



Folk Dance Scene



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Folk Dance Scene Committee

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Folk Dance Scene is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costume, customs, lore and culture of the peoples of the world. It is also designed to inform them of the opportunities to experience folk dance and culture in Southern California and elsewhere.

SUBMISSIONS. Information to be included in the Scene should reach us by the 7th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. *Electronic submission is preferred.* Views expressed in Scene are solely the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the magazine or the Federation. Neither Scene nor the Federation assumes responsibility for the accuracy of dates, locations, or other information sent in.

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ADVERTISING. Ads must be consistent with the purposes of the magazine, camera-ready sized, and accompanied by a check or money order for the correct amount. *Electronic submission is preferred.*

| Size | Federation Club | Others | Send to: Irwin Barr |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/4 page (3" x 3 1/2') | \$ 10 | \$ 15 | 3200 Sepulveda Blvd., #K29 |
| 1/2 page (6" x 3 1/2" or 3" x 7") | \$ 15 | \$ 25 | Los Angeles, CA 90034 |
| full page (6" x 7 1/2") | \$ 25 | \$ 40 | (310) 202-6166 (310) 478-6600 FAX |

On the Cover - Theodor and Lia Vasilescu at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1993.
Photograph by Elliot Khuner, a professional photographer in the Bay Area - www.ekphoto.com.



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 35, No. 7
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Editor's Corner

This issue features Romania in recognition of the November visit to Southern California by Theodor Vasilescu. Theodor will teach a special workshop as the highlight of the SCENE FESTIVAL on Nov. 13. Come and dance and meet this wonderful man and his equally wonderful wife, Lia. See the ad in this issue.

This issue starts with an interview with Theodor from Folk Dancer Magazine and a Romanian travel dialogue from Gerri Alexander. Gerda Ben-Zeev has written a fascinating history of Romanian monasteries and translated from Romanian into English a very moving legend. Finally, we have our Dancers Speak section and a Foods section with a Romanian focus.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

— *Folk Dance Scene Committee*

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| Historian | open | |

Federation Corner



Hi, I'm Sylvia Stachura Vice President of the Federation for this year. It is a pleasure to work with such energetic and sharp folks on our Federation Council. We've been reviewing the By-Laws and Standing Rules to bring them up-to-date.

What is the V.P. job? Of course the V.P. takes over for the President when he/she is unable to perform Presidential duties. The V.P also keeps an accurate list of Folk Dance events; Festivals, Camps, etc. I will need your help. Soon I will send a copy of the form Clubs need to fill out to get their event mentioned in Council minutes and be on the Federation Calendar.

I also have a Festival Guidelines responsibility and will be using the wonderful form Beverly Weiss created during her term. Since I used to do Publicity, I do have Press and other contact lists that I would be happy to send to any Club who wants to Publicize their event. Anyone out there want to do the Publicity job?

Hot News: Just in from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission. The City of Los Angeles has planned festivals on Friday, December 31, 1999 entitled "Celebrate LA 2000". These sites include Alameda Street in front of Union Station, the San Pedro Harbor and Van Nuys Airport. The city is looking for folk dance participation in parades and celebrations on that day from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For details and information, please contact Dr. Earl Sherburn, Community Arts Director at (213)485-8665.

See you all soon at the next Festival.

— *Sylvia Stachura*

Theodor Vasilescu

Not only is Theodor Vasilescu Romania's foremost choreographer and authority on Romanian folk dance and folklore, but he's also an international choreographer and a loved and respected recreational folk dance teacher. The following is an edited version of an interview with Theodor conducted by Jane Aronovitch in 1993 and taken from the "Folk Dancer" from Ontario, March 1999.

— *Jill Michtom*

Q: Have you always been involved in folk dance?

A: No, I started out as a musician. When I was a child my mother made me take piano and violin. I played other instruments too, like the accordion. Actually, the accordion played a very important part in my life. Before World War II my father owned a factory that made lead pipes. Then, on December 31, 1947 the king was forced to abdicate by the Communists. The new government nationalized Romanian industry in June, 1948. They arrested the owners including my father. They freed them in August. My father had not known why he was arrested. He went to his factory. They told him that the factory now belonged to the people, that he was an exploiter. He had been a colonel in the army, so he asked for a pension for his military service, but it was very small. He also found work as an accountant, but made less than 1000 lei a month from both sources.

At the same time (I was 16 years old and still in school) I started to use music to my advantage by playing for dances. I made 100 lei in one session, so I began to play more often. It sounds romantic, but it was a very difficult period. My mother had to sell things from our house as we were very poor.

Q: How did you move from musician to dancer?

A: The dances I played for were like balls, but I also played for a folklore dance group. The instructor was a well known folk dance teacher named Gheorghe Popescu-Judets. During one rehearsal I was correcting some of the dancers as I had often watched as I played and could see they were doing it wrong. I didn't see that the instructor had come in. He saw me helping the others and told me that I danced better than they did! So I began to dance. I learned a lot from him. One evening in 1949 I was playing for a party and an old friend was there and suggested I try out for the ensemble. So I became a member. In 1951 I became assistant choreographer and dance instructor of this group. I did

a lot of choreographies while she was there, under her name. But it was good for me because I learned a lot, and I knew she wouldn't put her name on something bad.

Q.: Why did you go into engineering?

A: I finished secondary school in 1951 and I needed a profession to earn a living. With my background, (my family being from the king's regime) it was difficult to get into university. I didn't tell them my father had a factory or was an army officer. Luckily I had a reputation as a dancer and they wanted to start a dance team at the university, so they accepted me.

We started to get requests to do television shows, including ballroom dance. So I studied ballroom dance, created a group of four couples and taught on television for fifteen minutes every week. After that, people knew me and started to ask me to come and do choreographies around Romania, and eventually Holland. That happened in 1964 at Christmas time and I've been back there every year since then. A lot of dance teachers have popularized the dances I taught like Sunni Bloland and Niko Hilferink. Eventually I became so busy that I had to decide what to do. I chose dancing.

Q: Do you do research for all the different kinds of choreography?

A: Yes, of course. I go to the countries and collect dances, videos, all kinds of information, like the reasons for dancing in each place, the motivation, the customs, costumes. You can't split the dance from the customs. You have to know the ethnography, the science of folklore, the basic principles. I don't like choreography that is lines or diagonals just to move people from one place to another because it's nice. That's geometry and has no value. Because of the movement you cannot see the dance. Instead, the value should be to understand why and when dancing happens as a necessity of spiritual expression.

Q: In other words, you don't like Moiseyev-style choreography?

A: It's fine when you want to have fun, but it's very old fashioned. When I do choreography I want to put the ritual in the dancing to show its meaning. For example, in the spring portion of the show for "Les Sortileges" there women present two Romanian customs and the men show the ritual of calusari. The rituals have gestures connected to the customs.



Folk Dance Scene

presents

A Romanian Rendezvous

with

Theodor and Lia Vasilescu

Saturday, November 13, 1999

Westchester Senior Center

*SE Corner of Manchester and Lincoln Blvds, Los Angeles
near L.A. Airport, 7 minutes from the 405 Freeway*

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------|
| 10:00 – 12:00 | Workshop | \$8.00 |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | Kolo Hour | Free |
| 2:00 – 4:00 | Workshop | \$8.00 |
| 4:00 – 5:00 | Culture Corner | Free |
| 7:00 – 12:00 | Party Time | \$8.00 |
| | with review of Theodor's classic dances | |
| | Total package at the door: | \$22.00 |



✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂

Preregistration Package: \$20.00 (before November 1)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone/E-mail _____ Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to Folk Dance Scene, mail to 4362 Coolidge Ave, L. A. , CA 90066

Additional Information: Gerda (310) 474-1232 Sandy (310) 391-7382
benzeev@ucla.edu ay651@lafn.org

Calendar

Note: Federation Events are in Bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS.

