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Folk Dance Scene

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Folk Dance Scene is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costumes, customs, lore and culture of the peoples of the world. It is also designed to inform them of the opportunities to experience folk dance and culture in Southern California and elsewhere.

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On the cover: Stonehenge; Pasadena Co-op members dancing on World Dance Day in Sierra Madre (photo by Ellen Stern).

Club Directory

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Mon 3:30-9:30
(310) 215-0010 Gina Cruz
LOS ANGELES, Westchester
Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson

WESTWOOD CO-OP

Thu 7:30-10:20
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr
(310) 839-1753 Adele Mortin
WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center,
11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

Non-Federation Clubs

ANAHEIM INT'L FOLKDANCERS

Wed 7:30-9:30
(714) 893-8127 Carol Maybrier
ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church,
511 S Harbor

CAL TECH INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:30
(626) 797-5157 Nancy Mulligan
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church
300 S. Los Robles

DESERT DANCERS

Mon (Scottish)
Thu 7:15-9:30 (International)
(760) 446-6905 Ruth Dietrich
(760) 446-6752 Nora Nuckles
RIDGECREST, Hi Desert Dance
Center 725 S. Gateway St.

DESERT INT'L FOLK DANCERS

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(760) 327-8684 Dwight Fine
(760) 342-1297 Helen Smith
PALM SPRINGS, Step By Step Dance
Studio 316 N. Palm Canyon

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(619) 281-5656
SAN DIEGO, 4569 30th Street

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(310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason
L.A. Robertson Rec Ctr. 1641 Preuss
W HOLLYWOOD West Hollywood
Park, San Vicente at Melrose

ISRAELI DANCING-James Zimmer

Tues 8:00-11:00 Thu 8:00-9:30
(310) 284-3638 James Zimmer
Israelidance@yahoo.com
WEST HILLS, West Valley JCC,
22622 Vanowen ENCINO,
Community Ctr 4935 Balboa

ISRAELI DANCING-Yoni Carr

(619) 227-0110 Yoni
NEWPORT BEACH, Avant Garde
Ballroom, 4220 Scott Dr Sun 7:30-12
SAN DIEGO, Jewish Academy, 11860
Carmel Creek Rd. Thu

ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern
L.A., Univ of Judaism
5600 Mulholland Mon 10:00am-11:30
Wed 7:30-10:00 Thu 10:15am-1:05;
L.A. Shaarei Tefila, 7269 Beverly
Mon 6:15-9:00, Tue 11:00am-2:00
Wed 11:45am-1:15

KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

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(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,
Casa del Prado room 206 St

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(310) 310-399-2321 Gerda
worldance1@aol.com Sherry
LOS ANGELES, Pacific Arts Center
10469 Santa Monica Blvd.

SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30
(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club,
Balboa Park

SAN PEDRO KOLO DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30
(310) 832-1074 Pauline Klak
SAN PEDRO, Dalmatian-American
Club, 1639 S Palos Verdes St.

SANTA BARBARA BALKAN FOLK DANCERS

Wed 8:00-10:30
(805) 682-4511 Luis Goena
SANTA BARBARA, Oak Park Stage,
corner Junipero and Calle Real

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE INT'L DANCE CLUB

Tue, Thu 11:15am-12:35
(310) 284-3637 James Zimmer
SANTA MONICA, Santa Monica
College Clock Tower or LS Bldg
1900 Pico Blvd

UCLA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB UCLA INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

Mon 7:00-9:00 (ballroom dance)
Mon 9:00-11:00 (folk dance)
(310) 284-3636 James Zimmer
ballroom@ucla.edu
WESTWOOD, UCLA Ackeman
Union Room 2414

WEST COAST GAMMELDANS

Wed 7:30-9:30
(714) 932-2513 Allan and Shirley
info@wcgc.us www.wcgc.us
WESTMINSTER, 5361 Vallecito A

Club Directory

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CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:00-9:45
(858) 459-1336 Georgina
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,
Balboa Park Club

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(805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center,
403 W Hillcrest Dr

ETHNIC EXPRESS

Wed 6:30-9:00 except holidays
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights
Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

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ALAHAMBRA, China Press, 2121 W.
Mission Rd.
Wed 7:00 - 10:00
EL MONTE, eToday TV, 9440 Telstar
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96 S MacMillan

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(949) 768-6120 Florence Kauderer
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,
24232 Calle Aragon

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(818) 248-5804 Chuck Bausback
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club,
1424 Fremont Ave.

MULTI ETHNIC DANCERS

Wed 6:00
(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,
24232 Calle Aragon

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Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

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PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church
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Methodist Church 4650 Mansfield St.

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ANAHEIM, Downtown Community
Center, 250 E Center (Mon)
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,
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(805) 688-2382 Jean Menzies
SOLVANG, Jonata Elementary School
301 2nd Street, Buellton

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Venice Blvd.

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Sat 8:00-11:00
(714) 738-8008 Phyllis Pivar
FULLERTON, Hillcrest Recreation
Center, 1155 N. Lemon.

VINTAGE ISRAELI DANCING

1 Sat per month confirm 8:15 - 12:00
(818) 990-8925 Louis
dovbyrd@aol.com
SHERMAN OAKS, Anisa's School
of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd.

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WEST L.A., Brockton School
1309 Armacost Ave.

WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Fri 7:15-10:00
(818) 368-1957 Jill Michtom
CANOGA PARK, Senior Center
7326 Jordan Ave



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 43, No. 5
June 2007

Editor's Corner

June brings us the longest day in the northern hemisphere, the end of the school year (predicated on freeing children for work in the harvest), weddings, and in some measure the beginning of summer. That the solstice is named mid-summer's day reflects that it is the longest, while the extension of summer some three months after (or winter) seems to be a thermal delay akin to inertia, or momentum.

In summer the solstice could be seen as the high point, but is accepted as the beginning of the good times.

