

JULY/AUGUST 1996

Volume 32, Number 4



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University of the Pacific

49th Annual

# Stockton Folk Dance Camp

# 1996

## July 28-Aug 3

Two Identical Weeks

## FACULTY

**DESA DJORDJEVIC......**Dances of Serbia Desa is considered the leading researcher and authority on dances of Serbia. This will be her only visit to the west coast during 1996.

FILLEST.

**BARRY GLASS**.......Dances of the Balkans We always look forward to Barry's return to U.O.P. He brings much expertise and talents to Stockton with the research he has done. Barry has been with AMAN since 1968 and is currently the artistic director of that group.

**TINEKE van GEEL**.....Dances of Armenia and the Netherlands. Tineke is well known for the beautiful Armenian dances she has introduced at Stockton in the past. She is also going to teach some of her native Dutch dances in 1996.

**HENNIE KONINGS**.......Dances of Russia Hennie's extensive research with the Russian people has made him a most valuable resource for the types of dances done for recreation and fun. Nadia Kolesnikova and

Frans Roest will again join Hennie in Stockton.

**ROBERT MCOWEN**.....Dances of Scotland This internationally known Scottish dance teacher was a huge success at Stockton last summer. We are looking forward to his return in 1996.

**NORA DINZELBACHER**. Argentine Tangos We have had many requests for Nora's return to Stockton to teach Argentine Tangos and styling.

**IWAO TAMAOKI**......Dances of Japan We have wanted to bring a noted Japanese authority to. Stockton for quite some time. 1996 will be the year.

JERRY HELT......American Squares Jerry has set an all-time record at Stockton with his hit international Hall-of-Fame calling techniques and instruction ability.

## REGISTRATION

Bruce Mitchell, Director Stockton Folk Dance Camp University of the Pacific Stockton, CA 95211

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Bee Mitchell 911 Dianna Drive Lodi, CA 95240

## FEATURES

GARGET

THE BICOASTAL BAND Janette Duncan, Jeff O'Conner, Jim Shoemaker, with other band members not yet confirmed. DIRECTOR - BARBARA MCOWEN

Aug 4-Aug 10

BASIC COUPLE DANCES Jeff O'Connor

BASIC NON-PARTNER LINE DANCES Suzanne Rocca-Butler



WORKSHOP - COUNTRY -WESTERN (workshop only) Jeff O'Connor

## PARTIES and BANQUETS

Midweek and Closing First week - Scottish Second week - Balkan



## FEES FOR 1996 \$475 \$395

Includes Tuition, Room and Board, Complete Syllabus and Two Banquets

Includes Tuition, Room, Complete Syllabus and

Two Banquets (NO BOARD)



## INFORMATION

Call Cookie Brakebill 916-488-7637 3005 Montclaire St., Sacramento, CA 95821 Deposit: \$50.00 now to hold reservations Additional \$125 by May 15 • Balance at Camp





JULY/AUGUST 1996 Volume 32, Number 4

## Folk Dance Scene

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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.

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 & NOTICES. The Editors will attempt to include all news-worthy items which are consistent with the policy of the magazine. News items should reach the Editors by 5 weeks before 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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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.

#### FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH OFFICERS

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Federation Information (310) 478-6600



## CONTENTS

CALENDAR Jay Michtom	2
ON THE SCENE	4
DANCE ON THE GRASS	6
ZELEZAIR'S VLADIMIR URBAN. An Interview Vonnie Brown	8
THE NORTHWEST FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL Photos by Marvin Smith, Teri Hoffman	9
CLUB ACTIVITIES Steve Himel	8

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

#### JULY

- 14 JULYFEST FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL, San Diego International Folkdance Club Festival, 1:30-5:30 p.m. at Balboa Park Club. Council meeting at 11 a.m. Info: (619) 422-5540.
- 20 Skandia Dance Club presents: workshop at 4 p.m., pot luck supper 6 p.m., dance party with live music 7:30 p.m. Lindberg park, Culver City. Info: (310) 827-3618.
- 20,21 Greek Festival, Greek Orthodox Mission of Temecula. At the Temecula Community Center, 28816 Pujol St., Temecula. At Info: (909) 699-6912
- 27, 28 Greek Festival, St. Barbara Church, 1205 San Antonio Creek Rd., Santa Barbara. At Oak Park. Info: (805) 683-4492

#### AUGUST

- 24, 25 Greek Festival, St. Nectarios Church, 20340 Covina Blvd., Covina. Dates tentative; call for info: (818) 967-5524
- 31; Greek Festival, Assumption of the
  9/1,<sup>2</sup> Virgin Mary Church, 5761 E. Colorado, Long Beach. At the Long Beach Rainbow Lagoon. Info: (310) 494-8929

#### SEPTEMBER

- 6-8 Greek Festival, St. Paul Church, 4949 Alton Pkwy, Irvine. Info: (714) 733-2366
- 7-8 Greek Festival, SS Constantine and Helen Church, 3459 Manchester Ave., Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Info: (619) 942-0920
- 19-21 The Grand Kabuko Theater of Japan. 8 p.m. on 9/19-21; 2 p.m. on 9/21. At the Wiltern Theater, L.A. Info/tickets: (310) 825-2101.
- 21, 22 Greek Festival, St. Anthony's Church, 778 Rosemead, Pasadena. Info: (818) 449-6945
- 21 Skandia Dance Club presents: workshop at 4 p.m., pot luck supper at 6 p.m., dance party with live music at 7:30 p.m. Lindberg Park, Culver City. Info: (310) 827-3618.

28-29 Festival hosted by the International Dance Association, San Diego County. Balboa Park Club. Council meeting at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Info: (619) 422-4065.

