCING!

Valerie Daley



Hey Gidi—Joan, Val, Stephanie, Asako

POETRY CORNER

HARVESTING

Harvest your happiness one small bud at a time
Savor each bit of joy, imbibe only the sublime
Don't murmur at misfortune or dabble in dismay
See small acts of kindness become a large bouquet

Take a sip of silence; see the wind tease the trees
Watch a lizard sunning; feel that gentle breeze;
So soon the day is ended and slowly makes the turn
Becomes the *yesterday* for which our hearts will yearn.

--- *Camille Dull*



NOVEMBER DANCER

the last leaf floats slowly
down from November's
barren branch
gliding twisting
reluctantly
along a path of ice crystals
a red gold dancer
on a frozen stage

Lillian Rodich

CLUB DIRECTORY

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

>>Several groups recently notified Scene that they are now dancing in-person. These groups are indicated below with >> preceding their name. It is still a changing dance scene so verify before attending. Other groups may be holding Zoom dance sessions or not meeting in-person so contact the contact before showing up.<<

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 on zoom. 2nd, 4th Thu 1:30-4:30(closed in Nov. 4th Thu in Dec rescheduled to 5th Thu) at 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 marionmiller601@gmail.com Marion Miller

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

>>**Fantasy Folk Dance Club:** Sun 3:00 - 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 Vincen-tyhcheng@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:** Sun 6:00-8:30 on zoom. Wed 5:00-7:00 at Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, **LAGUNA WOODS.** (949) 770-7026 7kahnmiriam@gmail.com Miriam Kahn www.lagunainternationaldancers.com

Mountain Dancers: *After some debate we have decided to suspend operations. Thank you for your support along our long history.* **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 julithilonaa@gmail.com Julith Neff

>>***Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op:** Fri 7:30-9:30 (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 2:00-4:00. Prescott Boys & Girls Club, 335 East Aubrey St, **PRES-COTT, AZ.** (928) 350-8239 Ellen Malcolm Prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net

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 sandyhelpelin@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) 746-0884 danc-ing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie Daley

>>**Veselo Selo Folkdancers:** Sat 7:30-9:30. Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor, **ANAHEIM.** veseloselol@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. Gehringer 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. Caltech 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 Dance-Fit 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 Convo 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

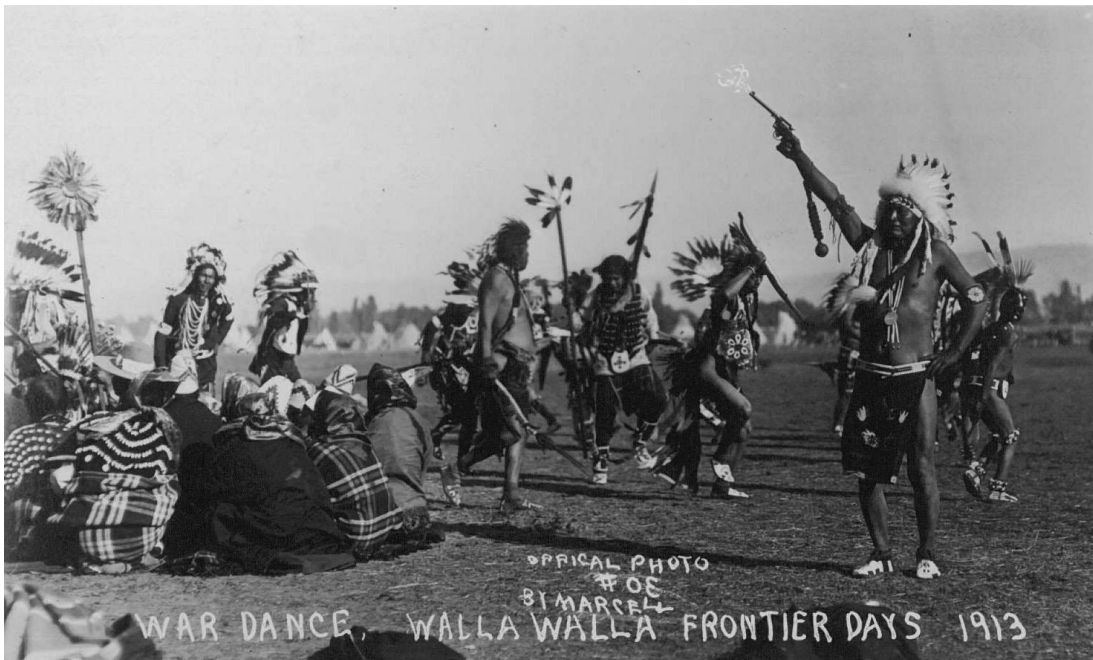
Santa Barbara Balkan Folk Dancers: Wed 8:00-10:00PM (In-person/safety precautions). Oak Park Stage, corner Junipero and Calle Real, **SANTA BARBARA.** soriasusan@gmail.com Susan Soria, or michalcathy@cox.net (805.895.4885) Michal Lynch

Santa Barbara Int'l Folk Dancers: In-person but schedule is in flux. Contact Michal Lynch for info michalcathy@cox.net, 805-895-4885.

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

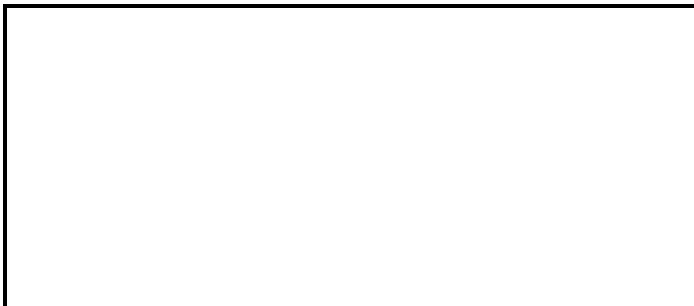
Topanga Canyon Int'l FD: Fri 9:30am-11:00am. Froggy's Restaurant, 1105 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd, **TOPANGA .** (310) 455-1051 Melanie Kareem

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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