



Folk Dance Scene



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

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On the cover: Dancing Chilili at Winterfest 2023—photo credit Wen-Li Chiang



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Editors' Corner

Our theme this issue is on folk dance festivals. Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op is featured, but there is plenty about other festivals and singular events in folk dance music and the history of folk dance.

Check for up-coming events in Calendar, On the Scene and ads.

Betchen, in her Costume Corner, discusses the evolution of a regional costume.

Dancers Speak includes a memory, and recent events reporting. Poetry Corner reminds us of the season.

Use Club Directory for contact and other info.
Be of good cheer!

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

The Corner

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

"Brains seek novelty, brains are pre-wired to detect novelty and patterns, brains have evolved to look for change in the environment, etc., etc...." (phrases stated in self-help books, teaching guides, research reports.) Let's go along with science! By attending a workshop, camp or festival that includes instruction you can discover new-to-you dances that tickle your feet. Back at home, you can share those dances with your local club to freshen weekly playlists. Both you and your dance buddies benefit. The Federation will assist you to cover expenses. Find the Federation Scholarship Application Form posted on the website, socalfolkdance.org, and apply now. Hint: Fall Camp takes place in November but scholarship applications are due May 15!

A splendid opportunity to learn captivating dances takes place this week at the Laguna Fest! Roberto Bagnoli and Gergana Panova will provide instruction. For a scholarship to attend Laguna Fest or Statewide 2025, apply now.

Another way to discover intriguing dances that were previously unknown to you is to attend special events like East Meets West Lunar New Year in Cerritos (last month) and Spring Fest in Somis (next month!) Dance with friends Saturday April 20, 2024 at the Somis Thursday Club, 3580 Bell St., Somis, CA 93066. Our brains also enjoy repeating familiar, expected and beloved experiences. The Spring Fest planners want to include dances you look forward to doing. Send requests now to info@socalfolkdance.org. To ease the drive to Somis, carpool and leave home early. Fuel up with lunch nearby at the Somis Café & Market, Chili Peppers Mexican Restaurant & Seafood or Subway. Thanks, Valerie Daley, for chairing Spring Fest in Somis!

How do you feel about learning dances via Zoom? There are sessions most days of the week. Have you visited a dance session while traveling and found an enticing dance, or dropped in to a local club other than the one to which you belong and became enchanted with a dance on that club's playlist? Each club has its own identity and list of favorite dances. You might ask a leader at that club to be a guest teacher at your club so the dance you discover will

The Corner continues on page 7.

PASADENA WINTER FESTIVALS

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op celebrated their two traditional yearly events this winter. New Year's Eve was a fun festive evening including an all-request dance program plus live music by Fifth Friday. The decorations were sparkling and the potluck refreshments yummy.



The Fifth Friday band provided live music for both New Year's Eve and Winter Festival

Sue Chen, Don Krotser, and Wen Chiang leading Hawaiian Love Song on New Year's Eve



Thomas Hu leading Rustemul on New Year's Eve

Winter Festival on Jan 13th was a full Saturday afternoon of dancing and merriment. Programmed favorites were punctuated by two sets of live music by Fifth Friday. Once again, the decorations and the food lived up to the festive flair. It was great to see friends from other clubs around the area. Thank you to all who made the trip to join us doing what we all love.



*Valerie Daley
heading Louisiana
Saturday Night at
Winter Festival*



Rick Cofield leading Joshua at Winter Festival

Jim Gold International Folk Tours 2024

**Our trips are for folk dancers, non-dancers
and anyone with a love of travel, culture, and adventure**

WESTERN CANADA: April 11-23,
Calgary, Banff, Vancouver.
Led by Cathie Dunklee-Donnell
With Sonia Dion and Christian Florescu

EASTERN CANADA: June 28-July 10
Montreal, Quebec, Saint John,
Halifax, Charlottetown,
Led by Richard Schmidt

**ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA
and KOSOVO: May 22-June 3-5**
Tirana, Durres, Vlora Folk Festival,
Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat,
Lake Prespa, Ochrid, Kosovo ext.
Led by Lee Otterholt and/or Kliti Zika

**BULGARIA and Black Sea Coast
July 30-August 12**
Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Nessebar,
Varna, Black Sea, Veliko Turnovo.
Led by Ventsi Milev
With Bulgarian folk dance teacher Niki
Enchev, and musician Ventsi Andonov

ROMANIA: Sept 29-Oct 13
Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighet
Marmatiei. Led by Nancy 3. Hoffman
Guided by Virginia O'Neil

GREECE: Oct.18-30
Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia,
Delphi, Meteora, Thessalonika
Led by Lee Otterholt.
Guided by Maroula Konti

SCANDINAVIA: June 18-July 1,
Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg.
(Elsinore), Copenhagen
Led by Lee Otterholt

IRELAND: August 3-15
Galway, Connemara, Aran
islands, Kerry, Cork, Blarney,
Dublin. Led by Lee Friedman
and/or Kay Cleary

SPAIN: Sept 12-25
Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba,
Granada. Led by local guides

**PERU with Nazca and Peruvian
Amazon: May 22-June 3.**
Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Puno,
Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca,
Peruvian Amazon, Nazca
extensions. Led by local guides
and/or Martha Tavera

BRAZIL: Oct 21-Nov 1
Rio de Janeiro, Salvador,
Iguassu Falls. Led by local guides,
and/or Hilary Almeida



Dance on!