Stonehenge is a monument to prehistoric attempts to measure these times in the orbit of the tilted earth around the sun, while we dance in our own circles of friendship and joy of coordinated movement to music.

Remember, this summer the double issue will be July/August.

Be of good cheer!

— *Pat Cross and Don Krotzer*

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Federation Corner



I am the newly elected Secretary of the Federation. Jeanne Cate and I equally share the duties and responsibilities of the position. I work as an appeals officer for the government. I weigh the hazard of litigation concerning taxation cases. I also teach for UCLA through extension in the business

department. Many of my students are CPA's and attorneys.

Although my work experience is in the business field, dancing is my passion! I come from a family of dancers. My mother was a professional dancer who performed with Ike and Tina Turner. I grew up with a deep appreciation for music, dance performance and the arts.

My education includes degrees in business as well as dance. I have a master's degree in dance from the University of California, Irvine. I pursued the business field to maintain a living while the dance degree fed my soul. I have studied a wide range of dance forms including beginning ballet, beginning tap, Hawaiian, Polynesian, Tahitian, Mexican dance, Salsa, Middle Eastern and East Indian dance. I also performed and reconstructed the works of Ruth St. Denis. I am presently on the Board of the Ruth St. Denis Foundation. I taught dance for the Board of Education. I choreographed and supervised student dance performances.

I was introduced to folk dancing by a co-worker. I quickly became a member of the Mountain Dancers. I realized that I could dance this form of dancing well into old age. I was delighted! I have many personal friends within this group. We are like a family and have regular outings, activities and trips. I am also a member of the West L.A. Folkdancers under the direction of Irwin and Beverly Barr. It is an enjoyable group. I attend various folk dance groups including the Sierra Madre Folk dancers. I enjoy the expertise, vitality and camaraderie of the folk dance groups. It is a pleasure to be associated with such a fine group of people.

— *Charlotte Edginton*

Summer Solstice

CELEBRATING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

Sol + *stice* derives from a combination of Latin words meaning "sun" + "to stand still." As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky.

As a major celestial event, the summer solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The northern hemisphere celebrates this in June, but the people on the southern half of the earth have their longest summer day in December!

Early Celebrations

Awed by the great power of the sun, civilizations in the northern areas have celebrated the summer solstice - otherwise known as Midsummer, the Christian St. John's Day, or the Wiccan Litha - for many centuries.



Druids celebrated the Summer Solstice as the wedding of Heaven and Earth. The Goddess manifests as Mother Earth and God as Sun King. Bonfires were lit to celebrate the sun at its height of power and to ask the sun not to withdraw into winter darkness.

Midsummer Eve festivals in the countryside of Cornwall, England, would have firelight shining from every hill and peak. Dancers adorned in garlands and flowers and young men jumped through the tall flames. This ancient Cornwall Summer Bonfire tradition had been revived during the 1920's and is still a popular festival.

The best-known midsummer ritual is the lighting of the bonfire and jumping over it to ensure prosperity and deter bad luck. The higher the jump, the better the crops. The fire also frightened away mischievous spirits, ensuring a good harvest.

In ancient China, the summer solstice ceremony celebrated the earth, the feminine and the *yin* forces,

complimenting the winter solstice which celebrated the heavens, masculinity and *yang* forces. At Canada's National Aboriginal Day celebration, many Aboriginal groups see the solstice as a time of renewal. There are ceremonies where prayers are made to ask for healthy crops and a good harvest. Tradition holds that this is the best time to harvest honey from the hives. Herbs and flowers harvested on Midsummer Day were believed to have magical qualities. Specially gathered fern seed was believed to make people invisible and guide them to buried treasure, and wreaths and garlands of flowers were created to bring health to households and ward off evil. In William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the characters use a potion of magical herbs.

Modern Celebrations

Today, the day is still celebrated around the world - most notably in England at Stonehenge and Avebury, where thousands still gather to welcome the sunrise on the Summer Solstice. Pagan spirit gatherings or festivals are also common in June, when groups gather to light a sacred fire, stay up all night to welcome the dawn - and this being the Internet Age - send each other Summer Solstice e-mail greetings.

In Finland this day is called Juhannus Day. This celebration is always held on a Saturday, so that everyone can spend time with family and go to the country. On the Eve of Midsummer the celebrations would begin with a sauna followed by the lighting of the bonfires. Dancing and singing outdoors would continue through the night. Birch trees were decorated with ornaments and garland. It was believed everyone must have a birch tree in the house to keep happiness within.

In Sweden, the first harvesting of potatoes is served, along with pickled herring and the first strawberries of the season.

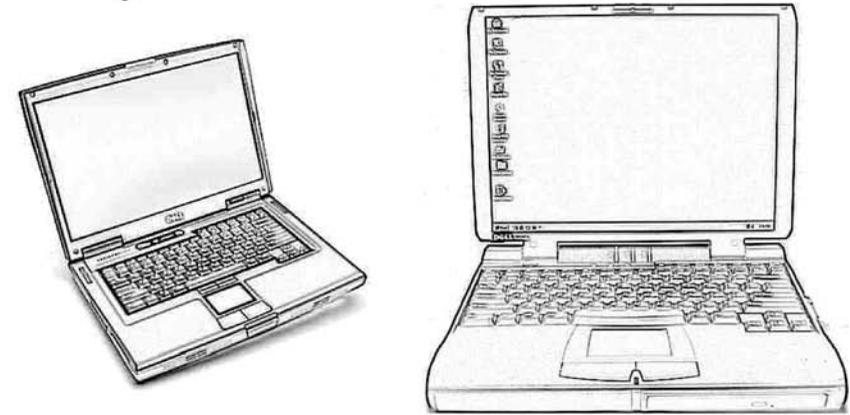


In Denmark midsummer's eve is known as *Sankt Hans Aften*. Bonfires are lit on beaches throughout the land as darkness comes and mock witches and fireworks are thrown

into the fires. It is also a sabbat of Neopaganism, called litha.

