



Folk Dance Scene



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Folk Dance Scene

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On the cover: Parade of a tzista ensemble in Leioa, see cover article.



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 59, No. 10
Dec 23/Jan 24

The Corner

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

‘Tis the season for a holiday gift guide!

What “no calorie/no clutter” gift will satisfy everyone on your list?

A memorable **EXPERIENCE!** If a flight on Virgin Galactic (\$450,000) is beyond your budget then purchase tickets for a “captivating 90-minute spectacle” in the Irvine Barclay Theater February 13, 2024. The Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble and the Mountain Strings will present a performance that “weaves together” American clogging, Irish step dance, the Ukrainian *Hopak* and other culturally specific dance forms. The brilliant dancers will be accompanied by the talented BYU musicians, Mountain Strings, playing guitar, fiddle, mandolin, drum block & banjo. Performances by the BYU ensembles entertain and educate audiences about the history and culture of the music and dance unfolding on stage. Tickets are on sale at the Irvine Barclay theater, <https://www.thebarclay.org/buy-tickets/2023-2024-events/2-13-24-brigham-young-university.html> A ticket to this concert, entitled “Journey: Reflections,” will ‘fit’ everyone in the family! Remember to buy one for yourself!...thinking aloud-- we could have a flash mob folk dance preview on the patio outside the theatre (weather permitting) prior to the performance....Are you game?

More **EXPERIENTIAL** gift ideas for active folkdance friends: cost of admission to the Pasadena Chicago New Year’ Party and Winter Fest and/or Cerritos East Meets West Chinese New Year’s Festival. Splurge and purchase a Laguna Festival passport for your BFDF, (best folk dance friend) or a flight to the Bay Area and registration for Statewide in May. For the dancer who “has everything” consider gifting him or her with an Associate Membership in the Federation and an electronic subscription to Scene (\$20 for the pair!) or scale up and purchase a folk dance tour abroad from one of the Scene advertisers for about \$2,000!

Thanks to Valerie Daley, Terry Gucwa and members of San Frontières for providing a folk dance outreach session at the Far-West Folk Music

The Corner continues on page 10

Editors’ Corner

Happy Holiday Season. Our feature this issue is on Basque culture which has a dance tradition that focuses on celebrations. The lead article is titled as Jota, but the dance culture is so rich that it can hardly be limited to a single dance, even if that is the most popularly known.

Use the Calendar, On the Scene and ads to find your up-coming events.

See what your colleagues are saying in Dancers Speak and Poetry Corner.

Check what you attended or missed in Recent Events.

Be safe and hopeful.

Cheers for the new year...

Pat Cross and Don Krotser

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

BASQUE JOTA

Ed's Note: The following article was taken from the Federation website, and was printed in Folk Dance Scene in 1978. Here are some updates from the author:

The Basque jota (fandango and *arin arin* and other names for the 2 dances) is indeed danced socially and in performances at Basque events around the USA and in the Basque provinces. The dance form is still considered very important in the Basque dance world.

There is more research in process as to its origins (not originally Basque) and how it came to the Basques, was adopted and so well liked.

Basque dance in the USA and in the provinces remains a vital and active part of the lives of Basque people. Researchers continue to bring back older dances and dance forms and new dances are being choreographed and added to the dance repertoires of each province.

Each province has their own local traditions as well as sharing some pan-Basque traditions amongst their dance repertoires.

BASQUE JOTA

Roo Lester

Basque dancing brings several images to mind: the *Souletine Masquerade* containing the famous wine glass dance, the many men's set dances with balletic type steps similar to the English *Morris* dances, and the *Jota*, a lively dance that is seen at almost every gathering of Basque people. The *Jota*, by virtue of its presence at most gatherings, seems to be the national dance of the Basque people. Even though most Basque dances are danced by men, Basques of all ages, all vocations, men and women, know and participate in the *Jota*.

There is no agreed origin of the Basque *Jota*. Some believe that the *Jota* came from Southeast Spain via Aragón more than two hundred years ago. Others feel it came via Castilla, and still others feel it originated within the Basque provinces and then later on, adapted elements from neighboring regions.



The Basque Jota, the Society of Folk Dance Historians



Basque Dancers. 27 December 2006, Wikipedia, photo by Kezka Dantza, Taldea Eibar

Jotas today are composed of a suite or couplet of two dances, the *Fandango* and *Arin-Arin* (pronounced "Ah-reen Yah-reen" with a trilled "R"). These dances also are known by several other names. A few of those most widely used are *Baile al Suelto* (loose dance) referring to the fact that there is no bodily contact amongst the dancers, *Orripiko*, and *Porrusalda*. *Baile al Suelto* or *Jota* are terms that apply to Basque dances. *Baile Agarrado*, attached dances or dances with some form of bodily contact, is the term used to refer to foreign dances – an example is the *Waltz*.

