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Folk Dance Scene

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

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On the cover: Bourree D'Auvergne, courtesy of Wikipedia images

Club Directory

KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

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

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) 284-3638 James Zimmer
SANTA MONICA, Santa Monica
College Clock Tower or LS Bldg
1900 Pico Blvd

TOPANGA CANYON INT'L Fd

Fri 9:30am-11:00am
(310) 455-1051 Melanie Kareem
TOPANGA, Froggy's Restaurant, 1105
N. Topanga Canyon 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
UniversityDanceClubs@yahoo.com
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 FD

Wed 7:30
(805) 241-8563 Kathy Lemmon
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center,
403 W Hillcrest Dr

ETHNIC EXPRESS

Wed 6:30-7:30 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. Mon noon-
1:00 Wed 7:00-8:00 Thu 12:05-1:05

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 janrayman@charter.net
(626) 792-9118 Marshall Cates
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church
300 S. Los Robles (at Del Mar)

SAN DIEGO INTL FD

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 7:00-7:30 Wed 7:30
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher
ANAHEIM, Community Ctr,
250 E Center (Mon)
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,
5041 Rhoda Way (Wed)

WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS

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

WORLD DANCE CLASS

(310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason
LOS ANGELES, Robertson Rec Ctr.
1641 Preuss Mon 4:30-5:30. Age 5-18

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.

KARPATOK HUNGARIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE

Wed 8:00
(310) 350-1135 Livia Varsanyi
LOS ANGELES, United Magyarhaz,
1975 Washington

KRAKUSY POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Tu 7-9, W 7:30-9:30 F 8-10 Sat 2:15-4
(714) 369-9083 Ula Grzelecki
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

Sat 3:30 - 6:30
(949) 715-9788 Lee Otterholt
LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 7

UCSB MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE

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

Club Directory

SKANDIA DANCE CLASSES
 Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:00; Sat
 7:00 - 11:00(once a month)
 (714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
 (310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher
 ANAHEIM, Downtown Community
 Center, 250 E Center (Mon)
 CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,
 5041 Rhoda Way (Wed, some Sat.)
 BELLFLOWER, Women's Club, 9402
 Oak St. (some Sat.)

**SOLVANG VILLAGE
 FOLK DANCERS**
 Sat 6:00-9:00 except 3rd Sat 1:00-4
 (805) 688-3397 David Heald
 SOLVANG, Bethania Lutheran Parish
 Hall, 603 Atterdag Rd.; *Corner Alisal
 & Copenhagen (3rd Sat)*

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

VESELO SELO FOLKDANCERS
 Sat 7:30-10:30
 (714) 828 2581 Lu Perry
 ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church, 511 S.
 Harbor.

VINTAGE ISRAELI DANCING
 1 Sat per month confirm 8:16 - 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 7:30-10:30 Fri 7:30-11:00
 (310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr
 WEST L.A., Brockton School
 1309 Armacost Ave.

**WEST VALLEY
 FOLK DANCERS**
 Fri 7:30-9:45
 (818) 348-6133 Lila Aurich
 CANOGA PARK, Senior Center
 7326 Jordan Ave

WESTCHESTER LARIATS
 Mon 3:30-8:30
 (310) 625-9962 Nickie Burrell
 LOS ANGELES, Westchester
 Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson

WESTWOOD CO-OP
 Thu 7:30-10:00
 (310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr
 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
 SHERMAN OAKS, Senior Center,
 5056 Van Nuys Blvd. Mon 1:30-3:00
 BEVERLY HILLS, Roxbury Park
 auditorium 471 So. Roxbury
 Tue 10:45am-12:30
 CULVER CITY, Culver City Senior
 Center, northwest corner Culver &
 Overland, Wed 12:30-2:00

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, Cal Tech Campus,
 Dabney Hall, parking off Del Mar

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. For schedule: (619)
 466-4043, www.folkdancecenter.org
 SAN DIEGO, 4569 30th Street

FOLK DANCE CLASS
 (310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason
 LOS ANGELES, Robertson Rec Ctr.
 1641 Preuss Mon 10:00-11:30am.
 W HOLLYWOOD, West Hollywood
 Park, San Vicente at Melrose Wed
 10:30am-noon

FRIDAY NIGHT L.I.F.E.
 Fri 8:00-11:00
 www.lifebalkandancers.com
 worldance1@gmail.com Sherry
 WEST L.A., Pacific Arts Center
 10469 Santa Monica Blvd.

ISRAELI DANCING-James Zimmer
 Tues 7:30-12:00
 (310) 284-3638 James Zimmer
 Israelidance@yahoo.com
 L.A., Westside JCC, 5870 W Olympic

ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern
 (818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern
 L.A., American Jewish Univ Dance
 Studio, 15600 Mulholland Mon
 10:00am-11:45 & noon-1:00 Tue
 10:30am-noon Wed 7:00-9:30; Thu
 10:15am-1:05

ISRAELI DANCING-Yoni Carr
 (619) 227-0110 Yoni
 NEWPORT BEACH, Avant Garde
 Ballroom, 4220 Scott Dr Sun 7:00-12
 SAN DIEGO, Infinity Sport Dance
 Center, 4428 Convoy St Thu 7:30



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 48, No. 5
 June/July 2012

Editors' Corner

Our cover story this month features French dances, including the *can can* as only one recent development among the many regional traditions.

Don't miss this month's Dancers Speak for an on-going puzzle; Recent Events has one that was finished.

Ethnic Food brings to mind Statewide's site, where fruit was dried and canned in an earlier time. Poetry shares the page.

Please notice that this is the June/July issue. We'll be taking a break. The next issue will be coming your way in August. Did you remember to renew?