#### OCTOBER

- 4-6 Greek Festival, St. Katherine's Church, 722 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach. Info: (310) 540-2434
- 12 Greek Festival, SS Constantine and Helen Church, at Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. Info: (805) 945-1212
- Olodum, Brazil's reggae/samba group of dancers and musicians. 8 p.m., the Wadsworth Theatre. Info: (310) 825-201.
- 26-27 Vintage Fashion Expo. Santa Monica Citic Auditorium.

#### NOVEMBER

1-3 Camp Hess Kramer, "All Camp Review" Institute. Teáchers TBA. Info: (310) 202-6166

- 6 Sabri Brothers, concert of Pakistan's Qawwals, Islam's musical Sufi's. Wadsworth Theater, L.A. 8 p.m. Info: (310) 825-2101
- 8 Maria Benitez Teatro Flamenco. 8 p.m. at the Veteran's Wadsworth Theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.
- 16 Paco Pena, "Flamenco in Concert". A concert of the "pure" flamenco music from the Andalucian region of Spain. 8 p.m., Veteran's Wadsworth theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.

#### DECEMBER

28

Fiesta Navidad, with Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano and Ballet Folklorico Olin. Program of the traditional sights and sounds of a traditional Mexican Christmas. 8 p.m. at the Wadsworth Theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.

#### 1997 JANUARY

24

- The Whirling Dervises, performance of Turkey's mystical Sufi sect. 8 p.m., the Veteran's Wadsworth Theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.
- 30 Kodo, Japan's drummers from Sado Island. 8 p.m. at the Wiltern Theatre. Info: (310) 825-2101.

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- 7/7-12 Stanford Tango Week. Robles Gym, Stanford University. Info: (415) 723-1234.
- 7/13 Baratsag Hungarian Dance & Music Camp. Mendocio. SzilardSzabo & Ildiko Nemeth; music by Zenog. Info: (707) 826-1306 or (415) 468-6565
- 7/13-20 English Week. Bay Area Country Dance Society. POB 22165, San Franciso, CA 94122; (415) 282-7374
- 7/13-14 Louisiana Sue's Cajun and Zydeco
- 8/17-18 Dance Ranch. Vacaville.
- 9/14-15 Info: (916) 361-1309
- 10/5-6
- 7/28-8/3 Stockton Folk Dance Camp with 8/4-8/10 Desa Djordjevec (Serbia), Barry Glass (Balkans), Tineke van Geel (Armenia) Hennie Konings (Russia), Robert McOwen (Scotland), Nora Dinzelbacher (Argentine tango), Iwao Tamaoki (Japan), and Jerry Helt (American Squares). Featuring the BiCoastal Band. Info: (916) 488-7637
- 11/22-24 West Coast Ragtime Festival. Hilton Hotel, Fresno. Info: (209) 436-1254.

### OUT OF STATE

#### Georgia

10/23-28 Tom Turpin Ragtime Festival, Savannah, GA. Info: (912) 233-9989

#### Louisiana

- 8/31- The "Zydeco Festival". Plansance,9/3 LA. Info:(318) 942-2392
- 9/20-22 Festival Acadiana. lafayette, LA Info: (318) 233-2702

#### Minnesota

10/10-13 "Focus on Dance Education Conference". On the theme, "Weaving Dance into Learning: Realities, Myths and Dragons". Minneapolis, MN Info: (800) 657-3515 or (612) 591-4775.

#### **New Mexico**

8/7-11 New Mexico August Folk Dance Camp. Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM. With David Paletz (Israeli) and Tommi and Eva Englund (Swedish). Info: Noralyn Parsons, (505) 275-1944.

## Calendar

New York Mainewoods Dance Camp: Info: (516) 621-2113 7/20-26: Romanian, IFD, Balkan.

Contras, Israeli

7/27-8/2: Romanian, IFD,

Macedonian, Scottish 8/3-9: Contra Week 8/10-16: English, Polish, Squares &

Contras, Israeli 8/17-23: Balkan, Hungarian, IFD, Israeli, English

8/24-30: Scottish, Israeli, IFD, English 8/30-9/2: Country Western, Israeli,

English & IFD.

## Nevada

9/28-29 Greek Festival at St. John's Church, 5300 S. El Camino, Las Vegas. Info: (702) 221-8245

### North Carolina

- 7/18-28 Folkmoot USA. International Folk Festival. Waynesville, NC. Info: (704) 452-2997
- 8/4-10 Cumberland Dance Camp. Contras, squares, IFD, couple dancing & mixers. Info: (704) 697-9773

**Rhode Island** 

8/5-11	Nweport Holiday of Vintage DAnce.
	Info: (617) 662-8344

Texas

- 8/1-4 25th annual Texas Folklife Festival. Institute of Texan Cultures. San Antonio. Info: (210) 558-2300
- 11/28- 49th Texas Camp. Invar Sodal, Yves 31? Moreau. Info: (713) 523-9403; 639-7346 or 622-1306

### Washington

8/2-4 Norsk Folkedans Stemme at Camp Brotherhood with Jan Alfred and Folkedanslaget Kjerringa med Staven. POB 17088, Seattle.98107

## West Virginia

7/17-Augusta Summer Sessions. Several sessions centering on various folk dance, music and craft genres. All sessions at the Augusta Heritage center, Davis & Elkins college, Elkins, W.V. INfo: (304) 637-1209.
7/17-8/12: Cajun/Zydeco Dance, Intensive Clogging; Cajun Culture & Language

- 7/14-19: Swing Dance
- 7/21-28: Irish step dance and set dance; Gaelic language and song
- 7/28-8/2: Clogging, Squares, Cajun, Contras,Couples, Step Dance, Tap, Callers, Dance Band & more.

