



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: *Palekh lacquer painting: The Snowmaiden watches her friends dance.*



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 62, No. 5
June/July 2026

Editors' Corner

Readers have different interests—we hope you find yours served among our various articles.

On the Scene is combined with Recent Events this time. You can find what has been reported to us of past events and future offerings there.

Check the feature on Fall Camp and Calendar, plus the ads, for upcoming events. The seasonal festivals are many!

Betchen returns with references on Russian/USSR costumes, and shares from her collection of images for the cover.

Hear from your colleagues in Poetry Corner and Last Dance.

This is the June/July issue. Look for us again in August.

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,

Greetings from Cappadocia, Turkiye, where I am on tour with Maurits and Tineke. We have had the pleasure of having noted Turkish teacher Ahmet Demirbagh with us, who has also entertained us on the bus with his singing, gaida, and kaval playing. Besides getting to see some fantastic natural sites and learn about the local history and culture, we've seen some local groups and gotten some great new dances to bring back. We're having fun dancing with old friends and making new ones!



Unfortunately, one of our group broke her leg/ ankle on the first day's excursion. This happened in a very common situation coming down some stairs. A simple slip while looking up at the scenery and her trip ended suddenly with her going to the hospital and then flying home. There is a lesson to be learned here – don't stop focusing on what you need to do and make sure you have travel insurance when making one of these journeys. We hope she will make a quick recovery and get back to dancing soon.

The Corner continues on page 8.

Statewide Folk Dance Festival

June 12-14, 2026

Chico, CA



"Kotse" Marinov
Bulgarian Dances



Peter Aleksiev
Bulgarian Music



Ahmet Lüleci
Turkish Dances

Teaching during days.

Evening Parties with **Da! Mozhem**
playing International Folk Dances



Friday/Saturday: First Christian Church 295
E. Washington Ave

Fri: Doors open **Noon** - Ends 10 pm

Sat: Doors open 9am - Ends 10 pm

Sunday: Chico Women's Club 3rd & Pine St.

Doors open 9am - Ends **Noon**

For more info or to register: <http://statewide.folkdance.com>
or contact memokeswick@gmail.com

STATEWIDE 2026 FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL



Ahmet Lüleci
Turkish dance



"Kotse" Marinov
Bulgarian dance



Petar Aleksiev
Bulgarian Music

Theme: "Village Dance-What is it anyway?"

June 12-14, 2026, at:

Fri-Sat: First Christian Church, 295 E Washington Avenue, Chico, CA

Sun: Chico Women's Club, Third & Pine Streets, Chico, CA

(Doors open at noon on Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday)

Name(s): _____

: _____

Preferred e-mail &/or Phone: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

FESTIVAL PACKAGE (meals separate) (Do NOT mail after June 6th, instead pay at door)

(Includes ALL classes and parties)

{ } \$180.00, when payment is received by ~~January 31~~ (MAR 8th)

{ } \$200.00 when payment is received by ~~March 31~~ (APR 30th)

{ } \$240.00 when payment is received after ~~March 31~~ (APR 30th)

Evening Parties with International Folk
Dancing to Live Music of Da! Mozhem

CHECK IF taking Petar Aleksiev's music classes _____

On site: FRIDAY	
Afternoon classes	\$40.00
Evening party	\$40.00
On site: SATURDAY	
Morning classes	\$40.00
Afternoon classes	\$40.00
Evening party	\$40.00
On site: SUNDAY	
Morning reviews	\$40.00
TOTAL	

Events subtotal:

\$ _____

Meal Registration Prices

(ONLY with pre-registration.)

{ } \$40 Friday Catered Dinner

LUNCH is on your own

{ } \$40 Saturday Catered Dinner

Dietary Restriction? _____

Meal subtotal:

\$ _____

Donation (So appreciated!):

\$ _____

New member discount <\$40>:

Coupon must be presented at door

<\$ _____>

TOTAL:

\$ _____

Host hotel:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Chico
(530) 891-0100 "2026 Statewide" rate \$139

To register with this mail-in form:

Make checks payable to: FOLK DANCE FEDERATION

Send form with your check postmarked by deadline to:

Statewide Registrar, 153 Race Street, San Jose, Ca 95126

(Do NOT mail after June 6th, instead pay at door)

Online Registration: <http://statewide.folkdance.com>

Short of funds? For work scholarships contact
Memo Keswick at memokeswick@gmail.com
The Federation also has a Scholarship
Program

Masks optional and proof of vaccination requirements will follow CDC, State, and County COVID regulations at the time of the event.

