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Folk Dance Scene

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On the cover: Santa Lucia spreading light in the darkness, by naïve artist Marie Jönsson-Harrison





Volume 52, No. 10 Dec 2016/Jan 2017

Editors' Corner

We are pleased to present Elizabeth "Betchen" Barber's ethnographic article as the cover story for this seasonal change. Note the related teacher corner bio.

We wish to thank Marie Jönsson-Harrison for allowing us to use her painting on the cover. You can see more of her work on her website: www.mariejonssonharrison.com.au or on Instagram: @artist.marie.jonssonharrison

Note the appeal in Dancers Speak for your experiences to contribute for a future issue.

We'll be back in February. Happy Holidays.

Be of good cheer!

Pat Cross and Don Krotser

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Teacher Corner

In keeping with our Swedish theme this month, here is a bio of a prominent teacher of Swedish dance, Roo Lester. The information was taken from Dick Oakes' excellent web-site: http:// www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc



"Roo" Lester, a California native, began folk dancing as part of rainy day physical education at school. Raised in what we call a multi-cultural family, she received an early introduction into varying cultural views. A college folk dance class led to a Masters in Dance, with a focus in Dance Ethnology, from UCLA.

While a student, Roo began dancing with the UCLA Yugoslav Performing Group, Betyárok Hungarian Dance Ensemble, and Westwind in Los Angeles. Later she joined the AMAN Folk Ensemble with whom she toured the United States. While living in Colorado, Roo danced with Narodno and the Boulder Scandinavian Dancers. Roo has choreographed dance suites for the AMAN Chamber Ensemble, Westwind in Los Angeles, Živio in Utah, Narodno, the Boulder Scandinavian Dancers in Colorado and the Fermi Lab International Dancers in the southwest suburbs of Chicago.

Roo's work with dance has taken many different paths: Teaching folkdance in the Los Angeles area public schools; three months in the Basque Provinces studying Basque dance; five years as one of the directors of Barátság Hungarian Music and Dance Camp; and working with Alan Alda and Mariette Hartley for an episode of M*A*S*H called "Inga."

Roo has been observing, learning, and studying Scandinavian dance since she saw the Hambo on the dance floor when she was in college. She began teaching Scandinavian dance after her first visit to the San Diego State University Folk Dance Conference where she met Ingvar Sodal.

Since 1983, Roo has traveled extensively in Scandinavia studying dance and participating in

Teacher Corner continued on page 9...

GOD JUL! SWEDISH MIDWINTER CUSTOMS—THEN AND NOW

A Swedish Christmas Visit

It is afternoon, but it has been dark for hours. We push a small sled through the dark woods—yet the snow beneath our feet is so white that we can see easily. The strangely bright darkness coupled with the total silence of the snow makes everything eerily beautiful. In the distance we see tiny spots of light, growing bigger and resolving into lighted candles in all the windows of all the houses. No curtains are drawn shut during this festival of light. As we enter the village, we are engulfed in magic: flickering candles and bright paper decorations everywhere; it is almost Christmas. We linger in the street,

entranced by the wealth of straw figures and carvings of animals, fancy paper Advent stars, tinsel ornaments, and Advent chimes in the shop windows. In one window, the heat of four little candles fixed on a wooden ring



causes a circle of angels above them to rotate, hitting little chimes as they go.

We soon reach and are welcomed into our friend's house and family, with mutual cries of God Jul! As we are helped to doff our boots and wraps, the children run around in great excitement. The Christmas tree is loaded with ornaments woven of straw and little paper tubes or baskets filled with fruit, candy, and pastries, and swathed in strings of little Swedish flags and paper cutout strings of little bears. Pressed into our hands are hot glasses of the traditional Swedish Christmas hot punch, glögg, cooked up from red wine, vodka, sugar, spices, and more. We go to put our presents under the tree with those already there, but our hosts stop us: Have we written our poems? Poems?? In some parts of Sweden, each gift is traditionally accompanied by a little poem giving clever hints as to the contents and who the receiver should be. We laugh and struggle, while the grandmother eagerly replaces any guttering candles with freshly lit ones. Light is everything at this darkest time of year. Because it is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final Sunday before Christmas, the fourth and last Advent candle has been lit in its special candelabra.

In the next room, the *julbord* (Christmas *smorgasbord*) is loaded with every sort of special

Christmas dish. We first pile our plates with fish (of several sorts, from smoked or poached salmon to pickled herring) and potatoes, then return for meat and potatoes, pickled vegetables, red cabbage, beet salad, meatballs, sausage, and more. The Christmas delicacy that excites Grandmother most is dipping a bread called *limpa* into the half-jellied juices under the water-cured Christmas ham, known as *dopp i grytan* or "dipping in the pot." Finally come the sweets and pastries, especially the *pepparkakor* - crisp gingersnaps.

When we are so full we think we can't move, the children demand an old-fashioned ring dance! We stagger to our feet - but moving is good, the dance is simple, and everyone from oldest to youngest joins in, trotting in a circle around the tree or in a line through the house and around the furniture, obeying the directions in the songs: to clap, wiggle ears, wiggle a tail, hop on one foot, pretend to play a fiddle - or, finally, to mime drinking a toast with a Christmas gnome, called a *tomte*: "*Hej, Tomtegubbar, slån i glasen, och låt oss lustiga vara*!" - "Hi, Old Man Gnome, fill the glasses and let's be merry together!" Because

the children believe the *tomte* will bring their presents, before bedtime they make sure that rice pudding is set out for him to keep him happy. Tomorrow w



him happy. Tomorrow will be Christmas.

