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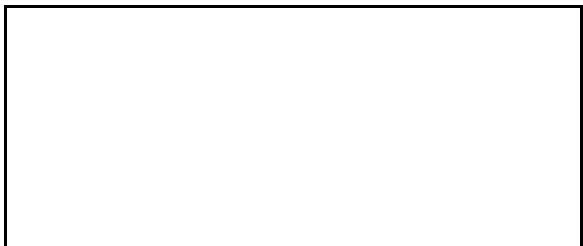
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Folk Dance Scene Committee

Coordinator	Jay Michtom	editor@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 368-1957
Calendar	Gerri Alexander	calendar@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 363-3761
On the Scene	Jill Michtom	ots@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 368-1957
Club Directory	Steve Himel	directory@FolkDanceScene.org	(949) 646-7082
Proofreading Editor	Laurette Carlson	proof@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 397-2450
Design & Layout Editors	Pat Cross	design@FolkDanceScene.org	(323) 255-3809
	Don Krotser		(323) 255-3809
Design & Layout Adviser	Steve Davis		(805) 964-5591
Business Managers	Gerda Ben-Zeev	business@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 399-2321
Circulation	Forrest Gilmore		(310) 452-0991
Subscriptions	Sandy Helperin	circulation@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 391-7382
Advertising – Submission	Gerda Ben-Zeev	subscriptions@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 399-2321
Advertising – Info & Payment	Steve Himel	ads@FolkDanceScene.org	(949) 646-7082
Marketing	Beverly and Irwin Barr	adinfo@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 202-6166
Contributing Editor	Gerri and Bob Alexander	marketing@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 363-3761
Contributing Editor	Richard Duree	r.duree@att.net	(714) 641-7450
Contributing Editor	Jatila Davis	jatila@physics.ucsb.edu	(805) 964-5591
Contributing Editor	Lou Pechi	pechil@sbcglobal.net	(619) 237-1214
Jill & Jay Michtom 10824 Crebs Ave. Northridge CA, 91326	Gerda Ben-Zeev 19 Village Park Way Santa Monica, CA 90405	Steve Himel 1524 Vivian Ln. Newport Beach, CA 92660	Sandy Helperin 4362 Coolidge Ave. Los Angeles CA, 90066

Folk Dance Scene

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

SUBMISSIONS. Information to be included in the Scene should reach the editor by the 10th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space considerations. *Electronic submission (including all photos) is required.* Views expressed in Scene are solely the opinions of the authors. Neither Scene nor the Federation assumes responsibility for the accuracy of the information sent in.

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On the cover: A collage of the symbols of the season. Please see Editors' Corner for more information.

Club Directory

SIERRA MADRE FOLK DANCE CLASS

Mon 8:00 - 9:30
(626) 358-5942 Ann Armstrong
SIERRA MADRE, Sierra Madre Rec. Center, 661 E. Sierra Madre Blvd

UCLA BALLROOM CLUB UCLA INT'L FOLKDANCERS

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

Beginners' Classes

CABRILLO FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:00-8:00
(858) 459-1336 Georgina
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club
Balboa Park

CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:30
(805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center,
403 W Hillcrest Dr

ETHNIC EXPRESS

Wed 6:30-7:15 closed holidays & Aug
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern
L.A., American Jewish Univ. Dance Studio, 15600 Mulholland

Wed 7:30-8:30 Thu 12:05-1:05
L.A. Shaarei Tefila, 7269 Beverly
Mon 7:45-8:45 Tue 1:30-2:30

BALLET FOLKLORICO JUVENIL DE PICO RIVERA

Mon 6:00 - 8:30
(562) 699-5183 Jorge Diaz
PICO RIVERA, Durfee Elementary School, 4220 Durfee Rd.

KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

Fri 9:30am-10:30
(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 206 St.

PASADENA CO-OP

Fri 7:45-8:30
(626) 446-5160 Marsha Fenner
PASADENA, Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles

SAN DIEGO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:00-9:30
(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club, Presidents Way off Park, Balboa Park

SKANDIA FOLK DANCE

Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:00-10:00
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher
ANAHEIM, Community Ctr, 250 E Center (Mon)
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park, 5401 Rhoda Way (Wed)

WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:45-8:30
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr
WEST L.A., Brockton School
1309 Armacost Ave

WESTWOOD CO-OP

Thu 7:30-8:00
(310) 202-6166 Beverly
(310) 839-1753 Adele Mortin
WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

Dance Companies and Exhibition Groups

CLAN MACLEOD DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30
(818) 761-4750 Deanna St Amand
EAGLE ROCK, Women's 20th Century Club, 5105 Hermosa Ave.

DUNAJ INT'L FOLK ENSEMBLE

(714) 641-7450 Richard Duree

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

(818) 343-4410 Suzy Evans
VAN NUYS, 17647 Runnymede St.

KARPATOK HUNGARIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE

Wed 8:00-10:00
(310) 514-1706 Livia Gaspar
LOS ANGELES, Hungarian House, 1975 Washington

KRAKUSY POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

M, W, Th 7:00-9:30 Sat 2:00-4:00
(626) 969-7338 Elizabeth Romuzga
LOS ANGELES, Polish Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd.

SCANDIA DANCERS

(714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club

SYRTAKI INT'L PERFORMING GROUP

Wed 7:00 - 10:00
(949) 715-9788 Lee Otterholt
LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 1 Gymnasium

UCSB MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE

Tue 7:00 - 10:00
(805) 967-7125 Scott
(805) 687-8823 Alexandra
SANTA BARBARA, Gehringen Music Bldg., UCSB Campus

Club Directory

WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

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

WESTCHESTER LARIATS

Mon 6:30-9:00
(310) 645-8316 Karen Ricks
LOS ANGELES, Westchester
Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson

WESTWOOD CO-OP

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

Non-Federation Clubs

ANAHEIM INT'L FOLKDANCERS

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

BEVERLY BARR DAYTIME CLASSES

(310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659
Tue 10:45am-12:30 International
BEVERLY HILLS, Roxbury Park
auditorium 471 So. Roxbury

CAFE AMAN

2nd Sat 7:30-11:30. Teach 8:00-8:45
madelyntaylor@hotmail.com
ianprice@hotmail.com
WEST LA, Pacific Arts Center 10469
Santa Monica Blvd

CAL TECH FOLKDANCERS

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

DESERT DANCERS

Tue 7:00-9:00 (Scottish)
Thu 7:15-9:30 (International)
(760) 446-6752 Nora Nuckles
RIDGECREST, Hi Desert Dance
Center 725 S. Gateway St.

DESERT INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:30-9:30
(760) 327-8684 Dwight Fine
(760) 342-1297 Helen Smith
PALM SPRINGS, Step By Step Dance
Studio 316 N. Palm Canyon

FOLK DANCE CENTER

Every Evening Call for Schedule.
(619) 281-5656
SAN DIEGO, 4569 30th Street

FOLK DANCE CLASS

Mon 10-11:30am Wed 10:15-11:45am
(310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason
L.A. Robertson Rec Ctr. 1641 Preuss
W HOLLYWOOD West Hollywood
Park, San Vicente at Melrose

ISRAELI DANCING-James Zimmer

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

ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern
L.A., American Jewish Univ Dance
Studio, 15600 Mulholland Mon
10:00am-11:45 Tue 10:30am-noon
Wed 7:30-10:00 Thu 10:15am-1:05;
L.A. Shaarei Tefila(women only), 7269
Beverly, Mon 6:30-8:00
Tue 1:30-2:30, Wed noon-1:30

ISRAELI DANCING-Yoni Carr

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

KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

Fri 9:30am-1:00
(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,
Casa del Prado room 206 St

LIFE BALKAN DANCERS

Wed 7:45-10:15
(310) 310-399-2321 Gerda
worlddance1@aol.com Sherry
LOS ANGELES, Pacific Arts Center
10469 Santa Monica Blvd.

ROMANIAN, RUSSIAN, INT'L DANCE -Mihai & Alexandru David

Fri 8:00-12:00 (teaching 8:00-9:00)
(818) 613-5259 davmichi8@aol.com
Mihai; (818) 317-2200 Alexandru
WEST L.A., Pacific Arts Center
10469 Santa Monica Blvd.

SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCERS

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

SAN PEDRO KOLO DANCERS

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

SANTA BARBARA BALKAN FOLK DANCERS

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

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE INT'L DANCE CLUB

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



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 44, No. 10
Dec. 2008 / Jan. 2009

Editors' Corner

We celebrate the changing season with a cover story inspired by the winter solstice. This is the shortest day of the year, and cause for many different cultural expressions of intent that things should start getting better. The coldest days of winter are yet to come, so festivals remind us to look forward with optimism as the days do slowly get brighter.

