

FOLK DANCE SCENE



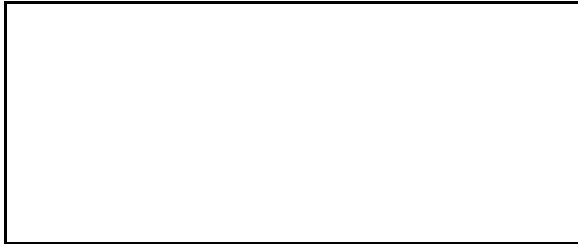
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Chestita Baba Marta!

May spring come soon and your harvest be bountiful!

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Volume 39, No. 2
March 2003

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Folk Dance Scene

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Folk Dance Scene is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, 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 10th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space considerations. *Electronic submission is preferred.* Views expressed in Scene are solely the opinions of the authors. Neither Scene nor the Federation assumes responsibility for the accuracy of the information sent in.

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1/4 page (3" x 3 1/2')	\$ 10	\$ 15	Folk Dance Scene Ads
1/2 page (6" x 3 1/2" or 3" x 7")	\$ 15	\$ 25	1524 Vivian Lane
full page (6" x 7 1/2")	\$ 25	\$ 40	Newport Beach Ca 92660
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Cover by Jatila van der Veen - Mumpers Holiday in Plodiv. The men in masks celebrate a ritual return of spring, with the intent to scare off the evil spirits which inhabit the earth and its creatures during winter. The masks are made of animal fur, and decorated with beads, ribbons, and tassels (see additional explanation on pg 21, cover story on pg 4).

Club Directory

Beginner's Classes

Club	Time	Contact	Location
CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS	Tue 7:00-8:00	(858) 459-1336 Georgina (619) 445-4907 Ellen, Jack	SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club Balboa Park
CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS	Wed 7:30	(805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren	THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr
HAVERIM FOLK DANCERS OF VENTURA	Sun 7-9	(805) 643-2886 Ann Zacher	VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah 760 Foothill Rd (corner Kimball)
ISRAELI DANCE WITH NATALIE STERN	Tue 7:30-8:30 Wed 7:30-8:30 Fri 10:00-11:00am	(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern	VALLEY VILLAGE, Shaarei Zedek, 12800 Chandler (Tu), L.A., Univ of Judaism Dance Studio 5600 Mulholland (W), THOUSAND OAKS, Temple Etz Chaim, 1080 Janss (F).
KAYSO FOLK DANCERS	Fri 9:30-noon	(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George	SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 206 St
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) 358-5942 Ann Armstrong	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) 893-8888 Ted Martin (310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher	ANAHEIM, Community Ctr, 250 E Center CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park, 5401 Rhoda Way
SOUTH BAY FOLK DANCERS	2nd Fri 7:45-8:15	(310) 377-6393 Bea Rasoff	TORRANCE, Cultural Arts Center 3330 Civic Center Dr. (310) 781-7150
WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS	Mon 7:45-8:45	(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr, instructor	WEST L.A., Brockton School 1309 Armacost Ave
WESTWOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS	Thu 7:30-9:00	(310) 316-7513 Sybil (310) 452-0991 Forrest	WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

Exhibition Groups

Club	Time	Contact	Location
AVAZ INTERNATIONAL DANCE THEATRE	Mon, Wed 7-10	(323) 663-2829 Jamal	L.A. Church of Guardian Angel, 1118 N. Commonwealth Ave.
CLAN MACLEOD DANCERS	Mon 7:30-9:30	(818) 761-4750 Deanna St Amand	EAGLE ROCK, Women's 20th Century Club, 5105 Hermosa Ave.
DUNAJ INTERNATIONAL FOLK ENSEMBLE	Wed 7:00-10	(714) 641-7450 Richard Duree	COSTA MESA, contact: 2332 Minuteman Way
INT'L ACADEMY OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE		(818) 343-4410 Suzy Evans	VAN NUYS, Dars Art Center, 7412 Balboa Blvd
SCANDIA DANCERS		(714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp	
UCSB MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE	Tue 7:00 - 10:00	(805) 967-7125 Scott Marcus (805) 687-8823 Alexandra King	SANTA BARBARA, Gehringer Music Bldg., UCSB Campus

Club Directory

Federation Clubs

Club	Time	Contact	Location
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) 680-4356 Lorraine Rothman	FULLERTON, Hillcrest Recreation Ctr, 1155 N. Lemon
VINTAGE ISRAELI DANCING	4th or 5th Sat confirm	(818) 990-8925 Louis dovbyrd@aol.com	SHERMAN OAKS, Anisa's School of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd.
WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS	Mon 7:45-10:30 Fri 7:45-10:45	(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr	WEST L.A., Brockton School 1309 Armacost Ave
WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS	Fri 7:30-10:15	(818) 348-6133 Wally Aurich	CANOGA PARK, Senior Center 7326 Jordan Ave
WESTCHESTER LARIATS	Mon 3:30-9:00	(310) 374-1444 Roberta Bissill	LOS ANGELES, Westchester Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson
WESTWOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS	Thu 7:30-10:45	(310) 316-7513 Sybil (310) 452-0991 Forrest	WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

Non-Federation Clubs

Club	Time	Contact	Location
ANAHEIM INT'L FOLK DANCERS	Wed 7:30-9:30	(714) 893-8127 Carol Maybrier	ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church, 511 S Harbor
CAFE DANSSA BALKAN DANCERS	Wed 7:30-10:30	(310) 474-1232 Gerda Worldance1@aol.com Sherry	WEST L.A., Cafe Danssa 11533 W. Pico Blvd.
CAL TECH INT'L FOLK DANCERS	Tue 8:00-11:55	(626) 797-5157 Nancy Mulligan	PASADENA, Cal Tech Campus, Dabney Hall, parking off Del Mar
FOLK DANCE CLASS	Mon 10-11:30am Wed 10:15-11:45am	(310) 652-8706 Tikva Mason	L.A. Robertson Rec Ctr. 1641 Preuss W HOLLYWOOD West Hollywood Park, San Vicente at Melrose
ISRAELI DANCING WITH JAMES ZIMMER	Tues 8:00-11:00 Thu 8:00-9:30	(310) 284-3638 James Zimmer Israelidance@yahoo.com	WEST HILLS, West Valley JCC, 22622 Vanowen ENCINO, Community Ctr 4935 Balboa
ISRAELI FOLK DANCING WITH YONI	Wed 7:00-11:30 Thu 7:00-11:30	(760) 631-0802 Yoni	COSTA MESA, JCC, 250 Baker St LA JOLLA, Beth El, 8660 Gilman Dr
ISRAELI DANCE WITH NATALIE STERN	Mon 10:00a-1:00 Wed 7:30-10:00 Tue 7:30-9:00 Thu 10:15-noon Fri 10:15-11:30a Mon 6:15-8:45, Tue 10:15a-noon	(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern call for information	L.A., Univ of Judaism 5600 Mulholland (M,W); VALLEY VILLAGE, Shaarei Zedek, 12800 Chandler (Tu); SHERMAN OAKS, Valley JCC 13164 Burbank (Th); THOUSAND OAKS, 1080 E. Janss Rd (F) L.A., Shaarei Tefila, 7269 Beverly Blvd
OJAI FOLK DANCERS	Wed 7:30-9:30	(805) 646-0865 Carol Smith	OJAI Art Center 113 S. Montgomery
SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCE CENTER	Every Evening Call for Schedule.	(619) 281-5656	SAN DIEGO, 4569 30th Street
SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCERS	Mon 7:30-9:30	(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho	SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park
S.M.C INTERNATIONAL DANCE CLUB	Tue, Thu 11:15am-12:35	(310) 284-3637 James Zimmer	SANTA MONICA, Santa Monica College Clock Tower or LS bldg 1900 Pico Blvd
UCLA INT'L F.D. CLUB BALLROOM DANCE CLUB	Mon 9:00-11:00 Mon 7:00-9:00	(310) 284-3636 James Zimmer ballroom@ucla.edu	WESTWOOD, UCLA Ackeman Union Room 2414
UCSB MERHABA FOLK DANCE CLUB	Fri 8:00-10:00	(805) 964-3591 Jatila van der Veen	SANTA BARBARA, UCSB Robertson Gym, Upstairs Left Gym.

Listings in this section are \$15 per year. Contact Steve Himel (see page 2) for new listings or changes.



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 39, No. 2
March 2003

Editor's Corner

This issue is packed with articles. We start with our cover story, which celebrates the beginning of Spring on March 21st by reviewing Spring Customs around the world, including Bulgaria, Romania, England, Sweden, Persia, Ukraine, Serbia, Poland, & Vietnam.

Richard Duree again has written a wonderful article. This time, he writes about Romania's Calusari, groups of men who perform a ritual dance during Pentecost, which occurs on the 50th day after Orthodox Easter.

