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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 Southerm California and elsewhere. In addition, it advises readers on 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 newsworthy items which are consistent with the policy of the magazine. News items should reach the Editors by 5 weeks prior to the month of publication for inclusion. Potential authors of feature articles should correspond with the editors prior to submitting their manuscripts.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. All subscription orders and renewals should be addressed to the Subscription Office, 469 N. Kings Rd., L.A., CA 90048. The subscription rate is \$10/year (\$15/year-foreign). All subscriptions must be prepaid. Changes of address and circulation problems should be addressed to the Subscription Office at least one month prior to the mailing date to ensure proper delivery. Due to the non-profit 3rd class mailing status of SCENE, the post office will not forward the magazine. Renewals received after the 10th of the month prior to publication will not begin until the following month.

ADVERTISING. Current rates and specifications are printed on the inside back cover of the magazine. Details are available from the Editorial Office. All ads must relate to and be consistent with the purposes of the magazine, must be camera-ready, and be accompanied by a check or money order 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 at (562) 862-0521.

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH OFFICERS

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PLEASE NOTE EDITORIAL OFFICE ADDRESS CHANGE

Calendar

Call to confirm all events DECEMBER Bulgarian Women's Choir and Throat 5 11 Singers of Tuva. Irvine Barclay Theater, 8 pm. Info: (714) 553-2422 17 6 Bulgarian Women's Choir and Throat Singers of Tuva., 8 pm. Wadsworth Theater, UCLA. Info: (310) 825-2101 25 6 **Royal Scottish Country Dance Soci** ety Beginner's Dance. 7:30 p.m. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 5040 Van Nuys Blvd. Info: (310) 473-0921 2/3, 2/8 14 Hungarian GypsyDance Class. Long Beach Dance & Event Center. Info: (714)641-7450 22 West L.A. Folkdancers' Holiday Party. 7:30 p.m. at Brockton School. 1309 6-8 Armacost Ave., W.L.A. Info: (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659 Holiday Nostaligia Camp, Pilgrim 26-29 Pines, Oak Glen. Mihai David and Richard Duree Info: (714) 458-7825. 14 27 Scandia Holiday Dance: Women's Club of Orange. Info: (714) 533-3886. 18-21 Veselo Selo's New Year's Dance. 31 Hillcrest park, Fullerton. Info: (714) 641-7450 20-22 31 Hogamany Party. L.A. Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Westchester Senior Citizen Center, 8740 Lincoln Blvd., Westchester. Live music. Info: (310) 473-0921 7 31 New Year's Eve Ball, Long Beach Dance Center. Info: (562) 438-1557 14 Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op's New 31 Years Party, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.. 14 Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 N. Lake, Pasadena. Buffet at 9 p.m. Info: (626) 794-9493. 19-22 31 New Year's Eve Vintage Ball. Throop Church, Pasadena. Info: (818) 342-3482 25-29 1998 JANUARY 2 New Year's Party, Brockton School, 28

Note: Federation events are in bold

7:30p.m. Hostedby the West L.A. Folkdancers. Info: (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659.

- 9-11 Palm Springs Polkafest, Palm Springs Pavillion. Info: (406) 698-1454 or (619) 324-3483
 - Pasadena Festival. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m.
 - Klezmer Conservatory Band, 8 pm, Irvine Barclay Theater. Info: (714) 553-2422
 - Pasadena Festival, 1:30-5:30 p.m.. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. At the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Madison & Walnut, Pasadena. Info: (818) 300-8138. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!!
- 31, 2/1,
 - Jose Greco II Flamenco Dance Company at Gindi Auditorium, University of Judaism. 15600 Mulholland Dr. Info: (310) 476-9777
- FEBRUARY
 - Laguna Folkdance Festival. Ensign Jr. High, Newport Beach. Institutes with Steve Kotansky and Marilyn Smith, concert, parties. Info: (714) 494-7683.
 - Tziganka Russian Dance Co. 8 pm, Orange CoastCollege, Costa Mesa. Info: (714) 432-5880
 - Cloud Gate Dance Theater concert, 8 pm. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Info: (562) 916-8501
- Westwood Co-op's Hess Kramer weekend, Malibu. Info: (310) 391-7382.
- MARCH
 - AMANInstitute, MayflowerBallroom, Inglewood.
 - Las Vegas Fetival. Council meeting at 10 :30 a.m.
 - Victorian Ball, 7:30 p.m. Masonic Lodge, Pasadena. Info: (818) 342-3482
 - Georgian State Dance Company. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Info: (562) 916-8501.
- La Tanya Flamenco Company. Irvine Barclay Theater. Info: (714) 553-2422