TOUR REGISTRATION: Reserve my place! \$200 per person deposit.

Register on line at: <https://www.jimgold.com/> Jim Gold International, Inc.
497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A. (201) 836-0362 Email:
jimgold@jimgold.com

be learned by all your members. You might make new friends!

I recently viewed images posted online from the European Space Agency's space telescope, Euclid. They revealed an immense & diverse cosmos though Euclid's journey has barely begun. The photos depicted the astounding "Horsehead Nebula," a spiral galaxy, a globular galaxy, irregular galaxies and other stunning phenomena. Thousands of galaxies belong to the Perseus Cluster, a mere 240 million light-years from Earth. The ESA explained that Euclid's mission is to explore dark energy, the force that is pulling the universe apart, and the web of dark matter which seems to hold it together.* I cannot wrap my head around such unfathomable numbers, but the report got me thinking. Local recreational folk dance clubs are like the unique galaxies. Each club has a distinctive character. Dancers gravitate to the group where personally satisfying dances are played. Preferences differ. Some folks like Hungarian with all the possibilities of improvisation; others prefer set novelty dances. Some dancers want authentic Balkan instrumentation and traditional step patterns; others prefer newly created dances arranged to popular tunes in the world music genre. Some dancers want only dances from one geographical region like Greece; others want an international repertoire. Within the international groups a dancer could find clubs that emphasize circle/line dances and clubs that prefer contra and sets. The "dark matter" that holds all our dance clubs together is our shared appreciation of dancing with other folks to music from world cultures as a source of personal joy.

The Federation sponsored an outreach event at the Irvine Barclay Theatre February 13 in conjunction with a performance by the BYU International Dance & Music Ensemble. *Sans Frontières* generously provided music without compensation. Kelley O'Brien led dancing for OC folk dancers and interested attendees. Fun for all participants and observers...

More outreach events to be forthcoming. How will you help to organize promotional events?

The Federation has produced a business size card to promote recreational folk dancing. Scanning the Q-code takes one to the Federation website where events are listed on the calendar, as well as a guide to clubs in SoCal. I will bring cards to the Cerritos East meets West Festival and Laguna Folk Dance Festival. Each Federation club may take a supply to distribute as appropriate.

Yea! a volunteer has emerged to assume responsibilities of Publicity Chair. Thank you, Mari Werner. Please send announcements about club events that you want publicized to Scene editor, and also to Mari. Mariwerner4g@gmail.com

Webmaster, Dick Oakes, continues to add articles and syllabi to the website. What are you curious to learn about?

Let's keep learning and dancing recreationally together!

Diane Baker

*If you have not already read this report in JPL news, see

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/first-science-images-released-from-esa-mission-with-nasa-contributions>



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. Now hybrid - online and in person at LADanceFit, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, LA CA 90025.

Laguna International Dancers. LID meets in person every Wed from 6 pm-8:30 pm, Fri from 1:30-4 pm, and on Zoom every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. 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. Schedule at www.lagunainternationaldancers.com/

The Folk Arts Center of New England holds cultural workshops on Thursdays and monthly Saturday hybrid parties with live music. <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/virtualdancerroom/

The Peninsula Dancers from Northern CA present the Global Folk Dance Party on Zoom every 3rd Saturday of the month from 3-6:30 pm with a 2:30 pm pre-program, also on Facebook live <https://www.facebook.com/PFDCouncil/> One time registration at <https://tinyurl.com/GFDPaTy> Info: virtualfolkdance@gmail.com

Tuesday Night Revival (Boston - MIT) now meets about one Saturday of every month, 5-8 pm Pacific Time <https://tuesdaynightrevival.com/> Join Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/tnrzoom>

Kypseli has been presenting Greek dance and music sessions on Zoom on occasion, at times 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 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/iraweisburd>

Vintage Israeli Dance is hosting monthly hybrid in person and Zoom meetings. Email dovbyrd@aol.com for the dates and Zoom link. <http://www.vintageisraelidancing.org/>

MARCH

1-3 Laguna Festival with master teachers Roberto Bagnoli and Gergana Panova. www.lagunainternationaldancers.com/

9 *Nevenka Concert "Love in the Balkans"* 7:30 pm at Unitarian Universalist Church in Studio City. <https://www.nevenka.org/events/love-in-the-balkans-a-womans-life-in-song>

10 *Annual Nowruz Festival at UCLA Dickson Court (Persian New Year)*. Noon – 5 pm. Free featuring live music, dance, children's programming, puppet shows, a magnificent Grand Haft Sin and much more. Details at <https://farhang.org/nowruz/14th-annual-celebration-of-nowruz-at-ucla> Followed at 6 pm by a ticketed concert in Royce Hall.

14 Narodni Green Pi Day suggested donation \$3.14. See OTS.

17 *Persian Norooz (New Year) Bazaar*, noon-5 Ridgecrest Intermediate School, 28915 Northbay Rd, Rancho Palos Verdes. Robyn Friend will be performing around 1:30.

28 Ventura FD Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov – 1:30-3 pm Ventura YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd,

Ventura. (805) 746-0884

dancing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie Daley.

29 West Valley FD Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov. Fri 2:00-4:00. Canoga Park Sr. Ctr. 7326 Jordan Ave. Canoga Park. (818) 368-1957, jaymichtom@yahoo.com

29 *Friday Night L.I.F.E. Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov.* 8-11 pm Hybrid at LADanceFit and on Zoom – email Sherry at Worldance1@gmail.com for info and the link.