If you were unable to attend the Laguna Folkdancers Festival, you missed an absolutely wonderful event. The combination of teachers, live music and a great concert made for a memorable weekend. See the Laguna review with photos on page 21.

In Dancers Speak, we have a contribution which talks about dance experiences in Lismore, New South Wales, Australia. It's a wonderful personal experience.

Finally, we would like to remind all of our readers that this year's Federation Statewide will be in Pasadena over Memorial Day weekend. Look for more information and registration forms in next month's issue.

— Steve Davis

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Federation Corner



I am currently working as publicity person for this year's Statewide Festival, which means writing short up-dates on the plans being made for the Statewide Festival, being put on by the Folkdance Federation of California, South. The festival will take place this year, in Pasadena, over Memorial Day weekend, May 23rd through the 26th. I am trying to spread the word about the festival to California folkdancers and to those from out of state as well. Also, I hope to get the word about folkdance to people who may not already be acquainted with it (and thereby addicted to it) by putting notices in outside publications and on the internet.

I also chair Westwood Coop's annual Camp Hess Kramer, which will take place on the weekend of April 25th through the 27th, in Malibu. I have a wonderful committee who work hard each year to make sure all those who attend have an enjoyable and active weekend.

I hope to see many of our readers at both events!

My job on the Scene committee is to send you renewal notices, label and mail the monthly issues, and occasionally submit recipes for the Ethnic Food section and notices for On the Scene. Thank you for all your positive support for the Scene.

— Sandy Helperin

Spring

The vernal equinox, usually March 21st, the beginning of Spring, is celebrated in many ways throughout the world. Here are a few of the customs of this time of the year.

BULGARIA

Lazaritsa is a variation on the Serbian *Lazar*, and it marks the passage of young girls to 'maidens'. They dress in maiden costumes for the first time, which are elaborate and richly ornamented with embroidery and flowers. In groups of six they tour the village, entering each house and performing songs and dances for the health and fertility of people and animals.

When singing, the leader would place a cloth on the shoulder of the person being sung to. After finishing, the cloth would be returned filled with money. If there is an unmarried man in the house, he is sung to first. If he likes one of the maidens, he refuses to give back the cloth. All the maidens ask for it one by one, when asked for the second time, he gives it to the one he has chosen, as a sign that he would like to marry her.

Laduvane ritual is a fortune-telling rite. People put rings in a bowl of water, and they are picked out one at a time by a blindfolded maiden while a ritual song is sung. The verse being sung while a ring is picked becomes the oracle for the person whose ring it is.

Vaidudule is a spring procession for rainmaking. The leader is a young girl, barefoot, dressed in white with green twigs of ivy and willow. The procession goes through the village from east to west, while the head dances in small steps. She will raise her arms, crossing them in front of her forehead, imitating a butterfly, while the rest of the group sings a ritual song which is a prayer for rain.

Fire rituals are common. People dance around the fire or jump over it. Young men shoot flaming arrows in the air aiming for their sweetheart's courtyards. The arrows are symbols of the sun's rays, tying in with the solar aspects of the equinox. A large bale of hay is attached to the top of a tall pole and set on fire. People dance around it as the musicians play. The pole is a symbol of the world tree, and the burning straw is the sun above it. Eventually the bale comes crashing down, and people jump over it until it cools to ashes.

Excepted from the article "Bulgarian Seasonal Customs: SPRING", by Dean Brown, and printed in FolkNews magazine.

SCOTLAND

The date of *Pasch* (Easter) is that of the Jewish Passover, which, in turn, coincides with the great pagan festival that celebrated the Spring Equinox - thus Easter is the season of renewal in nature. In pagan times, offerings were made to the Goddess of Spring. The Scandinavians called her *Frigga*; the Saxons, *Eastre* or *Ostara*, whence the English name Easter. In Scots, however, Easter is called *Pasch* or *Pesse*, a derivative of the Hebrew *pesach*, passover, and in Gaelic, *Caisg*.

The custom of baking cakes in honour of their gods and goddesses was widespread among the pagan peoples; the Egyptians made a cake marked with a cross in honour of the Moon; and in Greece and Rome bread similarly marked was used in the worship of Diana, the round bun representing the full moon and the four quarters. After the introduction of Christianity, the cross became a Christian symbol and the Hot Cross Bun became a feature of Good Friday. In Scotland the Hot Cross Bun is usually more highly spiced than the English variety and has a kenseckle cross of pastry on the glossy brown surface. (*Hot Cross Buns recipe will be in next month's Scene*).

From the website: http://www.electricscotland.com/si/features/food/hotcross_buns.htm

SERBIA

The week before Easter, Serbians living near Sredska celebrate Lazarus Saturday. A group of six girls, one of whom masquerades as Lazar (Lazarus), and another as Lazarka (the female equivalent), go from house to house singing and dancing. The girl who is Lazar wears a man's white shirt and a man's hat decorated with flowers. In his hands "he" carries a staff or sometimes an umbrella. The Lazarka wears a necklace of golden coins, and on her head, money, greens, and garlic to scare away evil spirits.

The girls carry two baskets; in one they collect beans, in the other, eggs. After dancing in front of each house, they sing songs to bless the head of each household, the house itself, any young boys or girls in the family ready for marriage, the livestock, and of course, the bees.

Za kucu (For the household)

Dobro jutro u kucu!

Club Directory

Federation Clubs

Club	Time	Contact	Location
ALPINE DANCERS OF SANTA BARBARA	AMon 7:30-10:00	(805) 968-3983 Gilbert Perleberg	SANTA BARBARA, Emanuel Lutheran Church, 3721 Modoc Rd
CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS	Tue 7:00-10:00	(858) 459-1336 Georgina (619) 445-4907 Ellen, Jack	SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park, Balboa Park Club
CONEJO VALLEY FOLK DANCERS	Wed 7:30-9:30	(805) 497-1957 Jill Lungren	THOUSAND OAKS, Hillcrest Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr
CULVER CITY HOLLYWOOD PEASANTS	Wed 7:30-10:00	(310) 398-8187 Al Drutz	CULVER CITY, Culver West Park, 4162 Wade St. (park on Moore St.)
ETHNIC EXPRESS INT'L FOLK DANCERS	Wed 6:30	(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian	LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.
HAVERIM INT'L FOLK DANCERS	Sun 7-9	(805) 643-2886 Ann Zacher	VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah 7620 Foothill Rd (corner Kimball)
KERN INT'L FOLK DANCERS	Wed 7:00-9:00	(661) 831-5007 Delphine Szczepkowski	BAKERSFIELD, Wayne Van Horn School, 5501 Kleinpell Ave.
KRAKUSY POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE	Tu, W, F 7:15-9:30 Sat 2:00-4:30	(626) 286-6779 Steve Perzyna	LOS ANGELES, Polish Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd.
KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING	Fri 8:00	(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller	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 8:30am-11:00 Sat 9:00am-11:00	(949) 768-6039 Florence Tabor	LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1, Leisure World
MOUNTAIN DANCERS	Thu 7:00-9:30	(626) 794-8889 Vicki Davis	S. PASADENA, Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave.
MULTICULTURAL ARTS CLUB	Wed 5:00-7:30	(949) 770-1312 Milton Feldon	LAGUNA WOODS, Leisure World Gym, 24232 Calle Aragon
NARODNI INT'L FOLKDANCERS	Thu 7:30-10:30	(562) 424-6377 John Matthews	DOWNEY, Dance America, 12405 Woodruff Ave.
PAS DE FOX	M/T/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) 358-5942 Ann Armstrong	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, Presidents Way off Park, Balboa Park
SAN DIEGO VINTAGE DANCERS	Thu 8:00 - 10:00	(858) 622-9924 Marry Jennings	SAN DIEGO, Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th St
SAN PEDRO KOLO DANCERS	Mon 7:30-9:30	(562) 924-4922 Dorothy Daw	SAN PEDRO, Dalmatian-American Club, 1639 S Palos Verdes St.
SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY	Sun 5:30-10:00 Tue 7:00-9:00	(805) 682-1877 Elliott Karpeles (805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro	SANTA BARBARA Carrillo Rec Center 100 E. Carrillo St. (Sun) Westside Cmnty Ctr, 423 W Victoria (Tue)
SANTA MARIA FOLK DANCERS	Mon 7:00-9:00	(805) 736-4811 Pat Peterson	SANTA MARIA, Veterans Memorial Ctr, Pine & Tunnell Sts
SKANDIA DANCE CLASSES	Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:00 Call for others	(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin (714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp (310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher	ANAHEIM, Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park, 5401 Rhoda Way
SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS	Sat 7:00-10:00	(805) 688-2382 Jean Menzies	SOLVANG, Santa Ynez School 3325 Pine St
SOUTH BAY FOLK DANCERS	2nd Fri 7:45-9:45	(310) 377-6393 Bea Rasoff	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.

