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Folk Dance Scene

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On the cover: **Photo 9**: Three married Karagouna women from the village Sofades, around 1930, wearing the typical coin-embellished headdress. Note also the heavy jewelry of chains looped from shoulder to chest. From A. Hatzimichali, *The Greek Folk Costume*, vol. 2 (Athens, 1984). The cover photo is fig. 73, p.79.





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Editors' Corner

The lead article cover photo is credited in the caption on page 2, the illustrations are from the same source—The bride is fig. 138, p. 132, and the color photo in the market is fig. 92, p 96.

Thanks to Betchen for this, and the Costume Corner - where the illustrations are her own photos.

We are still in pandemic, with hopeful openings, but backslidings imminent. Check for activities in Fall Camp, Calendar, and On the Scene; as well as Reopening.

Read what your colleagues have to say in Dancers Speak, Poetry Corner, and Federation Minutes.

Be of good cheer-and be safe ...

Pat Cross and Don Krotser

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For information about dancing in the area, contact the Federation at the Federation website: SoCalFolkdance.org

FOLK DANCE -- OUR HAPPY HABITS

Needing an audio book in haste to entertain me thru mundane chores, I checked out The Power of *Habit*, by Charles Duhigg. The author explains how habits are built: stimulus cues, followed by routine of actions, followed by reward, Epiphany! Dancer hears 1st notes of musical introduction (cue), feet step into the dance pattern, dancer feels rewarded by the satisfaction of doing step correctly. Each step in the sequence cues the next step pattern, etc. etc. That explains how my feet start moving before my head remembers the name of the dance. Sometimes my memory falters at the beginning so I start to dance at the figure I do recall. Usually the entire sequence soon falls into place. The reward-feelings of pleasure, pride or satisfaction -strengthens the automatic memory of the dance. This bit of neural wizardry that creates habits is all accomplished, thanks to the basal ganglia - a collection of various nuclei in our brains-- that regulate and control skeletal muscles. Frogs and lizards also have a basal ganglia to facilitate automatic behavior, but, lacking a highly developed motor cortex, can never learn to folk dance.

Dance facilities re-opening this summer made me aware of Folk Dance as a habit on a grander scale. The calendar indicated that it was dance night at Narodni. (cue) Gathering my dance bag, negotiating traffic, signing in, greeting friends, dancing to familiar tunes, ignoring announcements to look up requests, saying cheery good byes (action routines) all fell into place. Driving home I savored the reward—immense joy at moving in unison with beaming folks on that familiar wooden floor. I'm grateful for all the folks who share my happy habit, and for the scientists who created the vaccines that allow us to resume dancing! See you in Ojai, at Fall Camp and on dance floors around SoCal.

Postscript: Dick Oakes sends greetings from Maui. He's back at work on the Federation website, Socalfolkdance.org, where you can download a scholarship application to attend camps & workshops.

Diane Baker, Federation President

Karagouna

Ajde Karagou-, -gouna, Karagouna! Ajde me sayia, me sayia ke me sigounia!

"Come, Karagouna! Come, with your sayia and your sigounia!" So starts a Greek song we Californians learned to dance to, some 60 years ago. There are several versions of the song; and the dance we learned then was somewhat choreographed. So too are several other versions of the dance that have been introduced since then. So what is the right dance? The problem is that Greek dances are generally freeform, starting from a rather simple base well known among the residents of each particular village—and each village does things a bit differently. In fact, they instantly know you're not from *their* village if you don't do it their way! But let's go back to the beginning: Who or what is "Karagouna"?





Map of lower Balkan peninsula, showing position of **Greece** (light yellow), and **Thessaly** (red) within Greece.

Map of Thessaly. The Karagounides live mainly in the southern and western portions: around the towns of Kardítsa, Palamás, and Fársala. (The costume featured here is from the Karditsa area.) Note, too, the Pindus Mts. along the western edge of the province.

Karagoúna (feminine singular), plural *Karagounídes* or *Karagounis*, refers to a particular group of people farming in

Thessaly, the largest agricultural plain in Greece (see **Maps**). They form most of the population in the areas of Kardítsa, Sofádes, Palamás, and Fársala. Those who were shepherds used to move their flocks to the cooler, greener Pindus Mountains to the west for the summer months, setting out on St. George's Day (April 23), then returning in the fall so their sheep and goats could glean and fertilize the family grain fields all winter. Thus the love-sick singer of our song, in some versions, complains that the Karagouna girl hasn't written to him—clearly one of them is away:

Ajde perase ena kalokeri Ajde ke de mou, de mou 'stiles khamberi. Come, one summer has passed And you haven't sent me any news!

In another, he offers to sell his sheep or goats to buy her finery, such as a silk *sigoúni. Sigoúni, sigoúnia,* or *goúna,* refers to a type of heavy felted-wool overcoat forming part of the costume of girls in most of Greece, especially in winter. Indeed, the most commonly suggested etymology of *Karagouna* is "black coat," *gouna* being "coat" and *kara* the common Turkish word for "black." (See this month's **Costume Corner** for the costume.) The Karagouna costume is built around a *sayiá* (or *saia, saya*), and in referring to these garments the singer is alluding to the fact that the Karagounis tended to keep to themselves and continue their ancient

peasant traditions. The girl is instantly recognizable by her beautiful and quite distinctive handmade costume. (Photos a and b)



Photo a: Karagouna bride from roughly a century ago, "on show" before the wedding. She wears probably 50 to 70 pounds of wedding finery, standing with suitably modest downcast eyes.

> Photo b: Karagouna women from Karditsa on market day. The typical short vest couched in predominantly orange cord is just visible under the fringes of the woman's black head-scarf, but the long black tassels on her sleeves and black fringe around the hem are quite clear. For marketing, the far woman wears a simple white cotton every-day apron, with only a little decoration at the bottom, instead of her fancy woolen festive apron.