OCTOBER

1-3 'Mountain Lion' folk weekend. Music, food, workshops, concerts. At 'The Onion', 9550 Haskell Ave. North Hills. Info: (323) 960-7630.

1-3 Camp Hess Kramer weekend institute in Malibu. Info: (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

1-3 Greek festival at St. Katherine's, Redondo Beach. Info: Pat at (562) 988-1516.

3 Octoberfest, 1:00-4:00 at Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Live band, dancing, food. Info Norm at (818) 761-7687.

2 Dance workshop, concert and dance with Swedish musician Leif Alpssjo. Dance workshop 3:30-5:30, concert 7:30 and dance 8:00. Women's Club of Orange, 121 S. Center St., Orange, CA. Tickets: workshop \$6, concert and dance \$10. Info: Carol Goller at (714) 892-2579.

9 'Festival of Music 2000'. From sunrise to sunset at Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd. Azteca, African and Brazilian dance, music. Info: (213) 473-4269.

9 RAGTIME DANCE at Dancing Unlimited 4569 30th Street San Diego. Live music. Info: (619) 622-9924, marjen@ixpres.com.

9 Concert and dance with Swedish folk/world music group Hulling. Concert 7:00 and dance 8:00. Community Center, Lindberg Park, Culver City. Info: Chris Gruber at (562) 884-5763, cpgruber@aol.com.

10 Nykleharpa and Fiddle workshops with Swedish folk/world music group Hulling. Info: Chris Gruber at (562) 884-5763, cpgruber@aol.com.

15-17 Weekend at Highland Springs, Beaumont. *POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT YEAR*****

16 'Ulali', Native American women's group performing music and singing from Brazilian Amazon Indian nations. 8:00 at Warner Grand Theatre, San Pedro. Info: (310) 548-7466.

17 Dunaj Concert - Leisure Wld, Laguna Hills. Info: (714) 641-7450, DanceTraditions@msn.com.

21 'Dancing in the Streets'. Costumes, music and floats from carnival celebrations in Caribbean, North and South America, and Europe. Opening reception; 7:00-9:30. Exhibition continues through 1/2/2000 at Craft and Folk Art Museum, 5814 Wilshire Blvd. Info: (323) 937-4230.

23 English Regency Autumn Ball. Dance lessons 10:30am and 2:00pm dancing 7:30-midnight. Pasadena War Memorial 435 Fair Oaks Ave. Info: www.regencyfriends.org.

24 House concert, featuring 'Limpopo', Russian musicians and singers. At the home of Jill and Jay Michtom. Call for reservations: (818) 368-1957.

27 Tineke Van Geel at Café Danssa. Teaching Dutch and Armenian dances. Info: Sherry at (626) 293-8523, Worldance@aol.com.

27 Hollywood Peasants annual Halloween party. Fun, food, costumes, hospitality. Culver Park West, 4162 Wade St. (park on Moore St.), 7:30-10:30. Info: Rita Fordham at (310) 397-8110 or Rivie Kirk at (818)763-8335.

28 Tineke Van Geel teaching Dutch and Armenian dances at Westwood Coop, Emerson Jr. H.S., 1650 Selby. Info: (213) 651-3516.

29 Halloween Party at Brockton School sponsored by West L.A. Folkdancers. Info: Beverly or Irwin at (310) 202-6166.

30, 31 Japanese day at Descanso Gardens. Music and dance. Info: (818) 952-4408.

31 Oktoberfest at Alpine Village, Torrance with performance by Dunaj. Info: (714) 641-7450. DanceTraditions@msn.com.

NOVEMBER

4 Warner Kids perform hula and Tahitian dance. 6:00 at Warner Grand Theatre, San Pedro. Info: (310) 548-2496.

6 Theodor Vasilescu dance workshop. Folk Dance Center; 4569 30th St. San Diego. 5:00 wkshp 7:30 potluck, 8:30 req. dancing Info: (619) 229-0500, ymaheu@home.com.

6 Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead festival. At Arroyo Seco Park. Free. Info: (323) 259-0861.

6-7 Intertribal Marketplace. A gathering of 150 artists and musicians from Native American cultures. Handcrafted items, live music and dance, storytelling, foods. At Southwest Museum (LACMA West), Wilshire Blvd and Fairfax Ave. Info: (323) 933-4510 x231.

13 'Romanian Rendezvous'. All-day festival hosted by Folk Dance Scene, and featuring Theodor and Lia Vasilescu. Morning and afternoon workshops, kolo hour, culture corner, and evening dance party. At the Westchester Senior Center, Manchester and Lincoln Blvds. Info: Sandy at (310) 391-7382 or Gerda at (310) 474-1232.

Calendar

21 Los Angeles Mariachi festival. 12:00-5:00
Mariachi Plaza, Boyle heights. Info: (213) 485-2437.
25-28 Southern California Scandinavian festival,
Camp Cedar Glen, Julian. Info: (714) 533-3886.
27 Autumn Victorian Ball, hosted by Social
Daunce Irregulars. Pasadena. Info: laha@pacbell.net.

DECEMBER

5 Judy Frankel singing Ladino, Yiddish and
Hebrew songs, 2:30 at the home of Jill and Jay
Michtom. Call for reservations: (818) 368-1957.
15 Fiesta Navidad Mariachi and Folklorico.
Mexican fiesta singers and dancers 8:00 at CA Center
for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd. Escondido Info:
(800) 988-4253, www.artcenter.org/perform/monthly.
26 Mariachi Spectacular, at Cerritos Ctr for
Perf Arts. Info: (562) 916-8501.

**28-1/2 New Years Trip to Arizona. Motorcoach
from Los Angeles with Beverly & Irwin Barr. Info:
(310) 202-6166.**

JANUARY 2000

14-16 'Ramah Rikkudiah', Israeli Dance weekend
with Meir Shem-Tov and Dani Uziel. Camp Ramah,
Ojai. Info: Natalie at (818) 343-8009.
28, 29 'Chieftains' Irish musicians performing at
UCLA Royce Hall, 7:00. Info: (310) 825-2101
www.performingarts.ucla.edu/main.htm.

FEBRUARY

**11-13 Laguna Folkdancers festival. Ensign
Intermediate School, 2000 Cliff Dr. Newport Beach.
Workshops with Belle Birchfield, Michael Ginsburg
and Ya-akov Eden. Dancing, concert, after parties.
Info: Steve (949) 646-7082, shimel@aol.com.**

MARCH

**18-19 'Arriving Las Vegas' Festival, hosted by
Ethnic Express. Council mtg at 10:30. Details TBA.**

APRIL

15 Ojai Festival 2000. Details TBA.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**10/16-17 Autumn Harvest Festival, CSU Fresno.
Institute, food, exhibitions, crafts, dancing. Info:
Michael at (559) 255-4508.**

10/23 Teaching Night Party, 7:30-10:00 at Live
Oak Park, Berkeley. Info: Ed at (510) 526-8413.

10/30 Council Halloween party, Palo Alto. Info:
Hank at (650) 493-8653.

11/25-27 Kolo Festival with Atanas Koloravski, Dick
Crum, Yves Moreau, Mihai David. Russian center, SF.

Workshops, dancing, food, parties, exhibitions,
vendors. Info: Joanne at (800) 730-5615.

**5/26-29 Statewide festival, CSU Fresno. Info:
(559) 255-4508.**

6/17-6/24 Mendocino Folklore Camp. Info: Phyris at
(707) 795-6926, phyris@akamail.com.

6/24-7/2 Balkan Music and Dance Camp, Mendocino
Info: office@eefc.org.

OUT OF STATE

CONNECTICUT

11/5-7 Northeast Music & Dance festival, Newton.
Info: (203) 372-3890, NOMADFEST@JUNO.COM

MARYLAND

7/22-30 Balkan Music and Dance, Camp
Ramblewood, Darlington. Info: office@eefc.org.

