

# Folk Dance Scene

OCTOBER 1994

Volume 30, Number 6



THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH, INC.

**PRESENTS** 

## CAMP HESS KRAMER INSTITUTE WEEKEND

"Camps Review"

Learn dances taught at Spring and Summer Camps

October 28 29 30, 1994

THE WEEKEND LINE OF THE RECHARD DUREE

THE WEEKEND: Includes 2 nights' lodging, 6 meals, snacks, teaching sessions with review sessions, evening dances, a Happy Hour, and if you can find the time, hiking, beach strolling and other outdoor activities.

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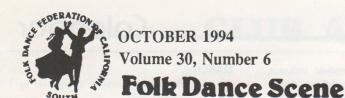
FOR INFORMATION CALL IRWIN - (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 GLORIA or WES - (310) 452-1538

MAIL APPLICATION TO: Wes Perkins & Gloria Harris, 1621 Bryn Mawr, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Registration on a first come first serve basis
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Teri Hoffman

EDITORIAL OFFICE
(213)936-1025; (213) 939-5098
6150 W. 6th St., L.A., CA 90048

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FOLK DANCE SCENE is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costume, 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. In addition, it advises readers as to major developments in the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, of which this is the official publication.

The Folk Dance Federation of California, South, is a non-profit, tax-exempt educational organization incorporated under the laws of California. The Federation is dedicated to the promotion of and education about all international folk dancing and its related customs. Membership is open to all races and creeds, and neither the Federation nor FOLK DANCE SCENE shall be used as a platform for prejudicial material. All proceeds from this publication are used to pay the costs of its publication and distribution.

Views expressed in SCENE are solely the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the magazine or the Federation. Neither the magazine nor the Federation assumes responsibility for the accuracy of dates, locations, or other information sent in. The Editors have the right to edit and modify all submissions.

MANUSCRIPTS AND NOTICES. The Editors will attempt to include all newsworthy items which are consistent with the policy of the magazine. News items should reach the Editors by one week before the 1st of the month of publication for inclusion. Potential authors of feature articles should correspond with the Editors prior to submitting their manuscripts.

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ADVERTISING. Current rates and specifications are available from the Editorial Office. All ads must relate to and be consistent with the purposes of the magazine. All ads must be camera-ready and accompanied by a check for the correct amount.

MEMBERSHIP. To join the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, one may either affiliate with a member club or join directly as an associate member by contacting the Director of Membership.

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### Calendar

Note: Federation events are in bold type
Call to confirm all events

#### **OCTOBER**

- 1-2 Greek Festival at St. Katherine's Church, Redondo Beach. Info: (310) 540-2434
- 7-9 Calico Days at Calico Ghost Town, Ghost Town Rd. and I-15 (near Barstow, CA). Costume parade, over 40 boomtown events, country dance at 7 p.m. on 10/7. Info: (619) 254-2122
- 8 Scandinavian Festival. Folk dancing from 5 countries, traditional food, folk arts & crafts, parade with authentic national costumes. MGM Plaza, 2425 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica. Info: (213) 661-4273
- 9 Irvine Intercultural Folkdance
  Festival. Sponsored by the Irvine
  Intercultural Advisory Committee.
  Beginner's welcome. Turtle Rock
  Community Center, Irvine. Potluck
  picnic at noon, dancing 1:30-4:30
  p.m. Info: (714) 641-7450
- 10-16 International Folk Dance Week. Events throughout California. Check upcoming "Scenes" for details.
- 14-16 Skandia at Harwood Lodge. Info: (619) 466-7983
- 15-16 International Festival of the Masks. Hancock Park, Los Angeles. Dance and music performances, arts and crafts, vendors, ethnic foods. Free! Info: (213) 937-5544
- 15-16 Loch Prado Festival & Games. Scottish festival, 16788 Euclid Ave. Chino, CA.
- 16 Oktoberfest. 1:30-5 pm, Balboa Park, San Diego. Free. Council meeting at 11. Info: (619) 422-5540
- Dunaj performance, Oktoberfest in Palm Springs, Info: (714) 641-7410
- 28-30 Camp Hess Kramer Camps Review. Info (310) 202-6166
- 29 Khadra Concert at Orange Coast College. Info: (714) 432-5880

### NOVEMBER

 Native American music and dance concert at Beckman Aud, Cal Tech.
 p.m. Info. (800) 423-8849

- 4-6 Calico Fine Arts Festival. Includes daily American Indian dance demonstrations. Info: (619) 254-2122
- Frances Black, Irish folk singer. Beckman Aud, Cal Tech. 8 p.m. Info: (800) 423-8849
- 12 Orange County Dance and "Jumble Sale", sponsored by the Orange County branch of the RSCDS. Harbor Hills Community Center.
- 19 The Turkish Whirling Dervishes.
  Dance and music performance. 8
  pm, Wadsworth Theater. Info: (3100
  825-2101
- 19-20 West Coast Ragtime Festival. Fresno. Info: (714) 641-7450
- Skandia Dance at Women's Club of Orange, 7:30 p.m. Info: (310) 459-5314
- 24-27 Southern California Skandia Festival. Info: (818) 342-7111

#### **DECEMBER**

- 3, 4 Imedi Youth Dance Ensemble.
  Dance troupe from the Republic of
  Georgia, Tbilisi Youth Palace.
  Concert at 8:30 p.m. on 12/3 and at
  2 p.m. on 12/4. Ambassador Aud,
  Pasadena. Info: (818) 304-6161
- 4 St. Nicholas Christmas Ball. L.A. Biltmore Hotel. Info: (714) 641-7450
- 10 Orange County RSCDS Christmas
  Dance. Music by the Heathertones.
  Anaheim Ebell Club.

#### 1995 JANUARY

Burns Ball, co-sponsored by the Orange County and San Gabriel Valley branches of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Dabney Lounge, Caltech.