The *Fandango* is usually in 3/8 or 3/4 meter and the *Arin-Arin* in 2/4 meter, with the accent falling on the first beat of the measure in both dances. The lengths of the *Fandango* and *Arin-Arin* throughout the provinces vary. In Navarra, the *Fandango* is usually quite long in comparison to the *Arin-Arin*, with the *Arin-Arin* not much more than a tag or coda stuck onto the *Fandango*. In Alava, the *Fandango* and *Arin-Arin* are approximately the same length, while in the provinces of Viscaya and Guipuzcoa, the *Fandango* is shorter than the *Arin-Arin*.

The formation and number of people dancing a *Jota* varies. In competitions, *Jotas* are danced in couples with partners facing one another. In performances, *Jotas* tend to be danced also in couple formations, but when danced socially and at festivals, they are danced in small and large circles of people, all facing the center.

A *Jota* has several different types of patterns. Often, each dance begins with a stationary pattern. In stationary patterns, the dancers move in place and generally do not change their facing. Another type of pattern is one that moves from side to side. Here the dancers tend to change their bodies, changing to face the direction to which they are moving. The last general type of pattern is one with turns that may be full or partial. Most of the patterns alternate from side to side, beginning with one foot or in one direction, that is repeated symmetrically with the other foot to the other side. Also, the sequence of patterns usually ends with some sort of a turn. If there are sixteen measures to each dance phrase; usually the last four would include a turn of some sort. This tends to be true for all three of the above pattern types. An example dance phrase might be a stationary pattern for four measures, this to be repeated twice for eight measures, then a four-measure turn ending the phrase.

A notable characteristic of *Jotas* is that the dancer's torso is held erect, strong, and does not move about. Some feel that this erect carriage of the torso represents Basque pride. *Jotas* are danced with the arms held upright, often with fingers snapping in time to the music. The upper portion of the arm is approximately held horizontal to the ground and the forearm is held vertical. In competition *Jotas*, this arm formation tends to be the norm, but when the occasion for dancing is more social and relaxed, the arms relax, becoming a sort of "W" shape. Socially, *Jotas* are danced in a somewhat relaxed position on the balls of the feet, while competition *Jotas* are danced in full ball position.

In the Basque provinces, *Jotas* are almost exclusively danced to live music. Up until recently, *Jotas* were often danced to the music of Basque musical instruments. A "txistulari," a single person who plays with his left hand a "txistu" (a three-holed flute) and beats the rhythm with the right hand on a "tamboril" (a snare-type drum) suspended from the crook of the left elbow. The "triki-trixa" is an accordionist and singer/tambourine combination. *Jota* music also is played by an "Albokari" and a singer/tambourine combination. The "Alboka" (a double-reeded bagless bagpipe) sounds similar to and is played like the double-reed instruments of Eastern Europe – the "zurna" or "zurla."



*On the left, a Txistu
On the right, an Alboka*



Jotas are danced at most fiestas of the Basque people, including fiestas on patron saints' days and fiestas that celebrate national historical events. During these events, *Jotas* are danced in several different contexts. They are danced in conjunction with some rituals. There are *Jota* dance competitions. Dance performances include *Jotas* often as the finale of the exhibition. Finally, there is the social dancing that includes "romerias" (open-air dances), street dancing, and Day of the Dancer celebrations where anyone and everyone participates.

The *Jota* is one of five or six different dances done on these social occasions. Often, these social dance events are in the late evening after supper and have some sort of live music combination, usually amplified. The dances found most frequently at these events are the *Jota*, *Pasadoble* (or two-step), *Waltz*, *Polka*, *Schottische*, and *Jautziak*. These dances might be alternated through the evening and some of the modern rock-type dances may also be included. It is at these social occasions that *Jotas* are learned or transmitted throughout the culture. With everyone dancing and people gathering to form a larger geographical area than just the village or town of the event, there is a lot of sharing of styles and steps. Children barely old enough to walk, stand, jump, and move their arms in time to the music. This is done with the encouragement of family and friends. It seems clear why everyone learns and dances the *Jota* from such an early age with such positive reinforcement.

Costumes are worn in performances, competitions, and many people also wear them during fiestas. For the women, usually one of the two principal costume types will be worn – the "casera" or the "hilandera." These costumes are generally worn with "abarcas," a leather shoe somewhat similar to the "opanke", knee socks, and black cords that lace up the calf. White bloomers and slips are worn under either costume. The "casera"



Basque Dance Smithsonian Folklife Festival

costume has a gathered skirt, shirt, apron, shawl, and head scarf. The shirt, skirt, and apron tend to be in black or navy blue, and often are of polka-dotted fabrics, with white or white polka-dotted shawls and head scarves. The "hilandera" costume has a red or green felt skirt, circular shaped, with one or more bands of black ribbon on the bottom third, a white blouse, black apron and bodice, and a white head scarf.

