

# FOLK DANCE SCENE

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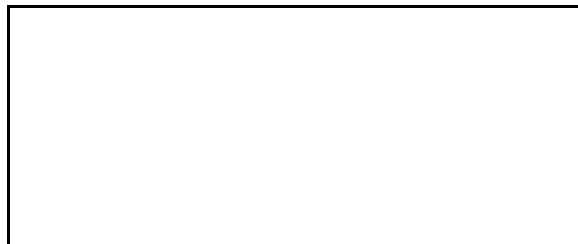
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## Folk Dance Scene Committee

Coordinator	Jay Michtom	editor@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 368-1957
Calendar	Gerri Alexander	calendar@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 363-3761
On the Scene	Jill Michtom	ots@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 368-1957
Club Directory	Steve Himel	directory@FolkDanceScene.org	(949) 646-7082
Proofreading Editor	Laurette Carlson	proof@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 397-2450
Design & Layout Editors	Pat Cross	design@FolkDanceScene.org	(323) 255-3809
	Don Krotser		(323) 255-3809
Design & Layout Adviser	Steve Davis		(805) 964-5591
Business Managers	Gerda Ben-Zeev	business@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 399-2321
	Forrest Gilmore		(310) 452-0991
Circulation	Sandy Helperin	circulation@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 391-7382
Subscriptions	Gerda Ben-Zeev	subscriptions@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 399-2321
Advertising – Submission	Steve Himel	ads@FolkDanceScene.org	(949) 646-7082
Advertising – Info & Payment	Beverly and Irwin Barr	adinfo@FolkDanceScene.org	(310) 202-6166
Marketing	Gerri and Bob Alexander	marketing@FolkDanceScene.org	(818) 363-3761
Contributing Editor	Richard Duree	r.duree@att.net	(714) 641-7450
Contributing Editor	Jatila Davis	jatila@physics.ucsb.edu	(805) 964-5591
Contributing Editor	Lou Pechi	pechil@sbcglobal.net	(619) 237-1214
Jill & Jay Michtom 10824 Crebs Ave. Northridge CA, 91326	Gerda Ben-Zeev 19 Village Park Way Santa Monica, CA 90405	Steve Himel 1524 Vivian Ln. Newport Beach, CA 92660	Sandy Helperin 4362 Coolidge Ave. Los Angeles CA, 90066

## 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: Participants at New Mexico Camp enjoying Middle East dance class.  
Photo courtesy of Teri Hoffman*

# Club Directory

## Beginners' Classes

### CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:00-8:00  
(858) 459-1336 Georgina  
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

### ETHNIC EXPRESS

Wed 6:30-7:15 except holidays  
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian  
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights Art  
Center, 800 S. Brush St.

### GOTTA FOLK DANCE

Mon 7:30-9:30  
(805)643-2886 Ann Zacher  
VENTURA, Ventura Christian School,  
96 S. MacMillan Ave.

### HAVERIM FOLK DANCERS

Sun 7:00-9:00  
(805) 901-2738 Nancy Benz  
VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah  
760 Foothill Rd (corner Kimball)

### ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

Mon noon-1:00 Wed 7:30-8:30  
(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern  
L.A., Univ of Judaism Dance Studio  
5600 Mulholland

### KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

Fri 9:30am-10:30  
(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,  
Casa del Prado room 206 St.

### PASADENA CO-OP

Fri 7:45-8:30  
(626)446-5160 Marsha Fenner  
PASADENA, Throop Memorial  
Church, 300 S. Los Robles

## SAN DIEGO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:00-9:30  
(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club,  
Presidents Way off Park, Balboa Park

### SKANDIA FOLK DANCE

Mon 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:00-10:00  
(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)

### WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:45-8:30  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
WEST L.A., Brockton School  
1309 Armacost Ave

### WESTWOOD CO-OP

Thu 7:30-8:00  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly  
(310) 657-6877 Rita  
WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center,  
11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

## Dance Companies and Exhibition Groups

### AVAZ INTERNATIONAL DANCE THEATRE

Wed 7-10  
(323) 663-2829 Jamal  
L.A. Church of Guardian Angel, 1118  
N. Commonwealth Ave.

### BALLET FOLKLORICO JUVENIL DE PICO RIVERA

Mon 6:00 - 8:30  
(562) 699-5183 Jorge Diaz  
PICO RIVERA, Durfee Elementary  
School, 4220 Durfee Rd.

### BALLET FOLKLORICO XIUXTLA

Fri 4:00  
(760) 414-9245 Jose Lucero  
CARLSBAD

## 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 INT'L FOLK ENSEMBLE

Wed 7:00-10  
(714) 641-7450 Richard Duree  
SANTA ANA, WISEPlace,  
1414 N. Sycamore

### INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE

(818) 343-4410 Suzy Evans  
VAN NUYS, Dars Art Center,  
7412 Balboa Blvd

### KARPATOK HUNGARIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE

Wed 8:00-10:00  
(310) 514-1706 Livia Gaspar  
LOS ANGELES, Magyar House,  
1975 Washington

### KRAKUSY POLISH FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Tu, W, F 7:00-9:00 Sat 2:15-3:15  
(310) 394-3500 Bogna Szupinska  
LOS ANGELES, Polish  
Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd.

### NAMAH ENSEMBLE

Sun 6:00 - 9:00  
(818) 888-8225 Bana Sayyad  
SHERMAN OAKS

### SCANDIA DANCERS

(714) 533-3886 Donna Tripp  
LONG BEACH, Roosevelt School

### UCSB MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE

Tue 7:00 - 10:00  
(805) 967-7125 Scott  
(805) 687-8823 Alexandra  
SANTA BARBARA, Gehringer  
Music Bldg., UCSB Campus

# Club Directory

## WEST VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Fri 7:15-10:00  
(818) 702-0431 Leah Moses  
CANOGA PARK, Senior Center  
7326 Jordan Ave

## WESTCHESTER LARIATS

Mon 7:00-9:30  
(310) 645-8316 Karen Ricks  
LOS ANGELES, Westchester  
Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson

## WESTWOOD CO-OP

Thu 7:30-10:20  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
(310) 839-1753 Adele Mortin  
WEST L.A., F. Mahood Senior Center,  
11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

## Non-Federation Clubs

### ANAHEIM INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Wed 7:30-9:30  
(714) 893-8127 Carol Maybrier  
ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church,  
511 S Harbor

### BEVERLY BARR'S DAYTIME CLASSES

(310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659  
Mon 12:00-1:30 p.m.-line dancing  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, Plummer Park  
Fiesta Hall, Vista St., 1 block No. of  
Santa Monica Blvd.  
Thur 10:45am-12:30 International  
BEVERLY HILLS, Roxbury Park  
auditorium 471 So. Roxbury

### CAL TECH INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:30  
(626) 797-5157 Nancy Mulligan  
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church  
300 S. Los Robles

## DESERT DANCERS

Tue 7:00-9:00 (Scottish)  
Thu 7:15-9:30 (International)  
(760) 446-6752 Nora Nuckles  
RIDGECREST, Hi Desert Dance  
Center 725 S. Gateway St.

## DESERT INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:30-9:30  
(760) 327-8684 Dwight Fine  
(760) 342-1297 Helen Smith  
PALM SPRINGS, Step By Step Dance  
Studio 316 N. Palm Canyon

## FOLK DANCE CENTER

Every Evening Call for Schedule.  
(619) 281-5656  
SAN DIEGO, 4569 30th Street

## 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- 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 DANCING-Yoni Carr

(619) 227-0110 Yoni  
NEWPORT BEACH, Avant Garde  
Ballroom, 4220 Scott Dr Sun 7:30-12  
SAN DIEGO, Jewish Academy, 11860  
Carmel Creek Rd. Thu

## ISRAELI DANCING-Natalie Stern

(818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern  
L.A., Univ of Judaism  
5600 Mulholland Mon 10:00am-11:30  
Wed 7:30-10:00 Thu 10:15am-1:05;  
L.A. Shaarei Tefila, 7269 Beverly  
Mon 6:15-9:00, Tue 11:00am-2:00  
Wed 11:45am-1:15

## KAYSO FOLK DANCERS

Fri 9:30am-1:00  
(619) 469-7133 Evelyn George  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park,  
Casa del Prado room 206 St

## LIFE BALKAN DANCERS

Wed 7:45-10:15  
(310) 310-399-2321 Gerda  
worldance1@aol.com Sherry  
LOS ANGELES, Pacific Arts Center  
10469 Santa Monica Blvd.

