



Folk Dance Scene



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Folk Dance Scene

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Folk Dance Scene is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costumes, 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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Cover: Delphi site, circa 1962, see article starting on page 17. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Wayland Barber



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 62, No. 1
February 2026

Editors' Corner

This first issue of the new year is introduced by the president in the next column.

On the Scene features invitations to upcoming special events, Recent Events reports on past events, and Last Dance lets you know who you need to remember.

Betchen presents a thorough invitation to how to research Bulgarian costumes, and asks for your feedback comments.

Calendar itemizes all information we have received about upcoming events.

Dancing in Delphi and Poetry Corner are personal reflections.

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

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year, and welcome to an exciting 2026!! I hope everyone survived the heavy rains over the last few weeks – good for our aquifers and plants, but a little difficult to negotiate driving and outside activities.

The Federation Council approved the Outreach Committee as a permanent standing committee. We encourage anyone to join us in brainstorming ways to grow our membership and expand folk dancing in Southern California. We have had some encouraging results with the activities we fostered so far – a Nevenka Concert, new Dance Classes (thank you, Diane!), and presentations at Senior Centers and Health Fairs. Please email or call me if you are interested in helping us.

By the time this comes out, Stockton Winter Weekend will have finished, and Pasadena also will have hosted their Winter Festival in their new venue. I hope everyone was able to attend some of the Stockton sessions and get to Pasadena.

2026 will start off with many opportunities to join parties, workshops, and festivals: Cerritos has its upcoming Lunar Festival on February 21 with Tom Bozigian and Sheree King, the Laguna Festival on March 6-8 with Daniel Sandu and Anna Angelova, and the NFO Conference in North Carolina March 5-8. Registration is open for all. Please refer to the Calendar section for other events.

We all have new resolutions to strive for, and more dancing should always be high on that list! It will certainly enhance your health and social interactions. I'm sure all the new dances we'll be learning will help challenge our brains and memory (even remembering all the old ones does that!!). The fun of spending time with old friends and making new ones, and the thrill we get in our bodies with the pieces of music that resonate with us, is reason enough make the effort to dance more!

Greg Solloway

Stockton Folk Dance Camp

**From 2026 on, in our new home at the
University of California, Santa Cruz**

Sunday, July 19 through Sunday, July 26

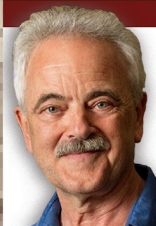
Sunday, July 26 through Sunday, Aug 2



BRUCE HAMILTON
English Country



ROO LESTER
Scandinavian



MAURITS VAN GEEL
Roma & International

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Parties • Assemblies • Evening Dance
Reviews
Games & Puzzles • Extra Classes • Surprises
and the beauty of the
University of California, Santa Cruz site**

**Make a deposit to reserve your spot!
stocktonfolkdancecamp.org
Deposits are refundable until May
2026**



**THE BOSTON THREE PARTY
BRIAN WILSON, TOM PIXTON & RALPH
IVERSON**



DANIEL SANDU
Romanian Inspired



STACY ROSE
Contras & Squares



TINEKE VAN GEEL
Armenian

ON THE SCENE

CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS

East Meets West: Lunar New Year Festival

Cerritos Folk Dancers will host the fourteenth annual Lunar New Year Festival on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m., at Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703. We promote communication among different folk dance communities. This year features two Master teachers, Tom Bozigian and Sheree King.

Everyone is welcome to the party. Suggested donation is \$15 per person, or \$12 if a non-refundable prepayment is received by February 14, 2026. Finger foods and other treats to share with other dancers are encouraged but not required.

For information please either contact Wen Chiang at (626) 500-5035 or write to CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com or chiangwenli@yahoo.com.

Wen Chiang



JAY AND JILL MICHTOM LUNCHEON

You're invited to a luncheon to celebrate Jay and Jill Michtom's contribution to the Federation! Join us on February 7th at P.F. Chang's, 15301 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks. RSVP to Greg Solloway: solloway@gmail.com or 972-467-1406.

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Mari Werner will teach *Zenski Capraz* in the month of February. It is a Bulgarian line dance she learned at Fall Camp, 2025 from Catherine Rudin.

We dance Friday night from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at Saint James Episcopal Church in South Pasadena. Mari Werner teaches a special beginners' hour from

6:30 to 7:30 every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. The first time attending the beginners' class the evening is free, thereafter the class is included with the regular \$8 admission charge for the evening. Set review on the second Friday of the month will be dark until further notice. There will be review of more difficult dances from 6:30 – 7:30 on the fourth Friday of the month.

Visit our website for monthly dance programs, a full dance list with videos, and general information about the Co-op: www.pasadenafolkdance.org

St James is located at 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena, 91030.

Hope to see you soon on the dance floor.

Pat Cross

LAGUNA FESTIVAL

The Laguna International Dancers are, as usual this time of year, working hard preparing for the big Laguna Festival which will be held Friday March 6 to Sunday March 8 this year. We are very excited to have two great teachers again this year: Daniel Sandu and Anna Angelova. Daniel is one of the most exciting and creative folk dance teachers in the world right now. He is coming all the way from the Netherlands to inspire us to dance Romanian Rom dances with great flair and panache! And Anna Angelova, who made a big splash teaching at the 2024 Stockton Winter Weekend will be teaching Bulgarian folk dances. It will be well worth your while to watch her carefully to pick up great Bulgarian styling!

