



Folk Dance Scene



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On the Cover: Greek dancers.

Photo by Judy Beth Morris/Unsplash

President's Message

Hi, Everyone,

This past month has brought joy at discovering new groups, and sadness about those we've lost. First the joy!

I had the pleasure of spending a week up in the Big Bear/Lake Arrowhead area recently, and I was privileged to join the Federation's newest group - The Crestline International Folk Dancers! They dance at the Crestline Senior Center on Lake Gregory, also known as Leisure Shores. The well-traveled and formidable Megan Miller has recently formed this group to keep folk dancing alive and growing in this area. She's building her group one dance at a time, as most of the new members have not folk danced before. When we were there, we had a pleasant surprise - one of the dancers who used to dance in Berkeley in the 70's (I might have run into her in those days!) turned out to be a high school classmate of my wife's in the Bay Area, and they had some fun reminiscing.

I failed to get a photo of the group, but here's one of my wife outside the Senior Center where they dance. If you get a chance to spend a holiday up in the area, please try to join them.

Amongst all the other camps, workshops, and local festivals this time of year, we also reached the third anniversary of Yves Moreau's passing. Many groups hosted an Yves-themed evening, With such a vast repertoire of the dances he brought to us. Andrew Carney's site attributes over 260 dances to Yves, and even has a further list of dances he taught that Andrew hasn't made notes for yet. Going through this list brought back so many memories and surprises. We all think of him in association with Bulgarian dances, but we forget his passion for French Canadian and other areas. I was surprised to find that he had introduced the Bolivian dance Chilili, which our group does regularly. We have been so lucky to have Yves and all the other teachers in our past, who brought their passion and intimate knowledge of the cultures and traditions to us.

Here's a link to Andrew's list:

<https://tucsonfolkdance.blogspot.com/2017/05/list-of-yves-moreau-dances.html>

There are still opportunities for more camps and workshops, as you'll see elsewhere in this issue. Please do yourself a favor and participate in one or more of them!

On The Scene

Summer Birthday Bash at Friday Night L.I.F.E.



The lively crowd at the Summer Birthday Bash.

How to celebrate a birthday with ultimate pizazz?

Be born in the summer (in SoCal, that includes most months on the calendar).

Ask Sherry Cochran, longtime folkdance teacher, DJ, and publicity maven, to host a party. Sherry's dedicated and experienced Friday Night L.I.F.E. team excels at organizing and producing dance parties.

Hold the event in a studio with a responsive dance floor, superb A/C and disco lights. Bonus — the venue has oodles of free parking.

Then, engage multi-talented musician Will Cope and Orkestar Unbound to play for hours of dancing. Will arranges the sets to minimize instrument changes, keeping the dancing nearly nonstop. Orkestar Unbound's vast repertoire includes classic Bulgarian, Macedonian and Greek music, with gentle Romanian and saucy Turkish and Roma tunes added to the mix.

Select a date in August, after Balkan and Stockton camps, when no one wants to stay home in a cramped room knitting, baking or reading.

Enlist Sherry and Marko to keep the sound running for musicians and dancers alike.

And that's what made the Summer Birthday Bash such a success! On August 21, well over 60 people drove from far corners of Southern California to enjoy the evening on August 21 at L.A. Dancefit Studio. More than 30 others, living or vacationing far from Los Angeles, joined the merriment on Zoom. Best of all, newcomers joined long-time friends on the dance floor.

The Musicians included:

Lis Alvarado - guest vocalist.

Dan Cantrell - vocals, accordion.

Will Cope - vocals, gajda, tambura, oud, bouzouki & accordion.

Janie Cowan - upright bass.

Marko Danilovski - vocals, clarinet, kaval.

David Feldthouse - vocals, tambura, tupan & darabuka.

Justine Kragen - vocals, guitar, tambura & percussion.

Clara Polka - viola.

Friday Night L.I.F.E. dances every week. And there are plenty more parties to come!

- Diane Baker

Editor's Note:

Our renowned Diane Baker has been dancing since 1975 (51 years). As the following picture shows, even with a serious injury – severe contusions at the knee joint – you couldn't keep her from dancing at the Summer Birthday Bash, and even leading a few lines, with her walking stick for added flair! - Ed.



On The Scene, Cont.

And also at Friday Night L.I.F.E. ...