For the men, one costume has "abarcas" and white socks like the women, and pants often grey or blue, a white shirt, a red or blue sash at the waist, a "bluzon" (an overshirt somewhat like a French painter's smock), a neckerchief, and a black or navy beret. Another costume for the men is sometimes referred to as a "milkman outfit" here in America. It has white pants and shirt, with a red sash at the waist, a red beret and neckerchief, and a white pair of "alpargatas" (rope-soled shoes) tied with a red ribbon.

The Basque people seem to be a dancing people. Dance is a major form of their cultural expression, what we as outsiders look at and call Basque. Their dance is not limited to persons of a special society, group, or age. Everyone seems to dance – and they all dance the *Jota*.

Roo Lester



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www.folkdanceonthewater.org

Please write to get on our email list: folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com

Marija & David Hillis 2147 Parker Street, Berkeley CA 94704 (510) 872-5066

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, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, LA CA 90025.

***Laguna International Dancers*. LID meets in person every Wednesday from 6 pm-8:30 pm and on Zoom every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. 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, 6-8:30 p.m. Schedule at www.lagunainternationaldancers.com/**

The Folk Arts Center of New England holds cultural workshops on Thursdays and monthly Saturday hybrid parties with live music. <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/virtualdancerroom/

The Peninsula Dancers from Northern CA present the Global Folk Dance Party on Zoom every 3rd Saturday of the month from 3-6:30 pm with a 2:30 pm pre-program, also on Facebook live <https://www.facebook.com/PFDCouncil/>. One time registration at <https://tinyurl.com/GFDPParty> Info: virtual-folkdance@gmail.com

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

***Kypseli* has been presenting Greek dance and music sessions on Zoom on occasion, at times 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 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/iraweisburd>

***Vintage Israeli Dance* is hosting monthly hybrid in person and Zoom meetings. Email dovbyrd@aol.com for the dates and Zoom link. <http://www.vintageisraelidancing.org/>**

DECEMBER

- 1 *Romania Day Block Party* at 1212 restaurant, 1212 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Free block party 4-6 pm (the street will be closed between Wilshire Blvd. and Arizona St.) followed by a happy hour and after party. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-romania-day-block-party-at-1212-santa-monica-tickets-756504333827>
- 1 *Irish Christmas in America*, 8 pm, 3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance <https://torrancearts.org/show/irish-christmas-in-america/>
- 3 ***Kypseli Holiday Party 7-10 PM at the Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Ave, Sherman Oaks.***
- Live Music with Lambros and Andy. \$20 admission.*
- 9 ***Bulgarian Party with Tzvetanka Varimezova and Ivan Varimezov* at the San Diego Folk Dance Center 7:30 – 10 pm 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, La Mesa CA 91942 <http://www.folkdancecenter.org/newsletter.html>**
- 10 *Hanukkah Festival at the Skirball* <https://www.skirball.org/programs/hanukkah-festival>
- 14 *Sufi Nights* with Yuval Ron Ensemble and the Whirling Dervish at Pacifica Inc, 3735 Alton Pkwy, Irvine CA. Reception: 6:15 pm, performances: 7 pm. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sufi-nights-tickets-707185028457>

16,17 *Nouveau Chamber Ballet's The Nutcracker*, Fullerton College Theatre, 321 East Chapman Ave, both days at 2 pm. This one-hour format includes dances representing Spain, China, Arabia, and Russia, to the iconic Tchaikovsky score. Tom Bozigian is the choreographer of the Russian trepak. Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://www.simplenetix.com/e/.nouveau-chamber-ballet-presents-the-nutcracker-tickets-145256>. See ad.

17 *Banski Starcheto* - Bulgarian musicians 6-8 pm at Gerald R. Daniel Recital Hall in Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at Cal State Long Beach, 1250 N Bellflower Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90840 <https://bgpchela.org/event/the-old-men-from-bansko/>

17 *Yuval Ron Ensemble with Afghani Sufi Master Musician* at 1st Congregational Church of Los Angeles 540 S. Commonwealth Ave. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rumis-wedding-night-celebration-tickets-698765013967>

21 *Winter Solstice Party, Narodni/Veselo*. Info at www.narodni.org, see OTS.

24 *Holiday Celebration at the Music Center*. 3 pm In-person or on PBS SoCal or streamed online <https://www.musiccenter.org/tickets-free-events/tmc-arts/l-a-county-holiday-celebration/>

31 *Pasadena Co-op New Year's Eve Chicago Dance Party* Altadena Community Church, Heicher Hall, 943 E Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001. 7-10 pm \$10. Live music by Fifth Friday, plus all-request recorded dance music. Potluck Refreshments. Info@pasadenafolkdancecoop.org <https://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org/events> See ad and OTS.

JANUARY 2024

13 *Pasadena Co-op Winter Festival* at Altadena Community Church Heicher Hall, 943 E Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001, 1-5 PM. \$10 Live music by Fifth Friday. Potluck refreshments. Play lists will be posted closer to the date at <https://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org/events> See ad and OTS.

