



Folk Dance Scene



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On the Cover: *The spectacle of a Ballet
Foclórico performance at Statewide*

First, a shout out to all the dedicated volunteers who create and produce Folk Dance Scene. It's a lot of work, but we're dedicated to keeping the folk dance community informed about what's going on, promoting folk dance opportunities for existing and new dancers, and providing in-depth information about folklore and culture.

It's an exciting time at Scene. Our dedicated design-layout team of Pat Cross and Don Kroster are finally retiring after 19 years, but over the coming months are working with their successor, Megan Miller, to make some design upgrades. Scene would not exist without Pat and Don—next time you see them, give them a big thank you for the many years they've been contributing their creativity and expertise!

See if you can spot the changes in this and upcoming issues, and give us your opinion. Are we making progress or do you prefer to keep with the traditional format?

Michael Wright

President's Message



The lucky folk dancers on the Armenian Tour and some of the people they met.

Hi everyone,

I recently returned from a tour in Armenia with Maurits and Tineke, and I absolutely recommend this tour! It leverages Tineke's lifetime experiences and local contacts in Armenia. In addition to visiting the major cities of Yerevan and Gyumri, we spent a lot of time in small villages. Many have state-funded art schools—after regular school, students study art, instrumental music, weaving, ceramics, and, of course, dancing. We were treated to performances of music and dance and were able to dance with the local groups after their performances. In many cases, we were also treated to lunch or dinner at the dance instructor's house, which also expanded our experience of how locals really live today. The food and drink were terrific – local wines and fruit nectars, lots of fresh vegetables, and tasty desserts!



One of the instructors took us to his “old” house where he grew up and lived until age 25. His great-grandfather built it over 100 years ago. It was a large room with a sod roof, large supporting timbers inside, and typically had about 25 people living in it at any one time. It was lit with oil lamps, had one large skylight, and a pit in the floor for cooking bread and meat



Our primary guest teacher, Mery Levonyan, was a real treat. She's a fantastic singer and knows a lot about the evolution of dances as they moved from one region to another. She's fluent in English, easily explains the steps (and the hands!), and her legs appear to be made of springs. Several of us are working to bring her to the West Coast for a workshop tour or festival.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of the wonderful tours that many of our favorite instructors' lead – they make experiences of a lifetime!

Closer to home, we are still looking for people to join our Outreach Committee. All of our groups are looking for new and creative ways to find and enroll new members. Please contact me or Diane Baker if you are interested.

Also, as Michael Wright mentioned in his column, our Folk Dance Scene editor and layout-design experts are trying out some changes. Give them your feedback on the changes. Finally, Scene is your magazine, and we'd love to have more articles on what's happening in your group. We're asking each group to name a person who will take the lead in submitting material each month, telling the folk dance community about events and news within your group.

Keep on dancing,



Greg Solloway

ON THE SCENE

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-Op dances every Friday night at Saint James Episcopal Church in South Pasadena. Regular dancing is from 7:30 to 9:30 with a teaching session around 8:00.

From 6:30 to 7:30 we have special classes for different levels. Every first and third Friday, Mari Werner teaches a beginner's class. The first time attending this class there is no charge, and thereafter the class is included with the regular \$8 admission charge for the evening. In August we're starting a new second-Friday offering: Valerie Daley will be teaching beginning or intermediate level dances not in our current playlists with the intent to work the most popular ones into the monthly programs. And on 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. Saint James Church is located at 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena.

Mari Werner

A New Group in Crestline!

Crestline, which is located near Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains, has a new folk dancing group. They meet once a month on the third Thursday at the Crest Forest Senior Center. At first they relied on legacy cassette tapes for music, but the Federation's Outreach committee recently provided them with a laptop containing a huge catalog of dances. They are very appreciative and invite any dancers who happen to be visiting in the area to come join them. For more information contact Folkdance@thinmail.net.

Megan Miller

Narodni-Vesselo

The Thursday night group will be DARK until Aug. 20, when there will be a special meeting with members and interested dancers, to both dance and get feedback and suggestions for the future. The OLLI lessons on Wednesday will continue.