Our cover features food(tangyuan), symbolic plants(holly) and lights, the warmth of the yule log, and a dawn gathering on the winter solstice at the ancient astronomic and symbolic site, Sonehenge.

We hope you enjoy dancing at the many festivals and parties offered in the calendar, ads and On The Scene.

Be of good cheer!

- Pat Cross and Don Krotser

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Federation South Officers

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Vice-President	Valerie Daley	(805) 647-1634
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Secretary	Charlotte Edginton	(626) 792-9509
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Historian	Steve Himel	(949) 646-7082
Publicity	Robert Jowitt	(909) 496-4798
	Sylvia Stachura	(626) 300-8138

Federation Corner

CAMP HESS KRAMER COMMITTEE



From left to right: Gordon Wall, Carol Wall, Wes Perkins, Beverly Barr, Irwin Barr, Bob Alexander, Gerri Alexander

The committee is a dedicated, hard working, genial group who work well together and have a lot of fun being part of the working of the camp. Each of us knows what needs to be done, and carries out their particular jobs. We find that meetings are not necessary-only a few phone calls.

The original members -Beverly and Irwin Barr, Wes Perkins, Gloria Harris, Gerri and Bob Alexander-have been on the committee since Beverly restarted the camp 24 years ago. In more recent years Carol and Gordon Wall joined us. Last year we sadly lost Gloria, and miss her very much.

Beverly is the director, along with teaching classes. Irwin does the music, helps teach, and makes CDs and DVDs with Gordon's help. Wes handles reservations, money, keys, schedules, badges and sign-ups. Bob and Gerri get supplies and decorations, deliver welcome notes and candies to the rooms, etcetera. Gerri is in charge of the silent auction, with much help from Carol, and does the calligraphy for the dance cards imaged in the DVD review of dances. Bob is in charge of the ice cream extravaganza Saturday night, and on Sunday Bob and Gordon do the videography for the DVD. Gordon helps with computers and electronics. Carol is camp nurse. Others help, too.

We look forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of this camp in October, 2009, and hope to see many of you there.

- Gerri Alexander

Winter Solstice

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS

Winter Solstice is the longest night of the year, and like Summer Solstice, it is celebrated by people all over the world, and has been since the beginnings of civilization.

In ancient Pakistan, the Kalash people believed that the demigod came and collected prayers to take to the supreme being, Dezao. Women and girls took ritual purifying baths, while men poured water over their heads, holding up bread. The men and boys were not to sit on chairs until evening, when goat's blood would be sprinkled on their faces. The evening would be spent singing and dancing around bonfires, and enjoying such delicacies as goat tripe.



The *Beiwe* Festival is celebrated by the Saami (often referred to as Lapps), indigenous people of Finland, Sweden and Norway. Beiwe is the sun goddess of fertility and sanity. In one of the customs of the festival,

people cover their doorposts in butter for Beiwe to eat, to sustain her for her journey through the sky on a structure made of reindeer bones.

The Extreme of Winter is celebrated throughout East Asia, and Vietnam. Originating in the philosophy of yin and yang, balance and harmony, the festival commemorates the beginning of longer daylight hours, a time of reunion for families. During these reunions, the people make *tangyuan*, glutinous rice balls, symbolizing reunion.

In Scotland, on the Shetland Islands, the festival begins on December 18th and continues until December 31, when a troll chasing ritual is observed. First footing is practiced throughout Scotland, where the first person to cross the threshold of a neighbor brings symbolic gifts such as salt, coal, shortbread, whisky and a black bun, meant to bring luck to the householder. In exchange, the first-footer is given food and drink.

On December 23rd, an ancient western Slav tradition the old sun, Hors, is resurrected and becomes the new sun. Western Slavs burned fires at cemeteries to warm their departed loved ones.

Shabe Chelle, celebrated on the eve of the first day of winter according to the Persian calendar, is derived

from a pre-Zoroastrian festival. It depicts the defeat of darkness against light, and is marked by family gatherings at the homes of elders, where dried fruits, nuts, seeds and winter fruits are eaten. Persimmons and pomegranates are symbols of the sun.

The Zuni and Hopi peoples of North America



celebrate *Soyalangwul*, where the goal is to bring the sun back from its winter slumber. Prayer sticks called Pahos are used to bless the homes, animals and plants, and the sacred underground chambers, called kivas, are opened to mark the season.

Since it is the shortest day of the year, many cultures compensate for that by having activities that include a lot of light. Candles, bonfires, fireworks are common ways to negate the darkness, and anticipate the later coming of longer days. Here are some that occur during the darker days of winter:



Diwali, also called Deepavali, is a major Indian festival that is very significant in Hinduism. Known as the "Festival of Lights," it symbolizes the victory of good over evil, and lamps (called diyas or kandils) are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for humankind. Celebrations focus on lights and lamps, particularly traditional dipa or deeya (earthen lamp). Fireworks are associated with the festival. Diwali is a colloquial name used in North India, while the festival is formally called Deepavali in South India. In parts of India, the Solstice is observed with the exchange of sesame candy balls, and the people ask one another to be as sweet to each other as the candy, in the coming year. In some parts of India, a dip in the Ganga or an alternate river is seen as a purification. In

Club Directory

Federation Clubs

ASTERIA GREEK DANCE CLUB

Thu 8:30 - 11:30
(310) 229-8947 Jerry Savin
West L.A. Pacific Arts Center, 10469
Santa Monica Blvd

CABRILLO FOLK DANCERS

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

CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:30-9:30
(805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center,
403 W Hillcrest Dr

ETHNIC EXPRESS

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

JIA MEI FOLK DANCE CLUB

(626) 757-0168 Andy Lin
Sun 2:00 - 7:00
ALHAMBRA, Asia Pacific California
Inc, 2121 W. Mission Rd.

KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING

Fri 8:00-11:30
(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller
PASADENA, Skandia Hall
2031 E. Villa

LAGUNA FOLKDANCERS

Sun 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:00
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
LAGUNA BEACH, Community Ctr
384 Legion Ave

LAGUNA WOODS INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

Tue 9:00am-11:00 Sat 9:00 am-11:00
(949) 768-6120 Florence Kauderer
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,
24232 Calle Aragon

MOUNTAIN DANCERS

1st & 3rd Tue 6:00-8:00
(626) 355-9220 John Meursinge
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club,
1424 Fremont Ave.

MULTI ETHNIC DANCERS

Wed 5:00-7:00
(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,
24232 Calle Aragon

NARODNI INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Thu 7:30-10:30
(562) 852-0521 Carol Wall
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of
Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Fri 7:45-11:00
(323) 255-3809 Don Krotser
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church
300 S. Los Robles

RAINBOW SENIOR CLUB

Sun 4:00 - 7:30
(714) 491-1438 James Huang
ROSEMEAD, Rosemead Community
Center, 3936 Muscatel Ave.

SAN DIEGO VINTAGE DANCERS

Thu 8:00 - 10:00
(858) 622-9924 Mary Jennings
SAN DIEGO, Normal Heights
Methodist Church 4650 Mansfield St.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Sun 6:00 Wed 7:30-9:30
(805) 682-1877 Elliott Karpeles
(805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro
SANTA BARBARA Carrillo Rec Ctr
100 E. Carrillo St. (Sun); Westside
Community Ctr, 423 W. Victoria St.
(Wed)

SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS OF VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA

Every other Sat 2:00-5:00
(805) 604-9608 Madeleine
SANTA PAULA, Briggs Elementary
School 14438 W. Telegraph

SKANDIA DANCE CLASSES

Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:00-10:00 Call
for others
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
(714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp
(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher
ANAHEIM, Downtown Community
Center, 250 E Center (Mon)
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,
5401 Rhoda Way (Wed)

SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS

Sat 7:00-10:00
(805) 688-2382 Jean Menzies
SOLVANG, Bethania Lutheran Parish
Hall, 603 Atterdag Rd.

TUESDAY GYPSIES

Tue 7:30-10:30
(310) 390-1069 Millicent Stein
CULVER CITY, Masonic Lodge 9635
Venice Blvd.

VESELO SELO FOLK DANCERS

Sat 7:30-11:00
(562) 941-0069 Nancy Attwood
ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church, 511 S.
Harbor.