If you want to come visit us you can see lagunainternationaldancers.com for class times and latest happenings. You can also download the registration form for the festival there. See you at the festival!

RECENT EVENTS

LAGUNA INTERNATIONAL DANCERS



The Laguna International Dancers had a good time celebrating the holiday season by dancing our favorite international folk dances to alternative Christmas and Hanukkah music. (Zemer Atik to "The Night Before Hanukkah" or Moj Maro to "Star of Wonder" for example. Fun!)

To top it off we had a wonderful New Years Eve party with live music provided by Sans Frontieres and Zimzala. (Both these bands will be playing at the Laguna Festival Friday evening, along with Tzidia from San Diego on Saturday evening.) At 9pm we celebrated New Years Eve (that's New York New Years Eve time) with a silly gift exchange game and a champagne toast. A perfect ending to another fun year of dancing!

NARODNI

Narodni dancers welcomed guests January 8th when the club resumed dancing after winter holiday break. First Karen and Dzevad Belkic, visiting from Stockholm, led the line, and sometimes sang along as we recalled favorite dances. Unexpected wild knocking at a side door interrupted a Romanian Hora. We cautiously opened the door to find Apple (he insists that he's no longer Abdul) visiting from Turkey. At the patio door, Müge, Apple's physician friend, calmly waited for us to invite her inside. Müge, born in SE Turkey, excelled at her region's dances, and now living in the US, loves Salsa. Don't tell the Women's Club, but we danced past our



closing time of 10 p.m. and are looking forward to more joyful evenings with members and guests. Join us Thursday evenings at the Women's Club of Bellflower from 8 – 10 p.m.

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

The rain continued as the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op's New Year's Eve party took place. We were a small but enthusiastic group of dancers, delighted to welcome old friends, including Karen and Dzevad Belkic. Music, dancing and friends, the best way to start a year.

Also, our annual Winter Festival took place on Saturday, January 24th. Fifth Friday played live music and there was preprogrammed recorded music. More about this next month.

Pat Cross

KOLO FEST 2025 -- REMEMBERING THE 74TH ANNUAL EVENT

All the elements for a spirited festival were present in San Francisco November 28-30th, and so were a dozen dedicated dancers from SoCal. Music in the main hall featured Fanfare Zambaleta, Orkestar Unbound, John Morovich with Sinovi, and Veseljatsi with guest artist Filip Filipov. On Friday evening Kolo dance lovers crowded into the Kafana for the "Tam Jam" with John Morovich, Craig Kurumada and Linnea Mandell. Crowds in the Kafana surged again Friday evening when Ralph Iverson joined Petar, Maria, Angel, Valerie & friends to play Bulgarian tunes until past midnight. Orkestar Unbound, led by festival director Will Cope, closed out the dance party Sunday afternoon with sweet vocals by Emily Saletan.

Two companies provided entertainment to kick off the evening parties, Łowiczanie Polish Dance Ensemble and Čardak Balkan Dance Ensemble. The latter's motto is "Uniting the Balkans one step at a time." Their feet zipped and pranced with youthful energy and inspired precision. A lovely So Cal daughter, Clarissa Hanson, is a principal in Łowiczanie.

The excellent teaching staff did not disappoint! Roberto Bagnoli and Tanya Dimitrov debuted at Kolo 2025. The Romanian duo Sonia and Cristian offered



Friends from both sides of the state share the joy of being together at Kolo

the challenging dances Corabasca from Bucovina and Brâu pe Sase from Argeş. On Saturday afternoon they charmed dancers with an unexpected offering, neither Balkan, Romanian nor French Canadian. Prior to the festival Will Cope composed a lilting waltz as a tribute to Lucy, a faithful supporter of live music festivals. Sonia and Cristian created graceful waltz figures for the music and we

were soon gliding, turning and greeting new partners in two concentric circles. The dance, "Will's Waltz," has entered the repertoire as a favored mixer! John Morovich taught correct technique for dancing traditional kolos (an essential learning experience for newer dancers) while accompanying himself on the accordion.

Delicious food catered by Hristo Kolev supplied the calories we needed to dance from 9 a.m. to midnight. Libations from the Croatian American Cultural Center

bar added to the merriment. The music would not have sounded so vibrant without the dedicated technical staff, Asaf Ophir, Sherry Cochran and Holly Plotner. Numerous individuals donated hours and hours to registration, refreshment replenishment, decorating, clean up, hospitality, promotion/publicity, scheduling, etc. Hats off and standing ovation to the Kolo Fest founder, John Filcich, and current director Will Cope! Kolo Fest Tee Shirts and more is available from the online shop, <https://kolofestival.org/shop.html>

Motto of the Festival Organizers: Let's make 2026 the best Kolo Festival Ever! Will it be possible to surpass Kolo Festival 2025? I'll be there to find out.