Frances Prevas



Live Music at L.I.F.E.

Summer birthday party with Orkestar Unbound! August 21st, 8-11 pm, free admission. (Thanks to Diane Baker for again subsidizing this event!) 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, LA For additional information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1911160646256259/>

Sherry Cochran



Let's Dance!

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927 Springfield Drive
Millbrae, CA 94030

RECENT EVENTS



The happy crowd at the Laguna International Dancers outdoor dancing event

Dancing Under the Stars in Laguna

July 8th was a perfect evening for dancing outdoors on a shaded patio! Laguna International Dancers hosted their annual summer party featuring live music, much to the delight of an appreciative and happy group of dancers. We danced to the lively music of the popular local band Sans Frontières, led by our own Terry Gucwa, enjoyed a delicious assortment of snacks, and had the pleasure of catching up with old friends while getting to know new ones. We were especially pleased to welcome two dancers from the newly formed Crestline International Dancers club.

Amy Dale



Live music at Dancing Under the Stars, with some band members wearing "ethnic" hats.

A Centenarian Birthday



Betty Solloway, age 106, congratulated "youngster" Jean Beek on her 101st birthday at the Laguna International Dancers July Birthdays Party.

Greg Solloway

Statewide Folk Dance Festival



The lovely venue and enthusiastic dancing at Statewide in Chico

High Spirits and Eagerness to Learn Surpassed the 103° Temperature in Chico

The Federation's Statewide Folk Dance Festival is one of the biggest events on the West Coast every year. This year was no exception. The theme was "What's Village Dancing?" Dancers hailed from "villages" in Oregon, Washington, Illinois and Massachusetts as well as California. Dancers from So Cal included, among others, Sherry Cochran who shuttled her audio equipment from LA to play recorded music, and Chin Yu, chair of next year's Statewide Festival in San Diego.

Memo Keswick, this year's Chair, sent advance notice to the 124 registered attendees that Chico can be hot. But I can attest that the June heat wave did not impair our pleasure in dancing together. Sweat-shirts were left in hotel rooms. Portable fans aug-

mented the air conditioning in Koinonia Hall of the First Christian Church. Volunteers continuously replenished lemonade and ice water to keep dancers hydrated and happy.

The Festival featured Konstantin "Kotse" Marinov teaching Bulgarian dances (some learned from his grandfather), Ahmet Lüleci reprising favorite Turkish dances, and Petar Aleksiev teaching instrumental and vocal Bulgarian music. Packed into the schedule were cultural sessions. Kotse described and demonstrated characteristics of dances from each region of Bulgaria. He noted from which region and village each dance he presented arose. Ahmet, who is embarking on a new career—film making—shared the film he recently produced as a tribute to a recently deceased colleague. We applauded scenes along the Black Sea Coast of Ahmet dancing with members of the ensemble to which he had belonged before

immigrating to Boston, and scenes of local folks joyously dancing at an annual festival near Samsun. His film also depicted sobering scenes of neighborhoods devastated by the 2023 earthquake and the joy on children's faces as they participated in dance classes taught by Ahmet when he visited to lend a hand with recovery.



Stacy Rose accompanies Ahmet through his first Hambo ever at Statewide!

band Da! Mozhem displayed their virtuosity and vast repertoire during evening parties. For some of the numbers Petar's students picked up their instruments or cleared their throats to join the band on stage. We dancers loved the variety of instruments and musical genres. Ahmet danced a "Turkish" Hambo with Stacy Rose as well as leading the dance line during Halays. On Saturday, Ballet Foclórico, directed by Miranda Francis, provided exuberant entertainment (see photo).

Volunteers in the kitchen efficiently served delicious pre-ordered meals and yummy snacks. The wonder-

ful facility included an adjacent dining room, kitchen, classroom for music lessons and a room for costume sales. Colorful banners representing the various villages (dance clubs) who were in attendance decorated the dance hall. In January, prior to the festival, Memo had offered instructions and a link for clubs to each create a festive "tapestry." In addition to club murals one banner on the wall honored the teachers, and another depicted the festival committee's smiling faces.