MASSACHUSETTS

10/8-11 World Music and Dance camp, Camp
Bourndale, Plymouth. Info: worldcamp@geocities.com

OREGON

8/24-27 'Balkanalia', Balkan music and dance camp.
Camp Angelenos, Corbett. Info: office@eefc.org.

VERMONT

10/8-11 Int'l FD weekend with Belle Birchfield and
Michael Ginsburg. Fairlee. Info: (617) 491-6083.

WASHINGTON

10/2-3 Richland Int'l FD 45th festival. Sikander
Jaad teaching Middle East dances. Info: Gene at (509)
946-0504.

10/8-10 Oktoberfest, Leavenworth. Entertainment.
food, music. Info: (509) 548-0150.

10/16-17 Arab festival, Seattle Center. Info: (206)
684-8582, www.seattlecenter.com.

11/6 Balkan dance party with live music. 8:00-
11:00, Bellingham. Info: (206) 361-8047,
balkanarama@troutdream.com.

WISCONSIN

10/8-11 Israeli Dance Weekend. Oconomowoc.
Info: Phil (312) 693-7729.

FOREIGN

CANADA

10/15-17 David Kaynor dance weekend, Hamilton.
Waltz, tango, English country, contra. Info: (905) 627-
7151, nagy@hwcn.org.

COSTA RICA

11/2-11 Tour of Costa Rica with Beverly & Irwin
Barr. Info: (310) 202-6166.

Romanian Monasteries

Time has almost stood still in the hills of Bukovina - a verdant highland rising between the rivers Bistritza (Bistritza) and Siret in the northeastern corner of Romania. If not for the utility poles that lean beside every road and byway, a visitor to the region might be forgiven for suspecting that the last few centuries never happened.

Horse-drawn carts are the chief mode of transportation on the narrow, winding roads of hard-packed gravel. Peasants plod their fields in hand-stitched boots. The air is pungent with fermenting plum juice as the *tuica* (*tzuika*) ages in wood barrels, and kerchiefed women gossip around the stone walls of ancient village wells.

And tucked away in five remote villages, the province of Bukovina is bejeweled with brilliantly fresco-bedecked monasteries. For most of the last century, Romania's history of occupation and repression has kept these painted monasteries locked away from all but the most determined visitors. In recent years, the communism's overthrow in Eastern Europe and the repatriation of church property have allowed the art treasures to be restored to the public. Moreover, the monasteries have rightfully earned the designation of protected art treasures by UNESCO.

The churches were built in the 15th and 16th centuries, at a time of great political and cultural development of Moldavia, the larger region of which Bukovina is part. The period is related to the 50-year rule of Stefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great), a benevolent king that promoted painting of the exterior walls of the monastery churches with brightly colored scenes from the Bible and from the lives of important saints. In this manner, even the poor masses that could not worship with the privileged class inside the church were able to receive a religious education.

The monasteries can be reached on a one-day tour starting from the cities of Suceava or Radauti. Each of the churches has its own dominant color. The composition of the ancient pigments used in the paintings remains a secret of the master painters. Many attempts to duplicate the wonderful colors have all failed so far.

The Monastery of **Moldovita** (Moldovitz) was built and painted in 1532-1537 in the time of the king Petru Rares, one of the followers of Stephen the Great. It is the largest, and arguably the best preserved of the five



The Monastery of Moldovita reaches up to the sky.

churches. The hundreds of saints depicted on the walls in specific postures almost come alive here, where the main colors are a rich dark red and a bright gold.

Sucevita (Sutchevitza) boasts the greatest number of icons and frescoes, depicting virtually the whole Bible and completely covering the church exterior. The light blue color predominates the paintings. The church also bears witness to a medieval legend, as one buttress arch remained unpainted. Local lore holds that the artist fell to his death from an elevated platform and the facade was left unfinished in his memory.

Going south toward the town of Gura Humorului we encounter the church and surrounding fortress in the tiny village of **Voronet** (Voronetz). Built in 1488 to celebrate a battle victory of Stephen the Great, Voronet

Romanian Monasteries



Sucevita Monastery sits peacefully within its 16th century protective walls.

is for many the most inspiring of the five churches, with its signature blue background casting each biblical scene in a heavenly hue. This monastery gave the art world the dark sky-blue color called "Voronet blue".

The **Humor** Monastery is less than 10 miles away from Gura Humorului. The exterior walls of this church were painted in the Byzantine style in 1535, by Toma Zugravul. This is the only artist known to have signed his work, with the name Toma etched into the forehead of a warrior. The frescoes, in a dark red tint, depict the siege of Constantinople by the Persians. However, instead of the usual appearance of the warriors defending the city, the artist made them look like Moldavian soldiers of that time, showing that Moldavians were true defenders of Christianity.

The route leading from Humor to **Arbore**, the most remote of the painted churches, is as much a treat for the eyes as the monastery itself. It is primarily suited to four-legged beasts and passes through a beautiful valley of grassy thickets, orchards and forests. Arbore is standing here since 1503. Unlike its siblings, this church has no tower - a sign that it was not built by a king. Instead, it was built by a nobleman of Stephen the Great, Luca Arbore. Its beautiful frescoes, dominated by an emerald green color, depict in detail stories from the Old Testament.

It is difficult to pull away from this region, where life seems to have maintained the humble simplicity of the time when the churches were erected and painted....

— Gerda Ben-Zeev

A Vacation to Remember *Travel and Dance* *With* *Beverly and Irwin Barr*

Exotic Costa Rica in Central America

November 2 – 11, 1999
10 Days

Visit: Rain Forests – Jungles –
Volcanos (some still active) – Cloud
Forrests – Cruise Magnificent Canals,
Rivers & Waterways lined by nature
& beaches at their best.

See Exotic Birds, Turtles, Crocodiles,
Monkeys & Other Wildlife.

Vist: Banana & Coffee Plantations.

In San Jose, see the beautiful
National Theater, Unusual Museums,
& Colonial Style Architecture.

\$1885.00 Includes:

- * Round trip airfare
- * Exclusive motorcoach
- * Baggage Handling
- * Many Meals
- * Admissions

Information & Itinerary Call:
West Los Angeles Folkdancers
Beverly or Irwin Barr
(310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-6600

The Monastery of Curtea de Arges

The town Curtea de Arges is located in south central Romania, on the southern slopes of the Transylvanian Alps. In medieval times, Curtea de Arges was the capital of the kingdom of Valachia. During the reign of Negru-Voda ("Voda" is the feudal term for king), in the second decade of the 16th century, a monastery was erected on the bank of the river Arges. The splendor of this monastery is best illustrated through the legend surrounding its building. This legend is based on an ancient mythological theme - the sacrifice for creation. Thus, every Balkan nation, including Romania and Hungary, has its own version of the need to incorporate a living soul into an architectural monument in order to achieve ultimate strength and beauty. The protagonist in the Romanian legend is "Mesterul Manole" (the Master Manole). His story was beautifully incorporated into a ballad by Vasile Alecsandri, one of Romania's most famous writers/poets of the 19th century. In the ballad, Manole is at times also referred to as Manea.

— Gerda Ben-Zeev

Master Manole

Translated by Gerda Ben-Zeev,
from the text very kindly
provided by Ovidiu Motpan,
Bucharest, Romania.

Downstream on the Arges
On its beautiful bank
Negru-Voda passes
With ten of his pals:
Nine big masters,
Masons and craftsmen,
And Manole - ten
Who even surpasses them.
They all walk on the path
To select in the valley
A place for a monastery
For posterity.
Here, as they were walking,
Came a poor little shepherd
Playing his small bagpipe.
As he saw him,
The king said:
"Proud little shepherd,
Playing your bagpipe,
Upstream on the Arges
You went with your flock,
Downstream on the Arges
You were with your flock,
Did you by chance see
Wherever you passed
A wall all abandoned
And unfinished
By the timber-work
By the green thicket?"
"Yes, my lord, I saw
Where I was passing
A wall all abandoned
And unfinished.
The dogs when they see it
They run to it
And bark in desolation
And howl about death."
As he heard him
The king rejoiced
And hurried

To the wall
With nine builders
And Manole - ten,
Who even surpasses them.
"Here is my wall!
Here do I choose
The site of a monastery
For posterity.
Thus, you big masters,
Masons and craftsmen,
Be diligent right away,
To start the work
To erect for me
A lofty monastery
As there was no other.
For I will give you riches,
I will make you noblemen;
But if you fail, then
I will build you all
Alive in the wall,
Down at the foundations!"