30 San Diego Folk Dance Center Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov. Info will be updated at <http://www.folkdancecenter.org/newsletter.html>

APRIL

1 *D.E.B.A Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov*, Northwood Community Center dance hall, 4531 Bryan Ave, Irvine, CA 92620.

2 Westside Folk Dancers Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov. 7:30-10:15. Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, Culver City. (310) 391-7382

sandysmail1000@gmail.com Sandy Helperin.
See OTS.

3 Conejo Valley Folk Dancers Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov. 7:30-9:30. Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, Thousand Oaks. 805-501-9810 marilynml@yahoo.com Marilyn Ludwig

4 Veselo Selo and Narodni Party. Maypril the Fourth be with you, live music by Sans Frontieres (the Foolish Folk Band). Wear a silly hat. \$10 <https://narodni.callicomp.info/images/NarodniAprilFool2024.png> See OTS.

6 Weekends Apr 6 through May 19 Renaissance Pleasure Faire at Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, 15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale, CA 10 am - 7 pm info 626-969-4750 <https://renfair.com/socal/>

9 Cerritos Folk Dancers Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov. 5-7:45 pm Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, Cerritos. (562) 865-8854 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen-Li Chiang

10 Laguna International Dancers Bulgarian Workshop with Jaap Leegwater and accordionist Filip Filipov. 6-8:30 pm, Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Woods. www.lagunainternationaldancers.com

14 Pysanka Festival at Ukrainian Center, 4315 Melrose Ave, LA. Learn to make your own Pysanka at one of the workshops from 12 to 5pm. ... energetic music, colorful folk dance groups, and Ukrainian food

20 Spring Festival in Somis 1-5 pm, Somis Thursday Club, 5380 Bell St, Somis, CA 93066 info: Valerie Daley, 805-746-0844. \$10 at the door. See OTS. See ad.

MAY

5 St. Sophia Greek Picnic for Orthodox Easter, Brookside Park, Pasadena.

17-19 OC Greek Festival at St. John the Baptist 405 N. Dale St. Anaheim, CA 92801 www.ocgreekfest.com

19 Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest www.topangabanjofiddle.org King Gillette Ranch, Calabasas.

25 -27 Valley Greek Festival, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church <https://valleygreekfestival.com/> Northridge.

25 -27 and every weekend through June 23 Koroneburg Renaissance Festival 14600 Baron Dr, Corona, CA 92880 <https://renfestcorona.com/>

JUNE

1-2 Downey Greek Festival, St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 10830 Downey Ave, Downey, CA <https://www.stgeorgedowney.org/festival-2/>

8 Cerritos Anniversary Festival. Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St., Cerritos, CA 90703 \$12.00 per person at the door OR \$10.00 if prepaid by June 1, 2024.

21-23 Irvine Greek Festival at Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church.

28 - 30 Ventura Co Greek Festival at Freedom Park, 480 Skyway Dr, Camarillo, CA 93010, conveniently located by the Camarillo Airport. \$5 admission

MAY 2025

2-4 Statewide 2025 will take place at the Portuguese Hall in Arroyo Grande - save the date. Master teachers Željko Jergan (Croatian) and one other tba.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

MAY

17-19 Statewide in Fremont, Master teachers Yannis Konstantinou and Cesar Garfiaz. Our Lady of Guadalupe School, 40374 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538. Info and registration at <https://www.folkdance.com/event/statewide-2024/>

JUNE

8-15 Scandia Camp at Mendocino (for the last time at this venue) <http://ScandiaCampMendocino.org> See OTS.

JULY

July 28 - Aug 3 Stockton 2024 in-person Camp. <https://www.folkdancecamp.org/> Any questions? Please email us at stocktonfolkdancecamp@gmail.com

OUT OF STATE

Mar 22-24 San Antonio Folklife and Dance Festival - registration is open www.safdf.org Andy Taylor-Blenis, Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić, teaching Serbian dances, Željko Jergan, teaching Croatian dances, Dance parties with live music by Shirley Johnson and Slavadillo.

ON THE SCENE

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Join us for in-person dancing any Friday night from 7:30 till 9:30 at Altadena Community Church Heicher Hall, 943 E Altadena Drive in Altadena. During the teaching sessions this month, Marshall Cates will be teaching the Romanian circle dance, Jiana.

Since March has five Fridays, the last one, March 29th, will be our traditional Fifth Friday party night with all-request dancing plus live music by the Fifth Friday band.

Go to the This Month page of our website, to see the play list and teaching schedule for each Friday. And, on the second Friday of the month, you can come at 6:30 PM for set dance review led by Marshall Cates.

Visit our website for updates and lots more information: www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org

Mari Werner

WESTSIDE FOLK DANCERS

The Westside Folk Dancers are having Jaap Leegwater teach Bulgarian dances and Filip Filipov accompany him on accordion!!

This will be on April 2nd. We'll have check-in and warm-up dances at 7:30 pm and ask Jaap to start teaching at about 7:45 pm. We generally dance until 9:30 pm. The cost: \$10.

Masonic Lodge in Culver City (the sign on the building says the Foshay Masonic Lodge): 9635 Venice Blvd., Culver City, California

Highly advised that people carpool. Street parking with meters that stop at 8 pm.

