



Folk Dance Scene



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Folk Dance Scene

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On the cover: Fall Camp 2024 group photo taken by Marc Rayman



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 61, No. 1
February 2025

Editors' Corner

This issue comes on the heels of a major fire storm. Our sympathy and best wishes to the survivors who have lost their homes, and condolences to the families who have lost members.

We at Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op especially grieve for the loss of our venue, as well.

Note the report on Fall Camp, and the Albanian scarves.

Betchen Barber favors us with her Costume Corner featuring not Gypsies, but more correctly Rom, and their historic origin and name.

Enjoy the usual sources via Calendar and ads for your entertainment information; and other articles.

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

Announcement: The deadline for your submissions to the Folk Dance T-Shirt Contest has been extended until April 10! With all the fires devastating our community at this moment no one is feeling festive, fanciful or funny. That gives you many more occasions to wear your dance tee shirt, take a selfie or have a friend snap a photo - perhaps while you are re-building homes with Habitat for Humanity, caring for goats at a shelter, re-shelving books at the library or distributing groceries at a food bank. Hint: when temperatures drop wear a turtleneck under your dance tee so others can view your folk dance obsession. Send your photo by April 10 to jaymichtom@yahoo.com. Winning shirts & their owners will be featured in future editions of Scene.

What did you resolve for 2025? I'm guessing: do more community service, dance for health, clean clutter, etc. The NY Times printed exemplary resolutions in December. "Don't just put something back, put it away." This resolution snuck into my brain. By next December you won't see piles of dance notes and paper scraps on my desk. But will I remember where I put them away?

If your resolution involves fitness, the wellness column of the Washington Post December 7 reminded readers that muscle power, not just strength, is essential. Muscles weaken with age due to decrease in both numbers and size of fibers. And the speed of transmission between muscles and brain slows, too. Muscle power is strength times speed. When one stumbles it's imperative to generate strength quickly to recover and prevent a fall. How to train for speed and power? Do squats in the rhythm slowly down, quickly up! Spring out of a chair and slowly lower yourself to the cushion. Jumping and doing quick turns also train for speed, as does dancing *Hora Or*. Let's not be trapped by conventional thinking that older people need to move slowly. Which fast dances are your favorites? Let's dance them together at the Laguna Fest February 28 – March 2nd.

The Corner continues on page 7.

FALL CAMP 2024

High spirits prevailed at Fall Camp 2024 when recreational folk dancers from near and far gathered at the Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley for a weekend of lively dance, camaraderie, and merrymaking. Here, under a canopy of tall eucalyptus and pepper trees, they enjoyed a fun-filled weekend learning dances taught by Genci Kastrati and Ira Weisburd. Both of these master teachers are accomplished dancers, and they introduced many dances: Genci concentrating on regional dances from Albania, and Ira focusing on Latin-style dances as well as dances from Israel, Poland, Greece and other regions. Animated dance parties prolonged the festivities well into the evening.

The brainchild of Marc and Jan Rayman, who co-founded and initially co-directed this event, Fall Camp continues many of the beloved traditions of Camp Hess Kramer in a new rustic setting which now includes a potluck pickup band led by Terry Gucwa and a craft area. Lee Otterholt now carries on this event, and he has added two new features: a lunchtime ukulele sing-along and a “Name That Dance” quiz session.

The dancers included first-time attendees alongside more familiar faces. Susie Ajenian, a newcomer to folk dance, had nothing but glowing comments about the experience. She spoke about her initial excitement when hearing the buzz of people up the hill and then recounted that Happy Hour and the Ice Cream social (delicious toppings) were especially enjoyable. She also praised the nature walk and the craft room with its wreath-making materials and jigsaw puzzles. And she was impressed that, even though cloudy weather forestalled the sky-gazing walk, Marc Rayman filled in with an impromptu star talk. Declaring that the whole weekend was “better than I could have imagined,” She summed it all up— “there was something for everybody!”

What stood out most about Fall Camp for Margie Rosenblum was the joy of meeting good friends that she hadn’t seen in ages. Singing with the Pot-luck band was also high on her favorites list, as was the good food and the beautiful natural setting.

Socializing was also paramount for Yael Steinfeld, who expressed happiness at meeting friends, and she noted the amazing energy between the dancers. She marveled that the event just flowed from one thing to another, and she pointed out that this was a consequence of how well-organized it all was down to the last detail, considering that it was carried out primarily by volunteers. She also was pleased about the built-in time to rest between teaching sessions, so that those taking a break wouldn’t miss something important. As for the food, Yael found it healthy, fresh and varied, and appreciated that a tasty vegetarian option was available. She mentioned that both teachers got along well despite their different backgrounds, and were kind, friendly and helpful. Having those two teachers “was a big gift” she said, since “you really learn the essence of the dance because it’s presented in the right way, and the character of the dances, the character of the country came through.” And she added that Ira, “even though he did dances from different countries, still danced the character of the dance. And that was beautiful.”