Diane Baker



LAST DANCE

JOE YANKE



Joe was born in 1954 to an Italian mother and American father. When they were young, the family lived in Italy with their grandparents and aunt. When he was 15 his mother passed away, and the family moved frequently because his father was in the Army. Joe began folk dancing,

and later Greek dancing, in the mid-1970s in Madison, Wisconsin.

He moved to San Diego around 1980, where he danced at the Folk Dance Center, at Calliope's (a Greek restaurant), and at Greek festivals throughout the area. Joe was well known for his strong Christian faith and his passion for Greek folk dance. San Diego has several folk dancers named Joe, so he was often referred to as "Greek Joe."

After a short but brave battle with pancreatic cancer,

he passed away on December 15. San Diego misses a sweet dancer, and Southern California misses a loyal soul at Greek festivals.

DENNIS EBERLING

Dennis Eberling was tall, handsome and always smiling (until his recent health troubles). He danced in Balboa Park, at the Folk Dance Center, and at La Mesa Rec Center leading dances as varied as Albanian, Serbian, and Turkish. Dennis was generous to a fault, contributing to many charitable organizations and he brought the swag they sent to the park for others to take and use. He always provided Wintergreen Altoids at every dance session he attended.

At Dennis' folk dance memorial, several people said that he was their best friend. No greater praise can be given to a person.

COSTUME CORNER

RESEARCHING BULGARIA

For Bulgarian folk costumes, the prime research tool is a magnificent, fully illustrated, and well annotated work, in four huge volumes (**Photo 1**), a true labor of love that came out over 27 years. It is, however, mostly written in Bulgarian. So, to help you navigate to what you might need, I will provide some details of its layout. Just remember: your eyes still recognize pictures and numbers, even if the words are opaque.

Photo 1: Volumes 1 and 2 of **Bulgarian National Dress**, by Beleva and Lepavtsova, covering northern and western Bulgaria respectively.



The first volume (1961: **Narodnaja odežda bolgar**) has a different title from the last three (1974, 1979, 1988: **Bŭlgarski narodni nosii**), although both titles are most easily translated as **Bulgarian National Dress**. The same two authors, M.G. Beleva and E.I. Lepavtsova, compiled them all, each volume covering a different area of Bulgaria, based on copious local material from the 19th and early 20th centuries. (All the books are in a big 9.5" x 13.3" hard-cover format, with colorful paper dust-jackets.)

Volume 1 (334 pages) is entirely in Bulgarian. It also sets the general format. The 25-page introduction is followed by 84 sheets of handsome, carefully detailed color drawings of costumes on matte paper (**Photos 2a, b**), each labeled as to type of wearer, village, region, and rough date.



Photo 2: Color drawings #65 and #14 of northern Bulgarian costumes. **a:** Old woman from Byala and little girl from Stoyanovo, Lovech region; early 20th c.

b: Young man from Tolovitsa, Belogradchik region; 2nd half of 19th c.

If you crave details of the embroidery and weaving, proceed to the next section, containing many glossy color photos thereof (**Photo 3a**). Next comes a thorough description in Bulgarian of each and every piece illustrated, followed by a dozen plates of pattern diagrams of the basic costume parts (**Photo 3b**), including headdresses, along with 5 pages describing them. The pattern diagrams are fairly self-evident, but if you can get the help of Bul-



Photo 3: a: V.1, #85: photos of costume details: from chest and sleeve of woman's chemise (tunic), from Izvor, Vidin region; 2nd half of 19th c. **b:** V.1, pattern page #1: diagrams of front and back of woman's chemise (tunic) from Izvor.

garian speakers, they need to know that the next section contains a 4-page glossary of the Bulgarian folk terms related to the costumes—local vocabulary from throughout the book which your translator may not know! Last, we find a list of the plates, a fold-out map (finally!) marking the villages covered, and a table of contents. From this map (**Photo 4**) we learn at a glance that Volume 1 covers the *north* of the country—the relatively flat lands north of the east/west Balkan range, sloping down to the great Danube River. Flatland costumes tend to be quite different from those of the mountains, which has much to do with the way the authors divided their material into volumes.

Photo 4: Map for V.1, showing all of Bulgaria, with the northern villages covered in this volume carefully labeled.



Volumes 2 through 4, being published much later, have some English at the end of each volume. Volume 2 (254 pages) covers western Bulgaria, with a map (**Photo 5**), drawings, close-up photos and patterns as before. At the end, a nice English summary (pp. 239-49) is followed by a 3-page list of



Photo 5: Map for V.2, showing the western part of Bulgaria, labeled with the villages covered in this volume. (Corner insert shows all of Bulgaria.)

English translations of the 120 plate captions and 16 appendix titles. (From these, if need be, you can figure out which bits to have someone translate for you—helpers are more inclined to do this if you request a paragraph or two rather than a whole book!) The Sofia district being included here, this volume illustrates some of my favorite Bulgarian costumes: brown, black, or blue wool jackets or jumpers decorated with white appliqué cords in spiral patterns (**Photo 6**). These are still donned by young girls dancing in the springtime Lazarki festival, which used to serve as the girls' "coming out."

Photo 6: Plate #92, V.2: Color photo of spirally appliqué cording on woman's outer jacket of brown wool, from Gorna Banya, Sofia district; 2nd half of 19th c.