#### **FEBRUARY**

- 10-12 Laguna Festival at Ensign Intermediate School, Newport. More info in future Scenes.
- 18, 19 The Flying Karamazov Brothers, 8:30 pm on 2/18 or 2 p.m. on 2/19. At the Ambassador Auditorium, Pasadena. Info: (818) 304-6161
- 26 Preservation Hall Jazz Band, traditional New Orleans Jazz. Concert at 2 p.m. at the Ambassador Auditorium, Pasadena. Info: (818) 304-6161

#### MARCH

- Beginner's Festival, sponsored by Veselo Selo.
- Jose Molina Bailes Espanoles. Spanish Flamenco and Clasico dance concert. 2 p.m. Ambassador Auditorium, Pasadena. Info: (818) 304-6161
- The Tahitian Choir. Traditional choir singing from the Polynesian island of Rapa Iti. 8 p.m. at the Wadsworth Theater, L.A. Info: (310) 825-1101
- 31 The Drummers of Burundi, African dance and music concert. 8 p.m., Sunset Canyon Recreation Center, UCLA. Info: (310) 825-2101

#### **APRIL**

- Westwood Festival in Culver City.
- Festival of the Nile. Music, song and dance of the peoples of Egypt.
   p.m. at the Ambassador Auditorium. Info: (818) 304-6161
- Festival of the Nile. Music, song and dance of the peoples of Egypt.
   p.m. at the Wadsorth Theater, UCLA. Info: (310) 825-2101
- 28-30 Westwood Co-op's Hess Kramer Weekend

#### MAY

- 3 Dancers of the Dreaming.
  Aboriginal Australian ceremonial
  dances and songs, performed by
  authentic clansmen in traditional
  dress. 8 p.m., Sunset Canyon
  Recreational Center, UCLA. Info:
  (310) 825-2101
- 4-7 Southern California Folklore Camp. Live music with Barbara McOwen and the Bi-Coastal Band. Info: (310) 202-6166 or (805) 964-5591

#### JUNE

15-18 L.I.F.E. Camp with Zlatne Uste.

### **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

- 11/5 Ragtime Ball, Stanford University. 7:30 p.m. Info: (714) 641-7450
- 11/24-26 KOLO Festival 1991. With Atanas Kolarovski, Billy Burke, Jaap Leegwater, Josko Caleta and... At the San Francisco Russian Center, 2450 Sutter St., San Francisco. Info: Asha, (510) 547-6355
- 6/17-25 Mendocino Folklore Camp

May 4-7, 1995



## Southern California Folklore Camp

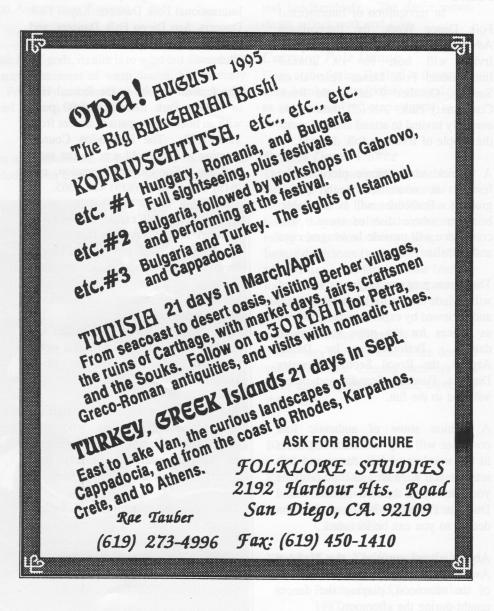


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# ON THE SCENE

### Irvine International Folk Dance Festival

In recognition of International Folk Dance Week, the Intercultural Advisory Committee of the City of Irvine will host its 1st Annual International Folk Dance Festival on Sunday, October 9 at Turtle Rock Community Park. All folk dancers are cordially invited to attend and welcome the people of Irvine to folk dancing.

A potluck ethnic picnic precedes the festival at noon in lovely picnic grounds. Barbecues will be available; bring an ethnic dish to share. The committee will provide beverages, cups and utensils.

The dance program begins at 1:30 and will include dances for beginners (taught and reviewed by expert teachers) as well as dances for the more experienced dancer. Performances by Dunaj, Arpana, the Royal Scottish Country Dancers, Fundala, Scandia and others will add to the fun.

A fashion show of authentic folk costumes will help introduce beginners to the wonders of folk dance and folk arts. If you have an authentic costume you can wear to the festival, call richard Duree at (714) 641-7450 and give him details so you can be included.

And a special surprise - the Madison Avenue Folk Band will play the last set of the afternoon, playing the dances taught during the afternoon.

Directions: From I-405 South, exit Culver Dr., south to Campus Drive, turn left to Turtle Rock Drive, turn right to the park; from I-405 north, exit University west, turn left on Ridgeline and left on Turtle Rock Drive to the park.

#### Oktoberfest

On Sunday, October 16, a festival will be hosted by four folk dance groups in San Diego in

celebration of "International Folk Dance Week." The groups are Cabrillo International Folk Dancers, Kayso Folk Dancers, San Diego Folk Dancers, and San Diego International Folk Dance Club.

The festival will be in the Recital Hall in Balboa Park from 1:30-5:00 p.m., with an hour of non-partner dances from 12:30-1:30. The Federation Council meeting will be at 11 a.m. in the same building. For more information, call (619) 422-5540 or (619) 422-4065.

### Camp Hess Kramer Weekend, October 28-30...Save the Date!

This weekend is a "Camps Review" workshop with excellent teaching, great parties, wonderful food, hiking, reading, visiting with old friends and meeting new folk dancers. The warm, friendly atmosphere makes this weekend very special. And this year's weekend has the addition of a Halloween Dance Party Night.

The members of the teaching staff are all experienced teachers who have taught at the "Camps Review" weekend in previous years -- Beverly Barr, Sherry Cochran and Richard Duree.

This year the teaching will include dances from the two new camps, the Southern California Folklore Camp and L.I.F.E. Camp, as well as dances from Stockton folk Dance Camp and the Santa Barbara Folk Dance Symposium.

Send in your reservation NOW! Don't miss it. You'll return home a happier person. For information, call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659, West at (310) 452-1538, or the Folk Dance Federation at (310) 478-6600. See the full-page ad in this issue of Scene.

### Branson and the Ozarks with Beverly and Irwin Barr

Exciting Branson and its music and entertainment is one of the most popular new vacation destinations.

Beverly and Irwin are planning a trip there, and to surrounding areas, for Spring '95. For info, call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659

#### **KOLO Festival 1994**

The 43rd annual Kolo Festival will be held from November 24-26 at the Russian Center, 2450 Sutter St., San Francisco. Dance instruction and parties, live music, ethnic food and costumes and music for sale. Beginner to advanced dancers and families welcome. For information or preregistration, call Asha Goldbert at (510) 547-6355.

### L.I.F.E., June 15-18, 1995

Save June 15-18, 1995 for L.I.F.E. Dance and Music Camp. Expect the unexpected! If you weren't there last year, you've certainly heard about it. Everyone agrees that one of the best ways we could top last year's camp would be to have the wonderful Zlatne Uste return. And, guess what?