Therese Mahoney



Mary Lou Zeeman enjoying an Albanian dance

Calling all Dance Teachers - present and future



TRADITIONAL RECREATIONAL DANCE- TEACHING STRATEGIES & TIPS

Saturday, March 15
9am to 4 pm

Saint Anthony Croatia Catholic Church Ballroom,
712 No. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Presenter: William C. "Billy" Burke, life-long dancer and dance teacher.
Billy recently retired from LAUSD, where he also directed the middle school performing group, "Tanza." He is the author of "A Celebration of Diversity: the introduction of traditional/recreational dance into the primary and secondary classroom."

A class for dance club instructors, classroom teachers, dancers also who teach informally

Cost: no fee for participation
Optional: delivered, prepaid light lunch is \$15.00
Parking: free in onsite parking garage

Registration details:



Name.....

Postal address.....

Email address (print clearly).....Mobile phone number.....

Please indicate preference if pre-ordering lunch: Sandwich with meat or vegetarian
(You may also bring your lunch. There will not be time to go out to a café.)

Send registration form and check for lunch payable to "Folk Dance Federation of CA, South," by March 1, 2025 to:
Amy Dale, 2475I Castle Hill Rd. Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 amydale@cox.net

Please dress comfortably (layers suggested) and wear shoes that allow for lateral movement
& turns on a responsive wooden dance floor.

If you must cancel your registration send an email to: info@socalfolkdance.org so others can enroll.
Also, if you have not registered by March 1st use this address to inquire if space is available to attend.
Suggestion to save resources: Bring your own water bottle & mug and wear an easy to read name tag.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Jan 31- Feb 2 *Stockton Winter Weekend Online*
<https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org/winter-weekend/> (LIFE Balkan Dancers will participate on Jan 31.)

2 *Victorian Dance Workshop* - info
historicalteaanddance@gmail.com register at
<https://historicalteaanddance.org/>

8 *Turkish, Arabic, Greek, Persian, Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian Songs by Aegean Musicians* 7:30 PM - 9 PM Costa Mesa High Performing Arts Center, 2650 Fairview Rd, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Ertugrul Erkisi (Guitar, Vocal), Lefteris Bournias (Clarinet), Aslihan Erkisi (Qanun, Vocal), Mavrothi Kontanis (Oud - Vocal), Akin Togay (Percussion)
www.tickettailor.com/events/nirvanamusicart/1510100

8 *Joellen Lapidus & the Urban Gypsies + Gustavo Bulgach & Klezmer Juice* at Boulevard Music in Culver City www.boulevardmusic.com/event/joellen-lapidus-the-urban-gypsies-gustavo-bulgach-klezmer-juice-2/

13-16 *Greek Orthodox FDF* at the Anaheim Marriott
www.yourfdf.org/event/fdf-2025

14-16 *17th Annual Croatian Cultural Extravaganza* at St. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church, Concert on Sat Feb 15 at Aratani Theater 244 San Pedro St, LA CA 90012. www.facebook.com/events/1083814136631931/

15 **Lunar New Year Folk Dance Festival** hosted by Cerritos Folk Dancers. **Saturday 1:00-5:40 pm, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, Cerritos, CA 90703. Donation: \$15 (or \$12 if paid by 2/8/2025). Master teachers Lee Otterholt and Rebecca Tsai. Info: Wen Chiang (626) 500-5035, or CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com. See OTS. See ad.**

15-16 *Palm Desert Greek Festival*, St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert, 74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert, CA 10am-8pm, \$5 admission
<https://pdgreekfest.org/>

21 *Greek workshop with Joe Graziosi* at LIFE Balkan Dancers Hybrid in person at LADanceFit, for Zoom access email Sherry at worldance1@gmail.com

22 *Kolofest 2025*, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 1640 S San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel, CA 91776

Feb 28 – Mar 3 *Laguna Festival*, featuring Tineke (Armenian dance) and Maurits van Geel (International) at Clubhouse 2, followed on Monday with dancing on the beach. www.lagunainternationaldancers.com/laguna-folk-dance-festival-2025/ See ad.