Last week on 9/4/2026 was our YVES MOREAU Remembrance night. We did as many YVES dances as we could do till 11pm, a total of 58 dances! We received thanks

from France Moreau for our tribute. She was touched by our efforts. - Sherry Cochran

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers

The Conejo Valley Folk Dancers have been gathering since 1979 and have enjoyed organizing many workshops with master teachers over the years. In the past couple of years, we have been inviting more locally based cultural dance experts to teach special workshops. Last year we had a fantastic Armenian workshop with Naomi Eshoo who lives in Ojai and has taught at Middle Eastern Camp at Mendocino since 2011.

More recently, we invited Helen Iannides, who has taught Greek dance in Ventura County and led the performance group at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Camarillo for many years. Both workshops were well attended by folk dancers and community members and shed more light on our neighbors and their cultural dance practices at festivals and parties. Locating and inviting local dance teachers who do not necessarily teach within the recreational folk dance sphere is a great way to reach out to cultural communities and connect through our mutual love for folk dance. Next, we hope to offer an Israeli dance workshop and another Greek workshop. We will keep you posted! - Paula D. Davis, CVFD President

Class is in session in Conejo Valley.

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, and we have beginners' classes and other special programs from 6:30-7:30 (details on our website). Yael Steinfeld will be teaching in the 8:00 teaching sessions for October.

August was marked by sad news for us. Longtime stalwart member and friend Sylvia Stachura died on August 18th at the age of 84. Sylvia had been a generous contributing member since the early 1980s, and she continued coming to Friday night dancing right up to the week before she died. We will be having a celebration of life for her on Saturday, October 10th, from 2 till 4 PM at our regular dance location in South Pasadena, and we welcome all her friends from the region to join us in celebrating her life. Full details are on our website, on the Federation's calendar page, and in our newsletter.

Visit our website for monthly dance programs, a full dance list with videos, and general information about the

Co-op: www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org. St James Church is located at 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena.

- Mari Werner



Upcoming Events

FALL CAMP OCT. 30 – NOV. 1

See Page 11 for more information!

Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing

Join us for a tribute to ATHAN KARRAS. This is a cultural program presented by the Basil P. Caloyeras Center for Modern Greek Studies at Loyola Marymount University and the Kypseli Greek Dance Center.

SUNDAYS 5-7pm | October 11, October 18, October 25, November 1, and November 8
At St. Roberts 109, LMU main campus

INSTRUCTOR: Dimitris Buterakos

The series will conclude with a glendi open to the community. Come watch a performance by participants, dance yourself if the spirit moves you, and share in traditional Greek food and music as we honor Athan's legacy

OPEN and FREE to the community. SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER HERE <https://forms.gle/aRVGZAzsDhEJqLz8>

San Diego Folk Dance Center

Upcoming special events at the Folk Dance Center,
located at the San Diego Oasis Wellness Center,
5500 Grossmont Center Dr. La Mesa, CA:

Oct 17 Live music with Tzidia.

Nov 7 Live Greek music with the band Parea,
with Tony
teaching first hour.

May 14-16, 2027 Statewide Folk Dance Festival
to be held in Balboa Park. Registration opens in
January.

For more information: www.folkdancecenter.org
- John Knapp

**It's Festival Season – be sure to check the
calendar for more upcoming events!**

TOURS IN 2027

Dance and Culture Tour TURKEY April 29 - May 14

with TINEKE & MAURITS van Geel and AHMET DEMIRBAGH

Dance and Culture Tour ARMENIA May 14 - May 29

Culture Tour GEORGIA August 14 – 29



Join Tineke and Maurits van Geel, your passionate tour leaders and specialists in these inspiring dance and culture journeys. <https://www.tinekevanageel.nl/tours/>
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\$270

OCTOBER 16TH

\$???



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Calendar

OCTOBER

Oct. 2 - 4 LA Greek Fest at St. Sophia Cathedral, 1324 S. Normandie Ave. (Pico & Normandie), often including a Latin band on Saturday. Cashless – all major cards and online payments accepted.
<https://lagreekfest.com/>

Oct. 3 Ojai Day of Dance at The Ojai Art Center, 113 S Montgomery St, Ojai, Ca. There will be teaching between 10:30 am and noon, followed by a dance program to recorded music. Please send dance requests to Marshall Cates at arshallcates@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

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

Oct. 9 Pontian night at Kypseli - welcoming back Adem Ekiz Beşköylü, Romeyka singer and lyra player from the Trapezounta region with Ioannis Apazidis on vocals and daouli www.kypseli.events/

Oct. 9 - 11 Bakersfield Greek Festival with the Olympians
www.bakersfieldgreekfoodfestival.org/