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Fairy Honeycakes

These cakes are not unlike those made around the turn of the century on the night before Beltane (a pagan celebration observed in Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man, traditionally on the first day of summer). These cakes were left in the garden to please Faery visitors.

- 1/2 cup sweet white wine
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup honey
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
- Oil for frying
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

Beat the wine and egg in a medium bowl. Combine the flour, cinnamon, salt and sugar in a small bowl. Stir into the egg mixture. Let stand 30 minutes. Combine the honey and nutmeg in a small bowl. Heat 1/2-inch of the oil in a frying pan until hot, but not smoking. Drop the batter into the oil 1 tablespoon at a time; fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Dip into the honey. Yield: 1 1/2 Dozen.

Gypsy-witch Love Potion

- 1 teaspoon dried, crushed basil
- 1 teaspoon dried fennel
- 1 teaspoon dried vervain
- 3 pinches dried nutmeg
- 1/4 cup red wine.

Heat over flame until boiling for three minutes. Remove from flame and cool. Strain through cheesecloth into cups. Add honey to sweeten. Then drink up with a loved one.

Recipe from Wicca Craft by Gerina Dunwich



Here are a few recipes for what ails you:

Burns

1. Scrape a raw potato and apply this to a burn. Every time the potato scrapings dry out, replace them with fresh. This will start to cool the burn immediately.
2. Yogurt will relieve pain from a burn fast, if applied as soon as possible.
3. Add two tablespoons of St. John's Wort to one cup of boiling water. Let steep until the water has cooled. Strain and use as a wash for the burn. This will help speed healing as well as help with the pain.

Insect Bites

1. Spider bites: Use equal parts of salt and baking soda mixed with a small amount of water, to make a paste. Apply to spider bite to help with pain and itching.
2. In a pinch, apply a dab of tooth paste to the insect bite to relieve itching.
3. Make a paste out of ordinary meat tenderizer. It will neutralize the poison of an insect bite in just a couple of minutes.

Sedative Tincture

One and one half ounces of chamomile
 One half teaspoon of powdered peppermint
 Steep for two weeks in one half quart of vodka, shaking daily. Strain and bottle. This is for adults only. Dosage is one-half drop under the tongue.

For lots more interesting information, visit [wicca101](http://wicca101.com), found at www.fortunecity.com.

— *Sandy Helperin*

'DANCERS SPEAK' QUESTION FOR THIS MONTH

Quote: "If you cannot afford to give a ball in good style, you had better not attempt it at all."

Decorum. A Practical Treatise on Etiquette & Dress of the Best American Society, by Richard A. Wells, A.M., 1889

Question: "In light of Loui Tucker's article (see p. 14), what do you think: Is it better to have a prepared or a request program?"

— *Sandy Helperin*

In Wyoming, at Crimson Dawn Park, a celebration is attended by many people from the community, and from around the country. All are invited to throw a handful of red dirt into the bonfire, in order to have a wish come true.



Wreaths and water are also symbols of the solstice. In Russia, girls make flower wreaths which they throw into the rivers. They then tell their fortunes based on the movements of the wreaths. In Denmark, people once made their bonfires near healing waters, hoping to chase away evil spirits.

Summer Solstice Fun Facts

Pagans called the midsummer moon the "Honey Moon" for the mead made from fermented honey that was part of wedding ceremonies performed at the summer solstice.

Ancient Pagans celebrated midsummer with bonfires, when couples would leap through the flames, believing their crops would grow as high as the couples were able to jump.

Midsummer was thought to be a time of magic when evil spirits were said to appear. To thwart them, Pagans often wore protective garlands of herbs and flowers. One of the most powerful of them was a plant called 'chase-devil', which is known today as St. John's Wort and still used by modern herbalists as a mood stabilizer.

An old Swedish proverb says, "Midsummer night is not long but it sets many cradles rocking."

According to Dorothy Gladys Spicer in *The Book of Festivals*, Irish girls drop melted lead into water and interpret the shapes it makes.

In Spain, girls do the same with eggs.

In Poland, girls make a wreath of wild flowers, put a candle in the middle, set it adrift on the river and tell the future by observing its fate.

In parts of Norway a custom of arranging mock marriages, both between adults and between children, is still kept alive. The wedding was meant to symbolize the blossoming of new life.

The spiral is a symbol associated with the solstices and creation by the patterns of sacred

geometry. Ancient dances follow the sun's movement like a spiral. People joined hands, weaving through the streets, winding into a decreasing spiral into the middle then unwinding back out again. The sun moving from contraction at the center of the spiral at winter solstice to expansion at summer solstice and back again.

What can we do to welcome summer?

According to tradition, we could decorate our front door with birch, fennel, St. John's wort, orpin and white lilies. And remember that rue, roses, vervain, trefoil and St. John's wort all have magical powers on the eve of the summer solstice.

I will work in my garden, maybe even make a small wreath to symbolize the great and constant circle of the seasons. I think I'll skip the bonfire!