Many theories have been put forward as to the origin of this distinctive group: that they

were originally transhumant shepherds related to the Romance-speaking

Vlachs, or that they migrated from Albania as Arvanites. But they speak only Greek (unlike the Vlachs and Arvanites), even if a non-mainstream dialect of Greek. No one can agree on whence they came—perhaps genetic information will eventually give more solid clues.

The "Karagouna" dance(s) we do, and the steps, are certainly based on the dances done by the Karagounis. But those who bring us such information recognize that our groups function very differently from dancers in traditional Greek villages. There, everyone knows the basic step for a given dance (which may have several possible tunes), and also some variations which can be done as wished—usually by the leader, who may have paid the musicians and thus has the right to do anything he wants. (Yes, *he.*) If he is feeling full of *kéfi* (a wonderful Greek concept referring to feeling really good, and ready to—how shall I put it?—let off steam, show off, kick up a storm, have a ball,...), he can do as many variations as he likes, and the rest of the line can either imitate him or continue doing the basic steps. But in our California groups we are unaccustomed to instant improvisation and feel much more comfortable and unified if we are all doing the same thing at the same time. So our teachers helpfully pre-choreograph known steps into a specific order for us. (This difficulty is most apparent with Rom/Gypsy dances, for there the dancers make up almost everything as they go along, each starting from his or her own favorite moves.) Fortunately—and this may be part of why the dance has lasted here—the music is in a fairly slow 2/4 rhythm, suitable for simple *syrtós*, *sta-dío*, and *sta-tría* steps as well as other steps specific to this dance.

And of the various words in the songs, at least one version seems to end happily:

Am'pos da, am'ti da, sto parathyri s'ida. Am'pos da, am'ti da, s'agapisa, se pira. Yes indeed, of course: I saw you at the window. Yes indeed, of course: I loved you and I married you!

-Elizabeth Wayland Barber

COSTUME CORNER

Karagouna

The Karagouna costume is a particularly handsome one, which was still being worn in the mid 20th century (*Photo 1*). When I was a student living in Greece in 1962, I saved up my drachmas to buy the stunning embroidered bottom of a Karagouna girl's *sayia* that I saw in the "flea market", and five years later, my mother (who had a remarkable memory for form and color) found me a matching apron while travelling in Greece (see *Photo 8*). Each time I returned, I searched out and bought another piece until, by 1985, there was no more to be had. All the lovely old costume pieces were gone, and the traditional jewelry had disappeared long before that—I never saw any for sale at all, ever.

The foundation garment of the outfit is a white chemise (*pokámiso*) of heavy, handwoven linen or cotton, the hem and sleeve-ends of which are edged in black (*Photos 2, 3*). The hem has row after row of black silk embroidery anchoring a 3-to-6-inch fringe of thickly plied black silk. Similar black (or sometimes red) embroidery edges the ends of the sleeves; but instead of a mere fringe to finish, the sleeves end in several very long, thick silk tassels remnants, apparently, of the 20,000-year-old European custom of marking women of childbearing age with black or red fringes and tassels.

Atop the chemise goes the *sayiá*, a sleeveless coat with flared skirt, again of heavy white handwoven linen or cotton (*Photo 4*). (One village, however, distinguishes itself by hand-dyeing the whole garment blue with woad.) The top, vest-like part may be of thinner black cloth or of white linen heavily embroidered in black, while the full skirt (whether white or blue) is usually edged with red cloth and/or embroidered. Sometimes the embroidery forms two large square panels adorning the front corners, but more often it runs in a thick strip all the way around. More about this distinctive embroidery presently. Highly ornamented, detachable sleeves may be added on, over those of the chemise, for especially formal occasions (see *Photo 1*).

These body-garments are then belted and topped with an apron (*podiá*) and a vest (*yeléki*). For heavy work, the apron may be fairly plain white linen, but for any more formal or festive occasion the women proudly wear a long, dark, handsomely embroidered

Continued on page 9.



Photo 1: A typical Karagouna festive costume with all the heavy chain-jewelry, displayed in a museum in Corinth, Greece (under difficult photographic conditions!). This outfit also has removable red sleeves with gold-embroidered cuffs attached to the *sayia*, and much wider than usual black embroidery up the sleeves of the chemise (above the long tassels, which here are both black and red). Another Karagouna apron hangs on the wall behind.



Photo 2: White chemise or *pokámiso* of heavy, handwoven cotton that forms the foundation or main undergarment of the Kara-gouna costume. The sleeve-ends are edged in a band of black silk embroidery which anchors 4 very long silk tassels, while the bottom of the chemise is edged with more black embroidery and a thick fringe of long cords of plied black silk.

Photo 3: Thick black embroidery and fringe at the bottom of the chemise.





Photo 4: The sayiá, a sleeveless coat-like garment with bodice-like top and flared skirt which goes over the chemise. This one, from Karditsa, has a heavy white cotton skirt but a much thinner black bodice of polished cotton. The hem and front opening of the skirt are faced with red fabric, while the bottom edge is covered with an elaborately worked strip of embroidery-technically, couching-done predominantly in orange, with touches of green, blue, maroon, black, and white, the same bright colors used on the vest.

Photo 5: Apron (*podiá*) for festive occasions. The fine woven wool, here a typical maroon, is traditionally divided into a long rectangle and two skinny triangles, forming a distinctive shape quite unusual in the Balkans. The short trapezoid at the top, of dark green velvet, rests on the stomach over the belt. The broad bands of couching on this fine example from Karditsa use the same colors and patterns as the vest.



woolen apron, the trapezoidal shape of which is distinctively Karagounian (*Photos 1, 5*). Its decoration is typically laid out with a long rectangle down the middle, leaving a wedge-shaped panel on each side, while another trapezoid running horizontally at the top, with a loop at each corner, serves for attachment to the woven woolen belt-band. Maroon and/or black, with predominantly orange or gold embroidery, form the most common color schemes for these aprons, although deep blue and even emerald green may be seen.