## SAN DIEGO FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30  
(858) 571-2730 Kin Ho  
SAN DIEGO, Balboa Park Club,  
Balboa Park

## SAN PEDRO KOLO DANCERS

Mon 7:30-9:30  
(310) 832-1074 Pauline Klak  
SAN PEDRO, Dalmatian-American  
Club, 1639 S Palos Verdes St.

## SANTA BARBARA BALKAN FOLK DANCERS

Wed 8:00-10:30  
(805) 682-4511 Luis Goena  
SANTA BARBARA, Oak Park Stage,  
corner Junipero and Calle Real

## SANTA MONICA COLLEGE INT'L 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 BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

UCLA INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB  
Mon 7:00-9:00 (ballroom dance)  
Mon 9:00-11:00 (folk dance)  
(310) 284-3636 James Zimmer  
ballroom@ucla.edu  
WESTWOOD, UCLA Ackeman  
Union Room 2414



# Folk Dance Scene

Volume 43, No. 6  
July/August 2007

## Editor's Corner

The lazy, hazy days of summer have arrived! If you're looking for a grand dancing time and didn't get into Stockton, why not attend New Mexico Camp? You can read all about it in the cover story. Thanks to Teri Hoffman for the photographs.

In keeping with the New Mexico theme, ethnic food has Tex-Mex recipes for you to enjoy.

Don't miss Dancers' Speak this month as last month's article on request vs. planned programs has engendered lots of comments.

Speaking of controversy, if you have a strong opinion of some aspect of the folk dance scene, why not take some time this summer to write an article for Scene? Submit well-written articles to Jay Michtom at [editor@FolkDanceScene.org](mailto:editor@FolkDanceScene.org)

Be of good cheer!

- Pat Cross and Don Krotzer

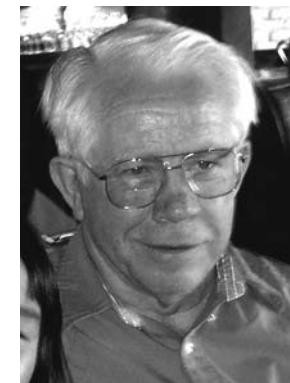
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## Federation South Officers

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Historian	Sandy Levy	(310) 948-2574
Publicity	Sylvia Stachura	(626) 300-8138

# Federation Corner



It's been 27 years since a new friend introduced Carol and me to folk dancing. The Glendora group was led by **Lou Yedinak**, who loved German/Austrian dancing. I was drawn in and by the time I realized that Friday night was practice sessions for the Enzioners performing group, I was hooked. For the next 8 years, we performed at Oktoberfests all over southern California.

When The Enzioners disbanded, we tried round dancing, clogging, and square dancing before we found Narodni in Long Beach. At that time, Narodni was led by **Carl Pilsecker**, who walked through each dance in the first hour. We learned a lot about folk dancing and have enjoyed the group for over 15 years. Through this group we learned about the Federation, where we have made many friends.

Carol became involved in Federation activities as Membership Committee chair. She would handle the club renewals and produce the membership directory, I was the support staff doing the folding and stapling. Since I accompanied Carol to the Federation meetings, I was drafted to be Sergeant at Arms by the president, **Marilynn Pixler**. Later I became treasurer of Folk Dance Federation of California South.

While keeping the Federation's books and paying the bills for 5 years, I became interested in the music. This has led me to collect as many dance tunes as I could and start building a Federation library. Many groups now have at least one person maintaining computerized music files and many groups use computers to play the music. Tape cassettes replaced records and are in turn being replaced by computers. I am happy to have been one of the leaders in this movement.

My interest in music has led to working on the last four statewide committees. It has been a pleasure working with **Beverly Barr** and **Marshall Cates** to develop dance programs and then assemble the music. The last three statewide festivals have used computers to play the music.

My next project is to convert the federation video tape library to DVD's. This seems like a simple task, given the many VCR/DVD machines on the market. However, I have encountered many frustrating problems; most have been resolved. We were successful in producing last year's Camp Hess Kramer video on DVD and several prior years' tapes have been converted.

It has been gratifying to be a part of this change.

- Gordon Wall

# New Mexico Camp

New Mexico Folk Dance Camp, or as it is fondly known in these parts, "August Camp," happens the first week of August, most years. It has been an institution in Northern New Mexico since 1984. In an area where nature seems larger than life, the first three years were held in the historic Montezuma Castle on the edge of the Pecos Wilderness area north of Las Vegas, New Mexico, near the village of Montezuma. It was built there before the turn of the last century by railroad barons, as a hotel and retreat in a setting of pine forests, spectacular rock formations, hot springs, and is proximate to Gallinas Canyon and great trout fishing. It had its own rail spur and train, tying into The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe trunk in Las Vegas. In its heyday, before its closing in 1903, it was a world class resort and playground for the rich and famous, boasting its own casino, stone grandstand horse race track, and Fred Harvey restaurant. It counted among its clientele: Prince Albert, Queen Victoria, Rutherford B. Hayes, Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, Jesse James, Japanese Emperor Hirohito, and Theodore Roosevelt. The Castle itself is a piece of work, 90,000 sq. ft. of it, a behemoth with massive stone walls, towers topped by onion shaped domes, and a magnificent ballroom (where we danced) with huge stained-glass windows. Its stone walls average about six feet thick. Along with everything else, the high, clean, cool mountain air and intense cloudbursts with subsequent rain showers made afternoon dance sessions in the ballroom a memorable experience.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that the castle will likely be pristine and proudly standing in the year 3000, its 1882 rubble foundation didn't meet the building code of the 1980s (along with some other real problems; check Google: Restoring Montezuma Castle) and was deemed unsafe. Thus 1987-2001 saw August Camp in many (other) interesting and historic settings in northern New Mexico before finding a seemingly permanent location in the shadows of the 11,000 foot San Mateo Mountains on the beautiful campus of New Mexico Tech in Socorro, New Mexico, about an hour south of Albuquerque.

August Camp, the brainchild of **Lissa Van Camp**, was started by a group of us (including Lissa) mostly from Albuquerque, and paralleled a time when folk dancing in Albuquerque was on the rise. In the late eighties and early nineties there were two strong folk dance groups here, one of which, over a period spanning several years, averaged more than 100 dancers per night, many of whom were then attending

UNM. During those years 70-75% of August Camp attendees came from this group. Ercument Kilic, interviewed by **John Steele's** (1989) Folk Dance Directory, commented regarding his then recently completed world teaching tour, that "folk dancing seems down worldwide, the exception being in Albuquerque, New Mexico where it is flourishing". A popular joke amongst us dancing in Albuquerque at that time was that "if you squint and look really closely at your watch you'll see it says 1969", meaning folk dance-wise we were only about twenty years behind the times. Although none of us are as young as we used to be, August Camp is demographically still relatively young, especially with a recent influx of next generation dancers.



"August Camp" is sponsored by the Southwest International Folk Dance Institute (SWIFDI), now in its 24th year, and is entirely run by volunteers! We have been blessed over the years with excellent teachers, including Graham Hempel (1984), Dick Oakes and George Tomov (1985), Eva Kish and Nico Hilferink (1986), Ada Dziewanowska and Ercument Kilic (1987), Frantisek Bonus and Jaap Leegwater (1988), Sunni Bloland and Tommy and Eva Englund (1989), Ahmet Luleci and Steve Kotansky (1990), Ya'akov Eden and Jacek and Bozena Marek (1991), Marilyn Wathen and Yves Moreau (1992), Marianne Taylor and Theodore Vasilescu (1993), Richard Powers and Angela Amarillas, and Gary and Susan Lind-Sinanian (1994), Walter Dill and Susan Kellog (1995), Tommy and

# Club Directory

## Federation Clubs

### CABRILLO INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Tue 7:00-9:45  
(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 closed holidays & August  
(702) 732-4871 Richard Killian  
LAS VEGAS, Charleston Heights  
Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

### FANTASY FOLK DANCE CLUB

(626) 330-6064 Doris Chien  
Sun 1:00 - 4:00  
ALHAMBRA, China Press, 2121 W.  
Mission Rd.