VINTAGE ISRAELI DANCING

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

WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:45-10:30 Fri 7:45-10:30
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr
WEST L.A., Brockton School
1309 Armacost Ave.



Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2009

Mad Shoe Travel Guide: www.jimgold.com

ISRAEL ! TURKEY ! ALBANIA-MACEDONIA-GREECE- BULGARIA ! GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS ! NORWAY! HUNGARY! POLAND!

Travel with international folklore and folk dance experts:
Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, Richard Schmidt, Joe Freedman, Adam Molnar

ISRAEL ! . . . March 15-27. Led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman.

Meet the people of Israel, learn their songs and dances, visit historic sites. Israeli, Arab, Druze Debka, and Balkan dance workshops. Meet Yemenite, Bedouin, and Kurdish cultural groups. Inbal Dance Theater. Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Galilee. Eilat, Petra-Jordan ext. Mar 26-29

BALKAN JOURNEY ! ALBANIA, MACEDONIA, GREECE, BULGARIA !

August 2-15 Led by Jim Gold. Thrilling adventure across four rarely-visited countries. Unbeatable dancing, music, and historic sites! Tirana, Ohrid, Thessaloniki, Bansko, and Sofia.

TURKEY ! . . . October 17-31. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt.

From Hittites to Ataturk, Halay to Horon. Enjoy the hospitality and history of this mysterious and exotic land. Learn Turkish and international folk dancing. Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Izmir, Kusadasi, Cannakale, and Bursa.

NORWAY ! . . . June 13-23. Led by Lee Otterholt.

Norwegian and International Dancing with breathtaking scenery in the Land of the Mountain Kings! Midsummer in Norway! Oslo, Bergen, Hovin (Telemark), Fjord Cruise, and Voss.

GREECE, the GREEK ISLANDS, and GREEK EASTER ! . . . April 9-24.

Led by Lee Otterholt. Hasapicos, syrtos, markets, mountains, archeological wonders, and sun-kissed islands. Three exciting Greek Easter celebration days on island of Mykonos! Classical tour of Athens, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, and Mycenae. Greek Island Cruise to Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Ephesus, and Santorini.

HUNGARY ! . . . July 31-August 11. Led by Adam Molnar. Magyar adventures in Budapest, Eger, Hortobagy Plain, Jaszbereny Folk Festival, and Csango Folk Festival!

POLAND ! . . . September 5-19. Led by Richard Schmidt. Dance the Polonaise, Krakowiak, and more! Krakow, Zakopane, Torun, Gdansk, Olsztyn, and Warsaw.

BULGARIA ! August 2010: KOPRIVSHTITSA FESTIVAL TOUR! Led by Jim Gold.

Sofia, Bansko, Plovdiv, Veliko Turnovo, Koprivshtitsa. This colorful, unforgettable, mountain-top Folk Festival is held once every five years. Register early!

For itineraries and details: Visit www.jimgold.com

TOUR REGISTRATION: I can't wait to go! Sign me up. Enclosed is my \$200 per person deposit.

Tour(s) desired _____

Name _____ Address _____

No. of people _____ Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Jim Gold International, Inc. 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A.
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Winter Solstice

Gujarat, kite flying is seen as a means of welcoming longer days.

Chaharshanbe-Sari or *Charshanbe-Sari* is the ancient Iranian festival dating at least back to 1700 BCE of the early Zoroastrian era. The festival of fire is celebrated the night before the last Wednesday of the year. The word Chahar Shanbeh means Wednesday and Suri is red. The bon fires are lit at sunset and the idea is to not let the sun set. The tradition includes people going into the streets and alleys to make fires, and jump over them while singing a traditional song -



loosely translated, this means you want the fire to take your paleness, sickness and problems and in turn give you redness, warmth and energy. The young shoot lots of fireworks before and during Chaharshanbe Suri (literally: Red Wednesday). This is a purification rite and 'suri' itself means red and fiery There is no religious significance attached to Chahar Shanbeh Suri and it serves as a cultural festival for all Iranian Jews, Moslems, Armenians, Turks and Zoroastrians alike.

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is one of the most joyous times of the Jewish year. The reason for the celebration dates back to 165 BCE during the battle with the ruling Greek Syrians, who had banned the Jewish religion and desecrated the Temple. (Although the lighting of candles at the time of the solstice undoubtedly was done by earlier peoples). The miracle was that a small cruse of consecrated oil burned for eight days in the Temple's menorah instead of just one. Hanukkah is celebrated by lighting a menorah for eight nights with olive oil or wax candles; one on the first night and an additional one each succeeding night, and eating food fried in oil, especially potato pancakes and jelly doughnuts.

Many Christmas traditions involve light, and probably arose from pre-Christian cultures that incorporated light in their solstice celebrations, e.g. lights on the Christmas tree, burning the yule log, and lots of candles. The Holiday Trail of Lights is a festival held in Northwest Louisiana and Northeast Texas during the Christmas season. The Wonderland of Lights in Marshall is one of the largest Christmas celebrations in the US and attracts tourists both from the US and other countries. The Festival of Lights and Christmas Festival in Natchitoches was started in 1927, making it one of the oldest Light Festivals in the US. The largest city, Shreveport's festival, Holiday in Dixie, lights up a botanical garden, the American Rose Center. Candle light tours of historic homes are popular attractions in all of the cities, especially Jefferson. Kilgore suspends Christmas lights from oil derricks in the World's Richest Acre District.

A *luminaria* or *farolito* is a light or little lantern, usually a candle inside a paper lamp shade, which is of significance among New World Hispanics at Christmas time. It is part of a Posada procession, which is a nine-day holiday beginning December 16 and ending December 24. Luminarias are typically arranged in rows to create large and elaborate displays. The hope among Christian believers is that the lights will guide the spirit of the Christ child to one's home. In recent times they are seen more as a secular decoration, akin to holiday lights, and have gained popularity in other parts of the country.



For more on the traditions and rituals of Winter Solstice, see my sources, Wikipedia and Answers.Com.

- Sandy Helperin and Jay Michtom

Calendar

Note: Federation Dance Events are in Bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

DECEMBER

5 *Irish Christmas*, 8:00 at Marsee Auditorium, Torrance. (818) 784-3805, www.kerryrecords.com.

6 *Fishtank Ensemble*, Balkan Musicians, 10:00 am. at The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles. Free. Info: (310) 440-7300, www.reverbnation.com/fishtankensemble.

12 *Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santanc* perform Navidad Flamenca. 8:00 at CalTech's Beckman Auditorium, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Pasadena. Info: (888)-2caltech, www.events.caltech.edu.

14 *Irish Christmas* 2:00 at Balboa Theater, San Diego. Info: (818) 784-3805, www.kerryrecords.com.

14 *Danza Floricanto/usa*, perform 8:00 at Whittier College, 6760 Painter Ave. Info: (562) 907-4203 www.shannoncenter.org.

18 *Holiday Party at Narodni* with special guest teacher Richard Duree. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street, (714) 932-2513, <http://www.narodni.org>.

22 *West L.A. Folk Dancers' Holiday Dance Party*, 7:30 pm at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. See OTS, info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

26 *Day-After-Christmas Holiday Party*, 7:30 pm at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., West L.A. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

31 *New Year's Eve Party*, Pasadena Co-op, 8:00 pm to 1:00 am, at Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles, Pasadena. See ad. Info: Don (323) 255-3809.

12/31/08 - 1/3/09 *New Year's Camp* with California Traditional Music Society at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu. Music, singing, dancing & fun. Info: (818) 817-7756 or www.CTMSFolkMusic.org/NewYearsCamp.

2009

JANUARY

1 *Happy New Years Day Party at Narodni!* Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street. Info: (714) 932-2513, <http://www.narodni.org>.

10 *Cafe Aman*, 7:30 pm - 11:30, at The Pacific Arts Center- 10469 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los

Angeles. Info: Mady, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com or Ian Price: ianpricebey@hotmail.com.

16-18 *"Camp Ramah"*, at Camp Rikkudiah in Ojai. Teachers Michaeli Kobi and Tuvia Tishler. Info: Natalie and Reuben Stern (818) 343-8009.

17 *Croatian Folklore Festival*. San Pedro. See OTS and ad. Info: heidi@bubalo.com or call (818) 761-7706

18 *Winter Festival hosted by Pasadena Co-op*, 1:30 - 5:30 at Scottish Rite Temple, 150 North Madison St., Pasadena. Info: Don (323) 255-3809.