Thanks to Steve Davis for Marilyn's picture; Steve Himmel for World Dance Day images.

Be of good cheer!

– Pat Cross and Don Krotser

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June/July 2012

Teacher Corner

Marilyn Smith has been a teacher of international folk dance at Santa Rosa College in California since 1970. Marilyn traveled extensively in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, and the former Yugoslavia.



In 1981, Marilyn began her first of many trips to France to research traditional music and dance, studying in master dance classes, and meeting with musicians and instrument makers. Her hard work and passion have created a joyful dialogue between the very active French folk culture and the United States. She has helped coordinate visits to the United States for many French dance teachers and musicians. Marilyn's dances represent a wide assortment of dance formations, including lines, circles, couples, and sets.

Marilyn has been invited to teach at major folk dance camps in the United States and Canada. She organizes and directs an annual folk dance camp in Northern California. Outstanding folk dance teachers and musicians come from throughout the United States as well as Europe to teach at her camp.

Among Marilyn's publications are *French Bourrée* Lark in the Morning

Traditional Dances and Instruments of the Gascogne Lark in the Morning

Dances that Marilyn taught in the United States include bourrées from Auvergne including *La Tourniaire*, *La Crouzade*, *La Chapelotte* and *La Montagnarde*; bourrées from Berry and Bourbonnais including *La Tournante des Grandes Poteries* and *La Brande*; dances from Gascogne, including *Rondeau de Casteljaloux*, *Rondeau de Garein*, *Mazurka de Samatan* and *Scottish from Gascogne*; dances from Alsace, including *Le Maitre de Maison*, *5-Time Waltz*, *Le Porcher*; dances from Béarn and the Basque country, including *Mariana* and *Carnval de Lantz*; other dances include *Scottish-Valse*, *Marin-Congo*, *Mazurka de Ste. Marie*.

She is director of the annual Razzmatazz Folk Dance Weekend at Mendocino Woodlands. This was the 35th year. Over the years it has brought dance teachers and musicians not only from the U.S. and Canada, but also from Bulgaria, France and Sardinia. Razzmatazz also sponsored two week-long summer camps in the 1980's with a staff of international dance teachers.

WHAT IS FRENCH FOLK DANCE?

The *bourrée* from Berry is probably the most well-known French folk dance in the U.S., thanks to its introduction to our folk dance community by the wonderful teacher, **Germain Hebert**. With the passion he instilled in me for this dance, I knew I had to go to the source and experience dancing it in France. So one summer I found myself in a small dance hall where hurdy-gurdys buzzed, bagpipes droned and accordions cranked out the tunes and we danced the *bourrée* in a whirling swirl of dancers. I was in French dance heaven - or at least in one little corner!

Many people have asked me "What is French dance?" There are as many answers to this question as there are regions of France. As you travel to different parts of France, you will find that each region has its own repertoire of dances. There are a few dances that are common throughout France like the waltz, schottische, polka and mazurka. But even these dances may have regional differences or variations.

The *bourrée* itself is a dance form that spans several different regions of France: Berry, Bourbonnais, Auvergne and Limousin. The *bourrées* from Berry and Bourbonnais have a different structure and form than those from Auvergne and the Limousin.

I learned my first Breton dances, *An Dro* and *Laridé*, from **Yves Moreau** at Mendocino Folklore Camp. I still remember that experience because it was such a revelation to me to hear the music of Alain Stivell for the first time and to see these "French" dances that were so different from anything else I had thought of as French. Dances with little finger hold? Dances leading to the left? Was this from France? But this was just the beginning of discovering how rich and varied the folk dance repertoire is in France and how deeply regional it is.

The next revelation for me was when I went to France to learn dances from Gascogne in the southwest of France. I was fortunate to study with a wonderful dancer, teacher and researcher--**Pierre Corbefin**. He was director of the Conservatoire Occitan in Toulouse at the time and he wrote me a letter inviting me to come to France and work with him. He taught me several forms of the dance from this region, the *Rondeau*. Pierre was an integral leader of a group of dancers and musicians who set out in the 1960's to "discover" their own dances. Many musicians in the area played the tunes and sang the songs of the

region that they remembered their grandfathers playing. But they didn't know the dances that went with these tunes and songs. The traditional dances had almost died out in the countryside and if they were going to be able to resurrect these dances before they were totally gone, they had to act. Seeking older villagers who might remember the dances, they discovered a treasure trove in the tiny village of Samatan. So it was in the early 1960's that they set out to research the *Rondeau* and other dances from the area. I was lucky to be able to see some of the original black and white films that were taken to record the dances during that time.

One summer I was able to learn dances from Béarn, a region next to the more well-known Basque region of France. Though many of the tunes from Béarn were the same tunes I heard in the Basque country, the dances had their own unique steps and styling that surely weren't Basque even though they shared some strong similarities with Basque dances. This was yet another "French" dance form that was new to me.

If you travel east from Paris to Strasbourg, you notice a change right away. Some of the town names or street signs look more German than French; you'll find sauerkraut and sausages on the menu and German-style white wines. One of the dances the Alsatian's do is a 5-time waltz, similar to a Swiefache and you know that you are as far away from *bourrée* country as you can be and still be in France.

One warm summer night I was in Perpignan on the Mediterranean coast and saw in the local newspaper that there was going to be a dance workshop teaching the *Sardane*, the dance of the Catalan people who live in this part of France. (The dance is known as *Sardana* in the Catalonia region of Spain.) I had seen the *Sardana* danced in Barcelona when I was a high school A.F.S. exchange student in 1963 and I was thrilled to actually have the chance to learn it decades later in France! On the eve of St. John's day in June, you can dance the *Sardane* in many of the towns and villages in this part of France. The *cobla* band sets up in the square and the "Sardanistas" celebrate their Catalan culture with circle after circle of dancers. They dance long into the night and end the festivities with a big bonfire.