Oct. 10 Festa Italiana Los Angeles in Little Italy, Downtown San Pedro, 11 am – 10 pm
www.facebook.com/events/2021386988420311

Oct. 10 Celebration of Life for Sylvia Stachura
2 - 4 pm at St James Episcopal Church,
1325 Monterey Ave. South Pasadena, CA 91030
All-request dancing, potluck refreshments, and an open-mic period for sharing thoughts and reminiscences
Sponsored by Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op
www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org

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

Oct. 10 Georgian National Ballet - Sukhishvili at the Alex Theater, Glendale
<https://www.stubhub.com/the-national-ballet-of-georgia-sukhishvili-tickets/category/138282782>

Oct. 11 Georgian National Ballet - Sukhishvili at the Wilshire Ebell, 4401 W 8th St, Los Angeles, CA 90005, 7 pm
www.stubhub.com/georgian-national-ballet-tickets/performer/1517091

Oct. 11 Traditional Greek Dancing classes as a tribute to ATHAN KARRAS presented by the Basil P. Caloyeras Center for Modern Greek Studies at LMU and the Kypseli Greek Dance Center, Sundays from 5-7 pm starting Oct 11 through Nov 8. See article in Upcoming Events.

Oct. 11 FolkWorks 25th Anniversary Benefit Concert at McCabe's, with Susie Glaze New Folk Ensemble, Tracy Newman and Art Podell, and the Swing Riots Quirkette, 8 pm www.mccabes.com/product/folkworks/

Oct. 16 Zozulka Trio
Ukrainian village traditions at UC San Diego
<https://calendar.ucsd.edu/event/berezaberyoze-old-ukrainian-and-yiddish-songs-in-a-new-song-cycle-from-zozulka-trio>

Oct. 16 - 18 Temecula Greek Festival
<https://temeculagreekfest.com/>

Oct. 17 Macedonian Festival - noon to 7 or 8 pm, food, dancing, performances, live music with Chris Bajmakovich, 10550 Whittier Blvd, Whittier, CA

Oct. 18 Zozulka Trio at Museum of Jurassic Technology
Info will be posted at
www.mjtgiftshop.org/pages/special-events
about a week before the event

Oct. 19 Zozulka Trio at UCLA location tba (may be livestreamed)

Calendar, cont.

Oct. 24 Tzidia playing at San Diego Folk Dance Center at San Diego Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, CA 91942 Warmup teaching with live music 7:00-10:30 p.m. followed by dancing. \$15.00 General Admission, \$5.00/\$10.00 for FDC members.

Oct. 27 Danse Macabre Mini Ball Skandia Hall
www.historicalteaanddance.org/

Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 FALL CAMP at the Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley, motel style rooms, teachers include Marcella Lawson and Marc Rayman teaching dances from this summer's Stockton Folk Dance Camp and Diane Baker teaching dances from Statewide and the North/South Seminar, potluck band, crafts, stargazing, nature walks. <https://fallcamp.org>
Questions? email FallCamp2026@gmail.com
Registration form on page 12 - 13.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 7 Live Greek Music with Parea at SD Folk Dance Center www.folkdancecenter.org/newsletter.html

Nov. 8 Mostly Kosher Album Release at Wilshire Blvd Temple (save the date)

Nov. 21 XoroTropzi concert: "From Our Roots to Our Future" at the Hermosa Beach Community Theater, 710 Pier Ave, Hermosa Beach.
www.facebook.com/events/4607660312893355/

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Oct. 9 - 11 North/South Folkdance Teachers' Seminar with Tineke and Maurits van Geel
www.folkdance.com/event/ns-seminar-2026/

Oct. 9 -11 KlezCalYidFest at Finnish Hall 1970 Chestnut St, Berkeley CA, Dance, instrument talk workshops, jam session, concert <https://klezcalyidfest.org/>

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. See ad.

Dec. 3 - 6 Nirkoda Ba'Kerem, Israeli dance camp and wine tasting adventure in Sacramento with guest teachers Dudu Barzilay and Yaron Malihi. Details at <https://nirkoda.com/bakerem>

OUT OF STATE

Oct. 2 - 4 Ellen Golann's Folk Dance Weekend at Circle Lodge in *NY's Hudson Valley* with Tineke Van Geel and Maurits Van Geel. The camp is now run by Murray and Randi Spiegel.