They're coming back! Other details will be released as soon as they are available. What is L.I.F.E.? The Los Angeles International Folkdance Extravaganza. Info: (818) 774-9944

### The Southern California Folklore Camp

The first annual Southern California Folklore Camp, held at ISOMATA in Idyllwild over the April 28-May 1 weekend, hosted over 100 dancers, teachers and musicians in a beautiful, rustic setting. The teachers, Ya'akov Eden (Israeli), Yves Moreau (Bulgarian) and Richard Powers (Vintage), outdid themselves in creating marvelous ethnic theme days and nights. Their sense of fun and interaction with the campers created unparalled warmth and joy throughout the entire weekend.

Each day of camp featured dance classes and ethnic themes; each night recreated an ethnic tradition based on folklore, dance, music, song and cuisine

# ON THE SCENE

from a different area of the world. The dance hall was magically transformed each night from a Bulgarian village to an Israeli kibbutz, to the Orient Express.

Camp began on Thursday afternoon with a folklore hour presented by Yves, who talked about folklore traditions in Bulgaria. The evening's happy hour featured kolo dances, Greek appetizers and slivovitz. After dinner, there was an exchange of Bulgarian "gifts" and a re-enactment of the Bulgarian firewalk dance, followed by the "ice breaking" game of "Family Portrait".

Friday's folklore theme was Israel. Ya'akov led us to Kibbutz Dahlia for the annual song and dance festival. Members from each "village" painted scenes of their village and composed a dance for the occasion. Have you ever seen the Israeli version of any of your favorite Bulgarian or Vintage dances?

The results were quite unexpected and hilarious!

Saturday saw the arrival of the Orient Express. Richard led us on a visit to turn-of-the-century ballrooms from all over the world. Campers enjoyed dressing up in formal and "informal" vintage attire to get into the mood of this exciting "trip". Champagne flowed as we toasted dances from all the countries along the Orient Express route (from Paris to Istanbul).

Both Friday and Saturday nights were enhanced by the live music played by the Atlantic Crossing Band (of Laguna Festival fame). Their music and singing kept us going for hours!

The end of camp came all too soon.

Those who attended were unanimous in their enthusiasm for the new camp. One

of the campers commented that if the camp keeps going like it did the first year, we could expect to be coming back for the next twenty years!

Next year's camp is already in the planning stages. Save the dates -- Thursday, May 4-Sunday, May 7, 1995. We are moving to Camp Seely, near Crestline in the Valley of Enchantment in the San Bernardino Mountains, to accommodate more dancers. Camp Seely offers a beautiful, unspoiled rustic environment. Ethnic meals and snacks are planned throughout the camp. The Bi-Coastal Band (of Mendocino and Stockton fame), directed by Barbara McOwen, will provide live music throughout.

"Tune in" next month for more information. Meanwhile, circle the dates now and plan on attending the next Southern California Folklore Camp! For details, contact Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or Steve at (805) 964-5591.

### **ANNOUNCING**

### OCTOBER FOLK DANCE PARTY

### in Ventura

October 15, 1994 from 7:30 p.m.-???

At E.P. Foster Elementary School, 20 Pleasant Place, Ventura

(Program will include many requests)

ARE YOU...tired of being a style conformist?!! DO YOU...have nice folk costumes to show off??!

ARE YOU...hiding from the *police?* (aaah!) DO YOU...like to <u>save money</u> on admission?

WOULD YOU...like to try out your Halloween costume before the BIG DAY???

If you can answer **YES** to any of the above, wear a *costume* (FOLK or HALLOWEEN) to our party and get 50% off on admission

ADMISSION: \$5 (regular), \$2.50 (with costume)!!! Info: Call (805) 985-7316 or (805) 642-0407

Sponsored by the Five Cities Folk Dance Council

### The Care and Preservation of the Folk Arts Sharon Sharpe

The folk arts -- dance, music, costumes, instruments, architecture, etc., which were kept alive in Eastern and Central Europe, are rapidly disappearing. The political regimes which once supported the researchers, collectors, archivists and teachers have been replaced by economically depressed governments. In these difficult times, the funds for the study and preservation of folklore have been slashed or frozen. Personnel cuts have resulted in the loss of years of experience in the folk art field, perhaps forever. The folk arts have limited appeal to the younger generation as they make their way on the information highway to what they consider a better life.

The Deri Museum in Debrecen, Hungary, has an extremely fine collection of folk costumes -- in storage. There is no display room for them. The warehousing is inadequate. These costumes not only reflect the village life with its seasons and customs, but also the history of trade which influenced their design.

The dedicated staff is poorly paid; their research equipment is outdated; there are no protective gloves with which to handle delicate pieces; and the nearby folk villages are rotting for lack of funds for repair or maintenance. Museum collections are not secure against the elements or vandals. The preservation of the folk arts is at a critical stage.

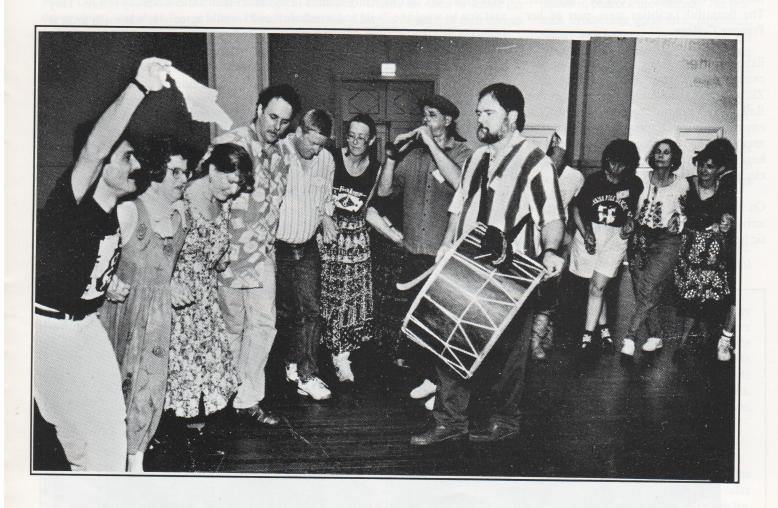
As a nation of immigrants, we have a responsibility to protect and preserve the elements of our heritage, and those of our neighbors. We can assist by concentrating our efforts in finding funding to help those sharing our commitment. An effort is being made to compile a list of financial sources to assist the protectors of historic folk elements.