Photo 6: Back of the short vest (veléki), so denselv covered with embellishment that the base fabric is invisible. The little square in the center is covered with heavy white damask and small strips of black and green lace; the armholes and other edges are covered with the same maroon wool as forms the apron. Most noticeable, of course, is the vast amount of orange cord couched onto the surface, with bits of blue, green, and red forming the designs.



Photo 7: The front of the *yeléki* is also covered with predominantly orange embellishment, couched in the same patterns as the back. (The inside of the vest is the one place we can see the base fabric, and also some of the red threads used to couch the cords on the outside.) As there are no buttons or hooks to close the vest, the two long tabs can be tucked into the belt as stabilizers. The chain jewel-ry strung across the front is not original but is of roughly the right type—just nowhere near enough or sufficiently large and elaborate!

These same colors, but especially orange, are used to completely cover the short vest or veléki with embroidery (Photo 6, 7). What I've been calling embroidery, on the savia, apron, and vest, however, is actually done in a technique called *couching*. Here one creates the embellishment using plied colored cords too thick to pull through the fabric (Photo 8). These cords are laid or "couched" (from French coucher "to lay down") in patterns on the surface of the fabric, then stitched down with a fine thread-which doesn't show because it pierces the couched cords halfway down. On the inside of the vest you can see some of these anchoring threads (see Photo 7)—but not on the apron, because it has been carefully backed with plain red fabric so as to look tidy when flipping around in the breeze (or the dance).

The vest is notable both for being very short and for having two long tabs sticking down in front. These are used to secure the vest by tucking the tabs into one's belt in front, because (unlike other short Balkan vests) it has no buttons, hooks, or other fasteners. Like other vests from the Central Balkans, however, in areas heavily influenced by Turkish attire, the vest is entirely covered with the couching so that it is impossible to see the base fabric anywhere (except inside). Even the distinctively Karagounan rectangle in the center back doesn't reveal the base fabric, for it is covered with a small applied patch of fancy cloth.

Karagounan headwear is also guite distinctive (Photos 1, Cover). What one sees is a dark scarf wound around the head and bound on at an angle by an ornamental chain from which dangles a row of coins. The angle seems rakish, but it is always the same angle: and the scarf seems puffed up, but it is generally puffed the same way-all of which suggests that a careful and traditional arrangement of hair and fabric underlies what shows. Indeed, there is much traditional iewelry attached to this costume on festival days and especially at weddings: fancy belt-buckles, earrings, necklaces of beads and coins, and especially numerous gold, silver, and brass chains looped from one side of the vest-front to the other and



Photo 8: Close-up of the couched designs: bottom of apron on left, bottom of *sayia* on right (author's collection).

across the back of the headdress. All in all, the Karagouna festive costume is one of the handsomest and most distinctive in Greece.

-Elizabeth Wayland Barber

FALL CAMP

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL CAMP

A fun-filled weekend of socializing with your (and our!) dance friends, lots of dancing, music, many other activities, comfortable motel-style rooms, and great food is in store for Fall Camp on Nov. 12-14. Master teachers Roberto Bagnoli (international) and Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu (Romanian) will teach exclusively at Fall Camp, appearing at no groups or other events while they are in Southern California.

Fall Camp will be on the beautiful rural Brandeis-Bardin Campus near Simi Valley (40 miles northwest of downtown LA) where more than 90 dancers had a terrific time at Fall Camp 2019.

In the interest of the well-being of all campers (and others), all participants must provide us with proof of full vaccination. The staff at Brandeis-Bardin will be fully vaccinated as well.

A registration form is in the center of this issue. It isn't hype to say camp may fill up quite soon. Space is limited, and with so many dancers full of both pent-up enthusiasm and coronavirus antibodies, we expect to sell out quickly.

If the pandemic forces camp to be canceled, you will receive a full refund. If you cancel for any reason prior to September 4, we will refund all but \$25 of your payment. We cannot guarantee refunds if you cancel after that date.

Since Fall Camp 2019, Brandeis-Bardin has come under new management, and their prices have risen considerably. Other costs of conducting camp (including the nice dance floor we rent) have also increased. We have worked hard to limit the increase in the registration fees to about 20%, and that does not cover our costs. Therefore, we would appreciate your considering making a donation to Fall Camp, but it is not necessary.

What is necessary is that you register soon and get ready for a great Fall Camp. For additional information, visit <u>FallCamp.org</u> or email <u>Dance@FallCamp.org</u>.

- Marc Rayman





For single occupancy : Would you like us to try to find a same-gender roommate for you? YES NO (circle one) Male Female (circle one) Night owl Morning lark (circle one) (You will be charged the single occupancy rate, but if we find a roommate and you both agree to it, then we will refund you \$145.)	one) e
NameEmail	
Mailing address	
Phone(s)First name for badge	
Name(s) of roommate(s)	
We will try to accommodate special dietary requirements	
Emergency contact Phone(s)	
Proof of vaccination is <u>required</u> for attendance. Please enclose a copy of your vaccination card or email a copy of it to Dance@FallCamp.org.	<u> </u>
Please complete a <u>separate form for each camper</u> , and mail the form(s) and a check to:	
Fall Camp 4827 Grand Ave. La Cañada, CA 91011-2324	
Make your check payable to Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc.	
For questions, contact Jan & Marc Rayman at Dance@FallCamp.org or 818-790-8523.	

Note: Federation events are in bold.