— *Sandy Helperin*

Information for this article was gleaned from several sources, including <http://web.ukonline.co.uk>, wikipedia.org, www.teachnet.com and <http://www.chiff.com/a/summer-solstice.htm>



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Calendar

Note: Federation Dance Events are in Bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS JUNE

- 1,2,3,4,5 **Spring Festival of World Music & Jazz 2007**, Schoenberg Hall, UCLA. Info: (310) 206-3033 or <http://www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu/>.
- 2 **Halau o' Keikiali 'i (Dance & Music, Hawaii)** 11:00 & 12:30 at Walt Disney Concert Hall.
- 2, 3 **Greek Festival**, St. George Church, Downey. Music, dancing, food, crafts. Info: (562) 862-6461.
- 7 **Narodni's 31st Birthday Party with live accordion music, at 9402 Oak St., Bellflower. Info: (714) 932-2513 or <http://www.narodni.org>.**
- 8, 9, 10 **Greek Festival**, St. Demetrios Church, Camarillo. Music, dancing, food, crafts. Info: (805) 482-1273.
- 8, 9, 10 **Greek Festival**, St. Spyridon Church, San Diego. Dancing, food, crafts. Info: (619) 297-4165
- Paul Mulders Macedonian & Dutch Couple Workshops**
- 9 Folk Dance Center, Dancing Unlimited, 4569 30th St., San Diego. 6:30 to 8:30 Macedonian Lines, 8:30 to? Dance Party.
- 10 Laguna Folk Dancers, Community Center, 384 Legion Ave., Laguna, 7:00 Mostly Macedonian Lines, 1 or 2 Dutch Couple dances.
- 11 San Pedro Kolo Dancers, Dalmatian-American Club, 1639 S. Palos Verdes St., San Pedro. 7:30 to 10:30 Macedonian Line dances.
- 12 Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, 2150 Pan American Rd. W, San Diego. 7:30 to 9:30 Mostly Dutch Couple dances, 1 or 2 Macedonian Lines.
- 13 Folk Dance Center, Dancing Unlimited 4569 - 30th St., San Diego. 10:00 a.m. to noon Review of dances taught on Sat. 6/9.
- 14 **Macedonian Dance Workshop with Paul Mulders, Narodni F D, at 9402 Oak St., Bellflower (714) 932-2513 or <http://www.narodni.org>.**
- 15-17 **Huck Finn Jubilee** at Mojave Narrows Park, Victorville. Info: (951) 341-8080, www.huckfinn.com.
- 22-24 **Summer Solstice Folk Music, Dance & Storytelling Festival** at Warner Center Marriott. Info: (818) 817-7756 or info@CTMSFolkMusic.org.

JULY

- 2 **Independence Day Party. Celebrate with the West L.A. Folk Dancers. All-request dance program, potluck snacks. See OTS. 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. in W.L.A. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**

- 5 **Red, White & Blue Party at Narodni! Women's Club, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower. Info: (714) 932-2513 or <http://www.narodni.org>.**
- 13, 14, 15 **Greek Festival**, St. Katherine's, Redondo Beach. Music, dancing, food. Info: (310) 540-2434.
- 14, 15 **French Festival**, 11 a.m - 7 pm. Oak Park, Santa Barbara. Music, crafts, food, dancing. Free. Info: (805) 564-7274.
- 28, 29 **Greek Festival**, St. Barbara Church. Music, dancing, food, crafts. Info: (805) 683-4492.
- ## SEPTEMBER
- Greek Festivals**, Music, dancing, food, crafts.
- 1, 2, 3, , Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Long Beach. Info: (562) 494-8929.
- 6,7,8,9 , St. John Church, Las Vegas, NV. Info: (702) 221-8245.
- 7,8,9 St. Sophia Church, Los Angeles. Info: (323) 737-2424.
- 8,9 SS Constantine and Helen Church, Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Info: (760) 942-0920.
- 14,15,16 St. Anthony Church, Pasadena. Info: (626) 449-6945.
- 20 **Homecoming Party at Narodni! Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower. Info: (714) 932-2513 or <http://www.narodni.org>.**
- 21,22,23 **Greek Festival**, St. Paul's, Irvine. Info: (949) 733-2366.
- 22 **Greek Festival**, SS Constantine and Helen Church, Lancaster. Info: (661) 945-1212.
- 28,29,30 **Greek Festival**, St. Nectarios Church, Covina. Info: (626) 967-5524.
- ## OCTOBER
- 6,7 **Greek Festival**, St. Spyridon Church, Upland. Info: (909) 985-4411.
- 19-21 **Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend in Malibu, CA. Details to be announced. Info: Beverly Barr (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**
- 20,21 **Greek Festival**, St. Nicholas Mission, Temecula. Info: (951) 296-6207.
- ## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
- 6/9-16 **Scandia Camp Mendocino**. Music and dance from Valdres, Norway and Sweden. Info: www.scandiacampmendocino.org or roo@scandiacamp.org.
- 6/9 **Spokane's 2nd Annual Belly Dance Festival**, Info: <http://www.nadiyahs.com/course5.html>.
- 6/10 **Aisha Ali's Workshop**, North African dance at Halanda Studio, San Jose. 11:00 to 4:00. Info: <http://www.Halanda.com>.

in Your Program?

dance every once in a while, and some programs allow for "request dancing" at the end of the evening, if there is time. That still doesn't allow for the flexibility to deal with an immediate need.

I recently witnessed a very upset dancer leave an event very early because the dance program planned by the event coordinators was heavily loaded with couple dances and her partner was too ill to dance that night. Once her complaints were heard by the people in control of the event, there were some attempts by individual men to invite her to dance the couple dances, but she was too upset by then - too little; too late. There were other women in the same situation, but she was the one who attracted attention because of the level of her distress.

What was really needed was the ability and willingness to look around the room, see that there were almost a dozen women without dance partners with a program that was 70% couple dances [often three of them in a row], and CHANGE THE PROGRAM! Am I crazy in thinking this should have been obvious?

I can hear you now: "But we DO try to provide a balanced program. We try to pick dances that everyone knows so that everyone can dance all the time. And, by the way, Miss Fly-In-The-Ointment, we have VERY SUCCESSFUL events that everyone says they enjoy."

Wonderful! Congratulations! All I am asking for is to give the concept of an on-the-fly all-request dance program a try. Once. See what happens. It could be an eye-opening and rewarding experience.

And, by the way, the idea that everyone has to be up dancing all the time, and that is the way to measure if an event is successful - can work against us. If we only do the dances we know at our parties, we might miss an opportunity to learn new material from an unlikely source - for free! Imagine that a small group of dancers comes from a distant dance club and asks for a dance that isn't in your local repertoire. You have the music, because it's on some old cassette tape, or a recent CD and you just happen to have it at the dance party. That small group of visitors loves the dance and knows it well. Voila! An impromptu exhibition or even a quick teaching session. All it takes is a little flexibility.