We have all derived great pleasure from our involvement in folk dance, costumes, and related arts. We are all preservationists, whether teacher or student, curator of our own private collections, or holder of special knowledge in the folk art field. We owe it to ourselves, our ancestors and posterity to do something NOW!

We need your input. This information can only come from you -- you personally. Your comments, recommendations and help are welcome. Please help to provide the names of organizations, foundations, government agencies, schools, etc., who have grants or provide some form of financial assistance for the preservation of folk arts. This information, when developed, will be made available to all.

Please respond to Sharon Sharpe, 848 Las Lomas Ave., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

# L.I.F.E. Camp



Thursday, June 16, 1994, 8 p.m.: L.I.F.E. Dance and Music Camp participants had just finished a light, healthy, delicious dinner in Frary Dining Hall and were gathering in the Walker Lounge. They did not know what to expect, except that we were supposed to walk as a group over to the historic Coop Ballroom to kick off the evening party and the start of the first Los Angeles International Folkdance Extravaganza, L.I.F.E.

I, however, knew that the plan was to have the 11 multi-talented musicians of Zlatne Uste

Balkan Brass Band already playing as the campers entered the ballroom for the first time. Sherry, who was with the musicians, called me with what I thought would be the signal to lead everyone over. Instead, she said, "Stall for a few minutes. We're not quite ready!!" First I panicked. What should I do? Pull a rabbit out of a hat? Then I looked at the crowd. The room was full of people who were happy to see each other and who had already created a party atmosphere. Soon after, I got the OK and we arrived. I had anticipated flinging open the doors and watching the delight on peoples' faces as they were surrounded by the music of Zlatne Uste in this beautiful and historic setting. Instead, you should have seen the look on my face. Even after all the months of planning and anticipation, I was stopped dead in my tracks, for I had never heard Zlatne Uste play live before. I was mesmerized and overcome with emotion. People rushed past me to join the dance line as I had one of many "moments".

Although most participants were from the Los Angeles area, others traveled from northern California, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Arizona, New York, and even London, England. I noticed more young people at this camp than at others I had been to. Of the more than 150 registered participants, many had never been to a camp and other had not been in a very long time. We were warmly welcomed by our hosts, the city of Claremont. The beautiful facilities were part of her Pomona College.

Ethnomusicologist and clarinetist-extraordinaire, Tamar Seeman, followed up Zlatne Uste's kickoff with a set of electrified Balkan Gypsy music spotlighting her UCLA ensemble, Balkan Express. I stood there, in another of my "moments", in awe that this huge group of folk dancers was dancing to electric music!

On Friday there was the much-anticipated arrival of the northern California balkan music luminaries of the group Ziyia; Dan Auvil,

George Chittenden and Lise Liepman. George and Dan were invited especially by L.I.F.E., at the request of Ahmet Lulcci, to give us all an experience of dancing to the "best" in Turkish music for dancers. Ziyia's musicians drafted other talented musicians at camp for varied sets of music, playing for afternoon workshops and late into the night, such as Saturday's set of Greek-Macedonian Island music.

The days were packed with dance workshops in the mornings and special workshops in the afternoon. Michael Ginsburg was wonderful, as always. You almost don't care what he's teaching — just the opportunity of being with him is magical. But the Balkan dances were great, too, and we really learned. I had never seen Steve Kotansky before. They said that he would be "wild and wonderful" and I would agree. He was really great at being out there on the floor, having a great time, and making sure everyone else did, too. No one can forget the series of tunes to his gypsy Ciganytanc, great to hum along or whistle to. And Ahmet Luleci...Turkish dances were a big hit at this camp. I have never seen such large lines of dancers doing Turkish dances in unison. It was a very powerful experience. I was able to do the only Turkish dance I know, Kelekvan, in huge facing lines to live music. I can honestly say that at that moment I felt like a folk dancer. This was yet another emotional "moment" that will be instilled in my mind always. As if that weren't enough, master teacher Joe Graziosi, who attended camp and who taught the first folk dance class I ever took, jumped in to do an afternoon workshop on Greek dance with live music.

I was grateful that the special afternoon workshops were left up to the teachers and musicians to create, because they were visibly delighted at the opportunity to demonstrate, explain, and clarify some of the finer aspects of folklore in their respective areas,



particularly areas of controversy or misconception. A good example was Tamar's folklore session which focused on "why do we dance?" compared with other cultures, especially the Rom or Gypsy culture. So many people jumped into this conversation that we were short of time to finish seeing her video of a Gypsy Macedonian wedding and moved on to the larger lounge to experiment with cocek styles with Tamar, along with Michael Ginsburg and Steve Kotansky. Tamar succeeded in leaving us with more respect for the Gypsy culture and an appreciation of the dignity and elegance that lives there. She also managed a Macedonian urban band workshop which was so popular that the group scheduled a second workshop for themselves and enrolled Tamar in doing it. This happened a number of times. We tried to schedule free time for people, but the staff and participants were so enthusiastic that they found something they wanted to do and a space to do it in!

Zlatne Uste quietly maneuvered us to participate in a special workshop in the dining hall. What we found was a mock-up table setting complete with utensils, plum brandy, glasses, flower vases and candles. Their intention was to reenact an outdoor kafana during festival time, such as what one might experience in Guca. Band member Drew Harris led the humorous discussion on how to beckon the band, buy a personal song for our table, interact with the band, and how to appreciate the music even when it's not possible to dance. At Friday's Mediterranean feast, Zlatne played for well over an hour, strolling from table to table, being showered with tips. The intensity of the music and the situation was overwhelming. I saw several people so happy that they were crying. There was a warmth and dignity in the non-verbal communication between dancer and musician. Drummer Dan Kollar said that they had rarely felt what they felt at L.I.F.E., the emotion, the appreciation. They were struck by the impact that they were having on the dancers. Zurla players led everyone from dinner to the Ballroom as people danced in the streets. Inside the Ballroom, dueling bands played simultaneously as people danced around one or the other. Cocek or Pusteno? Fran Slater said that it reminded her of being in Yugoslavia on a tour, where she climbed a hill to an old church. On the way up, she and Dave encoun-