Volume 3 (332 pages) covers eastern Bulgaria, along the Black Sea coast, with a brief summary (pp. 317-21) and caption list (326-29) in English (as well as in Russian)—but I find no map!

Volume 4 (378 pages) deals with the south (English captions pp. 373-78, but no summary here and again no map). This would seem to finish the job—but then, for some reason, it goes on to cover much of its western neighbor, the Republic of Northern Macedonia! (Keep a sharp eye on the place names.) That country was part of Yugoslavia (not Bulgaria) after World War II, till it became its own country in 1991. Granted the Macedonian language is closely related to Bulgarian, and some people in the southwest tip of Bulgaria speak Macedonian. (That's exactly the space left blank in the SW corner of the map in **Photo 5**.) But Macedonian costumes show very different historical backgrounds and influences from Bulgarian ones, although often falling within the *general* types of Balkan costumes seen from Romania to Bulgaria to Serbia to Greece.

So yes, this giant work is written in Bulgarian, but that need not stop you. Leaf through the lovely drawings and photos! Peruse the detailed pattern diagrams! If you are seeking a particular village's costume, find the village through Google, photograph its name there in *both* the Roman and Cyrillic alphabets, select the volume for that part of the country, and start hunting for a match!

Elizabeth Wayland Barber

P.S.: For those of you who want to engage in such research: were these suggestions of how to go about it helpful? What worked, what didn't? Your feedback will help me make future articles more useful—especially for languages (and alphabets) not widely learned here. Write comments to: editor@FolkDanceScene.org



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- Koprivshitsa Festival (held every 5 years) : Aug 4-15

Led by Ventsi Milev

Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, Koprivshitsa

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

GREECE-GREEK ISLANDS: Oct 4-17

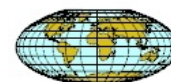
Led by Lee Otterholt, Maroula Konti, guide

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 ext.

ARGENTINA: Chile ext: Oct 5-15

BRAZIL: November 3-14

ECUADOR: Galapagos ext: Dec 1-14



North America

WESTERN CANADA: April 10-22

EASTERN CANADA: June 27-July 9

Middle East

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

ISRAEL: March 2-13

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March 6-8, 2026 Laguna Folk Dance Festival

You are invited to another
FUN-FILLED FESTIVAL

Featuring

ANNA ANGELOVA

teaching Bulgarian dances

and

DANIEL SANDU

teaching Romanian & Rom dances



Also, 3 dance parties and Happy Hours - with dance requests, live music (with Tzidia on Saturday night), great food & wine, an ice cream social, a Sunday concert, and awarding of the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award

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

Visit lagunainternationaldancers.com to register (after Dec. 10th)

Need help? Call Greg Solloway at (972) 467-1406

Or, complete the form below and pay by check or Zelle.

Same Prices as in 2025! • 3 bands will play •

| | | | |
|--|--------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Passport (all events) | \$150 | [] | .. at-the-door: \$165 |
| Friday 7 pm to 11 | \$ 30 | [] | Meals (must be pre-paid): |
| Saturday Workshops | \$ 60 | [] | Lunch \$ 25 [] |
| Sat. Evening 5 to 11 | \$ 45 | [] | Dinner \$ 38 [] |
| Sunday 9:30 to 4 | \$ 40 | [] | Lunch \$ 25 [] |
| (reviews, concert, Award, and dance party with requests) | | | |
| TOTAL (tickets and meals) | | | \$ _____ |

To register by mail:

Send this completed form to:

Kelley O'Neill, Registrar

21181 Serra Vista

Lake Forest, CA 92630

with a check payable to

Laguna International Dancers

or via Zelle, payable to

LagunaDancers@gmail.com

Plus beach dancing on Monday!



Registration by Mail: Name _____

Name for Badge _____

Phone # _____

Food allergies if you are buying a meal: _____

Email address (please print clearly) _____

For Laguna Woods Village residents and their guests. Please call Marilyn Yurk at 949-939-0604 by Feb. 28 to provide your name for guest entry. At the gate, say, "I am attending the festival hosted by the Laguna International Dancers as a guest of Marilyn Yurk, 949-939-0604."

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 *"Treasures of the World" - Cultural Festival & Dance Concert.* 11 AM - 6 PM Free admission to festival grounds, with food and merchandise vendors. Ticketed dance concert at 3 pm includes Carolyn Krueger's Gulistan Dance Theater, Arpana Dance Co, Viver Brazil, Korean Traditional Dance, McNulty School of Irish Dance, Pacifico Dance Co, Volta Dance Group, Karpatok (all subject to change.) Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance, CA 90503 www.pbssocal.org/event/treasures-of-the-world-cultural-festival-dance-concert
- 1 **Kypseli presents Bouzouki Night with Yannis Karabelas, bouzouki; George Kadaroglou, keyboard, singer; Andreas Foulis, percussion, singer/ Special Guest: Greek singer Kostas Valaskagis 5 pm, \$25.** www.kypseli.events/
- 6-8 18th Annual Croatian Cultural Extravaganza www.facebook.com/events/855210677668828/?active_tab=about
- 6 "Viva Los Angeles" Welcome Party At St Anthony Croatian Parish Center, \$15
- 7 "Preserving our Intangible Heritage" Cultural Concert at the Aratani Theater, 244 San Pedro, Los Angeles, 2pm (1:30pm seating), \$35 adults
- 7 *Gala Banquet and Dance* featuring the band "Sedef" from Croatia at St Anthony Croatian Parish Center, 712 N. Grand Ave, LA, CA \$85 adults, \$65 performers
- 21 **Lunar New Year Folk Dance Festival** hosted by Cerritos Folk Dancers. (See ad and description in *On the Scene*). Saturday 12:55-5:30 pm, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703. Donation: \$15 (or \$12 if paid by 2/14/2026). Featured master teachers are Tom Bozigian and Sheree King. Info: Wen