So, we ask again: "What is French dance?" It is as varied as the country of France herself. It changes from region to region; it reflects the local culture, local

Federation Clubs

BAY OSOS FOLK DANCERS
Tue 12:00-3:00
LOS OSOS, South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave., (805) 534-1501 Anne Tiber
Mon - alternate 7:00-9:00
(805) 546-1072 Brian Evans
SAN LUIS OBISPO, 1417 Carmel Ave
(rear dance studio)

CABRILLO FOLK DANCERS
Tue 7:00-9:30
(858) 459-1336 Georgina
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Balboa Park Club

CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS
Tue 6:00 - 8:45
(562) 865-8854 Sue Chen
CERRITOS, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St.

CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS
Wed 7:30-9:30
(805) 241-8563 Kathy Lemmon
THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr

ETHNIC EXPRESS
Wed 6:30-8:45 closed holidays & August
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

FANTASY FOLK DANCE CLUB
Sun 2:30 - 6:30
(626) 454-3181 Diane Chen
ALHAMBRA, China Press, 2121 W. Mission Rd.
Fri 7:00-11:00
S EL MONTE, CSM Trading Inc., 9640 Klingerman St,

FINJAN ISRAELI
(818) 389-1955 Israel Yakovee
VALLEY VILLAGE, Adat Ari-El, 12020 Burbank Blvd. Tue 7:00-12:00
WEST HILLS, *Shomrei Torah Synagogue, 7353 Valley Circle Blvd. Thu 7:00-11:00*

KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING
Fri 8:30-11:30
(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller
SHERMAN OAKS, The Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Avenue

LAGUNA FOLKDANCERS
Sun 7:00-9:45
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
LAGUNA BEACH, Susi Q Community Center, 380 3rd St.

LAGUNA WOODS FOLK DANCERS
Wed 5:30-7:30
(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn
LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy

LAGUNA WOODS INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB
Tue 9:00am-11:00
(949) 707-0605 Mikki Revenaugh
LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon

MOUNTAIN DANCERS
1st & 3rd Tue 1:30-3:30
(626) 355-9220 John Meursinge
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave.

NARODNI INT'L FOLK DANCERS
Thu 7:30-10:30
(714) 932-2513 Shirley Hansen
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Fri 7:45-11:00 janrayman@charter.net
(626) 792-9118 Marshall Cates
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church
300 S. Los Robles (at Del Mar)

PRESCOTT INT'L FOLKDANCERS
Wed 7:00 (928) 776-4582 Russ Briggs
PRESCOTT: Mile High Middle School Girls Gym, 300 S. Granite St.

RAINBOW SENIOR CLUB
Sun 3:00 - 6:00
(626) 614-8625 Kevin Sun
ALHAMBRA, Joslyn Senior Center
210 N. Chapel Ave.

SAN DIEGO VINTAGE DANCERS
(858) 622-9924 Mary Jennings
SAN DIEGO, Dance Place, 2650 Truxton Rd. Call for day & time.

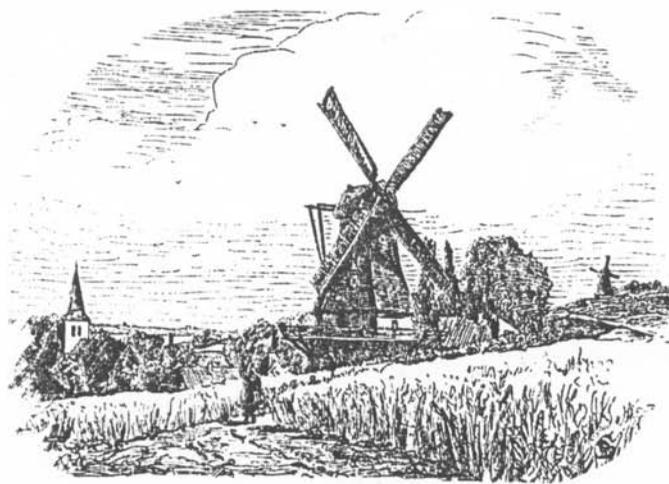
SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
Sun 6:00 - 9:30 Tue 7:30-9:30
(805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro
SANTA BARBARA, Frst Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance Ave. (Tu);
SANTA BARBARA, *Carrillo Ballroom, 100 E. Carrillo St (Sun)*

SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS OF VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA
(805) 604-9608 Madeleine
2nd & 4th Sat 2:00-5:00
SANTA PAULA, Briggs Elementary School 14438 W. Telegraph
1st Sun 5:30-7:30
SANTA BARBARA, *Carillo Rec Center Studio 1, 100 Carillo Street*

SIERRA FOLKDANCERS
Mon 7:45 - 9:15
(626) 893-0303 Ann Armstrong
TEMPLE CITY, Temple City Christian Church, 9723 Garibaldi Ave

17th Annual Weekend Workshop
of the American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups

Dances from the 'Waterkant' and 'Sword Dance'



Instructor: Karin P. Gottier

June 15-16-17, 2012

Hosted by the
GAST German Dancers of Tulsa, OK
for information:
Lois Lynch: 937-278-4606; Carol Wright: 918-299-2839

French Dance

language, local instruments and local songs. Each region is an ethnographic country unto itself. Through their dances, music and songs, people identify themselves as Auvergnat, Berrichon, Béarnais, Basque, Breton, Alsatian, Catalan or Gascon who all live in a country called France!