MARCH

2 *Celtic Tea Social* - info
historicalteaanddance@gmail.com register at
<https://historicalteaanddance.org/>

8 “*Bad Haggis*” At Grand Annex, 434 6th St, San Pedro (Celtic music fused with world beat, funk, jazz and rock) <https://grandvision.org/event/bad-haggis/>

15 **SoCalFolkDance teacher training** with Billy Burke at St. Anthony’s Croatian Catholic Church, DTLA. 9 am - 4 pm. Free parking, no cost to participate, optional lunch \$15. Register by filling out the form at www.socalfolkdance.org/calendarimages/flyer_burke_250315.jpg and mailing it to Amy Dale. More info at www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm . See ad.

15 *Billy Burke teaches at LIFE Balkan Dancers*

APRIL

5-6 *Scandinavian Festival* at Cal Lutheran, 60 W Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

6 *Springtime Dance Workshop* - info
historicalteaanddance@gmail.com. Register at
<https://historicalteaanddance.org/>

20 *St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Easter Picnic*

MAY

2-4 **Statewide 2025 Portuguese Hall in Arroyo Grande – master teachers Željko Jergan and Billy Burke, music by Chubritza <https://socalfolkdance.org/statewide.htm> See ad.**

4 *Alice in Wonderland Tea Social* - info
historicalteaanddance@gmail.com register at
<https://historicalteaanddance.org/>

17 *12th Czech, Moravian and Slovak Festival*, 4975 Memorial Dr, La Mesa CA 91942 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1566328803952911/>

18 Cerritos Folk Dance Festival hosted by Cerritos Folk Dancers. Sunday 1-5:40 pm, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St., Cerritos, CA 90703. Donation: \$12 (or \$10 if paid by 6/11/2025). No teaching/reviewing. Info: Wen Chiang (626) 500-5035, or CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com.

May 23-26 *Camp Shelanu*, Brandeis. Info: www.campshelanu.com

JUNE

1 *Bruce Hamilton Dance Workshop* -info historicalteaanddance@gmail.com registration form <https://historicalteaanddance.org/>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Feb 15-18 *Nirkoda Romani* - Aaron Alpert plus Sonia and Cristian in Palo Alto <https://nirkoda.com/romani>

July 18-20, *2nd Annual Filcich Folk Dance Festival*, at the Arcata Veterans Hall in Arcata, CA. will include a special tribute to Dick Crum. <https://www.filcichfestival.com/>

OUT OF STATE

Feb 21-23 *33rd Annual Stara Treka Midwinter Folk Dance Weekend* at Camp St. Croix, Hudson WI, <https://tinyurl.com/snopaifd>

Mar 15 *Balkan Night Northwest* St. Demetrios, Seattle with Chris Bajmakovich and others <https://www.balkannightnw.com/>

Mar 28-30 *San Antonio Folk Dance Festival* Our Lady of the Lake University, 411 SW 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207 Andy Taylor-Blenis (international), Franklin Houston (Balkan and golden oldies), John Rodi (international). <https://safdf.org/>

Mar 29 *Dance on the Bay* (Bend OR) a day of dance workshops with Gigi Jensen for Latin American and Roo Lester for Basque, Scandi and more dances. <http://www.stacyrosedance.com/dance-on-the-bay-2025.html>

Apr 2-6 - *NFO Conference* in Portland, OR <https://info-usa.com/annual-nfo-conference>

May 9-11 *Lyrids Folk Dance Festival 2025*, Željko Jergan and Joe Graziosi featured teachers. Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall, 12460 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2J5 (same as last year), <https://lyridsfolkdancefestival.org/>. Catered meals, hotel in walking distance. Fragrance Free.

May 16-18, *IFC International Folk Dance Camp* Circle Lodge in NY's Hudson Valley, featuring Daniel Sandu and Roberto Bagnoli Live music with Tom Pixton and the Arlington Trio. For more information : <https://ifc-ny.com/> or contact Joan at DanceIFC@gmail.com

June 12-15 *June Camp*, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, IL, with Steve Kotansky, music with Tom Paxton, Ralph Iverson, & Brian Wilson <http://sites.google.com/site/junecampifd>

Continued from page 3.

I'm thrilled to report that all Federation clubs have renewed membership for 2025! Additionally, a new club may apply for membership at the next quarterly council meeting to be held on zoom February 16. To receive the zoom link and contribute your ideas to decisions affecting the Federation, send a request to info@socalfolkdance.org.