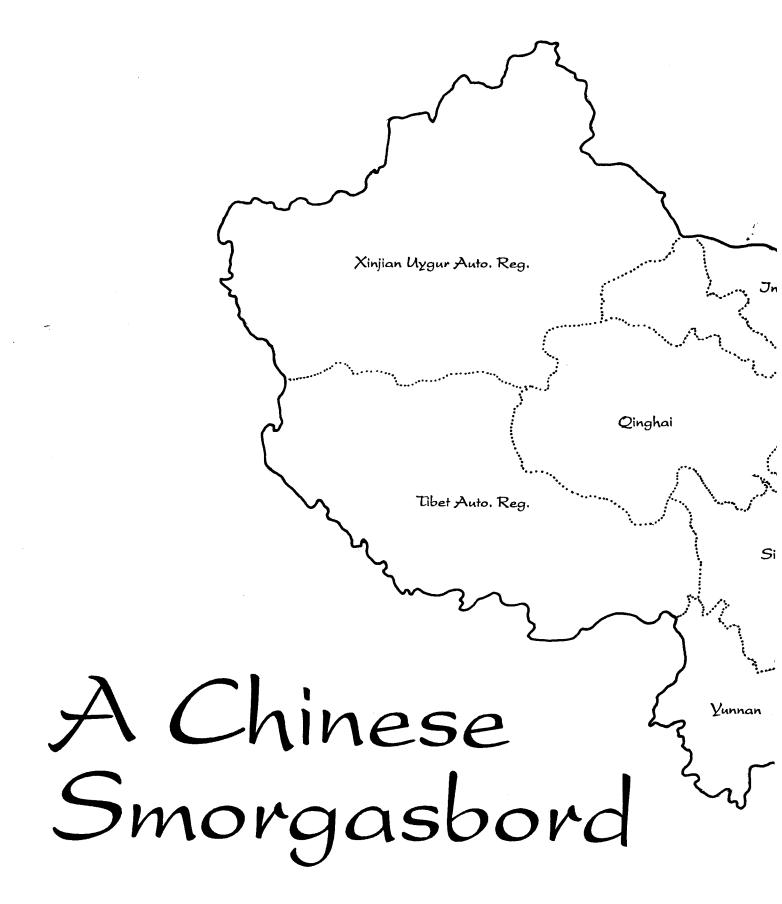


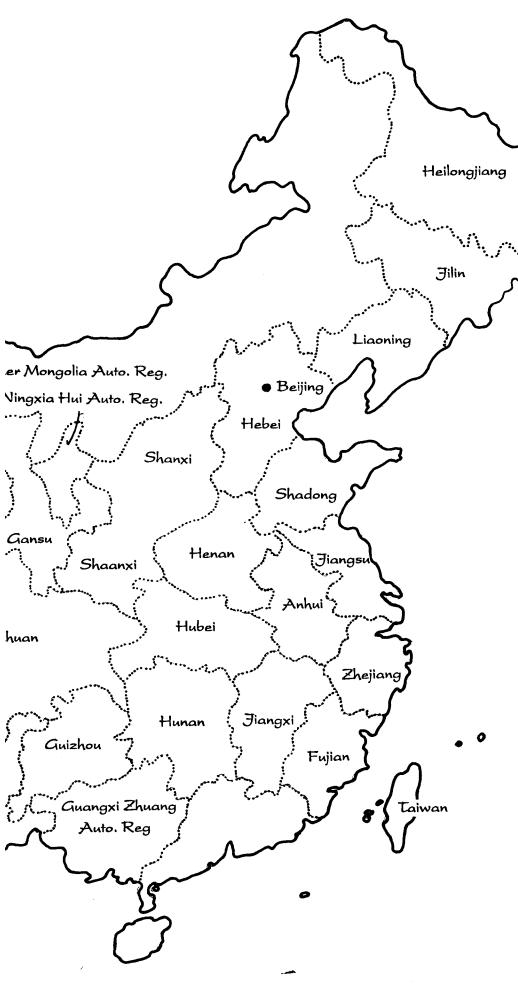
tered three or four bands playing. I could see how touched she was by the memory this provoked. It was then that I realized that what was happening in the room was very special.

Saturday night was like a roller coaster ride -- nonstop music, one band after another, special guests such as Dennis Boxell, impromptu music and dancing out on the patio. Everyone knew it was the last night and partied till they could no more. The last of us dropped at 5:00 a.m.

L.I.F.E. ended with even more music and dancing at lunch on Sunday. Musicians were playing. Even the kitchen staff joined in the dance. Sherry, overwhelmed with joy and happiness, wept as she realized that her dream camp had come to an end.

-Michael Allan Kirk





China...the name evokes images of exotic people, mystical landscapes, complex, delicate art forms. Yet few of us realize the myriad of ethnic groups that make up China's population. Far from being a homogenous nation, China has a multitude of ethnic groups residing within her borders. The largest of these is the Han cultural group, which comprises approximately 94% of the population. Not a "pure" ethnic group, the Hans intermingled and intermarried with other peoples over the centuries.

As history tells it, the Hans were the first group occupying "China". From the dawn of their civilization, and continuing for over 5,000 years, waves of invaders swept through the country in search of "the fabulous riches of China". They came from the highlands of Tibet and Qinghai, out of the steppes of Mongolia, and across the plains of Manchuria. Many of them remained, contributing elements of their cultural makeup to what eventually became the cultural patchwork of China.

Meantime, the Han themselves were on the move, traveling ever southwesterly in search of more living space and raw materials to support their growing population. As they encroached upon their neighbors, the local ethnic minority groups ("tribes") had several choices: they could live side by side with the Han and share the land; they could assimilate, intermarry and intermingle; they could move to a new area out of reach of the Han; or, they could fight.

Regardless of the choice made, ideas and various cultural elements were interchanged between the groups. As a result, several Han subgroups evolved, wi

and cultural differences. Han subgroups include the Mandarin Chinese, the Cantonese, the Tanka (boat people) and the Hakka (the "gypsies" of China), amongst others.

Currently, most of the Han occupy the area termed by some anthropologists "Inner China", an area encompassed by the ancient Great Wall of China (including the easternmost section of Tibet). The vast reaches of China outside these boundaries are populated primarily by the ethnic minorities, 55 of which are officially recognized, supported and encouraged by the central government in Beijing. Numbered amongst these minorities are the Manchu herdsmen of the northern provinces, the nomadic horsemen of the Mongolian steppes, the Turkic Uygur peoples of the Steppes (Xinjiang) and the Mahayana Buddhists of Tibet, Quinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu, to name a few. (Distribution and population of minorities table). The Zhuang are the most populous of these groups, followed by the Hui, the Uygur, the Yi, the Miao, the Manchus, the Tibetans, and so on.