Sponsored by The Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

ON THE SCENE/RECENT EVENTS

On the Scene **STATEWIDE FESTIVAL**

There's still time to register for Statewide Folk Dance Festival in Chico, taking place June 12-14. See the flyer and registration form in this edition of Scene!

--Michael Wright

FRIDAY NIGHT L.I.F.E.

Two special events are taking place at L.I.F.E., 10936 Santa Monica Blvd #4539, Los Angeles. On June 5th, Tom Bozigian and Sheree King return with more exciting Armenian and Lebanese dances. Workshop and Party!

www.facebook.com/events/963323366184803/

This year, the widely popular and always boisterous Summer Birthday Party is on August 21st, featuring Orkestar Unbound! www.facebook.com/events/1911160646256259/

--Sherry Cochran

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Our teacher in June will be Valerie Daley. She will teach Dorozhka, a Cossak dance taught in 2006 at Stockton.

In July Toti O'Brien will teach Zoriuszka, a dance introduced by Andy Taylor at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the summer of 2025. It is a quiet women's dance from the Lemko and Prešov Rusyn regions in the borderlands between what is now Ukraine, Poland, and Slovakia. The dance is done to an old Slavic song which dates back to medieval times.

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op dances Friday nights at Saint James Episcopal Church in South Pasadena. Regular dancing is from 7:30 to 9:30, but from 6:30 to 7:30 we have special classes. Every first and third Friday, Mari Werner teaches a beginner's class – the first time attending this class there is no charge for the evening;

thereafter the class is included with the regular \$8 admission charge for the evening. Set review by Marshall Cates is on the second Friday of the month. The fourth Friday of the month you can review or learn more difficult dances with Rick Cofield, Valerie Daley or Toti O'Brien.

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 Church is located at 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena.

Hope to see you soon on the dance floor.

-- Pat Cross

Recent Events

SOMIS FESTIVAL

The Folk Dance Federation of California South celebrated Spring this April with a wonderful festival at the Thursday Club in Somis. The venue was truly charming and featured an exceptional sprung floor.

Dancing with folk from other SoCal clubs is always enriching, joyful and hearty! Big thanks to Marc and Jan Rayman who between them made this festival happen and run so smoothly.

Let's do it again next Spring!

--Valerie Daley



FRIDAY NIGHT L.I.F.E.

Friday May 8, Friday Night L.I.F.E. welcomed internationally renowned Turkish dance artist and musician İdris Ersan Küçük, a visiting scholar and Assistant Professor at UCLA, for a dynamic evening of Turkish dance and music. Participants were energized by lively Black Sea dances taught to the driving sound of live kemence, along with spirited dances from Konya and Artvin that brought the rich regional traditions of Türkiye vividly to life.

--Sherry Cochran

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

On May 9th, the Fifth Friday band had the great pleasure of sharing the music they love with members of the Eagle Rock community. In this the third in the series "Music without Borders" they played music from Turkey, Greece and Armenia. Band members are all dancers with the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op and wish to thank the Eagle Rock Library for providing the space and promoting this program.

--Pat Cross



Photo by Marsha Cifarelli

CERRITOS 17th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL Cerritos Folk Dancers Celebrate 17th Anniversary Festival

The **Cerritos Folk Dancers (CFD)** joyfully celebrated their **17th Anniversary Festival** on May 16, 2026. The event was a resounding success, drawing a lively crowd of 67 attendees. The dedication of our folk dance community was on full display, highlighted by two enthusiastic dancers who made the long drive all the way from Phoenix just to participate in this annual milestone.

The afternoon featured an incredible cultural tapestry:

A Touch of Japan: Thirteen CFD members, beautifully dressed in traditional kimonos, captivated the audience with a performance of three Japanese dances.

Global Rhythms: Four guest dance groups took the floor to lead a wonderful variety of dances of their own choosing, keeping everyone moving.

Tea-Time Delights: During the intermission, attendees were treated to a splendid spread of delicious food dishes.

It was a true "East Meets West" celebration where old and new friends alike came together to share their passion for movement and music, making it an unforgettable afternoon of dance and camaraderie.