Another success: the class, "Dance for Fun and Fitness to International Rhythms", sponsored by OLLI, CSULB continues to attract dancers new to folk dancing as well as students who have become "regulars" at the weekly sessions. I thank all the instructors who have shared their tips for teaching with me. For the last 4 years I've had the privilege of learning from Asako Oshiro at Friday Night LIFE. A stunning dancer and beautiful person, Asako showed by example that thorough preparation is essential to be an effective teacher. Though Asako could dance complex Romanian dances at lightning speed she taught at Tai Chi speed so we could learn the steps. I look forward to being a "sponge" March 15 at the "How to teach folk dance seminar" in which Billy Burke will share his expertise. The OLLI dancers will benefit. See registration page in this edition of Scene. This is an opportunity for you to learn how to transmit your lifetime of dance experience to those seeking a healthful new past time.

COSTUME CORNER

THE ROM, THEIR MUSIC, AND THEIR COSTUMES

I've often heard folk dancers refer to the *Rom(a)* or *Romani* people (formerly known in the West as *Gypsies*) as getting that name from Romania, where so many of them now live. On the contrary, this name has nothing to do with *Romania*, which meant "Roman Land" since it was colonized by retired Roman soldiers in the early centuries AD (and has retained a Latin-derived language). Instead, *Rom* is a slightly changed version of the group's original name, *Dōm*, which was their name when they began to wander westwards from northwestern India at least 1000 years ago. (The exact date is highly disputed.) After trekking slowly across Persia and then Turkey, while making their living as itinerant tinkers and musicians, they eventually reached the Balkans in the 13th and 14th centuries—where a different mistake as to their identity occurred. Since one has to cross water to reach the Balkans from Turkey, people *assumed* their boats were coming from *Egypt*, and labeled the immigrants [*E*]Gyptians, a term which has stuck, as *Gypsies* (Spanish *gitano*, etc.), until very recently. Far from being Egyptians, they speak an Indic language related to Hindi, which language group is ultimately related, 5000 years back, to most of the languages of Europe.

But their cultural background has of course been very different from European. Those of you who have heard famous Indian musicians like Ravi Shankar are aware of the wealth of rhythms in that music that simply didn't develop in Europe. As itinerant musicians, often hired to play at local weddings and other festivities, the Rom began to play more complex and "uneven" ("odd-footed") rhythms to the local people. The current distribution of these rhythms today has long interested me. 7/8 rhythms (especially *long-short-short*, 3-2-2, like the *Syrtos* or *Jovano Jovanke*) can be found throughout most of the Balkans, but it is in roughly Bulgaria where the largest number of complex rhythms took hold. On the other hand, as the Rom spread out into Hungary, Ukraine, and Russia, it seems the locals there did *not* adopt such music—except that you find the odd musical quirk that *measures* will arbitrarily change their length, e.g., from 6 beats per measure to 4, for a while, then back again to 6, etc. (e.g., *Kamarinskaja*). And if we look northwest instead of northeast, it seems that the travelling Rom had no influence whatever on the local rhythms...until we get to Ireland, where suddenly we hear a non-binary rhythm, the beloved 9/8 slip-jig (3-3-3).

So why did this music rub off in the eastern Balkans, but less so or not at all farther north? As a folklorist, I have had the distinct impression that the Bulgarian *R'chenitsa* is treated there as the oldest and most august of dances, having been used, for example, as the dance with which to surround the bride to keep evil spirits away from her as she was finally escorted from her family's house to that of her new husband: this is another 7/8 rhythm, counted the opposite way from the *Syrtos*, namely, *short-short-long* (2-2-3). One day, reading Greek, I noticed that Aristophanes, the ancient Greek writer of comedies, has his chorus in one play come stomping in saying, "I can't wait to get this heavy cloak off and start dancing to the anapests!" But anapest rhythm is *short-short-long*: proof positive that this rhythm was both used, and danced to, 2500 years ago in the Balkans. So apparently the fancy rhythms of the Dom rubbed off onto, and stayed with, precisely the people who already knew and used at least some of them. ("Wow, did you hear that? 11 beats! You can even combine two patterns in the same phrase!"—as in *Elerinka* and *Devojče* still today.)

Photo 1: Romani woman wearing boat-necked blouse, tightly laced bodice, and multiple long skirts, one over the other. Note that this allows her, in dancing, to swish the top skirts all she likes while the under-skirts (and often trousers) continue to hide her legs.