– Marilyn Smith

HISTORY OF FRENCH DANCE

The following was taken from Wikipedia, and eHow.com

Breton and French folk dancing

Julius Caesar wrote of the Gauls' love of music and dancing. In Britany, the old Celtic Region in western France music and dancing has been an integral part of the culture since pre-Christian times. Today it survives and thrives in this remote stronghold of the remnants of the old Gallic tribes. They still speak Breton, an old tongue closely related to Welsh Gaelic, and like their ancient ancestors and modern day cousins in other celtic lands, are mad for the music and dancing. The dancing and the music are lively and have the magical ability to mesmerize your spirit. Every weekend there are *fest noz* or dances held all around Britany where the whole community, young and old - from toddlers to the eldest elders - pack into school gymnasiums and dance and sing together, arm in arm until morning. Breton dancing at a *fest noz* is one of the most mesmerizing and magical dancing experiences.

Traditional French Folk Dancing

Many of today's American folk dances have their origins in the popular 16th and 17th century French country and court dances such as the *quadrille* or squares, and the *contre danse*. Dance terminology such as promenade, chaine, alemande, balance, do si do, hay - were coined by the old French dance masters of the 17th and 18th centuries. Many of the dances survive today in our American folk dancing tradition.

History

France has been the cultural centre of Europe since Medieval times. Under the reign of Louis XIV, ballet flourished, and the "French" style of ballet was born. Dancing was a popular pastime for the court, therefore ballroom and square dances also became popular during this period. As time went on, dance moved out of the court and into music halls and venues where the

audience would often participate, such as with the *bal-musette* or the *can-can*.

The Baroque Period

The *gavotte* was a popular dance in the Baroque era, so named as it originated amongst the Gavot people. It was of moderate tempo and consisted of a step pattern where feet were crossed twice after each step, and then a hop would follow. This dance was popular in the court of Louis XIV, and typical instruments were violins and bagpipes. The gavotte compositions by Bach are possibly the best known. The *Rigaudon* is another lively dance, performed by couples. Also fashionable in the court during the Baroque period, it remained popular in music halls until the 19th century. The *courante* is a lively dance performed in both France and Italy. The name literally means "running" due to its fast steps.

The 19th Century Onwards

When the can-can first appeared in Paris around 1830 it was a dance for couples. The energetic dance had performers doing high-kicks, therefore earning it its name, which literally means "scandal". There were attempts to repress this dance for a while, and occasionally groups of men performing the can-can would be arrested. It later became a popular form of entertainment, however, it was still performed by couples or individuals. Can-can featuring chorus-lines first appeared in the UK and U.S. rather than in France, and this style was later imported to France for the benefit of American and British tourists.

Bal-musettes were usually performed in small music venues, and were characterized by fast, small steps. The music typically consisted of an accordion and bagpipes, and later on it was influenced by the waltz, polka and pasodoble styles.

Other Dances

There are many folk dances particular to different regions of France. While much French folk music has been revived in the last few years due to interest from tourists, remote areas such as Auvergne and nationalistic regions such as the Basque area have kept folk dances alive. The Bearnaise and Breton dances are just a couple of the most famous ones. Some of these dances have Celtic influences, hence the use of bagpipes and hurdy-gurdys as musical accompaniment.

Calendar

Note: Federation Dance Events are in Bold.
CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS
JUNE

Free ethnic concerts, all at 7:00, at UCLA. Info: (310) 825-5947, <http://www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu>

- 6/1 Music of India Ensemble,
- 6/2 Music of Korea Ensemble,
- 6/3 Bluegrass and Old-Time String Ensemble,
- Music and Dance of West Africa Ensemble
- 6/4 UCLA Jazz Combos
- 6/5 UCLA Big Band Concert featuring the UCLA Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Fusion Ensemble

1 Sue Chen and Wen-Li Chiang teaching Taiwanese dances at West Valley Folk Dancers. 7:15–10:00 at Canoga Park Senior Center, 7326 Jordan Ave. Info: (818) 368-1957, JayMichtom@Verizon.net

2 Admiral Nelson Ball, hosted by Orange County English Country Dance, in Fullerton. Music by Whirled Peas. Info: admiralnelsonball.com.

3 Westwood Co-Op Annual Spring Festival, 1:30-5:30, at Culver City Veterans' Auditorium, Overland & Culver Blvd. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659, dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

9 The Varimezovs with Bulgarian music at Cafe Aman, The Pacific Arts Center, 10469 Santa Monica Blvd. Info: Ian Price at ianpricebey@hotmail.com

24 Romanian workshop with Mihai David at Laguna Folkdancers, Susi Q center, 380 Third St., Laguna Beach 7:00-9:45. See ad & OTS. Info: (949) 675-2199, www.LagunaFolkdancer.org

27 Beata Bermuda, trio of young women fiddling and singing mostly Swedish music. Outdoor house concert, 7:00, in Northridge. Reservations essential. (818) 368-1957, JayMichtom@Verizon.net

JULY

8 Pot-luck BBQ and midsummer dance party with music by the Inspector Gadje brass band. Laguna Folkdancers & Laguna Woods Folkdancers at Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon. See ad & OTS. Info: (949) 675-2199, www.LagunaFolkdancers.org

OCTOBER

6 Playford-to-the-Present Ball, Pasadena. Info: www.caldancecoop.org/playford

26-28 *Camps' Review Workshop Weekend* at Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6/9-16 *Scandia Camp Mendocino*, Mendocino. Dances, music, culture from Norway & Sweden. Info: (630) 985-7192, www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org

6/23–30 *EEFC 2012 Workshop*. Mendocino. Michael Ginsburg (Balkan), Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi (Greek), Tanya Kostova (Bulgarian), Kyriakos Moisidis (Greek). Info: (510) 547-1118