Though major holidays are celebrated by all of these groups, each group has its own traditions, festivals, foods, costumes, etc. associated with the celebrations, and also have some of their own festivals.

Perhaps the most important holiday celebrated nation-wide is the Chinese New Year (also known as the Spring Festival), which falls on the first day of each lunar year. Though the themes are similar to New Year's themes found worldwide, the Chinese have their own rituals and traditions. Celebratory activities begin about one month prior to this day, each with its proscribed time and date, and many with specific rituals and foods accompanying them. The Lantern Festival, sometimes considered the last section of the New Year's Festival, follows close behind, on the 15th day of the first lunar month. According to some historians, the festival is a fertility festival, one beseeching the gods for rain for the following year's crops.

Following chronologically through the year are the "Spring Festival", the Dragon Boat Festival (on the 5th day of the 5th month of the lunar calendar--around May), the Feast of the Souls" (on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month), and the Autumn Festival (fixed at the 15th day of the 8th lunar month--roughly at the end of September). These festivals will be covered in more detail in the next issue of Folk Dance Scene.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF CHINA'S ETHNIC MINORITIES**

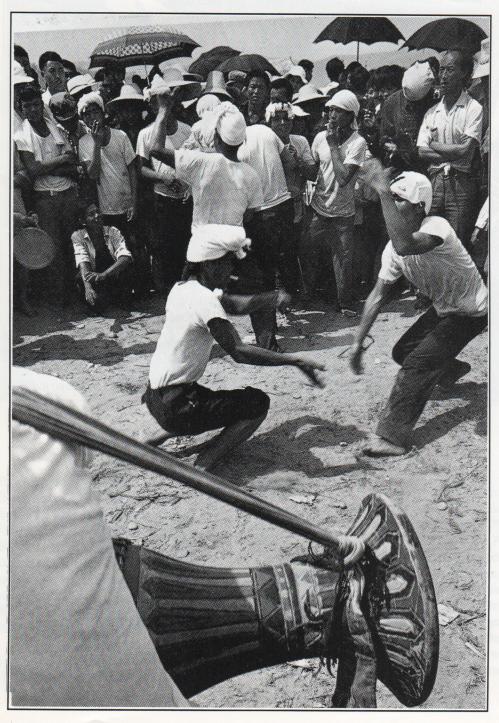
Ethnic Group	Area	Ethnic Group	Area
Achang	Yunnan	Maonan	Guangxi
Bai	Yunnan	Menba	Tibet
Baoan	Gansu	Miao	Guizhou, Yunnan,
Benglong	Yunnan		Xinjiang, Liaoning
Bouyei	Guizhou	Mongol	Inner Mongolia,
Bulang	Yunnan		Xinjiang, Liaoning
Dai	Yunnan	Mulao	Guangxi
Daur	Inner Mongolia,	Naxi	Yunnan, Sichuan
	Heilongjiang,	Nu	Yunnan
	Xinjiang	Oroquen	Inner Mongolia,
Dong	Guizhou, Hunan,		Heilongjiang
	Guangxi	Pumi	Yunnan
Dongxiang	Gansu, Xingjiang	Quang	Sichuan
Dulong	Yunnan	Russian	Xinjiang
Ewenki	Inner Mongolia,	Sala	Qinghai, Gansu
	Heilongjiang	She	Fujian, Zhejiang
Gaoshan	Taiwan, Fujian	Shui	Jiangxi, Guangdong,
Gelao	Guizhou, Guangxi,		Guizhou, Guangxi
	Sichuan, Hunan	Tajik	Xinjiang
Hani	Yunnan	Tartar	Xinjiang
Hezhe	Heilongjiang	Tibetan	Tibet, Qinghai,
Hui	Ningxia, Gansu		Sichuan, Gansu,
Jing	Guangxi		Yunnan
Jingpo	Yunnan	Tu	Qinghai, Gansu
Jinuo	Yunnan	Tujia	Hunan, Hubei,
Kazak	Xingjiang, Gansu,		Sichuan
	Quinghai	Uygur	Xinjiang
Kirghir	Xingjiang,	Uzbek	Xinjiang
	Heilongjiang	Wa	Yunnan
Korean	Jilin, Heilongjiang,	Xibo	Xinjiang, Liaoning,
	Inner Mongolia		Jilin
Lahu	Yunnan	Yao	Guangxi, Hunan,
Li	Guangdong		Yunnan,
Lisu	Yunnan, Sichuan		Guangdong, Guizhou
Luoba	Tibet	Yi	Sichuan, Yunnan,
Manchu	Liaoning, Jilin,		Guizhou, Guangxi
	Heilongjiang, Hebei,	Yugur	Gansu
	Reijung, Inner	Zhuang	Guangxi, Yunnan,
	Mongolia		Guangdong, Guizhou

# Dim-Sum

Following are brief descriptions of some of China's ethnic minorities and their dances.

### DAI

Many Dai dance movements imitate subtropical creatures. Drums are used to create the dance tempo, and also often as a form of communication. Samples of some of their dances follow.



#### Peacock Dance

A favorite Dai dance, steps and step patterns are based either on folk and fairy tales from Buddhist scriptures or on imitations of peacock movements. The peacock symbolizes good luck, happiness, beauty and honesty. Performed by 1-3 dancers, the choreography has certain fixed elements: imitation of peacock flying from its nest, strolling, searching for and drinking water, bathing, shaking and sunning his wings, spreading his tail, and flying freely. There are 3 forms of the dance: the "peacock, done with legs bent and stretched forcefully, and sharp body twists; the "peahen" and the "pea chick".

#### Drum Dances

Two different kinds of drums are used: the single headed (elephant leg drum) and double headed drum.

The Elephant Foot Drum Dance

A celebratory dance done by men after seedling transplant or reaping a bumper crop, this is an agile, rugged, free-style dance. The dancer beats the drum with his left hand all through the dance while performing numerous leaps and squats. The elephant is symbolic of diligence, bravery, and sacredness.

### Gabanquang Dance

This is a round dance done with the drummers in the center and the other participants dancing in clockwise circles. The dance is lively and simple and features womens' knee-quiver movements. Old men and women shoulder gongs and dance in the center with slow, knee bent movements. They express their excitement by bending their whole body forward and back. The young dance to a faster tempo around the outer circle.