As for dress: we “Westerners” particularly associate the costumes of the Rom with those of their women, as one can see in countless movies and paintings: long swishy skirts, low-cut blouses, etc. (**Photo 1**). (The men just seem to blend in, wherever they are.) To understand the costume, one needs to understand that to the Rom, everything from a person’s waist down is considered dirty, everything from the waist up clean. Accounts say that every morning one must scrub thoroughly, while towels and clothing that touch the bottom half must never be mixed with towels and other fabric for the top half. (See *Isabel Fonseca, Bury Me Standing {Vintage, 2007}*, for interesting discussions of these customs.) For that reason, the Rom tend to be shocked and disgusted by European and American women who display their (“unclean”) legs, wearing shorts or mini- or even midi-skirts. On the other side, we are shocked by their women not caring if their breasts show (which are, after all, “clean”—and breasts need to be ready at hand for feeding babies as one travels). Of course, the movie moguls have always emphasized, even overdone, low “sexy” female necklines to please their male customers, to the point that it became a cliché, not an accurate portrayal. Many women’s costumes among the European Rom cover the woman rather completely (e.g., **Photo 2**).



Photo 2: Romani women dancing at St. George’s Day festival, Skopje, Macedonia, 1977. Photo: Elsie Dunin. (For her excellent article, see Dunin, “Festive Dress and Dance Events in the Romani Community of Skopje...”, in Barber & Sloan, *Festive Dress from Southeastern Europe* [Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, 2013] 206-15.)

Travelling in Greek Macedonia at Lent in 2008, we met quite a number of Rom who lived there, settled as farmers over 100 years ago. In addition to farming, they also served as skilled musicians for the Lenten festivities, which involved hours of dancing each day and night in the main squares and streets of all the towns and villages. It was interesting to learn that these long-settled Rom had little patience with the itinerant ones, viewing them as lazy, unreliable, and worse. On the other hand, the Greeks appeared to view both groups as beneath them. I, for one, found the music and dancing of both groups wonderful, an unforgettable experience.

And closer to home? Yes, there is a significant population of this group in the USA. According to one expert, “The greatest Rom population in America belongs to the group of nomadic Rom. The Rom speak dialects that are, on the whole, mutually intelligible. They are divided into tribes, the most numerous of which in America are the Mačvaja and the Kalderash.” Back in the mid 1950s, when I first joined Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op with some of my high-school friends, one of our number was in fact a Romani girl, an excellent and enthusiastic dancer, from whom I learned (or should I say “caught”?) something that is still with me. Whenever we danced anything particularly exciting, such as spinning the basket really fast in *Kriči Kriči Tiček*, a sort of long, piercing shriek would well up from her, for pure joy of dancing. At first this startled us. But it was catching, and soon several of us were doing it. In fact, I’ve learned that, if this visceral cry starts to well up but I realize it will upset the particular people around me, it is actually quite painful to try to choke it back! On the other hand, many young dancers have “caught” it from me over the years, to their glee.

So thank you, Morgiana, for spreading to us, so long ago, one of the great physical joys of dancing! I hope you are still dancing too.

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber

Save the Date

Save the Date

2025 Statewide Dance Festival

May Day in the Village

May 2 to 4, 2025



At the Portuguese Hall, 707 Huasna Rd. in the Village of Arroyo Grande, five miles from the beach



Two Master Teachers:



Željko Jergan
Croatian dances



Billy Burke
No. Macedonian dances & more



Live Music by Chubritza

More info to follow at www.statewide.folkdance.com



STATEWIDE 2025 FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

May 2 - 4, 2025

Portuguese Hall, 707 Huasna Road, Arroyo Grande

(Please register individually, one form per person)



Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Name of Group, if any: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

FESTIVAL PACKAGE (Includes ALL workshops and parties (not Saturday Dinner, nor Sunday Box lunch)

{ } \$150.00. when payment is received by January 31st

{ } \$170.00 when payment is received by March 31st

Daily Events (ONLY for early registration received by March 31.)

{ } \$65.00 Friday afternoon dance workshop and evening dance.

{ } \$90.00 All day Saturday, AM and PM workshops and evening dance.

{ } \$30 Sunday morning workshop, Sunday afternoon no charge.

Subtotal: \$ _____

Event “at the door” prices.

At the Door Prices	
Friday	
Classes	\$35.00
Party	\$40.00
Saturday	
AM Classes	\$35.00
PM Classes	\$35.00
Party	\$40.00
Sunday	
Reviews	\$35.00
Afternoon	\$0.00
Total	\$220.00

Additional offerings:

(Meals only available with pre-registration.)

{ } \$43.00 Saturday Happy Hour and Catered Dinner.

{ } \$19.00 box lunch with water bottle

{ } \$19.00 Souvenir Cross Body Tote Bag, made of lightweight recycled material, with side pocket for phone or water. bottle:



Total enclosed: \$ _____

Host hotel: Hampton Inn and Suites,

1400 W Branch St, Arroyo Grande.

Group rates are available; see link on Statewide website.