6/30 – 7/7 *Mendocino Folklore Camp*, 50th anniversary. Classes in folk dance, singing, and instruments. Teachers: Zeljko Jergan (Croatian), Ziva Emtiyaz (Middle Eastern), Kyriakos Moisides (Greek). Info: mendocinofolklore.org

7/22-29, 7/29 - 8/5 - *Stockton Folk Dance Camp* at University of the Pacific Campus. Two identical weeks. See ad. Info: www.folkdancecamp.org

7/27-8/4 *Lark Camp 2012* - Music, song & dance celebration, Mendocino Woodlands, Mendocino, CA. Info: www.larkcamp.com/information.html

8/12 *Little Festival of the Redwoods*. Armstrong Woods, Guerneville

OUT OF STATE

MAINE

8/12– 18, 8/19 – 25 *Mainewoods Dance Camp*. Two one-week sessions. Freiburg. Info: (973) 787-4614, info@mainewoodsdancecamp.org.

Week One: Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu (Romanian), Susan de Guardiola (Vintage), Olga Sandolowich (Macedonian)

Week Two: Tony Parkes (Contras and Squares), Danny Pollack (Israeli), Yuliyana Yordanov (Balkan).

NEW MEXICO

8/9-12 *New Mexico August Folk Dance Camp*, at Socorro. Teachers: Radood Koop, Roo Lester, Harry Khamis & Karina Wilson. Info: Gail Garber (505) 828-9455, (505) 235-0702 or <http://hawkaloft.org>

NORTH CAROLINA

Week-long classes presented by Swannanoa Gathering, at Warren Wilson College, Asheville. Info: (828) 298-3434, swangathering.com

7/15–21 *Celtic Week*

7/22–28 *Old Time Music and Dance Week*

Ethnic Food

FRUIT AND ALMOND TARTE

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 sticks of butter, softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup preserves or jam
- 1/3 cup slivered almonds

Beat the butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in the salt and almond extract. Add the flour and mix at low until just combined. Reserve 1/2 cup of the dough and wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate. Press the remainder of the dough on the bottom and slightly up the sides of a tart pan. Refrigerate for about a half hour.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spread the preserves on the bottom of the tart shell. Crumble the reserved dough over the preserves and sprinkle the almonds on top of all. Bake for about 30-40 minutes, until golden brown. Cool on rack and serve warm or at room temperature.

– Sandy Helperin

SURPRISE BUBBLE RING

Although this is not specifically an ethnic recipe, it is something that I have made a few times to help celebrate birthdays at the Tuesday Gypsies. Since I have been asked for the recipe, I decided to share it in the Scene. I have no idea where the recipe originally came from, but it has been slightly adapted over time.

Ingredients:

- 2 packages yeast
- 2 cans mandarin oranges
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1 1/4 cups warm water
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- Almond liqueur
- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 6 cups (approximately) flour

Mix the yeast, sugar and salt and stir in warm water. When the yeast is dissolved, stir in 1/4 cup almond liqueur, the eggs, butter and half the flour. Beat till smooth and stir in the remaining flour until a soft dough is formed. Knead the dough on a lightly

continued in column 2...

Poetry Corner

GRANDPA, CAN YOU DANCE?

Pine needles crunch under foot
share their pungent fragrance;
trees, arching overhead, hold them in twilight
as long shafts of sunlight dapple the path.

Tiny hand grasping gnarled finger:
Grandpa, can you dance?

Stopped by the question, leaning heavily on his cane,
a tumbling, trembling stab of joy
awakens visions of stomps and knee-twisting leaps,
belt holds and 'Opah!'
and whirling girls right off their feet!

Oh yes! my boy, oh yes!
Sometime I'll show you... but not right now.

– Camille Dull

LIMERICK

Though Sicilian, he thought Setnja was neat.
Why? "It's because of the way that I eat.
With a load of pasta in tow,
I like to start slow
Then - shift up to a much faster beat."

– Carl Pilsecker

floured surface for about 5 minutes and then place in a greased bowl and cover. Place in a warm, draught free place and allow to rise for about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, drain the oranges well on paper towels.

Pinch off pieces of the risen dough and form into balls around the orange sections. You should have about 25 - 30 balls. Roll each one in melted butter and then brown sugar and place in a greased 10-inch tube pan. Cover and let rise about another hour. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes, or until crusty. It is sometimes necessary to cover the pan with foil and bake longer to be sure the cake is baked thoroughly. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes. You can also remove the bottom of the tube pan and return the cake to the oven for a little longer, if necessary, after it has cooled enough to remove the bottom. Combine the powdered sugar with a small amount of almond liqueur and glaze the warm cake. Sprinkle with the nuts.

– Sandy Helperin

Recent Events

STATEWIDE 2012



Folkdancers from North and South gathered in Campbell for three days in May to celebrate dance together. Statewide 2012 featured teachers Erica Goldman and Steve Kotansky. On Friday evening musicians played for dancing in a kafana, as well as the larger gathering dancing to recorded

music in the main gym. Saturday, after the morning and afternoon teaching, attendees celebrated the 70th birthday of the Federation with 3 cakes, singing and dancing to live music with Chubritza in the evening.

The band played selections of dances through the decades, starting with hits from the 40's. Thanks to all those who put in the hard work needed to make an event such as this go smoothly and thanks to all the dancers from the North that made the weekend joyful!