19-21 *Stockton Winter weekend online* <https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org/>

FEBRUARY 2024

13 *BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble & Mountain Strings* present "Journey: Reflection". 7 pm at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine, CA 92612 <https://www.thebarclay.org/buy-tickets/2023-2024-events/2-13-24-brigham-young-university.html>

15-18 *47th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF)*, returning to the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. <https://www.yourfdf.org/>

16-19 *Camp SheLAnu* in Pacific Palisades - Israeli Dance with Yaron B.S., Orly Star, Michael Barzelai <http://campshelanu.com/>

17 *Cerritos Folk Dancers Lunar New Year Festival East West Workshop* with master teachers Alexandru and Mihai David 1-5:30 pm, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, Cerritos CA 90703.

MARCH 2024

1-3 *Laguna Festival* www.lagunainternationaldancers.com/

29 Friday Night L.I.F.E. *Bulgarian Workshop* with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov

30 San Diego *Bulgarian Workshop* with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov

APRIL 2024

3 Conejo Valley Folk Dancers *Bulgarian Workshop* with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov

9 Cerritos Folk Dancers *Bulgarian Workshop* with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov

10 Laguna International Dancers *Bulgarian Workshop* with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov

JUNE 2024

8 *Cerritos Anniversary Festival*

MAY 2025

2-4 *Statewide 2025 will take place at the Portuguese Hall in Arroyo Grande - save the date.*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

MAY 2024

17-19 *Statewide* in Fremont, Master teachers Yannis Konstantinou and Cesar Garfiaz. Our Lady of Guadalupe School, 40374 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538

JULY 2024

July 28 - Aug 3 *Stockton 2024 in-person Camp*. More information coming soon. Any questions? Please email us at stocktonfolkdancecamp@gmail.com.

OUT OF STATE

2024

Feb 2-5 *Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Workshop*, Holiday Inn Celebration, Kissimmee, FL (Orlando area), with Michael Ginsburg teaching Balkan dances and Bata Marcetic teaching Serbian. Info: Gary at ghberke47@gmail.com or folkdance.org

Mar 22-24 *San Antonio Folklife and Dance Festival* - save the date www.safdf.org

Apr 4-9 *NFO National Conference* <https://info-usa.com/nfo/annual-conference-2024/> at the same location as Hora Eclipse, with some overlapping events.

Apr 5 – 8 *Hora Eclipse 2*: Friday to Monday, with a total solar eclipse Monday afternoon. At the URJ Greene Family Camp, just outside Waco Texas. <http://hora-eclipse.com> and <https://www.kochavim.net/>

The Corner is continued from page 3.

conference in October! Kudos to the West Valley International Folk Dancers for dancing enthusiastically and inviting hotel guests to join the fun on the breezy terrace. Additional outreach opportunities will be planned for spring. In Coos Bay, Oregon, Stacy Rose has been teaching a weekly 1-hour class “Many Lands, Many Dances” at her community library. She reports, “I have found the public library to be an excellent partner in spreading the joy of folk dancing.” Inquire at your local library. If the staff is seeking an innovative program, the Federation can recommend a qualified & personable folk dance teacher.

In closing, 4 announcements:

Scholarship applications to Camps & teaching Festivals is open. See Federation website, calendar link for scholarship details.

Spring Fest will take place in Somis on Saturday April 20, 2024.

The Bulgarians are coming! Dr. Anton Andonov will be available for master dance classes in January. Contact Vladimir Baltadzhiev at vladimir.baltadzhiev@gmail.com to schedule a session.

Jaap Leegwater will be in So Cal March & April. Sherry Cochran is managing Jaap’s schedule. Sherry Cochran worldance1@gmail.com

The Federation is fervently seeking a publicity guru. If you like to promote, post & advertise this volunteer position is for YOU!

Diane Baker

ON THE SCENE

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

We're having our two big events in December and January and we hope lots of dancers from our sister clubs in the area can join us. We'll have a New Year's Eve Party on (you guessed it) New Year's Eve from 7:00 till 10:00 PM, and our Winter Festival on Saturday January 13th from 1:00 till 5:00 PM. See our ads in this issue. Both events will have live music by Fifth Friday and be held at Altadena Community Church Heicher Hall, 943 E Altadena Drive in Altadena.

We also dance every Friday night from 7:30 till 9:30 and we love to welcome guests and new dancers. In the teaching sessions for December, we'll be teaching one or more of the dances that were taught at Fall Camp, and in January we'll be reviewing dances that are on the playlist for our Winter Festival.

Please see our website for updates and lots more information: <https://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org>

Mari Werner

SAN DIEGO HAPPENINGS

October was the month of live performances at the Folk Dance center!

On October 14, we were treated to a performance by our local band, Tzidia. There were about 25 people in attendance, and we danced until 10:00. During the first hour, Martha Awdziewicz taught dances that the band was planning to play, so we were all up to speed when the music started.