The Extended Swedish Christmas

The Christmas season in Sweden begins with Advent, which starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. (This year it falls on the earliest date possible, Nov. 27.) On that day, Christmas decorations - especially Advent stars, symbolizing the star of Bethlehem - come out and windows are lit, often with pairs of lamps or candles. Special Christmas markets open in the towns, often as stalls in the main square. But the celebration really begins on Dec. 13, the first day of *jul* (we have the same word with the same pronunciation in English, in the expressions Yule log and Yuletide).

Dec. 13 is Santa Lucia's Day. The central participant in the festival is a young girl dressed up in a white dress with a red sash and wearing a crown of lighted candles set in a wreath originally of lingonberry twigs (now sometimes of silver). Like our

Christmas trees. lingonberry branches are evergreen and thus symbolize new life, just as the whiteclad girl does. First thing in the morning the girl with her flaming crown carries to her parents a tray with a



hot beverage and special buns flavored with saffron and topped with raisins, called *lussekatter* (for a good recipe. see http://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/ st lucia saffron buns/). In earlier times, she carried food and light around to each house in the village and the barns as well, followed by girls as tarnor ("attendants, bridesmaids" - dressed like Lucia but without the candle-crown) and boys dressed up with pointed hats as stjärngossar "star boys." Nowadays a procession, headed by a village-chosen Lucia, typically marches into the church singing "Santa Lucia" (yes, the same song we know!) over and over as they march up and down and all around. After that they might sing more Lucia songs and/or dance the simple ring dances that are also used on Christmas and on the final day of jul. The story of Santa Lucia's life is also told and retold, even acted out: how she wore candles on her head to light her way through dark tunnels as she carried food to persecuted Christians who were hiding there, under her native Italian city of Syracuse, in Sicily, and how she was soon persecuted and killed for her faith. Some say she even was blinded but that God restored her sight, and that she became the one who lights the soul's path after death. And stories are told of how she has brought food to rescue people dying of famine in both Italy and Scandinavia.

Next comes Christmas itself, with its Christmas tree, gifts, and special foods, and light, light, light. Much as in the rest of contemporary Europe and the USA, New Year's Eve is marked with parties and more drink, but this is not really part of the old tradition, since the entire jul-month really marked the end of the old year and the start of the new. The final traditional spike in festivities is the last day of jul, the 20th day after Christmas, Jan 13. On this day the Christmas tree is stripped, any last sweets still on it consumed, and the tree ritually cast out. It is also the final occasion for the ring dances done during jul. The day is technically St. Knut's Day, the St. Knut (Canute) in question being a 12th-century Danish prince who had the misfortune of getting assassinated. But it is better known as Twentieth Day (*tjugondag*, or *tjugondag Knut*), or simply as Casting out the Tree. At that point Christmas season is over.

Historical Background

Long ago, the Scandinavians and other Germanic peoples divided the year into 6 sections, each about two months long. The double-month that ran from mid-November to mid-January was called *Yule* in English, Swedish *jul* (pronounced alike). So when the Swedes wish you "*God jul!*" they are wishing you a Merry Christmas-season. Swedish jul, however, now lasts one month, not two. It begins on Dec. 13 with Santa Lucia's Day and still lasts (like the ancient Yule/jul) into mid-January, specifically till Jan. 13, St. Knut's Day. These two saints' days along with Christmas itself are the three most important days in the traditional month-long midwinter celebration.

Before Christianity existed, jul was viewed as a time when the deities needed all the encouragement they could get to bring back the waning light of the sun. Remember that Sweden is so far north that at midwinter daylight hours are at a minimum (7 hours in the south, zero in the north). If the sun doesn't come back, there will be no crops and no food! So the ancient midwinter rituals consisted primarily of acts analogically showing the divine powers what was needed. Lights were put everywhere possible (bring back the sunlight!), any plants still showing green were brought into the human sphere (make the world green again!), food and alcoholic drink were consumed in abundance (bring us a wealth of food and drink this coming year!)

The missionaries attempting to convert the Scandinavians (and everyone else they met) to Christianity found that it was impossible to abolish such customs. After all, the people quite reasonably viewed their food, their livelihood, as *depending* upon securing light, warmth, and plant growth. The Church found it more effective to co-opt the customs - to sanitize them a bit (removing such things as blood sacrifices and anything sexual) and then rename the festivals for Christian saints, thus bringing the local people's wishes and needs into the embrace of the Church.

The first day of jul, Santa Lucia's Day, is a good example. In Italian, Lucia means "light"; in fact, Santa Lucia, called St. Lucy in English, actually means simply "Holy Light" just like Greek Orthodox Hagia Photia - a theological concept, not a human "saint" at all. In late Roman and early medieval times. however, scribal monks often put together "lives" of saints for the edification of their parishioners, and if a name like Santa Lucia could be interpreted as a saint, but had no biography, s/he was promptly provided with one, as in this case. But because of her name, the bringing of light became one of her principal attributes, a trait highly appealing to northerners. In Scandinavia, her festival has also incorporated customs that once belonged to the ancient life-giving goddesses Freya and Frigg.