### GOTTA FOLK DANCE

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

### HAVERIM INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Sun 7:00-9:00  
(805) 901-2738 Nancy Benz  
VENTURA, Temple Beth Torah  
7620 Foothill Rd (corner Kimball)

### KYPSELI GREEK FOLK DANCING

Fri 8:00-11:30  
(818) 990-5542 Dalia Miller  
PASADENA, Skandia Hall  
2031 E. Villa

### LAGUNA FOLKDANCERS

Sun 7:00-10:00 Wed 7:30-10:00  
(714) 893-8888 Ted Martin  
LAGUNA BEACH, Community Ctr  
384 Legion Ave

### LAGUANA WOODS INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

Tue 8:30am-11:00 Sat 9:00 am-11:00  
(949) 768-6120 Florence Kauderer  
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,  
24232 Calle Aragon

### MOUNTAIN DANCERS

1st & 3rd Tue 4:30-6:30  
(818) 248-5804 Chuck Bausback  
S. PASADENA, Woman's Club,  
1424 Fremont Ave.

### MULTI ETHNIC DANCERS

Wed 5:00-7:00  
(949) 770-7026 Miriam Kahn  
LAGUNA WOODS, Club House 1,  
24232 Calle Aragon

### NARODNI INT'L FOLK DANCERS

Thu 7:30-10:30  
(714) 932-2513 Shirley Hansen  
BELLFLOWER, Woman's Club of  
Bellflower, 9402 Oak St.

### PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

Fri 7:45-11:00  
(626)914-4006 Rick/Lynn Bingle  
PASADENA, Throop Mem. Church  
300 S. Los Robles

### SAN DIEGO VINTAGE DANCERS

Thu 8:00 - 10:00  
(858) 622-9924 Harry Eisner  
SAN DIEGO, Normal Heights  
Methodist Church 4650 Mansfield St.

### SANTA BARBARA COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Sun 6:30-9:30 2nd Mon 7:00-9:00  
Wed 7:30-9:30  
(805) 682-1877 Elliott Karpeles  
(805) 682-5523 Gary Shapiro  
SANTA BARBARA Carrillo Rec Ctr  
100 E. Carrillo St. (Sun); Westside  
Community Ctr, 423 W. Victoria St.  
(Wed); VENTURA, Sr Recreation  
Center, 420 E. Santa Clara St. (Mon);

### SCANDINAVIAN DANCERS OF VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA

Every other Sat 2:00-5:00  
(805) 604-9608 Madeleine  
SANTA PAULA, Briggs Elementary  
School 14438 W. Telegraph

### 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, Bethania Lutheran Parish  
Hall, 603 Atterdag Rd.

### TUESDAY GYPSIES

Tue 7:30-10:30  
(310) 390-1069 Millicent Stein  
CULVER CITY, Masonic Lodge 9635  
Venice Blvd.

### VESELO SELO FOLK DANCERS

Sat 8:00-11:00  
(714) 738-8008 Phyllis Pivar  
ANAHEIM, Unitarian Church, 511 S.  
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.

### WEST LOS ANGELES FOLK DANCERS

Mon 7:45-10:30 Fri 7:45-10:30  
(310) 202-6166 Beverly Barr  
WEST L.A., Brockton School  
1309 Armacost Ave.

## Dancers Speak

groups of children, young teens, and adults playing all of these instruments.

The well-known Duquesne University Tamburitans are named, as well, after the instrument, and use original instruments to recreate the old tunes and perform the dances of many countries and regions.

As for me, I not only have two left feet, but also am not a musician and am unable to understand the multitude of tuning and chord arrangements you can get out of only three or five strings. What does amaze me even more is the sound you get out of this simple stringed cigar box sized instrument. Next time you dance a *kolo*, *drmesh*, *moravac*, or *u-shest*, see if you can hear the high pitched twang of the Tamburitza as it harmonizes with its other sisters.

If you can't wait to hear the sounds go to the internet: <http://www.nea.gov/honors/heritage/Heritage04/Opacich.html> where you can hear a Real Player sample of Milan Opacic singing and playing the Tamburitza.

— Lou Pechi



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## New Mexico Camp

Eva Englund, and David Paletz (1996), Petur Iliev, and Marisa Kallman with Howard Schmizer (Salsa) (1997), Joe Graziosi and Tom Quinn (Irish) (1998), Istvan Kovacs, Szabo and Rosina Didyk, and Severdan Azirov (Macedonian-Gypsy) (1999), Tom Bozigian, and Jodi Fleischman with Matt Helzunecht (Lindy) (2000), Ingvar and Sally Sodal, and Wim Bekoooy (2001), Yoni Carr and Jaap Leegwater (2002), Richard Powers and Miroslav Mercetic (2003), Nico Hilferink and Don Schillinger (2004), Yves Moreau and Becky Gordon (West African) (2005).



The 2006 camp was met with great reviews. **Michael Ginsberg** and members of the Zlatne Uste Brass Band made for an exciting Balkan treat. **Richard Schmidt**, effortlessly gliding the length of the gymnasium floor in about three Mazur steps, brought Polish dances alive and the fun-filled *Stockton Goralski* is one of our favorites. Oh heck, we loved them all.

Michael and Richard will be difficult acts to follow. But this year **Ercument Kilic**, back after a twenty year hiatus, will be teaching Turkish/Azerbaijani dances. We still do a lot of Ercument's dances from twenty and more years ago, dances such as *Fidayda*, *Yoh Yoh*, *Reyhan*, *Coskun Coruh*, *Machka Yollari*, and *Bingol (Delile)*. Something that sets Ercument apart from many other excellent teachers is his knack for picking dances that are distinctive and special and the fact that no one I've ever seen dances like he does. Now that Latin dancing is becoming the rage, this year we are bringing two fabulous instructors from Seattle, **Jim D'Apice** and **Jodi Fleischman**, teaching *Salsa*, *Rueda de Casino*, *Bachata*, *Merengue*, *Cha-Cha*, *Cumbia*. They even promise we will leave swiveling our frozen folk dance hips to the Latin Beat! It is contagious! Jim and Jodi have trained together in

Latin dancing for ten years. Their classes are hugely popular in Seattle, and they've taught at workshops and dance camps around the globe. Jodi got rave reviews teaching lindy at August Camp in 2000.

The schedule is a full one. We introduced "Just Dance" sessions into the schedule once or twice during camp so for those of you who cannot get enough of folk dancing, here's your chance to request dances hot from your list of favorites (This year they are couples and Israeli "Just Dance" sessions.) Also, before each party, we offer a half hour of "Request Dancing." We guarantee sore feet and weary legs by the time you go home.

The dance space is a (not too) small gym with an excellent hardwood floor (but unfortunately not 100% suspended). The university's outdoor Olympic size swimming pool and a weight/exercise room are available. A big deal as far as I'm concerned, and one of the reasons we keep going back to New Mexico Tech, is that the food has been consistently very good, especially with the new dining hall/food emporium building, finished last year, that is state of the art.

New Mexico August Camp offers a full program for children of all ages. The children learn dances, put on a skit at one of the evening theme parties (original scripts written by one of the parents...always a treat) and have a generally fun "kid" time. Everyone has an opportunity to order camp T-shirts and DVDs.

And don't forget those wonderfully inventive theme parties...! August Camp over the years has earned a reputation for going all out in having these fantastic nightly parties. This year come dressed in your best lemon-lime outfit for the fashion show Thursday evening, Friday as a flower of your choice for Flowerfest and celebrate any holiday you wish on Saturday night. There is even a costume bazaar for those who may be costume challenged.

This year it runs from August 2-5, 2007 at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, New Mexico. See our web site at <http://www.unm.edu/~lpetri/swifdi> for directions once in Socorro. For more information, with links both to Ercument's and Jim and Jodi's websites, please visit [tvtvuj.com](http://tvtvuj.com). We'd love to have you join us. New Mexico is unique, and we have a great time at August Camp! And last but not least, think of all the new dances to bring home and the new friends to see at camp again next year. Welcome.

— Linda Petri & Gary Diggs

# Calendar

Note: Federation Dance Events are in Bold.

## CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

### JULY

**2 Independence Day Party.** Celebrate with the West L.A. Folk Dancers. All-request dance program, potluck snacks. See OTS. 7:30 at Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave. in W.L.A. Info: Beverly (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

**5 Red, White and Blue Party at Narodni! Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street. (714) 932-2513, <http://www.narodni.org>.**

13, 14, 15 *Greek Festival*, St. Katherine's, Redondo Beach. Music, dancing, food. Info: (310) 540-2434.

14, 15 *French Festival*, 11 a.m - 7 pm. Oak Park, Santa Barbara. Music, crafts, food, dancing. Free. Info: (805) 564-7274.

28, 29 *Greek Festival*, St. Barbara Church. Music, dancing, food, crafts. Info: (805) 683-4492.

### AUGUST

**30 Dancing & Swimming at The Hansens! 5361 Vallecito Avenue, Westminster, CA, (714) 932-2513, <http://www.narodni.org>.**

### SEPTEMBER

*Greek Festivals*, Music, dancing, food, crafts.

1, 2, 3, , Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Long Beach. Info: (562) 494-8929.

6,7,8,9, St. John Church, Las Vegas, NV. Info: (702) 221-8245.

7,8,9 St. Sophia Church, Los Angeles. Info: (323) 737-2424.

8,9 SS Constantine and Helen Church, Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Info: (760) 942-0920.

14,15,16 St. Anthony Church, Pasadena. Info: (626) 449-6945.

**20 Homecoming Party at Narodni! Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower. Info: (714) 932-2513 or <http://www.narodni.org>.**

21,22,23 *Greek Festival*, St. Paul's, Irvine. Info: (949) 733-2366.

22 *Greek Festival*, SS Constantine and Helen Church, Lancaster. Info: (661) 945-1212.

**22, 23 Oktoberfest, Balboa Park Club, San Diego. Saturday 1:00-4:00 dance lessons, Sunday**

**12:30-4:45 festival with performers, vendors, food and lots of dancing. Sponsored by Int'l Dance Assn of San Diego. Info: Anne (619) 422-1584, Georgina [gbsham@sa.rr.com](mailto:gbsham@sa.rr.com).**

28-30 *Greek Festival*, St. Nectarios Church, Covina. Info: (626) 967-5524.

### OCTOBER

6,7 *Greek Festival*, St. Spyridon Church, Upland. Info: (909) 985-4411.

**19-21 Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend in Malibu, CA. Gary and Jane Giggs, Denise Heenan, Beverly Barr. See OTS. Info: Beverly Barr (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.**

20,21 *Greek Festival*, St. Nicholas Mission, Temecula. Info: (951) 296-6207.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

7/11, 18, 25 *Summer Dancing*, Santa Rosa Senior Center. 7:00 -9:00. See OTS for info.

7/17-22 *Sacred Dance Festival 2007*. Berkeley.

7/22-28 & 7/29-8/4 *Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Wait list only.* Contact Jan at [jmwright32@frontier.net](mailto:jmwright32@frontier.net).

7/27-8/4 *Lark Camp: World Music, Song & Dance 2007* Mendocino Woodland; [www.larkcamp.com](http://www.larkcamp.com).

8/25 *Belly-dance class with Tamra-henna*. 1:00 - 5:30, Redwood City. Info: [Haladance.com](http://Haladance.com).

9/28-30 *Gypsy Camp North*, at Camp Sacramento, near Lake Tahoe. Info: Barry (916) 536-9809, [balkanbarry@earthlink.net](mailto:balkanbarry@earthlink.net).

10/19-20 *Harvest Festival*, in Fresno. Institute: 1:30-4:30, party: 7:00-11:00. Info: Fran Ajoian (559) 255-4508.

### ALASKA

7/30-8/9 *Dance Cruise to Alaska* - Dancing with Donna. Info: Donna (408) 257-3455 or [donna@dancingcruises.com](mailto:donna@dancingcruises.com).

### ILLINOIS

7/20-22 *Weekend Workshop of North-American German Folk Dance Groups*, Des Plaines. Info: Eva (847) 421-9962 or [frauevi@wowway.com](mailto:frauevi@wowway.com) or Karin (860) 875-3559 or [karin-gottier@webtv.net](mailto:karin-gottier@webtv.net).

### MAINE

*Mainwoods Dance Camp*, 3 one-week sessions, plus Labor Day Weekend. Info: [info@mainwoodsdancecamp.org](mailto:info@mainwoodsdancecamp.org).

# Dancers Speak

## LETTER FROM ADA DZIEWANOWSKA, (PRINTED WITH PERMISSION)

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed your article "Summer Solstice." I have witnessed these celebrations both in Poland and in Sweden and have tried several times to re-enact them at folklore camps in the United States, most recently, in Maine Camp, indoors because it rained. Also in my daughter's Polish Family Camp, and very successfully at Folklore Village, in Dodgeville, WI, where it was no problem to build a big bonfire to jump over and for the men to run with torches around the fields to ensure good crops.

I treasure an amusing story from the "old" Maine Camp, which was over a lake: when reenacting the setting adrift on the river of the wreaths with a candle in the middle, done by the Polish girls (which you mention in your article), the campers did make such wreaths and cast them on the lake, but the wreaths would not float, because a lake is not a river. **Mary Ann Herman**, upset that things did not proceed according to the traditional ritual, in her dress, jumped into the lake and pushed the wreaths with her hands until they caught a current and did float away. Needless to say, we had to retrieve them the next day, as they were "polluting" the lake.

I also enjoyed the "Dancing with Two Left Feet" by **Lou Pechi**, as my most "modern appliances" are an electronic typewriter and a fax machine. The whole magazine "Folk Dance Scene" is great. I enjoy every bit of it: the information, the interesting things we learn, and the photographs.

Wishing you continuing success, I remain  
Sincerely yours,

- *Ada Dziewanowska*

## DANCING WITH TWO LEFT FEET. (26)



Recently, I decided to open a Serb World Magazine dating back to 1994. In it was an article about the *tamburitza* (a diminutive of *tambura*) and a popular Serbian, Croatian and Slovene stringed instrument. In the article, Milan Opacich shares his twenty-year encyclopedic knowledge and opinions about the whole family of all the vast *tamburitza* relatives and

predecessors, the Greek *bouzouki* and *baglama*, Russian *balalaika*, and the Italian *mandolin*.

So what does this have to do with our dancing? Consider the music that these instruments make in the hands of the musicians, providing the lubricant and fuel for our dancing.

The *Tamburitza*, Milan writes, is directly evolutionary from the earlier relative, the *danguba* (dan-gu-bah) or *dangubitza* (dan-gu-bi-tsa) "little danguba", with the name derived from "gubi dan" literally meaning "to lose the day" and the *samica* (sa-mi-tsa) that means "alone".



Samica

These forerunners constructed and created by the villagers who strummed and picked the melodies in order to pass the long winter days and nights, when work in the field was impossible. Their practice during the winter months paid off in the spring when they provided entertainment and music for village festivities and dancing.

You might think that this whole tradition was lost in the books and obscure articles. Quite the contrary! The music of these instruments thrives in the hands of the young members of Serbian, Croat and Greek communities in the US.



Tamburitza

*Tamburitza* music has become central to their cultural and spiritual life. It can be heard at church social halls, weddings, funerals, *slavas* (saints day observances), and celebrations of all sorts. Just go to any of the various church festivals and you will find

# Dancers Speak

about half the class left in an unthinking, selfish insult to a very fine teacher who didn't deserve that kind of snub.

In folk dance's "good old days" people liked each other and went to dance together to be with each other, enjoy each other's company and support the "movement." After all, if people don't go to support the dance, it will begin to fade away from lack of support.

Does this ring any bells? Does this sound familiar to anyone?

~ *Richard Durso*

In the article "Is it Time for a Change in Your Program?" Loui Tucker addressed the issue of pre-programming dance events. I find that this question is long overdue and I am glad that it finally came up for discussion.

I have been annoyed by the tradition of prepared dance programs in advance for festivals, parties, or – in many clubs – for regular dance nights, ever since I started dancing some 20 years ago.