Westwood Co-Operative Folk Dancers
presents

Sunday, April 6, 2003

Spring Festival

1:30 - 5:30pm
(Daylight Savings Time)

A Festival of International Dances
Costumes ... Exhibitions ...

Free admission ... Lots of Free parking

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

(Culver Blvd. at Overland)

Co-sponsored by:
Culver City Department of Human Services
Don Rogers, Director
and the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

Afterparty to be announced
for info call Beverly Barr (310)202-6166

Ovde kuca bogata,
Tu se braca cuvaju,
Vedrom pare mereju,
Sad dukati zborea.

Za junaka (momka) (For a young man)

Ovde junak neženjet!
Što ga majka ne ženi,
Što ga tatko ne ženi?
Nigde lika ne nade,
Bela lika jaglika,
Crno-oko devojko.

From "Serbian Dance Traditions" by Dennis Boxell,
with permission.

SWEDEN

Pranks and mischievous merrymaking abound at this time. In Skane, a cat is placed in a barrel and hung from a pole. Young men, on horseback, take turns riding by and hitting the barrel with a wooden sword. The one who succeeds in freeing the cat is called the *cat king*, and can choose any girl he wants as his queen. Dancing follows.

In the north, young people gather with their sleighs covered with bells. A long train of sleds rushes downhill with lots of ringing, shouting and laughter. This was intended to insure good crops of turnips and flax. After the ride a feast and dancing followed.

In the south, at dusk, big bonfires of tree trunks and branches, covered with tar are set ablaze. Often this is accompanied by gunfire. Singing and dancing around the fire sometimes lasted until daybreak.

ENGLAND

Spring arrives in England, and with it, customs and ceremonies that have perhaps survived centuries. Each village/town had its own special ceremonies, of course, but rather than focus on one region or county, below are the customs common throughout all of England in the Spring.

Lady Day (25 March) is one of what are known as "Quarter Days" in England. Quarter days, called such because they fall at three-month intervals throughout the year, are the four days in the year that quarterly payments and rents are due the landowner, and agricultural tenancies are begun or ended. Village Fairs were often held in conjunction with Quarter Days. Fairs were times of entertainment and trade, and this

may also have been where the landowner hired his servants. Maids, farmhands, grooms and more would line the streets while prospective employers looked them over and interviewed them regarding qualifications. The servants would then move on to their next job, sometimes taking with them the new bride they met at the fair.

This was excerpted from "Spring Arrives in England", by Michelle J. Hoppe, and is re-printed with permission. The entire text can be found at <http://literary-liaisons.com/article018.html>.

Morris Dancing

Morris dances go back to Medieval times, and are traditional rituals for fertility of the land. The dancers wear bells and make tapping noises to awaken the slumbering spirits in the fields. Their dances contain many leaps as a reminder for the grain to grow high, flocks to multiply and people to prosper. The name may have come from Moorish dancers of Spain.

PERSIA

No Ruz, new day or New Year as the Iranians call it, is a celebration of spring Equinox. It is the most cherished of all the Iranian festivals and is celebrated by all. This occasion has been renowned in one form or another by all the major cultures of ancient Mesopotamia.

Celebrations started ten days prior to the New Year in the belief that guardian angels and spirits of the dead would come down to earth within these ten days to visit their human counter parts. A major spring-cleaning was carried out to welcome them with feasts and celebrations. Bon fires would be set on rooftops at night to indicate to the spirits and the angels that humans were ready to receive them. This was called Suri Festival.

Modern Iranians still carry out the spring-cleaning and celebrate 'Chahar Shanbeh Suri' (Wednesday Suri). Bon fires are made and all people will jump over the fire on the last Tuesday of the year. This is a purification rite and Iranians believe by going over the fire they will get rid of all their illnesses and misfortunes.

A few days before No Ruz, colorfully dressed male troubadours known as 'Haji Firouz' appear in public and announce the coming of the New Year. They are normally dressed in bright red or green and blacken their face. They carry a small percussion instrument

Spring

called 'dayereh zangy'. They sing and dance and recite popular songs about No Ruz. They are very ancient in origin. They are very popular and there are recorded tapes of amusing songs that normally accompany the figures. All dance groups outside the country are performing Haji Firouz shows during No Ruz celebrations.

This was excerpted from the article "IRANIAN NEW YEAR, NO RUZ", written by Massoume Price, and is re-printed with permission. The entire article can be found at: http://www.cultureofiran.com/no_ruz.php.

UKRAINE

Hahilky are traditional spring games and songs. Round dances are done which have the themes of welcoming the sun, burying winter, and calling upon the forces of nature.

Like many other spring rituals the *hahilky* dates back to pagan times when our ancestors worshipped nature, and sought to appease nature's gods.

In one of the games each youngster has an egg in which the pointed end is tapped against the opponent's egg. The winner is the last one with an unbroken egg.

Oblivany ponedilok is a custom among young men and women to sprinkle each other with water. This is an old tradition dating back to pagan worship of water as a life-giving element. In those days a bath, taken in the spring, symbolized an emergence from the winter's spiritual imprisonment.

ROMANIA

The Legend of March Amulet

Once upon a time, the Sun embodying a handsome young man, got down from the sky to dance a "hora" in a village. A dragon lay in wait for him and kidnapped him from among the people and threw him into a jail. The world got sad. The birds wouldn't fly and the children wouldn't laugh. No one dared to challenge the bad dragon. But one day a brave young man decided to go and save the Sun.

Lots of people saw him off and shared their strength with him. So they helped him defeat the dragon and save the Sun. His journey lasted for three seasons: summer, autumn and winter. He found the dragon's castle and they started to fight. They fought for days and finally the dragon was killed.

Powerless and wounded, the young man set the Sun free. The Sun rose in the sky cheering up all the people

and filling them with joy. The nature revived, the people got happy, but the young man couldn't live to see spring coming. The warm blood from his wounds dropped on the snow. While the snow was melting white flowers, called snowdrops, messengers of the spring, were appearing out of the snow. Even his last drop of blood dripped out in the immaculate snow. And he died.

Since then the young people have been knitting two little tassels: a white one and a red one. At the beginning of March, they offer this amulet to the girls they love... Red means love for everything that is beautiful. It reminds us of the colour of the brave young man's blood. White symbolizes the pureness and health of the snowdrops, the first flowers that appear in spring.

Paparuda

The Paparuda "Rain Caller" is the ritual celebrated in Spring, on a date that varies from place to place. An old magical dance invoking rain, this custom survives to the present day in many villages of Romania. The children knit coronets, adorning them with ribbons. Then they dance, going from house to house. The hostess throws water and milk after them. The children and the young people have to receive a coin or wheat, corn, flour or bean.


Excerpted from the website: <http://www.geocities.com/petrud98/localcustoms/springmartisor.html>.

POLAND

Since Easter finds its roots in pagan celebrations of the rites of spring, many pagan customs still survive today. People make plaited dolls, sometimes life-size, and drown them. This symbolized that Death would not visit their village that year. This was thought to help protect their village from sickness and the plague.

The green branch was a small branch or tree that was decorated with ribbons, feathers, and colored egg shells. This is still celebrated in Polonia, as people hang Easter Eggs and rabbits from their trees in their front yards. Seeds that will be planted for the year's crops will be blessed in the church.

Polish Easter eggs are works of art, all in their own right. Some eggs are made in the wax technique, while others are decorated with paper cut-outs. Both styles are beautiful.



VILLAGE FAIR
Schedule

Fri: Throop Unitarian Church
7:30-11:30 Pre-Party

Sat: Scottish Rite
10-11:30 Village Institute I
11:30-1:00 Kolo Hour
1:00-4:30 Festival
6:30-7:30 Request Dancing
7:30-10:30 Festival
10:30-12:00 After Party

Sun: Scottish Rite
10-11:30 Village Institute II
11:30-1:00 Kolo Hour
1:00-4:00 Festival
6:30-8:00 Concert
8:00-11:00 Festival

Mon: Scottish Rite
10:00-1:30 BBQ & Dancing

Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

VILLAGE FAIR

Statewide 2003
Pasadena

Village Teachers

Live Music

Scottish Rite Cathedral

150 N. Madison

May 23-26, 2003

310 478-6600

Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

Customs

Another spring rite is the return of the storks. The European white stork is held in high esteem. To have them on your property is to bring your home good luck.

Easter Day brings thoughts of children and farm animals that will be born in the new year. Remember that in early times, the calendar began in March, not in January. This was because spring was always the renewal and new beginning in nature. Many Polish families make and eat "Easter Cheese" which is a combination of cottage cheese, cream cheese and sour cream. This mixture is placed in a linen bag and tied up to dry for a few days. After it sets up, it is frozen and cut into chunks to eat. "Easter Soup" is another favorite. This is a soup with thinly sliced or cubed kielbasa, ham, hard cooked eggs, radish root and bread.