Why choose Dec. 13? We employ the Gregorian calendar, which is far more accurate than the old Julian calendar designed in Roman days. When Pope Gregory finally ordered things fixed in 1582. the calendar had slipped a full 11 days out of whack with the sun, so the winter solstice - the shortest day of the year, just before the sun begins to "return" fell on Dec. 13. And that is why the Swedish festival of light, St. Lucia's Day, falls on Dec. 13. Why was it not moved back to the real solstice? Because that day was already taken. When the early Christian organizers chose a day on which to celebrate the birth of Christ, they put it on the winter solstice. precisely to pre-empt for Christianity the time of the most important "pagan" festivals. Note that St. Lucy's Day was marked in England too, whence an old rhyme, "Lucy-light, Lucy-light, shortest day and longest night!"

Ancient solstice customs are still scattered about the Yuletide season. Like us, the Swedes bring in an evergreen Christmas tree, which they decorate and give a place of honor, originally to encourage the greening again of the plant world. As in the USA, this is also the time for visiting people and giving presents - old Roman midwinter customs, now greatly enlarged, from the Roman Saturnalia festival which fell on Dec. 17. Swedish adults also traditionally consume much alcohol. In ancient times the beverages were ale and mead (fermented from honey), consumed in such quantity that the sign for this festival was a barrel of ale in medieval times, and a drinking horn before that. Now the special Christmas drink is hot *glögg*:

Old-fashioned recipe for *glögg*, Swedish hot spiced wine

2 bottles Burgundy or Bordeaux red wine

- 1 bottle vodka
- 1 ¹/₂ cups raisins
- ¹/₂ cup slivered almonds
- 1 ¹/₂ to 2 cups sugar cubes

wrap in 4 layers of cheese cloth:

5 cinnamon sticks

1 tsp peeled cardamom seeds

1 tsp whole cloves

Put red wine, vodka, raisins, almonds, and the cheesecloth bundle in a large covered pan and simmer for 45-60 minutes.

Uncover the pan and bring to just under a boil. Place sugar cubes in large metal strainer. Now ignite the mixture. Hold the strainer above the pan and with a ladle pour the burning mixture through the sugar cubes until all the cubes have dissolved. (This carmelizes the sugar.) You now have *glögg*. *Skoal!*

Elizabeth Wayland Barber

PS: IKEA sells excellent *pepparkakor* in handsome red tins, and many other jul foods, if you wish to get a quick taste of Swedish Christmas!



Typical Swedish Christmas ornaments, including 3 large tomtar (gnomes that bring children gifts) and a straw Yule goat that helps the tomte on his rounds; also strings of paper bears, Swedish flags, and other figures; many little wooden, straw, and yarn figures (goats, pigs, birds, horses, elves, angels, etc.), candlesticks, and cloth hangings. (Courtesy of Sharron and Armand Deny)



Note: Federation events are in bold. CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1 *Ercüment Kılıç* will teach Thursday 1:30 p.m. at Ventura Family YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Road, Ventura, 93003. Info: Valerie Daley 805.647.1634 or dancingvalerie@gmail.com
- 2 *Ercument Kilic* will teach at Friday Night L.I.F.E., Friday, 8-11 p.m. DanceFit LA, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd., West LA 90025. Info: Sherry WorldDance1@gmail.com
- 3 *Ercüment Kılıç* will teach in San Diego. Info: Vicki Mayhew flkdancer@yahoo.com
- 10 Café Aman, Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Alexandru David teaching & music with The Garlic Band, at DanceFit LA, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd., West LA 90025. Info: madelyntaylor@hotmail.com
- 9-10 *Benjamin Millepied & LA. Dance Project* Saturday & Sunday at Ace Hotel Theatre, 929 S. Broadway, Los Angeles. Info: 213.623.3233 or www.acehotel.com/losangeles/theatre
- 11 Culver City English Country Dance, Holiday Dance, Sunday 4-7:00 p.m. Caller: Annie Laskey with music by The Knuckledraggers, at Lindberg Stone House, Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City, CA 90230. Festive dress optional. Info: Kevin Savage 310.650.8570 or www.caldancecoop.org
- 19 West L.A. Folk Dancers' End of Year Holiday Party, Monday, 7:30 p.m.-? at Brockton School. dancingbarrs@yahoo.com
- 31 Pasadena New Year's Eve Party, 8:00 p.m. Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op all-request dance party with recorded music and Fifth Friday Band, Throop Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles, Pasadena. Info: www.PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org or mrayman@alumni.princeton.edu, 818.790.8523 See ad and OTS.
- 31 Veselo Selo's New Year's Eve Party, Saturday 7:30 – after midnight, at Unitarian Church of Anaheim 511 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim 92805. Live music by Interfolk, \$10 Info: Lu Perry – 714.828.2581 or veseloselo1@yahoo.com

JANUARY 2017

- 2 West L.A. Folk Dancers Regular weekly dancing will begin Monday 7:30 p.m. at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave., L.A. 90035. Info: Beverly Barr 310.202.6166, 310.478.4659 or dancingbarrs@yahoo.com
- 15 Pasadena Winter Festival, sponsored by Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op, Sunday 1:30-5:30 p.m. at Scottish Rite Temple, 150 N. Madison Ave., Pasadena 91101. Info: www.PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org or mrayman@alumni.princeton.edu, 818.790.8523 See ad and OTS.
- 22 East Meets West, Chinese New Year Festival sponsored by Cerritos Folk Dancers, Sunday 1 – 5:45 p.m., Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, Cerritos, CA 90703, featured teacher Roberto Bagnoli, \$12. Info: Sue Chen 562.338.2298 See ad and OTS.