The masters were hurrying,
Ropes they were stretching,
Measurements were taking,
Deep trenches digging,
And constantly working,
The wall they were erecting.
But all they were building,
At night it was crumbling!
The second day again,
The third day again,
The fourth day again,
All the work in vain!
The king was wondering
And then was admonishing
And then he was angry
And he was threatening
To build them alive
Down at the foundations.
And the big masters,
Masons and craftsmen,
Trembled while working
Worked while trembling,
Long days of summer,
From morning to night.

...And Manole was standing,
Wasn't even working,
And he went to sleep,
And had a dream.
Then he got up,
And thus he said:
"Nine big masters,
Masons and craftsmen,
Do you know what I dreamt
As I slept?
A whisper from above
Was constantly telling me
That as much as we build
Will all crumble at night
Until we'll decide
In the wall to build
The first little wife
The first little sister
That might appear
Tomorrow at dawn
Bringing good food
To husband or brother.
So, if you desire
Ever to finish
The holy monastery
For posterity
We should decide
All to swear
And to bind
The secret to keep:
Any little wife,
Any little sister
That tomorrow at dawn
Would appear,
Her we should sacrifice
And build in the wall!"
And so at dawn
Manea got up
And then he climbed
On the fence of ropes
And higher, on the scaffold,
He was looking at the field,
Was watching the trail,
When, woe! What did he see?
Who was the one coming?

The Monastery of Curtea de Arges



The Monastery at Curtea de Arges

His own little wife,
The flower of the fields!
She was getting closer
And was bringing
Food for lunch,
And wine to drink.
As he was seeing her
His heart was jumping.
On his knees he fell,
And crying he begged:
"Bring, God, to the world
A torrential storm
That would form rivers,
The streams should flow
The waters should rise,
And stop my beloved,

Stop her in the valley,
And make her turn around!"
God was having pity,
To the prayer He was listening,
The clouds He was gathering
The sky He was blackening.
And suddenly there was pouring
A foaming rain
That was forming rivers
And swelling the streams.
But, all the pouring waters
Couldn't stop the beloved
She was just coming,
Was getting closer.
Manea was seeing her,
His heart was crying,

And again he was praying:
"Blow, God, a wind,
Blow it on earth,
To strip the fir trees,
To bend the birch trees,
To overturn the mountains.
And turn my beloved away,
Turn her around in her path,
And take her down the valley!"
God was having pity,
To the prayer He was listening,
A wind He was blowing -
A wind on the ground,
The fir trees it was stripping,
The birch trees it was bending,
The mountains overturning,
But Ana
Was not returning!
She was just coming,
On the way was faltering,
Yet getting closer,
And, bitter fate,
Here she was arriving!

The big masters
Masons and craftsmen,
Became very happy
When they saw her;
But Manea was enraged,
His beloved was kissing,
In his arms was taking her,
On the wall was placing her
And, jokingly, was telling her:
"Stay, my little beloved,
Do not be scared,
For we want in jest
To build you in the wall!"
Ana was believing
And happily laughing.
But Manea was sighing
And was starting
To build the wall,
To make the dream come true.
The wall was rising
And was embracing her
To her little ankles
To her little calves
And she, woe to her!
No more was she laughing
And constantly was saying:
"Manole, Manole,
Master Manole!
Enough with this joke,
It's not even kind, my dear.
"Manole, Manole,
Master Manole!
The wall is badly tightening,
My small body it is breaking!"
And Manea was silent
And kept on building.

The Monastery of Curtea de Arges

The wall was getting higher
And was entrapping her
To her little ankles,
To her little calves,
To her little ribs,
To her little breasts.
And she, woe to her,
Kept on crying:
"Manole, Manole,
Master Manole!
The wall is badly tightening,
My breasts are weeping,
My baby it is breaking!"
Manole was raging
And furiously working
The wall was rising
And her entrapping
To her little ankles,
To her little breasts,
To her little lips,
To her little eyes,
Until, woe to her
She couldn't be seen
But was only heard
From the wall crying:
"Manole, Manole,
Master Manole!
The wall is badly tightening,
My life it is extinguishing!"

Down on the river Arges
On its more beautiful bank
Negru-Voda is coming
To worship
At that monastery,
Towering building,
Lofty monastery,
Like there was none other.
The king was looking at it
Ever more cheerful
And thus he was saying:
"You, master masons,
Ten big masters,
Tell me sincerely
With your hands on your hearts
If you have the skill
To erect for me
Another monastery
For posterity,
Even brighter
And by far prettier?"
And those big masters,
Masons and craftsmen,
Standing on the timber-work
Up on the roof,
Gayly were boasting:
"Like us, big masters,
Masons and craftsmen,
There are no others
Here on this earth!

Mind you that we know
At any time to build
Another monastery
For posterity,
One much brighter,
And by far prettier!"
The king to them was listening
And was falling pensive,
And then he was ordering
To destroy the scaffolds,
To lift the ladders.
And those masons,
The ten big masters,
To abandon there,
So they will rot
There on the timber,
Up on the roof.

The masters were thinking
And there they were building
Flying wings
Out of light shingles,
Then they were spreading them
And in the air were jumping.
But right there they were plunging,
And where they were falling,
Their bodies were splitting!
And poor Manole,
The master Manole,
Whenever he was trying
Out there to jump,
Here he was hearing,
A muffled voice,
A beloved voice,
That was much moaning
And was always saying:
"Manole, Manole,
Master Manole!
The wall is badly tightening,
My breasts are weeping,
My baby it is breaking!"
My life it is extinguishing!"
As he was hearing her,
Manea was feeling lost,
His eyes were fogging,
His world was spinning,
The clouds were turning,
And there from the timber,
Up from the roof,
To his death he was falling!

And where he was falling
What was forming there?
A placid spring
With not much water,
With salty water,
Wetted by tears!

EPILOGUE

"Mesterul Manole" is not a story
about a wicked king, nor about the
harshness of medieval Romanian
life. It is about the fact that the
beauty of the monastery can only be
understood through the pain and
suffering endured during its creation,
symbolized by the presence of a
human soul in it. The death of the ten
masters at the end of the story
increases the extent of sacrifice
demanded for the creation of the
masterpiece. It also demonstrates
the uniqueness of the monastery and
the fact that there is no other similar
one in the region.

— Gerda Bem-Zeev

Master Manole:
A Personal Reflection

The legend of Master Manole
reminds me of the poignancy of
human life, of the beauty in pain and
the pain in beauty, of the need to
sacrifice for a higher goal, and of the
importance of extinguishing pride.

Because of Ana's dedication to her
husband, she was called upon to give
her life so that Manole could fulfil his
promise. It seems ironic that for such
devotion she had to die, but perhaps
in a higher sense she gained eternal
life.

I think this story urges us to ask
ourselves just how much we are
willing to sacrifice. Could I, would I
really sacrifice my life for the one I
love if called upon to do so?

Was Negru-Voda evil and selfish, or
was he merely a catalyst for the real
purpose of this drama? It was not the
king who caused the deaths of the
nine masters, but their own
arrogance.

And Manole himself was the classic
tragic hero, trapped between his duty
to his king and his oath to the
masters on the one hand, and his
love and vows to his wife on the
other. I wonder, were Manole and
Ana re-united after death, or is the
salt water fountain the manifestation
of their eternal tears of separation?