Chiang (626) 500-5035, or

CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com

- 21 **San Diego Membership Party** (rescheduled from Jan 31) live music by Tzidia with guest musician Sanna Rosengren at San Diego Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr. Suite 269, La Mesa, CA 91942 <http://www.folkdancecenter.org/newsletter.html>
 - 21 *Cretan Apokriatiko Glendi*, St. John, 405 N Dale Ave, Anaheim, CA, (date announced, no info online)
 - 21-22 *St. George Greek Festival*, Palm Desert 74109 Larrea St, Palm Desert, CA, 92260 <https://pdgreekfestival.org/>
 - 27-Mar 1 *Fiddling Frog Contra Dance weekend* Pasadena Masonic Temple, 200 S Euclid Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101 <https://fiddlingfrog.com/>
 - 28 *Nevenka's 50th anniversary concert* with the Hot Club of LA. an evening of swinging jazz manouche, Balkan favorites, and some new Romani songs. 7:30 PM at Soho Dance Studio, 14261 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA Doors open at 7 pm. All ages welcome. General admission: \$25 www.eventbrite.com/e/hot-club-of-la-and-nevenka-in-concert-tickets-1981474454433
- ## MARCH
- 1 **Kypseli meeting – save the date**
 - 6-8 **Laguna Festival** with Anna Angelova (Bulgarian) and Daniel Sandu (Romanian & Rom dances) See ad and OTS.
 - 29 *Goran Bregović* at the Luckman www.ticketmaster.com/goran-bregovic-los-angeles-california-03-29-2026/event/0B00632BA4A3179F

APRIL

12 *St. Sophia Easter Picnic* at Brookside Park

18 *Live Bulgarian music with the Varimezovi* at San Diego Folk Dance Center, Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr. Suite 269, La Mesa, CA 91942

MAY

15-18 *OC Greek Festival*, St. John, 405 N. Dale Ave, Anaheim, <https://ocgreekfest.com/>

23-25 *Valley Greek Festival* at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Memorial Day Weekend live music with Synthesi

JUNE

7 Kypseli party – save the date

26-28 *Ventura Co Greek Festival* with Synthesi

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 12-14 - *Statewide* in Chico. "Village Dance- What is it anyway?" featuring Ahmet Luleci (Turkish dance), "Kotse" Marinov (Bulgarian dance), Petar Aleksiev (Bulgarian music) Evening parties dancing to live music by Da! Mozhem www.folkdance.com/event/statewide-2026/

OUT OF STATE

Feb 12-15 *Greek Orthodox FDF* at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown in Phoenix AZ www.yourfdf.org/event/fdf-2026/

Feb 13-15 *Flurry Festival* in Saratoga Springs www.flurryfestival.org

Mar 5-8, *NFO Annual Conference* Durham NC <https://nfo-usa.org/annual-nfo-conference-2026/>

Mar 14 *Balkan Night Northwest* in Seattle www.balkannightnw.com/

Apr 17-19 *Lyrids Folk Dance Festival* featuring Tineke & Mauritz van Geel, Saturday Party Band Zakuska. Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall, 12460 Harris Rd., BC Canada <https://lyridsfolkdancefestival.org/>

May 15-17 *IFC Revival Camp* master teachers Ercüment Kılıç (Azerbaijan/Turkey) Andy Taylor (Carpathian Region), Circle Lodge, Scenic Sylvan Lake, Hopeful Junction, NY. <https://share.google/cW213y5sCsofgF2G1>

May 21-25 *Maayan Neurim Israeli-International* 4-day festival folk dance music and cultural heritage at Camp Eisner, Great Barrington MA Contact: Aaron Rosenberg maayanneurim@gmail.com (1) 561-667-0910 www.jewishworldlife.com/danceevents.asp?EventID=15889

June 11-14 *June Camp* in person with Caspar Bik, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, IL (north Chicago); live music with Tom Pixton, Ralph Iverson and Brian Wilson; <https://sites.google.com/site/junecampifd> , contact JuneCampIFD@gmail.com



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Cerritos Folk Dancers

喜瑞都土風舞社

Lunar New Year Festival

East West Workshop

Presenting Master Teachers

Tom Bozigian

Sheree King

Saturday, February 21, 2026

12:55 to 5:30 P.M.