- **ONLINE:** Events are often scheduled with little lead time and may be canceled or postponed on short notice.
- Dale Adamson hosts a Google calendar of online events with weekly classes and special events. https://daleadamson.com/events-calendar/ and Aaron Alpert maintains a list of Israeli dance online at http://www.nirkoda.com/virtual The EEFC maintains a calendar of events including camps and dance and music lessons at https:// eefc.org/calendar/

FOLK DANCE GROUPS MEETING ON ZOOM

- LIFE Balkan Dancers on Fridays, 8-11 pm. Contact Sherry Cochran at worldance1@gmail.com for the link and password. Will be hybrid - online and in person at LADanceFit
- Laguna International Dancers. Holds regular Zoom dance event Sunday evening from 6-8. We open the waiting room at 5:45 and let people chat and socialize until we start dancing at 6. The teacher/dance leader is Lee Otterholt. The first half hour is teaching and dancing of easier dances and the last hour from 7 to 8 includes teaching and dancing of some more challenging dances. In person dancing Wednesday at Clubhouse 2 on the patio.
- The Folk Arts Center of New England is continuing its workshops with master teachers. Saturdays to be announced at 11 am http://www.facone.org/ programs-online-events.html
- *Ethnic Dance Chicago, Illinois* Fridays at 7:30 -11 CDT (5:30 - 9 pm Pacific Time) 1st half hour warm ups, discussion, with more discussion following after 8 pm Pacific Time. Schedule and info at www.ethnicdance.net/virtualdanceroom/
- Cerritos Folk Dancers. Cerritos Folk Dancers conduct virtual classes through Zoom every Tuesday evening, from 6:00 to 8:45. It is open to the public. Donation is \$4 each time. Other options to donate are available. The first time participating in CFD's Tuesday class is free of charge. Contact

CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com for the weekly playlists and other details.

The Peninsula Dancers from Northern CA will continue Zoom sessions every 3rd Saturday of

the month from 3-6:30, also broadcast on their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ PFDCouncil/ Check with

virtualfolkdance@gmail.com or check the Facebook page for the Zoom link.

- Tuesday Night Revival (Boston MIT) meets every 3rd Saturday, 5-8 pm Pacific Time https:// tuesdaynightrevival.com/ or join Zoom at https:// tinyurl.com/tnrzoom
- San Diego Folk Dancers have returned to in person dancing only. http://folkdancecenter.org/ newsletter.html
- *Roberto Bagnoli* holds Israeli and Balkan dance parties from Rome, often on Sunday mornings and/or weekdays at noon. Check his webpage http://morenu.it/ for the current schedule and Zoom links.
- Kypseli has been presenting Greek dance and music sessions on Zoom on occasional Saturdays, sometimes from Greece. Information will be on their Facebook page and website www.kypseli.org
- Ira Weisburd teaches line dances and hosts a Balkan-Israeli Session, usually recorded for later viewing. Donations requested. https://www.facebook.com/ dancewithira Ira's classes are now broadcast on his YouTube Channel - his Facebook page redirects to: https://www.youtube.com/user/ iraweisburd
- Vintage Israeli Dance is hosting monthly Zoom meetings. Email vintagedancing@aol.com for the dates and Zoom link or return to in person dancing.

AUGUST

(July 23- Aug 1) **Stockton Folk Dance Camp** (virtual) http://www.folkdancecamp.org/

- 13-15 EEFC Virtual East Coast Camp https://eefc.org/
- 21 Orkestar Pečurka Balkan and Anatolian dance music. At Pocock Brewing, 24907 Ave Tibbitts B, Santa Clarita, CA 91355. 7 pm. https:// www.facebook.com/events/209670454258010

SEPTEMBER

4 Orkestar Pečurka and Swing Riots Quirktette at TRiP Santa Monica, 2101 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica CA. 8-10 pm

- 4-6 Long Beach Greek Festival, live music with the Olympians http://www.lbgreekfest.org/#welcome
- 10-12 San Diego Greek Festival http:// sdgreekfestival.com
- 18-19 *Ďowney Greek Festival*, CANCELLED 10830 Downey Avenue, Downey, CA 90241
- 24-26 South Bay Greek Festival, 722 Knob Hill Ave, Redondo Beach, CA. https://www.facebook.com/ sbgreekfestival/ (tentative)
- 25-26 Šan Juan Capistrano Greek Festival https:// www.sjcgreekfest.org/

OCTOBER

2 **Socal Folk Dance Federation** event in Ojai at the Art Center, 10 am - 5 pm. See OTS.

- 17 *Macedonian Festival* at St. Mary's, Whittier details forthcoming.
- 22-24 St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Greek Festival, Camarillo Airport, 555 Airport Way, Camarillo, CA https://www.vcgreekfestival.org/

NOVEMBER

12-14 Fall Camp. Roberto Bagnoli, Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu. See article. Info: Dance@FallCamp.org, https://fallcamp.org

OUT OF STATE

AUGUST

- July 29-Aug 1 August Camp with Lee Otterholt (instead of Jaap Leegwater due to visa problems), Bruce Hamilton teaching English Country Dances. On the campus of New Mexico Tech. https://www.swifdi.org/
- 15-22 Mainewoods Dance Camp, 2 Sessions in person https://www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org/

SEPTEMBER

23-26 *Tamburitza Extravaganza*, Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131 https:// www.tamburitza.org/

24-26 Boulder Int Folk Dancers Annual Workshop -Israeli dancing with Shmulik Gov-Ari, The Avalon, 6185 Arapahoe Road, Boulder CO 80303 https:// www.boulderfolkdancers.org/eventsworkshops/2021/bifd-shmulik-gov-ari-2021workshop

30-Oct 2 World Camp https://www.worldcamp.us/ Iroquois Springs camp, Rock Hill, New York

NOVEMBER

26-28 Texa-Kolo information will be posted at https:// kolofestival.org/ and http://tifd.org