Info and Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/GolannWeekend>

Oct. 2 - 4 20th Annual Pink Party, Omaha International Folk Dancers. The Pink Party celebrates cancer survivors. The parties at night will be Zoomed.
www.facebook.com/groups/107112059365207/

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

Oct. 9 - 12, Texas Camp at Greene Family Camp in *Bruceville, Texas* with Lee Otterholt (line & couple international dances); Sue Hovorka singing; Don Weeda, Camp Band. Details at <https://tffd.org/>

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



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available on line at www.folkdance.com.
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Marsha Rosenblatt, Membership,
927 Springfield Drive
Millbrae, CA 94030

Fall Camp Registration Closes Soon



In 2019, Fall Camp rose from the ashes of Camp Hess Kramer, which was destroyed by the 2018 Woolsey Fire. Rebuilding of the old facility is currently underway and you can see the impressive plans at <https://www.siegelstrain.com/project/wilshire-campus/>.

To join in preserving the spirit of Camp Hess Kramer, join us at Fall Camp, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, on the beautiful rural Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley. But register soon! To meet contractual obligations, we have to close registration Oct. 15. So even before you finish reading this article, register with the form in the center of the printed version of Scene, download the form at FallCamp.org, or email us at FallCamp2026@gmail.com.

Quite a few of your friends in the dance community have already registered. Each one of them will have a chance to win thousands of dollars (if they choose to buy lottery tickets on their own). In contrast, the odds are certain they will enjoy a vibrant weekend at Fall Camp.

We are very lucky to have some excellent folk dance teachers in our local community, and Diane Baker, Marcella Lawson, and Marc Rayman will bring us a wonderful variety of dances from more distant events, including Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Statewide Folk Dance Festival, and North/South Folkdance Teachers' Seminar. In addition to the outstanding teaching, camp will feature an all-request party with our traditional theme of fall colors and a spine-tingling all-request party on Halloween. There will also be plenty of socializing and other enriching and entertaining activities.

You will have the opportunity to create your own head wreath in fall colors for the Friday night party (or you can borrow one of the completed wreaths). We'll also have nature walks in the mornings and star gazing in the evening. When you aren't in the mood for dancing, you will have appealing alternatives, such as participating in the Potluck Band, painting a T-shirt in your own style (no artistic talent needed), having a professional massage, resting in your motel-style room, games and puzzles, and more. If there's enough interest among registrants, we'll also have Robert Samuelson's famous Music Time Machine and Camille Dull's popular poetry workshop.

If you haven't been to Fall Camp before, you will be well taken care of. Campers will receive helpful information several weeks before camp so they can be well prepared, and frequent feedback every year since the first camp is that it is very well planned and conducted.

If you didn't follow our suggestion above of registering before finishing this article, there might still be time now. Be like Humpty Dumpty and have a great fall: register for Fall Camp.

-- Jan & Marc Rayman

Fall Camp

Oct 30 - Nov 1, 2026



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, professional massages, and much more.



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.



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 some of the best dances from
Stockton, Statewide, North/South, and elsewhere.

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



**Indulge your inner child
with some zany dances**



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



Music Talk – Whose polka is it, anyway?

Vintage dance instructor Richard Powers choreographed the dance he named “Tokyo Polka,” according to Stanford University’s website, for his favorite dance group in Tokyo. For its music, he chose a globally popular J-pop rendition of a traditional Finnish tune, as arranged by Japanese music producer Otomania. For the vocal part, Otomania (his real name was never publicly disclosed) used a Vocaloid voicebank/software application developed by Crypton Future Media named Hatsune Miku. Hatsune Miku’s character name comes from the Japanese words for first (初, hatsu), sound (音, ne), and future (ミク, miku), thus meaning “first sound of the future”. Crypton Future Media released “her” in August 2007. Otomania’s creation, released the next month with the name Levan Polka, became “her” first big hit. Since then, Hatsune Miku has been featured in over 100,000 songs released worldwide.

But there’s a lot more to the story for both the tune and its associated song, levan polkka (Eva’s Polka). The melody originated in the South Karelia region of Finland in the 17th century, long before polka existed as a dance or music genre. In the 19th century, the melody became known as Savitaipaleen polkka (Savitaipale is a municipality in Finland). In 1928, Eino Kettunen (1894-1964) wrote lyrics from the point of view of a young man and Eva, who sneaks away from her very traditional and conservative mother to attend a local polka party, and the two proceed to dance the night away. The song was recorded sporadically in later decades, such as by the Timberjack Band in the 1952 movie *On lautalla pienoinen kahvila* (On the ferry is a small café).