Cerritos Senior Center

12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703

**Suggested donation: \$15 per person at the door
(non-refundable \$12 if prepaid by Feb. 14, 2025)**

Finger foods to share are welcome, but not required

Info : 626-500-5035 or 562-338-2298

Email: CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com

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



DANCING IN DELPHI

TERPSICHORE AND THE LOTHARIO

After the Acropolis in Athens, the sanctuary of Delphi is the second most important archaeological site in Greece. So, as a tour operator I have included Delphi on almost every tour we've done and in over twenty years—that means I've been to Delphi more times than I can count. It is a majestic site and one that even the best photographers have trouble capturing.

The French Archaeological School first excavated here over a hundred years ago and found such a vastly rich, ancient site that they had to actually move the entire town of Delphi up the road a few miles to where it lies today. To call it a town is really an exaggeration. It is much more a village on a hillside with only two roads: one at the top that comes into town and one at the bottom that goes out of town. There are a few hotels, some restaurants, and plenty of souvenir shops. There are two banks, one post office, a few churches, and the bare minimum of civic businesses to keep a village going. That's it. Delphi is a tourist place, plain and simple.

For all these years there has been but one "A" class hotel and after the first few years they kept the "A" rating but not the standards that go with it. Nevertheless, it is convenient to the village. I have always held the belief that for those who travel with us, staying in one place for at least two nights is a better way to really experience the other Greece, the one that has little to do with ruins and everything to do with the way people live. How can you separate ancient history from modern history? There is a continuum.

During my second year of doing tours to Greece, and on a warm, spring evening after a cacophonous dinner in the hotel dining room that serves legions of tour groups, my friend Nanda, who is also our tour guide, suggests a walk into town. "Where to?" "To George's." I'm up for everything and then some; if I could inhale Greece in one breath I would. So I don't hesitate. Along with our driver, Dimitris, we walk along the road that comes, not the one that goes. We pass a few souvenir shops on both sides of the road, all selling the same sort of merchandise that tourists need: T-shirts with lovely and not so lovely

messages, worry beads, and bad replicas of ancient statues. And though it is well past 10:00 pm, they are all open and business is lively. I ask Nanda how late these shops stay open and she answers matter-of-factly: "As long as there are people to buy." We walk for only a few yards more when I hear the music. And there we are in front of a modest establishment with doors wide open and spirited Greek *bouzouki* music flowing out into the street. For me it is like Odysseus and the Sirens' song; I am inexorably drawn in.

Inside the long narrow room are upholstered benches lining two walls facing each other. At one end opposite the entry is a bar. There is a pole in the center of a dance floor and a few small tables nudged very close to the benches to accommodate drinks and ash trays. We squeeze ourselves onto one of the already full benches. Dimitris orders a beer, and Nanda and I share an one ouzo. That's the strong clear aperitif that Greeks love so much. When ice or water is added it turns a milky color; the addition, however, doesn't make it less diabolical. We sip our ouzo slowly — we have work tomorrow and hangovers are out of the question.

As another piece of music begins, two young men rise from the benches. They could not be more dissimilar. One is round and substantial with a light complexion and a soft smile. The other is his polar opposite: short, dark with shiny, black, slicked back hair, wearing tight black pants, a white shirt opened to reveal a large gold cross. He also looks as though he is looking at you, but not. I learn later that he has a glass eye, the result of a hunting accident. They circle the room reaching out to those who would like to learn to dance and persuading those who don't that they in fact do. They form a big circle and encourage all participants into a shoulder hold as they begin to move in easy steps around the room. In no time and wordlessly they have taught the group an easy dance and everyone is thrilled to be dancing like Zorba the Greek.

Later in the evening an older gentleman, who I find out is the George of George's, picks up a guitar and sits in a corner near us. By now the mass of human-

ity has thinned out considerably and so has the smoke. The recorded music dies and George begins to play and sing quietly old songs from his and his father's generation. In a beautiful, lilting voice Nanda sings along, and I wish the evening would never end.

It is now quite late, George has finished his repertoire and the recorded music is again playing, this time a slow purposeful beat and a melody so beguiling that someone will have to sit on me to keep me still. And now the two young men stroll on to the dance floor and perform a dance so compelling, so intricate that I am mesmerized by the leaps and turns and dips and utter synchronicity of their duet. I ask Dimitris what this rapturous dance is. He tells me that it is an old dance called *Hasapikos*, the Butcher's Dance. It has been especially popular since the 1960's, when Melina Mercouri made the movie "Never on Sunday".

Over the next few years, you can find me at George's every evening when we are in Delphi. Occasionally Nanda will come too, or one of our drivers. And when I can interest some of our tour participants to come along and learn to dance I do. But no matter who comes, I am there. I have learned that the fair young man, Theophanis, is George's son and by day a guard at Delphi's archaeological site. Vasilis, the one eyed-hunter, carries luggage at one of the smaller hotels. Gossip has it that he is married and has a son. But by night in addition to dancing he is a *kamaki* - the word in Greek means the hook that catches the fish. In Vasilis' case the fish is whatever woman tourist may have need of his services. It is a simple case of supply and demand. And though his English is meager, he has mastered the phrase: "May I walk you to your hotel." While the answer is not always "Yes", it often is. It must be stressed that a *kamaki* is not a gigolo. He doesn't do what he does for monetary compensation. Nanda says that his service is for the pride of Greece, but I'm inclined to believe it is for personal, masculine pride and has little to do with his country.