Calendar

FOREIGN BULGARIA

7/11-22 *Bulgarian Tour - 2012* led by Ivan & Tzvetanka Varimezovi. Info: varimezovi@abv.bg
7/22-28 *Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar* in Plovdiv. Info: www.folkseminarplovdiv.net
8/3-8/15 *Bulgaria! A Jim Gold Tour* led by Toba Goddard. Includes Koprivshitsa Festival. Info: Toba Goddard (916) 371-4441, toba.goddard@gmail.com or Jim Gold (201) 836-0362, jimgold@jimgold.com

CHINA - XINJIANG (CHINESE TURKESTAN)

9/16-10/5 *Tour to Northwestern China*. Info: Ian Price at ianpricebey@hotmail.com

CROATIA & SLOVENIA

7/15-28 *Folk Tour to Croatia & Slovenia*, led by Jim Gold. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com

GREECE

7/10-20 *Travel - Seminar In Pontos*. Meeting & knowing the regional culture from 750 B.C. to nowadays. Info: maryse.fabre3@wanadoo.fr
7/19-8/1 *Annual Summer Seminar & Festival for Greek Dancing* in Greece, Naxos. Info: Philippos (+33)(0) 6 03 78 28 77.

8/5-17 *Seminar in Greek Traditional Dances*, organized by Yannis Konstantinou & Lingistes, in the village of Laimos. Info: maryse.fabre3@wanadoo.fr
11/21-25 *33rd World Congress on Dance Research* will be devoted to Dance Therapy. Athens. Info: www.cid-portal.org

MACEDONIA

7/5-15 *Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar* - led by Goran Alachki - Macedonian folk dances, musical instruments, singing & culture. Skopje. Info (805) 964-3591 or http://macedonianfolk.com or http://www.facebook.com/groups/macedonianfolk

7/16-25 *Macedonian Folk Seminar Sunray* - led by Ljupcho & Gordana Manevski. Vevcani, about 150 km from Skopje. Info: (805) 964-3591, http://sunray.mk

NORWAY

6/9-19 *Folk Tour to Norway*, led by Lee Otterholt. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com

POLAND

9/6-20 *Folk Tour to Poland* led by Richard Schmidt. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com

TURKEY

10/7-20 *Tour to Eastern Turkey* led by Jim Gold & Lee Otterholt. Info: (201) 836-0362 or jimgold@jimgold.com

June/July 2012

New Mexico

AUGUST

Folk Dance Camp

AUGUST 9 - AUGUST 12, 2012

..... INTRODUCING

Radboud Koop

Roo Lester

Karina Wilson

Featuring Dances of Russia, Scandinavia, the Spanish Basque Provinces and Africa.

PARTIES

Costume dance parties every night. Costume concession free to all dancers.

FOOD

Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Ice cream social, coffee benefit, last day goodbye barbeque.

Don't forget your dance shoes!

Other Activities

Swimming, biking, hiking, golfing, hanging out with good friends, making new friends, reading, contemplating the meaning of life, eating, eating some more, pre- and post-party parties, and, oh!, sleeping!
But most of all... *just have fun!!!*

New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, NM
Southwest International Folk Dance Institute (SWIFDI)
For more information visit <http://swifdi.org> or call Dorothy Stermer at 505-299-1159 or stermer@comcast.net

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June/July 2012

On the Scene

BEVERLY BARR'S WEEKLY DAYTIME CLASSES

Mondays 1:30 - 3:00, at Sherman Oaks Senior Center 5056 Van Nuys Blvd., one block south of Magnolia; a brand new center with free parking. Intermediate int'l folk dance and line dance class. The dance room has a beautiful wood floor - \$5.00.

Tuesdays 10:45 a.m. - 12:30, Roxbury Park Auditorium, 471 So. Roxbury Dr., a half block south of Olympic. Lots of free and metered parking. Intermediate int'l folk dance and line dance class. Beverly Hills residents - \$1.00, non-residents - \$2.00.

Wednesday 12:30 - 2:00, Culver City Senior Center - northwest corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd. International folk dance and line dance. Dance room has a wood floor - \$4.00.

If you are coming for the first time to any of our classes, or for any information, call or email Beverly. (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

SUNDAY EVENING DANCING IN LAGUNA BEACH

Susi Q Center, 380 Third St., Laguna Beach, 7:00 - 9:45

June & July 2012 Teaching Schedule

- June 3 **Laura Bremer** teaches dances from Statewide festival
June 10 review of dances from Statewide festival
June 17 all request
June 24 special Romanian workshop with **Mihai David**. Extended workshop will include old favorites and dances that Mihai and Alexandru have more recently introduced to SoCal. See ad.
July 1 Review of dances taught by **Mihai David**. Teacher tba
July 8 Pot-luck BBQ and midsummer dance party with music by **Inspector Gadje**, a Balkan brass band from the Bay Area. An evening of dancing to live music and no instruction. Hosted by Laguna Woods Folkdancers at Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon, Laguna Woods. Pot-luck BBQ starting at 6:00. See ad.
July 15 **Diki Shields** teaches *Bilati*, an Assyrian dance introduced by **Dennis Boxell**, plus reviews the Croatian circle dance *Sukachoko Kolo*. Steve Himel reviews *Joc Batranesc din Niculitel*, Romanian dance reconstructed by **Theodor Vasilescu**.

July 22 Review classic dances from Serbia & Macedonia: *Sestorka*, *Ivanica*, *Seljancica* and *Legnala Dana*. Teachers: **Bob Altman** and **Henrietta Bemis**.

July 29 all request
Info: (714) 893-8888, www.LagunaFolkdancers.org

HOHLAX GREEK TRIO

The Hohlox Trio from Athens is coming back to California September 2012 for their second tour! They will be putting on concerts of Greek music at various venues throughout California as well as at Greek Festivals. If you are interested in booking them, please visit our website at www.hohlax.gr or contact us at info@hohlax.gr.

PASADENA CO-OP

Beginning teaching in June will be by **Toti O'Brien**, who will teach three line dances: *Belasicko Oro* from Macedonia, *Erev Ba* from Israel, and *Cobankat* from Albania. **Marshall Cates** will teach *Maple Leaf Rag*, a couple dance from the USA.