18 *Concert of Croatian Folklore*, 4:00 at Warner Grand Theater, 478 West 6th Street, San Pedro. See ad and OTS. Info: heidi@bubalo.com.

19 *West L.A. Folk Dancers' MLK Birthday Party*, 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. See OTS, info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

FEBRUARY

6-8 *39th Annual Laguna Folkdancers Festival at Ensign Intermediate School in Newport Beach*. Teachers: Ya'akov Eden and Iliana Bozhanova. Info: Ted (714) 893-8888.

11 *Iliana Bozhanova at Life Balkan Dancers*. Teaching Bulgarian dances; 8:00 at Pacific Arts Center, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd. West L. A. Info: LifeBalkanDancers@gmail.com.

12 *Valentine's Day Party at Narodni!* Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street. Info: (714) 932-2513, <http://www.narodni.org>.

14 *Cafe Aman*, 7:30 pm - 11:30, at The Pacific Arts Center- 10469 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles. Info: Mady, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com or Ian Price: ianpricebey@hotmail.com.

15 *West L.A. Folk Dancers' Valentine's Day Party*, 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. See OTS, info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

19 *West L.A. Folk Dancers' Presidents Day Party*, 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. See OTS, info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

28 *Nevenka and the Yeseta Brothers*, concert and dance party, 8:00 at Throop Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles Ave, Pasadena. See OTS. Info: www.nevenka.org.

Dancers Speak

rules, and not only allow, but encourage, joining in the middle.

If you disagree, write us and we will be glad to print your comments.

LITVIN TO DICK OAKES, 10/23/08

How the hell are you Dick -- and your new knee - - or is it hip? You lovely little devil, you! Where in the world did you find that cherished photo with my beloved Rivka? Those were truly 'the good ole days!!!!'

FYI, during that prodigious 1965 three-nation tour, Rivka conducted 18 United States workshops including one or more California Folkdance Camps, Brigham Young U for a week, Reed College Oregon for a weekend and more. (About those 18 workshops, are you aware of the mystical value the Jewish people universally ascribe to the magical number 18, and all multiples thereof like 36, 72.....?) Eighteen is our luckiest number!

Additionally we visited 8 cities in Canada and 5 or 6 in Mejico Lindo, including Tijuana, Mexico City and Acapulco. We tried to make it to 36 cities ultimately but it simply wasn't going to happen. (By the way, I was Rivka's dance notator and partner for the entire No. America tour -- all three countries, not just for So Cal). Thanks much for the nice surprise!

Here is another archival photo I found in my garage buried under 6 boxes of Folkdancer House (Michael Herman in NYC) 78 rpm records. These were the Orange County whiz Balkanphiles, aka "Fearsome Foursome Male Folk Dancers" of the '70's and 80's. Actually there were 5 -- including Dave Bowden who didn't make it into the photos. Methinks you knew them all!

Orange County Fearsome Foursome, Int'l Folkdancing 'ratpack' (Taken circa 1980 at a dance party in Fullerton).



From Top Left, Clockwise:
Richard Lippa College Professor,
Lee Fox (deceased) -WSU Law School
Ralph Bates - Firefighter,
Russ Utzler - Carl's Jr. Mgr.

— Ann Litvin,

Dancers Speak

Alternatively, you might bite-the-bullet and go to the partner dance sessions, thinking "well, it's better than nothing". Many couple-dance teachers do ask for partner-switching, but if they don't I think most would be receptive to a subtle request at the beginning of the session to do so. Then women would find it less necessary to have to do the man's part. Also, men would learn that you are a good person to dance with, and would be more likely to partner you at the evening sessions.

I was very surprised by the comments about the rude behavior of the men at Stockton. I've never been to that camp, so maybe it attracts a different type of male dancer than I have seen elsewhere. In 32 years of dancing I have been to at least 6 other camps and danced at 30-40 clubs around the country and am not aware of the type of male dancers referred to. Now you may discount that, since I am a man, but my wife has very rarely encountered the problems mentioned, even when she has gone without me. And I have not heard similar negative comments from other women dancers I know.

Most men feel honored when a woman asks them to dance, and knowing that it is difficult for her to do it, will accept even if it is a dance they don't like. As far as 'coming on' to a dance partner, my feeling is that couple dances have, and should have, a flirting component. You are relating to that person, and sharing a common activity, so showing interest in that person is very normal and acceptable. Of course, it ends when the dance ends.

While I realize that the comment of men 'running screaming from the room' when a Balkan dance is on was a planned exaggeration, even so it is counter to my experience. Yes, there are many men who prefer couple dances, but most do non-partner dances as well. And many really like them. The fact that in a non-partner class there were 35 women and only 9 men I think can be accounted for by the fact that there are many more women dancers than men in general. (Women live longer, and by and large are more interested in dancing than men - at least in our culture). In the groups I go to which do both kinds of dances, there are always far more women.

So, in summary, while I recognize the problem, and realize it will not go away easily, there are some things that can be done to ameliorate it.

- Jay Michtom

HOW TO JOIN A KOLO LINE.

This article appeared in the November 2008 issue of Northwest Folkdancer, and is re-printed here with permission.

This past winter in Seattle at a dance with live music one long time folkdancer got very upset with me when I joined in the middle of the kolo line next to him, feeling that it was very wrong on my part to have done so, rather than going to the end of the line. I am well aware that in the past some teachers told us that we should go to the end of the line. Why they told us this is very unclear to me, as this is totally against the accepted way in the "Old Country". I would like to offer you the translation of a part of the background material which I recently received while attending the annual folklore seminar (camp) put on each year by the Center for the Teaching of the Folkdances of Serbia, a part of the College of Musical Arts in Belgrade. This was written by **Slavica Mihailovic**, one of the leading folkdance researchers and teachers here in Serbia, on the basis of her research.

"At the question of how the dance began, **Lazar Jekovic** and **Tomo Kecovic** described how that had been: "The young man who was to lead the kolo had a good friend who would keep the "kec" (the end person of the line) and there was no letting go, nor was there any adding on to the end, but rather the kolo would be filled in between them."

These are the words of elderly men about how the dances were traditionally done, but this tradition is maintained still today. Both the front and the end of the line are honored positions, and it is considered the height of rudeness to take over either of those positions.

I wanted to share this with folkdancers, particularly so that they would not make an embarrassing faux-pas if they attended an "ethnic" event.

- Cheryl Spasojevic

*Ed. Note: Last month we printed an article from **Nancy Milligan** in which she wrote about **John Filich** teaching at Cal Tech. She mentioned that John also made a strong plea for joining a line in the middle. If a Serb and a Croat agree on something, it is probably a good idea. Many of our dancers object strongly to joining in the middle, but it is a very traditional thing to do. If we are trying to keep folklore alive, then we should do what is traditional rather than invent new*

Calendar

MARCH

7, 8 *The LA County Irish Fair Music Festival*, at the Pomona Fairplex.

14 *Cafe Aman*, 7:30 pm - 11:30, at The Pacific Arts Center- 10469 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles. Info: Mady, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com or Ian Price: ianpricebey@hotmail.com.

29 *Westwood Co-Operative Folk Dancers' Festival* 1:30-5:30 Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

APRIL

17-19 *Westwood Co-op's Weekend at Camp Hess Kramer*.

4/29-5/07 *Branson Plus*, tour. See OTS, or call Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

MAY

22-24 *Dance with the Dolphins*, Statewide Folk Dance Festival at Balboa, San Diego. Info: www.statewidefolkdance.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

12/6 *Black Olive Babes* perform 8:00 at Santa Cruz Cayuga Vault, 1100 Soquel Ave. Balkan, Romani, Sephardic and American roots music. Info: (831) 421-9471, www.cayugavault.com.

12/7 *International Holiday Craft Bazaar* at Ashkenaz, SF. A holiday artisan sale, live music and dance performances. Info: kristen@ashkenaz.com.

12/7 *Annual Halanda Holiday Party*, 2-6:00 pm, at Hala Dance Studio, 1062 Lincoln Ave., San Jose, CA 95125. Info: hala@haladance.com.

2/21/2009 *Festival of the Oaks*, Live Oak Park, Berkeley. Workshop led by **Lee Otterholt**, Federation meeting, dance and exhibition. See OTS. Info: (510) 527-2177, meldancing@aol.com.

7/26-8/1 & 8/2-8 2009 *Stockton Folk Dance Camp*. Teachers: Roberto Bagnoli, Jerry Helt, Zeljko Jergan, Roo Lester, Yves Moreau, Lee Otterholt, France Bourque-Moreau. Live Music by Chubritza.