Klezmer and Eastern European music with Miamon Miller and the Bucovina Band. 8 p.m. Valley Jewish Community Center, Sherman Oaks. Info: (818) 786-6310

APRIL

5

25

12

- Westwood Festival. Veteran's Memorial Aud, Culver City. 1:30-5:30 p.m. Council meeting 10:30 a.m. Info: (818) 998-5682.
- 24-26 International Folk Dance Weekend at Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge. Info: (562) 424-6377.
 - Sephardic and Middle Eastern music with John Bilezikian. 8 p.m., Valley Jewish Community Center, Sherman Oaks. Info: (818) 786-6310.

JULY

Festival hosted by the San Diego International Folk Dance Club, 1:30-5:30 p.m. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. Blaboa Park Club. Free! Info: (619) 422-5540.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- Treasurer's Ball, Sebastopol. Info: (707) 12/7 546-8877.
- 1988 Statewide Festival. Russian Cen-5/22-25 ter, San Francisco.

OUT OF STATE Hawaii

- Scottish Dance Week with Elke Baker, 3/8-15 Earl Gaddis, Beth Murray, Ralph Gordon. Dance teaching: John Drewry. Info: (800) 822-3435
- 7/16-19 Yve's Moreau's 50th Birthday celebration with Jaap Leegwater, Nina Kavardjikova, Joe Graziosi, Hironobu Senzaki. Honolulu. Info: (514) 659-9271.

Kentucky

- 12/26-1/1 Christmas Country Dance School, Berea, KY. Berea College. English Country, Morris, Longsword, Contra, Clogging. Info: (606) 986-9341, x. 5565.
- 12/26-1/1 Winter in the Woods at the Kentucky Leadership Center, Somerset, KY. Contra, English country, Morris, Rapper dancing; dulcimer workshops; concert. Info: (502) 223-8367. Nevada
- 3/14/98 Las Vegas Festival. Council meeting at 10:30 a.m.

New Hampshire

1/18-18 Ralph Page Legacy Weekend. Contra dancing. Info: (617) 354-1340

Calendar

1/23-25 Ski & Scandinavian Dance Weekend in the White Mountains. Jackson, NH. Norwegian and Swedish traditional dances, Telespringar and Telgangar workshops. Info: 617) 661-3670.

New York

- 12/5-7 International Folk Dance Weekend with Yves Moreau, Ya'akov Eden. Ellenville. Info: (516) 921-4820
- 12/31-1/4 New Year's WinterDanceFest at Ashokan. Dancing, music, cross country skiing, ice skating, plus dance and music workshops. Contras, squares English, swing, Cajun, Blues, waltzes and tangos. Info: (914) 338-2996.

North Carolina

- 12/26-1/1 Winter Dance Week, Brasstown, NC John C. Campbell Folk School. Info: 1-800-FOLK-SCH
- 6/24-27/98 National Square Dance Convention, Charlotte, N.C.

Vermont

Balkan Music & Dance Weekend, Montpelier, VT. Classes in dancing, singing, band workshops for instrumentalists. Info: (802) 326-3210

Wisconsin

12/27-1/1 50th Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions. Folklore Village, Dodgeville, WI. Ada Dziewanowska, Ingvar & Sally Sodol, amongst others. Info: (608)924-4000.

FOREIGN

Czech Republic

12/26-1/1/98 Dvorana, Folk Dance Week. Dancing, singing, traditions. Benesov (near Prague). Info: Spanielova 38, 163 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic





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On the Scene

HOLIDAY CAMP AT PILGRIM PINES

The 1997 Holiday Camp is well under way. The recreation hall with its wood floor is ready, the folk dancers' menu is ready, the schedule is ready, the dance program is almost ready — all it needs now is for dancers to register and the calendar to get around to it.

Mihai David will teach a blend of old and new Romanian dances from his magical repertoire. Richard Duree will dig into his "60s and 70s repertoire" to revive several of the great old dances of the "glory years", such as Arkan Kolomeyskiy, Shopsko Horo, Forgatos, Agcheekneroo Par and others.