The next two festivals to be hosted by the CFD will be held on February 20, 2027 and May 15, 2027, both supported by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc.

:-) Wen

POLYXENI AND THE GENTS AT KYSELI

On May 3rd, Kypseli had a live band playing for a fun evening of music and dancing. Polyxeni Theologidis and her sons Lason and Filippos, based in San Diego, played a return visit for Kypseli Greek Dancers on a Sunday evening. We enjoyed them back in March so were eager to have them back.

As I walked through the door I realized I was on a musical tour through Greece. As a child I collected stamps—it was the way I learned where countries were in the world. What I did not learn was what it was like on the ground in a country of mountains, vast sea coast and many islands. Once I discovered how different the landscapes were, I understood that their dances reflect their landscape in ways I had never imagined.

Since, I have also learned about cheeses, and that the average Greek citizen enjoys only about 5 styles of cheese while the French enjoy their "250 famous cheeses". But the average Greek enjoys more per person than the typical Frenchman, and they enjoy eating them very differently. How, you ask? Start in the Taverna. They enjoy a beverage with cheese and olives with friends, letting the variety of juices blend together, bringing out a variety of tastes to come through savoring each bite along with the music.

As our evening began, we too were enjoying some mezedes and various beverages with our friends as the band began to play. Savoring the music is more of a European idea, as we Americans tend to be in a rush and often miss this. As the musicians played, one person moved by the song rose to the dance floor for a Zeibekiko, first dancing alone, but soon others joined in when a Syrto was played.

We then metaphorically moved outdoors, traveling to the island of Ikaria, which has that unmistakable "island feeling" in its dances. We have a few dancers in the group that have "island feeling" in their dancing, and I find that when one of these dancers take the lead, this permeates through the line. When it hits me, I realize "Oh, yes this is an island dance," so I try to incorporate that feeling in my dancing too.

One of the great joys of a live band is that they play longer than a recording can, allowing for a variety of leaders in one tune or dance. How the line feels with each change can be felt if you take the small effort to notice this. It's not just the footwork, but the gentle movement of hands and arms. Unfortunately, some folk dancers miss this, worrying more about proper foot placement and steps. Watch the leader to see their entire body movement, not just the feet. This is like enjoying the full flavor of the cheese with wine, as the flavors mix to bring out more complexity for even more enjoyment. This is part of what makes folk dancing enjoyable to me.

We traveled back to the mainland for an Hasapiko,

a Hasaposerviko, then a Tsamiko. The movement of a Tsamiko, seemingly one step back then three steps forward, is as if you are traveling up the hillside. Yes, it was a warrior dance originally. Each region has its own dance styles that make Greek dancing as rich in folklore and dance styles as France is in cheese styles.

When the band took a break, we learned that the soundmen were Polygxeni's husband and a friend, and I realized they were the athletic dancers who were adding to the evening's fun! Our DJ played a few Kypseli favorites. When the band returned we were once again in the taverna for a Tsifelli; then we traveled off to the Thracian region for a Zonarodiko, and on northward to Macedonia for a few numbers from that region.

One statement I heard many people say throughout the evening was "Oh, I have not heard that song for so long!" It is true, I thought, I haven't heard "Never On A Sunday" sung in Greek in a while.

It was an enjoyable evening.

You too can enjoy this rich folklore with us at Kypseli. The location is the Tango Room at 4346 Woodman Ave in Sherman Oaks. The hope is to have a live music event every 4-10 weeks as a band is available. For more information: www.kypseli.org/ events or Ann's facebook page at Ann Gani Sirota.

See you soon on the dance floor!

--The girl in the swirly skirts, Nancy Miilligan

The Corner, continued from page 3

It is quickly coming up to summer, when many festivals and camps are taking place. Hopefully, many of you will be able to take advantage of these opportunities to renew friendships, make new ones, and learn new dances to bring back to your groups. I hope you are taking advantage of the scholarships offered by the Federation, one of the ways we help you to participate in these fun events.

Travel is educational and fun, and even if you're not on a formal tour, you can incorporate some local dancing into any trip you're taking. We have many resources to help you connect with people who might steer you to that unique, new experience. Above all, have fun!