FOREIGN ALBANIA

- 5/4-16 POSTPONED to 5/1-11/ 2022. *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Includes Tirana, Durres, Viora FD Festival, Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra. Extension 5/16-18. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.
- 9/25-10/9 Dance-Cultural tour to Albania, Macedonia, Greece. Info: Jeff O'Connor, tours.easterneurope@gmail.com, or Steve Kotansky, stephenkotansky@gmail.com

BULGARIA

8/2-15 *Koprivshtitsa Festival Tour*. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

CENTRAL EUROPE

6/14-27/2023 Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour to Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Switzerland. Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt and Lee Friedman. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

GREECE

8/6-17 35th Greek Traditional Dance Seminar -Yannis Konstantinou https://www.facebook.com/ events/502333614528652/

10/9-22 *Tour of Greece and Greek Islands*. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt. Athens, Sparta, Delphi, etc. plus cruise to islands. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

HUNGARY

10/12-23 Hungary Dance and Folklore Tour III. Budapest and NW Hungary. Info: Jeff O'Connor, tours.easterneurope@gmail.com, or Steve Kotansky, stephenkotansky@gmail.com

IRELAND

8/5-17/2023 Tour led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

ISRAEL

3/13-24/2022 or Germany in June *Tour led by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman and Lee Friedman.* Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN

6/8-21 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

ROMANIA

10/3-16/2022 Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

SPAIN

9/14-27/2023 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS

June 17, 2021 – Narodni came back to life again. (See report under Reopened Clubs).

July 2021 – we hope to welcome more dancers each week as the world returns to normal. We require that dancers be vaccinated. After that, you dance at your own comfort level: holding hands or not, 6 feet apart or not as you wish. (Bring a mask: local requirements change.) Programming is allrequest for the time being and we need to elect a new slate of officers before the month is out.

Our regular meeting night is Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Bellflower Woman's Club. If you wish to be added to our mailing list, you can sign up at <u>Narodni@callicomp.info</u>. You can contact our website at <u>www.narodni.org</u> for basic information. Any questions? Call Julith Neff at (562) 881-9504.

Julith Neff

DANCING IN PERSON AT FALL FEDERATION EVENT

The Art Center in Ojai is reserved for us to dance together on Saturday, October 2 from 10 am until 5:00 p.m.

Of course, the event will not take place if new Covid variants once again disrupt life and the California Department of Public Health dis-allows social gatherings.

More details forthcoming as plans develop. Please put the date on your calendar and think about what dances you'd like to be on the program.

Diane Baker, President

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op has been dancing, live, together, and in person, and we'd love for dancers from our sister clubs in the Federation to join us.

Our June and July gatherings have been for fully vaccinated people only. We were dancing at an alternate time and location in June, but starting July 9, we're back in the Altadena Community Church in Altadena for Friday night dancing from 7:30 till 10:30. We've been doing programmed dances from our repertoire plus requests--with brief reviews of some of the dances (but no full teaching sessions so far).

It's hard to say as of this writing exactly what will

happen in August, other than to say we'll be dancing. Please visit our website for details: <u>https://</u> <u>www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org</u> Also you can use the Contact page there if you'd like to sign up for our mailing list.

> Mari Werner Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op Publicity

INVITATION FOR NEXT DANCE FESTIVAL / COM-PETITION IN BARCELONA (SPAIN) 2022!

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To find out how to qualify, mail the office: in this year space has been limited and many groups have failed to register, so Directors should act right away for next year 2022.

For Program and Fee: <u>europechoreo-</u> <u>award@gmail.com</u>



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Membership application available on line at <u>www.folkdance.com.</u> Pay on-line or send application with check to Marsha Rosenblatt, Membership, 927 Springfield Drive Millbrae, CA 94030

DANCERS SPEAK

DICK OAKES HAS MOVED

New address: 30 Pahaa PI., Makawao, HI 96768-8720 (this is the mail address; our house is in Pukalani))

Land Line: 808-572-9690

Mobile Ph: 808-633-7267

Take care while I live it out in paradise!

Cheers,

Dick Oakes

MAYBE IT'S IN THE MUSIC

Some months before the pandemic, over a couple of weeks, I asked seven dancers in the LID club who had started IFD within the last three years – "Why did you come back after your first time here?" Six out of seven's first reply was "The Music." (For the other, music was second on the list). I was surprised and puzzled. Not our friendly faces? Not our camaraderie? Not ethnic ties? Not even the highquality teaching (although that did get mentioned a number of times)? The dancing, itself, was typically pretty far down the list, if mentioned at all. Huh?

Now for me, four years before, the music was the draw. Mindy and I had stumbled into IFD at a Camp Hess Kramer New Year's weekend, put on by Beverly and Irwin Barr, whom we had met outside of IFD. I heard special, World-class music that I did not get to hear anywhere else. But that was me, I'm a weird nerd. Surely that wouldn't be true for other, sane, normal people, would it?

As time passed, I'd reflect on those responses, and they made more and more sense. Think about it: If you're middle-aged with limited dance ability, learning so-called "easy" dances is darn difficult. Your feet are not connected to your brain. And if you've put in a good hard day at a job, and then a 20-some mile commute in heavy traffic, as I used to, learning dance steps that evening requires huge mental effort. I couldn't retain anything without some homework. Still can't.

The folks I interviewed first came into the hall knowing no IFD dances, although some had other

experience, such as ballroom dance. It would be months before they could relax and enjoy a decent number of dances. At first, they did not know us; we did not know them. None had a particular interest in the culture and history of the places these dances came from. Why would they enjoy the sessions enough to come back, and keep coming back? Realistically, there could only be one reason – the music.

For dances I program at the Laguna Woods IFD Club (Not LID, but a smaller, older club) I try to buy commercially-available digital downloads from Amazon, iTunes, or CD Baby, or physical CDs. \$1.29 is such a small price to pay for a clean, clear track. And, it supports the musicians and the infrastructure that makes this music possible.