When I am not on tour, which is most of the time, I am at home in Los Angeles learning to speak and dance Greek. Each time I return to Greece my endeavors become more apparent. I can now easily dance the simple dances, even lead one or two of

the group dances. And miraculously I am even learning the Butchers' Dance with many of its variations. Now even the locals in town know me and I am greeted warmly when I enter George's. I can manage a simple conversation with Aris at the bank, with Effie at the post office and with Maria at the souvenir shop.

But by now the "A" class hotel has become unsuitable for us. Sometimes there is hot water and other times not, and on at least one occasion no water at all. If you don't know where the dining room is, you can find it by following like breadcrumbs the scent of burnt toast which reaches all the way to your room. Often the swimming pool lies empty on a day when the temperature reaches over 90 degrees. And the food is mostly brown. To keep Delphi in our program we find a charming, small, boutique hotel in the neighboring town of Galaxidi. It is less than a thirty minute drive to Delphi and we can easily spend the two nights here and see the archaeological site as well. We can even have lunch and spend the entire afternoon in the village. Alas, what we can't do is dance at George's.

Other things are slowly changing as well. Travelers have fallen in love with cruising and are abandoning the land tour. Their reasoning makes little sense to me. They prefer not to have to pack and unpack. But what's the trade off? Life on board a ship and a quick excursion to see the ruins and back before the ship sails. How can that compare to wandering little streets and meeting the locals, trying a neighborhood *taverna* for lunch overlooking a shimmering sea of olive trees and eating stuffed vine leaves or fresh, grilled fish just plucked from the sea? How can life on board a ship compare to an evening at George's?

Years later here we are again in Delphi. But this time we are staying in town at a new, small hotel that is very nice and has probably been built to accommodate Greeks in the winter who have belatedly discovered the chic sport of skiing in the winter. But it is September and we have the hotel practically to ourselves.

After checking in we have a free afternoon. Most are interested in a nap. I want to walk. I begin at the top, the road that comes. And in no time, I am at George's. I have known for years that it is closed, a

victim of a tourist-less village, but I have not seen it until now. I have also learned that Theophanis is married and works in Itea, the harbor town of Delphi, where the cruise ships dock miles away. George's is boarded up. I'm surprised by the grief that washes over me as I remember the joy I experienced inside these walls. In all this time no one has tried to reinvent it, to resuscitate it. It is a relic, a ruin as sure as those of 2,500 years ago down the road at the ancient site.

In the intervening years I have learned to speak Greek fairly competently and to dance the *Hasapikos*, the Butcher's Dance, like nobody's business. Continuing my walk I note that I am basically alone on this street that used to be filled with tourists, with life. Maria's store is shut. Is it closed permanently or just for siesta? I am at the end of the road that comes and I decide to turn the corner and follow the road that goes. And I see something new: an Internet café - progress of sorts. As long as I'm here, why not check my email?

It is pretty lifeless here as well. Two customers drinking beer and one woman hunched over a computer. Recorded Greek music is playing in the background. And though he's behind the bar facing away from me, I would know him anywhere: the small frame, black pants, white shirt and hair slicked back. It's Vasilis! The once shoe-black hair now is streaked with gray and a few more lines are obvious on both of our faces. A mutually delightful reunion ensues. He commends my Greek. I ask as delicately as possible about his life and his life style. Age and the threat of AIDS have put an end to his career as a *kamaki*, but nothing has changed his bravado. I have an idea. How about my bringing some of our group in tonight and he can teach them to dance? I can tell he is elated by the request but cannot allow himself to show it completely. I am so overjoyed by the prospect that I leave without checking my email.

I am impatient to be finished with dinner. I have managed to round up five willing participants to come to the Internet café, though only three want to learn to dance. Again we are almost the only customers in the place, but Vasilis is raring to go and so I leave the instruction to him as I stand in line, a student along with the others. After a very satisfactory class all have learned the easy Zorba dance and we sit down and sip our drinks.

Soon a *Hasapikos* comes on. I get up, not so bravely but determinedly, and ask Vasilis if he would like to dance the Butcher's Dance. He raises his eyebrows questioningly. He has no idea that I can dance this dance and do it well, perhaps better than he. But he obliges, and I let him take the lead position. My arm rests firmly on his shoulder and his on mine. I sense that this will be a test. And we begin. I steady my nerves and follow the leaps, turns and dips without missing a beat. I have seen his routine so many times with Theophanis, and though I have never danced it exactly this way, I remember it as if I had. I see by the grin on his face that I have passed the test. The dance ends and I hear applause, not just from my small group of five but our performance has drawn in people filling the room, and others are watching from outside. He kisses me on both cheeks. I am beaming.

I return to the table and join our little group. I have impressed them and they are not reluctant to say so. Now Vasilis, the waiter, has work to do. Everyone is ordering something. The music continues but no one is dancing. Three in our group would like to try it again, so I take the role of leader and we dance the simple dance. Others in the room would like to learn as well and we add them to the line. In no time we have turned the Internet café into a dance hall. The cafe has probably taken in more money tonight than they have all season. Tired and happy, the crowd knows they have had a Greek experience, unplanned and therefore even more wonderful.