Three cheers for the volunteer festival committee members!!! Their diligence, thorough planning, sweat and sacrifice of sleep resulted in a wonderfully successful Statewide 2026. Chin Yu, Statewide 2027 chair announced next year's dates, **May 14-16, 2027** in Balboa Park, San Diego, as well as teachers Sonia Dion, Cristian Florescu and Tony Petroulias and bands Pareia and Tzidia! Southern Californians, now it's our turn. It's a wonderful event with great live music, dancers from near and far, great food, and excellent teaching. Mark your calendars. Plan to attend! Let's support Chin and the San Diego dancers who are now organizing Statewide 2027.

Diane Baker



*Southern California was well represented!
(Not pictured: Margaret and Gary Lange)*

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FALL CAMP IS COMING IN OCTOBER!



Lower Prices and More Fun

Fall Camp, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, is held on the lovely campus of Brandeis-Bardin in Simi Valley, which happens to be an ideal place to learn or review folk dances. And now you can join the fun at a lower price! Thanks to the largesse of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, we have very recently reduced all camp prices to equal or even below what they were last year.

If you come to Fall Camp, you will dance on a comfortable wood floor in a beautiful temperature-controlled hall, with teachers who are easy and fun to learn from, and you will get to know some very friendly and interesting people.

Fall Camp this year will feature some of the excellent teachers from Southern California who have not

had as wide exposure as they should. Marcella Lawson and Marc Rayman will present some of the best dances from this summer's Stockton Folk Dance Camp, and Diane Baker will present some favorites from this year's Statewide Folk Dance Festival and the North/South Folkdance Teachers' Seminar.

Further teaching plans will be announced later. People who enjoyed Camp Hess Kramer for many years will recognize the appeal of a program like this. The first Fall Camp (in 1919) and last year's also had some outstanding local teachers bringing dances back from summer camp. That will be the focus of Fall Camp 2026, and it should be a wonderful opportunity to discover dances you'll love!

The accommodations at Fall Camp are more com-



fortable than those of most dance camps. The rooms have air conditioning and private bathrooms, and there isn't a single bunk bed in the entire adult housing area. Some of the cottages are close to the dance hall, while others are slightly more distant, nestled among trees. You can choose which you would like, and we will try to accommodate you.

We have a happy hour each evening before dinner, where you can enjoy wine and snacks. The meals, following strict Kosher guidelines, are excellent, and if you have dietary restrictions of your own, you can specify them and they will be respected. To satisfy your sweet tooth and give you energy for more dancing, there will be an ice cream social during the Saturday evening dance party.

Of course, camp will include many other favorites from past Fall Camps, including the Potluck Band, stargazing, morning nature walks and more.

There are areas, both indoors and outdoors, where you can gather with friends to socialize. The camp has a large room near where dancing takes place. This room is where head wreath making and other fun crafts are offered, along with jigsaw puzzles and board games such as Scrabble. If you have a favorite board game, you might want to bring it and see if others want to play it with you.

Besides learning dances, doing crafts, and playing board games, there are opportunities to do other activities that will delight you. You can walk over the gently rolling hills of the campus, sometimes spotting interesting birds. If you want a true bucolic experience, there is even a barn where you can visit horses

and farm animals. If you like unusual architecture and enjoy walking, you can take a quiet rural road to an interesting architectural wonder, a temple called The House of the Book. Or take a nostalgic trip to the 20th century with Robert Samuelson's Music Time Machine. If there's enough interest, Camille Dull will conduct her intriguing Finding Your Inner Poet workshop.

You won't run out of entertaining and even enriching ways to spend your time at Fall Camp, but when you're ready for a quiet and private rest, you can return to your motel-style room.