I think it fair to say not all clubs invest in music and equipment. We should expect non-dancers to repeatedly tolerate hours and hours of old, scratchy recordings, played on poor equipment at uncomfortable volumes? Digitized bad recordings are still bad recordings.

Maybe we should all ask the novices in our clubs, those dancing for just three years or less, what drew them back.

Terence Gucwa

FREE DANCE CATALOG

My name is Jouni Prittinen, choreographer from Finland. I just published a new Dance webpage: www.worlddancearena.com World's largest dance catalog. It's totally free for everyone. It would be great if you could mention this in your magazine.

Best regards,

Jouni Prittinen, <jprittinen@hotmail.com>



CLUBS THAT ARE RE-OPENING

Ed's Note: Below are messages from clubs that are opening to in-person dancing. If you would like to include your club in next month's Scene, send a note (plus pictures?) to editor@FolkDanceScene.org, by August 10th.

<u>Friday night LIFE Dancers</u>, Re-opened as of July 16. For info on requirements to attend contact Sherry Cochran, l<u>ifebalkandancers.com</u>



Foothill International Dancers (https:// Foothill.Dance) in La Canada resumed dancing for fully vaccinated people, with masks and social distancing, on May 13. Since June 17, masks and social distancing have been optional. To ensure the well-being of all participants, Jan and Marc Rayman implemented more conservative procedures than required by the LA County Department of Public Health and worked closely to help educate the facility owners.

On June 17, 2021, Narodni had its grand opening since the pandemic lockdown. We had a door open to the outside to get fresh air circulating. All the dancers who attended this evening and subsequent evenings were fully vaccinated, so even though we recommended masks, most dancers decided not to wear them. We also wanted to keep social distancing by saying, "No hand holds." However, some dancers decided that hand holds were OK with them. It was an allrequest evening. We expected a small group of dancers would attend and our expectations were met exceedingly well. We had overall 14 dancers for the first evening. In the following two weeks we had 15 to 20 dancers participate. Everyone danced with enthusiasm and joy.



<u>Veselo Selo</u> We have decided to have our first in-person session on August 7th for those fully vaccinated. Meets every Saturday 7:30 – 9:30 PM Unitarian Church of Anaheim, 511 S Harbor BI, Anaheim, CA 92805 No food table. Please bring your own labeled water bottle. If there is desire to dance later, we will adjust in future. Updates on our Facebook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/800433566740206</u> <u>Cerritos Folk Dancers</u> is going to restart the in-person dancing in Cerritos Senior Center starting in August. Because the Senior Center is not fully open, we have arranged to dance every second and fourth Thursday, from 1:30 to 4:30. Due to the holiday hours, there is no meeting in November and the fourth Thursday meeting in December is shifted to the fifth Thursday. We will follow the guidelines imposed by the City of Cerritos: Fully vaccinated members of the public are not required to wear a mask inside City facilities. Fully vaccinated people can self-attest that they are in compliance. Members of the public who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a mask inside City facilities. Hand hold or not will be up to each individual. Our food table won't be setup until the attendees feel safe, in general. Meanwhile, our Tuesday virtual classes will continue until we come back to the normal Tuesday in-person meetings. The Tuesday Zoom classes may either remain to be from 6:00 to 8:45 pm or have the sessions shortened a little.

Wen Chiang

The <u>Ventura International Folk Dancers</u> have been dancing in person since last July. We were masked and socially distanced dancing twice a week outdoors on Astroturf. We've been back inside in the studio for over a month now, and last week the required masking was lifted. Inching back to normalcy.

Valerie Daley <dancing.valerie@gmail.com>

<u>Vintage Israeli Dancing</u> We plan to have in-person dance nights at Anisa's on July 31 and August 28 (usual time of 8:16 PM until midnight). Proof of being fully vaccinated required,

Jim Rothman

Prescott International Folkdancers have continued our dancing throughout this pandemic! We have worn our masks, maintained social distancing, held no hands. etc., etc., and we are all still healthy and still dancing! Where we dance on Sundays from 2 until 4pm (a \$5 donation is asked): Prescott Boys & Girls Club 335 East Aubrey Street Prescott. AZ 86303 During the summer months we dance at the Ken Lindley Park Pavilion, on the corner of E. Willis & N. Washington, Prescott, on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7pm (Free!). Keep those feet happy! Dick Weston: 928-925-8995 prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net>

Laguna International started meeting live Wednesday, June 30, 5-7 p.m. on patio for fully vaccinated folks, with no other restrictions.

Laguna Woods The first in-person session started on July 6; Zoom might also continue.

<u>Cabrillo</u> Meeting outside Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Waiting to hear when Balboa Park Club might open, maybe August or September. Folks must show proof of vaccination. No vaccination, need mask; doesn't know about monitoring.

<u>Pasadena Co-op</u> We resumed dancing at another location; will go back to old facility beginning July; Proof of vaccination required for entry.



Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2021-23

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Travel	and anyone with a love of travel and culture.	- n 5 1
broadens	<u>www.jimgold.com</u>	
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GREE	CE and the GREEK ISLANDS: October 9-22, 2021	
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	elphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus, Greek Island Cruise to	2-1
2022	ykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey)	123
	EL: March 13-24, 2022	
	ed by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman, and Lee Friedman	· An
	erusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed,	
	nd Golan Heights	
	NIA and KOSOVO: May 1-11 ext. 11-13, 2022	
	ed by Lee Otterholt. Tirana, Durres, Gjirokaster Folk Festival! ruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra.	
	BOLIVIA, CHILE: May 21-June 2, 2022	
	ed by Martha Tavera. Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu,	
Q	uechua Village, Lake Titicaca, Uyuni, La Paz, Atacama Desert	
	AY, DENMARK, SWEDEN: June 7-21, 2022	
	ed by Lee Otterholt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen	
BULG	ARIA: August 1-14, 2022 Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival Tour!	A A A A
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	une 14-27, 2023. Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour	and the second second
	ed by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt, and Lee Friedman	
	unich, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Swiss Alps, Lucerne, Zurich	
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GOTTA BE. GOTTA GO. GOTTA DANCE!