What do you think?

— Jatila van der Veen

Travel in Romania

Gerri Alexander shares with us some of her experiences and photographs from traveling in Romania.

– *Steve Davis*

Romania is a country in which you can enjoy the sophistication of the capital Bucharest, and in the countryside feel as though you have walked backwards in time more than 100 years. Romanian folk art, crafts, and native costumes have a special character reflecting the creativeness of its people. For people like all of us (folkdancers and musicians) it is a country of beauty and interest.

To start with, the Peasant houses in the villages and countryside are worth several rolls of film! Many are whitewashed and decorated in blue trim. In Moldavia and Wallachia houses are usually white, whereas in Transylvania and Maramures they are often multicolored. In many villages they carve elaborate gates around the houses. Many houses we saw in Oas, seemed to have been built like Topsy, starting with a small house and adding rooms as needed! The wells are also in elaborate roofed structures. In some villages there are brightly colored grave markers, often with humorous epitaphs.



Embroidery and woven pieces inside the home.

There are many festivals celebrating some particular custom. One such festival is the shepherds' folk feast, Simba Oilor, which is an old custom of the sheep breeders associated with the organizing of grazing. Prefaced by a suggestive "Dance of the Girls, this festival takes place on a large clearing. It begins with a traditional "Call to the Simbra", shouted by the oldest shepherd. At his urging, the Simbroși groups, men and women revive the ancient practices of sheep milking into wooden pails and measuring of the milk. In an atmosphere of humor and song, the festival continues with a large common meal of local dishes (barbequed lamb, cheese pies, mamaliga, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, stuffed cabbage, and breads washed down with tuica (plum brandy). After the meal, there is singing, dancing, music, and often a folk art exhibition of local products like hats, costumes, collars, shepherds' purses, embroideries and home made items.

– *Gerri Alexander*



Carved and painted gravemarkers.



Horsedrawn cart seen on countryside roads.

On the Scene

FRESNO HARVEST FESTIVAL

On October 16 & 17, there will be a festival at the CSU South Gymnasium in Fresno. This will be Fresno's 51st annual festival! The weekend offers an institute, exhibitions, food and clothing fair, kolo hour, dancing and after parties. For more information contact Michael Norris, (559) 255-4508.

– *Jill Michtom*

NEWS FROM LAS VEGAS

The Ethnic Express has a lot scheduled in October. We'll be involved on the 2nd in the Folk Life Festival, to be followed on the 9th by a Leif Ericksson Dinner sponsored by the Sons of Norway. On the 9th and 10th we'll be involved in the Scottish Games, to be followed by participation in a huge Columbus Day Party at the Rio Hotel on the 10th. If you are in Las Vegas join us. The Ethnic Express suffered a tragic loss when charter members Gerry and Ken Horne lost their lives in a single engine airplane crash near the North Las Vegas Airport on August 29th. Our crew is diminished and we will greatly miss them.

– *Dick Killian*

KOLO FESTIVAL IN SAN FRANCISCO

Thanksgiving weekend, from Thursday night through Saturday night, the Russian center will host the Kolo Festival. The center has three floors and often there are great things going on on all three!. Dance classes with Atanas Koloravski, Dick Crum, Yves Moreau and Mihai David; singing classes, performances, and usually some special sessions. There is lots of live music, some of it just to listen to as you eat or drink in the Kafana. The center is on Sutter St., near Divisadero. For further info, call Joanne (800) 730-5615.

– *Jill Michtom*

GREETINGS FROM HOLLAND

We have relocated to The Netherlands where I have accepted a position as School Counselor at the International School of Amsterdam. The contract is initially for a period of two years.

I am very eager to stay in touch with the folk dance community in California and the United States. I am still very active in teaching Bulgarian Folk Dances, now once more in The Netherlands and Western Europe. I do plan to visit the U.S. several times this coming year. Those interested in staying in touch with me for future workshops and events can contact me:

Jaap Leegwater
Majellapark 11
3532 CS Utrecht
The Netherlands
Phone: 011-31-6-25024416 (mobile phone)

My school address is:

Jaap Leegwater, Lower/Middle School Counselor
International School of Amsterdam
Sportlaan 45
P.O. Box 920
1180 AX Amstelveen
The Netherlands
E-mail: jleegwater@isa.nl

– *Jaap Leegwater*

JAPANESE DAYS AT DESCANSO GARDENS



The weekend of October 30 and 31, Descanso Gardens is featuring a Japanese Garden Festival. Both days there will be a flute and koto concert in the Tea Gardens from 2:00-4:00. On Saturday the Taiko Drummers of Los Angeles will perform at 1:00. Finally on Sunday the Fujima Kansama Dancers will perform ancient Japanese dances in full traditional dress. This will be at noon 'Under the Oaks'. In

addition there is a floral and fabric display. Descanso Gardens is at 1418 Descanso Dr. in La Canada-Flintridge. (818) 952-4408.

– *Gerri Alexander*

HALLOWEEN PARTY, FRIDAY OCT. 29, 1999 7:30 WEST L.A. FOLKDANCERS

An annual Halloween party at Brockton School will take place on Friday evening, Oct. 29th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The West L.A. Folkdancers will be happy to welcome all folkdancers. It is a very friendly, fun loving group that love their dance evenings and the parties.

There will be an all request dance program. Bring pot luck snacks and share the folk dance evening with friendly folks.

Costumes (optional) are definitely fun, so if you want to get into the theme, you will add some excitement to your evening. For information call (310) 202-6166.

– *Beverly Barr*

On the Scene

CAMP HESS KRAMER "CAMP'S REVIEW"

OCTOBER 1 – 3, 1999

If you are reading this and it is before Oct. 1st and you have not made arrangements to attend the 15th Anniversary of the "Camp's Review Weekend" at Camp Hess Kramer, pick up the phone and call to see if there is a chance that you can attend, pack your dancing and fun clothes and don't miss the fun.

Camp Hess Kramer is located in Malibu, CA., in a beautiful setting. The "Review Weekend" has lots of excellent teaching, great parties, wonderful food, hiking, walking, reading, visiting with old friends and meeting new folkdancers. The warm friendly atmosphere makes this weekend very special.

The teaching will include dances from Stockton Folk Dance Camp, New Mexico Camp, the Idaho International Folk Dance Festival, as well as other camps and workshops that our teachers attended. Our teaching staff includes Gary Diggs from Albuquerque. Denise Heenan, from Northern California, and Beverly Barr from Southern California.

Call Irwin at (310) 202-6166, or Wes at (310) 452-1538 or Folk Dance Federation (310) 478-6600.

– *Camp Hess Kramer Committee*

LAGUNA FOLKDANCERS FESTIVAL

The year 2000 approaches and it is time to reserve the second weekend in February for the 30th annual Laguna Folkdancers Festival. The festival begins on Friday evening February 11 and continues through Sunday February 13. The festival will include dance workshops, parties, after parties, and a concert. Michael Gingburg and Belle Birchfield will teach Balkan dances and Ya'akov Eden will teach dances from Israel. All festival activities will be in the Gym at Ensign Intermediate School, 2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach.

The festival weekend is busy and fun with excellent teachers, exciting parties featuring music by popular local bands. As usual the after parties will include good dancing, an opportunity to visit with your friends, and the famous Laguna after party food.

For more info: call (949) 646-7082 or (714) 533-8667

– *Steve Himel*

NEW LOCATION FOR HOLLYWOOD PEASANTS

The Hollywood Peasants have moved, and therefore changed their name to the Hollywood Peasants of Culver City. The new location is at 4162 Wade St. in, where else, Culver City (park on Moore St.).

They will have an end of the year/millennium getaway in La Jolla at the Radisson Hotel. BEFORE New Year's, Tue. 12/28 to Thu. 12/30, 2 nights, 3 days, 2 full breakfasts, 2 holiday dinners, plus hor d'oeuvres, and dancing, skits, swimming, games, socializing. \$310 per couple, \$155 per single with double occupancy. Call Nicole Lynn at (818)985-1285 for info/reservations.