I remember visiting a dance session in Arizona a few years ago. I saw a dance on their repertoire list and requested it. "Do you know this dance?" they asked.

"The person who used to lead the dance moved away and we have forgotten how to do it. Could you possibly teach it to us?" And when I said yes, someone promptly dashed home to get a camera.

Also, if only a few people get up to join a dance that is requested, perhaps it's a good indication the dance needs to be re-taught.

You might notice something else - people will stay until the very end of the evening. Why? Because they won't be able to look at the pre-printed program and say, "Rumph. There are no more dances I want to do. Let's leave now." Also, instead of arriving 20 minutes after the start of the party because they know from the pre-printed program that the first 20 minutes will be dances they don't care to do, they will arrive on time, not wanting to miss anything because there might be a dance played they don't get to do very often. They might even sit around the lunch table and talk about dances they haven't done in a while, really enjoy, and would like to request.

If you are reading this article, and if you're in charge of an up-coming festival, all I ask is that you consider NOT preparing a program in advance just once. Advertise your event as an all-request dance party: "Bring your dance shoes and a list of dances you'd like to see played. We'll do our best to get a few of the items on your list played during the evening." Take a chance. Expand your horizons. Think outside the box. However it needs to be said: just do it!

— *Louie Tucker*

This article appeared in the May, 2007 issue of Let's Dance, and is reprinted here, with permission.



Alexandru David dances at all request Scene party.



Photo by Bruce Meisner

I'm going to state right up front that this article may get me banished from the Folk Dance Federation. I am about to attack what I fear is a sacred cow. I know many of you reading this article are my friends, and I may offend you. You participate in and are content with something that I am going to criticize. I

apologize in advance.

However, the only way to get people to talk about a topic is to make them uncomfortable, and my goal is to start a discussion... and hopefully see some change in the future.

I am writing about what seems to be a very old tradition which has annoyed me for years. It is something I would like to see disappear: dance programs set (and often published on advertising material) in advance of a festival or dance party.

Can I assume you know what I'm talking about? In February's *Let's Dance*, The Sweetheart Festival in Napa and the Balkan Dancers of Marin each had full-page advertisements which included a program of the dances that would be played at their event. I have attended many, many such dance parties that follow the same procedure. Often the printed program is posted around the room and programs are handed out at the door. WHY?

When I started dancing in the 1970s, **Marcel Vinokur** ran all-request parties in two rooms once a month. He still does. I attended the San Jose State Folk Dancers club on Friday nights for many years in the 1970s and the all-request dance parties were just that - you wrote the name of a dance on the request board or showed a few of the steps to the person in charge of the music, and every attempt was made to fit your dance into the evening of dances. Those were my primary models, so I have always run my own dance classes and parties the same way. I have led my dance class on Thursday nights for over 25 years. Every dance party is an all-request event. You write the dance name on a list, and I will play as many dances on the list as I can in the time allowed.

In fact, I have always assumed that was part of the job of the dance teacher/leader - figuring out how to arrange the diverse requests into a dance program that is varied in level of difficulty, speed, ethnicity, and formation (partner, non-partner, sets, trios) - and meets the dancing needs of as many participants as possible. It's my duty to assess the age and dancing ability of the dancers in the room as well as the number of single people who will not be dancing if I play couple dances, in order to determine the best ratio of partner to non-partner dances and the best mix of fast, complex dances with slower, easier dances. I also have to be able to adjust the program in response to last-minute requests as well as the departure of persons toward the end of the party.

The creation of the dance program is pretty much the same whether you do it in advance or at the event. The biggest difference is that the "pre-programmers" figure out the program in advance without a lot of input from the people who will actually be doing the dances, and folks like me create the dance program on the fly. The "at the event" programmers can respond to immediate circumstances; the "pre-programmers" are pretty much stuck with what they create and cannot (or will not) make spontaneous changes.

For many, many years I have been puzzled by the published dance programs. Okay, it does allow me to look at the program in advance and decide whether or not to attend the event.

"This program looks perfect for me. Lots of my favorite dances. I'll be there!"

"Gosh, this program is 75% couple dances and I don't have a regular partner. I probably shouldn't bother to go."

"This dance program has lots of good beginner dances. I'll see if I can get XXX to go with me."

"I love XXX dancing but I see only four XXX dances on the program."

I suppose for every dancer who looks at the program and decides NOT to attend there will be a dancer who decides he or she WILL attend based on the program. Fine. Call it a draw.

What I don't like is the rigidity. A pre-established and pre-printed program doesn't even allow you to re-arrange the order of the dances, much less remove Dance A and insert Dance B! Yes, there are some published programs that provide space for a "request"

6/16-23 *Mendocino Folklore Camp* at Mendocino Woodlands. See ad. Info: (707) 795-6926 or www.mendocinofolklorecomp.com.

7/22-28 & 7/29-8/4 *Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Wait list only.* Contact Jan at jmwright32@frontier.net.

7/27-8/4 *Lark Camp: World Music, Song & Dance 2007* Mendocino Woodland; www.larkcamp.com.

10/19-20 *Harvest Festival*, in Fresno. Info: Fran Ajoian (559) 255-4508.

ALASKA

7/30-8/9 *Dance Cruise to Alaska* - Dancing with Donna. Info: Donna (408) 257-3455 or donna@dancingcruises.com.

ILLINOIS

7/20-21-22 *Weekend Workshop of North-American German Folk Dance Groups*, Des Plaines. See ad. Info: Eva (847) 421-9962 or frauevi@wowway.com or Karin (860) 875-3559 or karin-gottier@webtv.net.

MAINE

Mainewoods Dance Camp, 3 one-week sessions, plus Labor Day Weekend. Info: info@mainewoodsdancecamp.org.