MARCH

3-5 *Laguna Folk Dance Festival* Friday to Sunday at Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Parkway (Gate 12), Laguna Woods, CA 92637, featuring Master Teachers: Cristian Florescu, Sonia Dion & Ahmet Luleci. Info & Gate clearance: Miriam 949.770.7026 See ad.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- 1/28 Scholarship Ball "Spread The Joy of Folk Dancing", Saturday, 7 p.m. at the Polish-American Hall, Roseville, \$10 entry fee. See www.folkdancesac.org for more information on dance requests and donations.
- 3/17 & 18 *Camellia Festival*, Polish-American Hall, Roseville.

OUT OF STATE

ILLINOIS

3/24-26 Spring Festival, Chicago. See ad.

FOREIGN

EUROPE FROM A TO Z

7/3-17/2017 *Amsterdam to Zurich!* Sail the Rhine from Netherlands to Switzerland, stopping at Cologne, Mannheim, Strasbourg and Lake Lucerne. Info: Marija & David Hillis, 2147 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94704. See ad. Info:

510.549.0337 or www.folkdanceonthewater.org or folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com

INDIA

11/7-21/2017 led by Lee Otterholt. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com

ISRAEL

3/19-30/2017 *Israel!* Led by Jim Gold with Dr. Joe Freedman. Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed, Golan Heights. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or Jim Gold International

ROMANIA

5/30-6/10/17 or 9/12-23/17 *Ethnographic Trips* to Transylvania, Cluj & Napoca, Romania with Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Info: Sonia dion@hotmail.com or www.soniacristian.net See ad.

Teacher Corner continued from page 3...

dance and music events including testing her skills and dancing in courses and competitions. She has been the American coordinator for several dance and music camps in Scandinavia.

Roo has published a number of lengthy descriptions of Norwegian dances including *Telespringar*, *Hallingspringar*, and *Valdresspringar*. In addition, she wrote a guide to Scandinavian Dance Basics, and has published several articles. Since the time she was in college, Roo has been a dance professional teaching Scandinavian, Hungarian, Spanish Basque, and international folk dance, culture, and crafts to people of all ages throughout the United States and Canada, including colleges and universities.

Among the venues where she has taught are Christmas Country Dance School in Berea, Kentucky; Buffalo Gap; Florida Folk Dance Camp; Folklore Camp in Mendocino, California; Folklore Village in Dodgeville, Wisconsin; Kentucky Dance Institute; Maine Dance Camp; Mainewoods Dance Camp; Ogelbay; Old World Music and Dance Events; Pinewoods; Scandia Camp Mendocino; Scandinavian Week; Texas International Folk Dance Camp; Hardanger Fiddle Association of America; and Stockton Folk Dance Camps.

Roo teaches many different kinds of Scandinavian dance but has focused especially on what she calls the turning dances of Norway and Sweden. Her teaching is infused with a great love of dancing and a



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desire to help others to love it too. Today she is recognized as one of the foremost exponents of Scandinavian dance in the United States.

Roo attended the founding meetings of the National Folk Organization in Utah and became active again a number of years ago. She serves on the board of directors and is currently involved with the NFO's membership and Heritage Award committees.

Roo is a director of Scandia Camp Mendocino, teaches the famous 'Scandinavian Dance Basics' class at Nordic Fiddles and Feet in New Hampshire, and is a consultant for Scandinavian events at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Roo teaches a weekly Scandinavian turning dance class in the southwestern suburbs of Chicago. Her hallmarks include her clear, positive teaching that incorporates background information, styling, and technique and her ability to present the basic concepts of dance to dancers of all levels in a fun and lighthearted manner.

Roo has resided in the southwestern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois since 1988.

Some of the dances Roo has taught include; Baztan Dantza, Hallingspringar, Hambo, Hegi, Långdans från Sollerön, Maiana, Margot's Vals, Polkamasurka, Polska, Rørospols, Røros Ringlender, Schottis från Hammerdal, Smygvals, Stabberinglender, Swedish-Norwegian Waltz, Torpespringdans, Telespringar, Valdresspringar, and Vingelvals.

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

December 1 & 8 Review of dances from our workshop with Ira Weisburd. Also, Narodni has been having a contest to design our new club T-shirt. The winner will be announced on December 1.

December 15 & 22 Beverly Barr will review dances from the Camp Hess Kramer weekend.

December 26 Narodni's Holiday Party.

Our regular meeting night is Thursday at the Bellflower Woman's Club from 7:30 to 10:30. If you want to get on the mailing list to receive our weekly email announcements, you can sign up at narodni@callicomp.info.

For more information contact Julith Neff at 562.881.9504 (cell). You can also visit our website at www.narodni.org for basic information.

Julith Neff

SONIA AND CRISTIAN'S TRIPS TO ROMANIA

Cristian and I are just back from leading our fifth and sixth ethnographic tours to Romania we did this last June and July – and we are enthused as much as the first experience we had four years ago! We are planning two 11-night adventures next year: May 30 to June 10, 2017, and September 12 to September 23, 2017. The cost of the ethnographic tour, including the hotel, ALL meals, all activities and transportation (in Romania), will be \$1725 (USD)/person. (Double room). The price does not include the airfare to Cluj, the travel insurance and your personal expenses.