It is late now, but the crowd has not made a move to leave. Another *Hasapikos* is playing, one of my favorites. I will not ask him to dance though it would knock his socks off if he only knew how well I can dance this. And just then he is at my side. "*Ela*", he says, "*as horepsoume*", "come, let's dance." He is asking ME to dance. Mr. Macho man wants me to be his dance partner. I rise and allow him to take the lead. We are, after all, in Greece and this is his turf, his domain, his kingdom.

Joyce Helfand

POETRY CORNER

WRITE A FOLK DANCE VALENTINE

Remember when you heeded that whispering whim
And uncorked the heady wine of dance within
And found it ripe and ready for consumption
'Cause you had the gumption
To open that spirit-filled, folk-dance door
And let Hora Haktana twirl you 'round the floor

Tumble through memories that set you ablaze
With laughing and dancing in so many ways...
Linking arms 'round gals 'n turning them off their feet
Or gliding through Smilyana with its melancholy beat

Recall that tickling, trickling fun
Contagion-caught by everyone
At costumed festivals and fancy-dance days
Or the Hess Kramer weekend that cured a malaise

Falling in love with fabulous folk-dance
Confers on-going pleasures... like a fine romance.

- Camille Dull

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 7:00-9:00. Balboa Park. Balboa Park Club, 2144 Pan American, **SAN DIEGO**. (858) 459-1336 gbsham@gmail.com Georgina, 858-766-1095 michaelleonardcreditor@gmail.com Michael-Leonard Creditor, <https://sites.google.com/site/cabril lodancers>

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: 2nd & 4th Sun of month 3:00 - 7:00. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd, **MONTEREY PARK**. vincentyhcheng@gmail.com 626-429-9008 Vincent Cheng. Sat 10-2. 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

Int'l Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods: Tue 2:00-4:00. Clubhouse 1 Multipurpose Room 2, 24232 Calle Aragon, **LAGUNA WOODS**. (949) 939-0604 Marilyn Michael Yurk. First-time dancers call Marilyn for gate clearance.

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**. leecotterholt@yahoo.com Lee. Sun 6:00-8:00 on Zoom. sollowayg@gmail.com Greg. www.lagunainternationaldancers.com

Narodni Int'l Folkdancers: Thu 8:00-10:00. Many dark nights—call first. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BELLFLOWER**. (562) 410-6964 julithilona@gmail.com Julith Neff www.narodni.org

***Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op:** Fri 6:30-9:30. St James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Ave. **South Pasadena**. **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.prescottinternationalfolk dancers.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.

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

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 Mary). Ventura YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd, **Ventura**. Non-members check with Mary first. (805) 667-9037voice mcowen_3@msn.com Mary Kerrigan.

Vintage Israeli Dancing: One Sat per month 8:16-12:00. Danzmundo 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: Fri 2:00-4:00. Canoga Park Sr. Ctr. 7326 Jordan Ave. **Canoga Park**. (818) 979-5030. 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. Www.krakusy.com

Nevenka East European Folk Ensemble: Contact: Jennifer Jurick 818-519-2034, info@nevenka.org

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. Www.WestchesterLariats.org

Associate & 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 (assoc): Mon 7:00-10:00 Masonic Lodge, 272 W. 8th St, **CLAREMONT**. (909) 921-7115 Yael. www.meetup.com/israeli-folk-dancers/

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

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

***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

Kolo Festival(assoc): Thanksgiving weekend. **San Francisco**. bill@kolofestival.org Bill Cope. kolofestival.org

San Diego Folk Dancers: Mon 7:00-9:00. Balboa Park, Balboa Park Club, 2144 Pan American Way, **SAN DIEGO**. 858-722-0489 Yueugenia@yahoo.com. Chin Yu

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 pm on/near campus plus occasional Saturday parties RSVP & info HistoricalDance@yahoo.com. Occasional Israeli lessons: Tues. Hillel Foundation. Info & RSVP IsraeliDance@yahoo.com

***Westside Daytime Folkdancers(assoc):** Wed 12:00-2. Culver City Senior Center 4095 Overland Blvd, **Culver City**. 2nd & 4th Sat 7:00-8:30. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1260 18th St., **Santa Monica** sandysmail1000@gmail.com, (310) 391-7382 Sandy Helperin



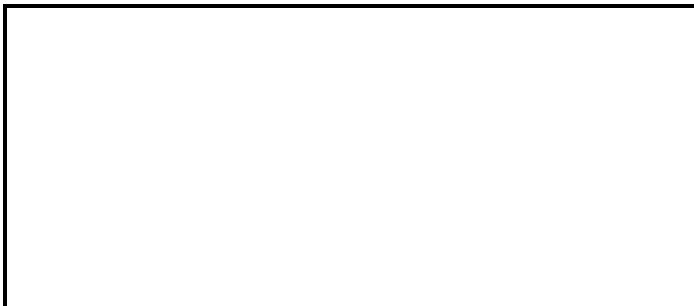
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