MASSACHUSETTS

6/15-17 *First Weekend at Pinewoods Camp*, Plymouth. English & American Dance & Music. Info: Sukey (413) 535-4232, sakrause@comcast.net.

6/28-7/2 *July 4th Weekend at Pinewoods Camp*, English Country, Contras & Squares. Info: Joanna (413) 253-0525, joannamorse@comcast.net or Karen (413) 584-4195, karenaxelrod@yahoo.com.

OREGON

8/23-26 *balkanalia!*, music and dance camp. Near Portland. Info: www.balkanalia.org.

WASHINGTON

8/5-12 *Ti Ti Tabor*, 15th annual Hungarian music and dance camp. Raft Island. Info: www.tititabor.org.

FOREIGN

BULGARIA

7/15-28 *Workshop for Balkan Folklore - Balkanfolk 2007*, at Bankya. Info: www.balkanfolk.com/workshop.php.

7/29-8/4 *Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar*, Plovdiv. Info: Larry Weiner, (301) 565-0539 or www.folkseminarplovdiv.com/.

7/31-8/12, 8/13-18 *Koprivshitsa & Dorkovo Festivals (Bulgaria & Macedonia)* led by Jim Gold. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com.

8/5-13 *Bulgarian Tour with Iliana Bozhanova*. NW Bulgaria and Shopluk, visit villages. Info: Cathie (732) 406-2793, www.folkseminarplovdiv.com.

CZECH REPUBLIC

8/4-10 & 8/10-15 *Summer Folk Dance Week 2007*. Info: dvorana@mbox.vol.cz.

FRANCE

6/23-7/1 *Dance on the Water* - Provence/Burgundy Cruise, waiting list only. Info: Mel Mann (510) 526-4033, meldancing@aol.com.

GERMANY

7/31-8/23/2008 *15th Bundesvolkstanztreffen, National Folk Dance Festival*, Offenburg/Black Forest, Germany. Info: Karin P. Gottier (860) 875-3559 or karin-gottier@webtv.net.

GREECE

Dance Seminars with Yannis Konstantinou
7/21-31 *Dances from Balkan Countries*
8/5-17 *Dances from Greece*
Info: (415) 272-4641, carolinesimmonds@hotmail.com.
7/22-29 *Greek Summer Seminar in Kalymnos*. Info: iannismaris@wanadoo.fr or <http://kyklos-danse.com>.

9/12-16 *21st World Congress on Dance Research*. Athens. For dance specialists. Registration is open. Info: president@cid-unesco.org

10/21-11/2 & 11/1-4 *Greece & the Greek Islands*. Tour led by Jim Gold & Lee Otterholt. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com.

MACEDONIA

7/5-16 *Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar* on the beautiful shores of Lake Ohrid, near the town of Struga, Macedonia. Info: www.goranalacki.com.

MEXICO

12/2-10 *Cruise & Dance to Mexico* with Beverly & Irwin Barr and West L.A. Folk Dancers. See OTS. Info: Beverly at 310-202-6166 or 310-478-4659.

POLAND

9/1-15 *Mazurka, Polonaise, Kujawiak & More!* Led by Richard Schmidt. Info: (216) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com.

RUSSIA

7/14-29 *Dance on the Water*. Info: Mel Mann, (510) 526-4033 or meldancing@aol.com.

SLOVAKIA

8/10-19 *Folklore and Heritage Tour in Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary*. Dance classes, village visits, festival, museums, historical sites. Contact: Vonnie R. Brown, (225) 766-8750, yrbfolk@cox.net.

THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH, INC
PRESENTS

**CAMP HESS KRAMER
WORKSHOP WEEKEND
"CAMPS REVIEW"**

One of the best and most fun weekends of the year

October 19 - 20 - 21, 2007

Beverly Barr *Gary & Jane Diggs* *Denise Heenan*

STOCKTON CAMP & MORE NEW MEXICO CAMP & MORE STOCKTON CAMP

THE WEEKEND INCLUDES: 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, snacks, teaching sessions, review sessions, evening dance parties, happy hour, ice cream social, and if you can find the time, hiking, beach strolling and other outdoor activities.

Camp Hess Kramer is located at 11495 E. Pacific Coast Highway, in a verdant canyon in Malibu, one mile north of the Ventura County Line.

THERE ARE 4 LEVELS OF ACCOMMODATIONS FROM DORMITORIES TO THE DELUXE ROOMS IN THE CONFERENCE CENTER

\$145 \$175 \$200 \$250

FOR INFORMATION CALL

IRWIN - 310-202-6166 or 310-478-6600

MAIL APPLICATION TO: Wes Perkins, 1621 Bryn Mawr, Santa Monica, Ca. 90405

Registration on a first come first serve basis

Please make check payable to CAMP HESS KRAMER COMMITTEE

Name _____	\$145 Per person\$ _____ Dorm: 2 to 5 persons - Bring bedding & towels
Address _____	\$175 Per person\$ _____ Room in Redwood Bldg., Semi-private bath, Sleeps 2 or 3, bring bedding & towels
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	\$200 Per person\$ _____ Room under dining hall, semi-private bath sleeps 2, with bedding, towels & maid service
Home # _____ Work # _____	\$250 Per person\$ _____ Deluxe room in the Conference Center, private bath, with bedding, towels, maid service
E Mail _____	Single Supplement \$40.00\$ _____
Roommate _____	Syllabus: \$4 each \$ _____ Total \$ _____
Smoker _____ Non Smoker _____ Vegetarian _____	
Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____	

Another memorable weekend camp experience is planned

Dancing with Two Left Feet



It is hard to stay ahead of technology.