In collaboration with our co-organizers, Camelia and Nelutu Motoc - the best teachers and specialists of Transylvanian dances, who live in Clui – we are preparing a masterly tour that will be fabulous! The program has authenticity; encounters with villagers to experience their traditional arts, dances and music; time to revel in their hospitality and high spirits; and traditional Transylvanian cuisine, one of the best in the country. And most important, we want all participants to enjoy themselves. The four of us are dedicated and are doing our best to make sure you will be pleased and have a memorable trip. Our hotel is at the centre of the old city, so you or non-dancers are free to visit museums, places of interest and do some shopping. The number of participants is limited to 40 for purely practical reasons: that's how many could fit in the bus. In addition, we feel it is a good number to

create a friendly atmosphere.

To confirm your place(s) please send a personal check of \$325 (USD)/person made out to Sonia Dion, as a first deposit. Send it, no later than January 15, to our home address: 5325 rue de Lamotte, Montreal, QC Canada H4J 1J9. Feel free to contact us if you would like more information or if the dates are not convenient for you.

Cristian and I would dearly love to introduce you to the land of Dracula and share memorable moments with you there. We would like to be able to wish you:

BON VOYAGE!, La revedere!, Cu drag,

Cristian and Sonia www.soniacristian.net

WANT A MIDWEEK AFTERNOON BOOST?

Join the Mountain Dancers on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Woman's Club of South Pasadena, 1424 Fremont Avenue. Enjoy dancing and learning dances with a welcoming group. It's \$5.00 for the session from 1:30 to 3:00, followed by free refreshments.

For more information, call Roz Witt at 626.797.4453.

Roz Witt

WESTWOOD CAMP HESS KRAMER

Sadly, Westwood's annual camp in Malibu will not be possible this coming spring. My committee and I are looking for another venue and will have an update in the next issue of Scene. I hope that a new setting will bring fresh ideas and activities to add to the wonderful times we have had in the past years. Sandy Helperin

EAST MEETS WEST: CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Cerritos Folk Dancers (CFD) will host the seventh annual Chinese New Year Festival on Sunday, January 22, 2017, from 1:00 to 5:45 p.m., at the Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90701.

The theme of the festival is East Meets West. We promote the communication among different folk dance communities. Featured teachers for western and eastern dances are Roberto Bagnoli and Rebecca Tsai.

This event is sponsored by the Folk Dance

Federation of California, South, Inc. Everyone is welcome to the party. Suggested donation is \$12 per person. It is \$10, a 20% discount, if a non-refundable prepayment is received by January 15, 2017. Finger foods and other treats to share with other dancers are encouraged, although not required.

For information, please either contact Sue Chen at 562.338.2298 or write to

CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com. See ad in this issue of Folk Dance Scene.

Wen Chiang

VESELO SELO

Dec 3, the advanced teaching, at 9:00, will be *Pre Picior* taught by Diane Baker.

Dec. 10 Dances for all

Dec. 17 Christmas party

Dec. 24 DARK

Dec. 31 Bring in the new year with Interfolk band.

Jan. 7 Advanced teaching at 9 p.m.

Jan. 14 Dances for all

Jan. 21 Shana Winokur teaching Lesi and Harmonica

Jan. 28 Reviews by Shana

Lu Perry

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

We have a terrific New Year's Eve party planned from 8:00 until 2017 at Throop Church, 300 S. Los Robles in Pasadena (where we usually dance). It will be an all-request program and some live music by the Fifth Friday Band. On Jan. 15, join other residents of the northern hemisphere at our Winter Festival from 1:30 to 5:30 at the Scottish Rite Center, 150 N. Madison Ave. in Pasadena. You can find more information about both events (including the list of dances for the festival) at PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org. (Also, see our ads in this issue). We will be dark on Dec. 30, but our website includes the program and teaching for all the bright Fridays plus other special events and a great deal more handy information.

Marc Rayman



DANCE ON THE WATER

New for 2017!

Europe from A to Z

(Amsterdam to Zurich!) July 3 - 17, 2017

Sail the Rhine from the Netherlands to Switzerland Stops include Cologne, Mannheim, Strasbourg and Lake Lucerne 5 days in Amsterdam with tours selected and led by Maurits van Geel Prices start at \$3,465 (plus airfare; double occupancy)

\$300 Early Bird discount for registrations received by November 30! \$200 Early Bird discount for registrations received by December 31!

Complete information on our website <u>www.folkdanceonthewater.org</u> Please write to get on our email list: <u>folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com</u> Marija & David Hillis 2147 Parker Street, Berkeley CA 94704 (510) 549-0337



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	FRIDAY evening dancing 6:00-11:45 \$\$25 some introductory teaching; live music "DROMIA" \$\$25 SATURDAY workshops 9:00-12:00 and 1:30-5:30 \$\$40 SATURDAY workshops 9:00-12:00 and 1:30-5:30 \$\$40 Saturday DANCE PARITY 5:30-11:45	HOTEL INFO: Ayres Hotel, walking distance - discounts for "Laguna Woods Groups": \$139/night, double occup. incl. full hot breakfast - CALL (949) 588-0131 for other options call Beverly Barr (310) 478-4659	Advance Passport and/or Meal Registration (register individually) Name Advance Passport and/or Meal Registration (register individually) Name Passport - all events
Sc		Advance Passport and/or Meal Name Advance Passport and/or Meal Name Passport - all events\$80 Passport - all events\$11.00 Meals Saturday lunch\$16. O meals Sunday lunch\$16. O may be Sunday lunch\$16. O meals Sunday lunch\$16. O meals Youral check \$ puying Puying puying	

POETRY CORNER

HOW TO CRAFT A HOLIDAY

Season your senses with hope and never mope, Wear a sprig of pine; don't mutter and whine, Take wire-cutters to the blues...choose To dance and sing and laugh at all the *Bling Galore* on every store, lamp-post and more.