The Arroyo Grande Village is a short walk from the hall and provides a wide variety of dining opportunities.

To register with this mail-in form: Send form with your check (made payable to *Folk Dance Federation of CA, South*) to: Statewide registrar, c/o M. Lange, 421 N Las Flores Dr, Nipomo, CA 93444. Please write one check for registration and additional offerings. **Online Registration:** At statewide.folkdance.com. Visit the **Statewide 2025 webpage** statewide.folkdance.com for the latest information about schedules, teachers, hotels, restaurants, parking, directions, etc.

Masks are optional and proof of vaccination requirements will follow CDC, State, and County COVID regulations at the time of the event. Statewide 2025 is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, a non-profit organization.

ON THE SCENE

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Many of you may have heard that we lost our dance venue in the Eaton fire. Our condolences go out to the staff and members of Altadena Community Church, along with thanks for the years they've hosted us.

Without a venue, we had to cancel our winter festival and go dark for a few weeks, but we hope to be dancing again by the time you read this. Some of our members were personally affected by the fire, but everyone is safe and well.

As of this writing we're in the process of regrouping, replacing our equipment, and finding a new place.

We've been touched by the support and encouragement offered by our own dancers and those in the California folk dance community. Thank you.

We will dance again soon. Up-to-date information can be found on our website, www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org. Thank you again, to all who have sent well wishes and offers of support.

Mari Werner

EAST MEETS WEST: LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Cerritos Folk Dancers' Thirteenth Annual Lunar New Year Festival will be held on **Saturday, February 15, 2025**, from **12:55 to 5:30 P.M.** The venue is **Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703.**

The master teachers in this East-West Workshop are **Lee Otterholt** and **Rebecca Tsai**.

The suggested donation is **\$15**. But, if you make the payment **before February 8th, 2025**, you may pay just \$12 per person. You may send the **name(s) and check**, payable to "Cerritos Folk Dancers, 20737 Cortner Ave., Lakewood, CA 90715-1656." (The name of the attendee is required for us to prepare the name badge.) The pre-payment is non-refundable and non-transferable. Optionally, contact Wen at chiangwenli@yahoo.com or 626 500 5035 for digital transfer of funds, such as Zelle or Paypal.

There will be finger food available. If you like, you may bring food or non-alcoholic-beverages to share. If you would like the **syllabi** through email, free of charge, please sign up at the front desk or let Wen Chiang know. There will be a name badge for each attendee. Please return the name badge before you leave. When the name badge is returned, each of the **first one hundred payers** will receive a **red-**

envelope, which contains a small amount of lucky currency.

You have the option to attend the **after-festival dinner together**. The restaurant and the cost will be announced at the festival. To reserve the seat, please sign up at the front desk by 4 p.m. on the day of the festival.

If you have any questions, please write to CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com or call Wen at 626 500 5035.

Let's dance and celebrate the Year of the Snake together.

Remember, the Lion Dance starts things off at 12:55.

Wen Chiang

STATEWIDE 2025

Take advantage of the discounted rate! Register before March 31 for CA Statewide 2025, May Day in the Village of Arroyo Grande. Festival chairs, Billy Burke and Margaret Lange, welcome dancers from near and far to the party sponsored by Folk Dance Federation of California, South.

Find link to group rates at the Hampton Inn and Suites on registration page. May is the perfect time of the year for a vacation along the central coast of CA.

Diane Baker

WESTSIDE FOLKDANCERS HAS CLOSED.

Westside Folkdancers, which had been made some time ago by combining Westwood and Tuesday Gypsies, has closed permanently. Some of those who danced there may be going to Sherry Cochran's Friday night group, but there will be no more sessions of Westside.

FOLK DANCE MUSIC

Ron Saritzky is making available 42 Folkdance albums from the 1970s, all in good playing condition. His collection includes carrying cases. Ron will deliver to a dancer in LA for free.

Contents of the collection:

7 Romanian lp records, 7 Balkan/Greek, 38 Israeli records including 5 from the "Dance with Moshiko" series.

Contact Ron to take advantage of this offer.

ron@mybert.com

Continues on page 13.

LAST DANCE

ASAKO OSHIRO

Beryl "Asako" Oshiro passed away on January 3, 2025, surrounded by loving family and friends in Santa Monica, California. She was born on November 17, 1952, in Waipahu, Hawaii. She held degrees in Psychology and Dance Therapy and was a Cardiac Rehabilitation Specialist. She performed with the Aman International Folk Ensemble of Los Angeles, California, and was a wonderful folkdance teacher and friend. We all miss her and her smile.