Asako Oshiro

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH DANCING IN SOMIS!

Connect with friends and dance favorite dances on a beautiful sprung wood floor. Spring Festival Saturday April 20th 1:00 – 5:00 PM \$10 at the door. Light Refreshments.

For more information call or text Valerie Daley 805-746-0844

Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California South Inc., Somis Thursday Club 5380 Bell St. Somis, CA 93066.

NARODNI - VESELO: MARCH AND APRIL

Come dance with us on **March 14, 2024** for ... you guessed it... an admission of \$3.14... to celebrate *Green Pi Day*. Guest teacher, Marcella Lawson will teach dances from Laguna Festival on 3/14 and 3/21. Wear green, bring green pies, cookies, big smiles, and your pennies for the penny jar. Penny jar to be donated to the Woman's Club outreach programs. Leprechaun hats welcome. On **April 4, 2024**, it's '*Maypril* the Fourth be with you;' admission \$10. Don your silliest hat and come dance to live music by Sans Frontieres appearing as the Foolish Folk Band. Both events 8 to 10 p.m. at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower. For more information, contact julithilona@gmail.com

NORTH/SOUTH ENTERS A NEW ERA

"North/South? What's that, and why do I care?" For some people North/South is a beloved tradition, for some it's a vague rumor, but many folk dancers have never heard of it. Here's a bit of history along with news of changes.

The (almost annual) North/South Folkdance Teachers' Seminar was first held in 1973. It was designed for the folkdance teachers of California, both north and south, hence the name. The purpose was to allow experienced teachers to learn from master teachers in greater depth, with emphasis on teaching technique and style.

For the first 50 years, attendance was by invitation only to those actively teaching folkdance and their partners. The reason for this limitation was to give teachers an opportunity to interact with master teachers in a more intimate environment than was possible at the massive workshops common in the 1970's. North/South also became an opportunity for teachers from all over California to compare notes about the common repertoire, group management, and teaching challenges. Unfortunately, the committee was not always aware of newer teachers and perhaps overlooked some who might have benefited from attendance.

Times have changed, and, sadly, attendance at major folkdance events is no longer overwhelming. At most events the master teachers can be seen and heard, and they are available to answer questions from all participants. It is still valuable, however, for

teachers to gather to learn how to improve their teaching and to share ideas with others who face similar challenges.

As a result of these changes, the North/South committee is excited to announce that the historic invitation-only restriction will be removed beginning 2024 and the event will be open to teachers and prospective teachers on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendance will still be limited to maintain the intimate atmosphere of the event.

North/South is held at the lovely Monte Toyon conference center in Aptos, California, less than an hour from San Jose. Although it is normally scheduled on the second weekend of October, for 2024 it will be the weekend of October 25 through 27 to avoid the Jewish holiday.

The North/South committee looks forward to welcoming new participants in 2024. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for future announcements with details about this unique dance weekend. Questions and comments can be directed to northsouthfolkdance@gmail.com.

Laura Douglass (for the North/South committee)

ARMENIA tour (May 15-May 31st) & BALI tour (June 17-July 1st) with Tineke & Maurits van Geel



ARMENIA DANCE & CULTURE TOUR € 1890 (land only) a 14-day trip in which you will visit the highlights of the country, but also see its hidden gems. Enjoy dance classes with local teachers.

BALI DANCE VACATION € 1980 (land only) a 15-day dance vacation to Bali means a tropical cocktail of beach, nature, handicrafts, Hindu culture, beautiful weather and hospitable inhabitants. International folk dancing with Tineke and Maurits.

Both tours are also suitable for non-dancers. Details: www.tinekevangeel.nl

COSTUME CORNER

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF RUSSIAN COSTUME FORM



Photo 1: Typical men's and women's north Russian costumes, now taken as the Russian national folk costume.

We tend to think of Russian costumes as consisting of a long, A-line red jumper (*sarafan*) over an embroidered blouse for women, and for men a high-collared, bright-colored (or embroidered) shirt and red sash over baggy pants—with black shoes for women and boots for men (**Photo 1**). Well, sort of... but that's only the tip of the iceberg. It helps to see the historical development to understand the variety and its distribution among the East Slavs in general.

The long-sleeved woman's blouse and man's shirt seem to have reached Europe from the Near East back around 2000 BCE, in the Bronze Age, as a full-length and long-sleeved white linen tunic. (In fact, *tunic* is a modern descendent of the Bronze Age word for it.) True pants came in somewhat later, developing out of protective horse-riding gear by the nomadic herders of Central Asia around 1200-1000 BCE. But long before that, Europeans were already wearing clothes. Men, not much clothing, but they often wore a sash with the ends hanging down protectively in front (tight sashes help fortify the torso muscles for heavy work), a custom which persisted in the Russian man's wide red sash, which in some regions was presented at puberty.

Stone Age European women of 20,000 BCE, however, sometimes wore a narrow belt-band from which long strings hung down (imagine a skimpy hula skirt). By 5000 BCE, they might wear a tight wrap-around skirt with a checkerboard pattern—they knew by then how to weave cloth—and sometimes even a tight-fitting, short-sleeved jacket. Remarkably, the checked skirt and the related string skirt still survive in costumes all over East



Photo 2: Prehistoric statuette from Kličevac, Serbia, at 1600 BCE already showing major traits of Balkan and East Slavic women's traditional dress: tunic with large embroidered sleeves, sash, apron with long fringes, square-patterned overskirt.