Every month, the Co-op features a 15 minute segment we call "And Now For Something Completely Different." These are ideas suggested by our members. On June 22, as requested, **Marc Rayman** will teach a silent kolo.

On June 29, we will have a party with no teaching and an all request program including live music by the **Fifth Friday Band**.

We dance every Friday evening at Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles (at Del Mar). Parking is free in the church's lot. Beginning teaching is at 7:45, followed by intermediate teaching at 8:30. Programmed and requested dances follow until 11:00. Dance programs for the whole month and other info is on our website: www.PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org. For more information contact Jan at: JanRayman@charter.net or call (818) 790-8523.

— Jan Rayman

CAMP HESS KRAMER WORKSHOP WEEKEND - OCT. 26 - 27 - 28, 2012

This is our 28th year with an exciting teaching staff. See the ad in this issue of Scene and save the date.

To request flyers, and for all other information, and to get the correct information, please contact Irwin or Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

Recent Events

This was West L.A. Folk Dancers first attempt at putting on a festival to celebrate "dance" on World Dance Day, which is celebrated on April 29 every year. Dancers and dance events of all kinds are held in countries all over the world on this day. This year we were fortunate to be able to participate in our passion on this special day of dancing.

New dancers were encouraged to join the dancing as Beverly taught a few easy, but interesting dances for all to enjoy. Request dances were also accommodated.

Dancers attending the festival came from all over the Los Angeles Basin, driving many miles to attend this enjoyable day.



WESTWOOD'S HESS KRAMER: GREAT FUN!

Carl and I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Hess Kramer weekend so much fun for everyone who attended. We "Narodni foreigners" felt right at home! We had such a good time dancing, birding, playing croquet, sharing "good reads", and more. Carl particularly enjoyed the progressive group story. (There was certainly a lot of laughter coming from that quarter.)

Camille got hooked on the two puzzles we put together "in concert". The second one was tough! (I purchased it from the silent auction). I want all my puzzle-mates to know that we did a good job bundling the unfinished puzzle in the plastic tablecloth with my pillow-slip and sweater for a cushion. The puzzle got home with us intact! It was challenging down to the last piece. Here's a picture of the finished product:

— Camille Dull and Carl Pilsecker



Three pictures of World Dance Day fun



Recent Events

ANDRÉ MONTSION AT LAS VEGAS

Unable to leave until 2:30 in the afternoon because of previous commitments, we sit in Friday traffic on the way to Las Vegas. Occasionally we calculate arrival time based on current speed and remaining distance - at one point estimating an arrival in 25 hours. We mutter, "I hope this is worth it!"

It was! The hospitality of Ethnic Express and the teaching of André Montsion erases those 6.5 hours in traffic from our minds.

After a good night's sleep and breakfast at Arizona Charlie's buffet, we brave the smoke-tainted casino to get directions to the dance venue, Charleston Heights Art Center, from our very helpful desk clerk. In the car with the MapQuest print-out firmly in hand, we travel about two blocks to our destination. We enter a lovely air-conditioned room with a golden wood dance floor to be warmly greeted by members of Ethnic Express and our teacher, André.



At 10:30 instruction begins. We learn a charming French Canadian dance, *Le Rossignol*. We also learn that French Canadian men from south west of Quebec (Gatineau area) do not turn their backs to women as they dance. That's how you can spot them in the circle part of *La Bastringue*, for example. Two more

dances, interspersed with insights into the culture of the countries we're visiting in dance (Romania, Greece, French Canada) and it's time for lunch. Don and I consider walking back to our hotel/casino, but are discouraged by others from doing so because of the hundred degree temperature.

At 2, we're ready to begin again with more fun, easily accessible dances and culture. The pace is perfect, enough to be interesting but not overwhelming. We have a particularly good time with *L'oiseau dans la Cage* (Bird in a Cage) - chaotic dances always bring the most laughter!

Dinner break sends us back to our hotel for another buffet and a chance to rest. At 7:30 we return to the dance venue for more dances and a review session. Don and I decide to teach two of the dances we've learned at our Monday class at the Pasadena Senior Center.

The evening ends at the Mad Greek Café. A



Romanian couple is hosting their engagement party there and it is in full swing. We sit off to the side to watch and then as the live music begins some of us dance. André leads the *Syrto* and Don starts the *Hasapiko*.

The evening ends for us as the Romanian couple cut their engagement cake to the singing of their family and friends. Don and I head back to Arizona Charlie's, not staying till midnight as André had hoped.

In the morning we get the early start we plan on and beat the traffic back to LA, happy that we made the trip. Thank you André and Ethnic Express for a memorable day.

- Pat Cross and Don Krotser

CELEBRATING WORLD DANCE DAY

Under the leadership and direction of Beverly and Irwin Barr, the West L. A. Folk Dancers, with the co-sponsorship of the City of Beverly Hills and the Folk Dance Federation of California South, celebrated World Dance Day with a free folk dance festival. It was enjoyed by a full auditorium of happy folk dancers and those who came to watch. Some of the non-dancers enjoyed participating in a few easy dances.

On the Scene

HOUSE CONCERT WITH SWEDISH FIDDLERS AND SINGERS - JUNE 27

A trio of young women, two of them from Sweden, will play (fiddles) and sing Swedish songs at a house concert. 7:00, outdoors (under the stars) in Northridge. For reservations (essential) or info: Jill and Jay (818) 368-1957, JayMichtom@Verizon.net. Pot-luck nibbles welcome. \$15 at the door.