JOANNE MCCOLLOUGH

Joanne McCollough died on December 29, 2024 after a severe fall. She was 94 years old and was still an active member of the West Valley Folk Dancers as she had been for many years. She also, until recently, led and taught an afternoon class with a variety of dances to large groups at the ONE Senior Center. Joanne was an excellent dancer and teacher plus a generous hostess at dinners and parties, an avid Dodgers fan and an all-around delightful person.

LAURETTE CARLSON

Laurette Carlson passed away about a month sort of her 102nd birthday. Laurette was a woman of many hats. She taught school, played the violin with the Hollywood Bowl orchestra, and was a loving mother. As a long-time member of Westwood Folkdancers she held several offices and often played her violin at Camp Hess Kramer dance weekends. Her specialty was Monty's Csardas.



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Continued from page 12.

NEW ADDITION

Federation webmaster Dick Oakes may have less time for updating the website with new articles, syllabi and photos now that a great grandson has come into his life. Scene readers, meet Salem Hizom Goff. FYI, Dick celebrated his 85th birthday in December and reports that he misses dancing with us in Social since he re-located to Maui.

Diane Baker



Cerritos Folk Dancers
Lunar New Year Festival

East West Workshop

Presenting Master Teachers

Lee Otterholt
Rebecca Tsai

Saturday, February 15, 2025
1:00 – 5:30 P.M.

Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street, Cerritos, 90703

Suggested donation: \$15 per person at the door
(non-refundable \$12 if prepaid by Feb. 8, 2025)

Finger foods to share are welcome, but not necessary

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



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

Feb. 28 - March 2, 2025



Laguna Folk Dance Festival



Featuring
Tineke Van Geel
teaching Armenian folk dances
and
Maurits Van Geel
teaching
International folk dances

Also LIVE music, dance parties, happy hours, a sing-along led by Melanie Lawson, great food, an ice cream social, Sunday concert, and awarding of the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award.

PLUS Beach
dancing on
Monday!



In the beautiful Clubhouse 2 ballroom at
24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods, CA

REGISTER at lagunainternationaldancers.com

Questions? Call Greg Solloway at (972) 467-1406

Non-residents, please tell the gate you were invited by the
Laguna International Dancers (President Miriam Kahn).

POETRY CORNER

DEAR VALENTINE

I understand Sleeping Beauty
Waking after 100 years, forever young

We all sleep and dream... until
The soft kiss
The loving touch
The quiet smile
Empathic eyes
The kind word
The gentle stillness
The soothing caress
Tender patience

Like a drop of dew from heaven
Awakens our hearts to Love

Camille Dull



RECENT EVENTS

TOM BOZIGIAN AND SHEREE KING COME TO SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCE CENTER

Our San Diego Folk Dance Center community was pleased to have Tom Bozigian and Sheree King come to San Diego for a workshop and after-party. It had been a long time since Tom and Sheree had visited San Diego. We had a great turnout to welcome them. Tom and Sheree taught four Armenian dances and gave interesting talks about the Armenians and their customs. We had great fun learning and re-learning the dances, as well as doing other dances from their vast repertoire. Tom and Sheree had a great time too, and said that they would like to make this an annual event.

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 jcknappster@gmail.com

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

Gail Wilson, Folk Dance Center (FDC)



PASADENA CO-OP NYE

Members and guests dance at the Pasadena Co-op's New Year's Eve party, December 31, 2024. One week later the building was destroyed in the Eaton Fire.



Jim Gold International Folk Tours 2025

Travel, adventure, folk dance, culture



Eastern Europe-The Balkans

ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA and KOSOVO ext: May 21-June 2-4

Led by Lee Otterholt, guided by Kliti Zika: Tirana, Dures, Vlora Folk Festival, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Saranda, Berat, Lake Prespa, Ochrid

BULGARIA-Koprivshtitsa Festival (held every 5 years): July 29-August 11

Led by Ventsi Milev:: Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, Koprivshtitsa

ROMANIA: Sept 28-Oct 12 Bucharest, Brasov. Sibiu, Cluj, Sighet Marmatiei

GREECE-GREEK ISLANDS: Oct 4-17

Led by Lee Otterholt, Maroula Konti, guide: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus. **Greek Island Cruise:** Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi

TURKEY: Oct 17-31

Led by Lee Otterholt: Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Izmir, Kusadasi, Pergamon, Troy, Canakkale, and Bursa



Travel
broadens
one!