--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

-All the Stockton Folk Dance Camp fun -
Parties • Assemblies • Evening Dance
Reviews
Games & Puzzles • Extra Classes • Surprises
and the beauty of the
University of California, Santa Cruz site



BRUCE HAMILTON
& Marcie Van Cleave /
Denise Heenan
English Country



DANIEL SANDU
Romanian Inspired

REGISTER FOR CAMP NOW!

Price increase after May 31

Full Refund until April 30

Details available on our
website



ROO LESTER
& Harry Khamis
Scandinavian



STACY ROSE
Contras & Squares



MAURITS VAN GEEL
Roma & International



EMILY SALETAN
Singing



THE BOSTON QUARTET
Tom Pixton, Brian Wilson,
Ralph Iverson & Sammy Wetstein



RALPH IVERSON
Instrumental
Music



TINEKE VAN GEEL
Armenian

POETRY CORNER

Fathering Greatness

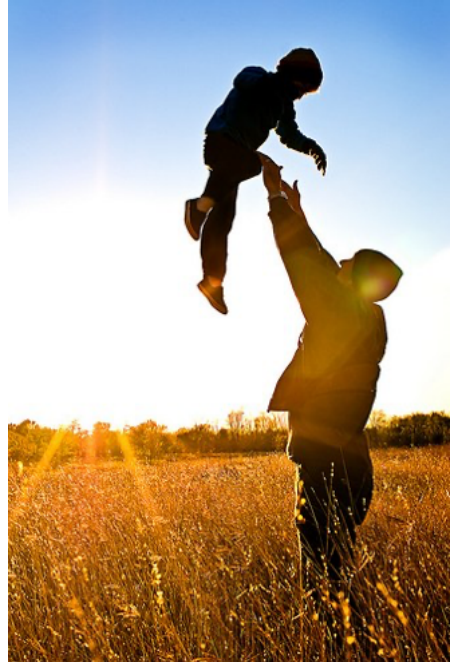
Short of words but long on kindness
Gentle in strength, strong in forgiveness
Leading with quiet wisdom far-seeing
Greeting triumph without preening

Instant action in disaster
Helping others even faster
Speaking courage to the weak
Building up the slow and meek

Caring, curing, helping, feeding
Sheltering those whose need is bleeding
Quiet compassion toward eyes that plead
Generosity crowding out simple greed

A servant-leader who benefits all,
Whose insight and integrity enthrall.

--*Camille Dull*



Shakespeare Writes About A Dance

The following, drawn from the archives, was originally written for the *Washington Post* Style Invitational contest that asked readers to submit "instructions" for something (anything) but written in the style of a famous person. This was, of course, before AI. The winning entry was The Hokey Pokey (as written by William Shakespeare).

THE HOKEY POKEY

By Jeff Brechlin

O proud left foot, that ventures quick within
Then soon upon a backward journey lithe.
Anon, once more the gesture, then begin:
Command sinistral pedestal to writhe.
Commence thou then the fervid Hokey-Poke,
A mad gyration, hips in wanton swirl.
To spin! A wilde release from Heavens yoke.
Blessed dervish! Surely canst go, girl.
The Hoke, the poke — banish now thy doubt.
Verily, I say, 'tis what it's all about.

— by "William Shakespeare"

FALL CAMP

Registration is open for Fall Camp, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1.

Fall Camp this year will feature some of the excellent teachers from Southern California who have not had as wide exposure as they could. They will present some of the best dances from Stockton and elsewhere and will revive a few great old dances. People who enjoyed Camp Hess Kramer for many years will recognize the appeal of a program like this. The first Fall Camp (in 2019) and last year's also had some outstanding local teachers bringing dances back from Stockton. That will be the focus of Fall Camp 2026, and it should be a wonderful opportunity to discover dances you'll love!

But Fall Camp is much more than learning dances. As always, the theme of one of the evening dance parties will be fall colors. The Saturday party will have a spine-tingling Halloween theme. We will enjoy all the dancing on a wood floor in a beautiful air-conditioned hall.

Of course, camp will include many other favorites from past Fall Camps, including the Potluck Band, crafts and puzzles, stargazing, morning nature walks, an ice cream social, happy hours, and more. There will also be some fun new activities.

You won't run out of entertaining and even enriching ways to spend your time on the lovely Brandeis-Bardin Campus near Simi Valley. But when you're ready for a private rest, you can return to your motel style room (with heating and air conditioning).

