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Folk Dance Scene

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Folk Dance Scene is published to educate its readers concerning the folk dance, music, costumes, 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 the editor by the 10th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space considerations. *Electronic submission (including all photos) is required.* 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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*On the cover: Scenes from the 2006 Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar.
Top: student performers. Bottom: dance painting, coffee with Atanas, boat party.
Photographs and arrangement by Steve and Jatila Davis.*

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LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art
Center, 800 S. Brush St.

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L.A., Univ of Judaism Dance Studio
5600 Mulholland

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Casa del Prado room 206 St

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(626)446-5160 Marsha Fenner
PASADENA, Throop Memorial
Church, 300 S. Los Robles

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(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club,
Presidents Way off Park, Balboa Park

SKANDIA FOLK DANCE

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(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin
(310) 827-3618 Sparky Sotcher
ANAHEIM, Community Ctr,
250 E Center (Mon)
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,
5401 Rhoda Way (Wed)

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1309 Armacost Ave

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Thu 7:30-8:00
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(310) 657-6877 Rita
WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center,
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L.A. Church of Guardian Angel, 1118
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(562) 699-5183 Jorge Diaz
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Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson
8

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Worldance1@aol.com Sherry
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Israelidance@yahoo.com
WEST HILLS, West Valley JCC,
22622 Vanowen ENCINO,
Community Ctr 4935 Balboa

ISRAELI DANCING-Yoni Carr

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(760) 631-0802 Yoni
COSTA MESA, JCC, 250 Baker St
LA JOLLA, Beth El, 8660 Gilman Dr

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L.A., Univ of Judaism
5600 Mulholland Mon 10:00am-1:00
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L.A. Shaarei Tefila, 7269 Beverly
Mon 6:15-8:45, Tue 10:15a-noon
Wed noon-1:15

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SAN PEDRO, Dalmatian-American
Club, 1639 S Palos Verdes St.

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(310) 284-3637 James Zimmer
SANTA MONICA, Santa Monica
College Clock Tower or LS Bldg
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UCLA INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

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Mon 9:00-11:00 (folk dance)
(310) 284-3636 James Zimmer
ballroom@ucla.edu
WESTWOOD, UCLA Ackeman
Union Room 2414

WEST COAST GAMMELDANS

Wed 7:30-9:30
(714) 932-2513 Allan and Shirley
info@wcgc.us www.wcgc.us
WESTMINSTER, 5361 Vallecito A



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 42, No. 8
October 2006

Editor's Corner

This month's issue features a cover story on the recent (last summer) Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar in Struga, Macedonia, on the shores of Lake Ohrid. There were daily classes in Macedonian dance, singing, music, language and history, special performances by local groups, and special events like a boat trip across the lake to visit ancient churches. Next year's seminar is already being planned and will feature a trip to the Galichnik Wedding in Bistra.

Accompanying the cover story is a brief history of Macedonia, including the origin of the song and dance we know as Ali Pasha. Thanks to **Jatila van der Veen-Davis** for writing these articles.

Last month we asked readers to recognize faces in a picture from the 1968 Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference. Isabelle Perch was able to recognize all but six of the dancers. See her response in Dancers Speak on pg 19. Can any of you recognize the others?

— *Steve Davis*

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Teacher's Corner



Anthony Shay is a dancer and choreographer with over 45 years experience in performing and creating dance and music choreographies from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. After years of study in Iran, he created the Village Dancers and the famed AMAN Folk Ensemble (aka, AMAN International Music and Dance

Company) of Los Angeles, California in 1963 and served as artistic director until 1977. He currently serves as choreographer and artistic director of the AVAZ International Dance Theatre, a group he founded in 1977. In this period he has choreographed over 150 works for both his own company and on commission to other groups.

Anthony earned a Ph.D. in Dance History and Theory at the University of California, Riverside in 1997. He currently holds the position of associate in dance at the same institution, where he teaches dances of the Iranian cultures sphere. He holds MA degrees in anthropology, folklore and mythology, and library science.

In recognition of his numerous choreographies of Iranian dance, Anthony received in 1998 the highest award for choreography in California, the James Irvine Foundation Fellowship Award. In 1999, he received the Dance Resource Center of Greater Los Angeles Lester Horton award for Outstanding Achievement for the Staging of Traditional Dance.

Dances Anthony has taught include Beljevina, Bibersko Kolo, Bitoljka, Cetiri u Krst, Cigancica, Kato mi Kato, Krecavi Ketuš, Krici Krici Ticek, Lepa Anka Kolo Vodi, Mangupsko Kolo, Mišnjacka (Licki Tanac), Mista Kolo, Podravski Drmeš, Pokupski Drmeš, Pokupski Plesovi, Prigorska Polka, Staro Planinsko, Stara Prizrenka, Sukacica, Sumadijsko Kolo, Toško Oro, Valpovacko Kolo, Zavrzlama, and Ženil Si Je Sirotek (Lepa Moja Milena).

Editor's Note: Anthony writes in On the Scene this month that Avaz is celebrating their 30th anniversary this coming January 2007.

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Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar

Oroto Pocna (The Dance Begins)

Oroto pocna bre ludo.... The dance is beginning, getting wild and crazy

Sred selo kraj cheshmata... approaching the village center, near the well

The dance and music began every morning at 8 am, at the first annual Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar (July 5-16, 2006), after a traditional Macedonian breakfast, complete with *Turska kava* (Turkish coffee) on the terrace of the Hotel Biser, overlooking the crystal clear waters of Lake Ohrid. And, with master accordionist **Goran Alacki** and two of his top students, Igor (from Skopje, Macedonia) and Patrick (from New Orleans, USA) accompanying the dance classes, sometimes the class would spontaneously erupt into a *djamala* ("JAH-ma-la", party, see below).



Jatila, Gordana, Adrijana and Patrick

Biser means "pearl" in Macedonian, and the Macedonian Pearls are a unique variety of black pearl that is found only in Lake Ohrid. According to one website, the term Macedonian Pearl also refers to Lake Ohrid itself. So, co-directors Goran Alacki and **Ljupco Manevski** chose to call their seminar Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar after the unique and precious Macedonian black pearls – and the name fits the experience perfectly.

Their first attempt at a summer seminar turned out to be a glorious success – the dream dance vacation! Imagine this: ten days at a resort hotel on Lake Ohrid, with gracious staff and five star service; kick-butt classes all day, lively parties at night; and the most



Accordionists Igor, Patrick and Goran

charming and gracious hospitality and expert tutelage of the Alacki and Manevski families! It was nothing short of heaven on earth.

Goran Alacki, director of the seminar, is the number one accordionist in Macedonia, and was recently designated a "national treasure" by the Macedonian Ministry of Culture. In addition to accompanying some of the dance classes, Goran taught accordion lessons and singing. His beautiful and gracious wife **Adrijana Alacki** - a concert and recording artist in her own right, popular on Macedonian "MTV," and one of the legendary divas of song in Macedonia today – tended to most of the organizational aspects, and added her grace and warmth to the whole experience. Graciela, Goran's brilliant and talented daughter, taught the history and language classes. To teach such well-organized classes, you would guess that she was a grad student in English language and Macedonian history, but you would be wrong; she is only 16.

Ljupco Manevski, the "Baryshnikov of Macedonia" taught the dance classes, with the assistance of his charming wife **Gordana**. In the beginner classes they taught the traditional folk dances, and in the advanced classes they taught what one could call "folkloric" dances, in that they were choreographies that all originate from village sources, but were arranged for stage, and are all part of larger choreographies that are part of the **Tanec** repertoire. (Tanec is the national folkloric ensemble of Macedonia, the only state-supported ensemble of its kind in Macedonia.)