Photo 3: An old-style ankle-length Ukrainian costume, with tunic and overskirt much as in Photo 2, but a much larger apron, and fringes now appearing in token as string pompoms at the bottom of the square-patterned overskirt (*panyóva*). (50-year-ago display in Ethnographic Museum, Leningrad.)

Europe, precisely because they signaled that the wearer was of *child-bearing* age. Girls were not allowed to wear such a garment before puberty, and its ritual bestowal was a life-changing event.

This indicator was so important culturally that when the warm and comfy tunic came in, the string skirt or squared wrap-around (called a *panyóva* in East Slavic) had to be worn outermost so it could still be seen. The two skirts even got combined. In 1881 archaeologists unearthed in Serbia a Bronze Age statuette, dating to about 1600 BCE (**Photo 2**), of a woman wearing a costume almost exactly like the most typical Ukrainian folk costume (**Photo 3**). Over her full-length chemise, with its voluminous embroidered sleeves, the prehistoric woman wears a square-patterned overskirt *and* an apron with extremely long stringy fringes. Even the design on the bottom edge of the chemise matches modern ones. (Just south of Kličevac, the Serbian costume of Šumadija still has a striped, pleated, and tucked-up back-apron carrying the same significance: the marriageability of the girl wearing it.)

Moving east into the warmer Ukraine, Belarus, and South Great Russia, we see the *panyóva* always worn as a back-apron, the front gap being covered by a second, smaller apron. But the original Paleolithic “string skirt” still persists in the form of pompoms at the front corners (**Photo 3**) and often other fringes in the back (**Photo 4**), not to mention heavily fringed headdresses. If we move farther north, however, into what is now central Russia, the weather gets colder, so the *panyóva*, which is a back-apron, gets closed up into a warmer skirt by a plain black panel across the front (**Photo 5**). (No need to embellish the new front panel: it is hidden by the front-apron.) I find it interesting that this ancient custom was kept even in this central area, in which much of the rest of the costume has been heavily influenced by the many non-Slavic groups still living there—people of Finnic heritage like the Mordvins.

Moving yet farther north to yet colder climes, we see that now even a skirt isn’t warm enough. Sometimes the apron gets raised to the neck, then the skirt gets lengthened and pulled up to under the armpits, where it has to be supported by shoulder straps (**Photo 1**). Presto: the *sarafán*, a floor-length jumper. By this time, however, we are so far north (and into even more heavily Finnic territory) that the material of the skirt no longer has the squared patterns, being plain dark-colored or



Photo 4: Square-patterned *panyóva* with token tufts of string at the waist; ca. 1900, from Oryol province, central Russia.

Photo 5: Square-patterned *panyóva* closed with a plain black panel into a warmer skirt; ca. 1900, from Tambov province, central Russia.





red fustian, or—for rich women—multicolored heavy silk brocade, with a padded jacket on top (**Photo 6**). But here the *panyóva* is not needed as a signal: some of the Finnic women are still wearing actual string skirts over their heavy clothes! It is this far-northern *sarafán* that is now widely viewed as *the* Russian costume.

[For fuller history and copious illustrations, see my “On the Antiquity of East European Bridal Clothing,” in L. Welters, ed., *Folk Dress in Europe and Anatolia* (Oxford: Berg; 1999), 13-31.]

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber

Photo 6: Heavy brocade *sarafán* (see Photo 1 for construction), worn in the far north of Russia with a padded vest known as a *dushe-gréya* or “soul-warmer”.

A NIGHT OF PONTIAN MUSIC

A NIGHT OF PONTIAN MUSIC

Recently, Kypseli had a night of live Pontian music with musicians from Greece. This region of Greece is up on the Black Sea coast. Kypseli's dances encompass all of what Greece once had as territory/major influence on culture/ language. Remember political borders have changed through history. Greece has been a country for thousands of years. Its influence has spread far and wide across the globe.

In recent years here in SoCal Pontian music and dance has become quite popular, even without a large immigrant population living here. There have been many teachings in the area since the 1990's and CD's of Pontian music are readily available.

In years past this region has brought large crowds for a night of this region. This time it was a cold, very wet night so turnout was poor by those standards, but rich in depth of music and dance. The evening began with a 'Drawing you/ welcome to the dance tune" that flowed into *Tik*, gradually into *Dipat*, gradually transitioning into the next tune and on. This is joy of dance I rarely see in ethnic events; no break in music needed.

During the band break a few DJ's favorites were played; this night it was from the Greek *Rebetika*. Did I remember every dance? No, but by listening to the music and feeling how the others around me were moving, the transitions felt seamless, a joy I rarely experience these days. The harsh start-and-stop I hear at swing dances, or many folkdance events was not here this night.

Anne Sirota has taught here many times and arranged many Pontian events through the years. The band/musical group is well known to Kypseli, they come to SoCal every year around this time. They are Yiannis Fotiadis on *lyra*, Christoforos Kosmidis on *aggeion* (large *gaida*) and *flogera* (flute) and Periklis Katsois on *daoule* (large drum). The CD of Dennis Boxell is a good place to begin exploring Pontian music.