The traditional Easter meal is Easter *barszcz*. Typical fare is *zur*, (*zur*=barley-flour soup with eggs and sausage), kielbasa, hams, jellied pig's feet, beets with horseradish, eggs boiled with onion skins, and *babka*.

This was excerpted from the article, "Easter in Poland, Spring Customs", written by Margaret Odrowaz-Sypniewska B. F. A., webmaster and writer for the Polish Nobility Association, and is reprinted here with permission. The complete article can be found at <http://www.angelfire.com/mn3/pnaf/Easter.html>.

VIETNAM

Tết nguyên đản means literally "festival of the first day" and this day became the festival par excellence, the TET. From the Solstice of winter to the end of February, the religious and social life of Chinese and Vietnamese is punctuated by many festivities to give thanks to the various divinities and the ancestors, and to exorcise the demons of winter. But the most significant worship is that returned to the ancestors. Their altars are furnished with incense and offerings. The heads of family report to them the of all that has passed during the year past in the family and ask their blessing for the one to come.

Otherwise, before the new year starts, one must regulate all the accumulated worries: debts, arguments... One cleans the houses, repaints them, decorates them with all kinds of flowers of spring, one buys clothing again... so that the year begins in the best possible way.

On New Year's day, one is equipped with its more beautiful costume and the visits to the close relations start. The children receive money, new clothes, delicacies. The meal must be the most copious of the year. The specific dishes of the TET are the sticky rice pudding *banh chung*, vegetable condiments (*DUA*) and candied fruits. During the festivals, Vietnamese play all kinds of plays: fights, races, greasy poles.

TET is also the occasion to see the dance of the Dragon or the Unicorn (*Lân Moulted*). The head of the dragon is magnificently decorated and the undulating body is carried by several dancers. The dragon is always accompanied by another hilarious dancer with a big belly who wears a saffron dress.

It is a dance depicting a fight between man and animal, between the Good and the Evil which always ends by the triumph of man on animal.

This was excerpted from the website: <http://col-r.verges.ac-reunion.fr/dossiers/VietNam/English/Coutumes.htm>.

EGGS

The egg has long been associated with spring. Primitive people seeing a tiny living bird emerge from a lifeless-looking object, made it a symbol of life. Thus in many areas the chicken is a symbol of fertility. Some cultures believe the world began with an enormous egg. Also eggs are plentiful in springtime. In addition they were banned during Lent, so were greeted with joy when Easter came.



Thus we find the egg in many customs; it appears on the Passover plate, eggs are decorated at Easter time and given to friends and relatives (Poland and Ukraine at left), eggs are

rolled on lawns, children go house-to-house begging for eggs (Holland), eggs are buried to make grapevines grow well (Balkans), married couples are given eggs with a chicken design to encourage fertility (Ukraine), poems are written about eggs (Sweden) and, of course, eggs are eaten in great profusion.

Calendar

Note: Federation Events are in Bold.
CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS.

MARCH

- 1 *Boys of the Lough*, Celtic music. 8:00 at Cal Tech, Pasadena. Info: (888)-2CALTECH.
- 2,3 *Band of Grenadier Guards, and Pipes and Drums of Scots Highlanders 3/2*, 2:00 and 7:00 at Cerritos Center. Info: (800) 300-4345, www.cerritoscenter.com; 3/3, 7:30 at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. Info: (805) 449-2787.
- 4,5,8,9 *Mummenschanz*, Swiss dance and mime group; fantastic costumes. Perform: 4,5 7:30 at Pepperdine, Malibu, (310) 506-4522 8th (Saturday) at 8:00, 9th (Sunday) at 2:00, at Cerritos Center. Info: (800) 300-4345, www.cerritoscenter.com.
- 8 **Folk Dance Party, given by Pasadena Folkdance Co-Op, 7:00 to 11:00 at Throop Church, 300 So. Los Robles, Pasadena. See OTS**
- 13 **St. Patrick's Day Party, hosted by Narodni. 7:30-10:30 at Dance America, 12405 Woodruff Ave., Downey. See OTS for details.**
- 15 *Trinity Irish Dance Company*, 8:00 at Irvine Barclay Theatre. Info: (949) 553-2422.
- 15 **St. Patrick's Day Party, hosted by Veselo Selo.**
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day Party, West L.A. Folk Dancers (Monday) 7:30 at Brockton School in W.L.A. Request program. See OTS for details. Info: Call Beverly Barr at (310) 202-6166.**
- 19-21 *International FolkDance Ensemble*, from Brigham Young University. Perform: 19 7:30 at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, Info: (805) 449-2787. 20 7:30 at Lakewood High School, Lakewood. Info: alumnievents.byu.edu, Event code 1533, or call Sunni Turner, (310) 378-3362. 21 7:30 in Riverside.
- 21,22 *Judy Collins, "Back to Ireland"*, Irish songs, band, step dancers. 8:00 at CSU Northridge. Info & tickets: (818) 677-2488, cvpa.csun.com.
- 23 *Dublin's Traditional Irish Cabaret*, music, dance and humor. 3:00 at El Camino College, Torrance. Info: (800) 832-ARTS.
- 22,23 **Teacher Training Workshop, Las Vegas. ***POSTPONED***. Info: (702) 732-4871.**
- 22 **Skandia monthly workshop/party. Workshop 3:30, party 7:30 at Lindberg Park, 5401**

Rhoda Way, Culver City. Info: Ted Martin (714) 893-8888, tedmart@juno.com.

APRIL

- 1 *Music, dance and Martial Arts of India*, 8:00 at Irvine Barclay Theatre. Info: (949) 553-2422.
- 2 *AMAN Parent Night*, lecture and demo. At John Muir HS, 1905 Lincoln Ave. Pasadena.
- 4,5 *Inti Illimani*, Chilean music. 8:00 at CSU Northridge. Info & tickets: (818) 677-2488, cvpa.csun.com.
- 6 **Westwood Coop Folk Dancers Spring Festival, 1:30 - 5:30 at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium, at the corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd. in Culver City. Festival is FREE and parking is FREE. Council mtg. at 10:30 a.m. Info: call Beverly at (310) 202-6166.**
- 7 **Yair Dalal and his Al Oi Ensemble, Lotte Lehman Hall, UCSB, 8:00. Tickets available through UCSB Arts and Lectures, \$7 students, \$12 general admission, Info: (805) 893-3535.**
- 11,12,19 *Tango Buenos Aires golden age of tango*, authentic tango dancing. Perform: 11, 8:00 at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, (805) 449-2787; 12, 8:00 at Cal Tech, Pasadena, (888) 2CALTECH; 19, 8:00 at El Camino College, Torrance, (800) 832-ARTS.
- 25-27 **Westwood Coop's Camp Hess Kramer weekend. Malibu. See OTS for details. Info: (310) 391-7382.**
- 27 **Ecos del Fandango at Bowers Museum, Santa Ana. Early California fandango sponsored by the museum and Dunaj Int'l Folk Ensemble. 4:00 to 7:00. Includes buffet barbecue dinner and dancing with live music. Performances by Dunaj and guest artists. Richard Duree is "el tecolero." Info: (714) 641-7450.**
- MAY
- 3 *Kevin Locke Trio*, authentic Native American dance and music. 8:00 at El Camino College, Torrance. Info: (800) 832-ARTS.
- 15-June 1 *Spring Festival of World Music*, concerts 7:30 at Schoenberg Hall, UCLA. Free. 15 Music of Mexico 16 Music of India 30 Music of Bali 31 Music of Near East June 1 Music of West Africa

Dancers Speak

HOW I CAME TO DANCE IN AUSTRALIA

Arriving in late November of 2002 to spend two months with my sister who lives in a small university town in northern New South Wales, I was determined to find some way of continuing my new hobby of folk dancing. Lismore sits in some of the most divine pastorally green and rolling countryside that Oz has to offer, not far from the ocean and Byron Bay, the most easterly point of land. Staying in Lismore is a step back in time and reminds you of the more leisurely pace, say of the 1950's. Of course there is television, but it is a country town and not much has changed for decades. The pretty tree lined streets of wooden bungalows march tidily up and down the steep hills which surround the town in the valley of the Richmond river, and it's fortunes were laid down by the cedar logging industry.

I knew it would not be an easy task since most activities grind to a halt around Christmas as it is mid-summer and long school holidays are about to commence. But I started to check around and found my choices slim. The square dancing group was definitely not meeting again until late January. There was a rumor that once somebody had started a Morris Dancing club, but nothing had been heard of them for a long time. The WHAT'S ON column in the local paper offered two suggestions, the Friday night social at the Austro-Italo club, or Belly dancing with Enid.