In the choreography class the Manevskis taught two complete Tanec choreographies: *Vodarki* (the dance of the water carriers) and *Tresenitsa* (the dance of the cleaning ladies). The *Vodarki* choreography contains the folk dance of the same name, which Ljupco taught

Club Directory

Federation Clubs

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(858) 459-1336 Georgina
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

ETHNIC EXPRESS

Wed 6:30-9:00 except holidays
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights
Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

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ALAHAMBRA, China Press, 2121 W.
Mission Rd.
Wed 7:00 - 10:00
EL MONTE, eToday TV, 9440 Telstar
Ave. #5

GOTTA FOLK DANCE

Mon 7:30 - 9:30
(805) 643-2886 Ann Zacher
VENTURA, Washington School,
96 S MacMillan

HAVERIM INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Sun 7:00-9:00
(805) 676-7705 Nancy Benz
VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah
7620 Foothill Rd (corner Kimball)

KERN INT'L FOLK DANCERS

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(661)831-5007 DelphineSzczepkowski
BAKERSFIELD, St. Luke's Episcopal
Church, 2671 Mt. Vernon Ave.

KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING

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(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller
PASADENA, Skandia Hall
2031 E. Villa

October 2006

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LAGUNA BEACH, Community Ctr
384 Legion Ave

LAGUANA WOODS INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

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(949) 768-6120 Florence Kauderer
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,
24232 Calle Aragon

MOUNTAIN DANCERS

Tue 4:30-6:30
(818) 248-5804 Chuck Bausback
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club,
1424 Fremont Ave.

MULTI ETHNIC DANCERS

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(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,
24232 Calle Aragon

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(714) 932-2513 Shirley Hansen
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of
Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

PASADENAFOLK DANCE CO-OP

Fri 7:45-11:00
(626)446-5160 Marsha Fenner
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church
300 S. Los Robles

SAN DIEGO VINTAGE DANCERS

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(858) 622-9924 Harry Eisner
SAN DIEGO, Normal Heights
Methodist Church 4650 Mansfield St.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Sun 6:30-9:30 Tue 7:00-9:00
(805) 682-1877 Elliott Karpeles
(805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro
SANTA BARBARA Carrillo Rec Ctr
100 E. Carrillo St. (Sun); Oak
Park 300 W. Alamar (Tue-summer);
Westside Community Center, 423 W.
Victoria ST. (Tue-winter)

SKANDIA DANCE CLASSES

Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:00-10:00 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 (Mon)
CULVER CITY, Lindberg Park,
5401 Rhoda Way (Wed)

SOLVANG VILLAGE FOLK DANCERS

Sat 7:00-10:00
(805) 688-2382 Jean Menzies
SOLVANG, Jonata Elementary School
301 2nd Street, Buellton

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(310) 390-1069 Millicent Stein
CULVER CITY, Masonic Lodge 9635
Venice Blvd.

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(714) 738-8008 Phyllis Pivar
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Harbor.

VINTAGE ISRAELI DANCING

1 Sat per month confirm 8:15 - 12:00
(818) 990-8925 Louis
dovbyrd@aol.com
SHERMAN OAKS, Anisa's School
of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd.

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Another memorable weekend camp experience is planned

Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar



Ljupco leads a dance class

in the United States in January, 2006, and at Balkanfolk in Bankya, Bulgaria in summer 2005, and is done in a traditional costume from the Skopje region. The Tresenitsa costume comes from the Bitola region. And, for a real treat, one night they brought their students to perform for us – an ensemble of 60 young dancers, from ages 8 to 18 (see cover)

For the musicians in the seminar, there were daily accordion and clarinet classes. Goran taught the accordion class himself, and a **Trajche Tenjanoski** (from Ohrid) taught the clarinet classes. Trajche did not speak any English, but the language of music transcends the spoken language (see picture below)



Trajche, with Doris Vickery (from Santa Barbara)

For a break in the classes, we took a day-long boat trip across Lake Ohrid to the eleventh-century settlement of Sveti Naum, where you can hear the

heart beat of the Saint who lies buried in the church he founded. Our boat was piloted by Captain Nikolai, who shared with us some of his home-made mastika. We sang and danced on the boat as we glided past the towns of Ohrid and Pestani, and the Macedonian presidential summer estate, with mansions and a private beach for visiting diplomats.

Lake Ohrid has been a favorite vacation spot for politicians and emperors since ancient Greek and Roman times. About half way, we dropped anchor and many of us jumped in for a swim! Lake Ohrid is one of the deepest as well as oldest lakes in the world, around 2 – 4 million years old. Geologically similar to Lakes Baikal and Tanganyika, it is possibly the site of a future rift between two tectonic plates, and houses some of the oldest protected species of flora and fauna on Earth. From the town of Sveti Naum we took a row boat trip up a small stream to the source of the sacred River Crni Drm (pronounced somewhere in between “drum” and “drim”), where you can see the pristine water bubbling up through the sand at the bottom of the clear river (see picture below).



Boat trip to the source of the river Crni Drm

The second annual Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar will take place again July 5-16, 2007, at the Hotel Biser. Next year's side trip will be to attend the famous Galicnik Svadba – a community wedding in the town of Galicnick – with accommodations in local homes. So, make your reservations early!

Also, for information about Goran, Ljupco, and Adrijana's visit to the U.S. in January, 2007, please send e-mail to jatila@physics.ucsb.edu.

– *Jatila van der Veen-Davis*

A Very Brief History

"Tear two threads from the heart, dear,
One black, the other red,
One spurring terrible sorrow,
The other, desire, brightness and lust."

(soros.org.mk/konkurs/076/angver/etnologija.html)

Whether the quote comes from a mythological injunction which predates costumes, or a myth which explains the coloring of costumes (from locally available dyes?), this quote sums up the essence of the Macedonian experience: terrible sorrow from the centuries of living as a conquered people, and the earthy joy of the music, heartfelt hospitality, and exuberance of the dance.

Macedonia is in a beautiful part of the world, situated historically in the "birthplace of civilization," geologically at the junction of the European and Asian tectonic plates, with incredibly beautiful Alpine peaks, crystal clear lakes of Ohrid and Prespa, and fertile agricultural planes. Lake Ohrid (below) has been a favorite "vacation spot" for emperors since ancient times, including the Caesars and the Byzantines Justinian and Constantine. No wonder so many have wanted to conquer and claim it for their own!



The first king of Macedonia is reported to have been Kharan, who reigned from 808 to 778 BC, but the most famous are Philip II, who became king in 359 BC and his son, Alexander III of Macedon, also known as Alexander the Great. Phillip II began expanding the territory of Macedonia, but it was Alexander who expanded Macedonia to its greatest extent, encompassing the entire Balkan Peninsula, the Aegean Islands, Asia Minor and the Middle East from

modern-day Israel to Iran, as well as portions of modern-day Afghanistan and North India. When modern-day Macedonians speak of their former territory, it is the vast empire spanned by Alexander the Great, who died in 325 BC, to which they refer. After Alexander's death, his territory was conquered by the Roman Empire during a series of wars which lasted from 215 to 168 BC.

The Macedonian people today speak very proudly of their emperor, Alexander the Great. The modern Macedonian flag depicts the rays of the sun, a tribute to Alexander of Macedon, but the Greeks claim Macedonia as part of Greece, and say that Alexander was Greek, while the Albanians claim that he was actually an Albanian, because the Illyrians (ancient Albanians) were the first people who lived in that area, and Alexander's mother, Olympia, was actually an Albanian princess. According to one Albanian website, the present-day Macedonians are descended from the Slavs, who arrived in the area after the Greeks, who arrived in the area AFTER the Illyrians; therefore, Alexander, they claim, must have been 100% Albanian. The Macedonians today speak of the "Albanian Mafia." We can begin to see the pain that runs as deep as Lake Ohrid.



But – we are folk dancers, we don't want to get involved in politics, right? Then don't visit the Balkans; remain, as the late and great Dick Crum said, a "happy heart." Once you go there, learn respect and caution, for as much as we love the music and dance, we must respect the feelings of the people whose music and dance we are playing, and be cautious not to step on anyone's toes...literally and figuratively.