8/4-11: Appalachian Dance

- 7/13-20 English & America Dance Week (CDSS) at Buffalo Gap. Contra, Square, Ritual, Step and Couple dance. Info: (413) 584-9913
- 8/30-9/2 Savoy Swings Again. Buffalo Gap. Info: (301) 649-567-1291
- 9/20-22 American Dance Wekend. Buffalo Gap. Contra, couple workshop, 2 bands and live music.

## FOREIGN

- Canada
- 7/5-14 Festival Mondial de Folklore Drummondville. Info: (819) 472-1184

## THREE NEW FOLK DANCE BOOKS



These three new folk dance books contain—

150 B&W photos from 83 different countries, all photographed in southern California during actual dance performances.

Lists of where pictures of national costumes can be found in hundreds of magazines and books, which are more extensive than anything ever published. The lists are divided by Provinces in a country, and tell whether the pictures are in color, or of male, female, bridal or court costumes. (Some pictures listed are from Folk Dance Scene Magazine.)

Classical and Fertility Dance Photos



of Europe

Folk Dance Photos



All books are in hard cover. Quantity discounts are available.

Write for a free catalog to: WENZEL PRESS P. O. Box 14789-F Long Beach, CA 90803

## All these books examine the strange similarities between all folk dances, but also describe their differences.

But the book on Classical and Fertility Dances has an exciting new discovery about the origin of those most ancient fertility dances.

# On the Scene

## RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICES SUMMER DANCE CLASSES

For 5 Saturdays, July 20-August 17, Richard Duree will teach two classes of interest to folk and vintage dancers. An International Folk Dance Class (#144), from 10 am-noon (emphasis on Greek dance) will be followed by a Victorian and Ragtime dance class (#145) from 1-3 p.m., with emphasis on technique and partnering. For information and registration, call the Rancho Santiago College Community Services Office at (714) 564-6220. The classes will be in the dance studio, rm. G-108 on the Santa Ana Campus at 17th-St. and Bristol.

## FOLKLORIADA: FIRST WORLD FOLK GATHERING

The first world folk festival, Folkloriada, will be held July 12-21 in Brunssum, the Netherlands. This first gathering of 67 member nations of the International Council of Folk Festival Organizations and Traditional Arts (CIOFF) will be a week of music, dance, artisans, and storytellers from all over the globe. If you're traveling in Europe this summer, you'll want to include this in your itinerary. For information, contact Jo Cuijper, Brunssum, the Netherlands. Ph. 011-31-45-527-4141, FAX 011-31-45-527-5260.

## **AUGUSTA '96 CATALOG**

Now available from the Augusta Heritage Center of Davis & Elkins College, this free annual publication gives detailed descriptions of Augusta's year round activities as well as the popular Augusta Heritage Arts Summer Workshops scheduled July 7-August 11 on the campus of Davis & Elkins Colleg in Elkins, West Virginia. To obtain a free copy, call (304) 637-1209 or write to Augusta Heritage Center, Davis & Elkins college, 100 Campus Dr., Elkir s, WV 26241.

## NEW MEXICO AUGUST FOLK DANCE CAMP, 1996

The 13th annual New Mexico August Folk Dance Camp will take place August 7-11, 1996. Coming from Sweden will be Tommi and Eva Englund. Those who attended camp in 1989 will recall how wonderfully kind and helpful the Englund's are in their teaching style. Most people, after attending teaching sessions with Tommi and Eva, find that their Swedish dancing has turned into the most luscious, smooth, addictive butter. Also teaching will be David Paletz, who will delight us with a wonderful array of Israeli dances, using his fun personality and joy of dancing at parties til sunrise.

Dances of all levels will be taught. Partners are not necessary. Camp will be held at Highland University, located in the quaint, historic town of Law Vegas, New Mexico. The facilities at Highlands include wood dance floors, an air conditioned dance hall, and a swimming pool. On the way to or from Law Vegas, it is possible to extend one's holiday and go to the Pecos Wilderness Area or Santa Fe's easygoing downtown plaza and art galleries.

Dancers arriving from out of state can arrange a lift from the airport or help with transportation. For more information, contact Noralyn Parsons at (505) 275-1944.

## CAJUN & ZYDECO DANCE SCHEDULE

The Traditional Music and Dance Conservancy will be sponsoring Cajun and Zydeco dances every second and 4th Friday night at the War Memorial Hall, 435 Fair Oaks Ave. in South Pasadena. Live music is featured at each dance, by such groups as the Kent Menard Zydeco Band, the Acadiana Cajun Band, and the Joe Simien Cajun Band (to name a few). Cajun/Creole food is available at each event. Doors open at 7 p.m., with free dance lessons from 7:30-8 p.m. The kitchen opens at 7:30 p.m. and the band starts playing at 8 p.m. For more information, call the LA LA Line at (818) 793-4333.

## UCLA'S 1996/96 CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

The 1996/96 schedule lists a number of performances of interest to anyone interested in ethnic music and dance. Included amongst these are the Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan in September; a concert by the Sabri Brothers featuring the music of Islam's musical Sufis, the Qawwals of Pakistan in November; Fiesta Navidad, the staging of a Mexican Christmas in December; Kodo, Japan's famous drummers from Sado Island; Olodum, Brazil's reggae/samba group in October; Maria Benitez's Teatro Flamenco in November; the Whirling Dervishes, performing the dance of Turkey's mystical Sufi group; and many others. For more information, or a brochure, contact the UCLA Center for the Performing Arts, P.O. Box 951429, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1429, or call (310) 825-2101.