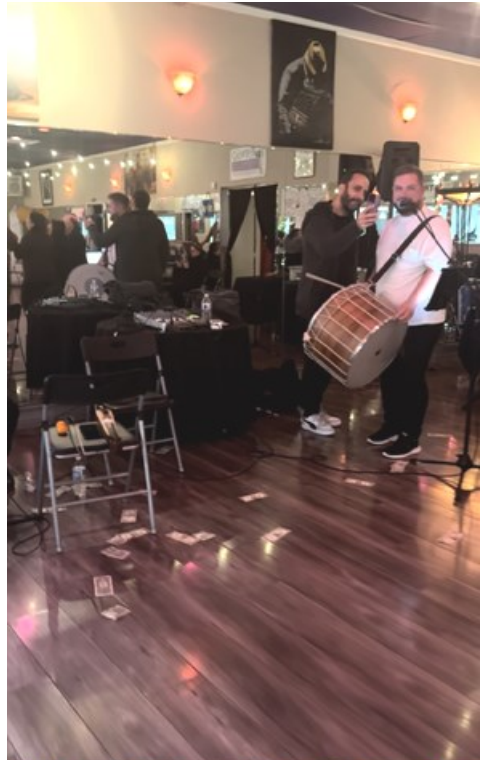
Anne is working on our next musical event at Kypseli, we hope soon. For more information on Kypseli or their events contact Anne at 310.508.9676 or www.kypseli.org. She also has a Facebook page with short clips from this evening.

Those who braved the weather had a wonderful evening. The joy of dancing in a circle that naturally encourages everyone to work together in feeling

where others are thus maintaining a circle, not an egg, is a joy you too can experience. We are looking forward to our next event.

See you on the dance floor.

Nancy Milligan, the girl in the swirly skirt.



DANCING IN BIBLICAL TIMES

Ed's Note: *The following article was written by Vyts Bellajus, a well-known teacher of Lithuanian folk dance, who died in 1994. The article was first printed in Let's Dance!, in April 1952, and was taken from the Federation web-site.*

Dancing, in ancient times, played an important part in the daily lives of all people, whether for social needs or solemn religious purposes. This was true even of the ancient Hebrews. The Pentateuch, considered the oldest-written document of the Hebrew Old Testament, mentions dancing.

Miriam, the sister of Moses and Haron, danced rejoicing at the liberation of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery and at the miracle of the crossing of the sea.

One episode of dancing ended in tragedy for an Israelite maiden in the time of the "Judges." The Tribes were troubled by the Ammonities, a Trans-Jordanian nation. Jephthah, the Gileadite, of the tribe of Menassah, was chosen to lead a band against them. It was, however, poorly organized and the Ammonites were trained well. Soon, the going was rough and Jephthah vowed that if he were victorious, he would sacrifice the first living thing meeting him upon his return home. Since he was owner of flocks of sheep and cattle, he thought certainly a sheep would be the first thing to meet his eyes. He won the battle, but upon his return, it was not a lamb but his only daughter who greeted him. She came to welcome her heroic father with a song, danced, and played the tambourine. He was heart broken at the turn of events, but he kept his pledge.



King David, the Judean, was a noted musician, singer, psalmist, and dancer. Whenever King Saul was depressed, David, then a youth of eighteen, was called to the palace to play sweet music to sooth Saul's nerves. This was the first time musical therapy was ever used.

During the reign of David, the Sacred Arc of the Covenant was recovered from the Philistines and, while it was being carried through the streets of Jerusalem, the King danced in front of it as it was being borne. He must have done some fancy capering, for when he returned home, his wife, Michal, daughter of Saul, lectured him for making a public spectacle of himself. King David was the first to introduce the singing of psalms and use of musical instruments at divine services. Dancing became a part of the services in the Temple.

In Israel (Northern Kingdom) under the reign of Ahab and Jezebel (922-901 BCE) we learn that Jezebel, daughter of a Phoenician King and Priest, erected temples to Phoenician gods. In the temple to Istarte, Jezebel had a great many priests who wore sleeveless feminine garb, painted their faces, grew long hair, rolled their hair in the mud, practiced body mutilation, and danced. Some dancing!

When the Judeans were expelled from their southern kingdom, although they hung their lyres upon the willows and wept, pledging themselves to be merry no more, upon their return to Palestine, after 49 years of exile, they brought back many new ideas from the Assyrians and Persians. Pageantry and dancing were introduced to the new Temple which was rebuilt seventy years after the destruction of the first.

During the second night of the feast of Tabernacles (Succoth) the pouring of a libation of water was celebrated. The women's outer court of the Temple was brilliantly lighted. A musical service of praise with dancing and a torchlight parade took place lasting all night. At daybreak, with a blast of trumpets, the priests announced the commencement of the march. The parade led to the spring at Siloah (Shiloh) where water was drawn in a golden ewer. In solemn procession the water was carried back to the Temple where the libation (pouring of the water over the altar) was performed, accompanied by sweet flute music and the strains or melody from countless instruments.

On the fifteenth day of Av (August) the Wood Feast was celebrated in honor of the gathering in the wood

which was offered at the altar of the Temple. White-robed maidens gathered among the vine-trees to sing and dance. Judean youth were wont to gather here to select their future wives from among the dancing girls.

Unfortunately, we have no sculptures or paintings depicting the dances of the Hebrews. The prohibition against graven images deprives us of information along these lines. Perhaps the Jewish dances were influenced by the Phoenicians, Idumeans, Philistines, Canaanites, and Egyptians. Certainly the periods of exile and captivity had some effect upon these dances.