Rome ruled over Macedonia until the "invasion" of the Slavic peoples in the second half of the sixth century. As early as the fourth century, somewhat before the Roman Empire split between West and East

Dancers Speak

there were no diplomatic relations between Albania and the United States, [so] I decided to write to the Albanian Institute of Folklore in Tirana, describing my interest in Albania and its folklore."

Ian noted: "People said I was crazy and that nothing would come of my efforts. But they were wrong. Not only did I receive a very nice letter from the then director of the Folklore Institute (the late **Zihni Sako**), but also a large parcel containing many books about Albanian Folk Dances and Folk Music."

Ian was elated by the positive response he received, and in 1968 took his first trip to Albania. It was a short visit, but what he saw of the country impressed him enormously, so much so that he was determined to go back again. The opportunity came in 1971, when he started working as a summer tour guide for British tourists to Albania. This gave him the chance to travel all over the country, as well as tape-record folk songs and music wherever he found them.

"At first," he remarks, "the Albanians were suspicious of me since, although I was British and had a British passport, I was a resident of the U.S.," and at the time American citizens of non-Albanian descent, were not allowed to visit the country. In time, however, they felt comfortable with him and, as he says, "gave me more [leeway] to go where I wanted". He continued his avocation as a tourist guide for about a dozen years, until the early 1980s. After 1983, he visited Albania on his own, traveling around the country—at times with musicologists—making field recordings, and later videos of musicians, singers, and dancers.

Upon returning to the United States in 1976, Price had the idea of talking to musicians, and getting them to play Albanian folk music. The response he got was encouraging, and in 1982 he was able to found the Albanian Folk Orchestra Drita, with "a group of dedicated musicians", none of them of Albanian origin. It was no small feat to create such a musical ensemble. In fact, it was a daring initiative that required vision, faith, determination, talent and, of course, organizational skills.

The orchestra has been active ever since, giving concerts to mixed Albanian and non-Albanian audiences. Its repertoire includes both instrumental and vocal music from southern, central, and northern Albania. Over the years, the make-up of the orchestra has changed, with musicians coming and going. At present, the principal musicians are: **Joe Carson, Sue**

Rudniki, Linda Levin, Letitia Lucca, Bob Stokes, and the orchestra's founder Ian Price. Apart from Los Angeles, Drita has given concerts in several other cities, including San Francisco, Chicago, and New York. The orchestra's next concert is scheduled to be given in San Diego in November of 2006.

So it happened that in the great metropolis of Los Angeles, renowned for its cultural institutions nationwide and beyond, the folk music of Albania found a home, thanks to Ian and his fellow musicians. The Drita orchestra, by its very existence, confirms once again that music is a universal language that people understand and enjoy, no matter how far apart they are, and regardless of the differences between them.

— *Peter R. Prifti*

CALL FOR PICTURES OF GERRY PINTHUS

A member of **Polskie Iskry** and of the Gandy Dancer has passed away in Georgia. I do not know the exact day of his death but it occurred in July from what was believed to be a brain aneurism and stroke.

His name was **Gerry Penthus** and he was 80 years old. He was a Gandy in the early 60's and for some time afterward. He performed for Polskie for many years until I had to cease teaching in 1996 because I had a stroke.

His wife Debbie is trying to put a collage of photos together for his daughter and asked for any photos of Gerry Penthus that people might have in their possession. If you have any pictures of Gerry, please send them to me at 11932 Shetland Road, Garden Grove, Calif. 92840-3616.

— *Eugene R. Ciejka*

PHOTO ON COVER OF FOLK DANCE SCENE

Hi, if someone has not identified the people on the Sept. cover here are my names:

Kneeling: C. Stewart Smith, Dick Oakes, —, Gene Ciejka, Ed Feldman. **Middle Row:** —, Valerie Staigh, Maude Sykes, Elsie Dunin, Mikki Ravenaugh, Donna Tripp, Perle Bleadon, —. **Back Row:** Bob Bowley, Avis Tarvin, Ed Kremers, —, Marion Wilson, — (in glasses), —, Lisl and Maria Reisch, Herb Hueg, Vince Evanchuk, Ruth Garber. As you may know Bob Moriarty and I were active on the Santa Barbara committee from the very beginning. 1968 was the only year that we did not attend because I was in Israel.

— *Isabelle Persh and Bob Moriarty*

DANCING WITH TWO LEFT FEET. (18)



It always amazed me how closely music is connected to the dancing. Of course it is a bit hard not to dance without the music. How else would we dance? But many dancers are so attuned to the actual melody with which they learned the steps, that when you play a different melody they find it difficult to dance.

I have befriended some Bulgarian musicians and invited them to our picnics where they played some terrific *pravo*, *rachenitza* and *dajchevo* tunes. But while the beat was correct for each dance, the melodies and improvisations, while very beautiful, were different from our usual recordings. Guess what? Many of the dancers did not recognize the dances and thought that they didn't know the steps to the dance. They ended up sitting out, while only a few of us continued dancing. I was surprised and a bit annoyed when most of them requested that we put on the tapes of the old recorded dances.

I have also gone to several Macedonian picnics and events and danced to a multitude of new-to-me, beautiful melodies while doing the old *lesnoto*. Not only were the melodies new, but each line's leader did a slight variation of the steps to the same music, probably as done in their village. Most of the people seemed to enjoy the spontaneity, variety, and melodies of the dances.

I fully understand that when learning a dance there has to be some set pattern of steps and music. After all, how can you teach a roomful of dancers if you don't follow a set routine? But, once we learn a dance and do it over the years, do we always have to religiously follow the same routine night after night? We could even use some popular American melodies to do some of the dances. Some groups I have belonged to occasionally dance *pravo* to the tune of *Elvira* and a slow *hasapiko* to a popular Cat Stevens' "Ruby My Love".

Debby Bukowski in the Dec. 1999/2000 issue of the Folk Dance Scene provided a whole page of alternative music to our popular folk dances. Pull out your old issue and you will be quite surprised by the number of folkdances you can do to well known popular tunes. How about a *rachenitza* to "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead" or a *lesnoto* to "Somewhere over the Rainbow"?

Yves Moreau, quite a while ago, published a cassette (remember those?) of a collection titled: "Bulgaria & Sons!" of unusual Bulgarian music with titles such as: *Kosher Dilmano*, *Tanchaz in Pirin*, *Pres.Ford in Pirin* and *Keltic Bulge*, *Helsinki Daichovo*, to name just a few.

Wouldn't it be fun to have an evening of dancing to different tunes and melodies that have the proper beat for the dances we do? It would be fun to guess what the dance is and try to dance to it. Maybe some groups could put together such a program at their next Halloween party.

And on second thought, maybe this is not such a good idea, since many of the dancers would refuse to dance to a different tune!

— *Lou Pechi*

ALBANIAN FOLK ORCHESTRA, DRITA

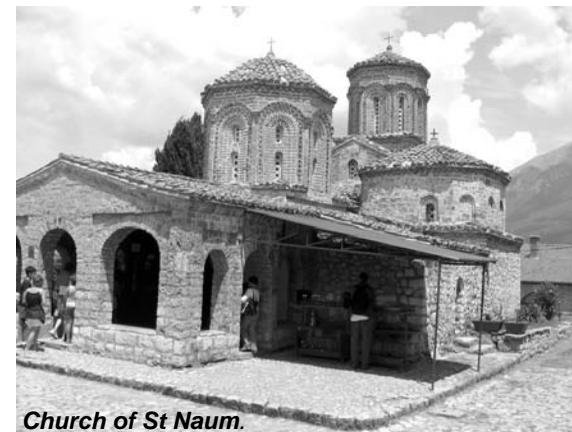
Mention Los Angeles, and the giant "Hollywood" sign may well flash before one's eyes. Hollywood—the land of make-believe, of wish-fulfillment, of dreams becoming reality. Hollywood apart, Los Angeles is also the home of prestigious cultural institutions.