Western Europe

SCANDINAVIA: June 10-23

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

IRELAND: Aug 2-14

Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Kay Cleary: Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin.

SPAIN: Sept 11-24 Malaga, Ronda, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Granada



South America

PERU-Nazca and Peruvian Amazon ext: May 21-30.

Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Puno, Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca, Peruvian Amazon, Nazca

ARGENTINA: Chile ext: Oct 5-15 Buenos Aires, Salta, Mendoza

BRAZIL: Nov 3-14 Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Iguassu Falls

ECUADOR: Galapagos ext: Dec 1-14



North America

WESTERN CANADA: April 10-22 Calgary, Banff, Vancouver

EASTERN CANADA: June 27-July 9 Montreal, Quebec, Halifax,

New Brunswick, Peggy's Cove (Nova Scotia), Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Middle East

EGYPT: Feb 20-March 2 Cairo, Nile River cruise, Luxor, Aswan

ISRAEL: March 2-13, November 2-13

Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Joe Freedman: Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Safed, Golan Heights.

NEW: DELUXE SMALL GROUP TOURS to Croatia and Greece

NEW: Jim Gold Internatinal Youtube Channel (Videos of folk dancing and folk tours)

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(201) 836-0362 Email: jimgold@jimgold.com

CLUB DIRECTORY

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

For changes, additions, or deletions email directory@folkdancecene.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, 858-722-0489 yueugenia@yahoo.com Chin Yu, sites.google.com/site/cabrillocdancers

Cerritos Folk Dancers: 1st-4th Tue 5:00-7:45 Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS**. (626) 500-5035 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**. paula.davis@bucknell.edu, Paula, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/265181362778249>

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. Sat 10-noon. Langley Senior Center, 400 W Emerson Ave., **Monterey Park**. (626) 673-2184 Peter Lin

Folk Dance Center: Wed 9:30-11:30am, Sat 7-10. Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, **La Mesa**. jcknappster@gmail.com John, www.folkdancecenter.org

Friday Night L.L.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

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

Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing: Occasional Sunday live music events. 310-508-9676 Anne Sirota. www.kypseli.events

Laguna Int'l Dancers: Wed 6:00-8:30 at Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, **LAGUNA WOODS**. Fri 1:30-4:00 at Clubhouse 7 24111 Moulton Pkwy, **Laguna Woods**. Sun 6:00-8:00 on Zoom. leeotterholt@yahoo.com Lee. 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. 1st Christian Church of El Monte, 11025 Lambert Ave, **El Monte**. **Temporary location, for current info contact:** www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org; 626-808-0361, info@pasadenafolkdancecoop.org Mari Werner

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: Thu & Sat 4:00-8:00. Buellton Recreation Center, 301 2nd St, **Buellton**. 3rd Sat 1:00-3:00. Jensen Square, Corner Alisal & Copenhagen, **Solvang** (805) 688-3397 dlh4362@gmail.com David Heald

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 8:16-12:00. Danz mundo World Dance & Fitness Studio (DWDFS), 16733 Ventura Blvd., #13, **ENCINO**. (310) 351-2166 jrbythec@aol.com Jim Rothman. www.vintageisraelidancing.org

West Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 2:30-4:30
OneGeneration, 18255 Victory Blvd. **Reseda.** Fri
2:00-4:00. Canoga Park Sr. Ctr. 7326 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park. (818) 368-1957.
jaymichtom@yahoo.com. Jay Michtom,
psw20@icloud.com Paul Waller,
WestValleyFolkDancers.org

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. Wwww.krakusy.com

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

Westchester Lariats: Mon 4:00-9:00. Holy Nativity
Church, 6700 W. 83rd St, **LOS ANGELES.** 310-913-
5736 elizvalla@gmail.com Elizabeth Kane.
Wwww.WestchesterLariats.org

Non-Federation Clubs

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. **Not currently dancing**

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 3:00-5:00 Nov-Apr.
Community Room, Mizell Center, 480 South
Sunrise Way, **PALM SPRINGS.** (760) 342-1297 Helen
Smith

***Foothill Folk Dancers:** Thu 8:00-10:00. Nourishing
Spirits Center @ St. George's Episcopal Church,
808 Foothill Blvd., **LA CAÑADA** (818) 790-8523
JanRayman@charter.net www.Foothill.Dance

***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. 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.

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

UCLA Ballroom Club & UCLA Int'l Folkdancers:
Cultural, Historical & Ballroom: Thu 7-9. Kerckhoff
Hall Room 135 **WESTWOOD.** RSVP required
HistoricalDance@yahoo.com

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

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

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