Thanks to the Bible, however, we do know that the Hebrews have the oldest dance history, exceeded, perhaps, only by the Hindus, whose pre-historic gods danced. Shiva, the Hindu God of Creation and Destruction, for example, is always presented in a dance pose.

Vyts Bellajus

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DANCERS SPEAK

FOLK DANCE MEMORY

The movie version of the musical Brigadoon begins with two young men, close friends, looking down a mountain to a bustling village below. For me it conjures up the 1953 adventure my friend, Tom, and I had in the mountain town of Enumclaw, Washington, about 50 miles from Mount Rainier National Park. We were spending the summer in the Park as members of the trail crew. Enumclaw is where we went on Sundays to attend the small Danish Lutheran Church, (the minister's wife baked *aebleskiver* - apple dumplings - for special visitors), and to get our weekly supplies at the large grocery. But this was a special visit. The manager of the grocery, an ardent folk dancer, had told us of the annual weekend-long festival the Enumclaw Glacier Gliders were to put on.

So, Tom and I came to town on Friday night to watch dancing in the high school gym (the *Hambo* looked easy); on Saturday, early, to spend the day as colorfully-costumed visitors from all over joined townsfolk cavorting on the streets, to music from everywhere; and Sunday - after church - happy people dancing around the high school football field. What fun! It was all new to me, but I was hooked.

Although I was able to take home a few folk dance records (*Ersko Kolo* was one), life did not make folk dancing available until 1967 when my then-family of five attended the Statewide Festival in Long Beach. The Enumclaw excitement all over again! We quickly joined Silverado Folk Dancers and found *Ersko Kolo* and the *Hambo* (a little more challenging than I had first thought) on the menu. Folk dancing became an important part of my life.

Now, many decades later, the flesh is weak but the spirit first displayed to me by the Enumclaw Glacier Gliders remains.

Send your Folk Dance Memory to Dancers Speak

Carl Pilsecker

SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCE CENTER HAPPENINGS

2024 got off to a great start in the San Diego dance community.

Our first event of the year was a workshop by Professor Anton Andonov from Bulgaria. Dr. Andonov is the Head of Choreography at the National School of Dance Arts Sofia and the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, and he says, "Most of all, dance is an emotion." He

is young and enthusiastic, and he conducts his workshops in Bulgarian! Fortunately, Galya Petkova acted as interpreter. This was his second appearance in San Diego, and he taught us five more dances, one of which was a review of a dance by Yves Moreau. Needless to say, we had great fun learning, or relearning, them.

On February 10, we held our annual Member Appreciation Party at Oasis Fitness Center. We had a great turnout for this – 42 people came for dinner, including members, guests, band members and performers, and another 15 or so joined us after dinner. First, we dined on delicious Greek food catered by The Greek Gyros, which is located in the food court across from Oasis. Then we were treated to a dance performance featuring Triti Pati, a Bulgarian dance group led by Vladimir Baltadziev and his wife, Galya Petkova. After that, our local band, Tzidia (Mary Ann Downs-Tanaka and Marie Hayes on vocals, Dan Ziagos on accordion, Paul Johnson on violin, and Mary Marshall on drums) provided live music while we danced well into the night. Also during the evening, there were three door prizes given out, and appreciation gifts given to Connie Kaczmarczyk and Martha Awdziejewicz for their contributions during the past year.

One board member/event planner summed it up for all of us with, "I'm tired and my feet hurt. That means it was a fun party!!"

Under upcoming events, we are looking forward to a visit from Jaap Leegwater and his accordionist, Filip Filipov, in March.

There are two dance clubs in San Diego: The Folk Dance Center (FDC), which now meets at Oasis Fitness Center in La Mesa, and the Cabrillo Dancers, which meets in Balboa Park. Between the two clubs, we have dancing practically every day/night of the week, and we love to have visitors and newcomers join us!

For information about FDC activities, contact John Knapp at icknappster@gmail.com

For information about Cabrillo Dancers activities, contact Georgina Sham at gbsham@gmail.com

*Submitted by Gail Wilson,
Folk Dance Center (FDC)*

POETRY CORNER

SPLASH-DANCING INTO SPRING

Cascading showers of rain
Like dance-masters keeping time
For saucy kids splash-dancing
In droplet-dapple, new-formed ponds
Puddling around in the downpour

Marvelous, melodious, musical rain
Mothering, and murmuring
Whispers into Earth's ear...
*Waken gently, sleeping green,
Come forth, Bring Spring.*



-- Camille Dull



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CLUB DIRECTORY

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

For changes, additions, or deletions email directory@folkdancescene.org

Federation Clubs

Bay Osos Folk Dancers: Tue 11:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, **Los Osos**. 818-203-5812 wburke.dance@gmail.com Billy Burke, BayOsosFolkDancers.org.

***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. sites.google.com/site/cabrillodancers

Cerritos Folk Dancers: 1st-4th Tue 5:00-7:45 Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS**. (562) 865-8854 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen Chiang

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 7:30-9:30. Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, **THOUSAND OAKS**. 805-501-9810 marilynml@yahoo.com Marilyn Ludwig

Ethnic Express: 2nd Thu 5:30 – 8 pm,. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St., **LAS VEGAS, NV**. (702) 732-4871 rpkillian@gmail.com Richard Killian. Meeting informally 1 or 2X monthly at restaurant contact for details

Fantasy Folk Dance Club: Sun 3:00 - 7:00. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd, **MONTEREY PARK**. vincentyhcheng@gmail.com 626 -429-9008 Vincent Cheng.