But who could imagine that one day, in the shadow of cultural giants, an orchestra would come into being in the "city of angels", bearing the singular name **Drita**? Yet, that is what happened, almost a quarter of a century ago (1982), when the Albanian Folk Orchestra **Drita** (Light) was founded, on a quiet note, as it were. Following is the story, in capsule form, of how such an unlikely development could occur in America, some ten thousand miles away from Albania.

The orchestra was the idea of **Ian Price**, a Los Angeles-based American of English background, who has had a passion for international folk music and dancing for decades. Beginning in the early 1960s, his interest in this art genre drew him to the Balkans, and he began to read up on the region as much as he could. When it came to Albania, however, he ran into a roadblock, so to speak, as there was a notable lack of reading matter on the country, ostensibly on account of its "isolation", as Price puts it. Quoting from a letter I received from him recently, he says:

"I was able to locate some Albanians living in Los Angeles, and managed to get one of them to give me a basic introduction to the Albanian language. I also [got hold of] obscure books about Albania, in second-hand bookshops in this country and in England. At the time,

(Byzantium), Christianity had been spreading into Macedonia. The turning point for Macedonia as a country-culture came with the arrival of two brothers in the late ninth century, who became known as Saints Cyril and Methodiosus. They are credited with the invention of the Cyrillic Alphabet and the establishment of Christianity as the official religion of Macedonia (and Bulgaria). Two disciples of Cyril and Methodiosus, Saint Clement of Ohrid ("Kliment Ohridski") and Saint Naum continued their work, establishing churches and developing literacy among the Slavic Macedonians. Christianity then became a unifying factor for Macedonia's new ethnic identity, and the Macedonians played a major role in Byzantium. The period of rule of the Macedonian dynasty in the Byzantine Empire from 867 to 1056 is known as the "Golden Age" of the Empire.



Church of St Naum.

Fast forward through about 350 years: By the end of the 14th century, Macedonia and the entire Balkan region fell under the domination of the Ottoman Empire, and remained under Turkish control until the early part of the twentieth century. Stories of fierce battles, with Turkish armies burning churches and massacring people, are handed down from this time period. According to Ljupco Manevski, current dance master of Tanec, the men's dance *Teshkoto* depicts the plight of Macedonian men who were conscripted into the armies of the ruling Pashas. The movement in the dance when the leader steps on the drum is supposed to commemorate the men looking back at their village from the mountain top one last time, before marching off—maybe never to return to their families.

One particular despotic ruler who governed a large portion of Ottoman lands, was the Pasha Ali (1741-1822). He did all sorts of wretched things, which you can read about on line (just "google" his name!). Finally the Sultan ordered him out of office. When Ali Pasha refused Sultan Mahmud II's order to resign, the Sultan ordered his agents to assassinate the unruly despot. Supposedly, after they did the deed, the agents brought Pasha Ali's head to Constantinople on a silver platter. From this piece of history, we have the popular dance and song *Ali Pasha*!

Fast forward again, by another 100 years: According to one website, Greece gained its independence at the beginning of the 19th century with the help of the Western European powers, while Macedonia, which continued to be occupied by foreign powers, gained independence finally in 1991 from Communist Yugoslavia, but only with 37% of its historical ethnic territory. With the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 Macedonia was occupied by the armies of its neighbors - 51% of its territory came under, and still is under the rule of Greece, while the remaining 12% are still occupied by Bulgaria. In the early 20th century we have legendary freedom fighters such as *Jane Sandanski*, and *Gotse Delcev*, who fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire, and are claimed as heroes by both modern-day republics of Bulgaria and Macedonia.

Today the Republic of Macedonia, with a population slightly over 2 million people, and an area of about of somewhat less than 10,000 square miles, having accepted its present borders as set by foreign powers, struggles to take its place as a recognized country of the European Union. Its biggest hurdle in gaining acceptance is the resistance of Greece, who insists on calling Macedonia "FYROM" – the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Macedonia has no major industry of its own; its biggest export is its folklore – the music, dance, costumes, and crafts that it sells to the west and Japan, and the influx of western tourists and folklore aficionados...like you, and me.

So, priатели (friends): If you have never been to Macedonia, go for a visit, and fall in love. Your life will not be the same again, and your appreciation of Balkan dances will deepen. And if you have been – go again, soon, while places such as Lake Ohrid are still relatively untouched by western industry, and before global terrorism makes travel too risky!

— *Jatila van der Veen-Davis*

Calendar

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

OCTOBER

- 4 *Joe Graziosi teaching Greek dances*, 7:30 at Santa Barbara Balkan Folk Dancers, Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Info: Luis at (805) 682-4511.
- 4 *Valentino's Tango & Ragtime Ball* - Learn dances from 1895-1926. Info: www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/nwsevnnts/index.htm.
- 7, 8 *Little Italy Festa*. India St., San Diego. Info: (619) 233-3898.
- 8 *A Taste of Folk Music*, a free festival of folk & bluegrass music, dance & storytelling. Ventura Blvd., Encino. Info: (818) 817-7756, ctms-folkmusic.org.
- 11 *Joe Graziosi teaching Greek dances*. 7:30 at Cafe Danssa Balkan Dancers, 11533 W. Pico Blvd. West L. A. Info: WorldDance1@aol.com.
- 13 *Pongsan Mask Dance Drama*, presented by Korean-American Dance Association. At Ford Theatre, Hollywood. Info: (323) 461-3673.
- 13, 14, 15 *Seaside Highland Games*, Seaside Park, Ventura. Info: (818) 886-4968.
- 14 *Cafe AMAN*, Music by UCLA Band, teaching by Jatila van der Veen. 7:30 at Cafe Danssa, 11533 W. Pico, West L.A. See OTS. Info: (310) 478-7866.
- 21, 22 *Ragfest 2006*, presented by Friends of Jazz. Ragtime music and dance in Fullerton. Info: (800) 690-6684,
 Performances at Levantine Cultural Ctr, 8424A Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood. Info: (310) 559.5544:
 21 • *Worldbeat Concert*
 26 • *Rashid Khalidi in L.A.*
- 26 **Halloween Party!** Narodni International Folk Dancers. 7:30 at Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street, Bellflower, CA, (714)932-2513.
- 27-29 **Camp Hess Kramer "Camps Review" Workshop Weekend in Malibu with Beverly Barr, Loui Tucker & Samy Makar.** For more info: call Irwin Barr (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.
- 28 **Halloween Party**, with live music by Interfolk. At Veselo Selo, 511 S. Harbor, Anaheim. Potluck snacks, costumes encouraged. Info: Phyllis at (714) 738-8008.
- 30 **Halloween Party!** All-request dance program, potluck table. 7:30 at Brockton School

in W.L.A., 1309 Armacost Ave. See OTS. Info: Call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