Camp begins with dinner on Friday, December 26 and ends with lunch on Monday, December 29, so everyone can get back to their favorite New Year's Eve dance.

A camp video and audio cassette tape will be available. All information will be sent on receipt of deposit.

Cost is \$235/person with a \$75 deposit before October 15 or \$245 for deposits received after that date. Please direct all questions to Diki Shields (714) 458-7825 or Richard Duree (714) 641-7450 Send registrations to: Holiday Camp, Richard Duree, PO Box 1642, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1642.

A NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

The Lively Arts History Association is hosting a costumed Charity Ball, with "antique dances from centuries past" at Throop Memorial Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles in Pasadena., starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be waltzes, polkas and English country dances, light refreshments, and champagne served at midnight. Reservations are required. Singles are welcome and child care is offered. There is free parking and a free raffle.

PALM SPRINGS POLKAFEST

The 10th Annual Palm Springs

Polkafest will be happening from January 9-11, 1998. This a major polka event of the year will be held at the Palm Springs Pavilion, with it's huge (11,000 square feet) dance floor. Matt Vorderbrugger, Jeff Walker, the Villagers and Sylvia and Fjordsong will provide nonstop polka music, and jammers are invited to bring their instruments and join in. The festival runs Friday and Saturday from noon to midnight and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. 3-day passes are available, and good accommodations are available at the Palm Springs Travelodge. For info, call Matt at (406) 698-1454 or (507) 450-1163.

HUNGARIAN FOLKLORE LISTSERVE

Anyone interested in Hungarian folk culture is invited to join the Hungarian Folklore Listserve. Members include folklorists, professional and amateur dancers. choreographers, musicians and dance group leaders/artistic directors. Members discuss topics related to the culture, and are able to list their events, including concerts, performances, tanchazes, and camps. Announcements can be made easily by sending e-mail to: folklor@majordomo.umd.edu. To subscribe to FOLKLOR, either reply to Sylvia Balazs:akovacs@ndcinc.com, sbalazs@juno.com or send e-mail to majordomo!majordomo.umd.edu. In the body text, type: subscribe folklor [your email address is not needed].

ZHENA FOLK CHORUS AUDITIONS

The Zhena Folk Chorus, a South Baybased women's ensemble, is holding auditions for singers to sing the folk music of Croatia, Bulgaria, Russia, and the Ukraine. For information, call (310) 831-4457.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Folk Dance Federation of California South membership directories are now available for \$3.00 from Carol Wall, membership Director, 9505 Stoakes Ave., Downey, CA 90240. Make your check out to Folk Dance Federation of California, South.

Please send any updates/additions/corrections/deletions of phone number, area code, address, new president, delegates, etc., so she can change the directory information in the computer. Use the above address or call (562) 862-0521 or e-mail cewall@ix. netcom.com.

NEW YEARS' PARTY, WEST L.A. FOLKDANCERS

Friday, January 2, 1998, will be the West L.A. Folkdancers first party of the New Year. Put it on your calendar and save the date. Brockton School, 1309 Armacost in W.L.A. The all request program begins at 7:30 p.m. For info, call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659.

NARODNI'S BEGINNER'S FESTIVAL

Narodni, the only folk dance club in Long Beach, will be hosting a beginner's Folk Dance Festival at United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 8, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Dances for non-dancers will be taught, assisted by experienced members of the club. This is a fine place to bring someone new to dance.

The church is at the intersection of Orange and Bixby in Long Beach, a few blocks north of the 405 Freeway. For info, call John Matthews (562) 424-6377, Carl Pilsecker (562) 865-0873, or Carol Wall (562) 862-0521.

YVES MOREAU'S PARTY IN HAWAII

Yves Moreau will be 50 years old next summer and has decided to throw a big party for his folk dance friends worldwide from July 16-19, 1998. He is co-organizing the affair with his long-time associate, Hironobu Senzaki, a well-known Balkan dance leader and teacher from Tokyo, Japan, who will also turn 50. It was decided to hold the event in a convenient "half way" spot between Canada and japan, so Hawaii was picked as a logical and exciting site! Activities include daytime workshops with



Graziosi, exciting Balkan parties with live music led by George Chittenden and friends, Hawaiian luau, banquet meals, and many other surprises.

Registration is limited to the first 250 people. Contact Yves at (514) 659-9271 to obtain your detailed brochure. Also see the ad in this issue of "Scene".