Meanwhile the thermometer was rising, and, without a car and living outside of town, with long daily ventures by foot down into the valley from my sister's house in the hills, I was beginning to lose interest. But one day, escaping from the 110F swelter into a cool bookstore, I spied a notice inviting all to learn "Hebrew Dancing". Either this was a skill passed down by biblical slaves or Israeli dancing to me. I went along on the prescribed evening to the Baptist church denoted on the flier, and thus I launched into an experience which would have been a great loss to have missed.

A small group had formed with the intent of community outreach, not just to other denominations, but to offer some joy to people who are marginalized by society. Lismore is the site of two social welfare programs, one for aboriginal people who have been moved there from many other places, and also a mental health program, again for patients who can be rehabilitated in a less threatening society than large cities. We would meet and dance under the instruction

of a good teacher, Jenna. And, although a little over-choreographed, our goal was to perform publicly in town around Christmas time and also at church. We focused on three dances, and acquired from the thrift shop white outfits and colored shawls. The men wore black slacks and white shirts. My favorite partners were Laurie, a sweet mentally challenged man of 55 with a slight speech impediment, and Millie, an aboriginal woman in a alcohol rehabilitation program. Millie was so sweet and gentle, a member of the Bunjalong people from Cabbage Leaf Island. Laurie and Millie worked at the Soup Kitchen on the other side of town.

Needless to say, my sister was rolling her eyes at all this activity, but she did come to one of our "recitals". Her review was that the dances were more Baptist than Hebrew, and that I graded at about a 9 -1/2 and the others at 2. But that didn't matter to me, I wouldn't have missed the opportunity to get to know my new friends, and, after all, I was dancing!

Before I left for the US we all had a lovely party together, and Laurie summed up the feeling of camaraderie completely when he announced how much dancing had come to mean to him because, just only at that moment when we were all dancing together did he feel as if he was on equal footing, and that the sheer joy of dancing as one group, and doing it well, gave meaning to his life.

As I left the party Millie gave me a big bear hug and whispered in my ear, "Farewell my beautiful sister, I will miss you. I bless and pray you keep safe and think of Millie with love as you dance in the future".

January 2003

— Carolyn Parrish

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S COVER

Chestita Baba Marta is Bulgarian for "Happy Grandma Marta. Marta comes from the Bulgarian word for March, "Mart". **Baba Marta** is an angry old woman who changes her mind frequently, and is responsible for the fickle March weather. Bulgarians wear colorful tassels on their wrists or garments to please Baba Marta. At the first sight of a stork, a symbol of spring and rebirth, Bulgarians remove their tassels and hang them on the nearest tree to bring an end to winter and the return of warm weather. On March 1st it is traditional to greet each other with "Chestita Baba Marta".

— Jatila van der Veen

Calendar

Brigham Young University
International Folk Dancers
Mountain Strings Folk Musicians

Thursday, March 20, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Lakewood High School
4400 Briercrest, Lakewood

Order Tickets Online: alumnievents.byu.edu Event#1533
or call Sunni at (310) 378-3362

Ticket Price: \$10

Program includes dances from:

Canada, Rep. of Ireland, UK, Russia, Macedonia, Hungary, Norway, Armenia,
South Africa and the Ukraine

16-18 *International FD Weekend*, at Harwood Lodge, near Mt. Baldy. Info: ba737@lafn.org.

16-25 *The Tamburitians*, folk ensemble from Duquesne University. Perform:

16 7:00 at Community College of Southern Nevada, Nicholas J. Horn Theater, Las Vegas. Info: (877) 826 6437.

17 7:00 at Servite High School, Anaheim. Info: Don Knapp (714) 832 7470

18 2:00 at Dalmatian American Club, San Pedro. Info: Gojka Spralja (310) 833 2107

19 7:30 at Fontana H.S. Auditorium, Fontana. Info: Dr. Wayne Ruble (909) 357 5000 ext. 7044

20 7:30 at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, Thousand Oaks. Info: (805) 449 2787

25 7:30 at East County Performing Arts Center, El Cajon. Info: Virgil & Cindy Barbat (858) 273 8203

18 *Topanga Banjo & Fiddle Contest*, Paramount Ranch, Agoura. Dancing, singing, performances, music, food, crafts. Info: (818) 382-4819, info@topangabanjofiddle.org.

23-26 Statewide 2003 Festival, Pasadena.
'Village Faire' theme. See OTS for details. Info: (626) 792-9118.

JUNE

13-15 *Huck Finn's Jubilee*, Mojave Narrows Park, Victorville. Country music and dancing, performances, balloon rides, crafts, food. Info: (909) 780-8810, www.huckfinn.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Brass Menagerie, Balkan brass band, perform:

3/7, Stanford Folkdance Club, Mountain View

3/22, Ashkenaz Balkan Bash, Berkeley

4/8, International Romani Day, Ashkenaz

/25, Cabrillo Folkdancers, Aptos/Santa Cruz

Info: www.huzzam.com/brass.shtml.

3/8, 9 *Camellia Festival*, Student Union Ballroom, CSUS Sacramento. Workshops with Loui Tucker, Teddy and Al Wolterbeek, concert, party. Info: (916) 921-0955, ecvickland@msn.com.

3/22 *Jubilee Klezmer Ensemble*, appearing at the Petaluma Coffee Cafe on Saturday at 7:30, located at 189 "H" St. Info: jubileeklezmer@attbi.com.

3/22 *Balkan Showcase At Ashkenaz*. See OTS for details.

4/6 *Cherry Blossom Festival*, Sonoma.

4/27 *Blossom Festival*, San Francisco.

5/22 *Duquesne University Tamburitians* folk ensemble 8:00 at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View. Info: Caroline Bahr (650) 961 6447

6/8 *Rose Festival*, Santa Rosa.

6/21-28 *Folklore Camp*, Mendocino Woodlands. Zeljko Jergan, Marilyn Smith, Jerry Duke. Info: Billy Burke, (818) 980-4604.

6/28-7/5 *Balkan Music and Dance Workshop*, Mendocino Woodlands. Michael Ginsburg, Joe Graziosi, Yves Moreau. Info: (510) 549-2124, www.eefc.org.

7/21-27 and 7/28 - 8/2: *Stockton Folk Dance Camp*. 2 Identical weeks featuring: Lee Otterholt--Balkan, Richard Powers -- Vintage, Jerry Helt--Squares, Shmulik Gov-Ari -- Israel, Larry Lynch --Irish, Suzanne Rocca-Butler--Non-Partner Dances, Jussi Aronen -- Estonian, Kamrin MacKnight -- Scottish Step Dancing, Tineke van Geel -- Armenian. At University of the Pacific Campus. Info: (650) 359-9609; dancebruce@aol.com. Web site & Registration forms: www.folkdance.com.

8/17 *Little Festival of the Redwoods*, Guerneville.

OUT OF STATE

HAWAII

3/15-20 *Hawaii Dance Vacation*. Info: Ken McFarland, (800) 822-3435, farlands@ptialaska.net.

ILLINOIS

5/21-23 *Spring Festival*, International House, Chicago. Dance workshops with Atanas Kolarovski, Ahmet Luleci, others, music workshops, concert, etc. Info: (773) 324-1247, balkanske_igre@yahoo.com.

MAINE

8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23 *Mainewoods Dance Camp*, four one-week sessions, plus Labor Day weekend. Info: www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org.

MASSACHUSETTS

3/8 *Boston Playford Ball*, workshop and English Country dance. Music by Bare Necessities. Concord. Info: (617) 524-8869, gaffneu.edu.

8/17-24 *Balkan Music and Dance Camp*, with Joe Graziosi, Petur Iliev, Steve Kotansky. At Mt. Washington. Info: (510) 549-2124, www.eefc.org.

MICHIGAN

3/28-29 *Workshops with Mihai David*, St. James Church, near Detroit. Info: Rick, (248) 569-5242.

FOLKLORE TREASURES OF SERBIA

JULY 22 - AUGUST 5, 2003

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ethnographic-folk-art-village museums
traditional crafts
village life-celebrations
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FTS c/o Spasojevic
17626 - 68th Avenue West
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34240 Z P Knić, Serbia
cspsaso@eunet.yu



Calendar

MISSOURI

5/3-10 *Trip to Branson*, The Music and Entertainment Capital, including the International World Fest. For information call Beverly & Irwin at (310) 202-6166. See ad and OTS for more information.

NEVADA

5/15 *Duquesne University Tamburitzans* folk ensemble 4:00, 7:00 at The Starbright Theatre, Sun City. Info: (702) 966-1425.