NOVEMBER

- 1 *Salsa Rueda workshop with Samy Makar*. 7:30 at Balboa Park Club, San Diego. See OTS. Info: Jean at (858) 496-8083, jcate@nethere.net.
- 2 **Salsa Rueda workshop with Samy Makar. 8:00 at Westwood Co-op, Felicia Mahood Ctr, West L. A. See OTS. Info: Beverly at (310) 202-6166, (310) 478-4659.**
 Performances at Levantine Cultural Center, 8424A Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood. For more info: (310) 559.5544:
 2 • *Night in Algeria*
 15 • *Persian Girls*
- 6 *Waltz Through Time* - Learn waltz styles 1806 - 2006. Info: www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/nwsevnnts/index.htm.
- 11 *Cafe AMAN*, Music by Balkan Edition, Greek teaching by Mady Taylor. 7:30 at Cafe Danssa, 11533 W. Pico, West L.A. Info: (310) 478-7866.
- 18 *Albanian Workshop and Concert*. Dance workshop 2:00 - 4:00, concert and dance with Drita, 7:30 - 10:00. At Folk Dance Center, San Diego. See OTS. Info (858) 278-4619, jcate@nethere.net.
- 24 **West L.A. Folk Dancers annual Day After Thanksgiving Party. All-request dance program, potluck table. 7:30 at Brockton School in W. L.A., 1309 Armacost Ave. See OTS. Info: Call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**
- 25 *Social Daunce Irregulars Victorian Grand Ball*. Waltzes, Polkas and Quadrilles in an elegant Edwardian ballroom: the Pasadena Masonic Hall. For more information, go to <http://victoriandance.org/>
- ## DECEMBER
- 4-8 *Cruise & Dance* on the Paradise Cruise Ship with Beverly & Irwin Barr and the West L.A. Folk Dancers, leaving from Long Beach. See OTS. Info: (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.
- 9 *Cafe AMAN*, Teaching of Dick Crum's dances by John Filcich and Sherry Cochran. 7:30 at Cafe Danssa, 11533 W. Pico, West L.A. See OTS. Info: (310) 478-7866.
- 29-1/1/07 *CTMS New Year's Camp* at Camp Hess Kramer, Malibu. Info: www.ctms-folkmusic.org.
- 29 - 1/1/2007 **New Year's Weekend** with Beverly & Irwin Barr and the West L. A. Folk Dancers. For information, call 310-202-6166 or 310-478-4659.

Chicago Spring Festival 2007

In the April, 2006 issue of Scene I wrote a review of the 2006 Chicago Spring Festival, a "totally immersive, sensory-overload experience of Balkan music that is the closest thing to being in the Balkans that one can get on this side of the ocean," quoting **John Kuo**, festival director and director of Ensemble Balkanske Igre. The 2007 Chicago Festival promises to be every bit as exciting, so make your reservations early, for the 42nd Anniversary Spring Festival.

From March 16-18, 2007, at the International House, on the campus of the University of Chicago, the dance teachers will be: **Atanas Kolarovski**, greatest living master of Macedonian dance; **Daniela Ivanova**, Bulgarian dancer, choreographer, and scholar; **Ahmet Luleci**, Turkish dance; **Sani Rifati**, Balkan Rom style; **Daniel Sandu**, Romanian dance; and **Yuliyana Yordanov**, Bulgarian dance.

The stellar lineup of musicians includes **Angel Nazlamov** (accordion), **Georgi Petrov** (kaval & tupan), **James Stoyanoff** (clarinet), among others. And, once again, Daniela will teach songs of Bulgaria and Macedonia.

The schedule starts Friday evening, March 16, with a mini-workshop with all teachers followed by a dance party with music by **James Stoyanoff** and the Orpheus Hellenic Ensemble with other guest musicians. Saturday there are classes all day, and at night, the famous Macedonian dinner party, with home-cooked traditional dishes, prepared by John's mother-in-law and members of the Macedonian community, followed by a concert and dance party with amazing musicians. On Sunday there are more classes, followed by a post-festival dinner and dance party at Arkadash Turkish Café. This is also a not-to-be-missed party, with live music, dance entertainment, and dancing led by teachers from the festival.

For more information, contact John Kuo at (773) 324-1247 (24-hour voice mail) or (847) 967-9822 (weekends & evenings), or by E-mail at balkanske_igre@yahoo.com.

See you all there!

— *Jatila van der Veen-Davis*

A torrid love story about folk dancers, college students, sailing schooners and harbor life. Central to the story is a neighborhood Greek taverna where the proprietor dances with a dinner table clenched in his teeth, sucks up retsina and has a Zorba-like love affair with all his dancing customers. Yet, lurking there in this idyllic background is a dark secret which threatens to destroy them all.

Of Greeks, Virgins & Tectonic Jive

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KOLO FESTIVAL MOVES TO CROATIAN CENTER

Thanksgiving weekend, Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25, means it's time again for one of the favorite of all festivals, the Kolo Festival.

This year there is a major change in venue. Kolo Festival will be held at the Croatian American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Avenue, San Francisco.

Kolo will feature one of the world's most noted Bulgarian dance authorities, **Yves Moreau**. **John Morovich** will teach both Croatian dancing and singing and **Dennis Boxell** will teach Serbian dancing.

John and Dennis will have one dance class each day and Yves will teach two classes each day. In another change from previous years there will be no repetition of the taught dances, each class will be different. Yves will teach intermediate Bulgarian dances in the morning and more advanced Bulgarian dances in the afternoon. The Croatian and Serbian dances will be easier to give everyone a chance to rest a little. By popular demand, and to help reinforce the teaching, the teachers will lead their dances in a review session each day after the last lesson. There will also be a singing class taught at least once a day. To avoid missing anything, it's advisable to sign up for the entire day of dancing and instruction. If you haven't already received a registration flyer, contact **Marion Earl** at dancespryte@yahoo.com or (831) 338-4484 eves and weekends and (650) 793-1166 in the daytime.

Chubritsa, the popular band from Arcata, who has played at Stockton FDC, the Camellia Festival and various other camps and festivals, will lead off the evening parties. A local band will alternate with them. We hope to have a variety of smaller local bands also performing in the *Kafana*.

A new feature, started last year, is the band jam at 7:00 pm on Friday night, when the bands will play together. The bands that play in the Kafana are encouraged to join in this as well. A full kitchen is available for the festival, and it's hoped that either lunch or dinner will be provided at a reasonable price.

The classes will start at 9:30 each morning and continue until 4:40 in the afternoon, with a break for lunch and a cultural corner. At the conclusion of teaching each day there will be a review of the dances taught. This will be followed with time for a leisurely dinner before the Friday evening Band Jam session and the evening party. On Saturday there will be a

concert before the evening party. Dancing will start at 8:00 p.m. and go on until midnight.

Volunteers—There are a limited number of work exchange positions available. For door registration work exchange, or other work exchange possibilities contact **David Munkres** at (510) 222-7025 or E-mail: damunk@comcast.net.

For more information about Kolo contact **Sharen Nyberg** at sharen10@yahoo.com or (510) 266-0560.

— *Gary Anderson, Kolo Committee*

BULGARIA SINGS

To promote the popularity of Bulgarian music and culture, and to make it available to all, we are inviting you to the first Bulgarian Folklore Festival in the Bay Area, '**Bulgaria Sings**'.

The festival will be on October 7, 2006, from 5:30-11:00pm. It will be at 743 Diablo Rd. Danville. CA. Please join us for:

- * Dance instructions
- * Live entertainment
- * Food & beverages
- * Dancing

The festival will start at 5:30, with teaching of Bulgarian folklore dances by **Marco Moskoff**. Delicious ethnic food specialties will be available, (not included in the admission).

For your entertainment, we will be featuring *Nestinari* Folklore group: '**Marco & Friends**'. For more information please contact Marcus and Anastasia at (925) 944-1360, anastasiabg@netzero.net.

Don't miss this exciting evening of music and dance!

CROATIAN ACTIVITIES

Zeljko Jergan, renowned Master Artist of Croatian dance, will teach a dance workshop 8PM Oct. 6 at the Croatian American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Ave, SF. He will also teach Oct. 8 TBD in the afternoon at the Koraci Autumn Festival, Croatian Catholic Mission Assumption of Mary, 901 Lincoln Ave, San Jose.

Mark your calendars for '**A Taste of Croatia**' - SF Croatian Festival Oct. 21 & Oct. 22 featuring **Vela Luka** Croatian Dance Ensemble.

More information will be posted at: www.CroatianAmericanWeb.org.

— *John Daley*

2007

JANUARY

1 **A New Year's Day Celebration. Party with the West L.A. Folk Dancers. All-request dance program, potluck table. 7:30 at Brockton School in W.L.A., 1309 Armacost Ave. Info: Call Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310)-478-4659.**

13 *Cafe AMAN*, Music by Eastern Exposure. 7:30 at Cafe Danssa, 11533 W. Pico, West L.A. See OTS. Info: (310) 478-7866.