Take a walk and talk to folks you don't know, Say *Howdy*! and *Happy Holiday*! and look 'em in the eye, Offer 'em some pie...if you got it... candy would be dandy.

This Christmas or Hanukkah and Kwanzaa too Be the joy and not the moue; Watch your smile beguile; reach out a hand, it's grand! Be a one-man melodeon flash mob 'Cause... crafting a holiday? It's an inside job.

Camille Dull

LIMERICK

(Reader participation required) Bill had just broken up with Valaria, Needed to get out of the area. A folk dancer goes where For a breath of fresh air? (IN UNISON) A Trip to Bavaria.

Carl Pilsecker

FALL IMPRESSIONS

Dead trees With arthritic arms, Weeping trees Shedding yellow tears Waiting for their snow blanket. You'll smile again In the Spring.

Jill Michtom

DANCERS SPEAK

NURTURING NEWBIES

On November 6 the Folk Dance Federation of California, South hosted a beginners' festival, and there are plans and funds available for more aggressive efforts to recruit new and returning dancers. If they are successful, we may be having some new faces show up in our groups. Are we ready to do what it takes to retain them?

We folk dancers know how to make ourselves happy. We have friendships that have endured for decades. We learn new dances quickly and do not need extended practice of basic steps. My personal experience is that retention of new dancers requires a willingness on the part of experienced folk dancers to be flexible in both programming and teaching. These efforts can diminish the joy of folk dancing for established dancers. It is sometimes difficult to dance that fine line between providing a good experience for new dancers and providing a good experience for more accomplished ones.

The Folk Dance Scene is making plans for an issue dedicated to the topic of recruitment and retention of new folk dancers. We welcome your opinions and experiences regarding this topic. What efforts has your group made to bring in new dancers? What efforts has your group made to retain new dancers? What happens when new dancers show up at your groups? If dancers have not returned, do you know why? Let us know by email to the Scene at ds@FolkDanceScene.org.

Jan Rayman



broadens

one!

Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours: 2017

Travel with Folk Dance Specialists: Jim Gold. Lee Otterholt. Joe Freedman. Richard Schmidt

Exciting adventures! Fascinating cultures! Meet the people. Folk dance with local groups, and more!

ISRAEL! March 19-30

Led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Safed, Tiberias, Golan Heights

NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN! June 13-26

Led by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen

POLAND FESTIVAL TOUR! July 21-August 5

Led by Richard Schmidt: Kraków, Rzeszów, Zakopane, Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Olsztyn, Żelazowa Wola, Warszawa

SCOTLAND! August 7-20

Led by Richard Schmidt Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Inverness, Fort William, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond

ROMANIA! August 5-17

Led by Jim Gold Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighetu Marmatiei, Piatra Neamt, Brasov

BALKAN SPLENDOR! October15-28

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina. Montenegro

Custom Tours: If you and a small group want to travel on a custom made, folk travel adventure, contact us! With our extensive knowledge of local conditions and list of contacts, we can hand-tailor a tour exactly suited for your group.

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Come to visit Transylvania with us! Join Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu for an eleven-night adventure



May 30 – June 10, 2017 September 12 – 23, 2017

Contact us for more information <u>sonia_dion@hotmail.com</u> <u>www.soniacristian.net</u> SONIA DION and CRISTIAN FLORESCU in collaboration with CAMELIA and NELUȚU MOTOC are organizing their 7th and 8th ETHNOGRAPHIC TRIPS TO TRANSYLVANIA CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA May 30 – June 10, 2017 and September 12 – 23, 2017

PRICE: 1725\$ USD/person

The price includes:

- Transfer from Cluj-Napoca International Airport to the hotel and return.

- Board and lodging in a 4-star hotel (breakfast, lunch and dinner) double room, private bathroom with shower and bath, Wi-Fi Internet connection. Supplement for single room: 250\$ (USD)

- Classes in Romanian dances with Sonia Dion, Cristian Florescu, Camelia and Neluţu Motoc, master choreographers, accompanied by live music.

- Excursions by bus to villages to meet and join in with the dancers there, visits to museums and other tourist attractions in Cluj-Napoca and surroundings.

- Performances by the DOINA Children's Folk Ensemble, Cluj-Napoca (meeting and dancing with them)

- Performances by the TRADITII Student Folk Ensemble (meeting and dancing with them)

- Gala Dinner on the last evening

- Accompanied by Camelia Motoc, Neluţu Motoc, Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu.

The price does NOT include:

- Flight to and from Cluj-Napoca International Airport

- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses.

BEGINNERS' FESTIVAL

On Sunday, November 6, the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, hosted a Beginners' Festival. Over 80 people attended. The comments from all the beginners were very upbeat and favorable.