If you're reading the printed version of Scene, you can find a registration form on the middle two pages of this issue. It includes the recently lowered prices. If you're reading the PDF version, please go to Fall-Camp.org to download the registration form using the link in the upper right corner. (If don't have the print or the PDF versions, it's a mystery to us how you're reading this.)

Whatever method you use to 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 Fall-Camp2026@gmail.com or 818-790-8523.

-- Jan Rayman



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...

Diane Baker, Marcella Lawson, and Marc Rayman will present dances from Statewide, North/South, and Stockton. More teaching plans will be announced soon.

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



Entertain your inner child with some zany dances



Registration prices recently reduced!



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

Ukraine, Part 1: Some Deep History

Some 22,000 years ago, a group of women living originally in the area of Ukraine and South Great Russia had begun a costume tradition that survived in East and Central Europe into modern times. Consisting of a simple little skirt of strings (of no use for warmth or modesty), its purpose was to signal that the wearer was of an age to be able to produce that miracle, a child (**Fig. 1a**). 15,000 years later (by 5000 BCE) with the development of looms and woven cloth, some women in what are now Serbia and Ukraine, at least, were wearing a more substantial signal: a solid cloth skirt woven in a squared pattern, almost a plaid (**Fig. 1b**). Skip ahead another 3000 years. Soon after 2000 BCE, southeast Europeans adopted from Syria a simple sleeved tunic of plain white linen— our word *tunic* even came along with the garment. Tunics kept the body much warmer than string skirts but created a problem: they couldn't be allowed to cover up the matured girl's signal-garment, her "badge of womanhood" (as an Albanian lady put it 25 years ago, who was still proudly wearing one). So, the "badge" was moved to the outside: a colorful hip-cover—stringy and/or woven—tied on over the white garment that covered the body.



Fig. 1a: 2 small Palaeolithic sculptures of women wearing little skirts of string ca. 20,000 BCE: Gravettian culture, from Lespugue, France, and Gagarino, Russia

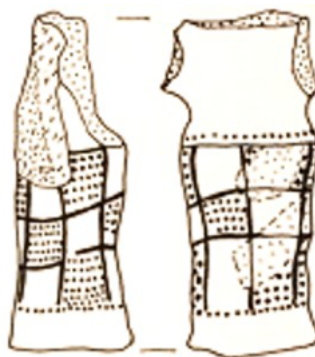


Fig. 1b: 2 small Neolithic clay figures of women, one from Sipintsi, W. Ukraine, wearing string skirt (ca. 4000 BCE), another from Vinča, Serbia, wearing square-patterned woven skirt (ca. 5000 BCE).

In Ukrainian culture, this hip-cover is to wear over her white chemise/tunic when Ukrainian *plákhtha* is not a full skirt, because apron, the front gap being hidden by a smaller front-apron, often now white and embroidered. The back-apron is darker than the white tunic. In Ukraine nowadays (for Ukrainians still proudly wear these costumes on special occasions), it is a heavy checkerboard-patterned cloth, predominantly red with black and other colors (**Fig. 2**), or—the older form—black with thin white stripes forming large squares on it (**Fig. 3**). The original *string* skirt still lives on in the form of added tassels and pompoms. On the more modern *plákhtha*, pompoms are placed at the bottom front corners and often at the center back hem, while on the older-style black *plákhtha*, a special row of fringes is often placed high up in back (**Fig. 3**), and/or in little bunches at the hem or front corners. (Farther north, in Central Great Russia, where it gets much colder, the square-patterned black skirt is closed in front into a true skirt by means of a plain black panel—a panel that does not give its presence away because the apron over it is so large. But some form of square-patterned back-apron occurs as far north as parts of Belarus.)

When a girl reached puberty, the family's women would gather in the main room of the house, where the girl would hop up onto the wooden sleeping/sitting bench that encircled the room. As she walked along it, her mother and aunts would walk beside her, holding open the new *plákhtha* (often woven by the girl herself), and inviting her to jump into it, while she would chant the equivalent of, "I'll jump if I want to; I won't, if I don't!" Traditionally she had the right to refuse the *plákhtha* for a year if she didn't feel ready yet to be courted for a bride (or if some old codger she couldn't stand was angling to marry her!).