COLORADO

4/16-19 *National Folk Organization Conference*, at YMCA of the Rockies, Denver. Info: (801) 485-5824 or kstjohn@burgoyne.com.

OREGON

1/17-18/2009 *Veselo Dance Festival*, Vets Club, 15th and Willamette, Eugene, featuring Iliana

Bozhanova of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Info: Don Downes (541) 683-3688, acadiaadesign@comcast.net or Linda Ketchum (541) 726-7548.

TEXAS

3/13-15/2009 *San Antonio Folk Dance Festival*.

Teachers: Lee Otterholt, Sandy Starkman, George Fogg, Andy Taylor-Blenis. Info: Nelda Drury (210) 342-2905 or www.SAFDF.org.

WASHINGTON

1/30-31/2009 *Workshop with Greenlake Folkdancers*, in Seattle. Teacher: Iliana Bozhanova. Info: Steve Bard (425) 883-0332 or www.ratchenitza.com.

4/17-18 *Workshop with Greenlake Folkdancers*, in Seattle. Teacher: Yuliyan Yordanov. Info: Steve Bard (425) 883-0332 or www.ratchenitza.com.

FOREIGN

FOUR COUNTRIES

7/6-7/22/09 *Four Countries Folk Dance Cruise (Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey)* Dancing led by Lee Otterholt. Info: Mel Mann c/o Berkeley Travel, 1301 California St., Berkeley, CA 94703, (510) 526-4033, or meldancing@aol.com.

CANADA

5/1-3/2009 *Salt Spring Island Folk Dance Festival*, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. Teachers: Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian), Hilde Otterholt (Hawaiian Hula). Info: Rosemarie@keough-art.com.

CARIBBEAN & AMAZON

12/18/08-1/8/09 *Enrichment Voyages Cruise*, dancing with Sandy Starkman. Departs from Nassau, stops in Caribbean ports and travels up Amazon to Manaus, Brazil. Info: Dorothy Sloan (416) 489-7072 or djsloan@rogers.com.

ISRAEL

3/15-27/2009 *Israel! Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee* - Led by Jim Gold with Dr. Joe Freedman. Eilat and Petra-Jordan extension 3/26-29. Info: (201) 836-0362 or www.jimgold.com.

UKRAINE

7/6-22/2009 *Dance on the Water Dneiper River Cruise* in Ukraine, Black Sea, and Istanbul. Info: www.folkdanceonthewater.org, meldancing@aol.com, or (510) 526-4033.

Dancers Speak



Celebrating 50 years of Excellence
St. Anthony's Tamburica & Kolo Club "Croatia"
In association with the Croatian Cultural Center of Greater Los Angeles
Presents

The 3rd Annual Croatian Cultural Extravaganza

Sunday, January 18th, 2009

4:00 P.M.

At the historic

Warner Grand Theater

478 West 6th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Adults : \$20.00

Children under 12 years: \$ 10.00

Featuring: Guest Croatian Folklore Ensembles from Antofagasta, Chile, Ottawa, Canada, San Jose, California, Chicago, Illinois and many more.....

memorable character noted for his solo dances.
(Sorry, I can't remember all the last names.)

It was a time when **Tom Bozigan** was emerging as the Armenian dance exponent and the **David** brothers, **Mihai** and **Alexandru** were popularizing Romanian dances. It was also a time when **Atanas** was coming onto the scene here in the Southland with challenging Macedonian dances.

It was a time when the Intersection was at the height of its popularity. Different nights featured dances of different countries. One or two nights were international. **Athan Karras** promoted Greek, **Dick Oakes** was the house generalist; Dick could teach practically anything. Sometimes **Barry Glass** would teach; **Paul Sheldon** became a mainstay.

Billy Burke began his famous Monday night class at a Gymnasium on Sunset, to be followed by Barry Glass teaching, and then Charlotte Byron.

For awhile, the David brothers enjoyed a short stay at the Gypsy Camp coffee house in the Valley. They also had another coffee house/dance site on Sunset where they taught Romanian on Thursday nights. (Some of my time sequences may be off but I think you get the idea. It was a heady time for superstars and dance enthusiasts.).

Down Orange County way there was **Gene Cjecka** and **Mikki Revenaugh**, **John Tiffany**, **Ted** and **Donna**, **Vikki Maheu**, **Phyllis Pivar**, and the list goes on. My apologies for all those regulars I know I am missing.

Over the years, I have watched Bora's daughter, **Anna Tinka**, grow into a beautiful young woman. She was always at **Marge**'s side at the festival events. I last saw Marge at a Tamburizan festival at a hotel near LAX about four years ago. Anna Tinka was with her, smiling and pleasant as always. You did a great job, Marge!

On a final note, I remember a story Bora told me about one of his highlight experiences in Yugoslavia. It seems Bora and his troupe were invited to perform at a State function where Marshal Tito was present. After their performance, Tito invited Bora to sit next to him. During the course of the dinner, Bora accidentally knocked over a glass of red wine on the Marshal's white uniform. I don't recall how this ended up, but Bora left for the US afterwards - no connection I'm

sure. I saw Bora last at a Serbian church picnic in San Diego about five years ago.

Thank you, Bora, for all the joy and dancing pleasure you gave us over the years. You are gone but not your memory. That memory will remain imbedded with the best memories of California folk dancers.

- Bob Byron

2727 De Anza Rd T-5, San Diego, 92109, (619) 871 1753, Email: rbrt_byron@yahoo.com.

P. S. In the interest of accuracy and inclusiveness, I thought I should pass along my daughter Charlotte's comments. She reminded me that Robin (taken from us so young due to cancer last Christmas) danced with Mihai's group not Bora's. Charlotte danced with both groups. She also reminded me that I forgot to mention **Barbara Erickson**, **Joan Bowers**, **Maria Reich**, and **Sherry Cochran**. These were also regulars among the circle of Bora fans who danced at the Intersection. This, in turn, jolted my recollection of another standout dance leader of the era - **Dick Crum** who passed on not long ago. I last saw Dick was at the same LA Tamburitzan festival I saw Marge.

Again, my apologies to those whose names I've missed. Bora cast a large shadow and it encompassed many more than I ever knew or saw from where I stood.

- Bob Byron

ANOTHER VIEW FROM A SINGLE (BI-FOCAL?) LENS

Last month we printed an article by a woman who attended Stockton Camp without a dance partner. She related her unpleasant experiences trying to do partner dances at the evening sessions, especially switching to sometimes doing the man's part. On a few occasions, I have danced the woman's part, and while it was interesting and challenging to do so, I would not want to do it on a frequent basis. So I understand and sympathize and have some thoughts for her, and others who are in a similar situation.

First, if, as the writer stated, folk dance to her means non-partner dances, then perhaps not attempting the partner ones is a simple solution. After all, if you have attended workshops in both the morning and afternoon, then sitting out some of the dances at OOL might not be so bad.

Dancers Speak

lucky. At the Greek festivals you have your choice of every Greek dish imaginable - from fried calamari, to roast lamb, to gyros, to loukoumades and baklava. I'm drooling just thinking about them.

3-Liquor. People like to drink. A glass of retsina can loosen them up to where they can be less self-conscious on the dance floor. It is as ethnic as the dances. It goes with the food.

4-Community. Everyone is involved, lots of volunteers, etc.

Don't yell -- I realize it is very hard for international folk dancing to compete with the Greek model. First of all, only one style of dance is done at the Greek festivals. The children grow up in a community/church that provides opportunities to learn those dances at an early age. The whole community pitches in and does the cooking. They have the church grounds as a venue and can sell liquor. But maybe we can get some ideas from them!

The folk dances we have learned and love were mostly done at parties, weddings, festivals etc. where the whole village got together in a happy joyous atmosphere with food and wine and live music. I sometimes feel that we have over-analyzed, sterilized and compartmentalized the dances and in so doing have lost some of the raw spirit and exuberance of the experience. Venues like **Max** and **June Horn's Farm** captured some of the village atmosphere, especially on Friday nights when families came to barbecue, watch the dancing and jump in to the easier dances at the gentle urging of **Walt** and **Chris Lang**. It would be great to have more venues like that. Know of anywhere?

Maybe at times we can try to be a little like the Greek festivals and villages. Maybe try "beginner" festivals, with live music, great food, a little vino and easy dances. Grab some of our children and grandchildren and get them involved in the planning.

What do you think?