## FOCUS ON DANCE EDUCATION CONFERENCE 1996

Sponsored by the National Dance Association and the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, from October 10-13, 1996 in Minneapolis, MN, the conference's theme is "Weaving Dance into Learning: Realities, Myths and Dragons." For more information, contact Byron Richard, Dance Resource Coordinator, Minnesota Center for Arts Education, 6125 Olson Memorial Hwy, Golden Valley, MN 55422, (800) 657-3515/(612) 591-4775, E-mailat byron.richard@mcae.k12.mn.us.

### THE SWANNOA GATHERING

A number of folk arts workshops have been taking place at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina since 1991. This year's schedule features a number of week-long "classes", each centering on a different culture or aspect of folk art. Celtic Week, from July 7-13, celebrates the heritage of the "Ulster Scots", or Scotch Irish, with classes in Irish Step Dancing, Ceili Dance and workshops in several musical instruments, including fiddling for the total beginner, beginning tinwhistle and bodhran.



"Dance Week" runs from July 14-20, and features the regional styles of southern Appalachian clogging, squares and circle figures, New England contra dancing, and clogging's "city cousin", rhythm tap. Also offered is instruction in swing dance, featuring the lindy-style. Dancing is done to live music for much of the week. Following close on the heels of "Dance Week" is "Old-Time Music and Dance Week", from July 21-27, centering on the music, dance, singing and storytelling traditions of the southern Appalachian region. Most of the classes also offer Children's programs.

For more information, contact The Swannoa Gathering, Warren Wilson College, PO Box 9000, Asheville, NC 28815-9000; phone (704) 298-3325 ext. 426; FAX (704) 299-3326; E-mail: gathering@warren-wilson.edu; Website: http://www.hidwater.com/gathering/

## **3rd ANNUAL GERMAN FOLK DANCE & FOLKLORE SEMINAR**

This seminar, hosted by the T.E.V.Edelweiss-Denver Volkstanzgruppe at their clubhouse in Denver, Colorado, will take place July 5-7, 1996. The instructor for the dance workshop, Haide Kriwitzki, is a wellknown, highly respected dance teacher and folklorist in Thuringen, Germany. Her teaching will be accompanied by live music provided by accordionist, Ron Tomocik. A German costume display, folklore crafts and demonstrations, a syllabus, and six meals (including a banquet) round out the seminar. For more information, contact Ron or Roseann at (303) 232-5542 or FAX (303) 232-1054.

### **CAMP HESS KRAMER WEEKEND**

Have you heard about the wonderful Camp Hess Kramer weekends? Note the dates of November 1-3, 1996. Don't miss this one. The Camp Hess Kramer weekend in Malibu is a "Camps Review" workshop with excellent teaching, great parties, good food, hiking, walking, reading, visitng with old friends and meeting new folk dancers. The warm, friendly atmosphere makes this weekend so special.

The teaching includes dances from Stockton Folk Dance Camp, L.I.F.E., and Santa Barbara Folk Dance Symposium. the weekend includes accommodations, 6 meals, snacks, parties, dance workshops, a sing-along, and dancing, dancing, dancing. If you want more, there's hiking and/ or nature walks, the ocean, reading, listening to music, and more.

For information, call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659, or the Folk Dance Federation at (310) 478-6600. A flyer can be mailed to you.

## FEDERATION HIGHLIGHTS: SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Federation Council awarded scholarships of \$140 each to Gloria Silvern of Westwood Co-op to attend the Stockton Folk Dance Camp and to Deanne Hendricks of Karpatok to attend the Baratsaag Hungarian Dance Camp.

1996 Federation Directories have been distributed to all member clubs. Additional copies are available for \$3 from Frank Wu, Membership chair. Apart from regular Council meetings, Council members have been meeting to review and update the Council's Standard Operating Procedures. Soon the Wit and wisdom of the Council will be available for the world to see.....Carl Pilsecker

## TRAVEL & DANCE WITH THE BARRS

Cruise the Rivers and Waterways in Russia! Days are spent in the cities and villages between St. Petersburg and Moscow. The ship stays 3 days in St. Petersburg and 3 in Moscow. All land excursions are included in the price of the trip. Also included is a 2-day stay in Amsterdam and airfare on KLM. At total of 18 days, August 6-23, 1996.

This is a new experience in cruising. Cruising the rivers in Russia is now open for travel and exploration. A smaller type of cruise ship, designed to cruise on the rivers and still have the comfort, convenience and amenities of a cruise ship. Traveling by ship, and not having to pack and unpack while visiting many cities and villages makes this trip very inviting.

Contact Beverly or Irwin immediately for itinerary and information - (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659. These cruises have early deadlines and fill up fast.



# Music & Dance



Nestled amongst the trees and grass meadows of UCLA's Sunset Recreation Center, this event is a feast for the eyes, ears, nose and mouth. Multiple ethnic music and dance groups from the L.A. area perform, while everyone attending can picnic in the sunshine on Thai, Japanese, African, South American, Middle Eastern, Eastern European and/or American foods purchased at the festival, or on foods brought from home.

Meantime, eyes and ears are filled with music and dance, watching traditional performances by the many folk groups showcasing their talents. Scattered throughout the area were numerous indoor and outdoor stages, each featuring a different group scheduled every 30 minutes. The choices were almost mind-boggling: Mexican traditional Dance, music from Bolivia, classic dances of India, traditional Armenian dance, Japanese dance, dances of Egypt, old-time American music, music and dance from Macedonia and Bulgaria, dances from West Africa, dance from Hungary, country dance from Scotland, a Panamanian dance group, Chinese and Korean dance, classical dance of Cambodia, a traditional Hawaiian dance performance, Peruvian dance, Spanish flamenco dance,

# on the Grass











and songs and music of the American south, to name a few!