Fig. 2: Typical Ukrainian woman's costume, Kyiv area, consisting of: a white chemise with red embroidery on its hem (zigzags) and its sleeves (geometric and floral); over that, a back-apron woven with a checkerboard design and pompoms at the front corners; a long front-apron on top, this one dark with woven designs; a woven red sash.

Fig. 3: Older form of back-apron: black fabric with slim contrastive stripes forming a squared pattern, and vestigial strings in bunches at the top. From Oryol province, just north of Ukraine.



Fig. 4: Figurine of woman wearing outfit structured almost exactly like recent Ukrainian folk dress; from Kličevac, Serbia, 1600 BCE. Note the copious sleeves of the chemise (with floral and geometric decoration), wide sash, front apron ending in long strings, lower skirt with squared pattern and even a zigzag edge (as in Fig. 2).



A daughter typically spent much of her girlhood learning to spin, weave, sew, and embroider, along with other household arts. As in much of Europe, it was the skill and beauty of her costume—the weaving, and the dense embroidery—that advertised to potential mothers-in-law how useful a daughter-in-law she would make. For any new bride would be at the bottom of the family hierarchy, assigned to do much of the daily work. Early on—about 1600 BCE—we see an almost exactly “Ukrainian” costume depicted on a large clay sculpture, complete with square-patterned *plákhta* over a tunic embroidered at the hem and along the large, puffy, ornamented sleeves, plus a little front-apron with long fringes like a string skirt (**Fig. 4**).

But what about men? A boy was awarded a long red sash upon reaching puberty—a custom traceable back at least 4000 years. Its original form was a cloth belt strong enough to support a man's abdominal muscles when doing heavy work (**Fig. 5, right**). It was worn knotted in front, with the two tasseled ends hanging down to cover the waterfront.

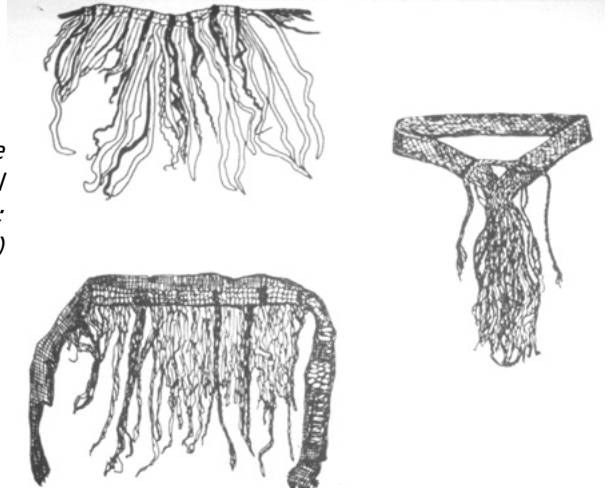
About 4000 years ago (as with women), a long tunic was added to the costume, which then had to be shortened to create a shirt when trousers were invented by early horse-riders on the Eurasian steppes a few centuries later (**Fig. 6**).

Elizabeth Wayland Barber, "On the Antiquity of East European Bridal Clothing," Dress 21 (1994) 17-29; The Mummies of Ürümchi (1999)



Fig. 6: Drawing of a man buried at Zagunluk (Tarim Basin, Central Asia) ca. 700 BCE, wearing pants and a long-sleeved shirt (both of red wool), an intricately corded sash, and white leather boots. (His left boot is intact; the right one is partly missing, showing wool padding wrapped around the leg and foot as insulation.) Long shirt, pants, sash, boots: this costume, developed by early horse-riders in Central Asia, is the same costume traditionally worn by Ukrainian and Russian men.

Fig. 5: "Sashes" typically worn in the Tarim Basin, Central Asia, ca. 1800 BCE, as one's main apparel. Left—women's. Right—man's. (For cold weather, everyone added a felt cap or hood and a huge wrapped cloak of woven wool.)