- Eileen Kopec

Ed. Note: Eileen makes some excellent points. We have done some of what she suggests, but only in piecemeal parts. Kolo Festival in the Bay Area, and Cafe AMAN in L.A. have live music, food and drink, and long, easy repetitive dances that attract younger folks. But we could do more than these events. We have had beginner's festivals, but they haven't

included these features. We could have a festival aimed at new, younger dancers that would incorporate Eileen's ideas. Any takers?

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Nothing saddens a dancer so much as the loss of an inspiring leader, an artist whose talent and skill put him in a very special category. Those of us who have been on the folk dance scene for some time understand the instinctive rankings applied to those with exceptional gifts. We understand the excitement when a gifted dance teacher takes to the center of a floor to begin teaching. And, when that leader is also an accomplished musician and one capable of organizing an orchestra and a dance troupe, the universe of dance comes full circle. **Bora Gajicki** was such a person. His passing is a profound loss to his family and all who knew and loved him.

If you were dancing in the late sixties and early seventies, a time when folk dance in Southern California was at its zenith, you could not escape Bora's influence. Nor could you escape the influence of many other gifted performers and teachers. It was as though theirs was a convergence of great dancing and music at the same window of time.

I can remember several of us attending Bora's dance workshops in Long Beach in a rear section of his Folk Motif. It must have been in the early seventies. **Ed** and **Mary Klobetich**, **Pat Adamek**, **Lu Perry**, **Bernie**, **Charlotte**, and **Robin Byron** and I would drive over from Orange County for a weekly class. My daughters, **Charlotte** and **Robin**, were soon dancing in Bora's Borina Kolo Folk Ensemble. Not too long after, Charlotte and Robin would be dancing with Aman.

Bora had a unique way of counting rhythm that allowed him to side-step language barriers- rrrmmpa, rrrmmpa, rrrmmpa. Bora's English proficiency, however, developed quite quickly after that. But I learned primarily by mimicking his footsteps and posture. For those new to the dances and music of Yugoslavia, it was challenging, except for the all-purpose and playful kolo. But, regardless of level, when you completed a session with Bora, you knew your dancing had been challenged to a higher level.

When I think of Bora, I find myself wrapped in all the memories of the era. It was a time when Bora's orchestral group included **Andy**, **Vangel**, and **Tammy** (tragic loss). **Nestor**, short and square, was a



**NEW YEARS EVE
PARTY**
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AND
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**300 SOUTH LOS ROBLES
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GREAT WOODEN FLOOR

LIVE MUSIC BY FIFTH FRIDAY

POT LUCK-BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE

626-792-9118

\$10.00

The flyer features a black and white illustration of three balloons on the left, and a drawing of a man and woman dancing on the right. There are small illustrations of people in traditional folk costumes throughout the text blocks.

On the Scene

VESELO SELO SCHEDULE

December and January schedule:

December 6, -Nostalgia Night... Dance to the Oldies
December 13 - All Request Night... We'll play whatever you like.

December 20 - Holiday Party. Celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah. Bring finger-foods to share.

December 27 - Closed.

December 31 - New Year's Eve Party. Pot-luck at 7 pm. Dance to the music of **Eastern Exposure**. This special event is \$12.

2009

January 3 - All Request Night. Dance to your favorites.

January 10 - Closed for Macedonian New Year's Eve

January 17 - Nostalgia Night. Dance to the oldies.

January 24 - Lunar New Year... Year of the OX.

January 31 - **Laura Bremer** will be teaching Armenian dance Beejo.

- Lu Perry

WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS

Two holiday parties, one on Monday, December 22nd and one on Friday, December 26th. Everyone wants to celebrate, so we will have holiday parties for all. What better time to party, Monday before Christmas and during Chanukah, and Friday, the day after Christmas and still during Chanukah. We hope you all will join us.

Party on Monday, January 19, 2009 when we will celebrate Martin Luther King's Birthday. Come dance with us and a lot of very nice, friendly people and celebrate a special person.

Party, Party, A Party Weekend. Friday, February 15th, a Valentine's Day Party on the day after Valentine's Day and Monday, February 19th, celebrate Presidents' Day. Be ready and join us for a wonderful weekend of dancing.

All parties are all-request programs, played by Beverly and Irwin Barr. Bring snacks or desserts for the pot-luck table and don't miss these happy party nights. All parties begin at 7:30. and end when you get too tired to dance.

Do you want to keep up with the dances that are done at festivals? On Mondays and Fridays we introduce new dances and keep the favorite oldies alive. There were some very nice set dances from Italy, Russia, and Poland taught at Stockton and Camp Hess Kramer, both non-partner and partner sets. We will be teaching these dances mostly on Fridays. Other dances from these camps will be taught on both Mondays and Fridays. We also do a variety of international dances of all kinds plus individual line dances. We will welcome you with open arms.

We meet every Monday and Friday evening and dance on a beautiful wooden floor. The place is Brockton School, 1309 Armacost, West L.A. (Between Barrington and Bundy, 1 1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). We will not meet on Friday, February 6.

We look forward to seeing you. For information call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

- Beverly & Irwin Barr

NEVENKA AND THE YESETA BROTHERS

This is a two-for-one special! Two great groups performing together: **Yesseta Brothers Tamburitzan Band**, and **Nevenka Women's Chorus**. They've done it before to rave reviews, and are now back by popular demand - including a *Ladarke* sing-along!

Concert and dance party, Saturday, February 28th at 8:00 pm. Throop Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. For ticket information, go to www.nevenka.org.

ENJOY BRANSON - APRIL 29 - MAY 7

Beverly and Irwin Barr will again lead a group on an enjoyable trip to Branson (plus more) for 9 days. We know Branson, having taken groups there many times, and know how to make this trip a real vacation of pure enjoyment and entertainment. Those who have been to Branson with us before have been requesting this trip again and again. Those who have not been to Branson are curious and want to come with us to experience this trip for themselves. We are listening to your requests and are going to Branson and more.

We always plan this trip at the time of year that the International WorldFest is at Silver Dollar City. Twelve to 20 countries are represented. Entertainers (dancers, musicians, singers, acrobats, some incredible amazing talent, plus artifacts, clothing, jewelry, etc.) are brought to Branson from their native countries.

Dancers Speak

Yangtze River. I am not an expert on Chinese folk dancing or music, and I cannot recall one Chinese dance we do. The music is strange to our ears as well; almost the same as the Bulgarian *gaida* sound we all love is to the untrained ear.



What surprised me, at some of the performances, was the number of steps that were similar to the *Lesnoto* and *Hasapico* we all do. The music, of course was

different, but the beat was unmistakably the same. The dances were from the remote north-western parts of China. It made me wonder if perhaps these steps made their way to Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria, almost in a similar way that Chinese noodles made their way to Italy to become the well known Italian spaghetti. Ask any Italian and he will tell you that spaghetti is an original Italian food the same way that any Greek will swear that *Hasapico* is an original Greek dance.

It seems that each individual culture expresses itself with its special and individual dances and music; but we are all alike, needing the outlet to express our innate love of each other. Folk dancers cross that language barrier through dance, music, and movement to get to know other people and cultures.

Think about how many countries you have gotten to know over the years.

With China marching at an accelerated speed to join the world community wouldn't you think it is time our folkdance community should start doing some Chinese dances?

- Lou Pechi

LIVE-N UP OUR FESTIVALS

One of the international folk dance community's concerns is how to attract young people, or new people of any age. We want them to love folk dancing as much as we do, and to carry on the dances to future generations. We'd like to get them off the couch and away from video games, cell phones, Netflix and all the other new modern attractions and distractions out

there. I have attended a few events recently that made me aware of some of the problems we face in trying to attract people to folk dancing.

Most of our dances are very intricate and take a high degree of skill to master. Each dance is done for the three or four minutes the recorded music lasts. Should a person learn one of them, there are perhaps thirty or forty or more they might have to learn in order to know enough of them to have fun dancing at a folk dance event. The mind reels with the mine field of ethnicities, styling, hand holds and rules one has to step through. A dance leads to the left. Huh? Spread your hands out for a basket hold. What? The dance protocols we take for granted are often subtle and confusing, but definite. And our events often have teaching sessions, which make them seem more like work than fun.

How can a newcomer negotiate this complicated maze of rules, styles, steps, and rhythms - only to repeat a different complex combination every four minutes? How the heck do we do it? Well, we love the challenges, complexities and variety. We love the music and camaraderie. We want everyone to love it. And since the skills needed come more easily now to many of us, we tend to forget what it was like when we first started out. Contemplate the obstacles.