In one of my previous articles, I wrote about the progress in the devices we use for our music programming. Over the years, we went from bulky vinyl records that spun at 78 RPM (That is:

revolutions per minute for those who don't remember) and held a single song per side to LP's that ran at a slower speed of 33? RPM and held half a dozen songs per side. They were replaced by tape cassettes on which you could record the songs for an evening's program. With the tape cassette, it was hard to find a particular song and you had to wind and rewind the tape back and forth to find that song to play. To make searching a bit easier, we used white short computer programming tapes with one song on each side.

All of this is gone, only to be replaced by CDs and recently, by computers that can spew any song in any order just by the pointing of a mouse.

When our teachers arrive in town, they bring syllabuses with detailed step instructions. They sell their teaching videos, or graciously allow us to video their teaching so that we can review and remember the dances after they are gone.

If you browse the internet, you will be surprised by the plethora of dance melodies and step instructions you can find. You can download many of the songs and print out the dance instructions.

But, we are not done yet!

During my recent web browsing I discovered a website formed by a handful of German dance-fanatics who want to share their knowledge and experiences and keep alive the traditions and dancing to pass it on to the next generation.

On www.dancilla.com you can find a staggering amount of over 30,000 dances, more than 1,000 videos, 800 song files, 1,000 dance-instructions, articles, pictures and much more. So if you forgot a dance, sign on and play a video of this group doing the dance. Best of all, everything is free.

I can envision our groups in the future when, instead of looking down at the leaders' feet, they look up to a big screen onto which the dance videos are projected.

I wonder if this is progress! Are we slowly losing the human touch and the real meaning of folk dancing?

Will we become just like robots and always follow the same steps with the same styling of the same leader on the screen? I hope not!

— Lou Pechi

GREAT ITINERARY

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To Exciting Ports in Mexico

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with

Beverly & Irwin Barr

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Puerto Vallarta

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\$499 - Inside Cabin

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\$250 Deposit (Refundable) Holds Space

*Includes: All meals, Late Night Buffets, Captain's Dinner & Cocktail Party, Dance Bands, Entertainment in the Large Showroom, Movie Theater, Pools, Spa, Full Casino, Ports of Call briefings, Private Cocktail Party, On board activities, & Lots of **FOLK DANCING.***

CALL NOW FOR INFO or TO RESERVE

310-202-6166 or 310-478-4659

dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

On the Scene

WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS

Friday's Teaching Schedule

On Friday evenings in June, we will teach a one-hour Set Dance Workshop of some of the popular and forgotten set dances, followed by international dance requests (circle, line, couple and individual line dancing). We keep up with the new dances and keep the good old ones too.

We dance on Monday evenings also. Come join us and dance with one of the friendliest groups in town. What fun we have dancing and learning great dances and spending our evenings with wonderful friendly people.

Upcoming Parties - Mondays & Fridays

Monday, May 28, 2007, we have a big party planned on Memorial Day. Statewide Festival is over and we are ready to end the long weekend with a great dance-party night. We look forward to seeing you and playing your request dances.

Monday, July 2, 2007, we will celebrate Independence Day with a Red, White, & Blue Party. Come one, come all, everyone is welcome.

An all-request program will be played by Beverly & Irwin Barr on party nights. Bring snacks or desserts for the potluck table and don't miss these happy party nights. The parties begin at 7:30 p.m. and end when you get too tired to dance.

We meet from 7:45 to 10:30 Monday and Friday evenings and dance on a beautiful wooden floor. We will not be meeting on Friday, May 25, Friday, June 8 and Monday, June 11.

The place is Brockton School, 1309 Armacost, W.L.A. (Between Barrington & Bundy, 1 1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). We look forward to having you join our happy group. For information call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

— Beverly & Irwin Barr



Stockton Folk Dance Camp

www.folkdancecamp.org
 July 22-28, 2007 and July 29-August 4, 2007
 Our 60th year

Outstanding dance teachers:
Cristian Florescu & So — Romania
Germain Hebert — France
Jerry Helt — Squares
Jennifer Kelly — Scotland
Ahmet Luleci — Turkey
Yves Moreau — Bulgaria
Richard Powers — Vintage

Featuring:
 Live music by **California Kapela**
 Singing with **Barbara Bevan**
 Cameo appearances by many teachers from prior camps
 Full week banquets and parties
 Full menu and costume vendors
 Fully rehearsed dance syllabus
 Camp video

Sold Out! Register Early for Next Year.

Enjoy seven days of dancing with dance masters from around the world at the University of the Pacific Campus, Stockton, California. From the opening party Sunday evening to the after party the following Saturday night, experience a week of folk dance, folklore, and music. Although the dances taught are the same each week, the experiences are different. First week the Saturday party will have a French theme. Second week the Saturday party theme will be Turkish. Both weeks of camp are full with a waiting list. Be sure to register early for next year.

14th Annual Weekend Workshop of the North-American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups

July 20-21-22, 2007

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und
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*Dances for Young People and
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presented by

Helga Preuss,
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Hosted by the Society of the Danube Swabians
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For information contact: *Eva-Maria Rill* Cell 847/421-9962 Fax 847/253-0269
Karin P. Gottier Tel. 860/875-3559 Fax 860-875-0595

On the Scene

PAUL MULDER'S RETURNS TO CALIFORNIA IN JUNE!

Paul Mulders is a well-known dance instructor throughout Europe. He specializes in Yugoslav and Macedonian dances, particularly the Roma village dances of Prilep and Bitola. Paul has studied dance in the Balkans since the mid-1970's. He assisted Pece Atanasovski most summers until 1990.

What isn't as well known is that Paul is also knowledgeable in the field of Dutch Couple Dances.

So, at the request of several folk dance groups from last year, Paul has brought some nice Dutch couple dances to teach on this tour for those international folk dance groups.

Paul taught Macedonian dance at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2005 and 2006 to rave reviews. This year he will be teaching Macedonian Dance at Pinewoods MA, for Maine Camp, as well as in the San Francisco and Stanford areas in Northern California. But he has also scheduled some time for Southern California folk dancers.