POETRY CORNER

Dancing with You

Dancing with you I am 14 again
Bubbling bright, gluttoned with gladness
Savoring each sensation...
My hand on your nape
Is a lingering caress.

Dancing with you I transcend
Worldly cares and complexity...
Conflicting convictions cave
Competing ideologies fade
Factions and fictions vanish.

Dancing with you I am a child again
With wisdom enough now
To relish the priceless, fleeting gift
Of being enveloped completely
In sensuous serendipity.

--Camille Dull

CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 2 *Labyrinth Masquerade Dance Workshop* at South Pasadena Masonic Lodge, 1126 Fair Oaks Ave, South Pasadena, CA
www.historicalteaanddance.org/
- 20 **The Thursday night Narodni-Veselo group will be dark until Aug. 20, when there will be a special meeting with members and interested dancers, to dance and get feedback and suggestions for the future. The OLLI lessons on Wednesday will continue.**
- 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. Enter through the back. E-mail worldance1@gmail.com for the Zoom link or more information.
- 30 **Cancelled** *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 www.optevents.org/
- 5-7 *Long Beach Greek Festival* 5761 E. Colorado St Long Beach, CA 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/
- 12-13 *Covina Greek Festival* 20340 E. Covina Blvd, Covina, "Greek Festival, Homemade Greek Food, Live Greek and Armenian Music" <https://covinagreekfestival.com/>
- 12-13 *Cardiff Greek Festival* 3459 Manchester Ave, Cardiff By the Sea, CA
www.cardiffgreekfestival.com/
- 18-20 *Pasadena Greek Festival* 778 S Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena, CA, free parking at Santa Anita Race Track Gate 6 www.pasadenagreekfest.com

- 18-20 *St. Anne Melkite Greek Catholic Cathedral in Los Angeles Festival* - Lebanese in culture 11211 Moorepark Ave, North Hollywood. Free admission flyer at www.facebook.com/stannecathedral
- 19-20 *Los Angeles International Ukulele Festival* at Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance, CA Tickets available online or at the door <https://losangelesukulelefestival.com/>
- 19-20 *Serb Fest LA* at St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, 1621 W. Garvey Ave, Alhambra, CA
www.serbfestla.com

OCTOBER

- 2-4 *LA Greek Fest* at St. Sophia Cathedral, 1324 S. Normandie Ave. (Pico & Normandie), including a Latin band on Saturday. Cashless – all major cards and online payments accepted. <https://lagreekfest.com/>
- 3 **Ojai Day of Dance** at The Ojai Art Center, 113 S Montgomery St, Ojai, Ca. There will be teaching between 10 am and noon, followed by a dance program to recorded music. Please send dance requests to Marshall Cates at marshallcates@gmail.com. Cost for the entire day is \$20. Contact Carol Smith if you have questions or concerns, at 805-794-5512 or csmit2u@yahoo.com
- 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* <https://temeculagreekfest.com/>
- 17 *Macedonian Festival* - noon to 7 or 8 pm 10550 Whittier Blvd, Whittier, CA
- 27 *Danse Macabre Mini Ball* Skandia Hall
www.historicalteaanddance.org/
- 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.

The Calendar continues on page 19.

LAST DANCE

ED GOLLER



Southern California mourns the passing of Ed Goller. Narodni was the home club for Ed and Carol Goller. Ed eagerly chose requests immediately upon arriving, and was continuously on the dance floor each evening. Carol danced her favorites,

and also enjoyed chatting about gardening, etc., with friends on the side. They both enjoyed dancing Scandinavian and danced weekly Monday evenings at Scandia. Ed especially enjoyed leading Čamče, Oj Dimitro Le, Tâkanata and Sârba pe Sase. Ed taught "Xote das Meninas," a Brazilian dance mixer that he learned at Stockton Camp 2012 from Lucia Cordeiro, and frequently requested that dance at Narodni even though one or more (frequently me) of us got mixed up about the progression. Ed and Carol participated in numerous Folk Dance Federation Sponsored Statewide festivals and Laguna Fests.