I must mention that the pre-programmed tradition had its merit in the "good old decades" of folk dancing. Shuffling among heaps of bulky vinyl records, or trying to quickly find a particular dance on the long cassette tapes was a difficult undertaking. Thus, programs were prepared ahead of time: the records were placed in order, the tapes wound to the proper song, flyers or booklets were printed, food and drink parties were held to alleviate the boredom of perforating the printed sheets and passing colorful yarn through them... and the event was ready. It all made sense.

In my opinion, all this is ridiculous and senseless nowadays. Dance music can be retrieved with a stroke on a keyboard. A direct relationship between the programmer and the guests at the party can and should be established. The program should please the people present here and now, and not satisfy the tradition of so many couple dances, so many line dances, so many Scottish dances, so many Scandinavian dances, etc. Why are these rules ingrained in stone?

I even have the audacity to claim that the immutable adherence to habits of yesteryear is hurting the folk dance movement. Young people today are busier than ever, things happen faster, they are used to perpetual motion, and this is reflected in the way they dance: DJ's play music continuously, with very little break

between songs. Imagine a twenty-something-old coming to one of our festivals, where people dance around with little booklets tied with colored yarn to their belts, pompous MC's sit on a stage slowly announcing the next dance, and in the course of an afternoon or an evening the prescribed dose of such and such dances is being performed. This young person might find the experience amusing – but not an environment to which he/she could relate.

As I mentioned, prepared programs are not a good habit even for routine dance sessions. To corroborate this idea, I can think of an incident that occurred two or three years ago at one of the clubs where I dance: a folk dancer who was not one of our "regulars" came, changed his shoes, and was ready to join the crowd. Up on the blackboard was written the program for the evening. He came close and looked, and could not find any dance name that he recognized. He sat down. He waited and waited. After half an hour or so, he got up, took off his dance shoes, and before leaving he told me that he will never come back to this club. I cannot blame him.

There is a slight exception to my opposition to prepared programs. One of the clubs where I dance is Westwood Co-op. As such, rather than having one programmer, dancers take turns preparing the programs. As their turn comes, they take home the dance books and compose a program with dances that they like. To the rest of the dancers, some programs seem better than others. But the experience is for a singular evening, and at this particular club the week-to-week variety makes up for the fact that the event has been pre-programmed.

At clubs or at festivals where an accomplished programmer is in charge, the time is ripe to take advantage of the new technology: there is ample time to look around, to assess the knowledge, the abilities, and the preferences of the dancers present, and to create a continuous flow of dances fit for that particular occasion. Add to that the element of surprise, and the success of the event will be ensured.

For her heretical statements, Loui Tucker feared that she might offend friends and even be banished from the Folk Dance Federation. I join Loui in expressing these fears, but I feel that the call to abolish pre-programming is justified, important, and long overdue.

And no, I don't want to lose dear friends over this...

~ *Gerda Ben-Loev*

# Calendar

## NEVADA

10/11–14 *Tamburitzza Extravaganza*. Croatian dancing, music, performances. Reno. Info: [www.tamburitzza.org](http://www.tamburitzza.org).

## NEW MEXICO

8/2–5 *New Mexico August Folk Dance Camp*. Socorro. Ercument Kilic, Jim D'Apice & Jodi Fleishman. Info: Lisa, (505) 983-1310, [www.unm.edu/~lpetri/swifdi/](http://www.unm.edu/~lpetri/swifdi/).

## NEW YORK

7/20–22 *Scandinavian Folk Festival*. Jamestown. Music, dance, crafts, history, genealogy. Info: (716) 665-3203, [NelsonGarifi@mail.sunyjcc.edu](mailto:NelsonGarifi@mail.sunyjcc.edu).

## OREGON

8/23–26 *balkanalia!*, music and dance camp. Near Portland. Info: [www.balkanalia.org](http://www.balkanalia.org).

## WASHINGTON

8/5–12 *Ti Ti Tabor*, 15th annual Hungarian music and dance camp. Raft Island. Info: [www.tiitabor.org](http://www.tiitabor.org).  
10/5–7 *Richland Festival*. Lee Otterholt teaching. Info: Gretchen (509) 943-1264, Ray [bip509@aol.com](mailto:bip509@aol.com).

## FOREIGN

### BULGARIA

7/15-28 *Workshop for Balkan Folklore - Balkanfolk 2007*, at Bankya. Info: [www.balkanfolk.com/workshop.php](http://www.balkanfolk.com/workshop.php).

7/29-8/4 *Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar*, Plovdiv. Info: Larry Weiner, (301) 565-0539 or [www.folkseminarplovdiv.com/](http://www.folkseminarplovdiv.com/).

7/31-8/12, 8/13-18 *Koprivshitsa & Dorkovo Festivals (Bulgaria & Macedonia)* led by Jim Gold. Info: (201) 836-0362 or [jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com).

8/5–13 *Bulgarian Tour with Iliana Bozhanova*. NW Bulgaria and Shopluk, visit villages. Info: Cathie (732) 406-2793, [www.folkseminarplybdiv.com](http://www.folkseminarplybdiv.com).

### CZECH REPUBLIC

8/4-10 & 8/10-15 *Summer Folk Dance Week 2007*. Info: [dvorana@mbox.vol.cz](mailto:dvorana@mbox.vol.cz).

### GERMANY

7/31-8/23/2008 *15th Bundesvolkstanztreffen, National Folk Dance Festival*), Offenburg/Black Forest, Germany. Info: Karin P. Gottier (860) 875-3559 or [karin-gottier@webtv.net](mailto:karin-gottier@webtv.net).

## GREECE

*Dance Seminars* with Yannis Konstantinou  
7/21-31 *Dances from Balkan Countries*  
8/5-17 *Dances from Greece*

Info: (415) 272-4641, [carolinesimmonds@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinesimmonds@hotmail.com).

7/22-29 *Greek Summer Seminar in Kalymnos*. Info: [iannismaris@wanadoo.fr](mailto:iannismaris@wanadoo.fr) or <http://kyklos-danse.com>.

9/12–16 *21st World Congress on Dance Research*. Athens. For dance specialists. Registrations are open. Info: [president@cid-unesco.org](mailto:president@cid-unesco.org)

10/21-11/2 & 11/1-4 *Greece & the Greek Islands*. Tour led by Jim Gold & Lee Otterholt. Info: (201) 836-0362 or [jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com).

## MACEDONIA

7/5-16 *Macedonian Pearl Folk Seminar* on the beautiful shores of Lake Ohrid, near the town of Struga, Macedonia. Info: [www.goranalacki.com](http://www.goranalacki.com).

## MEXICO

12/2-10 *Cruise & Dance to Mexico* with Beverly & Irwin Barr and West L.A. Folk Dancers. See OTS. Info: Beverly at (310) 202-6166 or (310) 478-4659.

## POLAND

9/1-15 *Mazurka, Polonaise, Kujawiak & More!* Led by Richard Schmidt. Info: (216) 836-0362 or [jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com).

## ROMANIA

9/15–25 *Dance and Cultural Tour*. Multenia. Sponsored by DOINA Foundation of Netherlands. Info: [stiching.doina@hetnet.nl](mailto:stiching.doina@hetnet.nl).

## RUSSIA

7/14-29 *Dance on the Water*. Info: Mel Mann, (510) 526-4033 or [meldancing@aol.com](mailto:meldancing@aol.com).

## SLOVAKIA

8/10–19 *Folklore and Heritage Tour in Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary*. Dance classes, village visits, festival, museums, historical sites. Contact: Vonnie R. Brown, (225) 766-8750, [vrbfolk@cox.net](mailto:vrbfolk@cox.net).



## WEST L. A. FOLK DANCERS

The first Monday in July, the 2nd, will be a Red White and Blue party. We will celebrate in honor of Independence Day and a special birthday celebration, combined into one super party.

The first Monday in September, the 3rd, will be our Labor Day party.

On Friday evenings we will teach and review some of the popular set dances, and some forgotten set dances, followed by international dance requests (circle, line, couple and individual line dancing). We keep up with the new dances and keep the good old ones too.

Both Monday and Friday we teach some new dances and dance (and review when necessary) some of the old dances that we love and want to keep. Come join us and dance with one of the friendliest groups in town. What fun we have learning great dances and spending our evenings with wonderful friendly people, dancing on a beautiful wooden floor.