The following is a list of workshops scheduled for Paul while he is in Southern California. Please contact each group for specific information regarding each workshop.

Saturday, June 9th Folk Dance Center
6:30 pm. to 8:30 pm. Dancing Unlimited
Macedonian Lines 4569 30th St.
8:30 to? Dance Party San Diego, CA

Sunday, June 10th Laguna Folk Dancers
7:00 pm. Community Center
Mostly Macedonian Lines 384 Legion Ave.
1 or 2 Dutch Couple dances Laguna, CA

Monday, June 11th San Pedro Kolo Dancers
7:30 pm Dalmatian-American Club
Macedonian Line Dances 1639 S. Palos Verdes St.
San Pedro, CA

Tuesday, June 12th Balboa Park Club
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 Balboa Park,
Dutch Couple Dances 2150 Pan American Rd. W
1 or 2 Macedonian Lines San Diego, CA

Wednesday, June 13th Folk Dance Center
10:00 am to 12:00 noon Dancing Unlimited
Review of dances taught 4569 30th St.
Saturday at FDC San Diego, CA

Thursday, June 14th Narodni Folk Dancers
7:30 pm Woman's Club
Macedonian Lines 9402 Oak Street
Bellflower, CA

CAMP HESS KRAMER OCTOBER WORKSHOP

Save this weekend date, Oct. 19-20-21, 2007 for this year's Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend. This very popular International Folk Dance Workshop Weekend is held every year in the fall at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu. This is the 23rd year of the successful "Camps Review" format. Plan ahead and plan to be there. This is a weekend you don't want to miss.

It has become a very popular weekend camp and takes pride in its excellent teaching, great parties, wonderful food, and most of all, the outstanding and loyal attendees that embrace this weekend and keep it a high priority. If you have never attended, you will be amazed at the new friendships that will become part of your life, and of course, the new dances you'll learn.

There is a full page flyer in this issue of Scene. Prices include accommodations, dance workshops, 6 wonderful meals, snacks, happy hour, parties, a silent auction (we always come home with a treasure), and dancing, dancing, dancing.

For all information, call Irwin or Beverly Barr at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

— Beverly Barr

21ST WORLD CONGRESS ON DANCE RESEARCH

"Dancers Without Frontiers", Athens, Greece, 5-9 September 2007

This is the largest gathering of dance specialists world-wide, the best opportunity to showcase one's work to a wide audience of practitioners, dance teachers, choreographers, researchers, journalists and organizers. Last year, 700 specialists from 64 countries took part. All forms of dance are represented.

Congress Secretariat: Dora Stratou Dance Theater, Scholiou 8, Plaka, GR-10558 Athens, Greece; tel. 30 (210) 324-6188, fax 30 (210) 324-6921, www.cid-unesco.org; president@cid-unesco.org www.orchesis-portal.org/cdr/

On the Scene

CRUISING & DANCING - DEC. 2 - 10, 2007

You asked for it and here it is, by popular request from those who have been cruising with us in the fall, we have arranged for an 8 day cruise to Mexico on the Norwegian Star. The response has been great.

We will depart from San Pedro and visit some wonderful ports. The Ports of Call are Acapulco, Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. The Star is one of Norwegian Cruise Line's newest ships. We look forward to our usual great time, folk dancing on board, and visiting these interesting ports in Mexico. We are fortunate to be able to do this in December. It is a wonderful time of year to go to Mexico. We do a lot of dancing on board the ship and have our own room for folk dancing, our own cocktail party and much more. Remember, cruising includes all your meals, plus food available 24 hours a day.

Get ready to take a luxurious cruise going all the way to Acapulco, for a very non-luxurious price. Cruises are very popular and in great demand and are selling out fast. With the wonderful response that we have already had, this cruise will fill up quickly.

Don't wait. Send in your deposit now to reserve your cabin. Deposits are fully refundable until balance of money is due in Sept.

See ad in this issue of Scene. For more information or to reserve a cabin, please call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

— Beverly and Irwin Barr

VESELO JUNE SCHEDULE

June 2 Veselo Selo celebrates the 37th birthday with **Interfolk Band**. Pot luck dinner at 7:00 p.m. This special event is \$10.

June 9 **Carol Maybrier** will be teaching Statewide dances.

June 16 All-request night

June 23 Refresher Night. Reviews where needed.

June 30 Independence Day Party.

Note that we are dancing at the Unitarian Church at the corner of Santa Ana St. and Harbor Blvd. in Anaheim. We will be there through October during daylight savings time.

— Lu Perry

NARODNI TEACHING PROGRAM

June 2007

June 7th Narodni's Birthday Party --- Live Music with **Toti O'Brien**

June 14th Dance Workshop with **Paul Mulders!!!** (Macedonian)

June 21st Review of dances taught by **Paul Mulders**

June 28th ~ All Request Evening ~

July 2007

July 5th Red, White & Blue Party!

July 12t Swedish Dance Performance!

July 19th **Julith Neff** teaching tba

July 26th **Julith Neff** reviewing tba

~ all teaching is subject to change ~

Thursdays, 7:30 10:30, Woman's Club of Bellflower
9402 Oak Street, Bellflower,

For more information, please contact Shirley (714) 932-2513 or Shirley@Hansen-Family.us or Carol (562) 862-0521 or g-cwall@earthlink.net, <http://www.narodni.org>.

— Shirley J. Hansen

NEW DAYTIME CLASS

Beverly Barr will teach individual line dancing at her new class in West Hollywood, on Mondays from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. The class is held in Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park on Vista Ave., in the first block north of Santa Monica Blvd. Vista is one block east of Gardner. The dances taught will be with international music from many countries, including the USA, in the individual style of Country Western line dancing. This is a new class. Come and learn some new fun dances and meet new friends.

Beverly also teaches an international folk dance class at Roxbury Park on Olympic & Roxbury in Beverly Hills on Thursdays from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For information, call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

— Beverly Barr