In 1995, a Finnish folk ensemble called Loituma released their first album of Finnish folk songs. The young members - Anita Lehtola-Tollin, Sari Kauranen, Hanni Autere, and Timo Väänänen - had studied together in the folk music department of the Sibelius Academy. Their album featured songs accompanied by various sizes of Finland’s traditional lap harp, the kantele. As an afterthought, they added a playful a cappella rendition of levan polkka. That track quickly garnered international attention. Soon, Loituma was asked to perform the song on television appearances in Finland, the US, and Austria. Besides using Kettunen’s original lyrics, as sung by Anita, Hanni improvises three scat verses. The first scat verse consists of strictly even notes in traditional polka rhythm with syllables that sound vaguely Finnish (“Hilipati hilipati hilipati hi la,...”). In the second verse she introduces rolled “R”s that suggest jazz trumpet growls (“Rim pati raalaa ripipati raalaa,...”). By the third verse she’s grooving on swung, jazz-style scat phrases (“Dayga dayga doodoo day ya-doo”). Clearly, polka is transforming the young Eva.

In 2006, a portion of Hanni’s scat was featured in a Japanese anime meme, and that is likely what brought the song to Otomania’s attention. He mistook the initial “I” of “Ievan” for lowercase “L,” so the version he created was initially named “Levan Polka”. Otomania’s 2007 version has no actual words from any language. In Otomania’s 2019 version, Hatsune Miku sings the original Finnish lyrics.

In the last 20 years there have been countless covers and parodies of this song. Anita, Sari, Hanni and Timo still work full or part-time in music, and remain in contact with each other. Both Hanni and Timo have completed doctorate studies. And to brighten your day, check out Loituma’s 2024 Ievan Polkka music video on Hanni’s YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SczXj_SSWM. - Terry Gucwa

COSTUME CORNER

Costume Conservation Resources

Most of us can sew a button back on or fix a bit of hem. But what if your beloved antique costume needs *real* help?

If you are concerned to preserve your prized and getting-to-be elderly folk costume, there are several types of resources available, some of them even nearby.

Long-term **STORAGE** is best done flat, rather than hanging, to decrease the stress on the fibers of the cloth. Experts recommend laying the costume parts into a wrapping of **acid-free tissue paper** in a sturdy box (also acid-free, for really long-term). One can obtain archival-quality supplies of this sort from, for example, **University Products (Photo 1)**.



Photo 1: Information for University Products, one of the suppliers of textile conservation products used by the Costume Society of America.

Costume Corner, cont.

The cleaner the stored pieces, the better, but I have warned before that the dyes—especially reds—in many old embroideries are inclined to run, spoiling the look of the rest of the piece. CLEANING is in fact a complex issue. If you are in doubt about how to clean a particular piece, you may want to take it to an expert. It happens that one of the better places to take it is a specialist firm that started in La Jolla in 1953, but now has several subsidiaries, including in LA and San Diego, with trained staff: Margaret's Cleaners (a.k.a. Margaret's Couture Cleaners) (Photo 2). That and other firms specializing in garment restoration can be located on the internet.

REPAIR is another problem, and one which—if the problem is acute or the owner is unskilled in rebuilding or invisible mending—can also be taken to places like Margaret's, where trained specialists often produce miracles of repair and conservation. If you live near a museum or university with a textile department, they too may be able to help or to recommend nearby resources. The object is, of course, to keep the item in a condition as close to its original as possible.

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber



Photo 2: Logo for Margaret's Couture Cleaners, specializing in hand restoration.

Poetry

Frenzy or Felicity

Pivotal turning-points often include
Calculated or coincidental pivotal people
Dancing together to new music
And uncertain rhythms... Sometimes
Slightly off balance and too intense,
Twisting, turning... then turning even faster
Making one's head spin... wanting
To reach backward while being
Dragged off in a bewildering direction
Into a confusion of untried steps...
Now completely off the beat
One stumbles, grasps, longs
For the swirl to settle
For the dance to slow down,
Yearns for quiet calm and clarity
To ponder this untried thing and decide
If one wants to be swept away in a frenzy
Or wants to find another way to dance.

—Camille Dull



LAST DANCE

JOYCE CLYDE

In early August, the folk dance community was shocked by the news that Joyce Clyde died in her home August 3, having just returned from two weeks at Folk Dance Camp in Santa Cruz. She had celebrated her 74th birthday while playing with Da! Mozhem at Statewide just six weeks earlier. The outpouring of emotional responses, memories, testimonials, favorite photos, and accolades, both on the BBMDL listserve that she created and maintained, as well as on Facebook, went on for days.