Registration prices through June 30 will be the same as last year. Prices increase on July 1.

If you're reading the printed version of *Scene*, you can find a registration form on the middle two pages of this issue. If you're reading the PDF version, please go to **FallCamp.org** to download the registration form using the link there in the upper right corner. (If you aren't reading the print or the PDF versions, then it's a mystery to us how you're reading this.)

However you register, do so soon to ensure you get a space before camp fills up.

If you have questions about camp, please contact the organizers, Marc & Jan Rayman, at FallCamp2026@gmail.com or 818-790-8523.

-- Marc & Jan Rayman

*A favorite photo from
Fall Camp 2025*



Fall Camp

Oct 30 – Nov 1, 2026



Enjoy a delightful weekend of dancing and other popular activities on the lovely rural Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley (near Los Angeles). Motel-style rooms.



In addition to lots and lots (plus lots more) of dancing, we'll have many fun Fall Camp favorites, including the Potluck Band (open to all musical campers), crafts, stargazing with a rocket scientist, morning nature walks, happy hours, and more.

Friday dance party theme: **Fall Colors**

Saturday dance party theme: **Halloween**



For more information, see the article above and scroll down from here...

Fall Camp will feature some of the excellent teachers in Southern California presenting new dances from Stockton and elsewhere and reviving old favorites.

Dance in a beautiful air-conditioned hall with a wood floor



Entertain your inner child with some zany dances

Register by June 30 for the early bird discount!



For more information, please see the two preceding pages. Then even before you finish reading this issue of *Scene*, register at FallCamp.org or email FallCamp2026@gmail.com



COSTUME CORNER

Researching Russia

Fortunately for Americans, the three best books I happen to know of for investigating the costumes of Russia include texts in English. The one I use most is *Russian Folk Clothing* (*Russkii Narodnyi Kostjum*: Leningrad, 1984; 224 pp.), by L.N. Molotova and N.N. Sosnina (**Photo 1**). Replete with color plates (and the pages are big!), the tome is a delight to just sit and leaf through. In fact, I tend to get stuck doing just that, every time I use the book! It begins with a lengthy and well-illustrated discussion of Russian costume in its various aspects (pp. 5-42, English summary pp. 43-48), followed by 190 illustrations, most of them full-page (**Photo 2**). Although the picture captions throughout are in Russian, they are all translated on pp. 218-21; and for those who read Russian, longer explanations of the (unnumbered) images in the opening text and the (numbered) plates in the “illustration” section appear on pp. 205-17.



Photo 1: Russian Folk Clothing (1984), hard-bound in red cloth and colorfully boxed (above: box-front; below: box-back and book spine). The many-layered costume shown there is late 19th century, from Tula (in central Russia), consisting of a long white chemise with elaborately woven red sleeves; a waist-to-ankle skirt woven with a white-on-black pattern of squares and hemmed in red and gold; a long, narrow black apron; a multi-colored woven and embroidered sash; a short black, skirt-like *dushagreika* (“chest-warmer”), necklaces, and an elaborately beribboned hat with ear-covering white puffballs—the delight of teenage girls when they became old enough to wear the costume. The back of the box (Left) shows a close-up the exceedingly ornate back of the same Tula costume. (How does she ever sit down??)



РУССКИЙ НАРОДНЫЙ КОСТЮМ

Многообразие форм, типов и многочисленность каждого компонента одежды, являя достоверность этнодокументального решения, самобытность ornamentики и техники ее выполнения — характерные черты русского народного костюма на протяжении ряда веков. Благодаря уникальным коллекциям русских народных костюмов Государственного музея этнографии народов СССР, на основе которых построено альбом, возможно показать красоту и многообразие русского крестьянского костюма, выразительность декора его отдельных частей — головных уборов, пояса, перчаток, украшений, обуви, и богатейшую палитру применяемых материалов, включая от драгоценных металлов и жемчуга и вплоть до глиняных аппликаций и крапиво-краски перьями. Народный костюм являет и собой разностороннюю область, тесно связанную историей и этнографическим познанием его создателей. Он — стойкий этнический индикатор, живой элемент материальной культуры и подлинное явление фольклора искусства, сформировавшее различные виды декоративного творчества.