At a sparsely attended Ashkenaz event and at a recent Federation event I watched a few young people valiantly try to dance with us. After several attempts they mostly gave up, even when well meaning dancers tried to take them under their wing. Sometimes that only makes them more uncomfortable. Or usually it doesn't help much. Even if they start to "get it", the dance is just about over. Then they might never see that dance again, or not for many weeks or months. During which time they will have forgotten it.

As a contrast, a few weeks ago I was at the Belmont Greek Festival. Huge crowds. Tons of people of all ages dancing. What was the difference?

1-Live music. Young people like loud live music and the energy that generates. Dances can last ten, fifteen minutes. Or more. So you can eventually learn by doing, or at least have fun while being schlepped around the floor. The luxury of only needing to learn four or five different dances to join in. No partner needed. The dancing is inclusive rather than exclusive.

2-Food. People love to eat. At folk dance events you might get a few cookies or healthy cut up fruit slices if

Dancers Speak

December/January Quote

*May our dance always be a bridge to understanding.
May our dance always be a celebration of diversity.
May our dance always be an instrument for peace.*

- Laurel Victoria Gray

Laurel Victoria Gray has won the 2006 Metro DC Dance Award for Excellence in Costume Design and the 2005 Distinguished Service Award from the Embassy of Uzbekistan. She is a dancer and choreographer, "the pioneer of Uzbek dance in America". She is renowned for her Azerbaijani, Russian Roma, Georgian and Persian dance choreographies.

Question of the Month

How better to describe international folk dancing than this quote?

We all know that there have been countless instances of strife between ethnic groups throughout the ages. In dance we can step beyond the old quarrels and come together in appreciation of the good in other cultures. I have seen many examples of this since I began folk dancing. One that stands out in my mind is the memory of a Laguna Folk Dance Festival several years ago, when the two teachers were **Ahmet Luleci** and **Joe Graziosi**. One Turkish and the other Greek. The good humor, camaraderie and honest warmth between the two of them brought such hope and good feelings about mankind and peace to the weekend.

In what ways have you experienced international folk dance as "an instrument for peace"?

- Sandy Helperin

Ed. note: Sandy's question of the month may be answered by email at sandysmail1@verizon.net

In answer to last month's question: "What dance experience have you had while traveling?" Wena Dows writes:

Here's a tale of one of our visits to Sweden....

Husband Dave and I were visiting cousins (2 women) in Helsingland, Sweden. It was around *Midsommar*, the longest day of the year, which the Swedes celebrate. There was a dance in the local village, so the four of us went. The dance was held in a large wooden floor, roofed, but open pavilion. There were about five in the band. First Dave danced with

me, demonstrating that, though we were strangers, we did know how to dance!

Shortly after, one of the men marched across the dance floor to invite me to dance. After one dance, we stood, with his arm around me, then danced a second dance, after which he returned me to where he found me.

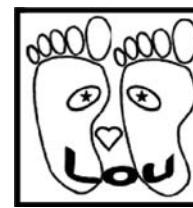
Clearly, the custom was to dance two dances with each partner. Meanwhile, Dave danced with each of our cousins, showing that they, too, could dance. From then on, we all danced.

When the band took a break, they came marching over to us, saying "who are you?" and "how do you know our dances?" We had fun, explaining that we danced with Scandia here in California. Actually one of my cousins learned Swedish dancing here too! Everyone was very warm and welcoming. It was great fun. And the next day, when we went to an outdoor play in the village, a number of people greeted us, remembering us from the dance.

- Wena Dows

Since I found Wena's answer in my 'junk mail', I am wondering if I might have missed some other answers sent to me. If so, I apologize to those who wrote in, and urge them to please try again. We really want our readers to be heard. It makes the Scene all the more interesting.

- Sandy Helperin



We just got back from a three week trip through China. I expected a communist rigid and backward regime, where you had to watch every word or step you took. Far from that, all the people we met were open, friendly and interested in us. I cannot describe

how impressed I was with the progress that country has made during the last years. A multitude of high rise skyscrapers dotted each city we visited. Twelve story high malls, full of expensive merchandise boutiques were swarming with shoppers. Where do they get their money?

But that is not what interests all of you folk dancers.

We saw many dance performances, both in the cities we visited and on the cruise boat we took on the

On the Scene

DANIELA IVANOVA

I am pleased to report that Daniela Ivanova has completed her dissertation for Sophia University and submitted it for final approval.

In the meantime, she is back in the U.S. through the end of April, living near Portland, OR. If your group is interested in having her teach, please let me know -- I have offered to continue coordinating gigs for her. Contact me at Carpentr@paonline.com

- Bart Carpenter

DAYTIME CLASS IN BEVERLY HILLS

Beverly's International Folk Dance Class at Roxbury Park Recreation Center in Beverly Hills is now on Tuesdays 10:45 am / 12:30 pm. Roxbury Park is at 471 S. Roxbury, about one-half block south of Olympic Blvd. The class meets in the auditorium. For information, call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

CROATIAN FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

Several groups from the USA, Canada and even South America (Chile) will showcase their cultural heritage together on stage. The event starts Saturday, January 17th, 2009 at the Croatian Cultural Center of Greater Los Angeles, 510 West 7th Street, San Pedro. Time: 8 pm to 12 am, Catholic Mass and Welcome Party for all groups participating

Sunday, January 18th, 2009, Concert of Folklore, 4:00 pm at the 3rd Annual Croatian Cultural Extravaganza, Warner Grand Theater, 478 West 6th Street, San Pedro.

See ad. Info: heidi@bubalo.com or call (818)-761-7706 and leave a message.

SUNDAY EVENING DANCING IN LAGUNA BEACH

7:00 to 10:00, Community Center, 384 Legion St. December 7 possible guest teacher, Jaap Leegwater

December 14 Laura Bremer teaches an Armenian favorite, Beejo

December 21 Hosted by Multi-Ethnic Dance at Clubhouse 1 in Laguna Woods with reviews of December teaching and Christmas hula

December 28 Holiday party hosted by Multi-Ethnic Dancers at Clubhouse 7 in Laguna Woods For details, <http://www.lagunafolkdancers.org/>

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op

presents its

Winter Festival



January 18, 2009

Scottish Rite Temple

150 North Madison
Pasadena



1:30-5:30

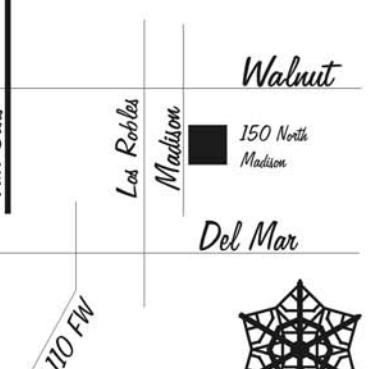
Council Meeting

10:30

(626) 792-9118



210 FW



\$5.00



Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

Recent Events

eating). Snacks were always available as well as good strong coffee.



Saturday night began with a happy hour (wine included in the fees), lots of dancing, the delicious salmon dinner and then an ice cream social with an amazing assortment of toppings - a spread the likes of which you won't see unless you're on a top quality cruise ship. Fruit was available 24/7. I was a happy camper and was told by seasoned attendees that you don't gain weight because you dance so much.

The Conference Center Manager and Head Chef was unable to be at Hess Kramer on this weekend but in his absence his assistant, a fantastic cook from the Czech Republic, filled in more than admirably. He and all the Camp Hess Kramer employees live on the site. It is their home; and because of their close connection to the Camp, they care about their work. This is seen in the excellent quality of the meals they prepare, their service and their pleasant attitude to all the guests.

Campers bring treasures to donate for the silent auction. The money raised goes to help keep costs down, so the camp is affordable for everyone. As Beverly explained, everyone gets a "scholarship" that way. There were some lovely pieces donated and I gratefully came home with a few prized items, as did most everyone else.

The camp occurs either the last or second to the last weekend each October and draws dancers from as far away as New Mexico, Utah and Washington, as well as Arizona, Las Vegas and Northern California. This year there were 80 participants coming from as far as Las Vegas, Arizona and one lady from the East Coast; and the feeling of welcoming and friendliness was especially appreciated by me, a first timer.