WESTWOOD CO-OP'S ANNUAL CAMP HESS KRAMER WEEKEND FEBRUARY 20-22, 1998

This year's Camp Hess Kramer Weekend is early!! Mark the dates and join the group for a wonderful weekend with plenty of dancing! There are dance classes by day and dance parties at night, with ample opportunity for everyone to express themself artistically and musically, not to mention socially! It is a fun and relaxing weekend withjust enough challenge so that nobody will feel guilty about having too much fun. Hope to see you there. For information, call Sandi at (310) 391-7387.

CONTRA DANCING IN THE L.A. AREA

The California Dance Cooperative sponsors contra dance all over the Los Angeles basin. Contra dance is fun, very lively, and easy. The dances are prompted by a caller, partners are matched on-the-spot, and dress is casual. Following is a place to dance American contras in the area: South Pasadena - 1st and 3rd Fridays at the War Memorial Hall Brentwood - 1st, 3rd and 4th Saturdays at the Brentwood Youth House on Bundy

Pasadena - 5th Saturdays at Throop Church Sierra Madre - 2nd Saturday at Sierra Madre Masonic Temple La Verne - 2nd Sundays at the Veteran's Hall.

Starting times and class prices vary. For info, call Steve and Leda at (818) 785-3839.

NEW YEAR WEEKEND WITH IRWIN AND BEVERLY BARR

This New Year's weekend extends from December 28-January 1st, celebrating the new year traveling and dancing with folk dancers. All transportation from Los Angeles, including all sightseeing, is on a deluxe motorcoach reserved for this group. The 5 day, 4 night trip includes two nights in Death Valley and two in Laughlin, Nevada. Days will be spent sightseeing, and there will be a special, private New Year's Eve dinner and folk dance party at the hotel in Death Valley. For information, call (310) 202-6166 or 478-4659.

In 1998, YVES MOREAU celebrates ! Jo

Join him in Hawaii for his 50th birthday party :



Hawaii '50! July 16-19, 1998 Honolulu

- Special guests including Jaap Leegwater, Nina Kavardjikova, Joe Graziosi and more to come...
- Workshops, exciting Balkan parties with live music, banquets, Hawaiian entertainment & much more !

• Registration limited to **250 people**. Hurry ! Many friends from North America, Asia, Australia and Europe have already confirmed their presence

Yves has also just produced a **video** of some of the most popular Bulgarian folk dances introduced to recreational folk dancers worldwide since 1967. On it are such favorites as: **Dospatsko, Bičak, Pandalaš, Batuta, Sandansko, Gjuševska Račenica** and **Dobrudžanska Raka**, etc.

Send now for your Hawaii '50 ! brochure and Bulgarian folk dance video order form:

Yves Moreau, P.O. Box 158, Saint-Lambert, Quebec, Canada J4P 3N8 Tel: (514) 659-9271 • Fax: (514) 659-9377 • e-mail: ymoreau@odyssee.net

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Readers, be writers, too!!

Any of you have travelled the world, seen interesting (maybe even exotic?) places, taken wonderful photos, learned about new cul tures, new foods, different traditions from the far corners of the globe! Or you have traditions in your own background that would enlighten others. Maybe you know the words to or the stories behind some of the dances we do. Or, you have a costume you made or bought and know how to make, or that has an interesting history or story surrounding it's purchase. Perhaps there is an enclave of people of a particular culture in your neighborhood that you've discovered (and who might like to be discovered by others?)!

There are thousands of stories to be told, and just as many readers that would love to hear them. If you are a "closet" story teller, come out of hiding! !!

SHARE YOUR TALES AND/OR INFORMATION WITH SCENE!

If you happen to be an academician, publishing in the Scene COUNTS! We are a fully accredited publication, with our very own Library of Congress number, and copies of the magazine in many universities across the country. Anyone interested?

Please contact either Marvin or Teri at the Scene office, (213) 658-8182; or mail in your articles/papers to: 469 N. Kings Rd., L.A., CA 90048.

P.S. If you dislike typing or writing, but love to talk, dictate your stories and send us the tape. We'll transcribe it for you and send you a typed copy to proof!



THE FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

December 12th marks annual pilgrim age to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Great numbers of people feel that it is a religious duty to make this pilgrimage at least once in their lives.