RUSSIAN FOLK CLOTHING

The original articles represented in the Album “Russian folk clothing in the collection of the State Ethnographic Museum of the people of the USSR” demonstrate the diversity of forms and ornamentation richness of clothes of Russian peasants populated in European part of the country and Siberia.

One can not isolate the peasant clothes evolution from the development of aesthetic standards, perception of surroundings and from the very heart of folk history. Clothing is an outstanding original element of material culture, a steady ethnic indicator and, at the same time, a phenomenon of national art creating one’s admiration with the beauty of its decorative solutions.





Photo 2: Bridegroom's outfit from Semipalatinsk, an area east of the Urals colonized by a group of Russian-speakers—so-called Old Believers—so long ago that they maintain many more of the old traits of Russian men's costumes. That extra panel of red embroidery dipping down on his shirt on its left is there to magically protect the man's heart, while the pants are embroidered with other ancient magical signs for fertility, etc. (Plate 184; mid-19th to early 20th century.)

Another useful costume book—of very different scope, however—is **National Costumes of the Soviet Peoples** (*Odezhda narodov SSSR*: Moscow, 1990; 224 pp.), by N.M. Kalashnikova and G.A. Pluzhnikova (**Photo 3**). Whereas the first book dealt with the costumes of ethnic *Russians*, this second book samples the clothing of many areas of the *Soviet Union*, a far wider topic. Again lavishly illustrated, this book is truly bilingual, with its preface (pp. 5-11) printed in 2 columns, one in Russian the other in English, and all captions in both languages. It starts in the far north, in Archangel (**Photo 4**). Up north, the women's skirts of farther south have been pulled up to the armpits for warmth, creating the classic "Russian" *sarafan*, which is not used in the center and south. Then comes a brief section on Belorussian, Ukrainian, and Moldavian costumes (pp. 46-65), followed by the Baltic and the north-west (pp. 66-87), the Volga and the Urals (pp. 88-109), Siberia and the far East (pp. 110-149), Central Asia and Kazakhstan (pp. 111-177), and the Caucasus (pp. 178-203). Finally we see a bilingual list of every artifact with its museum number (pp. 204-222) and a brief bibliography in Russian.

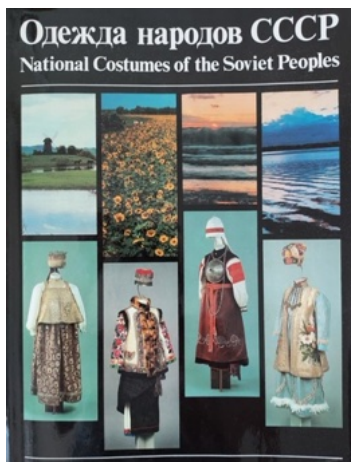


Photo 3: Book jacket, front and back, for **National Costumes of the Soviet Peoples** (1990), reproducing some of its handsome color plates—both costumes and scenery—from all over Eurasia.

Those interested specifically in Russian embroidery and textiles may find useful material in Chapters 10-11 of **Russian Folk Arts** (New York/London, 1975), by Alexander and Barbara Pronin (**Photo 5**). Such patterns, found chiefly on clothing and towels, I have sometimes traced back to the Bronze Age and beyond, whereas others have turned out to represent calendars marking times to plant, to harvest, and so on—key concerns of non-urban folk.

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber



Photo 4: Northern women’s typical jumper-like *sarafan*: this one from Arkhangelsk, on the White Sea. Note the white chemise, heavy (warm!) brocade cloth of the *sarafan*, and the crown-like *kokoshnik* headdress, which indicates the girl is unmarried and available. (Plate 5; early 19th century.)

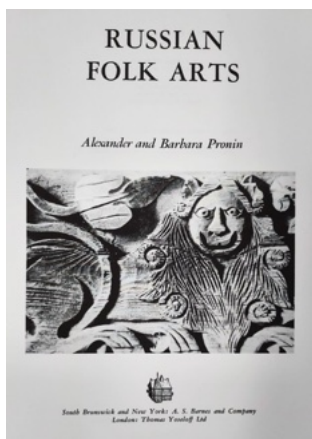
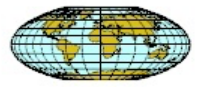


Photo 5: Title page of *Russian Folk Arts*, by A. and B. Pronin (1975); plus p. 152, illustrating embroidery on the edges of towels from Olonets and Nizhni Novgorod. The towels bear related designs, traceable back to at least 700 BCE in the Balkans, of a fertility spirit known in Slavic as *Bereghinya* “Protectress”, shown protecting birds, animals, and/or fish.