### Double Drumhead Dance

One of the most ancient of Dai dances, small drums are beat with the palm of one hand and a stick in the other. Dance movements feature deep squats and sharp body twists. Larger drums are carried by two or put on the ground in the center where the participants dance around it.







### TIBET (Bo)

Tibetan people are scattered through Tibet, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan, agriculturally rich areas.

#### Guoxie

A dance of rural Tibet, this is done in a circle with people holding hands, marking the rhythms by stamping their feet, and singing in rotation. The beat is 2/4, with the stress on the first beat. The underlying characteristic of the dance is the expression of collective enthusiasm and joy.

At festivals, men and women stand hand in hand in separate circles around a vat of wine placed out on open ground. Both groups sing and move left to right in a circle. After singing, the leader shouts and the dance itself begins. There is no musical accompaniment. The two groups of dancers compete with each other.

### Duixie

Originally a rural round dance, Duixie eventually evolved into a "tap dance" (also known as the Lhasa Tap Dance). Feet kick, tread, leap, stamp and jump, in various combinations. The dance has a complex combination of 5, 7, and 9 quick steps, with a change of movement after every 3 steps. Mark time steps have turns, and the taps are rhythmic.

### Guozhuang

The movements of this dance can be divided into two types; those with lingering, graceful character and those done to a rapid tempo with a frenetic character. The latter are said to be related to the hunting life, and the men's steps imitate the movements of animals and birds (especially the eagle). In either case, the people sing and dance in a circle.

### Xie

The name refers to a dance accompanied by a 2-stringed fiddle called the *xiangi*. The men and women face in two lines, and are directed through the dance's soft, graceful poses by the leader with his stringed instrument. The dance can be done in a circular formation or randomly.

### Zhuoxie

Done with oval waist drums, this dance has 3 parts: dancing only, to a slow tempo that then quickens; singing only; and, singing and drumming.



### **UYGUR** People

(Primarily Moslem people living in the Xinjian Uygur Autonomous Region) Ideally, Uygur dances demonstrate diligence, bravery, openness, and optimism. They are distinguished by head and wrist movements and a typical posture with tilted head, thrust chest, and an erect waist. Shivering knee movements are typical, as are fast turns and abrupt stops. Syncopation and dotted rhythms are characteristic.

#### Sanam

This is a very popular circle dance, where some of the people sing and clap their hands while others dance. Typically, the band plays from a position in the corner. Most of the dance movements are drawn from daily life. A primary feature of the dance is the coordination of different parts of body.

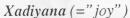
### Dolan

This ancient dance imitates hunting. The most outstanding movements include broad lunges and bending and shivering of knees.

### Sama

Originally Sama was the name of a primitive religion of ancient Uygurs who prayed to the gods of nature for hunting and harvesting by singing, drumming and dancing at the command of their ritual leader, the Sama.

From there, it evolved into a group dance done at New Year's and other festivals. After Islam was introduced to the area, they continued to use the Sama in their religious activities. However, dance performances became solemn, with no musical accompaniment. The dance, when done in temples, is performed men holding their hands in a natural half-fist.



Done at festivals by an unlimited number of people, this dance is characterized by light movements and odd formations.

### Nazirkom

This is an improvisational dance done by men to others' singing and the music of a band (the dancers themselves do not sing). Exaggerated, witty interpretations of movements from daily life form the steps. As an improvisational dance, it often becomes a contest of skill amongst the dancers. Many dances in this category are done with props, e.g., the Plate Dance.



Sapavi





Dolan



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### **MIAO People**

(live in Guizhou, one of the southernmost mountain provinces)

### Flower or Moon Dance

The Flower Mountain Festival is an important one for these people, as this is where the young choose their future mates. The dance is held on a clear moonlit night. The men play the melody, "Asking for a Floral Ribbon" to court the girls. If one likes him, she will tie a ribbon she wove onto his lusheng. Or, in the "Leading the Sheep Dance", a girl will tie her ribbon around a boy's waist and then dance behind him if she likes him.

### Lusheng Dances

There are several versions of these dances, but in all of them, the lusheng (a musical instrument made of lengths of bamboo, also known as a reed pipe) is played while the lower body dances with agile movements. The Miao learn these dances from childhood and skill at dance became one of the criteria girls used when choosing a mate.

Two version of the dance follow. In one, men playing small lushengs and women with kerchiefs dance in circles around others playing large lushengs and mangtongs. In the other version, two or more people playing the lushong lead women in circles. The women vary their movements in response to changes in the music.

There are also competitive lusheng dances (e.g., dancer does a backbend until his head touches the ground, playing the lusheng at the same time), and ceremonial lusheng dances done at weddings, festivals and funerals.

### Drum Dances

(done mostly by the Miao in Hunan and the Quingshiu delta of SE Guizhou)

There are multiple variations on the Miao drum dances, but most are done at the



Spring Festival, on the 6th day of the 6th month, and on the 8th day of the 8th lunar month. The Step Drum Dance is done recreationally by women at the Miao New Year festivities. In the Monkey Drum Dance, the dancer depicts panic of a monkey who accidentally hit the night watch drum while sneaking into a temple to steal food.

Overall, these dances are characterized by a symmetrical pattern of movement and a uniform tempo. The steps imitate rice planting/harvest, or martial arts movements and postures.

### **ZHUANG People**

(living primarily in the southwestern Guangxi Autonomous Region)

### Shaman Dance

A sacrificial dance of the Meishan religion with its 36 gods, its aim is to wipe out disease and drive out ghosts. The dance, done to the accompaniment of wasp drums, has as many variations as there are villages in the region. For every god there is a special mask, special songs and dances, and drum beats with special features for each god.

### Tea Picking Dance

This dance has assimilated many of the steps and movements of the Shaman Dance. The tempo is lively. Characters in the dance include a Tea Uncle and Tea ladies carrying fans



and handkerchiefs. The dance movements reflect work and love.

### Carrying Pole Dance

Done at the Spring Festival in the mountains, bamboo tubes (poles) are used alone as the musical accompaniment to the dance.

### Bronze Drum Dance

This dance is done primarily at the lunar New Year or to celebrate a bumper crop. At one time in their 2,000 year plus history, they symbolized the power of the ruling class. Now, every village has a bronze drum team (with small male [high pitched tone] and large female [mellow tone] drums) that compete in contests at the spring festivals.

### Animal Mime Dances

These very popular dances are done at spring festivals. Zhuang ancestors took birds and animals as totems, especially the phoenix.

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Tues, 7 p.m.