The hours are from 7:45 to 10:30 on both Monday and Friday evenings. 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.

We will be dark on Monday, July 30 & Aug. 20, and on Friday, Aug. 3 & 17. We'll be bringing back some new dances from camps and workshops.

*- Beverly & Irwin Barr*

## CAMP HESS KRAMER FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP

If you have not registered for the Camp Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend yet, it's coming up soon. This is the weekend that so many folk dancers look forward to each year. The date this year is Oct. 19-21, 2007. This weekend has become very popular because of its excellent teaching, great parties, wonderful food, and most of all, the loyal attendees and the first-timers who embrace this weekend and keep it a high priority.

This successful "Camps Review" format is held at Camp Hess Kramer in beautiful Malibu. Our outstanding teachers have taught at this weekend many times before, and are always requested by campers. **Beverly Barr** will teach international dances

that were taught at various camps and weekend workshops, including Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

**Gary and Jane Diggs** will teach international dances taught at New Mexico Camp this summer, as well as dances taught at other workshops and weekends.

**Denise Heenan** will teach dances that were taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp this summer. These are some of the camp's favorite teachers.

It's time to register now for a weekend you won't want to miss. If you've never attended, you will be pleased with the welcoming atmosphere and the new life-long friends you will make. This camp may even become part of your life as it has for so many others.

There is a full page ad in this issue of Scene. Prices include accommodations, dance workshops, excellent food (including all meals, snacks, happy hour, and parties), dancing, dancing, dancing, and a silent auction (we always come home with a treasure).

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

*- The Camp Hess Kramer Committee*

## NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS

### Teaching Program

Thursdays, 7:30 -10:30, Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak Street:

#### JULY 2007

July 5th	Red, White & Blue Party!
July 12th	Swedish Dance Performance!
July 19th	<b>Julith Neff</b> teaching tba
July 26th	<b>Julith Neff</b> reviewing tba

#### AUGUST 2007

August 30th	Dancing & Swimming at The Hansens
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~ all teaching is subject to change ~

For more information, please contact Shirley (714) 932-2513 or [Shirley@Hansen-Family.us](mailto:Shirley@Hansen-Family.us), or Carol (562) 862-0521 or [g-cwall@earthlink.net](mailto:g-cwall@earthlink.net), <http://www.narodni.org>.

## FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP PLANNED

The North-American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups is planning its 14th annual folk dance

used for decades. I understand that this system is designed to include dances done at the different folk dance clubs. Loui Tucker advocates having all-request parties. If this is too drastic, try the other options she mentioned in her article: Either have slots open for requests or designate one set for request dances. Another suggestion is to include dances that were taught in the classes during the evening party. At Statewide, the teachers attended the evening parties but their dances were not played. It's always good to have the festival dances repeated so we can dance them with the teachers. It would also be nice to play the dances taught by these teachers in previous years.

One final request: the teachers at Statewide did not have DVD's available to sell during the event. Video-taping the teaching sessions or reviews was not allowed. There was one official videotaping occurring during all sessions but as far as I am aware, that video is not for sale to festival participants. A videotape/DVD of the dances taught should be offered for sale and the profit could be split between the festival organization and the teachers. This is important for those of us who want to take the dances back to our groups. The video/DVD will help us remember the steps, sequences and styling of the dances and thereby present them correctly to our groups.

I hope these suggestions are taken as constructive recommendations and will be considered in the planning of future festivals. Again, I want to thank everyone who organizes the folk dance festivals. All of us in the folk dance community appreciate you!

Respectfully submitted,

*- Asako Oshiro*

## Request v. Fixed Programs

In response to Loui Tucker's essay on Request / Fixed dance programs, I must agree with her, but she touches on several factors that will guarantee the success or failure of either.

She mentions several times the idea that the person running the program has the responsibility to provide a balanced program for those who are in attendance – and paying the rent. When I was programming for the now extinct Orange County Folk Dancers, I was most pleased when those in attendance told me how much they enjoyed the program; I, too, made every effort to "read" the group and fit the program to them, balancing

dances by genre, level of difficulty, level of energy and character.

There is one group with which I am very familiar which fails in this simple principle. The program is all-request, but the dances played are only those which the core group likes and anyone else will just have to forget about it. I recall several years ago helping them write guidelines for programmers. I wonder what ever happened to it. There are at least six very good folk dancers who live within three miles of where this group dances, but they won't go near the place, preferring instead to travel 20 miles (each way) to dance somewhere else.

Loui mentions something else several times, but never identifies it: selfishness. Folk dancers have become so selfish in their approach to the dance the first thing they look at is "what's in it for me?" They become upset if the program doesn't suit them and leave rather than socialize with the wonderful folks who make up our dance community. Or they just pass on the event and stay away.

The recent Statewide Festival program – prearranged – had about 60% dances I never heard of and absolutely none of the dances I would have requested, but I went there with my bad knee and bursitis in both shoulders to visit friends I haven't seen in a long time. I wouldn't trade the weekend for something else.

The Laguna Folkdance Festival, now in its mid-30s, for years featured a balanced, though pre-arranged program. As it evolved into an almost all-Balkan festival, attendance began to drop. Long-time dance friends asked me what happened and said they wouldn't go there anymore because there were no couple dances on the program.

This last year the committee invited George Fogg of east coast English Country Dance fame to teach. Two people at the festival told me they wouldn't come to the festival anymore if they were going to have dances like that on the program.

I recall a few years back when I chaired the festival, one young lady was furious because the Balkan teacher didn't teach last and she had waited around through the teaching of the non-Balkan teacher.

In another instance, a couple of years back, the organizers scheduled a Balkan singing class during the teaching session of the "non-Balkan" teacher and



# Dancers Speak

Here is the quote and question of the month for July/August:

*Dance is a song of the body. Either of joy or pain.* -- Martha Graham

Are there any specific dances that speak to you of joy or of pain?

The first thought that comes to me is the bittersweet feeling I get when dancing Hora Miresii. The story of the dance, as translated for me by Gerda Ben-Zeev, is that of a young woman and her immediate female family members and friends, who are dancing together just before the young woman's wedding. Sweet, yes, but also bitter, as she is going to leave home and move away to her new husband's village. It may be a very long time before the bride sees her family and friends again.

*Does any specific dance elicit any strong emotion in you? Please write and share your feelings with our other readers.*

~ Sandy Helperin

In response to last month's question regarding an all-request program vs. a pre-planned one, I prefer a request program, if the person in charge is able to take the requests and turn them into a well-balanced program. It makes perfect sense to me that an evening of dancing is best if the dances are those the dancers desire to dance. The programmer could have a half dozen or so dances in mind to start off with, or to fill in when needed, but the program should fit the dancers. One of my favorite evenings of dance was one in which a mini-disc of newly learned dances was put on the player and allowed to run, uninterrupted. The group just danced one dance after the other and everyone seemed to be supercharged by the evening.

~ Sandy Helperin

*Here are other responses from last month's question regarding the use of pre-planned programs vs. request programs.*

Loui;

I enjoyed your article on 'Change of Program', and agree with you very strongly. Our club not only has weekly defined programs, but when there are 5 Fridays

in a month the last one is termed 'all-request'. The requests are made - I kid you not- three weeks ahead of the date. Then those requests are put into a defined program! In our defense however, we do make on-the-fly changes as conditions dictate.

One point you didn't raise is that running an all-request program is difficult, and not everyone can, or wants, to do it. When programs are set ahead, the creator can mull over the mix of dances, make changes, etc. Selecting the subsequent dance while one is playing creates pressure that many of our members don't want. When Folk Dance Scene has festivals, they are true request programs. But the two people doing it spend most of their time selecting dances and get very little time to dance.

~ Jay Michicom

Jay;

Managing an all-request program on the fly gets easier the more you do it. I know I used to sweat each and every selection. Now I am far less stressed. It's something like learning to play golf or drive a car -- at first you are conscious of every little nuance, afraid to make a mistake, second-guessing, hedging, etc.

If **Marcel Vinokur** has been able to run his monthly parties where he programs for TWO rooms simultaneously (one room is beginner/intermediate dances, the other room is for the intermediate/advanced dances), surely mere mortals can manage to program for one room and still have time to dance. Okay, you can't dance EVERY dance, and maybe not all the way through each dance, but you can still dance. I use a computer and I dance at least 70% of the time.