The Peasants had a Re-Union Party on September 22nd to re-ignite old friendships. Unfortunately, through my oversight, the notice of that event was inadvertently omitted from last months, 'On the Scene'. Hope it was a huge success.

– *Jay Michtom*

COSTA RICA with Beverly & Irwin Barr, Nov 2 - 11

This is a trip that you will remember forever! A 10 day trip through exotic Costa Rica. We will fly to Costa Rica and travel through this fascinating country staying in four star hotels and lodges. Meals include familiar continental and traditional cuisine of the area.

This is a very westernized country with the old world charm. We will walk through, drive through and take boats through the tropical rain forests to see the bountiful flora and fauna. Cruise the inland rivers and canals that crisscross a national park dedicated to the protection of endangered life, and the unspoiled coastal waterways lined by jungles with exotic birds and wildlife. See the Cloud Forest and volcanos, some of which are still active where you can see the lava flow. Relax in hot mineral springs pools and have dinner while viewing the magnificent Arenal volcano erupting about every 20 minutes. How about a visit to a banana plantation and a coffee plantation? In San Jose you will visit the beautiful National Theater and several museums. Watch and hear the traditional music and dances and learn the history of their country at the Pueblo Antinquo. For more info: 310-202-6166.

– *Beverly Barr*

TINEKE VAN GEEL COMES TO LOS ANGELES

Those of you who were at Stockton camp a couple of years ago remember Tineke Van Geel. For those of you who weren't there, she is a Dutch woman who teaches Dutch and Armenian dances. She is on a trip to the US this month, at several camps in the East. and will be in Los Angeles the last week. She will teach at Cafe Danssa on October 27th, and Westwood Co-op on the 28th. If you want to arrange for her to be at your club, her E-mail is: vangeel@xs4all.nl.

– *Jill Michtom*

On the Scene

RUSSIAN GROUP AT HOUSE CONCERT



Four Russian musicians and singers, called 'Limpopo', will be performing at 2:30 on Sunday October 24 at the home of Jill and Jay Michtom in Northridge. Weather permitting it will be outdoors. Pot-luck snacks will be provided. Please call for reservations: (818) 368-1957.

— *Jill and Jay Michtom*

FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP AND INSURANCE

Membership and Insurance packets were mailed out the first week in September. Did your club receive one? They are due back fully completed on or before October 22. If you have any questions contact:

Ron Lundgren, Insurance Chair, 1484 Norwich Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, (805)497-1957, LundgrenRE@aol.com. Or contact Carol Wall, Director of Membership, 9505 Stoakes Ave., Downey, CA 90240, (562)-862-0521, FAX 562-862-3179, cewall@ix.netcom.com.

Would you like to buy a 1999 Federation Directory? They are \$3. Make your check out to Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc. and mail it to Carol Wall at the above address. Thank you.

— *Carol Wall*

ETHNIC DANCE AT BARNSDALL PARK

The opening ceremony of the "World Festival of Sacred Music, The Americas" will be at Barnsdall Park on October 9 from sunrise to sunset. It will include Azteca Dance, Folclorico from Brasil, African Ballet, and others. The Park is an 4800 Hollywood Blvd, and admission is free. For further info, (213) 473-4269.

— *Jill Michtom*

NARODNI NEWS

October Special Events

10/14 Family Night. 7:30-8:30pm. All request evening 8:30-10:30 pm.

10/28 Halloween Party, wear a costume or come as you are, contests and prizes, bring a treat to share, cost \$3, see you there. For more information: contact John at (562) 424-6377, e-mail: ba737@lafn.org, or Carol at (562) 862-0521.

— *Carol Wall*

YONI CARR'S CAMP FINJAN-HILULA: A SMASHING SUCCESS!

From Friday afternoon through Monday lunch time of this year's Labor Day holiday, the strands of modern Israeli music and spoken Hebrew filled Roberson Gym at UCSB, as Yoni Carr's Camp Finjan-Hilula brought Americans and Israelis together from across the seas and across the nation.



Left to right: *Israe Yakovi (LA), Victor Gabay (Israel) and Nir Dor (Israel), three of the four choreographers at Camp Finjan Hilula, Sept. 4 - 6, 1999.*

Finjan means coffee pot, and carries the connotation of passing the traditional coffee pot around a camp fire. Hilula means jubilee, so Finjan-Hilula implies a communal celebration - and that is exactly what took place. The dancing was exhilarating and exhausting,

On the Scene

and the parties at night involved community singing, a talent show, and karaoke in Hebrew.

Besides her own talented brother who lives in LA, Yoni brought three incredible choreographers from Israel for this event: Avi Perez, Nir Dor, and Victor Gabay. Avi impressed me with his intricate couple dances that combine traditional Israeli steps with moves from salsa and swing. My favorite dance of his was a circle dance called "Ha Kol Od Yistader", meaning "Everything will turn out alright". Nir also uses a variety of styles in his choreography, and writes all his own music. My favorite dance of his was fast a line dance called "Moshav HaRuach", meaning "The wind is blowing" It combines elements of Israeli, Greek, and Balkan dance styles.

And, of course, there were the delightful Israel and Yoni! Yoni's energy and enthusiasm were contagious, and her early morning warm-ups were full of spunk and her own charm. Israel ran the music, and also taught some modern Yemenite dances of his own.

The best news of all is that they are planning to do it again next year, over the Labor Day weekend, at UCSB. Not only is this wonderful for those of us who live in the area, but Rob Gym has an air-sprung floor, making it ideal for all day and night dancing!

So, mark your calendars - see you next year at Camp Finjan-Hilula!

— *Jatila van der Veen*

GREEK FESTIVAL ENLIVENS SANTA BARBARA

Oak Park, in Santa Barbara, well known for its colorful ethnic festivals, hosted this year's Greek Festival over the weekend of July 31-August 1. The highlight of the festival, naturally, is the music and dancing! Among the colorful traditionally-costumed groups who performed, the most spectacular were the Greeks from The Greek, a restaurant in the Harbor Village in Ventura, where the waiters and waitresses sing and dance. These young men performed athletic maneuvers that included dancing with a full wine glass on their heads, high jumps and over-the-head kicks, and lifting each other with a napkin held by one dancer in his teeth!

After hours of line dancing to a live band in the summer sun, we went home quite satisfied with this year's Greek Festival in Santa Barbara!

— *Jatila van der Veen*



Three dancing waiters from The Greek at the Harbor in Ventura perform on the outdoor stage in Oak Park, Santa Barbara for this year's Greek Festival.

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Calendar

This section is for you. Comments, opinions and feedback are always welcome. All opinions here are those of the writers only. If you have a different opinion, we'd like to hear from you.

— *Folk Dance Scene Committee*

Judy Campbell shares with us her dance feelings and poetry.

I share with you some of my feelings as Bill and I cautiously danced our one-dance-an-evening in the months before we dated. Bill Campbell and I met in January of 1971 at Westwood Co-op. After four months of lessons at Avis Tarvin's intermediate class and at Westwood, I was invited by Bill to a Scottish dance class followed by ice cream. Our romance began. We were married on February 14, 1973, my parents' anniversary. Many Scottish sets, much non-fat frozen yogurt and 14 shared grandchildren later, we continue dancing at Beverly and Irwin Barr's Friday night group. "Vive la danse!"

The Romance of Dance

As we spun to the last waltz

already in our warm jackets

we were two teddy bears

Dancing in each other's arms

cozy and cushioned from the world.

We were in our own sphere. Moonbeams

of parking lot lights encircled us.

On the fringe the others walked

past us to their cars.

We barely noticed them.

Alone--twirling in Moondust.

— *Judy Weinberg Campbell*

Fran Slater shares with us some additional background about dance weekends at Camp Hess Kramer. Editor's notes are in [] brackets.