14 **Winter Festival, hosted by Pasadena Co-op. 1:30 - 5:30 at Scottish Rite Temple, Madison St. Pasadena. Council meeting at 10:30. Info: Marsha (626) 446-5160.**

20 *Jane Austen Ball*, hosted by California Lively Arts. Pasadena Masonic Hall. Info: lahacal.org.

27 *Viennese Ball*, hosted by San Diego Vintage Dancers. Pasadena Masonic Hall. Info: lahacal.org.

FEBRUARY

9-11 **Laguna Festival, hosted by Laguna Folkdancers and Veselo Selo. Institutes with Lee Otterholt and George Fogg, concert, dancing. At Ensign School, 2000 Cliff Dr. Newport Beach. Info: Ted (714) 893-8888, info@LagunaFolkdancers.org.**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

10/6,8 *Croatian Workshops with Zeljko Jergan*. Friday 8:00 at Croatian Cultural Center, SF; Sunday at Croatian Catholic Mission, San Jose. See article. Info: www.CroatianAmericanWeb.org.

10/6, 7 *Armenian Bazaar*. Live dance music by John Bilezikjian, Armenian cuisine, dancing, culture, games, shopping. At St. Vartan Armenian Church, 650 Spruce Street, Oakland. Info:(510) 893-1671.

10/7 *Bulgaria Sings*, workshop, dancing, live music, food. 5:30 at 743 Diablo Rd., Danville. See article. Info: (925) 944-1360, anastasiabg@netzero.net.

10/15 *Greek Night*. Greek music with Ziyia, special guest dance teacher, Joe Graziosi. At Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Dance lesson 7:30-8:30, music starts at 8:30. Info: (510) 525-5054, <http://www.ashkenaz.com>, www.ashkenaz.com.

10/20-22 *Autumn Harvest Festival* at Fresno State University. Save the date. More information to come.

10/20-22 *Folkdance Weekend* at Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden. Dance workshops, afternoon hikes, lively meals, and nightly parties. Info: (916) 536-9809, E-mail: balkanbarry@earthlink.net.

10/21, 22 *A Taste of Croatia*, Croatian Festival. Performances, workshops, dancing, singing. At Croatian Cultural Center, SF. Info: (510) 649-0941.

11/24-25 *Annual Kolo Festival* - Featuring Yves Moreau, John Morovich, Dennis Boxell, and music by Chubritza. Croatian Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Ave. SF. See article. Info: balkantunes.org/kolofestival or Sharen Nyberg at sharen10@yahoo.com or call (510) 266-0560.

Hungarian State Folk Ensemble performances:
1/12/2007 UC Davis: <http://www.mondaviarts.org/events/byname.cfm>

1/13 San Rafael: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/SysApps/Calendar/pub/EventDisplay.cfm?event=10029>

1/14 Campbell: <http://www.ci.campbell.ca.us/heritagetheatre/moreinfohungarian.htm>

1/16 Carmel CA:

OUT OF STATE

ARIZONA

10/27, 28, and 29 *Opa07*, Greek music and dance classes, at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Tucson. Info: paulfrangoulis@msn.com.

VERMONT

10/6-9 *Oktoberfest Weekend*. Int'l dance with teachers: Steve and Suzy Kotansky, George Fogg, music by Pinewoods Band. Fairlee. Info: (781) 662-7475, fac@facone.org.

FOREIGN

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

12/22/06 - 1/5/07 *Dancing with Donna Frankel* - Cruise Auckland to Sydney. Info: (800) 745-7545 or cruises3@pacbell.net.

CARIBBEAN

12/27/06-1/7/07 *Cruise & Dance in the Caribbean* with Sandy Starkman. Info: (416) 663-4852 or sandydancing@juno.com.

GREECE

10/14-27 *Jim Gold Tour*, mainland and islands. Info: (210) 836-0362, jimgold@jimgold.com.

10/25-29 *20th World Congress on Dance Research*, Athens, Greece. Info: www.cid-unesco.org.

VIETNAM/CAMBODIA

12/18/06-1/2/07 *Vietnam/Cambodia Tour* - Dancing led by Lee Otterholt. Info: Mel Mann, (510) 526-4033 or www.folkdanceonthewater.org.

CRUISING & DANCING ON A CRUISE SHIP

Don't wait. Don't miss the boat. Get ready to take a luxurious cruise for a very non-luxurious price. Cruises are very popular and in great demand and are selling out fast. Cabins are now on an availability basis.

With the success of the last three years of taking this fall cruise, the folk dancers have requested it again. We are fortunate to be able to offer another trip on the same beautiful Paradise cruise ship sailing out of Long Beach. Many of the same people are returning to cruise again. We do a lot of dancing on board ship and have our own room for folk dancing. The port stops are Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico. We have a great time. The date is Dec. 4 – 8, 2006 (Mon. – Fri.).

See ad in this issue of Scene. For more information and prices or to reserve a cabin, please call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

— *Beverly & Irwin Barr*

ALBANIAN DANCE WORKSHOP AND 'DRITA' CONCERT

On Saturday, November 18, 2006, there will be an Albanian Dance Workshop and Drita Concert, at San Diego Folk Dance Center.

The Center will be hosting **Linda Levine**, member of **Drita** and Albanian dance instructor, for a workshop of Albanian dances from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Drita, under the direction of **Ian Price**, will provide live music, in concert format, from 7:30 to 10:00. There will/should be a small space available for dancing, amount of space depending on attendance. The break between the workshop and the concert will leave time for a leisurely dinner and walk/rest in Balboa Park, San Diego bayfront, and other nearby locations.

For more information: phone (858) -278-4619, jcate@nethere.net.

— *Jeanne Cate*

CAMP HESS KRAMER WORKSHOP WEEKEND

This is it. If you have not registered for the Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend yet, it's coming up soon, the last weekend of this month, Oct. 27-28-29, 2006. This weekend has become very popular and with its excellent teaching, great parties, wonderful food, and most of all, the loyal attendees and the first timers that embrace this weekend and keep it a high priority. So many folk dancers consider this their favorite weekend of the year.

Our "Camps Review" format is held at Camp Hess Kramer in beautiful Malibu. Two of our outstanding teachers, **Beverly Barr** and **Loui Tucker**, have taught at this weekend many times before, and are always requested by campers. This will be **Samy Makar's** first year teaching at Camp Hess Kramer. Beverly will teach international dances taught at various camps and weekend workshops. Loui will teach international dances taught at the 2006 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Samy will be teaching his specialty, *Salsa Rueda* mixers, which were introduced to us at the Statewide Festival Institute in May and made a very big hit. They are fun and you don't need to come with a partner since anyone can take either the leader or follower part and have a great time. The bonus is that you will also learn the Salsa steps.

You don't want to miss this weekend. See the full page ad in this issue of Scene. Prices include accommodations, dance workshops, 6 wonderful meals, snacks, happy hour, parties, dancing, and a silent auction (we always come home with a treasure).

If you want flyers for yourself or your group, and for all information, call Irwin or Beverly Barr at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

— *The Camp Hess Kramer Committee*

ACCORDION FOR SALE

For sale: Lira brand accordion, model 200 with fancy mother-of-pearl face and keys. The original carrying case, straps and accordion are all in excellent condition, though about 25-30 years old. The accordion hasn't been played in 15 years. The Lira is 3/4 size, being slightly smaller and lighter weight, is perfect for a female accordionist. It has a full compliment of major and minor chords, 7th and diminished 7th with 120 bass chords on the left side with 2 registers on the left. It has an unusual pattern with 4-5 registers on the right side with the keyboard.

This particular accordion has the name BETH attached in fancy letters. Also the original purchase tag, Bertolino Ravino Accordion Studio, 5611 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92115. Was \$2,000+ new, will sacrifice for a good home and solid offer. Has excellent sound quality.