This event provides a wonderful opportunity for families to learn about some of the traditions and background of the many communities that make up the ethnic patchwork of the Los Angeles area. The public is always welcome to attend this exciting, yet relaxing, free event. Presented annually by the UCLA Recreation department in collaboration with UCLA World Arts and Cultures, UCLA Associates of Ethnic Arts, UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology, the Center for Student Programming, the Office of International Students and Scholars/International Student Center, the School of Arts and Architecture and the Student Committee for the Arts, this is an event well worth attending.



# Zelezair's Vladimir Urban

An Interview with Vladimir Urban, Director/Choreographer of Zelezair Ensemble, Kosice, Slovak Republic Conducted by Vonnie Brown

You now direct and choreograph for a well-known ensemble called Zelezair, but what did you do before?

Before, I worked as a geologist, and in my free time I danced in an amateur folk group called Stavbár located in Zilina in middle Slovakia.

As a young boy, I never prepared for dancing. I started when I was 22 years old and danced only for my own pleasure. When we had troubles with choreography, I tried to learn how it was possible to do choreography, and I went to school and studied Slovak national dances. The school was in Bratislava, our capital city, and I was a student there from 1974-1977. It was not an ordinary school but a choreographic school that prepared leaders of folk groups. I was in my early thirties at that time.

Was there any dance or theater in your family? If not, what? Do you have anyone else in your immediate family that's involved in dance?

Yes, now my family dances, but before, nobody did. My mother and father liked to dance but they danced mostly at weddings and other events just for pleasure. My wife danced in a folk group and she studied special choreography and teaching for children. Now she works as a dance teacher in our private school where we teach Slovak dances. She directs many of the children's programs at various folk festivals. My voungest daughter danced in our Zelezair ensemble as well as in a professional group in Presov called PUL's. She now teaches dance in our folk group and our private school. Soon she will begin studying choreography in a special school in Bratislava. My other daughter is studying for a doctoral degree in chemical engineering. She also danced, but when she went to Moscow to study, she stopped. She now studies in Bratislava.



#### When you're not choreographing or teaching, what do you do to relax?

When I worked as a geologist, I relaxed by dancing. Now I have very little free time, but when I do, I go to our summer cottage. I also enjoy working in the garden.

## With the change in government, how has the level of support for the arts, especially the folk groups, changed?

After the revolution in our country, lots of things changed and are still changing. Under socialism, the trade unions and the Ministry of Culture managed our dance groups and we were well-funded. Now there have been changes, but Slovak people love to dance so now there is even more dance than there was during the Communist era. For example, shortly after the revolution in 1993, we had 110 amateur ensembles. Now we have 120. Some groups stopped after the revolution, but others began. There are also more folk festivals now. However, I would like to say that they have not gone up in quality. For example, some small village festivals have become international festivals, but the villages are not prepared to manage such extended



programs. Before the revolution, very good work was done with our dance ensembles and festivals, but now we have quantity rather than quality. The quality has not necessarily gone down, but we are not progressing forward as we were before. I believe that this will eventually change because we have many very knowledgeable and talented people in folklore who recognize the problem and will work to solve it.

## How are the folk ensembles funded now? Did you get more funding under socialism?

Our group got more funding under socialism. We got three times more then than now. It is a problem since prices keep going up, also. Zelezair was funded by the iron factory in Kosice. They paid money for professional musicians, professional choreographers, professional managers, promotional materials, travel, and other such things. Now we must *find* the money ourselves for these things. Fortunately, most of our ensembles have extensive costume collections, though they must, of course, always be repaired and replaced on occasion.

## Why do you suppose that under communism, folk culture was so well funded?

Not only folk culture, but theater, music — all the arts. The government and people

believed that *all* people should be able to enjoy and appreciate the arts, and participate in them as well if they had the talent. We believe the arts make people better; that it beautifies and enriches our lives. Culture and art have always been important in the lives of the Czecho-Slovak people. Now, unfortunately, all the art forms are having funding problems.

## Do any inequities exist in regard to the funding of folk groups?

The government pays money for professional dance groups like our national company, Sluk, from Bratislava, and Pul's from Presov. They also give money to Lúcnica in Bratislava, which is a half-professional group. It is not possible for the government to pay for 120 folk groups, and so these groups must look for funding from some sponsor or firm. the problem is that now there are many groups soliciting such funds — sports teams, health and charity groups, etc. I think that in time the folk groups will be funded as before, because the Slovak people have very strong feelings about their dance.

## Is there much interest in Slovak dance outside the country of Slovakia?

Many people from foreign countries come to watch our folk festivals and they seem to be very interested in learning about our culture and our dance. Some people, like you [Vonnie], come to our country and study the dance more intensely. The Japanese have become very interested, and I have been to Japan three times to teach them. This is my first visit to the United States.

## On what special occasions do Slovak people dance?

Times are not what they were, and so one doesn't see dance as often now in everyday life. People always dance at weddings, and they always dance some modern dances, but with some old traditional dances thrown in. Whenever there is some celebration with music, people will dance. In some villages, the people make a concerted effort to preserve old dance traditions such as those related to the seasons. at any celebration there is perhaps more singing than dancing. The dancing always includes some old dances along with the polka, waltz, and other more modern dances. Weddings are perhaps the best occasion for dance. For example, in East Slovakia, you'll see the women's circle dance, *karicka*, danced quite often. The *karicky* were traditionally danced outside, but now at weddings, they are done inside a ballroom. Of course, at the folk festivals, there is much dancing, music and singing.