NORTH CAROLINA

Swannanoa Gathering, music and dance camps at Warren Wilson College, near Asheville. Info: (828) 298-3434, gathering@warren-wilson.edu:

- 6/20-22 Cherokee Heritage weekend
- 7/6-12 Celtic Week
- 7/13-19 Sing, Swing & String week
- 7/13-19 Dulcimer week
- 7/20-26 Old-time week
- 7/27-8/2 Contemporary folk week
- 7/27-8/2 Guitar week

OREGON

8/29-9/1 *Balkanalia!*, *Balkan Music and Dance Camp*. Corbett. Petur Iliev, Steve Kotansky, Tom Deering. Info: (510) 549-2124, www.eefc.org.

WASHINGTON

7/18-20 *National German Dance Workshop*, Walla Walla. Info: Nancy (509) 529-2253.

FOREIGN

BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

6/6-19, 7/11-24 *Bulgaria's Splendors*. Folklore, Culture, and Crafts tour. See OTS for details. Info: (215) 382-7254, benatov@sas.upenn.edu.

8/5-27 *Balkan Folklore Studies Tour* with Delores Crawford. Festivals, workshops, performances, historic sites, craft demos. Info: (619) 562-5948, delcraw4d@aol.com.

CANADA

4/11-13 *Toronto Spring Thaw Dance Weekend*. At Eastminster United Church. Info: wturnipsympatico.ca.

CHINA

6/16-7/3 *Dance on the Water Cruise*, Yangtze River & China with Sandy Starkman. Info: Mel Mann, (510) 526-4033, meldancing@aol.com.

CZECH REPUBLIC

8/2-9 *Summer Folk Dance Week 2003*, Czech and Moravian dances. Krasna Lipa location. Info: dvorana@mbox.vol.cz.

ENGLAND

5/3-15 *Dartington Dance Week*, Devonshire. Music by Bare Necessities. Info: Ken McFarland, (800) 822-3435, farlands@ptialaska.net.

IRELAND

4/22-9/21 *Irish Folklore Tours*, 10 separate tours of Ireland and Scotland with Mick Moloney. Info: (800) 848-4364, www.irishfolktours.com.

SLOVAKIA

7/3-14 *Folklore And Heritage Tour In Slovakia*.
8/7-16 *Folklore And Heritage Tour In Slovakia and Poland*. For both trips, see OTS for details. Contact: Vonnie R. Brown, 1717 Applewood Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, vrbfolk@prodigy.net. Tel/Fax: (225) 766-8750.

TURKEY

3/15-11/3 *Tours of Turkey* by Bora Ozkok. Info: (800) 935-8875, tourinfo@boraozkok.com.



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Recent Events



A new feature this year was a Sunday morning singing class with **Eva Salina Primack** (above), a singer from Santa Cruz who is now a sophomore at UCLA.. Eva has studied for many years with some of the greatest Bulgarian and Albanian singers in the world. She now sings with the UCLA Balkan Band and Nevenka in Los Angeles and Edessa in the Bay area.



Dunaj International Dance Ensemble



The **Madison Avenue Folk** (above) were at their best ever on Saturday night. The Sunday afternoon dance party was a great time too.

I think few would disagree with me that this year's concert was the best ever. All the performing groups were excellent and Steve and Ahmet were once again in the limelight. Ahmet also performed with AMAN.



Scandia with Milla Korja and Petri Kauppinen (right)



Pennyroyal Morris Dancers



AMAN Folk Ensemble with Ahmet Luleci

We had many dancers from far away this year. A large contingent of Oregonians flew in as well as people from the Bay Area. It was great to have them.

Thank you everyone for coming and dancing with us and thank you **Michelle Sandler** and **Bob Altman** for your great efforts as festival chairperson and chairperson's spouse!

- *Liz Reid (text) and Steve Davis (photos)*

Recent Events

CAL TECH FOLKDANCERS

In January, Caltech Folkdancers were privileged to have **John Filcich** teaching *Veliko Kolo* and related kolos. This was a rare opportunity and a treasure. He threw in great stories of how/why dances were done, the most flavorful way to do them, and basics. Everyone, new and old to kolo dancing was able to gain new insights on the dances and the people who originally did them. I highly recommend that John teach at the Laguna Weekend in 2004. One evening John spent on how to enjoy a tamburitza band. The Yeseta brothers band played. What a joy! People came out to dance! Now more of us could enjoy Veliko Kolo instead of watching a small circle. The enjoyment of the trio dance was greater when he called out "Are these your girls / take these" and tossed one set of girls to another man. This is never done to taped music. Those who stayed late enough were treated to *Slavonsko Kolo* and an English verse to encourage learning Croatian. The evening ended with John leading *Licko Kolo* and a few variations of words from both **Dick Crum** and **Dennis Boxell**, showing how personal the dance is.

Next band possibly in March or April, the Yesetas in summer, and Maimon Miller for Halloween

— *Nancy Milligan, President Caltech Folkdancers*

LAGUNA FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL



While attendance figures for this year's Laguna Folkdance Festival are not in, they promise to be the best in a while. The teaching combination of **Steve Kotansky** and **Ahmet Luleci** was certainly the best I have experienced in my five years of attendance. Steve Kotansky is a veteran of many festivals and we all know him as one of the best folkdance teachers in the US and he did not disappoint us this year.



Performance by Steve Kotansky and Ahmet Luleci

Ahmet was at our festival for the first time and he was wonderful! Not only is he a teacher of the first order, he is also an incredible performer, both as a comedian and as a dancer. He had everyone in stitches during his classes and when we were not laughing, we could sit back and watch him move. Steve and Ahmet are great friends too, and their good humour and camaraderie was a boon to the festival spirit and feeling of community.



This dynamic duo are also world-class partiers and were up 'till the wee hours of the morning during both afterparties, no small feat considering they had just come from the East Coast. For the Friday night after-party we were fortunate that **Vedat Gorsulu** (left)

decided to drop in and bring his Saz with him for our entertainment. Vedat is a very accomplished young musician and dancer from Turkey. He played several songs including one of my favorites, Agir Halay.



The Saturday night after-party was the highlight of the festival for me as we had the amazing **John Bilezikjan** (left)! This man is a magician on the Oud. And boy can he sing! He filled the room with the most incredible music from Armenia, Greece

and Turkey. There is nothing like these times of late night dancing to the best music with the likes of Steve and Ahmet, and all our superb dancers.

Westwood Co-op Folk Dancers
presents another fun filled weekend at

Camp Hess Kramer

April 25, 26, 27, 2003

Two nights - Six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch)
Families Welcome

Choose 1 of 4 types of accommodations Reservations based on availability	Cost per Person
A - Dormitory (Couples or singles)	\$95.00
B - Room for two or three with semi-private bath in the redwood building	\$125.00*
C - Room for two with semi-private bath under the dining hall (includes towels, linens and housekeeping)	\$170.00**
D - Deluxe room for two with private bath in the new conference building (includes towels, linens and housekeeping)	\$225.00**

*You may arrange for a room mate of your choice, or one will be assigned to you.
**Cost based on double occupancy (Single occupancy \$40 extra, based upon availability and not guaranteed until April 12).

Send coupon below and check for the full amount payable to WEST WOOD CO-OP FOLK DANCERS and mail to: Wes Perkins or Gloria Harris at 1621 Bryn Mawr Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Reservation questions? Call (310)452-1538 Other questions? Call Sandy at (310)391-7382

WEST WOOD CO-OP'S CAMP HESS KRAMER WEEKEND - APRIL 25,26,27, 2003

ACCOMMODATIONS; A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Name(s): _____ Preferred Roommate(s): _____
(Print your name as you want it on your badge)

Street Address: _____

City and ZIP _____

Phone: (____) _____ or (____) _____

In case of emergency, contact _____ Phone (____) _____ Relationship _____

Special Dietary Need: Vegetarian _____ or Lactose intolerant _____

WESTWOOD CO-OP IS A MEMBER CLUB OF THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH, INC.

FREE PUBLICITY IN SCENE

We encourage you to send us information about your group, an upcoming event, or anything of a folkdance nature. Items are published free of charge, and can help to promote your events.

We would ask, however, that to minimize our time of editing, you do the following:

- *Titles should be short, in caps, and w/o details
- *Body in lower case, please do not use all caps.
- *Please omit prices, or other 'sales' information.
- *If possible, send it as a 'Word' attachment.

We may need to trim your article due to our space limitations. If you want to preview what we plan to print, it will be necessary for you to send it to us several days before the usual deadline of the 10th of the month.

Thanks for your cooperation.

— *Folk Dance Scene Committee*

TIMELY DELIVERY OF SCENE

We usually mail each month's Scene a few days before the end of the month, so you would get it just about the first of the next month. A few years ago, we switched to first-class mail to insure prompt arrivals. Last month, the copies were delivered to the Post Office on January 30th. However, due to unknown circumstances, they were not sent promptly by the Post Office. We are investigating this occurrence to insure it does not happen again. In the meantime, our apologies for the late arrival many of you experienced.

— *Folk Dance Scene Committee*

THE PARTY FORMERLY KNOWN AS.....