A LITTLE HISTORY OF CAMP HESS KRAMER

In the last issue of Scene, the editor wrote, "...it would be appropriate to look back at the history of the camp..." I would like to add some corrections and background, as follows:

About 1971, Sheila Ruby attended a weekend dance camp in Palomar (just north of San Diego), sponsored by Alice Stirling from Chula Vista. Based on Sheila's enjoyment of that weekend, she approached the Federation with the idea of sponsoring a similar weekend camp in the Los Angeles area. A search for a location turned up the Camp Hess Kramer grounds, and it was approved.

According to Dorothy Daw's dance notes files, the first Hess Kramer Institute weekend was in 1972, with dances taught by Mary Judson and Anthony Ivancich. It was advertised by the Federation as the "Folk Dance Federation South Institute Weekend at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu". It was a review of dances taught at San Diego Folk Dance Camp, a very popular and well attended camp.

This institute weekend was arranged by a committee known as the Institute Committee [which was responsible for all teaching events]. During Marshall Cates' term as president of the Federation, the committee became a two-part committee – "Camp Hess Kramer Weekend Committee" and "Institute Committee".

The fact that the name of this [weekend] was changed over the years to "Camp Hess Kramer Camps Review" cannot alter its original historical beginning as the "Folk Dance Federation South Institute Weekend at Camp Hess Kramer". And to correct any erroneous impressions as to how long this weekend camp has been in existence, you may be sure that it has been an ongoing federation event, for most of the 27 years since 1972.

— *Fran Slater*



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Ethnic Foods

This month we are deviating from our usual culinary focus of timely international holidays, to bring you a traditional Romanian recipe and a review of the restaurant where you can sample it!

– *Jatila*

Mignon International

Romanian & Mediterranean Cuisine

1253 N. Vine St., Los Angeles, CA 90038



A large group of folkdancers recently celebrated an anniversary at Mignon International Restaurant. The owner is Romanian, as are the majority of his customers, but the menu is an unusual

mixture of Romanian cuisine and standard American dishes. The prices are very reasonable: dinners run from about \$8 to \$15. The bar serves good wine at \$4 a glass, and bottled sparkling mineral water (Apollinares) is served at the table, gratis.

We sampled a variety of the more ethnic dishes, and the comments from the group included:

"eggplant appetizer was oniony, crunchy and beautifully seasoned";

"mamaliga was very good, served with grated sharp cheese and a generous dollop of sour cream";

"the roasted red pepper appetizer was sensational";

"salad was nice, with a light vinaigrette dressing";

"our chicken with mushrooms was delicious, very tender, in a cream/dill sauce (fresh dill)";

"veal goulash with dumplings was tasty, tender and nicely seasoned";

"beef stroganoff had a very good flavor, but the meat was tough".

The room was somewhat crowded, with long center tables for large groups, and plush red booths and red velvet drapes. Cloth napkins and tableclothes added to the decor. The service was rather slow, so expect to spend the evening.

The entertainment on weekends includes an accordion player and a keyboardist, who played mostly dance music, and the dance floor was well attended. They gladly played Romanian music when requested. Most

felt the music was too loud for conversation. The chanteuse was passionate, belting out love songs in several languages.

The highpoint of the evening was the appearance of four dancers, fully costumed, at 10pm. They performed four dances, with fantastic energy, skill, and showmanship. Their dances included a more complex version of De-a-Lungul than we do, a couple of foot stomping, thigh slapping, vigorous dances, and a wonderfully seductive Rom dance.

Tip-arrive before 7pm for free parking in their lot, or you will be charged \$4.50! Happy dining!

– *Sandy Helperin*

MAMALIGA

Mamaliga is a basic Romanian dish and in the old days represented the staple diet of the peasant population. While wheat and rice products were considered luxuries, the corn meal was more affordable and in many instances mamaliga was the only food available to the poor.

Basic mamaliga recipe:

1 1/2 quart water
1 lb. corn meal
2 tsp. salt

Bring the water and salt to a boil. Slowly pour the corn meal in a fine stream, while mixing constantly with a wooden spoon. Reduce the heat and simmer while mixing until the composition thickens, 5 - 10 minutes.

The mamaliga can be served alone (in simple or elaborate recipes, see below), or as a side dish with meat and gravy, sauteed vegetables, etc.

Mamaliga with cheese:

Transfer the mamaliga into a dish. With the bottom of a tablespoon make an indentation in the center. Add 1 tsp. butter and fill the indentation with goat cheese. Serve hot.

Mamaliga with eggs

(otherwise known as "Shut up and swallow"):

Prepare the basic mamaliga recipe, except substitute the water with milk. When mamaliga is cooked, add 4 tbsp. butter and 4 tbsp. sour cream. Place the mixture into a greased casserole dish and make 6 indentations. Break an egg into each "nest". Sprinkle with salt, place into a 350° F oven, and bake until the eggs become solid, about 25 min. Serve hot.

– *Gerda Ben-Zeev*

Club Directory

See **On the Scene** for temporary changes and special events. **Hours are pm except as noted.**

Federation Clubs

| Club | Time | Contact | Location |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| ALPINE DANCERS OF SANTA BARBARA | Mon 7:30-10:00 | (805) 968-3873 Gilbert Perleberg | SANTA BARBARA, Emanuel Lutheran Church, 3721 Modoc Rd |
| BARLEYCORN COUNTRY DANCERS | Fri 7:30 | (805) 481-2569 Tim Scott | ARROYO GRANDE, Arroyo Del Mar HomeOwners Assn Rec Rm, 1145 Ash |
| CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS | Tue 7:30-10:00 Thu, 7:00-10:00 | (619) 459-1336 Georgina (619) 445-5995 Jack | SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Balboa Park Club |
| CHINA LAKE DESERT DANCERS | Tue 7:30-9:30 Thu 7:30-10:00 | (760) 446-6905 Ruth Dietrich | RIDGECREST, High Desert Dance Center, 725 S. Gateway |
| CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS | Mon 7:30-9:30 | (805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren | THOUSAND OAKS, Conejo Elem School, 280 Conejo School Rd |
| ETHNIC EXPRESS INT'L FOLK DANCERS | Wed 6:30 | (702) 732-4871 Richard Killian | LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Bush St. |
| HOLLYWOOD PEASANTS OF CULVER CITY | Wed 7:30-10:30 | (310) 836-3069 Morrie (818) 763-8335 Rivie | CULVER CITY, Culver West Park, 4162 Wade St. (park on Moore St.) |
| KERN INT'L FOLK DANCERS | Wed 7:00-9:00 | (805) 831-5007 Delphine Szczepkowski | BAKERSFIELD, Wayne Van Horn School, 5501 Kleinpell Ave. |
| KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING | Fri 8:00-11:30 | (818) 248-2020 Dick Angelos | PASADENA, Skandia Hall 2031 E. Villa |
| LAGUNA FOLK DANCERS | Sun 7:00-10:00 Wed 8:00-10:00 | (714) 533-8667 Ted Martin | LAGUNA BEACH, Community Ctr 384 Legion Ave |
| LEISURE WORLD FOLK DANCERS | Tue 8:30-11:00am Sat 9:00-11:00am | (949) 581-8007 Lucie Falk | LAGUNA HILLS, Leisure World |
| MOUNTAIN DANCERS | Tue 7:00-9:30 | (626) 794-8889 Vicki Davis | S. PASADENA, Oneonta Cong. Church, 1515 Garfield |
| NARODNI DANCERS OF LONG BEACH | Thu 7:30-10:30 | (562) 424-6377 John (562) 865-0873 Carl | LONG BEACH, Calif Heights Meth. Church, 3759 Orange Ave |
| PAS DE FOX | M,W 5:30-8:30 Sat 9am-1pm | (562) 943-9960 Susan Maryn | SYLMAR, Fox Dance Studio, 13090 Bordon Ave. |
| PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP | Fri 7:45-11:00 | (626) 300-8138 Sylvia Stachura | PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church 300 S. Los Robles |
| SAN DIEGO INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB | Wed 7:00-9:30 | (619) 422-5540 Alice Stirling | SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park |
| SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY | Sun 6:30-10:00 Wed 7:30-9:30 | (805) 682-1877 Elliott Karpeles | SANTA BARBARA Carrillo Rec Center 100 E. Carrillo St. St Mark Methodist, 3942 La Colina Rd |
| SANTA MARIA FOLK DANCERS | Wed 7:00-9:00 | (805) 925-3981 Audrey Silva | SANTA MARIA, Veterans Cultural Ctr, Pine & Tunnell Sts |
| SKANDIA DANCE CLASSES | Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:30 Call for others | (714) 533-8667 Ted (714) 533-3886 Donna (310) 558-8352 Jacque | ANAHEIM, Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center, CULVER CITY, Peer Gynt Hall, 3835 Watseka |