Joyce was remembered for playing her beloved gadulka with Da! Mozhem and elsewhere, her participation in ukulele classes, singing whenever the opportunity arose (in many languages), and working at Folk Dance Camp's Hole-in-the-Wall afterparty snack bar. She was said to travel widely and experienced the world with a generous heart and open arms. Writers cherished her big smile and bigger laugh, her joyous dancing, her love of music, dance and people, and The Best Hugs! - Loui Tucker

SYLVIA STACHURA

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op lost a long-time member and friend in August. Sylvia Stachura died on August 18th at the age of 84. Sylvia was an active and generous member of the group since the early 1980's. She served on the board, taught dances, and helped with MCing, refreshments, events – pretty much anything that needed to be done. And she continued to dance at Friday night dancing right up until the week before she died. She was active in the Federation as well, and served as president from 2002 until 2004.

Sylvia was also a generous soul outside the folk dance community. She had a long career as an elementary school teacher, and raised her son on her own as a single mom. For many years, she used to make yearly trips to Guatemala to build homes with Habitat for Humanity. Even after she didn't have the energy to haul cinder blocks around, she served as a bridge to the local communities, doing crafts with the children and chatting with them in Spanish.

The Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op will be having a celebration of life for Sylvia on Saturday, October 10th, from 2:00-4:00 pm at their regular dance location, St James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena. All her friends from the region are invited. Full details are on their website, www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org and on the Federation's calendar page. - Mari Werner

LAST DANCE, CONT.

CARL PILSECKER

Narodni International Folkdancers lost our dear dancer Carl Pilsecker on July 25, 2026. He danced with Narodni

longer than we can remember and served as our treasurer seemingly forever. When times got rough, and the election of officers became just copying the answers from last year, Carl hung in there as treasurer until his last dance step. He was also historian for the Folk Dance Federation. His wife, Mary, was our Federation Insurance Chairman, until she passed on in 2004, when it was taken over by Julith Neff. (That was in the days of typing up 2-part forms and doing everything by snail mail.)

After Carl's graduation from Harvard University as the youngest in his class, and a degree in chemistry, he started his first job in Ohio. It was there at the YMCA he found square dancing, eventually becoming a caller. Carl found his work niche in social work which included teaching at CSULB, then working with quadriplegics and schizophrenics at the Veterans Administration in Long Beach. While at the VA, he also helped pioneer programs raising consciousness about smoking and sexual harassment in the workplace. A number of articles Carl wrote were published in the social work journals.

His long folk dance career included chairing folk festivals, teaching folk dance, and leading clubs. Carl also sang and danced with Oasis on Stage and the Bellflower Chorus, where he and Camille Dull choreographed and performed dance duets at the chorus's concerts. He also loved doing magic tricks.

Carl's celebration of life memorial was attended by members of Scandia, Pasadena Co-op, Narodni, and Cerritos Folk Dancers. The Federation's past president Diane Baker led a few of Carl's favorite dances which were done by all. Friends and family ended the memorial linked in a shoulder hold, dancing to Carl's favorite hasapiko music. Hopefully this final dance has inspired a new generation of folk dancers. — Julith Neff and Camille Dull

Club Directory

Most groups welcome beginning dancers. The groups with an * below have sessions especially for beginners.
For changes, additions or deletions please email directory@folkdancecene.org

Federation Clubs

ALHAMBRA

Rainbow Senior Club

Sundays, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Joslyn Senior Center

210 Chapel Ave.

Contact Kevin Sun, (626) 456-1900

ksun310@yahoo.com

BELLFLOWER

Narodni International Folk Dancers

Thursdays, 8:00 - 10:00 pm

(Many dark nights; call first)

Women's Club of Bellflower

9402 Oak St.

Contact: Julith Neff, (562) 410-6964

julithilona@gmail.com

www.narodni.org

CANOGA PARK

West Valley Folk Dancers

Fridays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Canoga Park Senior Center

7326 Jordan Ave.

Contact: Jay Michtom, (818) 979-5030

jaymichtom@yahoo.com

Paul Waller psw20@icloud.com

www.WestValleyFolkDancers.org

CERRITOS

Cerritos Folk Dancers

1st - 4th Tuesdays, 5:00 - 7:45 pm

Cerritos Senior Center

12340 South St.

Contact: Wen Chiang, (626) 500-5035

chiangwenli@yahoo.com

ENCINO

Vintage Israeli Dancing

One Saturday per month, 8:16 pm - 12:00 am

Danzmundo World Dance and Fitness Studio (DWDFS)