What was once the village of Guadalupe is now a part of Mexico City, an area known as Tepeyac Hill. Tepeyac Hill is the site of one of the first Christian churches in Mexico (which has long since crumbled). At the foot of that same-hill is a great cathedral, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Above the altar of this cathedral is a painting of the Virgin Mary on a rough cloak. This painting is responsible for the holiness of this spot, for the chapel on the hilltop, for the great cathedral, and for the great annual pilgrimage.

The story behind the painting starts with Juan Diego, an Indian who had recently converted to Christianity. As he walked up Tepeyac Hill one day, the vision of the Holy Virgin appeared and called him to her. The Virgin told him she wanted a church built on the hill in her honor. Juan knew that Tepeyac Hill was sacred to the Aztecs, his Indian people living in that part of Mexico. The Aztecs believed that the hill was the home of the mother of their gods, and so they built a shrine to her near its top. Spaniards conquered Mexico, they began their attempt to convert the Indians to Christianity by destroying this shrine. Juan felt that the Virgin was telling him that a church here would serve as a sign that the Christian religion was replacing that of the Aztecs.

Juan rushed down the hill to the village of Guadalupe to tell the local bishop of his vision. His story fell of deaf ears. Each of the several times he returned to the hill, the Virgin appeared to him and he tried to tell the bishop of his vision. Finally, on his third visit, the Virgin told him to climb to the hilltop where he would find roses blooming. He was to fill his cloak with roses and take them to the bishop as proof that she had spoken with him. He did as she bid, and carried a load of roses down to show the bishop.

When he opened his cloak to show the roses, Juan and the bishop were amazed to find that the roses had vanished, to be replaced by a picture of the Holy Virgin on the rough cloth of Juan's cloak. The Virgin was dark skinned, with the features of an Indian woman. This miracle convinced the bishop that the Virgin had indeed appeared to Juan, so he ordered a church to be built. The cloak of Juan Diego, with the likeness of the Virgin, was placed in the church.

The Indians took Juan Diego's story to heart. Tepeyac Hill was always a holy place for the Aztecs, and now it could still be considered holy to them as Christians.

The Virgin of Guadalupe has since become the patron saint of all Mexico, and December 12^{th} the most widely observed saint's day of the year.

The Fiesta of Guadalupe

Wooden stalls and a lively marketplace mark the beginning of this celebration. Balloons of every color, caged birds of just as many colors, fruits and other wonderful foods, candles and crosses...all are for sale to the hundreds of pilgrims arriving in waves. The tall white candles, in particular, are in high demand, as every worshipper entering the church wants to carry a lit candle.

All day long, the plaza in front of the basilica is crammed with people from villages all over the country. At least a dozen groups of musicians and dancers in bright costume roam the plaza, ready to perform at any time. Many of the dances, such as the slow "bird dance", go back to the time before the Spaniards came and Aztecs and other Indian peoples ruled Mexico. Costuming, too, goes back to that era. The music of flutes, drums, and simple stringed instruments accompany each group.

In the midst of all the dancing and singing, the religious observances of the Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe go on undisturbed. There is a steady stream of pilgrims of all ages making their way slowly and painfully on their knees, praying all the way. They came to pay respect to their country's patron saint and to pray for help in the upcoming year.

For those who cannot make the pilgrimage, there are special masses in churches throughout Mexico. Everywhere the churches are filled, the plazas crowded, and fireworks fill the evening skies. But nowhere is the fiesta celebrated in as grand a manner as on the outskirts of Mexico City at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

LA POSADA

Christmas in Mexico is not a presentgiving time, but an occasion for ritual and fun....a whole season of festivities, starting on December 16th and ending January 6th (Epiphany).

La Posada

The posada, a custom that came to Mexico from Spain many years ago, commemorates the Christmas story which tells of Mary and Joseph's to Bethlehem that began on December 16th. When they reached Bethlehem, there was no room for them in any inn. They finally found lodging in a stable, and there Jesus was born. The nine days of their journey and their weary search for a resting place are remembered with the celebration of the *posada*, which means "inn".

On each of the nine nights before Christmas, candle-lit groups of children move through the streets of towns and villages. Each night, two children leading the procession carry a small platform holding clay figures of Mary seated on a burro and Joseph walking beside her (the *nacimiento*). On Christmas Eve, the manger holding a tiny figure of the infant Jesus is added.