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Varnasi, Pushkar



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CALENDAR

JUNE

- 5 *LIFE Balkan Dancers present Armenian & Lebanese Workshop and Party with Tom Bozigian & Sheree King* hybrid in person at LADanceFit, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, LA CA 90025, enter through the back. \$20 E-mail worldance1@gmail.com for the Zoom link or info. See OTS.
- 6-7 *Downey Greek Festival* 10830 Downey Ave, Downey, CA
- 7 *Alice in Wonderland Tea Social* at South Pasadena Masonic Lodge, 1126 Fair Oaks Ave, South Pasadena www.historicalteaanddance.org/
- 13-14 *San Diego Greek Festival* St Spyridon, 3655 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA Free parking and shuttle at SD Unified School Dist lot, 4301 Campus Ave. www.sdgreekfestival.com/
- 14 - *Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus*, 1:30 pm, Ukrainian Center, 4315 Melrose Ave, LA, <https://ukrainianartcentersocal.org/>
- 26-28 *Irvine Greek Festival* St. Paul's, 4949 Alton Pkwy, Irvine CA <https://irvinegreekfest.com/>
- 26-28 *Ventura Co Greek Festival* with Synthesi at St. Demetrios in Camarillo, free parking and shuttle at VCOE, 5100 Adolfo Rd <https://vcgreekfestival.org/>

JULY

- 10-12 *South Bay Greek Festival* St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church 722 Knob Hill Avenue Redondo Beach, CA 90277
- 12 *Lotus Festival*, Echo Park: a pan-Asian food, music, and performance event <https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/lotusfestival>
- 18 *DakhaBrakha* at The Bellweather, downtown LA www.ticketmaster.com/event/0900647B1DB0BE0F info on the venue <https://thebellwetherla.com/>
- 18-19 *Alondra Park Ho'olaule'a* - a celebration of Hawaiian culture, music, food, and community. 3850 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Lawndale, CA. Free entrance, parking at El Camino College

(paid) or street parking. Live entertainment, island food, crafts, and cultural booths. Sat: 9 am - 5 pm, Sun: 10 am - 4 pm <https://hiccsc.com/alondra-park-ho%E2%80%9998olaule%E2%80%99a>

AUGUST

- 2 *Labyrinth Masquerade Dance Workshop* at South Pasadena Masonic Lodge, 1126 Fair Oaks Ave, South Pasadena, CA 91030 www.historicalteaanddance.org/
- 21 *Summer Birthdays Party* at LIFE Balkan Dancers with Bill Cope's Orchestar Unbound 8 - 11 pm Hybrid - in person at LADanceFit, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, LA CA 90025. Enter through the back. E-mail worldance1@gmail.com for the Zoom link or info. See OTS.
- 30 *Remembrance for Lu Perry* at Woman's Club in Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street, Bellflower, CA 90706, 2:30 -5:30 pm live music with Interfolk and other musicians. Hosted by Cindy & Dawn Perry Coordinator: Shana Winokur (ms.winokur@yahoo.com)

SEPTEMBER

- 4-6 *Orange International Street Fair* (now sponsored by Orange Plaza Traditions) 112 E Chapman Ave, Orange, CA 92866 www.optevents.org/
- 5-7 *Long Beach Greek Festival* 5761 E. Colorado St Long Beach, CA 90814 www.lbgreekfest.org/
- 5-6 *Israeli Mini Camp w Gadi Bitton and Almog Ben Ami* (with a pre-camp event Fri Sep 4 and a post camp session Mon Sep 7) www.rokdimbavalley.com/ prices go up June 1
- 12-13 *Covina Greek Festival* 20340 E. Covina Blvd, Covina "Greek Festival, Homemade Greek Food, Live Greek and Armenian Music" <https://covinagreekfestival.com/>
- 18-20 *Pasadena Greek Festival* 778 S Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107, free parking at Santa Anita Race Track Gate 6 www.pasadenagreekfest.com

19-20 *Los Angeles International Ukulele Festival* at Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance, CA 90503 Tickets available online or at the door <https://losangelesukulelefestival.com/>