You might ask "How much does this camp cost?" Beverly answers that. "There are 4 levels of accommodations and that determines the price, but everyone, regardless of where they stay or what they pay have everything else the same. All the fabulous meals, parties, Happy Hour, wine, dance classes, dancing, ice-cream social, and more. The least expensive and really very inexpensive is the dorms at \$150 for the entire weekend. The 2nd price range is the redwood buildings that have private rooms for 2 people and either a private bathroom or share a bathroom with the next room [\$180.]. The 3rd price range is under the dining hall and are all private rooms for 2 people and share part of a bathroom with one other room [\$205.]. The most expensive accommodations are in the "Conference Center, with a very nice private room and private bathroom and many amenities [\$255.]. Single supplement is \$40." I can't imagine a more reasonable price for an all-inclusive delightfully fun weekend.

I guess what I found so enjoyable about the camp were the new friends I met, the reconnecting with former friends in such a nice environment and the relaxed, welcoming and friendly atmosphere. You can see the pleasure in the dancer's faces. Stress is left at the door and people really know how to have a good time. I am still floating high above the clouds and hope to share this experience with others. Do consider going next year. Mark your calendars now!

- Suzanne Rocca-Butler

CAFE AMAN



The UCLA Bulgarian Wedding Band played Saturday, November 8th. Photo courtesy

Leonard Ellis
Solo Piano Music
The Earthquake Album
Dancing to a Fault
www.artkitchen.com

Recent Events

KABILE PERFORMS



The Kabile Bulgarian band partied with the Laguna Folkdancers Sunday, October 26. Photo courtesy Karen Stone.

NARODNI HALLOWEEN PARTY



Photo courtesy Shirley Hansen

CAMP HESS KRAMER -SUCH FUN!!!

I just returned from teaching at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu. I had heard the name before, but really knew nothing about the Camp. My loss; I haven't had so much fun at a dance event in many many years. I thought I'd write about it now while I am still floating on cloud nine, before reality sets in and Camp Hess Kramer is but a lovely memory.

This small camp, located about 1/4 mile from the Pacific Ocean, north of Malibu, is a gem and is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California South. **Beverly Barr**, who is the Chairperson for the Federation (South) is also the Director of the Camp

Hess Kramer Weekend Camp; her warmth and graciousness set the tone for the entire weekend.

Three of us taught: Beverly (partnered on couple dances by her husband, **Irwin**), **Anthony Ivancich** and I. Classes began Friday afternoon at 4PM and finished Sunday afternoon around 2PM with a detailed review of all the taught material, which was videotaped and available for sale to the attendees.

Among the dances taught were selections from Stockton Folk Dance Camp's 2008 repertoire. These included a well-balanced cross-section of material. To name a few: **Daniella Ivanova**'s *Alunelu* and *Smilyana*; **Cristian and Sonia**'s *Încâlcita* and *Dant Din Grosi*; **Roberto Bagnoli**'s *Balloindodici* and *Passu Torrau*; **Radboud Koop**'s presentation of **Hennie Koning**'s *Posadila Rozu*, *Techot Rechka* and *Ya da Kalinushku lomala*; **Tineke van Geel**'s *Kotchari* and *Shoror*; **Jean Brown**'s last dance *Sea Salt Sally*; and **Richard Schmidt**'s *Bogatym*, *Kaczor* from Kurpie and *Taniec Wielki*.

Additionally some wonderful older dances that benefited from a revival were taught: *Silistrenski Opas*, and to honor **Bora Gajicki**, his arrangement of *Gruzunka*, to name a couple. As if that were not enough to stretch one's mind and stamina some country western dances were presented, in keeping with the Saturday night party theme of the Wild Wild West, as well as a welcome introduction of new-to-us dances from the Canary Islands of Spain, taught by Anthony Ivancich. Their music was lovely and the dances were an interesting introduction to new territory in international folk dance. The dancing level of the attendees at the Camp was above average and as a teacher, I was impressed with their learning skills.

For any dance event requiring lots of energy, the nourishment of the body is important, and for me, a person who really enjoys a good meal, this camp provided absolutely wonderful food. It was attractively presented and satisfying both to the eye and palate. For our enjoyment and indulgence were endless platters of guacamole (a major weakness of mine) and other tasty and healthy appetizers..... salmon for dinner Saturday night, BBQ'd chicken, many creative non-bean vegetarian choices such as delicious eggplant Parmesan, grilled and roasted vegetables, fresh and colorful salads, homemade noodles, homemade bread and rolls, platters of homemade cookies following dinner..... I could go on and on (and I did go on and on

Ethnic Food

WINTER SOLSTICE SOUP

2 tablespoons butter
2 onions, chopped
2 carrots, shredded
3 cups water
2 potatoes, peeled and cubed
1/2 teaspoon thyme
1 bay leaf
1 tablespoon dried parsley
2 cups milk
salt and pepper to taste

Saute the onions in the butter in a large pot. Add carrots, potatoes, water, salt, parsley, thyme and bay leaf. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Discard the bay leaf and puree the soup. Return to the pot and add the milk and season with salt and pepper.

From www.recipezaar.com

CARETAKER FARM BREAD

I got this recipe for a hearty winter bread from Everything2.com, but have changed it a little. For one thing, I only had a little regular and whole wheat flour, so I used some buckwheat flour as well. I also used lots more raisins and sunflower seeds. So I am giving you an adapted recipe.

1 cup old fashioned rolled oats
2 cups hot water
2 tablespoons yeast
1/2 cup warm water
1/4 cup honey
3 1/2 cups unbleached flour
2 cups whole wheat flour (or part buckwheat flour)
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup raisins (or dried cranberries or any dried fruit)
1/2 cup sunflower seeds

Mix oats in hot water and let rest for about a half hour. In another bowl, mix yeast with warm water. Add honey and two cups of the regular flour, mixing well. Stir in the oats and water, and let the mixture rest for another half hour. Add the remaining regular flour and beat with a wooden spoon. Gradually add the whole

wheat flour, oil and salt, fruit and sunflower seeds using as much flour as necessary to make a soft dough. Turn out onto a floured board and knead for 5 to 10 minutes, adding flour as needed to keep from sticking, until nice and elastic.

Place dough in an oiled bowl, and cover, placing in a warm place to rise for about 45 minutes. Grease two 9X5 loaf pans. Punch the dough down and divide in half, putting each in a pan, and cover again and let rise another 45 minutes. Bake at 400 degrees for about 30 minutes. When browned on top and bottom, and hollow sounding when tapped, turn onto a wire rack to cool.

- Sandy Helperin



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39th annual

FESTIVAL

February 6-8, 2009

Ensign Intermediate School Gym
 2000 Cliff Dr. Newport Beach CA.

Presenting Master Teachers

Iliana Bozhanova and Ya'akov Eden
dances of Bulgaria

dances of Israel

Live Music

Fab 4 Play

Friday evening

Eastern Exposure

at the Valentine Party
 Saturday evening

Madison Avenue Folk

at the Dance Party
 Sunday afternoon

Valentine Dance Party - hosted by Veselo Selo

Saturday night 8:30

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY EVENING.. \$10.-

Dance Party
 with teachers, live music 7:30-12:00

SATURDAY

Morning dance workshop..... 9:30- 11:30 \$10
 Afternoon dance workshop..... 1:30 - 4:30 \$12
 Dance Concert..... 7:30 - 8:30 \$15
 Valentine Dance & Afterparty, ... 8:30-1:00 incl.
 with live music

SUNDAY 10:00-4:00

Dance workshop..... 10:00-12:00 \$12.-
 Dance Party, live music..... 1:30 - 4:00 incl.
 Greek lunch after Dance review (12:00-1:00)
 ~optional @ \$12.- extra~

**Passport for all events \$42.- before Jan.28
 \$50.- at the door Under 18 FREE**

**For request-time you may bring your
 favorite CD-s, cassettes or mini discs**

NOTE: New and Different

Dance Party on Friday

Concert Saturday evening

Teaching session Sunday morning

optional:

Greek lunch in the Gym on Sunday
 (must be ordered by 8:00 PM Friday;
 Price \$12.-)

Menu:

Moussaka, Greek salad,
 Hummus with Pita and Roasted Veggies

Motel info:

Travelodge, 1951 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa
 (949) 650-2999
 \$67.84 or \$73.14 incl.tax, per night
 (mention Laguna Folkdancers)

Register in Advance

Names for badges	_____	x\$42.- =
Number of passports	_____	x\$ 2.- =
Number of syllabi	_____	x\$ 12.- =
Number of Sunday lunches	_____	

Total check _____

Your e-mail address (preferred), or phone# _____
 (so we can confirm receipt of your registration)

Mail check (before Jan.28) to:	
Laguna Folkdancers	1524 Vivian
Newport Beach, CA 92660	Pick up passports at the festival