Tentatively leaving isolation where fear nibbles And strange thoughts cavort; Cautiously peeping over trenches self-dug And peering at dazzling daylight once again...

Needing to dance unmasked with 'real people' Instead of computer-Zoomed images And carpet underfoot; Ready for fun-filled ballrooms Where remembered laughter Swirls like dust particles in a sunbeam;

Eager for contagious laughter, casual conversation, Dear old faces and warmly held hands; Courting courage to leap-frog concerns, Climb over fear, cast aside considerations... Gotta Be. Gotta Go. Gotta Dance!

---Camille Dull

FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

The Folkdance Federation, South, held a Council Meeting by Zoom on June 27, 2021, with President Diane Baker presiding. Twelve clubs were represented.

The President reported that the Membership Directory has been updated and will be delivered by email.

Federation officers will continue to serve for another year, with the exception of Secretary. A search is on for a new Secretary. Vice President Leslie Halberg continues to cover as Publicity Chair. The Membership Chair is a triumvirate: Amy Dale, Bob Altman, and Diane Baker.

Treasurer Mindy Belli reported that the Federation has \$63,000 in savings after a loss of \$700 for the year. Clubs are being asked to renew membership in the Federation one month after they restart.

An encouraging report about the forthcoming Fall Camp was presented by co-chair Mark Rayman.

Jay Michtom reported that Folk Dance Scene continues to lose subscribers and money, the latter

due in part to loss of ads during the pandemic. Continuing efforts to increase subscriptions will include offering free email subscriptions. Scene is eager to receive reports about club re-openings.

Shana Winokur, Scholarship Committee Chair reminded all that scholarships are available for forthcoming camps, including Fall Camp.

Insurance Chair, Julith Neff, is working with Finance Chair, Marshall Cates, to formulate a new membership renewal calendar. The Federation had previously agreed to prepay 6 months' insurance for each club in order to minimize restart difficulties for clubs.

Reports were heard from attendees about club reopenings.

Plans for the October 2 festival at Ojai were discussed.

Next Council meeting will be on September 26, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

CLUB DIRECTORY

Most groups welcome beginning dancers. The groups with an * below have sessions specifically for beginners.

>>Many groups are still not meeting in-person so contact the contact before showing up.<< Federation Clubs

*Cabrillo Folk Dancers: Tue 7:00-9:30 (Beg 7-8). Balboa Park. Balboa Park Club, 2144 Pan American, SAN DIEGO. (858) 459-1336 gbsham@gmail.com Georgina.

Cerritos Folk Dancers: Tue 6:00-8:45. Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS**. (562) 865-8854 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen Chiang

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 7:30-9:30. Conejo Rec Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, THOUSAND OAKS. (805) 497-1957 lundgren66@gmail.com Jill Lundgren

Ethnic Express: Wed 6:30 except holidays. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 So. Brush St, LAS VE-GAS. (702) 732-4871 rpkillian@gmail.com Richard Killian

Fantasy Folk Dance Club: Sun 4:00 - 7:00. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd, MONTEREY PARK. tiggerbyc@yahoo.com (626) 688 -9245 Sophie Chen. Fri 8:15-10:45. El Monte Chamber of Commerce, 10505 Valley Blvd EL MONTE. (626) 429-9008 Vincentyhcheng@gmail.com Vincent Cheng

Int'l Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods: Tue 9:00am-12:00. Clubhouse 6, 24061 Algarrobo, LA-GUNA WOODS. (949) 454-0837 friedagorelick@hotmail.com Frieda Gorelick

Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing: Fri 8:30-11:30. The Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Ave, SHERMAN OAKS. www.kypseli.org (323) 660-1030 jozefbilman1030@aol.com Jozef Bilman

Laguna Int'l Dancers: Wed 6:00-8:30, Sun 6:00-8:30. Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, LAGUNA WOODS. (949) 770-7026 7kahnmiriam@gmail.com Miriam Kahn www.lagunainternationaldancers.com

Mountain Dancers: 1st & 3rd Tue 1:30-3:30 (Oct. thru June). Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave, S. PASADENA (626) 355-9220 johnmeursinge@gmail.com John Meursinge Narodni Int'l Folkdancers: Thu 7:30-10:30. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BellFlow-ER.** (562) 881-9504 julithilona@gmail.com Julith Neff

***Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op:** Fri 7:30-10:30 (Beg 7:30-8). Altadena Community Church, 943 E Altadena Dr, **Altadena**. (626) 808-0361 mari2@workableeconomics.com Mari Werner

Prescott Int'l Folkdancers: Sun 2:00-4:00. Prescott Boys & Girls Club, 335 East Aubrey St, PRESCOTT, AZ. (928) 350-8239 Ellen Malcolm Prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net

Rainbow Senior Club: Sun 3:00-6:00. Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave, ALHAMBRA. (626) 456-1900 ksun310@yahoo.com Kevin Sun

Skandia South Dance Club: Mon 7:00-9:45. Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center, ANAHEIM. (714) 893-8888 tedmart@juno.com Ted Martin.