After Carol's passing Ed continued dancing with Narodni friends each Thursday evening until arthritis in his knees made it impossible to stamp and hop. We are grateful to Ed and Carol for the years of dancing together and for his generous contribution to the Federation. Contributions fund scholarships, festival expenses and outreach to the community.

Diane Baker

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Nov 28-29 *Kolo Festival* Ahmet Lüleci, Maria Bebelekova, Tanya Dimitrov, John Morovich, Sonia and Cristian, and all your favorite bands, at the Croatian American Cultural Center in San Francisco. <https://kolofestival.org/> See ad.

OUT OF STATE

Sept 4-7 *Balkanalia* at Camp Angelos in Oregon (outside of Portland) Konstantin (Kotse) Marinov, Bulgarian dance; Jana Rickel, Beginning Balkan dance; Maria Bebelekova, Bulgarian singing; John Morovich & Talia McGill Balkan, duet singing; plus Ensemble, Instrument classes, Youth Ensemble, and kids classes, dance parties

with live music, and more. <https://balkanalia.org>

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

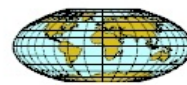
Oct 4 - *Croatia Fest* in Seattle www.croatiafest.org

Oct 16-17 *Tupan Bie Bulgarian Festival* in Phoenix AZ <https://tupanbie.wixsite.com/tupanbie-phoenix>



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CROATIA: July 15-28

Led by Lee Otterholt

Zagreb Folk Festival, Islands of Hvar and Korçula, Split, Zadar,
Dubrovnik Folk Festival

BALKAN ADVENTURE: 5-COUNTRIES July 26-August 11

Led by Ventsi Milev:

Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Albania, Serbia

GREECE and the GREEK ISLANDS: October 3-16

Led by Lee Otterholt, Maroula Konti, guide: Athens, Nauplia,
Olympia, Itea, Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus.

Greek Island Cruise: Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos,
Kusadas, Santorini



Western Europe

SPAIN: September 11-24

Malaga, Ronda, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Granada

Asia

INDIA: November 3-18

Delhi, Udaipur, Pushkar, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Agra,
Varnasi, Pushkar



South America

BUENOS AIRES TANGO TOUR September 12-22, 2026

Led by Helene Eriksen and Lucas A Secas

ARGENTINA: September 23-October 2, 2026

Buenos Aires, Salta, San Antonio, Mendoza.
Chile extension



Text

BRAZIL: November 2-13

Led by Lee Otterholt Rio de Janeiro, Salvador,
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CLUB DIRECTORY

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/cabrillodancers>

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, Sun 5-6:30(Greek). Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, **La Mesa**. jeknappster@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

Moby's Folk Dancers: Wed (twice a month). Moby's Coffee and Tea, 10513 Burbank Blvd, **North Hollywood**. (352) 575-7519 Mobysfolkdancers@gmail.com Olivia

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.prescottinternationalfolkdancers.org/

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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) 667-9037 voice mcowen_3@msn.com Mary

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

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

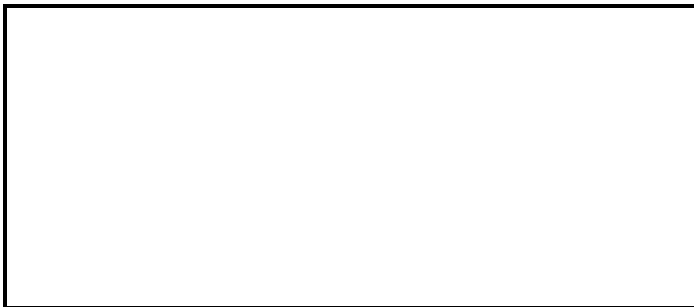
12:00-2. Culver City Senior Center 4095 Overland Blvd, **Culver City**. 2nd & 4th Sat 7:00-8:30. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1260 18th St., **Santa Monica** sandysmail1000@gmail.com, (310) 391-7382 Sandy Helperin

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