~ Loui Tucker

Dear Editor

I am writing to comment on Loui Tucker's article that was printed in the June 2007 issue of the Folk Dance Scene. Her discussion about evening dance programs at festivals is timely as the Statewide Festival in Oxnard was held a couple of weeks ago. Please keep in mind that I'm not criticizing the committee members who work extremely hard to produce these large and wonderful festivals. I thank them for their time, energy and commitment to promote folk dancing.

However, I would like to propose a few suggestions that could enhance the programming for the festivals' evening parties. The current pre-set program has been

# On the Scene

weekend on July 20-22, 2007. The event will be hosted by the Society of Danube-Swabians of Des Plaines, IL.

The focus of this weekend will be the dances of the early Youth Movement of the first two decades of the 20th century as well as community dances meant as social recreation and for participation by all ages and abilities. During the workshop, there will also be a 'Culture Corner', as well as a craft workshop for early arriving participants.

The instructor will be Helga Preuss, president of the 'Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkstanz e.V.' ('German Society for Folk Dance').

Since its inception the Federation has striven to provide German folk dance groups in the US with a common repertoire and information about the cultural history of the various German regions, both within Germany and the German communities outside its borders. The membership of the N.A.F.G.F.D.G consists of dancers from all walks of life and all aspects of the folk dance scene: German and international performance groups, college folk dance ensembles, recreational dancers- both German and international, as well as interested non- or occasional dancers. Group members are scattered all over the map from New England to the Pacific coast as well as Canada. There are also members in Japan.

The North-American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups is the North-American sector of the Society for Folk Dance in Germany. Recently, the Germans in Russia have joined the Society as the sector 'Siberia and Kazakhstan'. German folk dance groups in Brazil are scheduled to become members in 2008.

Since the organization's founding in 1994, delegates from the various member groups have represented the US sector three times at Federal Folk Dance Festivals in Germany. A fourth trip is planned to the Bundesvolkstanztreffen in Offenburg, Germany in 2008

~ Karin P. Goffier

## SUMMER DANCING IN SANTA ROSA

Hello, everyone! Please join us for drop-in summer dancing on Wednesdays from 7-9pm at the Santa Rosa Senior Center. Please note new day (Wednesday) and new place (S.R. Senior Center). The

meeting dates are July 11 (no dancing on July 4), 18, 25. The Senior Center is located at the corner of Bennett Valley Rd. and Rutledge.

Enter the parking lot from Rutledge. A \$4 donation is asked to cover rental and insurance. Gloria and friends will be in charge of the summer dancing as in the past. It will be an all-request program. Come see your friends and enjoy dancing on a great wooden floor this summer. Have a great summer!

~ Marilyn Smith

## CRUISING AND DANCING ON THE NORWEGIAN STAR

You asked for it and here it is, by popular request. We arranged for an 8 day cruise to Mexico on the Norwegian Star. The response has been great and reservations are coming in at a record breaking pace.

Our cruise departs from San Pedro and visits these wonderful ports of call: Acapulco, Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas. The Star is one of Norwegian Cruise Lines' newest ships. We look forward to our usual great time, visiting these interesting ports in Mexico, folk dancing on board, Broadway type shows, wonderful dining, and the many other activities offered on the ship and in port. We are fortunate to be able to do this in December. It is a wonderful time of year to go to Mexico. We dance a lot on board ship and have our own room for folk dancing, our own private cocktail party and much more. Remember, cruising includes all your meals, plus food available 24 hours a day. This is a casual ship that does not have required formal nights. You can leave your suits and ties and fancy dresses at home.

Get ready to take a luxurious cruise going all the way to Acapulco, for a very non-luxurious price. Don't wait. Cruises are very popular and in great demand and are selling out fast. With the wonderful response that we've already had, this cruise will fill up quickly.

Send in your deposit now to reserve your cabin. Deposits are fully refundable until the balance of the money is due in September.

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

~ Beverly & Irwin Barr

# Recent Events

## STRAWBERRY STATEWIDE IN OXNARD



WOW! What a wonderfully successful weekend of folk dance! "If you build it they will come," is the hope we held as we poured time, effort, money and desire into the making of Strawberry Statewide. To every one of you who helped build this, and to each of you who showed up, "Thank you!" We called it "Strawberry Statewide" because Oxnard is the

strawberry capital of California, if not the WORLD! Originally, we hoped to hold statewide the week end before Memorial Day, but we were quickly educated about the NON availability of hotel rooms anywhere in Ventura County then, because the "Strawberry Festival" held that same week end, brings in 200,000 people or MORE into the area, not only filling all hotel/motel vacancies, but filling them at top price! So, we waited, allowing the strawberries to grow even sweeter! They were sweet, indeed!

Friday night, statewide opening night, the dancing began with a great program, enhanced by **Fifth Friday**, a band of musician/folk dancers from the Pasadena Coop, who played two great sets for us! These musicians bring their dance tunes to the Coop several times a year-. every month that there happens to be a 5th Friday!

The Bazaar was full of exotic treasures displayed beautifully, and the patio held sweet and savory treats for those in need of a pick-me-up!

We were treated Saturday, to institutes by **Sonia, Cristian** and **Zeljko**. It doesn't get much better than that!

**Billy Burke** brought a group of his Middle School students to Saturday and Sunday events. These students were a perfect joy! What a breath of fresh air to dance next to lovely, considerate 7th graders who clearly love to folk dance and who have obviously

gleaned much from their mentor!!!! It was a delight to have them amongst us! I especially enjoyed the glimpse of Billy Burke's dancing ability, flair and talent! I have seen his "kids" dance before, but this was my first experience with him on the dance floor! I'm sure I wasn't the only one watching him "gypsy!" WOWZA!



Our statewide committee had agreed to allow all "students" to attend statewide free of charge. I would love to have seen more students like the ones Billy Burke brought to us! Saturday night, along with dancing and live music by **Interfolk**, we were regaled by the incredibly exciting dance exhibitions from **Claddagh** and that pinniped Finnish couple dance, **Hylkeenhytpely**, danced with flawless flipperwork by **Stephanie** and **David**!

We also enjoyed an ice cream sundae social, with (guess what!?) **Strawberries!!!!** Thank you, Ethnic Express from Las Vegas, for volunteering and doing an expert job of handling the ice cream sundaes!!!!



Sunday included more institutes, reviews, and the incredible live music provided by the captivating all women band, **Eastern Exposure**. Look out for this group!!!! They are bound to make a splash! Oooooons!

What lovely vocal harmonies!!!! Sonia and Cristian performed for us an exhilarating Romanian dance...

THE FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH, INC  
PRESENTS

## CAMP HESS KRAMER WORKSHOP WEEKEND "CAMPS REVIEW"

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# Ethnic Food

## TEX-MEX RECIPES

This month I ran out of time and have not tried these recipes. I plan on doing so, but if you try them before I do, please write to us and let us know how they turned out! If you don't do too well with spicy foods, cut down on the amounts of chiles in the recipes!

- *Sandy Helperin*

### Texas Caviar

2 cups black-eyed peas (either freshly cooked or canned)  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 small can of chopped green chiles (or a couple of fresh, chopped chiles, according to how hot you like it)  
dash of cayenne pepper  
2 tablespoons minced onion  
2 tablespoons minced celery  
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon fresh, minced cilantro (or more)  
2 roma tomatoes, diced

Drain peas, rinse with cold water, and drain again. Combine olive oil, chiles, cayenne, onion, celery, vinegar, salt and pepper. Mix well and pour over peas. Stir gently and refrigerate several hours or overnight. Add tomatoes and cilantro just before serving, mixing carefully.

From [www.texmex.net](http://www.texmex.net)

### Smoky Tomatillo Salsa

1 pound tomatillos, husked  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1/4 cup finely chopped red onion  
1/2 cup fresh chopped cilantro  
2 canned chipotle chiles, finely chopped  
1 tablespoon white vinegar  
1 teaspoon dried Mexican oregano  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Heat broiler and cover a baking sheet with foil. Broil the tomatillos for about 15 minutes, 5-6 inches from the flame, turning occasionally. Cool and chop finely. Warm olive oil in a skillet and sauté the onion until softened. Combine onion and tomatillos in a bowl and stir in the remaining ingredients.