19-20 *Serb Fest LA* St Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, 1621 W. Garvey Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803 www.serbfestla.com

OCTOBER

3 *Santa Barbara Old Time Fiddlers' Festival* <https://fiddlersfestival.org/>

10-11 *St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church 13th Annual Armenian Food Festival*, 145 22nd St, Costa Mesa save the date - food, live music, dance, shop

16-18 *Temecula Greek Festival*

30 - Nov 1: *Fall Camp* at the Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley, motel style rooms, teachers from Southern California, potluck band, crafts, stargazing, nature walks. <https://fallcamp.org/> questions email FallCamp2026@gmail.com See ad and article.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 12-14 *Statewide Festival* 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/ See ad.

June 27-July 4 EEFC West Coast Balkan Music and Dance Workshop, Mendocino Woodlands <https://eefc.org/balkan-camp/west-coast-2/>

July 4-11 *Middle East Dance Camp* Mendocino Woodlands www.middleeastcamp.com

July 19-26 - Week 1 of Stockton Summer Camp, now at Santa Cruz <https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org/summer-camp/> See ad.

July 26-Aug 2 Week 2 of Stockton Summer Camp <https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org/summer-camp/> See ad.

OUT OF STATE

June 11-14 *June Camp* 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

July 9-12 *Door County Folk Festival* (includes Zoom access) <https://dcff.net/> Zoom registration at https://dcff.net/register-zoom/2026_participant-register-menu-zoom.html

July 16-19 *New Mexico Folk Dance Camp*, featuring Genci Kastrati and Laszlo Tihanyi. www.swifdi.org/

Sept 4-7 *Balkanalia* at Camp Angelos in Oregon (outside of Portland) - save the date

Sept 10-13 - *Tamburitza Extravaganza* returns to the birthplace of the TAA, St. Louis, MO for 2026 <https://www.tamburitza.org/ganza2026>



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LAST DANCE

LU PERRY



Longtime folk dancer Lu Perry died in March. She was a member and leader of folk dance clubs in Orange County and South LA County. We miss her kindness and dedication. Her daughters are sponsoring a Celebration of

Life on August 30th with live music and dancing. More information will be published later in Folk Dance Scene and on the website of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, as well as on the Facebook page: Veselo Selo & Narodni Folk Dancers. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/800433566740206>

-- Shana Winokur

JOHN FILCICH



If there was one person who put every ounce of spirit into living life and creating joy, it was my dad.

Friends, light a candle and put on a song.

My beloved dad, John "Ivan" Filcich passed away a little after 8 pm on May 11, 2026, at the age of 101 11/12ths. He was home, comfortable, we were all together. He crossed over as

delicately and dignified as he danced all these years.

We are grateful that it was only 9 days from John's last dance, Drmes & waltzing to Sinovi in Seattle, to his last breath. The last month of John's life he enjoyed his 102nd birthday celebration, and other wonderful parties.

John enjoyed every dance and interaction he had with friends these past few years.

He didn't just love and live life 100%, he lived it

102%. Thank you to everyone who helped make his last years not just comfortable, but so incredibly special.

One of the founders of Balkan Folkdance in the USA, lifelong dance teacher, music researcher & producer, festival founder & director, mentor, father, grandfather, partner, uncle, cousin, son, and instigator of joy - thank you John Filcich for all you have done for our world and mine.

--Jana Filcich Ashbrook

MARGALIT OVED



Margalit Oved passed away in February at the age of 92. She was a noted professional Yemenite dancer and choreographer, and also taught at UCLA.

--Frances Prevas



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/cabrilodancers>

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**. leeotterholt@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, **BELFLOWER**. (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.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.

Santa Barbara Folk Dancers: Mon, Thu 4:00-6:00; Wed 7:30-9:30. Oak Park Stage, 638 West Junipero St, **SANTA BARBARA**. 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/

Crestline Int'l Folk Dancers (assoc): 3rd Fri 2:00 Crest Forest Senior Center (Leisure Shores), 24658 San Moritz Dr. **CRESTLINE**. (408) 634-2850 tarkus150@gmail.com Megan Miller

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): Tue 2:00-4:00 Nov-Apr. The Joslyn Center, 73-750 Catalina Way, **PALM DESERT**. (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

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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