The children blow shrill whistles or sing about Mary and Joseph's search for a place to spend the night. They stop at closed doors and, in song, ask for lodging. The answer, sung back from inside the house, is "There is no room here." The posada moves on to the next house, and then the next, and the next. At each door, the song and answer are repeated, until the children reach a house where a party has been pre-arranged. There, the song and answer are repeated, but finally, a voice inside the house sings out, "Come in, we will find room."

The door opens, everyone enters, and the party begins. Candy, cake, peanuts, cookies,



CHRISTMAS SEASON IN MEXICO



and drinks are brought out for everyone to enjoy. Every so often, one of the children will look at the adults present, and then sneak a glance at the rope strung across the middle of the room. Eventually, one of the adults will leave the room to retrieve the *pinata* that was hidden from them earlier in the day.

A Village Posada

In most villages, the local church holds posadas on each of the nine nights before Christmas. Each starts in the church courtyard and the party afterwards is held in the village plaza. Some villages, of course, add their own special touches to the celebrations, especially the posada on Christmas eve.

In the village of Xoxocotlan, Christmas eve begins with a mass held in the church. After mass, everyone lines up for the posada. Children of the village take the parts of the Virgin Mary, Joseph, and all the attendant angels. Accompanying the "actors" is a band which plays a special posada melody. The people join in a song telling the story of Mary and Joseph's long journey and of their search for lodging in Bethlehem.

The entourage goes to a large, open field, and calls out for lodging at the gate. After numerous tries, they are allowed to enter. At one end of the field is a stage where the nacimiento will take place. Once the infant Jesus has been placed in the cradle, the priest blesses the crowd and then each child in the village makes a short speech to the infant and gives him gifts. During this time, the adults of the village prepare food and drink for everyone to enjoy after the "play" is over.

Now, from a darkened area of the field comes a dozen young men leading animals...full grown sheep, some rams, a few goats. As soon as the children's part of the program on stage is over, each man lifts an animal to his back. Holding the animals securely across their shoulders, the men form a circle. Then they start to dance, representing the shepherds who cam to Bethlehem that first Christmas night, bringing animals from their flocks as gifts to the Holy Child. Watchers sing and clap their hands in rhythm with the dance, and some throw firecrackers at the feet of the dancers. As each dancer tires, he is replaced by another. After the dance (which takes well over an hour) is finished, the animals are led off. Everyone goes to the tables to eat and drink well into the night.

A City Navidad

In Oaxaca, the "biggest night" of the Christmas season is December 23rd, the Night of the Radishes. In preparation for the event, workmen build booths all around the zocalo and people arrange displays of radishes in all the booths. The radishes are carved to represent all manner of animals and people, ranging from a big, hairy black radish carved as a man's head and having a carrot nose to a multi-radish figure with a small, smooth red radish for the head, a large black one for the body, and thin white radishes for the arms and legs.



At nightfall, judges view the displays and award prizes for the best in several categories, including the funniest and the most imaginative, amongst others.

On Christmas eve, after midnight Mass (misa de gallo), there are fireworks, the blowing of little whistles, the ringing of bells, music and dancing.

After a time, most people go home to a supper. Traditional dishes include a *revoltijo* (a dish of prickly-pear, shrimp, rosemary, chile, and potatoes), bean soup, and a mixed fruit salad with nuts and beets. Chr

In Queretaro, there is an Christmas Eve parade, with floats representing various scenes from the bible. In one description of the parade, the parade started out with a band, followed by boys walking on stilts under painted cardboard figures, and people r epresnting the holy pilgrims on burros; then came the floats

New Year's Eve

In some villages, New Year's Eve is a time for remembering old days and old ways and the people of long ago. On the island of Janitzio in Lake Patzcuaro, the dance of the Little Old Men, one of the oldest known dances of Mexico, is performed. Then, there are old style dances at the Basilica of Our lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. There are many gruops of dancers in the plaza who leap and circle and sway in olddances to the ancient music of flutes and drums, gourds and turtle shells, and voices chanting almost forgotten words.

The Day of the Three Kings (El Dia de los Tres Reyes)

On Epiphany (January 6th), the 12th Night after Christmas, the children of Mexico hope to receive gifts from the Three Kings. The night before, they leave their empty shoes near an open window, outside the door, or in front of their *nacimiento* (manger scene). Many stuff their shoes with straw for the camels that the Three Kings ride that night. In the morning, the straw is gone, replaced by presents.