## Do children still learn to do villages dances when they're young, or do they do more Western-style dances such as disco?

First the young people do disco, but in the villages, they also learn and dance the traditional dances. We have 300 village groups in our country. these groups dance the dances from their village or the small area around their village. They sing and play the music from their village and re-enact various folk customs. These groups are made up of all ages but the young people are very interested in their folk traditions and want to learn about such things.

## It has been my observation that the young people in Slovakia are probably participating in dance, music and singing at a higher level than most countries. Do you agree?

I am sure more so than in the Western European countries. I do not have enough information to make comparisons with such countries as the Ukraine or Poland, for example. I know that in Hungary they have the *tanchaz* movement in which many young people participate. We have a different way, but it is true that a lot of young people participate in folk dancing. For example, I have a basic art dance school and within this school, we teach primarily Slovak dance. We have 150 students now, but have perhaps 500 more who would like to get in. Unfortunately we cannot handle this many people at this point.

At one time, there were many cultural houses in Slovakia which served as homes for various folk ensembles. Do they still exist and are they related to some trade union or factory?

There are cultural houses in almost every city and village in Slovakia and they are not just for folk groups but for all the arts and for social activities. After the revolution, many things changed and now these cultural centers do not have enough money. We have a very special situation because art or culture was very inexpensive before the revolution. For example, one ticket to watch one cinema, we paid only as much as we paid for one beer. Now we must pay the equivalent of 20 beers for such a program. The cultural houses do not have enough money to pay their employees. So the arts and the cultural houses both have financial problems. Before it was possible to invite some group for a performance and for the groups and the cultural house to receive funding for such an event. Now this is not possible. It is not the same cultural house as before; it has changed. Now, in some we have disco clubs, coffee bars and shops; but they still have some cultural events. Before it was possible for such cultural houses to get money from some factory or trade union, but not now. It is very rare.

In the beginning, the government gave some money for the construction of the cultural houses, but in the villages, the people built them with their own hands, and in many cases they used their own materials. These houses are used for weddings and all social activities within the village.

On the cover of one of your brochures, there is a photo of some of Zelezair;s male dancers doing a strange dance that looks more like a game. What are they doing? I did see a dance that looked similar to this when I was in the Czech republic at a festival. what is this dance? Is it typical of any given area?

I don't know what they do in the Czech Republic, but our young men are dancing a shepherd's dance that has a game-like quality to it. It is from the Saris region and is called Krivacka. Krivacka translates to





"crooked", and it means that if you dance this dance, you will have crooked legs. It is done for fun and the good feelings it brings. In some villages, this dance is very old and often imitates the movements of animals. Shepherd's used to amuse themselves with such dance-games.

# Are there any similarities between Slovak dance and Polish or Hungarian dance?

Slovakia lies in the middle of Europe and our country is a little mixed with other nations — but only a little. If you watch dances from East Slovakia, Middle Slovakia, and West Slovakia, you will find great differences between the dances of these regions. For example, in West Slovakia, you can find such dances as the mazurka, sotys (schottische), and polka. These dances cam from other nations such as Poland, Austria, and/or the Czech Republic, but the Slovak people danced them with their own feeling and style. These dances are not very old but they have a very definite Slovak character now. The Gorals live in Northern Slovakia, in the Tatra mountains, which go through both Slovakia and Poland. They have a very unique culture and type of dance. In East Slovakia, we have the Zemplin Region, and half of this region lies in Hungary. It means that East Slovakian people dance a little like Hungarians; however, if you watch the Hungarian dance an hour away from East Slovakia, you will see that it is not the same. They have different style and different steps. In Middle Slovakia, you find yet another style and another very different type of dance. In the regions of Horehronie and Podpol'anie in Middle Slovakia, the dance is again very different and very unique in each region. It developed from the Slovak people and the Wallachian culture that came to Slovakia in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Personally, I am not very interested in dances from other countries because I have enough work to know al the Slovak dances. We have 20 ethnographic dance regions each with its own unique dance. In our country, a lot of folk ensembles try to dance material from many of these ethnographic regions. This is very difficult because they must do special exercises from each region to learn the steps and style. Each region is very special and demands special training. It is very difficult to *master* all the regions and for this reason, many of our ensembles choose to specialize in one area. For example, in Zelezair, we do dances only from East Slovakia.

As choreographers, we are trained in all ethnographic regions. Therefore, we're capable of choreographing for all regions. However, as a choreographer, I believe that it takes more skill to choreograph dances from only one area — it requires more creativity.

I lived in Zilina in Middle Slovakia for 20 years and worked with many regions including Upper and Lower Liptov, Gorale, Kysuce, Orava, Trencin, and Podpol'anie. I know these regions well because I danced and studied them for many years and prepared many good programs. Now, in Zelezair, we perform dances only from the regions of Abov, Saris, Zemplin, and Spis (all in East Slovakia). In our last concert, we performed dances only from the region of Abov, and only from two villages. It was possible to make the entire performance interesting because the dance from these two villages is extremely rich and provides good possibilities for choreography.

## You work strictly with Slovak dances and not Czech dances. What are the differences between the two?

First, I must say that Czech folklore is very different from Slovak. The differences are in the movement, the music, the songs, the costumes....our cultures are very different. In the Czech Republic, they dance mainly in the rhythm of the polka and waltz. In our country, these rhythms are very new, but the dance can be very unique. In the Saris region, for example, we have a dance called Sarisska Polka. This dance has no similarity to the Czech polka. It is a very, very rich dance and the people dance steps which come from their oldest dances (archaic couple turning dances) to a polka rhythm. In summation, the Czech and Slovak dances have very different character, different temperament, different movement, different tunes, different songs.