Pauline Klak and Shana Winokur were the organizers of the festival. Carol Wall organized the refreshment table and set up many chairs. Ed Klak put up the decorations, maintained and cleaned the food and beverage tables, and helped set up and put away tables, chairs, and equipment. Nancy Mayhew greeted each guest, signed them in and gave out the programs. Diane Baker, Henrietta Bemis, Karen Codman, Marc Rayman, Jan Rayman, Wen-Li Chiang, Sue Chen, Marshall Cates, and Shana Winokur taught. Our teachers taught dance movement, 18 dances, and revealed to everyone the reason why we love to dance - it's so much fun! Among those beginners were 25 Girl Scouts aged 6 to 13. Their leaders and parents were also drawn into the afternoon activities

Scandia, led by Stefanie Holzman, performed four dances from four countries, with great costumes, humor, and grace. Gordon Wall set up and took down the sound equipment and almost everything else! Together, all these people created a lot of good memories for both the kids and the adults in attendance.

Jan Rayman



CAL TECH FOLKDANCERS HOST BULGARIKA

The band for our 2016 Halloween party was Bulgarika, founded by Nikolay Kolev (*gudulka* – vertical bowed strings) and Donka Koleva (vocals), this year including Temelko Ivanov (*kaval* – horizontal flute) and Nikolay Kodzhabashev (*tambura* – plucked strings).

We joined other folklore enthusiasts in bringing Ivanov and Kodzhabashev from Bulgaria for a 4month tour through 23 states, with a weekend at the Oregon camp Balkanalia and 8 appearances in Southern California. The Kolevi now live in Glendale, New York.

We dance on Tuesday nights, so our party was November 1st. Local percussionist Jerry Summers stood in on *tupan* (big two-headed drum).

Bulgarika is particularly inspired by the Trakiiska Troika of the 1960s and 1970s. We did lots of Thracian dances, and some Shope and Macedonian too.

John Hertz gave a lesson first, pointing out what he calls flavor points. He says, if I have this right, "It's not what you look like when you're doin' what you're doin', it's what you're doin' when you're doin' what you're doin'."

People showed up from all over. I believe the evening's distance hero, not counting the band, was Ed Abelson who now lives in Ithaca, New York.

We had some fun costumes, and I gave prizes.

Uncle John Filcich sold CDs and videos. Bulgarika sold CDs of their own, a book, and refrigerator magnets, some in the shape of a *gaida* (bagpipe). Get this music and take it home, people. Listen to it. Make friends with it.

We all must now do without Vassil Bebelekov, the fine Rhodope *gaidar* (bagpiper) who toured and recorded with the Kolevi among many others, settled in northern California, and left for a better place while teaching at Lark Camp in July.

Thanks to everyone who comes to dance. Thanks for your recyclables. These days we're usually home, Dabney Lounge on the Cal Tech campus; everyone wants Dabney, so we're sometimes at nearby Throop Unitarian Church. You can always call me, 626.797.5157, or e-mail franprevas@yahoo.com.



Ensemble Balkanske Igre's 52nd Anniversary SPRING FESTIVAL



March 24-26, 2017

International House, 1414 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637

(Hyde Park/University of Chicago)

Dance and Music of the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Eastern Mediterranean

Enjoy the best in Balkan, Eastern European, and Mediterranean dance, music, and culture with world renowned master teachers...spectacular live music...riveting dance & musical performances. Dance on a sprung oak floor. Sing, jam, and celebrate with friends new and old from coast to coast and Canada!

March 24-26, 2017, Friday, 8pm - midnight / Saturday to Sunday, 9am-5pm Workshops, Party, Culture Sessions with Master Teachers and Artists Keepa Jasim, Nina Kavardjikova, Ahmet Lüleci, Ventzi Sotirov, Chris Bajmakovich, James Stoyanoff, & others. Program subject to change.

SATURDAY EVENING, March 25, 7pm, Concert & Dance Party featuring the finest live music *and dances from all regions of the Balkans and Eastern Europe/Mediterranean*

 Info/Reservations:
 847/331-7842
 or
 847/858-9822

 Balkanske Igre, PO Box
 1157, Chicago, IL 60690
 60690

balkanske_igre@yahoo.com www.balkanskeigre.org

Plentiful housing options near campus; please contact us for details. The Spring Festival is co-sponsored by the International House at the University of Chicago, CEERES, and the Ensemble Balkanske Igre.

Please complete and return to John Kuo, 9201 Mason, Morton Grove, IL 60053 - please make checks payable to: "Balkanske Igre". NOTE: EARLY REGISTRATION + WEEKEND PASS OPTIONS YIELD SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS.

Washingd Data (The state of the state	Student /FDCC General Note: Friday & Saturday evening concert & parties included Seniors in weekend packages; evening dinners & syllabus are extra. Individual workshop admission is \$10/\$12.
Weekend Pass (Fri evening through Sun) Syllabus	\$140\$160 by 1/10/2017 \$150/\$170 by 2/10/2017, \$160/\$180 after 2/10/2017 \$20
Dinner Saturday evening	\$30please check if vegetarian/vegan
Post-festival Sunday dinner/party w/live music	\$40 at a Balkan ethnic restaurant tba
for a total of \$_	
Name	Cell Phone
Address	Other Phone
City/State/Zip	
E-mail Address	



Cerritos Folk Dancers 喜瑞都土風舞社

Chinese New Year's Festival

!! East meets West !!