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND AT HESS KRAMER

There is a possibility that **Beverly & Irwin Barr** will have a folk, line, and contra dance camp with live music and singing over the New Year's weekend. Attendees may have their choice of 3 days, 2 nights or 4 days, 3 nights. We are working on it and will have more information soon. It would be helpful if those interested in attending would contact us. Input is beneficial. Contact: Beverly or Irwin at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

SUE CHEN AND WEN-LI CHIANG AT WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

The West Valley Folk Dancers invite you to come to their June 1 session, where Sue Chen and Wen-Li

Chiang will be teaching Taiwanese folk dances. At Canoga Park Senior Center, 7326 Jordan Ave., 2 blocks north of Sherman Way. Info: (818) 368-1957, JayMichtom@Verizon.net

FRIDAY NIGHT DELIGHT WITH ISRAEL YAKOVEE AND BEVERLY BARR WILL NOT BE MEETING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

For information contact Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

WESTWOOD'S ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 3, 2012, 1:30 - 5:30, Free festival at the Culver City Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

An after-party will be held at Felicia Mahood Senior Center, corner of Corinth and Santa Monica Blvd. in West L.A. \$18 for a catered mediterranean dinner, featuring a large variety of choices, beverages and dessert. Enjoy the evening dining and visiting with friends, and dancing to your requests. After-party begins at 6:00 p.m.

Advance reservations are necessary.

For information and After-party reservations: contact Irwin and Beverly, (310) 202-6166 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

Laguna



present

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SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 7:00 PM

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NUMBERS TO CALL: (949) 675-2199 OR (949) 494-7683



VESELO SELO FOLKDANCERS

42nd ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Saturday, June 16, 2012 - 7:30 to 11:00 P.M.

At the Anaheim Unitarian Church - 511 S. Harbor

Live Music by Eastern Exposure



Driving directions from Harbor Blvd.: From either the North or the South turn West onto Santa Ana Street (the street with the railroad tracks running down the middle). Very shortly after making the turn onto Santa Ana St., look for the first driveway on the left that takes you into the parking lot behind the church.

\$15

For more information

please call

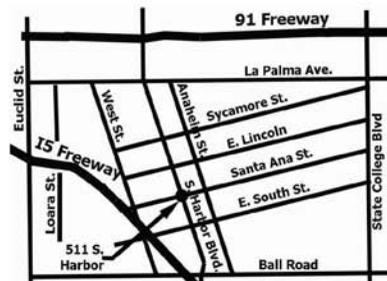
Lu (714) 828-2581

or Nancy (562) 941-0069

<http://www.veseloselofolkdancers.org>

Bring ethnic or gourmet snacks to share.

Wear an ethnic costume if you have one.



Dance with Israel Yakovee

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NEW Beginner Class: 7:30;

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Open Dancing with Teaching: 8:30

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Iwao Tamaoki

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(Argentine Tango)

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Dancers Speak

Quote of the Month

Stifling an urge to dance is bad for your health - it rusts your spirit and your hips.

– Adabella Radici

I have just spent too much time on the internet, trying to find out who Adabella Radici is! All I could find were quotes by this mysterious person, but absolutely nothing about her personal life.

The quote speaks for itself. Dance - just do it! And according to the article in last month's Scene, it not only keeps your spirits up, your hips healthy, but your mind sharp.

Question of the Month

Who is Adabella Radici?

– Sandy Helperin

In response to last month's quote by Ginger Rogers about conversing while dancing, comes this letter:

The quote from Ginger Rogers may be all well and good, but I don't think it applies to folk dancing. Certainly there are many dances we know so well that our motions can be automatic. But, making conversation (or chit chat) with our neighbors in the circle (or line) prevents us from feeling the pleasure of the beautiful and ethnically distinctive music accompanying our dance. I like to "wallow" in the music without hearing distracting conversation. To me, the music is paramount.

– Loretta Carlson

And another one:

Much as I love "catching up on local gossip", when dancing I just want to be in the moment, absorbing the pleasure of the music, the mood, the satisfaction of navigating the patterns. I don't even like when people whistle and/or hum along with the music!

– Brenda Koplin

MARGE @ LARGE, REFLECTIONS & IMPRESSIONS

Kolobration

Kolo + celebration = Kolobration. This word was coined several years ago when St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Church in Alhambra started a yearly dance concert. This concert celebrates the youth in the community as they come together to perform the traditional dances of Serbia. From the littlest "Angeli",

four to six-year olds to high school students, folklore groups from the Serbian churches in So Cal, Fair Oaks, and Phoenix, these dancers wholeheartedly perform in colorful folk costumes.



I have had the opportunity of working with Nadine Krstich, the director of "Angeli" and "Opancici", the two younger groups at St. Steven's. Traditionally, the youngest children perform first at Kolobration and other special dance concerts. They wore a white top with a dark skirt or pants, much like a school uniform. However, Nadine wanted her little dancers to have real costumes. The first

set that I made was from Crnagora (Montenegro). Many of the parishioners are Montenegrins, and when the little ones came out dressed in Montenegrin costumes, the audience was enthralled.

A set of costumes, which I recently completed, is from South Serbia. The pink satin harem-style pants, hot pink brocade floral vest, and long-sleeved white blouses, all trimmed in gold, make these little girls look totally adorable. The boys wear white folksy satin shirts, maroon sashes, and dark baggy pants. This suite has the girls playing the tambourines as they dance, and the boys doing a great shimmy as the dance ends. These "Angeli" are always a hit!

I generally do not criticize the dancing; however, it seemed that every group danced *Cacak*. My main comments are on costuming - and there were some costumes that really need upgrading. Yes, there is still room for improvement.

A similar type of folk dance concert is also held at other Serbian Orthodox churches. It is always an uplifting experience for dancers and audience.

– Marge Gajicki

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