Contact: Donna Frankel, 408-257-3455, donna@dancingcruises.com.

foam – but watch it, because it can easily spill over and you have a mess and no kaimaki (foam).

3) A **Bosnian** version of Turkish coffee, by Mac Francis (rgfranci@indiana.edu):

Here's my experience with lots and lots of Bosnian coffee: The folks I know don't use milk; but always sugar. They do boil the water first and then bring it to the jezva, which already contains the coffee and sugar. It's then brought to that explosive boil. They use an incredible amount of coffee and sugar: Three heaping teaspoons of coffee, 1 1/2 to 2 of sugar -- per a little more than one American-sized cup. When I make it and there's a problem, it's either because I didn't use enough coffee or not enough sugar. They do take their coffee very seriously! One technique I've seen is after that initial explosion of foam, let it rest for a few seconds and then add some plain water to the top of the jezva (to knock down some of the grounds, they say).

Note: Mac e-mailed to say that his wife, a native of Sarajevo, told him that this recipe is actually Serbian(!).

4) A **comparison of Greek and Bosnian versions** of Turkish coffee, by Pete Hoover (petehoover98118@yahoo.fr):

a) Greeks seem to like a lighter roast to their coffee than Turks. Examining a jar of Greek coffee on the store shelf confirms this.

b) Bosnians like their coffee with a little milk. At least the ones I know do.

c) It's a real time-saver to boil the water first in a large pot and then prepare the cezve and add the hot water: a lot less watching the pot.

d) The Bosnians add the coffee and sugar after the water was boiling, but the Greeks add the coffee and sugar before. Since she serves it in her restaurant, I suspect that's correct.

e) When the coffee first comes to a boil, the first foam is long-lasting. Pour a little of that in each cup, then return the pot to the fire once, then pull it off before it boils over, then return it again, then let the grounds settle a little and pour.

5) A **Dalmatian** version of Turkish coffee, by Rachel MacFarlane (merakli@earthlink.net):

I was taught by Dalmatians to make Turkish coffee, and the procedure is slightly different from the Bosnian version: Re: milk in the coffee – there is a version "sa s'lagom" (w/cream) that I was first served – it's

delicious, but I think they gave it to me fixed that way because it was easier for a novice to drink! A dark roast seems to be de rigueur, and they start off by grinding the coffee, of course, in the typical cylindrical brass mill, then filling the dz^ezva with water and adding the sugar (one spoonful for every demitasse-sized cup). Stir, bring to boil. Remove from heat, add one heaping spoonful of coffee for every cup, stir, then return to fire. Let almost boil three times (not two, not four, and certainly not six!) to form the foam on top, which is called "kajmak." Some folks use a spoon to place some of the kajmak into each cup before filling with the rest of the coffee; some people can do this by pouring skillfully. The honored person (guest, elder, etc.) is given the cup with the best-looking kajmak on top.

In conclusion: the next time you drink your Iced Mocha Java at the local Starbucks, or when you sip your Turska kava at the local kafana, licking off the tasty kajmak moustache from your mouth, sit for a while and watch the people who come and go, and observe the types of coffee they order. And - when you get down to the coffee grounds at the bottom of the cup, turn your cup over onto your saucer, lift the cup, and you can supposedly read your fortune in the pattern of the grounds on the saucer!

— *Jatila van der Veen-Davis*



Left to right: Gordana Manevski, Adriana Alacki, and the author, about to order Turska kava in a kafana in Struga, Macedonia.

Ethnography of Turska Kava in the Balkans

Coffee seems to be a nearly-universal drink. Regardless of where the beans originate, the manner in which coffee beverages are made, offered, served, shared, and consumed can be a fascinating and charming window into a culture. Some recent conversations that took place over the East European Folklife Center (EEFC) E-mail discussion group regarding the making of Turska kava, or Turkish coffee, give some interesting insights into various Balkan communities.

Coffee was brought to the Balkans by the Ottomans. Every Macedonian household has a *cezve* (or *gezve*, *djezve*, or *jezve*) – a special pot for boiling coffee.



Cezves - pots for making Turska kava

When you ask for a cup of coffee in Macedonia, you automatically get "Turkish" coffee; anything else is just "Nescafe." What I learned from the EEFC discussions is that, what all looks like Turkish coffee to me, actually has many regional Balkan variations – just like many folk dances and songs! Here are some of the more colorful postings, printed with the authors' permissions:

1) A family recipe for **Turkish** coffee, from Sukru Icimsoy, of Turkey: (icimsoy@msn.com):

Here is the Turkish way (as taught to me by my grandmother): Fill cold water into the "cezve" (Turkish coffee pot – see photo) by using one of the actual coffee cups you will be serving and a dash extra. One tea spoon (small spoon, about a dime size) coffee per small cup and just a little extra for the "cezve". Sugar to be added will be as required. "Sade kahve" means

"coffee without sugar" so it doesn't need any at all. "Orta kahve" medium sugar level needs half a tea spoon of sugar per coffee cup and "Sekerli kahve" that is coffee with sugar that needs equal amount of sugar as coffee. And those measurements may be re-adjusted depending on the person's request. You can only make one type at a time. That means you can't have a medium coffee and coffee with sugar out of the same cezve. It is always better to use smaller cezve and make maybe 3 or 4 (that would be my maximum) cups of coffee at a time.

Now that we have our cold water, coffee and sugar in our cezve, we can place it on the smallest eye of the stove top at low heat. Let it get hot before stirring it. Stir when you see hot air bubbles are forming, and once stirred, then wait for the coffee to foam. To obtain a good foam, your cezve should never be filled to the rim. Otherwise all the foam will just spill over and you will end up with a very flat coffee and a messy stove top! Ideally one third of the cezve should be empty for obtaining a good foam. The foam takes a long time to form but inflates itself very quickly so you can't take your eyes away from your cezve. You should place your coffee cups at a nearby place and grab your cezve from its handle (!) and share the foam among the number of servings you have. The foam will also go down quickly as you remove it away from the heat. Once the first foam is shared then place your cezve on the stove top one more time and as it foams again pour the rest into the cups. Enjoy!

2) A **Greek** version of Turkish coffee, by Anne Sirota (anne.ags@verizon.net):

I was taught to make Greek coffee by a Greek American woman who lived in Greece for a while. Very similar to the Turkish recipe below. Fill the "briki" (cezve, or Turkish coffee pot) with as many cups of water as you want coffee, using the cups you are going to serve. Then add a little extra water... maybe a quarter of a cup for each cup of water. Then add one spoonful of sugar for each cup of "metrio" (literally, middle, meaning a little sweet) coffee to make, more if it needs to be "gliko" (sweet) or none for "sketo" (literally, straight, meaning black). When the water and sugar start to get hot, add coffee – again one heaping teaspoon of the coffee for each cup to serve, more if it's going to be REALLY dark and strong. Let it rise to a

WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS – TWO PARTIES

In October, by popular request, the Russian line dance *Bielolitza Kruglolitza* will be included in the teaching on Mondays and Fridays. We are also doing *Shuj Shuj Zemer*. Early teaching on Fridays will be *J.B. Milne* from Scotland.

There will not be any dancing on Friday, Oct. 27.

Monday, Oct. 30, 2006 will be just in time for a Halloween Party. Costumes are fun and add a lot to a Halloween party. Join us with or without a costume, you are welcome.

The annual Day-After-Thanksgiving Party is a good time to dance and party with friends after a day of probably eating too much. We have a reputation for great parties and have a lot to be thankful for. Everyone is always welcome.

Come join us and dance with one of the friendliest groups around. We love parties and dancing together. An all-request program will be played by Beverly & Irwin Barr. Bring snacks or desserts for the potluck table. Don't miss these happy party nights which begin at 7:30 p.m. and end when you get too tired to dance.