Solvang Village Folk Dancers: Sat 6:30-8:30 (except 3rd Sat). Buellton Recreation Center, 301 2nd St, Buellton. 3rd Sat 1:30-3:30. Corner Alisal & Copenhagen, Solvang (805) 688-3397 dlh4362@gmail.com David Heald

Tuesday Gypsies: Tue 7:45-10:15. Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, **CULVER CITY.** (310) 391-7382 sandyhelperin@icloud.com Sandy Helperin

Ventura Int'l Folkdancers: Tue 1:15, Thu 1:45, 1st Sun 3:30. Ventura YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd, Ventura. (805) 647-1634 danc-

ing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie Daley

Veselo Selo Folkdancers: Sat 7:30-9:30. Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor, ANAHEIM.

veseloselo1@yahoo.com (714) 828-2581 Lu Perry Vintage Israeli Dancing: One Sat per month 8:16-12:00. Anisa's School of Dance, 14252 Ventura

Blvd, SHERMAN OAKS. (818) 881-7494 (after noon) richterlouis@aol.com Louis

West Valley Folk Dancers: Fri 7:15-10:00. Senior Center, 7326 Jordan Ave, CANOGA PARK. (818) 348 -6133 lila@aurich.com Lila

Westchester Lariats: Mon 4:00-9:00. United Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson, Los ANGELES. (310) 689-9176 veniceii@yahoo.com Ina Hall Westwood Co-op: Thu 7:30-9:45. Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd, West LA. (310) 657-6877 rwsklar@yahoo.com Rita Sklar

Exhibition Groups

Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble: Wed 8:00. United Hungarian House, 1975 Washington, Los ANGELES. (805) 341-9640 sissykf@earthlink.net Sissy Keresztes-Fischer

Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble: Tue 7:30-9:30 Sat 9:00-10:00. Szarotka Retirement Home, 3400 W Adams Blvd, Los ANGELES. Sat 2:15-4:15. Polish Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd, Los ANGE-LES. (626) 827-7338 elistarrr@yahoo.com Elizabeth Romuzga.

Scandia Dancers: Tue 7:00-10:00. Woman's Club, **BELLFLOWER.** (714) 356-7745

sholzman1@verizon.net Stefanie Holzman

UCSB Middle Eastern Ensemble: Tue 7:00-10:00. Gehringer Music Bldg, UCSB Campus, SANTA BAR-BARA. (805) 729-6453 scottmarcu@aol.com Scott Marcus

Non–Federation Clubs

Bay Osos Folk Dancers: Tue 11:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos. (805) 534-1501, annetiber@charter.net Anne Tiber.

Cafe Aman: 2nd Sat 7:00-11:30. Teach 7:30-8:30 LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, WEST LA, ianpricebey@gmail.com, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com

Caltech Folkdancers: Tue 7:30. Caltech Campus, Dabney Hall, parking on California Blvd. or Throop Church, 300 Los Robles, **Pasadena**. (626) 797-5157 Nancy Milligan

Claremont Israeli Dancers: Mon 7:00-10:00 Masonic Lodge, 272 W. 8th St, CLAREMONT. (909) 921 -7115 Yael

Desert Dancers: Thu 7:00-9:00 Nov-April. Hi Desert Dance Center, 725 S. Gateway St, **RIDGECREST**. (760) 371-5669 Nora Nuckles

Desert Int'l Folk Dancers: Thu 7:00-9:00 Nov-Apr. Leisure Center Dance Studio, 401 S. Pavilion Way, **PALM SPRINGS**. (760) 342-1297 Helen Smith

Folk Dance Center: Every Evening. Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, La Mesa. (619) 466-4043, www.folkdancecenter.org *Foothill Folk Dancers: Thu 7:30-9:30. Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr., LA CAÑADA (818) 790-8523 JanRayman@charter.net www.Foothill.Dance

Friday Night L.I.F.E.: Fri 8:00-11:00. LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd West L.A www.lifebalkandancers.com worldance1@gmail.com Sherry Cochran

Israeli Dancing-James Zimmer: Tue 8:00-12:00. Westside JCC, 5870 W Olympic, L.A. (310) 284-3638 James Zimmer Israelidance@yahoo.com

*Israeli Dancing @ AJU-Natalie & Pat: Mon 10:30am-1:00, noon-1:00(Beg); Thu 10:30am-11:30. American Jewish Univ Dance Studio, 15600 Mulholland, L.A 818-642-3585 Pat Jordan

Israeli Dancing-Yoni Carr: Mon 7:00-11:30 Beginners at 7:00. Infinity Sport Dance Center, 4428 Convoy St, SAN DIEGO. (619) 227-0110 Yoni

Kayso Folk Dancers: Fri 9:30am-12:00. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 206, **SAN DIEGO** (619) 463-7529 Joe Sigona

San Diego Folk Dancers: Mon 7:30-9:00. Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, SAN DIEGO (858) 278-4619 Jeanne Cate

Santa Barbara Balkan Folk Dancers: Wed 8:00-10:00PM (In-person/safety precautions). Oak Park Stage, corner Junipero and Calle Real, SANTA BAR-BARA. soriasusan@gmail.com Susan Soria, or michalcathy@cox.net (805.895.4885) Michal Lynch

Santa Barbara Int'l Folk Dancers: In-person but schedule is in flux. Contact Michal Lynch for info michalcathy@cox.net, 805-895-4885.

Santa Monica College Int'l Dance Club: Tue, Thu 11:15am-12:35. Santa Monica College Clock Tower or LS Bldg, 1900 Pico Blvd, SANTA MONICA. (310) 284-3638 James Zimmer

Topanga Canyon Int'l FD: Fri 9:30am-11:00am. Froggy's Restaurant, 1105 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd, **TOPANGA**. (310) 455-1051 Melanie Kareem

UCLA Ballroom Club & UCLA Int'l Folkdancers: Mon 7:00-9:00(ballroom), 9:00-11:00 (folk). UCLA Kerckhoff Hall, WESTWOOD. (310) 284-3636 UniversityDanceClubs@yahoo.com James Zimmer

FOLK DANCE SCENE

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