On October 28, we hosted Bulgarika, featuring Donka Koleva and Nikolai Kolev. About 38 people attended, and were treated to a nice variety of Bulgarian dances.

Under upcoming events, we are hosting the Varamezovi family, featuring Ivan Varimezov and Tzvetanka Varimezova, on Saturday, December 9 from 7:30 to 10:00. This will be held at the Folk Dance Center's venue at Oasis Wellness Center in La Mesa.

Also, our annual Membership Party will be held on February 3, 2024, also at the Oasis Wellness Center.

Tzidia will provide live music.

We are also looking forward to a visit from Jaap Leegwater in March.

If anyone is visiting San Diego, we would love to have you dance with us!

The Folk Dance Center meets every Saturday at Oasis Fitness Center in La Mesa. For more information, please contact John Knapp at

jcknappster@gmail.com

The Cabrillo Dancers meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at Balboa Park. For more information, please contact Georgina Sham at

gbsham@gmail.com

Gail Wilson



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

NEW YEAR'S EXTRAVAGANZA in ALBANIA and ITALY:

Dec 27, 2023 to Jan 9, 2024

Tirana, Venice, Lake Garda, Banknot Folk Festival

Led by Cathie Dunklee-Donnell, dance teachers Lee Otterholt and Genci Kastrati

Middle East

EGYPT: February 23-March 3, 2024 Cairo, Nile River cruise, Luxor, Aswan

ISRAEL: March 3-13, 2024 Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Safed, Golan Heights. Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Joe Freedman

North America

WESTERN CANADA: April 11-23, 2024 Calgary, Banff, Vancouver

Led by Cathie Donnel-Dunkel, with Lee Otterholt and Genci Kastrati

EASTERN CANADA: June 28-July 10, 2024 Montreal, Quebec, Saint John, Halifax, Charlottetown, and more. Led by Richard Schmidt

Eastern Europe (The Balkans)

ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA and KOSOVO:

May 22-June 3-5, 2024 Tirana, Dures, Vlora Folk Festival, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat, Lake Prespa, Ochrid, Kosovo extension.

Led by Lee Otterholt and guided by Kliti Zika

BULGARIA and Black Sea Coast:

July 22-August 4, 4-8, 2024 Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, Varna. Led by Ventsi Milev

with Bulgarian folk dance teacher Niki Enchev, and musician Ventsi Andonov

ROMANIA: Sept 29-Oct 13, 2024 Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighet Marmatiei Led by Nancy 3. Hoffman/Virginia O'Neil

GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: Oct.19-Nov. 1, 2024,

Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Greek Island cruise.

Led by Lee Otterholt and guided by Maroula Konti

Western Europe

SCANDINAVIA: June 18-July 1, 2024 Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen. Led by Lee Otterholt

IRELAND: August 3-15, 2024 Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin. Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Kay Cleary

SPAIN: Sept 12-25, 2024 Malaga, Ronda, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Granada

South America

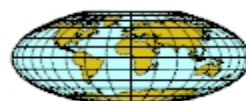
PERU with Nazca and Peruvian Amazon:

May 20-29, 2024 .Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Puno, Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca, Peruvian Amazon, Nazca extensions.

Led by Martha Tavera

BRAZIL: October 21-November 1, 2024 Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Iguassu Falls.

Led by Hilary Almeida



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<https://www.jimgold.com/> Jim Gold International, Inc. 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A. (201) 836-0362 Email: jimgold@jimgold.com



NOUVEAU CHAMBER BALLET WITH LOIS ELLYN BALLET STUDIO

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THE NUTCRACKER

A beautiful and magical holiday tradition



Saturday, December 16th, 2:00 PM

Sunday, December 17th, 2:00 PM

Fullerton College Campus Theatre
321 E Chapman Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832

A one-hour performance specially made for children of all ages. Celebrate the season with Clara, the Nutcracker and the Sugar Plum Fairy as they journey to the Kingdom of Sweets. Reserved Seating \$20 - \$30

Continue the magic at the Sugar Plum Party immediately following the performance for treats, a photo with the cast and much more! \$10/ child (Parent or guardian must be present)

For more information: (714) 526-3862 or nouveauchamberballet.com



SCAN FOR TICKETS

Dancers Speak

PRESCOTT GROUP ENJOYS TRADITION OF FOLK-DANCING

If sunshine on a Sunday afternoon draws you to the Prescott Courthouse for a little sightseeing, and if your feet want to keep moving, you might go a few blocks southeast to Aubrey St, past Alarcon. You might be surprised to hear Greek, Balkan, Romanian or Israeli music coming from a two-story building with blue trim. If curiosity drives you to go up the steps and peek beyond the blue door, you'll see a group of people dancing, following precise steps, in a circle or a line. They are members of Prescott International Folk Dancers.

The group meets every week to dance to music from a great variety of cultures. Some dancers have joined recently, others have been dancing for many years. They are mostly local residents reflecting the breadth and scope of Prescott itself, having moved here from states and countries far and wide. They have something in common: they love to dance. Occasionally they welcome dancers from Tucson, Phoenix or other states.