El Dia de los Tres Reyes is a time for children's parties. The children play games and sing and tell their friends what the Three Kings brought for them. Included in the refreshments for the parties is a special ring-shaped cake called La Rosca de los Reyes, or the ring of the Wise Men. Baked into the cake is a tiny porcelain doll representing the gifts the Wise Men gave to the baby Jesus. The child that gets the doll in his/her piece of cake keeps the doll and, in exchange, must give a party for her friends on February 2, el Dia de la Candeliaria, the Day of the Candlemass.

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Marcus, Rebecca B. and Marcus, Judith. *Fiesta Time in Mexico*. Garrard Publishing Company, Champaign, IL. 1974.

Sechrist, Elizabeth Hough. Christmas Everywhere: A Book of Christmas Customs of Many Lands. Macrae Smith Companh, Philadelphia. 1936; 1962.



LA PINATA

The *pinata* is always the chief attraction at the parties given for children on each of the nine evenings before Christmas. Before the parties begin, the hosts fill the *pinata* with candy, pieces of sweet sugar cane, nuts, fruit, little toys and trinkets. Then it is hidden. A rope is draped high up near the ceiling, with one end left loose so that, later on, when the *pinata* has been hung, it can be easily raised or lowered.

At some point in the evening, the adults bring the pinata out of hiding and hang it from the ceiling. Once it is in place, the children clear a space around the *pinata*, and then go about deciding who will be the first to try and break it. Since nobody really wants to be first, the hostess chooses, blindfolding the child and giving him or her a stick. Then she spins the child around, and lets him go, reminding him to hit the pinata hard enough to break it. The child swings out, missing the pinata entirely. Child after child tries, each thwarted by the adult(s) who use the rope to move the pinata out of their reach. Finally, someone hits the pinata, everything comes raining out over the childrens' heads and they scramble for the goodies.

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To make your own pinata, gather together:

 large balloon, inflated and tied Newspaper cut into long strips 1-2" wide flour and water past (one part flour to two parts water)
 8-10 sheets of different colored tissue paper, each 20 x 30" newspapers masking tape craft glue
 feet of heavy twine



- Roll and cut 5 cones from 3 layers of newspaper. Each should be 7" long. Form the cones by overlapping the straight edges and gluing them together with craft glue.
- 2. Dip the newspaper strips in paste and apply 4 layers to the balloon, allowing layers to dry between applications. Leave 3" at the stem end of the balloon for opening.
 - Take the cones you made and make cuts 1" deep around the base of each. Fold the cut edges back and paste them onto the wet *pinata*. Let the form dry completely.
 - Deflate the balloon by snipping a hole in the exposed end. At this point, fill the *pinata* with candy and toys and put several coats of paper mache over the opening. Let the *pinata* dry completely.
 - Attach the twine, circling the pinata from top to bottom in several loops. Use the masking tape to hold the twine in place. Make a large loop at the top, from which the *pinata* will hang. Make sure the knot is sturdy.
 - Decorate the *pinata* with tissue-paper ruffles. The wilder the colors, the more alive and exciting the *pinata*. Use craft glue to paste the ruffles on in layers.
 - Make tassels for the cones by cutting different colors of tissue paper into thin strips. Glue or staple a bunch to each cone tip.

LA COCINA

Although people living in Mexico enjoy tortillas, tamales, tacos, frijoles and chiles as we do in the United States, not every meal includes these familiar items. Mexico is a land that has been affected by many visitors. Not only did the Aztecs influence the customs of the people, but also the Spanish, French, Austrians and Italians, who came to Mexico with their competent chefs.

The Mexicans have incorporated the best from these other influences and have developed specialties of their own. Most of the people were not born into the wealthy class, and there was no middle class, so the less affluent Mexicans learned to improvise on a budget. They developed appetizing techniques to make a little to a long way, and incorporated the foods, herbs and spices native to their country. They have capitalized on what was available and have created some very appetizing food blends. Following are some especially engaging Mexican-style recipes.

Sangria

Sangria is a refreshing, cool drink usually made of fruits, though sometimes of vegetables. Though it originated in Spain, it traveled later to Mexico, Cuba and Brazil.