Club Directory

Federation Clubs

| Club | Time | Contact | Location |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS | Sat 7:30-10:30 | (805) 688-3397 Barbara & Chuck Heald | SOLVANG, Santa Ynez School 3325 Pine St |
| SOUTH BAY FOLK DANCERS | 2nd Fri 7:45-9:45 | (310) 372-8040 Beth Steckler | TORRANCE, Torrance Cultural Ctr, 3330 Civic Center Dr. |
| TUESDAY GYPSIES | Tue 7:30-10:30 | (310) 390-1069 Millicent Stein | CULVER CITY, Masonic Lodge 9635 Venice Blvd. |
| VENTURA FOLK DANCERS | Fri 7:30-9:30 | (805) 985-7316 Edith Sewell | VENTURA, Loma Vista Elem. School, 300 Lynn Dr. |
| VESELO SELO FOLK DANCERS | Fri 7:30-10:30 Sat 8:00-11:00 | (714) 554-6271 Ed & Mary | FULLERTON, Hillcrest Recreation Ctr, 1155 N. Lemon |
| WAVERLEY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS | Wed 7:30 | (310) 820-1181 Jerry Lubin | SANTA MONICA, Adams Jr. High, 2425 16th St |
| WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS | Mon 7:30-10:30 Fri 7:30-10:45 | (310) 478-4659, 202-6166 Beverly Barr | WEST L.A., Brockton School 1309 Armacost Ave |
| WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS | Fri 7:30-10:30 | (818) 368-1957 Jay & Jill Michtom | CANOGA PARK, Senior Center 7326 Jordan Ave |
| WESTCHESTER LARIATS | Mon 3:30-9:30 | (310) 376-8756 Diane Winthrop | LOS ANGELES, Westchester Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson Ave |
| WESTWOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS | Thu 7:30-10:45 | (310) 391-4062 Tom Trilling | WEST L.A., Emerson Jr. High Gym, 1670 Selby, behind Mormon Temple |

Non-Federation Clubs

| Club | Time | Contact | Location |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| CAFE DANSSA BALKAN DANCERS | Wed 7:30-10:30 | (626) 293-8523 Sherry Cochran | WEST L.A., Cafe Danssa 11533 W. Pico Blvd. |
| COUNTRY DANCERS | 3rd Sat 5:30-11:00 | (805) 528-4572 Jean & Keith Gorrindo | SAN LUIS OBISPO, SLO Veterans Bldg., 801 Grand Ave |
| DESERT INTERNATIONAL DANCERS | Mon 7:30-9:45 Call to confirm | (760) 564-0599 Dwight (760) 342-1297 Helen (760) 323-7259 Shelley | PALM SPRINGS, Palm Canyon Theatre, 538 N Palm Canyon Dr. |
| FOLK DANCE FUN | 3rd Sat 7:30-9:30 | (818) 349-0877 Ruth Gore | VAN NUYS, 8648 Woodman Ave |
| ISRAELI FOLK DANCING WITH YONI | Sun 7:00-11:30 Wed 7:00-11:30 Thu 7:00-11:30 | (760) 631-0809 Yoni | LONG BEACH, JCC, 3801 E Willow St COSTA MESA, JCC, 250 Baker St LA JOLLA, Beth El, 8660 Gilman Dr |
| OJAI FOLK DANCERS | Wed 7:30-9:30 | (805) 646-0865 Carol Smith | OJAI Art Center 113 S. Montgomery |
| UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM ISRAELI DANCE | Mon 10-11:30am Tue 10am-12:15 Wed 7:30-10:00 | (818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern | LOS ANGELES, Dance Studio 5600 Mulholland Dr. |

Club Directory

Non-Federation Clubs

| Club | Time | Contact | Location |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| VALLEY JCC ISRAELI DANCE | Thu 9:30-noon | (818) 343-8009 | VAN NUYS, 13164 Burbank Blvd. |

Beginner's Classes

| Club | Time | Contact | Location |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS | Tue 7:30-8:00 Thu 7:00-8:00 | (619) 445-5995 Jack (619) 459-1336 Georgina | SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club Balboa Park |
| CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS | Mon 7:30 | (805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren | THOUSAND OAKS, Conejo Elem School, 280 Conejo School Rd |
| DESERT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS | Mon 7:30-8:30 Call to Confirm | (760) 342-1297 Helen (760) 564-0599 Dwight (760) 323-7259 Shelley | PALM SPRINGS, Palm Canyon Theatre, 538 N. Palm Canyon Dr. |
| KAYSO FOLK DANCERS | Sat 12:30-3:00 | (619) 469-7133 Rochelle Abraham | SAN DIEGO, North Park Rec Center 4044 Idaho St |
| LAGUNA BEGINNER'S FOLK DANCE CLASS | Sun 7:00-7:45 | (949) 494-3302 (714) 533-8667 | LAGUNA BEACH, Community Center 384 Legion Ave |
| NARODNI DANCERS OF LONG BEACH | 2nd Thu 7:30-8:30 | (562) 424-6377 John (562) 865-0873 Carl | LONG BEACH, Calif Heights Meth. Church, 3759 Orange Ave |
| OJAI FOLK DANCERS | Wed 7:30-9:30 | (805) 646-0865 | OJAI, Ojai Art Center |
| PASADENA CO-OP BEGINNER'S CLASS | Fri 7:45-8:30 | (626) 300-8138 | PASADENA, Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles |
| SAN DIEGO INT'L FOLK DANCE CLASS | Wed 7:00-8:15 | (619) 422-5540 Alice Stirling | SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club Balboa Park |
| SKANDIA FOLK DANCE CLASSES | Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:00 | (714) 533-8667 (310) 556-8352 | ANAHEIM, Community Ctr, 250 E Center, CULVER CITY, Peer Gynt Hall, 3835 Watseka |
| SOUTH BAY FOLK DANCERS | 2nd Fri 7:45-8:15 | (310) 372-8040 Beth Steckler | TORRANCE, Cultural Arts Center 3330 Civic Center Dr. (310) 781-7150 |
| VESELO SELO BEGINNER'S CLASS | Thu 7:30-9:30 | (714) 554-6271 Ed, Mary | FULLERTON, Hillcrest Recreation Ctr 1155 N. Lemon |
| WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS | Mon 7:30 | (310) 478-4659, 202-6166 Beverly Barr, instructor | WEST L.A., Brockton School 1309 Armacost Ave |
| WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS | Mon 10:30-11:30am | (818) 702-0431 Leah Moses | CANOGA PARK, Senior Center 7326 Jordan Ave |
| WESTCHESTER LARIATS | Mon 3:30-9:30 | (310) 376-8756 Diane Winthrop | L.A., Westchester Methodist Church Emerson & 80th Pl. |
| WESTWOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS | Thu 7:30-9:00 | (310) 391-4062 Tom Trilling | WEST L.A., Emerson Jr. High Gym 1670 Selby, behind Mormon Temple |

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