Social folk-dance participation around the country has been dwindling for years. The most successful and dynamic groups have managed to preserve the

beautiful movements of the choreography from different countries, while evolving beyond gender and ethnic stereotypes. They welcome new people, and maintain a comfortable mix of beginning and experienced dancers.

Over the long term any group needs new members to survive. New dancers sometimes choose to dance behind the line so they can watch others' feet. A few take easily to choreographed dances, but most have to work at it a little bit, but they all agree that it's worth the effort!

Ask a folk-dancer why they do it, and they'll tell you how it has enriched their life and engaged them in many ways. Physically, their bodies are moving and exerting; intellectually, their minds are constantly being challenged, learning steps that range from simple to complex; socially, they develop affection and friendships with one another.

Myrna Villa recalls, "A little over ten years ago I was glancing through the community-events section of The Daily Courier and my eyes fell on a notice about a Prescott dance group meeting at a local middle school for Eastern European folk line-dancing. This brought lively memories of line-dancing at the school gym when I was a graduate student in another state, and I



decided to give it a try once again. I've been dancing with the Prescott group ever since.

"The rest of my life changed in that period, but folk-dancing has remained a constant. It engages the body (lots of jumping, running, and occasional serene sliding), the mind (we have to learn the steps for all these dances) and the heart (we treat each other with kindness and respect). I am so glad I decided to give it a try then!"

Dick Weston offers some history: "Prescott International Folk Dancers came into being in 1983, when Jack and Suzie Yule began teaching folk-dancing at Yavapai College. Then, as something of a spinoff from those classes, they formed the current folk-dance group, which has been in existence ever since."

It isn't always easy, but the rewards are great, says Ellen Malcolm. "There is a period of effort, and for me usually some frustration, as I try to match my steps to the choreography. There comes a moment when part of the dance just begins to flow. I keep working on all the parts, and eventually the whole dance becomes a unified movement. The energy is hard to describe. Sometimes we are each in our own bubble of concentration and effort as we work on the steps and the timing. Finally there comes a moment when we are all one flow of energy, moving with the music. There is a wonderful synergy created as the group moves together.

"During the pandemic we have been able to dance safely by using a big space where we can stay several feet apart from each other. We all feel lucky to have this way of connecting by movement even when there is distance between us."

If you enter through that blue door, you'll find a welcoming group of people inviting you to join the line or the circle. Take a chance. Join the dance!

Prescott International Folk Dancers meets every Sunday at 2-4pm year-round at 335 E. Aubrey St. (upstairs at the Boys and Girls Club), and at the pavilion in Ken Lindley Park Wednesdays 5:30-7pm mid-May to mid-September. For more info contact prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net, 928-925-8995, or visit prescottinternationalfolkdancers.org.

Myrna Villa and Ellen Malcolm

LAST DANCE

To my folk dancing friends;

I sadly received the news that our friend Judy Sarup has passed. She danced at CalTech Folkdancers,

Veselo, Balboa Park, Square Dancing (multiple places), Greek events and more. She always asked me if she was still on my mailing list, and gave me her address multiple times, saying: "Please alert me to EVERY event". Yes, she and her husband drove from San Diego to Pasadena at the drop of a hat, and hated to miss our Halloween Party. On ordinary nights she happened to just drop in and danced whatever we were doing, rarely making a request herself. I always enjoyed her smiling face just popping in. Was she a great dancer? Maybe, but really happy to be dancing anything played. I will miss her; she radiated happiness and our circle will miss that.

Nancy Milligan

A FOLK DANCE MEMEORY

A treasured folk dance memory for me is actually a very recent one. Mari Werner, a dancer with the Pasadena Co-op has been organizing and hosting dances in area parks. We were vagabonds at first trying different spots on the weekend – either Saturday or Sunday depending on the weather and peoples' schedules. We were always well received, an Afghani family, young Hispanic girls have joined us intrigued by the music. But the heartwarming, joy producing moment occurred on a weekend this past September.

As we were dancing to some Balkan melody, a middle-aged couple accompanied by a beautiful dog and an elderly regal looking woman noticed us. The younger woman called out to us, "Can she dance with you?" I thought she meant the dog. We all said of course. And we were joined in the line by a tall, grey-haired woman. She danced enthusiastically; told us she was 100. Her daughter later said she is 89.

After the dance as they started to walk away, I said to Don, "We should find out what culture she is from". And that is what he did. Her family was happy to share that they are Armenian and that she taught dance for Pasadena Unified Schools for many years. We quickly found "Sweet Girl" and danced with the elderly woman leading. We followed as best we could, as she led us in "Kochari". We were all so enchanted to be dancing with her that no one thought to take a picture. That is my one regret.

Weather and schedules have kept us from dance for a time, but we hope to see her again someday in the park, dancing and epitomizing the joy and universality of dance.