I have noticed that the Czechs will teach and dance Slovak dances but that the Slovaks never teach or dance Czech dances. This is a rather interesting phenomenon. What are your comments on this?

It is true that many of the Czech groups include Slovak dances in their programs and that Slovak groups never dance Czech dances. Our Slovak dances are very rich, very attractive, very strong, and add much variety to a program. The Czechs like Slovak dances, and we like Czech culture, too, but we feel we have such a rich dance heritage that it is enough.

The Czechs began teaching Slovak dances many years ago. Prague was the capital city, very well-known, and a center of culture. It had many foreign visitors and many contacts with Western countries. It was easier for someone from Prague to go out and teach in other countries, and when they did, they chose to teach dances from all of Czecho-Slovakia.

## In recent years, you have been concentrating on East Slovakian dance. Do you have any desire at the present time to work in other regions?

Right now I'm living in Kosice, which is in East Slovakia. I was also born in this area, in the village of Kapusany. For these reasons, I like East Slovakia and East Slovakian dances very much. I have many opportunities to choreograph dances from other regions and would like to do so, but right now I have no time. With Zelezair, we perform and rehearse many times in one year; that coupled with choreographing teaching, managing my dance school, and directing festival programs leaves me with little time to pursue this.

# It seems to be the consensus of opinion in Slovakia at the present time that the East Slovakian groups offer the richest and strongest dance programs. What is your opinion?

Yes, but I am sinking the same is true in Middle Slovakia. For example, in the regions of Horehronie and Podpol'anie, there are a lot of strong groups that work very hard, and they are very good. This area is rich in dance variety, too. In East Slovakia, we are very far from Bratislava and must work alone and very hard. It is not possible for us to rely on artistic or professional help from Bratislava - we must do it all.

## Zelezair is known as one of the best ensembles in all of Slovakia. could you tell us a little more about the group and also something about the honors you and your group have received?

Kosice is a city of 300,000 people and, besides Zelezair, there are eight other folk ensembles within the city. Zelezair has a tradition of 32 years of performing folk dance on stage. We rehearse three times a week and sometimes more. Our ensemble consists of dancers, musicians and singers. The number of performance we give has been increasing each year — last year we performed 82 times and rehearsed 120 times. In Slovakia every year, some competition is organized for the dance ensembles. One year the competition is for solo dancers (one person, one couple, or one trio). Another year, the competition is centered on choreography for solo, small and large groups. Yet another year, it is a competition for long programs of dancing - 20 to 25 minutes. A jury made up of esteemed people in dance decides who receives the highest honors. We also have competitions for musicians and singers.

Before my arrival in Kosice, Zelezair had been awarded several honors in these competitions for the best interpretation of folk dance. Since 1987, the year of my arrival, Zelezair has earned many prizes from these competitions. It has won first prize for the test choreography three times, and we have also won the highest prize for best solo musician and best solo dancers.

I think our success has been based on good pedagogical work, professional and creative choreographic production, and our ability to bring new, original pieces of Eastern Slovakian traditional culture on stage.





1996 marked the 25th anniversary of Seattle's annual Northwest Folklife Festival — an event that seemed to roll every festival and folk dance event ever held into one dazzling happening. The festival, held from May 24-27, hosted thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds, all of whom were courteous and smiling, in spite of their numbers. And the entire city seemed to be involved in making it happen in one way or another. Some performed, some ran classes, some helped to keep the grounds clean, some manned booths selling everything from Egyptian belly dancing scarves and dumbeks to Folklife Festival tee shirts and sweatshirts, and quite a few sold Festival buttons, the price of which helps to keep the Festival free every year.

concerts abounded, as did opportunities to participate in music, song and dance workshops, join in a jam session, or spontaneous dance; good food was plentiful; exhibits and vendors were everywhere. Every evening had at least two organized dances running concurrently in different halls - Contra, Swing and Cajun dances were held every night, while Scandinavian, Hungarian, East European/Balkan, Greek, Israeli, and "Tea and Tango" each had their nights. Additionally, dance classes and workshops were offered daily. Included amongst these were workshops on English Country Dance, Kathak Dance of India, Scandinavian Dance, Hungarian Csardas, Breton Spiral Dance and French Country Dance, Traditional Bulgarian Folk Dance, Filipino Dances, the Lindy Hop, Salsa and Brazilian dance. Then, too, there were family dance workshops, where German, Swiss, Nordic, Middle Eastern, Balkan, Japanese and other ethnic dances were taught that children and their families.

There were music classes for different instruments geared towards beginners (e.g. Fiddle Basics; the Didgeredoo and You; Basics of Cajun Accordion) and workshops for experienced musicians wanting to learn new and different styles (e.g. Advanced Mandolin Techniques; European Button Box Accordion; Traditional Rondalla Music). And, just in case you needed a new instrument, there was a used instrument auction one day, as well as a number of music stores selling every kind of instrument imaginable, and all the sheet music anyone could want to go





along with the instruments. Not to mention CDs and tapes, so everyone could bring some of the Festival's music home with them. For vocalists in the crowd, there were singing workshops and classes — Shape Note Singing, Yiddish Labor Songs, Vocal Harmonies in Bluegrass, Scots Gaelic Songs, and Anyone Con Sing Great Gospel, to name a few. Singalongs sprung up spontaneously and the Festival itself sponsored a 25th year concert and sing-along in one of the amphitheaters.

For more entertainment, concerts and performances were given throughout the day on a number of stages. Most of the performers were "amateur", though nobody would have guessed based on the quality of their performances. Again, performances were international, with several groups doing dance suites from the Ukraine, from Hungary, from Scandinavia, from Israel, from the U.S. "Vintage" years, from several Latin American countries, from England and France, from the Polynesian islands, and too many other places to mention.