Th., 7-10 pm

Tu, W, Th, Fri 7:30-10 pm

Fri, 7:30-10 pm

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DANCE SOCIETY	6:30-10 pm		100 E. Carillo St.
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COUNTRY DANCERS		(310) 820-1181	2425-16th St.
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VESTSIDE ISRAELI &	Tues & Fri	(310) 478-5968	WEST L.A., Westwide Jewish Ctr.,
NTERNATIONAL DANCERS	9 am-noon	Edy Greenblatt	5870 N. Olympic Blvd.
HUNGARIAN TANCHAZ	2nd Saturdays 7:30 pm-midnight	(310) 202-9024	L.A. Gypsy Camp, 3265 Motor Ave.
BEGINNER'S CLASSES	S		Motor Ave.
ADAT SHALOM	Mon, 7:30-8:30 pm	(310) 475-4985; 478-5968	WEST L.A., Adat Shalom
SRAELI DANCERS		Edy Greenblatt	3030 Westwood Blvd.
RMENIAN DANCE CLASS 8 week series)	M-F, 6:30-10 pm	(310) 941-0845 Tom Bozigian, instructor	Different locations each night. Call for details.
ABRILLO INTERNATIONAL	Thurs, 7:30-10 pm	(619) 445-5995	SAN DIEGO, Recital Hall
OLK DANCERS		Jack & Ellen Vandover	Balboa Park
ONEJO VALLEY FOLK ANCERS	Mon., 7:30 pm	(805) 496-1277	balboa i dik
RESTWOOD	Mon, 7-8:15 pm	(310) 478-4659; 202-6166	WEST L.A., Brockton School
OLK DANCERS		Beverly Barr, instructor	1309 Armacost Ave.
ESERT INTERNATIONAL	Mon, 7:30-10:30 pm	(619) 343-3513	PALM SPRINGS, Village Center
OLK DANCERS		Sam & Vikki	538 N. Palm Canyon Dr.
DY GREENBLATT'S	Tues, 7-8 pm	(310) 478-5968	VAN NUYS. Valley Cities Jewish Ctr.
GRAELI DANCERS		Edy Greenblatt	13164 Burbank Blyd.
OTTA DANCE!	Thurs, 7:15-8:15 pm	(310) 478-5968	BRENTWOOD. University Synagogue
raeli Dancer		Edy Greenblatt	11960 Sunset Blyd.
AVERIM FOLK DANCERS	Sun, 7-9 pm	(805) 643-2886	VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah
F VENTURA		Ann Taylor	7620 Foothill Rd. (corner Kimbal)
RAELI & INTERNATIONAL	Tues, 7:45-10 pm	(310) 375-5553	REDONDO BEACH, Temple Menorah
DLK DANCERS		Ginger McKale	1101 Camino Real
AYSO FOLK DANCERS	Sat, 1-3 pm	(619) 238-1771 Kayso Soghomonian	SAN DIEGO, North Park Rec Center, 4044 Idaho St.
AGUNA BEGINNER'S DLK DANCE CLASS	Wed, 8:00-10:15 pm	(714) 494-3302; 533-8667	LAGUNA BEACH, Community Center, 384 Legion Ave.
ARODNI BEGINNER'S	Thurs, 7-8 pm	(310) 421-9105	LONG BEACH, Hill Jr. High Gym,
DLK DANCE CLASS		(714) 892-2766	1100 Iroquois
CHEVO FOLK DANCERS	Wed., 7:30 pm	(805) 967-9991	SANTA BARBARA. Carillo Rec. Center
ORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY	Thurs, 7:30-9:30 pm	(619) 747-1163	ESCONDIDO, Methodist Church Rec.
EGINNERS		Faith Hagadorn	Hall, 4th & Kalmia
			rigii, Tur G Railfild

### CLUB ACTIVITIES

OJAI FOLK DANCERS	Wed., 7:30 pm	(805) 649-1503	OJAI. Ojai Art Center
ORANGE COUNTY FOLK	Fri., 7:30-8:30 pm	(714) 642-1052, Richard	ORANGE. The Music Room,
DANCERS		(714) 646-7082, Steve	3514 E. Chapman
PASADENA CO-OP BEGINNER'S CLASS	Fri, 7:45-8:30 pm	(818) 794-9493	PASADENA, Throop Memorial Church, 300 s. Los Robles
SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL	Wed, 7-8:15 pm	(619) 422-5540	SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club
FOLK DANCE CLASS		Alice Stirling	Balboa Park
SIERRA MADRE FOLK DANCE CLASS	Mon, 8-9:30 pm	(818) 441-0590 Chuck Lawson	Call for location
SKANDIA FOLK DANCE	Mon, 7:30-10 pm	(714) 533-8667	ANAHEIM, Ebell Club, 226 N. Helena St
CLASSES	Wed, 7:15-10 pm	(310) 459-5314	CULVER CITY, Peer Gynt, 3835 Watseka
SOUTH BAY FOLK	Fri, 7-10 pm	Bea, (310) 377-6393	TORRANCE. Cultural Arts Center,
DANCERS		Ted/Marilyn (310) 370-2140	3330 Civic Center Dr., (310) 781-7150
VESELO SELO BEGINNER'S CLASS	Thurs, 7-10 pm	(714) 893-8127-Carol (714) 530-6563-Pat	Call for address.
WESTSIDE ISRAELI & INTERNATIONAL DANCERS	Tues & Fri, 9-10 am	(310) 478-5968 Edy Greenblatt	WEST L.A. Westside Jewish Ctr 5870 W. Olympic Blvd.
WESTWOOD CO-OP	Thurs, 7:30-9 pm	(818) 998-5682	WEST L.A., Emerson Jr. High Gym,
FOLK DANCERS		(310) 476-1466	1670 Selby, behind Mormon Temple

### **ADS & EDITORIAL MATERIALS**

Teri Hoffman, Marvin Smith 6150 W. 6th St. Los Angeles, CA 90048 (213) 936-1025; 939-5098

### CIRCULATION PROBLEMS/ **QUESTIONS**

Sandy Helperin 4362 Coolidge Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90066

(310) 391-7382

### **CALENDAR LISTINGS**

Jay Michtom 10824 Crebs Ave. Northridge, CA 91326 (818) 368-1957

### **CLUB ACTIVITIES** LISTINGS/CHANGES

Steve Himel 1524 Vivian

Newport Beach, CA 92660

(714) 646-7082

**NOTE: New Editorial address,** 

new Club Activities and

new Circulation staff!

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