As many of you know, Pasadena Co-op, for the first time in many years, did not host a New Years Party this year. (We are diligently searching for a location with a dancer friendly floor for next New Years.) In the meantime we are throwing ourselves a party in March and inviting all our friends. We hope you will all join us at our regular location -Throop Church (corner of Los Robles and Del Mar in Pasadena)- on March 8th from 7:00 to 11:00. In addition to an all request evening of dance on our wonderful wood floor there will be refreshments and a silent auction to benefit the Federation Scholarship fund. Admission is \$3.00.

— *Marsha Fenner, President*

SLOVAKIAN TOURS

I am now collaborating with a colleague and friend in Slovakia, **Palo Pítonák**, and we are planning two interesting events this summer. Palo is doing all the organizing, I am the North American contact.

FOLKLORE & HERITAGE TOUR IN SLOVAKIA, JULY 3-14, 2003

- *Dance classes with renowned instructors
- *Východná and Detva Folk Festivals
- *Meetings with village folklore groups
- *Concert by the famous Železiar Ensemble
- *Museums and historical sites
- *Transport from Bratislava or Vienna Airports, air-conditioned bus, full board, 3-4 star hotels

FOLKLORE & HERITAGE TOUR IN SLOVAKIA & POLAND, AUGUST 7-16, 2003

Information is basically the same as above event except the folk festivals will be at different sites. This is the first time that a seminar and tour has been organized to Poland so this should be an attraction of interest. Final details will soon be available on the website: www.3art.sk/folktrip.htm

Please feel free to e-mail or call me if you have any questions. It would be a pleasure to have you join us! Registrations can be done on line or through me: Vonnie R. Brown, vrbfolk@prodigy.net (225) 766-8750, 1717 Applewood Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

— *Vonnie R. Brown*

BRANSON TRIP

May 3-10, 2003 are the dates for this popular requested trip. For those of you who have not been to Branson, here is your chance to go on one of the best trips there. We will be in Branson during the International World Fest. Dancers and Musicians from 20 countries around the world will be there to entertain. This tour will include all show tickets and attractions, meals, transportation, hotel lodging, and touring many sights. We fly to Kansas City and then have a full time air-conditioned, deluxe motorcoach to transport us to Branson, the theaters and our tours. We did this trip before and, by popular request, we are doing it again.

Each time we go to Branson we add new sights and see many new shows, so it is very exciting even if you have been to Branson before. It is a very different kind

The *calus* dance begins. Beginning with a slow strutting walk around the circle, the dance slowly quickens into a frenzy of brilliant footwork, with shouts and calls, ringing bells and magnificent music driving them on. Great agility and stamina is required for the squats, leaps and athletic movements. To the calusari, the dance is the medium for delivering their magic.

As the calusari make their rounds, it is possible that two groups may meet. When they do, excitement runs high. In former years, a fight could ensue, sometimes to the death. In more civilized times, a dance competition replaces the brawl. If time and distance permit, the calusari will visit other nearby villages, spreading both their magic and rewards.

Mothers bring their children for the calusari's attentions. If the child is healthy, the calusari may hold the child while dancing, ensuring long life and good health. If the child is ill, the calusari will leap over the prostrate child three times in the traditional healing ritual. On occasion, women and unmarried girls may dance with the calusari, thus ensuring health, fertility and attraction of a suitable husband.

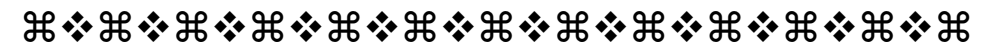
On the second Tuesday after *rusalii* begins, the group meets at the *vataf's* home to share the gifts and

to conduct the *dezhgares calusari*, the ritual returning them to normal beings. The *steag* and *cioc* are dismantled, each man taking a part of it for himself. Then the pole is held horizontally and dropped. The men flee in all directions, then return and greet each other as though away for a long time. The pole is then secretly buried and the *rusalii* is safe for another year.

Though modern forces have diluted the calusari ritual, the calus is in the repertoire of most of Romania's professional dance companies and has been performed in dance concerts around the world. None who see it are unmoved by its power and energy.

The calus should not be considered a folk dance, rather a religious ritual dance. It is not danced by the people, but rather designated individuals who perform it under a specific situation for spiritual reasons. It is related to the Morris Dance of England and to other rituals throughout Europe where health, fertility, luck and sex appeal are encouraged through the dance.

For further readings about the calus and calusari, read "Calus, Symbolic Transformation in Romanian Ritual" by Gail Kligman, published by University of Chicago Press.



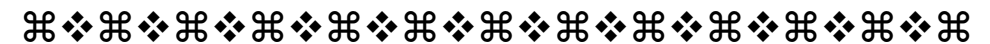
ROMANIA / BULGARIA AUGUST 2003

**Festivals!!! Workshops!!! Dance Parties!!! Craft Fairs!!!
Performances!!! Picnics with the locals!!!
Costume collections (and collecting)!!! Historic towns!!!**

**For more information on this exciting travel opportunity,
please contact us soon.**

**Balkan Folklore Studies
11065 Collinwood Dr.
Santee, CA 92071**

**Delores Crawford
Phone/Fax: (619) 562-5948
E-mail: delcrawford@aol.com**





The 50th day after Orthodox Easter marks the beginning of the fearsome five days when the dead rise to cast evil, sickness and bad luck about the countryside. It's Pentecost or - in Romania - *rusalii*. In a world guided by superstition, the people turn to rituals older than memory to protect themselves from these evil forces and ensure fertility, long life and good luck.

Early on the morning of that day, the women of the village rise before dawn and move silently in the early morning chill to the cemetery where they will honor the deceased members of their *neam*, or extended family. Candles are placed on the graves to provide light to the deceased, since their needs are considered to be the same as the living. It is a time of mourning for those on the other side of the same universe. And it is a plea for benevolence from the deceased spirit.



The evening before, a group of men from the village had gathered at a secret ceremonial site to become *calusari* - the major force of protection from the impending danger. They are led by a *vataf* with absolute, unquestioned authority over the group. A *flag* or *steag* is constructed to lead them on their coming ritual and represent their power. Garlic and wormwood are wrapped

on the end of a 10' pole with a white cloth. On a shorter pole, a rabbit skin is stretched over a wood frame - the *cioc* - for the *vataf* to carry as a symbol of his power and authority.



An oath is taken to abide by the groups' laws and traditions, to obey the *vataf*, share in the gifts to come, abstain from sex and, above all, keep the group's secrets - under a promise of vile sexual defilement of an offending *calusari's* family. This is serious business. During *rusalii* they will replace the sorcerer as healer and protector of the village. Once through the cycle of the *calus* and the *legares calusari* is completed.

The *calusari* are now supernatural beings, removed from their normal lives as farmers or tradesmen. Their task is to bring their magic to the village, healing the sick, bringing luck and health to the young, protection from evil, fertility to parents and crops alike. Their white costume festooned with bells around the knees and woven strips of fabric crossing over the shoulders and carrying a stick about one meter in length, they begin their visit to the villagers' homes.

The mute accompanies the group, a masked creature who carries a wooden sword and acts as the clown. He represents death and resurrection and being hit with his wooden sword is good luck. Many villagers attempt to touch the mute as he passes by. He partakes in the ritual by scribing a sacred dance circle in the yards of the homes, wherein the *calusari* will perform their magical dance.

As the group reaches each house, the *vataf* knocks on the door and asks permission to dance. Of course! The *calusari* are welcomed with open arms. To do otherwise could result in illness and even death. The *steag* is posted in the center of the circle with a bowl of water and a plate containing stalks of grain, garlic, salt and wormwood, provided by the home owner.

of trip. Travelers return to Branson again and again, because it is such a fun trip. For more information, see our ad in this issue or call Beverly at (310) 202-6166.

— Beverly & Irwin Barr

CALL FOR BANNERS

Decorating a festival space with banners adds lots of color and festive atmosphere. The Statewide committee would appreciate use of any club banner or banners for the festival this year. Please contact Bob & Gerri Alexander, (818) 363-3761 or E-mail: bobgerial@cs.com if you have banners available.

— Bob & Gerri Alexander

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

1. Any excuse for a party, right? Come and dance with Narodni for an early celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The party's on Thursday, March 13, 7:30-10:30 at Dance America, 12405 Woodruff Ave., Downey.

Bring your favorite finger food or drink to share! All request evening, \$4 per person. Bring your dance shoes and dance on a springy wooden floor. The studio is on the north side of the Yale Engineering Bldg. upstairs. Look for the canopy over the entrance. Parking by the front door is free. See you there!

2. Our cost is rising so after March 1 we are asking for a \$4 donation. Thank you for your understanding.

3. If you have e-mail send Carol your name and e-mail address so you can be updated periodically on all of the Narodni happenings. Thank you.

4. Scholarship applications for folk dance camps are available to Narodni members. They will be displayed on the sign-in table as you come in the door.