As if all of this were not enough, there were also traditional craft demonstrations (Philippine backstrap weaving, pottery wheel throwing, paper-making), a number of excellent exhibits (international dolls, museum-quality pottery, and carving, amongst others), and an "Uncommon Market Place", featuring items from around the world.









This was truly a festival beyond festivals and an experience that anyone with any interest in folk life should have at least once in their lifetime!



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CAFE DANSSA BALKAN DANCERS	Wed, 7:30-10:30 pm
CAFE RONDO	2nd Sat. 8 pm - 1 am
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COUNTRY DANCERS	2nd Sat., 5:30 pm
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(310) 478-4659; 202-6166 Beverly Barr, instructor

(310) 204-1513 Jeffrey Levine

(619) 342-1297 Helen (619) 323-7259 Shelley

(805) 643-2886 Ann Zacher

> (213) 938-2531 x2228 Jeffrey Levine

(310) 375-5553 Ginger McKale

(619) 469-7133 Rochelle Abraham

(714) 494-3302; 533-8667

(619) 747-1163 Faith Hagadorn (805) 649-1503 (818) 794-9493

(619) 422-5540 Alice Stirling

L.A. Gypsy Camp, 3265 Motor Ave.

LOS ANGELES, Westide Jewish Community Ctr. 5780 W. Olympic Blvd. VAN NUYS, Valley Cities Jewish Ctr. 13163 Burbank Blvd.

PASADENA, Vasa Hall 2031 E. Villa

L.A. Robertson Recreation Center 1641 Preuss Rd.

LONG BEACH 3801 E. Willow

FULLERTON, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1155 N. Lemon

NORTHRIDGE, Le Club Gymnastics 19555 Prairie St.

VAN NUYS, 17231 Sherman Way L.A., 4950 W. Slauson Ave.

SAN DIEGO. Recital Hall. Balboa Park

SANTA BARBARA, Carillo Rec. Center Flora Codman100 E. Carillo St.

ARCADIA, 550 N Second Ave.

MAR VISTA, 11827 Venice Blvd.

WEST L.A., Westwide Jewish Ctr., 5870 N. Olympic Blvd.

Different locations each night. Call for details.

SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club Balboa Park

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

WEST L. A. Gypsy Camp 3265 Motor Ave.

PALM SPRINGS, Village Center 538 N. Palm Canyon Dr.

VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah 7620 Foothill Rd. (corner Kimbal)

LOS ANGELES. Westside Jewish Community Ctr., 5870 W. Olympic Blvd.

**REDONDO BEACH, Temple Menorah** 1101 Camino Real

SAN DIEGO, North Park Rec Center, 4044 Idaho St.

LAGUNA BEACH, Community Center, 384 Legion Ave.

ESCONDIDO, Methodist Church Rec. Hall, 4th & Kalmia

OJAI. Ojai Art Center

PASADENA, Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles

SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club **Balboa** Park

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCERS	Wed, 7:30 pm	(805) 967-9991 Flora Codman	SANTA BARBARA. Carillo Rec. Center 100 E. Carillo
SIERRA MADRE FOLK DANCE CLASS	Mon, 8-9:30 pm	(818) 441-0590 Chuck Lawson	SIERRA MADRE, Sierra Madre Recreation Bldg, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
SKANDIA FOLK DANCE CLASSES	Tue, 7:30-10 pm Wed, 7:30-10 pm	(714) 533-8667 (310) 558-8352	ANAHEIM, Senior Center, 280 E. Lincoln CULVER CITY, Peer Gynt Hall, 3835 Watseka
SOUTH BAY FOLK DANCERS	Fri, 7:30-8:15 pm	(310) 377-6393, Bea (310) 370-2140, Ted/Marilyn	TORRANCE. Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., (310) 781-7150
VESELO SELO BEGINNER'S CLASS	Thurs, 7-10 pm	(714) 893-8127, Carol (714) 530-6563, Pat	FULLERTON. Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1155 N. Lemon
WESTCHESTER LARIATS	Mon, 3:30-4:30 pm Mon, 4:30-5:30 pm	(310) 288-7196 LynnAnne Hanson	L.A., Westchester Methodist Church Emerson & 80th Pl.
WESTSIDE JCC ISRAELI DANCERS	Tues & Fri, 9-10 am	(213) 938-2531 x2228 Naomi Silbermintz	WEST L.A. Westside Jewish Ctr 5870 W. Olympic Blvd.
WESTWOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS	Thurs, 7:30-9 pm	(818) 998-5682 (310) 476-1466	WEST L.A., Emerson Jr. High Gym, 1670 Selby, behind Mormon Temple

## ADVERTISING RATES, DEADLINES, ETC.

Ad rates are as follows:

1 page (7.5 x 10") - \$100 (Non-profit groups) \$120 (Profit groups) 1/2 page (7.5 x 4.75") - \$60 (Non-profit groups) \$75 (Profit groups) Column inch (2.25 x 1") -\$5 (Non-profit groups) \$6 (Profit groups)

All ads must be CAMERA-READY! Deadline is 5 weeks prior to date of publication (e.g. 10/25 for December issue)

For all editorial materials, deadline is 5 weeks prior to date of publication.

For Calendar materials, deadline is 6 weeks prior to date of publication

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

## 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 Los Angeles, CA 90066 (714) 646-7082

## **CIRCULATION PROBLEMS**/ **QUESTIONS** Sandy Helperin 4362 Coolidge Ave. (310) 391-7382