Serve warm or cold.

From [www.texmex.net](http://www.texmex.net)

### Black Bean Cakes And Mango Salsa

2-3 onions, cut  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 cloves garlic

3/4 cup carrots, cut  
1 jalapeno pepper  
1 teaspoon each, cumin and coriander  
1/4 teaspoon hot pepper flakes  
2 15-ounce cans black beans, or freshly cooked

Saute onion until browned, adding garlic and carrots as it cooks. Wash, seed and mince pepper, and add half along with cumin, coriander, and pepper flakes, to onion mixture.

Rinse and drain beans and stir into onion mixture, heating well. Puree in food processor, adding a little water if too thick. Shape into patties. Brown in skillet (or bake) and serve with mango salsa.

### Mango Salsa

2 ripe mangoes  
1/2 jalapeno  
1 small red onion  
1 tablespoon lime juice  
10 sprigs cilantro  
Dice all ingredients and mix together.  
From [www.ivu.org/recipes/mexican/](http://www.ivu.org/recipes/mexican/)

### Jalapeno Cornbread

1 1/4 cups yellow corn meal  
1 1/4 cups flour  
1 level tablespoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon paprika  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 well beaten egg  
2/3 cup milk  
1/2 cup evaporated milk  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1 15-ounce can creamed style corn  
4 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons chopped onion  
3 jalapeno chiles, chopped, or a 4-ounce can of chopped green chiles  
3 tablespoons chopped pimento  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Combine egg, milks, oil and corn and add to dry ingredients. In a saucepan, melt butter and sauté onions, chiles, and pimento until tender. Add to bowl and gently mix to combine.

Add cheese and blend in. Pour into a buttered 8 inch square pan and bake in a preheated 400-degree oven for 35 minutes. Cool and cut.

From [RecipeDude.com](http://RecipeDude.com).

# Recent Events

How DO they DO that????? WOW!!!! And later, **Vislanie** from San Diego, gave us the gift of their last public performance. Whoa. Those kids were exceptional!!!! I know that at least some of them will go on to perform with other professional folk dance exhibition groups.

As chair of statewide, 2007, I wish to thank the people whose hard work and talents made this adventure a success!



Strawberry Statewide committee: **Lynn and Rick Bingle, Steve and Cathee Himel, Marsha Fenner, Cheryl Cates, Gordon and Carol Wall, Victoria Robinson, Beverly and Irwin Barr, Marge Gajicki, Sylvia Stachura, Gerda Ben-Zeev, Ann Armstrong, Laura Bremer, Jeanne Cate, Georgina Sham, Karen Wilson-Bell and Ann Zacher.** I could not have pulled off any kind of festival without these people. If I had to list everything these outstanding volunteers did for statewide, we'd never make it out of this "re-cap." Strawberry hat in hand, I bow deeply, thanking you all from the bottom of my heart. (I wish I could say that like Sonia does!)

I am also indebted to the helpers of this committee, especially **Bob and Gerri Alexander and Marshall Cates**, (who I tried to give a "statewide break" to, but found myself more than once in need of his wisdom and experience!)

Another deep bow to **Susan Gregory.** Thank you, Susan, for the work you did to get Strawberry Statewide a website and keeping it beautifully informational!!!! You are a dream to work with (and

dance with!) I will never forget your generosity! Thanks to Loui, too, for helping us with the music clip! It was a great way to connect North and South in the statewide mechanics, and I pledge to be of service, if I may, to the North next year.

I hope you all purchased a Strawberry Statewide T-shirt! There are very few left! Thank you, **Marsha**, for these lovely keepsake/mementos!

A big "Thank You" to **Ted and Carol Martin** for the use and impeccable running of their state-of-the-art sound system. This is an extremely stressful job, and I am ever-so-grateful to them for this undertaking.

Thank you to the Ojai folk dancers responsible for the cut-out dancing figures that graced our patio! They were superbly done! These had been made for a statewide held in Ojai, years ago, and lovingly loaned to us.

Another BIG thank you to Lynn B and Ann Z for knitting all of those strawberry hats! Did anyone notice the Mr. and Mrs. Strawberry (formerly recognized as Mr. and Mrs. Banana,) dancing a strawberry square? HEY! I did! (Of course, I was THERE!) Thanks to Laura B for gathering up all of us "strawberries" to dance together! By the way, the two hats that didn't get sold were donated to children cancer patients.

I missed seeing so many of my Northern dance friends who couldn't make it. That is the only regret I have for the weekend, but I will hopefully see them at Stockton!

With love,

- *Valerie Daley*



## Recent Events

### FIRE-WALKING AT KYPSELI

At Kypseli, the Greek folkdance club meeting every Friday night in Pasadena at 2031 E. Villa St., we tried some fire-walking on May 18th.

**Louise Bilman** explained that there are villages in Northern Greece where people dance over hot embers on May 21-23 to honor Saints Constantine and Helen. Some say a 13th century fire burned down a church, but the people rescued the icons from the blaze and the icons were unharmed. To celebrate, the villagers build a fire and burn it down to embers.



photo courtesy of Jerome Yeats/Alamy

Animals were slaughtered, and the roasted meat was shared. Then they danced barefoot over the embers believing the saints would give protection. All was supervised by an *Archanasteneris*. The fire-walkers are *Anestenerides*. Folklorists have traced the practice to Eastern Thrace, part of which is now in Bulgaria and part in Turkey.

**Marty Koenig** taught a *Nestinarsko Horo* to folkdancers in 1968. The Strandzha region on the Black Sea may be the source. The fire-dance is traditionally done to gaida (bagpipe) and daiuli (big 2 headed drum).

On May 18th we set up candles on a bed of foil. **Preston** was the Pseudo-Archanasteneris. To his surprise, no one joined him in dancing with the actual fire! He said he did not burn his feet, although he was very sweaty by the time it was over. We let the candles cool and came back to America slowly.

Is it a trance? An act of faith? A revival of ancient Dionysian revels? The music is vivid and haunting.

— *Nancy Milligan and Preston Ashbourne*

### JOHN FILCICH AT CALTECH

John Filcich has been going home to Croatia for Carnival, returning here after Easter. Home is Croatia now, but the same village has been in Yugoslavia, Italy and Austria, depending on changing political borders.

In June he dropped in at Caltech and taught some dances. What a treat!

When he isn't teaching, it's great to dance next to him. I learn things that way too. Some are subtle. Like food, if you get the flavor and texture right it's more fun.

What he had for us this time was *Biseranjski Drmes*, named for a village near Zagreb. *Biser* is a pearl, the *j* is like English *y*, *nj* is like the *ni* in junior. *Drmes* is a dance with shaking. The *r* is rolled and the *sh* is as in shaking. The dancers make small circles, holding hands, actually middle fingers, in a front basket hold, left hand under, tight hand over. When we were resistant, John, though over 80 years old now, just insisted on it! There's a shaking step in place and a traveling step to the left and then to the right. This *drmes* is easier than others in our repertory, a good addition. It has plenty of Croatian flavor and texture. He had 2 versions of the music, one played by a tamburitza band and one with fiddles. That's a hard choice. Maybe he'll release a CD with both.

Toward the end of the evening we did *Veliko Kolo*, a dance forever associated with John. We used his CD at John's Kolo Party, which reminded me of the Tamburitza Extravaganza, which will be in Reno in 2007. Call John at Festival Records, (323) 737-3500 for more information.

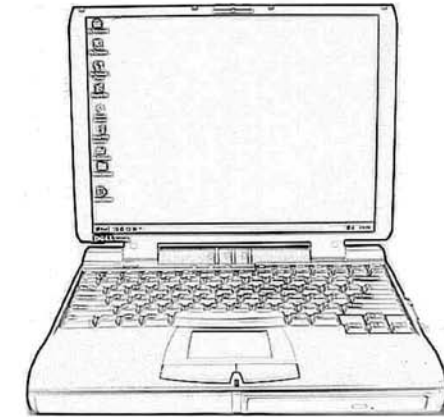
Caltech folkdancing is Tuesday night at Throop Church, 300 South Los Robles near Cal Tech campus, Pasadena. We're planning a Tamburitza night for August or September. You can call me at (626) 797-5157.

— *Nancy Milligan*



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