16733 Ventura Blvd., #13

Contact: Jim Rothman, (310) 351-2166

jrbythec@aol.com

www.vintageisraelidancing.org

LAGUNA WOODS

Laguna International Dancers

3 Sessions, 2 in person, 1 Zoom

#1- Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

24112 Moulton Pkwy, Clubhouse 2

#2 - Fridays, 1:30 - 4:00 pm

24111 Moulton Pkwy, Clubhouse 7

Contact: Greg Solloway, sollowayg@gmail.com

#3 (Zoom) - Sundays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Contact: Lee Otterholt, leeotterholt@yahoo.com

www.lagunainternationaldancers.com

LAGUNA WOODS

International Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods

Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

24232 Calle Aragon, Clubhouse 1, Multipurpose Rm.

2

Contact: Marilyn Michael Yurk, (949) 939-0604

First-time dancers call Marilyn for gate clearance.

LA MESA

Folk Dance Center

3 Sessions:

#1 - Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 am

#2 - Saturdays, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

#3 - Sundays, 5:00 - 6:30 pm (Greek)

Oasis Wellness Center

5500 Grossmont Center Dr.

Contact: John Knapp, jcknappster@gmail.com

www.folkdancecenter.org

LOS OSOS

Bay Osos Folk Dancers

Tuesdays, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

South Bay Community Center

2180 Palisades Ave.

Contact: Billy Burke, (818) 203-5812

wburke.dance@gmail.com

www.BayOsosFolkDancers.org

MONTEREY PARK
Fantasy Folk Dance Club

2 Sessions:

#1 - 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 3:00 - 7:00 pm

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

1501 S. Atlantic Blvd.

Contact: Vincent Cheng, (626) 429-9008

vincentyhcheng@gmail.com

#2 - Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm

Langley Senior Center

400 W. Emerson Blvd.

Contact: Peter Lin, (626) 673-2184

NORTH HOLLYWOOD
Moby's Folk Dancers

Wednesdays, twice a month

Moby's Coffee and Tea

10513 Burbank Blvd.

Contact: Olivia (352) 575-7519

Mobysfolkdancers@gmail.com

PRESCOTT, AZ

Prescott International Folkdancers

Sundays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Prescott Boys and Girls Club

335 E. Aubrey St.

Contact: Dick Weston, (928) 925-8995

Prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net

www.prescottinternationalfolkdancers.org

SAN DIEGO

Cabrillo Folk Dancers

Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park

2144 Pan American Rd. W

Contact: Georgina, (858) 459-1336 gbsham@gmail.com

Michael-Leonard Creditor, (858) 766-1095

michaelleonardcreditor@gmail.com

https://sites.google.com/site/cabril lodancers/home

SANTA BARBARA
Santa Barbara Folk Dancers

3 sessions:

Mondays and Thursdays, 4 - 6 pm

Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Oak Park Stage

638 W. Junipero St.

Contact: Michal Lynch, (805) 895-4885

michalcathy@cox.net

SHERMAN OAKS

Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing

Occasional live Sunday music events

Contact: Ann Sirota (310) 508-9676 www.kypseli.events

SOLVANG/BUELLTON

Solvang Village Folk Dancers

3 sessions, 2 locations

Buellton: Thursdays and Saturdays, 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Buellton Recreation Center

301 2nd St.

Solvang: 3rd Saturday of the month, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Jensen Square, corner of Alisal and Copenhagen

Contact: David Heald, (805) 688-3397

dlh4362@gmail.com

SOUTH PASADENA

****Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op***

Fridays, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

St. James Episcopal Church

1325 Monterey Ave.

Contact: Mari Werner, (626) 808-0361

info@pasadenafolkdancecoop.org

www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org

THOUSAND OAKS

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers

Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Hillcrest Center for the Arts

403 W. Hillcrest Dr.

Contact: Paula Davis, paula.davis@bucknell.edu

www.facebook.com/groups/265181362778249

Federation Clubs, cont.