Pat Cross



Winter Festival

Hosted by

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op

Saturday, January 13, 2024
1:00 till 5:00 PM

**Altadena Community Church Heicher Hall
943 E Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001**

Admission: \$10



Live music by
Fifth Friday



Potluck refreshments

Please check our website for updates
Play lists will be posted on our Events page closer to the date
<https://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org/events/>

Sponsored by
Folk Dance Federation of California South



POETRY CORNER

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

The power of a good example
Light for our era
Rock of the ages

The marvellous power of
our technology
can only be so

When we decide
when to turn it on,
and
when to turn it off,

To marvel in the
quietness
at regular intervals,
with no screens, no beeps
the stimuli
slowing to a
quiet halt
Only to discover
the magical trove within

To enjoy
the gift of giving
through mitzvah

The treasure which can never be bought

Liberation
from the soul-breaking
prison of unneeded
commodities

A message to the children:
Create your own wonders
Discover yourselves
Realize and appreciate

the preciousness
of those who sustain you
and savour your moments
together

Please focus on
more than the pressures
of your peers
to seem cool
having the latest in...

You have histories,
heritage,
and are part of a chain
in the legacy of humanity

Find your way by searching,
Our hands
are right there
to help

But try to formulate
the question!



by
Karen (Edinger) Belkic

RECENT EVENTS

FOLK ALLIANCE

The Folk Dance Federation, South leapt at the opportunity to showcase international folk dance music and dancing to the folk music society holding a conference at the Marriott in Warner Center, October 14: FAR-West, the western region of FOLK ALLIANCE.

Sans Frontieres, our very cool SoCal folk dance band led by Terrence Gucwa, did a fantastic job of providing great folk dance music for dancers and listeners alike! They also did a superb job of adapting to every uncertainty, and producing beautiful, exciting, danceable music in less-than-optimal circumstances.

Kudos to the band! And also to the West Valley Dancers, and others, who showed up and danced with gusto!

We had hoped to attract more Far-West folk to International Folk Dance music and dance. Yet maybe we somehow did? It is not for the one who scatters seeds to determine which ones may germinate, but feeding seedlings is a great path to be on.

Valerie Daley

BULGARIKA AT NARODNI

Narodni dancers recently enjoyed *doing racenica, daichovo, provo, pajdusko*, and more, dancing around the excellent musical group Bulgarika... on our wonderful wood dance floor.

Camille Dull



New Year's Eve Chicago Dance Party

(In Altadena CA)



Hosted by

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op



Sunday, December 31, 2023

7:00 PM till 10:00ish

(It will be 2024 in Chicago)

Live music by

Fifth Friday

plus all-request recorded dance music

Altadena Community Church,

Heicher Hall

943 E Altadena Drive,

Altadena, CA 91001

Potluck Refreshments

Admission: \$10

Please visit our website for updates: <https://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org/events>

Orange County

New Year's Eve Folk Dance Party



with Live music by Sans Frontières
plus programmed and recorded dance music

—————> *NEW time & location:* <—————

Sunday, Dec. 31st • **7 to 10** PM

Clubhouse **7** • 24111 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods
(directly across the street from Clubhouse 2 - no gate)



Treats to share are appreciated, but not necessary.



Hosted by the *Laguna International Dancers* and
the *Laguna Woods Village International Folk Dance Club*

If you need more info', please email

lagunadancers@gmail.com or call Marilyn at 949-939-0604.

All Laguna Woods Village residents and their guests are welcome.

Learn more about Laguna International Dancers & their events by visiting

www.lagunainternationaldancers.com



Happy New Year!



CLUB DIRECTORY

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

*For changes, additions, or deletions email
directory@folkdancecene.org*

Federation Clubs

Bay Osos Folk Dancers: Tue 11:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, **Los Osos**. 818-203-5812 wburke.dance@gmail.com Billy Burke, BayOsosFolkDancers.org.

***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. sites.google.com/site/cabrilloodancers

Cerritos Folk Dancers: 1st-4th Tue 5:00-7:45 Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS**. (562) 865-8854 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen Chiang

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 7:30-9:30. Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, **THOUSAND OAKS**. 805-501-9810 marilynml@yahoo.com Marilyn Ludwig

Ethnic Express: 2nd Thu 5:30 – 8 pm., Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St., **LAS VEGAS, NV**. (702) 732-4871 rpkillian@gmail.com Richard Killian. Meeting informally 1 or 2X monthly at restaurant contact for details

Fantasy Folk Dance Club: Sun 3:00 - 7:00. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd, **MONTEREY PARK**. vincentyhcheng@gmail.com 626-429-9008 Vincent Cheng.