2 C cranberry juice

3 C orange juice

2 T lemon or lime juice

Mix in blender. Add one quart of raspberry, strawberry or other fruit juice to the mixture and blend. For those who like their *sangria* alcoholic, red wine may be added after the fruit mixture is blended. Or, 2-4 T tequila may be served in separate glasses along with the main fruit mixture.

Viva la Chicken Casserole

2 cans (10 oz.) chicken or one whole chicken boiled and meat removed from the bones

- 1 dozen corn tortillas
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 C half and half
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 cans green chili salsa or diced chiles
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1/2 lg grated cheddar cheese
- 1. Cut corn tortillas into 1" pieces.
- 2. Mix all ingredients except tortillas, broth and cheese.
- 3. Grease large shallow baking dish (8 1/2 x 13")
- 4. Add 1/4 C broth to the bottom of the pan. Place a layer of tortillas on the broth.
- 5. Spoon a portion of the chicken mixture on the tortillas.
- 6. Repeat the layers, ending with grated cheese on the top.
- Do not bake immediately. Refrigerate overnight. The next day, bake at 300 degrees for 1-1 1/2 hours. Serve shortly after baking.

DE MEXICO

MARILYNN PIXLER

Baked Chiles Rellenos

4 eggs. separated

2/3 C milk

1 T flour

8-12 green chiles, drained, seeded and deveined

1 lb. Jack or Cheddar cheese, shredded

2-3 tomatoes, sliced thinly

1-2 onions, cut in slivers

2 green peppers, seeded, deveined, and cut in small pieces

2 T olive oil

- 1. Moisten the bottom of an 8 x 1" baking dish with 1 T oil.
- 2. After cutting, saute onions and peppers

in 1 T oil. Set aside.

3. Put layer of opened chiles in casserole dish. cover with grated cheese.

4. Add layer of 1/2 of onion and pepper mix. follow with half of the tomato slices. Continue with the next layer, alternating ingredients in the same order.

 Beat egg yolks, and add milk and flour. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into yolk mix. Top all ingredients with egg mixture.

 As decoration, put several slices of tomato on top of the egg mixture about 15 minutes before the end of cooking time. Bake at 325 for 40-50 minutes. Serves 8.

Salsa Especial

1 mango

- 1 small jalapeno chile
- 1 green onion
- 1 T chopped cilantro
- 2 tsp. oil
- 4 tsp. fresh lime juice
- 1. Dice mango, core, seed and mince jalapeno. Mince green onion.
- 2. Combine all of the above.
- Mix lime juice and oil. Pour liquid over mix and stir well. Cover and refrigerate until serving time.

Cilantro Slaw

1/2 head green cabbage, shredded 2 lbs. fresh cilantro, minced

1/2 head red cabbage, shredded

Combine ingredients. Cover with lime/garlic dressing before serving.

Lime/Garlic Dressing

1/2 C olive oil 1 cloves garlic, minced 1/3 C lime juice

Mix ahead of serving time. Let stand for several hours to allow flavors to blend.

Ensalata Nopales (Cactus Salad)

16 oz. cactus, rinsed and drained

1 onion, minced

- 1 tomato sliced in small pieces
- 1 T fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 jalapeno, sliced

2/3 C cheese

Put all ingredients in container and mix. For stronger flavor, add more jalapenos.

Cranberry Fiesta Ensalada

- 2 lbs fresh cranberries, or 2-16 oz cans
- 2 C sugar
- 2 C water
- 2 envelopes unflavored gelatin
- 2-4 oranges
- 1 T orange peel, grated
- 1 spring onion, minced (use all white and green parts)

1/4 C olive oil

- 1 T fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 T fresh ginger, minced
- 1 small jalapeno chili, seeded, deveined and minced

Fresh mint for garnish

- 1. Chop cranberries in blender. Put in cooking vessel with one cup water. Boil 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- 2. Add sugar. Continue cooking and stirring 10-15 minutes.
- 3. Measure 1 C cold water into separate pan. Empty gelatin into the water and stir. Heat until clear, about 3 minutes.
- 4. Add gelatin mixture to cranberries and stir.
- 5. Grate orange peel and save. Remove orange peel and white membrane from the oranges. Cut oranges in small pieces and set aside.
- 6. After cutting, mix onion, cilantro, ginger, and jalapeno with olive oil.
- 7. Combine all ingredients. Spoon into glass dish or mold. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Garnish with fresh mint.



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A. Westside Jewish Ctr . Olympic Blvd.

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