VENTURA

Ventura International Folk Dancers

3 sessions:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

2nd Sunday of the month, 1:30 - 3:30 pm (may change due to conflicts, check with Mary)

Ventura YMCA

3760 Telegraph Rd.

(non-members please talk to Mary first)

Contact: Mary Kerrigan, (805) 667-9037

mcowen_3@msn.com

Associate and Non-Federation Clubs

CLAREMONT

Claremont Israeli Dancers (associate)

Mondays, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Masonic Lodge

272 W. 8th St.

Contact: Yael, (909) 921-7115

www.meetup.com/israeli-folk-dancers

CRESTLINE/LAKE ARROWHEAD

Crestline International Folk Dancers (associate)

3rd Thursday of the month, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Leisure Shores (Crestline Senior Citizen Center)

24658 San Moritz Dr.

Contact: Megan Miller, Folkdance@thinmail.net

CULVER CITY/SANTA MONICA

**Westside Daytime Folkdancers (associate)*

3 sessions, 2 locations

Culver City: Wednesdays, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Culver City Senior Center

4095 Overland Blvd.

Santa Monica: 2nd and 4th Saturday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church

1260 18th St.

Contact: Sandy Helperin (310) 391-7382

sandysmail1000@gmail.com

LA CAÑADA

**Foothill Folk Dancers*

Thursdays, 8:00 - 10:00 pm

Nourishing Spirits Center at St. George's Episcopal Church
808 Foothill Blvd.

Contact: Jan Rayman, (818) 790-8523

janrayman@charter.net www.foothill.dance

LAS VEGAS

Southern Nevada International Folk Dancers

Thursdays, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Ballroom Addiction

2301 Renaissance Dr.

Contact: Eileen Hug hugagiraffe@cox.net

LOS ANGELES

**Israeli Dancing at AJU*

Contact: Pat Jordan, (818) 642-3585

LOS ANGELES (WEST L.A.)

Friday Night L.I.F.E. (associate)

Fridays, 8:00 - 11:00 pm

LA Dance Fit Studio

10936 Santa Monica Blvd.

Contact: Sherry Cochran, worldance1@gmail.com

www.lifebalkandancers.com

LOS ANGELES (WESTWOOD)

UCLA Ballroom Club and UCLA International Folk Dancers

Cultural, Historical & Ballroom: Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00 pm plus occasional Saturday parties

Info and RSVP: Historicaldance@yahoo.com

Also occasional Israeli lessons at the Hillel Foundation

Info and RSVP: Israelidance@yahoo.com

Associate and Non-Federation Clubs, cont.

PALM DESERT

***Desert International Folk Dancers
(associate)***

Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm Nov. - Apr.

The Joslyn Center

73-750 Catalina Way

Contact: Helen Smith, (760) 342-1297

RIDGECREST

Desert Dancers

Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm Nov. - Apr.

Hi Desert Dance Center

725 S. Gateway St.

Contact: Nora Nuckles, (760) 371-5669

SAN DIEGO

****Israeli Dancing - Yoni Carr***

Mondays, 7:00 - 11:30 pm (Beginners at 7:00)

Infinity Sport Dance Center

4428 Convoy St.

Contact: Yoni, (619) 227-0110

SAN FRANCISCO

Kolo Festival (associate)

Thanksgiving weekend, San Francisco

Contact: Will Cope, bill@kolofestival.org

www.kolofestival.org

Exhibition Groups

Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble

United Hungarian House

1975 Washington, Los Angeles

Contact: Sissy Keresztes-Fischer, (805) 341-9640

sissykf@earthlink.net

www.KarpatokFolkEnsemble.com

Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble

Wed 8:00-10:00 pm, Fri 7:00 - 9:00 pm,

Sat 2:30-4:00 pm

Our Lady of the Bright Mount

3424 W Adams Blvd, Los Angeles

Contact: Elizabeth Romuzga (626) 827-7338

elistarr@yahoo.com www.krakusy.com

Nevenka East European Folk Ensemble

Contact: Jennifer Jurick (818) 519-2034,

info@nevenka.org

Scandia Dancers

Thursdays, 7:30-9:30

Contact: Stefanie Holzman (714) 356-7745

sholzman1@verizon.net

Westchester Lariats

Mondays, 4:00 - 9:00 pm

Holy Nativity Church

6700 W. 83rd St, Los Angeles

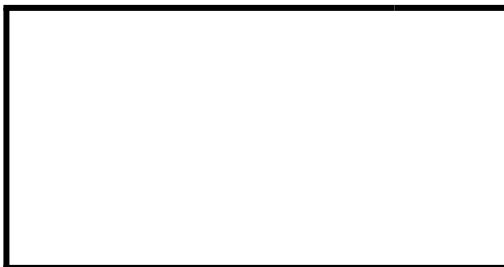
Contact: Elizabeth Kane (310) 913-5736

elizvalla@gmail.com

www.WestchesterLariats.org

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