Folk Dance Center: See website for times. Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, **La Mesa**. jcknappster@gmail.com John, www.folkdancecenter.org

Int'l Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods: Tue 10:00am-12:00. Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon, **LAGUNA WOODS**. (949) 939-0604 MarilynMichael829@gmail.com Marilyn Michael Yurk. First-time dancers call Marilyn for gate clearance. www.lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/dance-club-international-folk

Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing: Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. 310-508-9676 Anne Sirota. www.kypseli.org

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

Narodni Int'l Folkdancers: Thu 8:00-10:00. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BELLFLOWER**. (562) 881-9504 julithilona@gmail.com Julith Neff www.narodni.org

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op: Fri 7:30-9:30. Altadena Community Church, 943 E Altadena Dr, **Altadena**. info@pasadenafolkdancecoop.org 626-808-0361 Mari Werner www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org

Prescott Int'l Folkdancers: Sun 2:00-4:00. Prescott Boys & Girls Club, 335 East Aubrey St, **PRESCOTT, AZ**. (928) 925-8995 Dick Weston Prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net. www.prescottinternationalfolkdancers.org/

Rainbow Senior Club: Sun 2:00-5:00. Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave, **ALHAMBRA**. (626) 456-1900 ksun310@yahoo.com Kevin Sun.

Solvang Village Folk Dancers: Sat 6:00-8:00 (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 www.svfolkdance.com

Ventura Int'l Folkdancers: Tue&Thu 1:30-3:00.
2nd Sun 1:30-3:30 (may change due to conflicts -
check with Valerie). Ventura YMCA, 3760
Telegraph Rd, **Ventura**. Non-members check with
Valerie first. (805) 746-0884
dancing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie Daley.
www.facebook.com/profile.php?
id=100067987230157

Vintage Israeli Dancing: One Sat per month 8:15-
12:00. Danzmundo World Dance & Fitness Studio
(DWDFS), 16733 Ventura Blvd., #13, **ENCINO**.
jrbythec@aol.com Jim Rothman.
www.vintageisraelidancing.org

West Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 2:30-4:30
OneGeneration, 18255 Reseda Blvd. **Reseda**. Fri
2:00-4:00. Canoga Park Sr. Ctr. 7326 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park. (818) 368-1957.
jaymichtom@yahoo.com. Jay Michtom.

Westside Folkdancers: Tue 7:30-9:30. Culver City
Foshay Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, **CULVER CITY**.
(310) 391-7382 sandyhelperin@icloud.com
Sandy Helperin

Exhibition Groups

Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble: United
Hungarian House, 1975 Washington, **LOS**
ANGELES. (805) 341-9640 sissykf@earthlink.net
Sissy Keresztes-Fischer.
Www.KarpatokFolkEnsemble.com

Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble: Wed
8:00-10:00, Fri 7:00 - 9:00, Sat 2:30-4:00. Our
Lady of the Bright Mount , 3424 W Adams Blvd,
LOS ANGELES. (626) 827-7338
elistarr@yahoo.com Elizabeth Romuzga.
Www.krakusy.com

Scandia Dancers: Thu 7:30-9:30. (714) 356-7745
sholzman1@verizon.net Stefanie Holzman

Westchester Lariats: Mon 4:00-9:00. Westchester
Townhouse, 8501 Emerson Ave, **LOS ANGELES**.
310-480-4343 dseruto@gmail.com Danielle
Gulalo. Wwww.WestchesterLariats.org

Non-Federation Clubs

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: Tue 2:00-4:00 Nov-
Apr. Step by Step Dance Studio, 316 N Palm
Canyon, **PALM SPRINGS**. (760) 342-1297 Helen
Smith

***Foothill Folk Dancers:** Thu 8:00-10:00. St.
George's Episcopal Church, 808 Foothill Blvd., **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

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 BARBARA**. 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

Southern Nevada Int'l FD: Thu 4:00-6:00. Ballroom Addiction, 2301 Renaissance Dr., **Las Vegas, NV**. hugagiraffe@cox.net Eileen Hug

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: Cultural, Historical & Ballroom: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat. St. Albans Social Hall, 580 Hilgard Ave, **WESTWOOD**. (310) 284-3636 James Zimmer. See website for details: ballroom2.wixsite.com/westwoodballroom

***Westside Daytime Folkdancers:** Wed 12:30-2. Culver City Senior Center 4095 Overland Blvd, **Culver City**. sandysmail1000@gmail.com, (310) 391-7382 Sandy Helperin

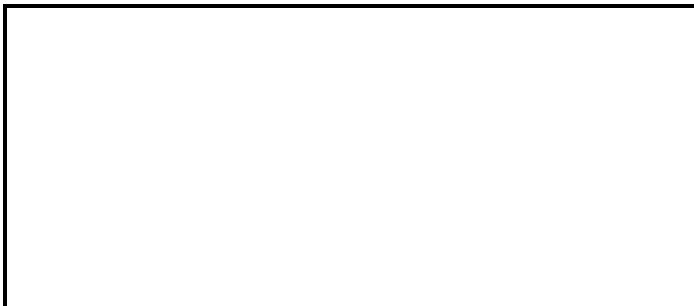


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