We meet every Monday and Friday evening and dance on a beautiful wooden floor. The place is Brockton School, 1309 Armacost, W.L.A. (Between Barrington & Bundy, 1 1/2 blocks north of Santa Monica Blvd.). We look forward to seeing you. For information call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

– *Beverly & Irwin Barr*

CAFE AMAN

Come join us at Cafe Aman on Saturday, October 14th., 7:30 pm to 11:30. Our band this month will be 'The UCLA Bulgarian Wedding Band' under the direction of master Gajda player Ivan Varimezov. Also, our teacher will be Jatila van der Veen - Davis, teaching some new Bulgarian Dances.

Please join us and help support local musicians!

Forthcoming events at Cafe Aman:

November: 'Balkan Edition' with Folk Dance Music from ex-Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria and Romania. Dance Teacher: Mady Taylor with Greek dances from Asia Minor

December: An Evening to commemorate the birthday of the late Dick Crum with John Filcich and Sherry Cochran teaching and leading dances that Dick introduced over the past years.

January: 'Eastern Exposure'. Women's Group from San Diego playing music from various regions of the Balkans.

Where?

At Cafe Danssa, 11533 West Pico Blvd., in West LA, between Sawtelle and Barrington, on the north side of the street, upstairs. Tel: (310) 478-7866. Street parking.

Please pass this message on!

Cafe Aman is on the second Saturday of each month!!!

SALSA RUEDA WORKSHOPS WITH SAMY MAKAR

Samy Makar was happily introduced to the folk dance community at Statewide 2006. He specializes in *Salsa Rueda* dances which bridge the gap between Salsa, the social dance, and Salsa, the folk dance.

As taught by Samy, basic and advanced salsa steps are incorporated into a fun Salsa Couples' Mixer which shares many similarities to American squares and circle contra dances. The steps can be "standardized" into repeated patterns for beginners, or expanded, using beginner through advanced steps, by having them called extemporaneously by a dance leader. Samy can also be enjoyed at the annual Camp Hess Kramer Institute Weekend before heading to San Diego for this workshop.

Salsa Rueda Mixer workshops with Samy Makar:

Wednesday, Nov. 1 – Balboa Park Club in Balboa Park in San Diego – 7:30 p.m. For info: Jeanne Cate – 858-496-8083

Thursday, Nov. 2 – Westwood Co-op Felicia Mahood Senior Center in W.L.A. – 8:00 p.m.

For info about Westwood Co-op and general info about Samy Makar's local workshops & at Camp Hess Kramer, contact Beverly Barr – 310-202-6166 or 310-478-4659

DAYTIME CLASSES WITH BEVERLY & IRWIN BARR

Beverly & Irwin each teach a daytime class. Beverly will begin a new series of line dancing classes at the Oasis in Westside Pavilion in W.L.A. The new series begins Oct. 9, 2006 and will meet every Monday at 1:30 p.m. Beverly also teaches an international folk dance class at Roxbury Park in Beverly Hills on Thursdays at 10:45 a.m.

On the Scene

Irwin teaches an international folk dance class at Plummer Park in West Hollywood on Mondays at 11:45 a.m.

Beverly will also teach two dance sessions at the Taste of Encino Music and Dance Day on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2006. She will teach one session of line dancing and one session of international folk dance.

For information, call (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

VESELO OCTOBER BULLETIN

October 7 All Request night.

October 14 **Sandy Wodicka** will be teaching *Abdal* and *Petrunio*

October 21 **Sandy Wodicka** reviews of last week dances.

October 28 **Halloween Party** with live music by **Interfolk!** Wear a funny or scary costume and bring goodies to share.

— *Lu Perry*

AVAZ ANNIVERSARY '06

Dear AVAZ artists:

As we are planning to celebrate our 30th anniversary, we are inviting you to participate in this special event which will take place in early January.

It will be an evening of a DVD presentation of 30 years of AVAZ memories. If you have contributed your unique artistry throughout the history of the ensemble, we hope that you will share that experience with all of us by sending your favorite photographs, and perhaps film or video footage of you in costume during performances or backstage. Please include your name, your position as dancer, singer, or musician and the dates of your membership in the company. The photographs may be dramatic, funny, or beautiful.

Some of these visual memories will be used to prepare a souvenir program and a DVD documentary of the company's history. Please send your favorite photograph or video footage either by email:

avazidt@aol.com, or to the company address at: 3756 Aloha St., Los Angeles, CA 90027. Let us know if you are planning to participate in the gala. RSVP notes should be sent to Art Aratin at ARTSYFSY@aol.com.

Please include your name, how many years and the dates of your performing in AVAZ.

Details of the gala will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

— *Tony Shay*

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND with Beverly & Irwin Barr

A New Year's weekend with Beverly and Irwin Barr and the West L.A. Folk Dancers is being planned. The New Year's weekend and information will be in next month's Scene. In the meantime, you can call Beverly & Irwin at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659 to get up dated information.

SKANDIA FESTIVAL

The Southern California Skandia Festival, which occurs over Thanksgiving weekend, November 23 through November 26, will present dances from eastern Norway this year, including *Runnom*, *Elverumspolsk*, and *Rendalspolsk*.

The dance teachers will be **Inger Birgit Larsen** and **Tor Magne Tangen**, who have been teaching together for six years. They are both from Hedmark County where they lead and teach several of the local dance groups. Inger has taught Norwegian dance since 1969, and in recent years has taught mostly the regional dances (*bydedans*), turning dances (*runddans*), and a few of the figure dances (*turdans*).

Teaching fiddlers and playing for dancing will be **Thomas** and **Marit Westling**. This duo has become well-known among folk music experts, and bring a rich background in both Swedish and Norwegian music. In 1999 he was awarded the coveted title "Riksspelman" (or Master of Swedish Folk Music) which is the highest award a Swedish fiddler can attain, just 30 years after his father. Marit has also been awarded a bronze Zorn Spelmansmärke from Sweden. Thomas and Marit found each other in the United States in 1997 and since have worked to learn each other's music traditions, making them a very attractive pair for dancers. They both are actively involved in teaching young fiddle groups and have recorded CDs which feature some of both their Norwegian and Swedish traditions.

Karin Loberg Code will return to Julian this year to play *hardingfele* for *springar* dancing at the evening

On the Scene

parties, and will teach hardingfele students. She has been a life-long string player. As an American fiddler, she has been on staff, along with Norwegian-born artists, at numerous festivals and workshops in the US and at Folk Music Week in Hallingdal, Norway. Her first CD, *Norsk Spring Dance*, is widely used in this country and in Norway for folk dance accompaniment.

The festival is held at Cedar Glen Camp, near Julian, California. The camp facilities include cabins that house varying numbers of people and a large dining and dance hall with a very good wood floor. The evenings usually include some entertainment and culture, as well as dance parties as late as the dancers and fiddlers have energy. This year will be the 20th festival at Cedar Glen.

To receive our formal flyer and festival application e-mail us at tedmart@juno.com or call (714) 893-8888.

— *Ted Martin*

PAUL MULDER'S US TOUR – JUNE 2007

Pinewoods/FAC is bringing him over from the Netherlands for their week-long international camp, so it's a good opportunity to piggyback on prepaid airfare. Please contact me at joycexopo1@hotmail.com if interested.

Background:

Well-regarded throughout Europe, Paul Mulders specializes in Yugoslav & Macedonian material, particularly the Roma village dances of Prilep & Bitola. He has studied dance in the Balkans since the mid-70s, including significant field research, and assisted Pece Atanasovski most summers until 1990. He has taught numerous times in NYC and was on staff at Stockton this past summer.

— *Joyce Clyde*

TASTE OF ENCINO

On Sunday, October 8, once again Ventura Blvd. in Encino will be closed for the annual street fair. There will be performances on four stages, dancing, and lots of food to sample. All the events are free, starting at 10:00 a.m., and going until 6:00 p.m. The California Traditional Music Society is hosting the 'Taste of Folk Music' part of the fair. For more info, contact them at (818) 817-7756, ctms-folkmusic.org.

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