5. For information about becoming a member of Narodni, contact Allan Hansen, Treasurer, 5361 Vallecito, Westminster, CA 92683, (714) 875-8870, hansen@rc.org.

For more info about Narodni: www.narodni.org, or Carol Wall (562) 862-0521, g-cwall@earthlink.net.

— Carol Wall, Secretary

FOLK DANCE SCHOLARSHIP

It's scholarship time again. The Folk Dance Federation of California, South, offers folk dance scholarships once a year to promote potential folk dance teacher and leaders, to develop potential folk

musicians, and to recognize individuals for service to and participation in the folk dance community.

Applications can be obtained at your local folk dance club. The deadline is April 1st.

— Cheryl Cates

STATEWIDE 2003 IN PASADENA

Pasadena has a great deal to offer those who will be attending this year's Statewide Folkdance Festival, in Southern California. Old Pasadena is a twenty block area perfect for strolling along streets filled with shops, art galleries and restaurants. There are also historic buildings from the late 1800s; parks; gardens, including the famous Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens; and museums, including the well known Norton Simon Museum and the Pacific Asia Museum.

Probably most important to dancers, however, are the wide variety of excellent choices for dining over the weekend. There is truly something for every taste.

Nearby restaurants run the gamut from Denny's, Ruby's Diner and Hamburger Hamlet, to Brazilian, Caribbean, French, Indian, Italian, Jamaican, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Mediterranean, Mexican, Middle Eastern, South American, Spanish, Thai, and more. We will have lists of restaurants and maps available for attendees. You can find out more about the local attractions at Pasadenacity.gov.

Remember the festival will take place on Memorial Day Weekend, from Friday evening, May 23rd, to Monday afternoon, May 26th, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 150 Madison Av, in Pasadena. All the events of the weekend (except Friday night, which will be at Throop Church), will be in one convenient location, transformed to fit this year's theme of "Village Faire."

— Sandy Helperin

CALTECH MOVES AGAIN

Temporary relocation alert.

From April 2003 to August 2004 Caltech Folkdancers will meet at Throop Church, at 300 S. Los Robles Ave, corner of Del Mar & Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. Teaching starts at 7:30, open dancing at 8:00. For info: Nancy @ (626) 797-5157 or franprevas@yahoo.com.

On the Scene

WESTWOOD COOP FOLK DANCERS' ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL

Don't miss one of the best festivals of the year. Sunday, April 6, 2003, 1:30 - 5:30. Westwood Coop has held this festival in Culver City for more years than most of us have been dancing. It is always a delightful day of dancing and meeting up with old friends and new friends.

The Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium is at the corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd. in Culver City. See the full page flyer in this issue of Scene and for information, call Beverly Barr, (310) 202-6166

— *Beverly Barr*

BULGARIAN TOUR

My name is Joseph Benatov. I am Bulgarian and a graduate student in the U.S. I am also a certified tour guide and I would like to inform people about a folklore tour of Bulgaria I will be leading twice this summer: June 6-19, and July 11-24. If you are interested, please contact me, to get a detailed day-by-day itinerary plus information such as pricing, logistical arrangements, and other tour details.

Bulgaria's Splendors, Folklore, Culture, and Crafts 14-day/13-night tour, June 6-19 and July 11-24 (Including the Ilinden Holiday, July 20)

Join us for a tour which will explore in great depth the wealth of customs, traditions, and history in Bulgaria. Included: live performances of Bulgarian folk music by local singers, musicians, and dancers, traditional crafts, historical center of Sofia, the Rila Monastery, Melnik's sand pyramids and home-made wines, the historical Old Town of Bansko, the sunny Pamporovo resort, Plovdiv, Bulgaria's medieval capital, Veliko Turnovo, the near-by Arbanassi stone village, the Oreshaka crafts exhibit and the Troyan Monastery.

Contact: tel. 267.970.1817 (cell) 215.382.7254 (home), E-mail: benatov@sas.upenn.edu.

CLASSES AT THE CELTIC ARTS CENTER

Introduction to Highland Dance

Thursdays 6:30 - 7:30 PM,

Scottish Country Dance

Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30 PM,

Advanced Highland Dance

Thursdays 8:30 - 10 PM

Irish Ceili Dance Instruction

Wednesdays 7:30 - 9 PM,

All classes have continuous enrollment, and are held at the Celtic Arts Center, 4843 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Studio City, CA 91607, (1 block north of Riverside) Info: (818) 760.8322, <http://www.celticartscenter.com>.

VESELO DOINGS

Fridays in March: Sandy Wodicka teaches at 7:45 until 8:45. **Bob Altman** teaches the advanced Hungarian couple dance Mezosegi Tancok at 8:45

Saturdays: Sandy Wodicka will be teaching an early class starting from 7:30 until 8:15.

March 1 Family Night teaching by **Henrietta Bemis** starts at 7:30.

March 8 Reviews of Laguna Festival dances.

March 15 St. Patrick's Day Party.

March 22 Continuing reviews of Laguna Festival.

March 29 Nostalgia Night. All request of your favorites.

— *Lu Perry, President*

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Come dance and party with us on St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17, 2003. Wear your green and have a fun evening celebrating with the Irish on St. Patrick's Day. We will dance and dance until we are too tired to dance any more. The people are great and the party evenings are always special.

These parties are always so much fun with an "All Request Program", played by Beverly and Irwin Barr. Bring snacks or desserts for the Pot Luck table.

The place is the West L. A. Folk Dancers at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost (Between Barrington and Bundy, 1-1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.) Evening begins at 7:30, and ends when you decide to go home. We look forward to seeing you. For information call (310) 202-6166

— *Beverly & Irwin Barr*

WESTWOOD COOP'S CAMP HESS KRAMER

The planning committee for this year's Camp Hess Kramer has met and we are expecting to have many great activities for the weekend of April 25th to 27th.

On the Scene

Dancing will be our major emphasis, but there will be a variety of other recreations to entertain and enlighten participants, and to make the weekend fun for veteran dancers and "non dance attendees" as well.

Westwood's Camp Hess Kramer is a great first camp experience for newcomers because it is a relaxed and low pressured weekend. We hope to see you there! See our ad in this issue of the Folk Dance Scene.

— *Sandy Helperin*

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST EVER BAY AREA BALKAN SHOWCASE AT ASHKENAZ!

On Saturday Night March 22, Ashkenaz welcomes you to participate in a special fund raising event marking its 30-year anniversary. David Nadel founded Ashkenaz in March 1973 as a home for Balkan music and dance. For this reason we have set aside this special day to honor the Bay Area's Balkan Music and Dance community and it's pivotal roll in the history of Ashkenaz. Many Balkan groups will be participating. Info: lisegeorge@earthlink.net.

— *Lise Liepman*

AMAN NEWS

1. AMAN Dancers did a lovely performance at Laguna Festival - a suite choreographed by **Ahmet Luleci**, who joined them in the dance.

2. **Rosina Didyk**, artistic director, is teaching dances in a new class aimed at youths 7-15. It is at the Dance Arts Academy in L.A. For info: (323) 932-6230.

3. AMAN Launches *\$1 a Beat, \$1 a Step* Campaign. \$2 is all they're asking, the same \$2 you would normally spend on your coffee, snack, even bottled water. This time, your \$2 will support AMAN's arts education programs. \$1 will go toward music, \$1 for dance, and the lessons on international understanding are FREE. The goal is to get 10,000 people to donate \$2 each.

You can make your \$2.00 donation: online at www.networkforgood.org (enter AMAN in "quick search", select AMAN Folk Ensemble, then click "donate now"), or mail check or money order (no cash please) to AMAN, 965 N. Fair Oaks, Pasadena, CA 91103. AMAN is a 501 (c) (3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

— *Jill Michtom*

Travel & Dance With *Beverly & Irwin Barr* Branson & the Ozarks

May 3 - 10, 2003
8 Days - 7 Nights

Internat'l World Fest at Silver Dollar City.
Performers from 20 countries
Truman Library & Museum & Home
Participate in Polsky Day Celebration
Dinner Cruise on Table Rock Lake
Ride the DUCKS on land & on the lake
Many Fabulous Shows Including:
Spirit of The Dance, Shoji Tabuchi,
Broadway, Chinese Acrobats,
Yakov Smirnoff and much MORE!
Many Other Things to See & Do
Folk Dance with Kansas City Dancers

A Vacation for Pure Fun & Entertainment

\$1399 * Very Inclusive Price:

Round Trip Airfare
Deluxe Motorcoach for our group
Hotel Accommodations
Baggage Handling.
All Breakfasts & Dinners
All Shows & Attractions

*** Reserve by March 10th It is a
MUST for this price**

Group Travel Insurance Available

For Information & Itinerary

310-202-6166

West Los Angeles Folkdancers