Presenting Master Teachers **Roberto Bagnoli Rebecca Tsai**

Sunday, January 22, 2017 1:00 to 5:45 P.M.

Cerritos Senior Center 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90701

Suggested donation: \$12 per person at the door (non-refundable \$10 if prepaid by Jan. 15, 2017)

Finger foods to share are welcome, but not necessary

Info: 562-338-2298 Sue Chen Email: CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com

Sponsored by Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc.

CLUB DIRECTORY

Federation Clubs

BAY OSOS FOLK DANCERS Tue 11:00-3:00 LOS OSOS, South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, (805) 534-1501 Anne Tiber

CABRILLO FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:00-9:30 (858) 459-1336 Georgina SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Balboa Park Club, 2144 Pan American

CAFE ASTERIA

3rd Sat 7:30 xorepse@gmail.com (310) 508-9676 WEST LA, LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd

CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS

Tue 6:00 - 8:45 (562) 865-8854 Wen Chiang CERRITOS, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St.

CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS Wed 7:30-9:30 (206) 849-1190 Marie Montes THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr

FANTASY FOLK DANCE CLUB

Sun 3:00 - 6:30 (626) 458-8851 Sophie Chen MONTEREY PARK, St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd Fri 7:30-10:30 (626) 429-9008 Vincent Cheng ALHAMBRA, S. CA Chinese Broadcasting Inc, 3000 W Valley Blvd

INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB -LAGUNA WOODS

Tue 9:00am-11:00 (949) 454-0837 Frieda Gorelick LAGUNA WOODS, Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon

KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING

Fri 8:30-11:30 (310) 508-9676 Anne Sirota SHERMAN OAKS, The Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Avenue

LAGUNA INT'L DANCERS Wed 6:00-8:30. Sun 7:00-10:00 (949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn LAGUNA WOODS, Call for location.

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 (562) 404-4383 Julith Neff BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Fri 7:30-10:30 mrayman@alumni.princeton.edu (818) 790-8523 Marc Rayman PASADENA, Throop Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles(at Del Mar)

PRESCOTT INT'L FOLKDANCERS

Sun 3:00 - 5:00 (928) 925-8995 Dick Weston PRESCOTT: First Congregational Church, 216 E. Gurley St.

RAINBOW SENIOR CLUB Sun 2:30 - 6:30 (626) 456-1900 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. Sun.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS OF VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA

2nd & 4th Sat 2:00-5:00 (805) 604-9608 Madeleine SANTA PAULA, Briggs Elementary School 14438 W. Telegraph *1st Sun 3:00* (805) 403-9862 Gene Lerner SANTA BARBARA, First Presbyterian Church, 21 E Constance Ave

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.)

SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS

Sat 6:30-8:30 except 3rd Sat 1:00-3 (805) 688-3397 David Heald SOLVANG, Bethania Lutheran, 603 Atterdag Rd. (3rd Sat) Corner Alisal & Copenhagen

TUESDAY GYPSIES Tue 7:30-10:30 (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 One Sat per month 8:16 - 12:00 (818) 881-7494 noon-midnight, Louis dovbyrd@aol.com SHERMAN OAKS, Anisa's School of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd.

WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS

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

WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Fri 7:15-10:00 (818) 348-6133 Lila Aurich CANOGA PARK, Senior Center 7326 Jordan Ave

WESTCHESTER LARIATS Mon 3:00-8:30 (310) 641-0669 Carrie McClune 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

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 Rec. Center 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 7:30-8:30 madelyntaylor@hotmail.com ianprice@hotmail.com WEST LA, LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd

CAL TECH FOLKDANCERS Tue 7:30 (626) 797-5157 Nancy Mulligan PASADENA, Cal Tech Campus, Dabney Hall, parking off Del Mar **CLAREMONT ISRAELI DANCERS** Mon 7:00-10:00 (909) 921-7115 Yael CLAREMONT, Masonic Lodge, 272 W. 8th St.

DESERT DANCERS Thu 7:30-9:30 (760) 371-5669 Nora Nuckles RIDGECREST, Hi Desert Dance Center 725 S. Gateway St.

DESERT INT'L FOLK DANCERS Thu 7:30-9:30 Oct.-May (760) 342-1297 Helen Smith PALM SPRINGS, Leisure Center Dance Studio, 401 S. Pavilion Way

ETHNIC EXPRESS Wed 6:30-8:45 except holidays (702) 732-4871 Richard Killian LAS VEGAS, East Las Vegas Community Ctr, 250 N. Eastern Ave.

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 L.A., Pan Pacific Senior Center, 141 S. Gardner St, Thu 10:15-11:45am

FRIDAY NIGHT L.I.F.E. Fri 8:00-11:00 www.lifebalkandancers.com worldance1@gmail.com Sherry WEST L.A., LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd

ISRAELI DANCING-James Zimmer Wed 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 Mon 7:00-11:30 Beginners at 7:00 SAN DIEGO, Infinity Sport Dance Center, 4428 Convoy St

KAYSO FOLK DANCERS Fri 9:30am-12:00 (619) 463-7529 Joe Sigona SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 206 St

SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCERS Mon 7:30-9:30 (858) 278-4619 Jeanne Cate 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 Kerckhoff Hall

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