Folk Dance Center: See website for times. Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, **La Mesa**. jcknappster@gmail.com John, www.folkdancecenter.org

Int'l Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods: Tue 10:00am-12:00. Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon, **LAGUNA WOODS**. (949) 939-0604 MarilynMichael829@gmail.com Marilyn Michael Yurk. First-time dancers call Marilyn for gate clearance. www.lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/dance-club-international-folk

Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing: Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. 310-508-9676 Anne Sirota. www.kypseli.org

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

Narodni Int'l Folkdancers: Thu 8:00-10:00. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BELLFLOWER**. (562) 881-9504 julithilona@gmail.com Julith Neff www.narodni.org

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op: Fri 7:30-9:30. Altadena Community Church, 943 E Altadena Dr, **Altadena**. info@pasadenafolkdancecoop.org 626-808-0361 Mari Werner www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org

Prescott Int'l Folkdancers: Sun 2:00-4:00. Prescott Boys & Girls Club, 335 East Aubrey St, **PRESCOTT, AZ**. (928) 925-8995 Dick Weston Prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net. www.prescottinternationalfolkdancers.org/

Rainbow Senior Club: Sun 2:00-5:00. Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave, **ALHAMBRA**. (626) 456-1900 ksun310@yahoo.com Kevin Sun.

Solvang Village Folk Dancers: Sat 6:00-8:00 (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 www.svfolkdance.com

Ventura Int'l Folkdancers: Tue&Thu 2:15-3:30.
Ventura YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd, **Ventura**.
(805) 746-0884 dancing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie
Daley. www.facebook.com/profile.php?
id=100067987230157

Veselo Selo Folkdancers: Thu 8:00-10:00.
Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St,
BELLFLOWER. Meets with Narodni. "Veselo Selo
Night" is once/month (date varies). Plus special
events. ms.winokur@yahoo.com, Shana Winokur.
www.facebook.com/groups/800433566740206

Vintage Israeli Dancing: One Sat per month 8:15-
12:00. Danzmundo World Dance & Fitness Studio
(DWDFS), 16733 Ventura Blvd., #13, **ENCINO**.
jrbythec@aol.com Jim Rothman.
www.vintageisraelidancing.org

West Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 2:30-4:30
OneGeneration, 18255 Reseda Blvd. **Reseda**. Fri
2:00-4:00. Canoga Park Sr. Ctr. 7326 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park. (818) 368-1957.
jaymichtom@yahoo.com. Jay Michtom.

Westside Folkdancers: Tue 7:45-10:15. Masonic
Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, **CULVER CITY**. (310) 391
-7382 sandysmail1000@gmail.com Sandy Helperin

Exhibition Groups

Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble: United
Hungarian House, 1975 Washington, **LOS ANGELES**.
(805) 341-9640 sissykf@earthlink.net Sissy
Keresztes-Fischer.
Www.KarpatokFolkEnsemble.com

Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble: Wed 8:00
-10:00, Fri 7:00 - 9:00, Sat 2:30-4:00. Our Lady of
the Bright Mount , 3424 W Adams Blvd, **LOS**
ANGELES. (626) 827-7338 elistarr@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Romuzga. Wwww.krakusy.com

Scandia Dancers: Thu 7:30-9:30. (714) 356-7745
sholzman1@verizon.net Stefanie Holzman

Westchester Lariats: Mon 4:00-9:00. Westchester
Townhouse, 8501 Emerson Ave, **LOS ANGELES**. 310
-480-4343 dseruto@gmail.com Danielle Gulalo.
Www.WestchesterLariats.org

Non-Federation Clubs

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: Tue 2:00-4:00 Nov-Apr.
Step by Step Dance Studio, 316 N Palm
Canyon, **PALM SPRINGS**. (760) 342-1297 Helen
Smith

***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

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

Southern Nevada Int'l FD: Thu 4:00-6:00.
Ballroom Addiction, 2301 Renaissance Dr., **Las
Vegas, NV.** hugagiraffe@cox.net Eileen Hug

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:
Cultural, Historical & Ballroom: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri,
Sat. St. Albans Social Hall, 580 Hilgard Ave,
WESTWOOD. (310) 284-3636 James Zimmer. See
website for details:
ballroom2.wixsite.com/westwoodballroom

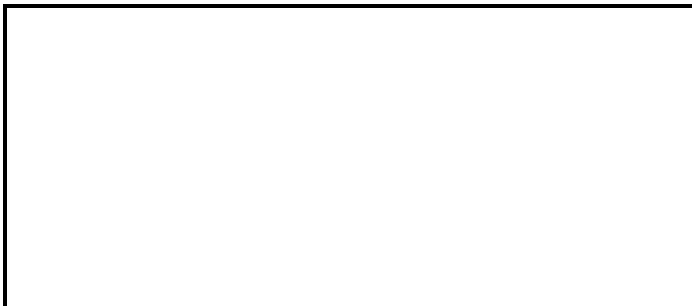
***Westside Daytime Folkdancers:** Wed 12:30-2.
Culver City Senior Center 4095 Overland Blvd,
Culver City. sandysmail1000@gmail.com, (310)
391-7382 Sandy Helperin



*A medieval painting of Albo-
ka players.*

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