



# Folk Dance Scene



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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, lore and culture of the peoples of the world. It is designed to inform them of the opportunities to experience folk dance and culture in Southern California and elsewhere.

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**ADVERTISING:** Ads must be consistent with the purposes of the magazine, accompanied by full payment, and either camera ready on bright white paper or in 300 dpi electronic format (TIF, JPG, or PDF). Ads that are not camera ready will be returned.

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*On the cover: Two traditional Christmas/New Years folk figures in Belarus, Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden.*



# Folk Dance Scene

Volume 54, No. 10  
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## Editors' Corner

Our cover story honors the darkest days of the year, as celebrated in Belarus, and is followed by costumes, both thanks to Elizabeth (Betchen) Barber.

Statewide features Mihai David.

Check On the Scene, Calendar, and ads for events you may choose to attend.

Herietta Bemis is remembered in Poetry Corner and Recent Events.

The destruction of Camp Hess Kramer is pictured in On the Scene and Recent Events. May the phoenix rise from the ashes!

Be of good cheer.

*Pat Cross and Don Krotser*

# The Corner

At the recent Federation Council meeting, the dearth of donations via AmazonSmile was bemoaned. Some of us are sad that all/many Amazon purchases have not resulted in a donation to the Federation.

The problem is simple. If purchases are not from [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), they don't help any charity.

When I shop Amazon, I sometimes see a prompt by Amazon asking me if I want to go to Smile, but not always.

Why was my browser add-on not automatically redirecting my browser (Mozilla) to Smile from any Amazon page?

What happened to my "set it and forget it" solution?

How does one ensure they are shopping from Smile? I hoped to find a simple solution.

Solutions - One must deliberately navigate to Smile or use a bookmark for Smile – unless their browser supports an add-on/extension that redirects to Smile. Currently, it appears that only Google Chrome has such an add-on.

Below is what you need to do.

*MIndy Belli*

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*The Corner is continued on page 24.*

*For information about dancing in the area, contact the Federation at the Federation website: [SoCalFolkdance.org](http://SoCalFolkdance.org)*

# BELARUS

It's Christmas time: Imagine a furry beast—actually a villager well wrapped in sheepskins—galumphing up to your door. His face is blackened with soot, and he has straw horns shaped like a goat's tied upon his head. Moving this "goat" along is a ragged "grandpa" wearing a great birchbark mask with a beet for a nose and a hank of flax for a beard. A band of singers follows. (Midwinter actors traditionally present themselves as anonymous, faceless, because they are carrying out age-old rituals of renewing life, not for *themselves* but for the good of the whole village. *And* it is bad luck to say anything if you figure out who they are!) Upon entering, "grandpa" clowns around with the owner of the house, making everyone laugh—laughter is life-affirming—then he starts beating the "goat," who promptly falls over dead. Meanwhile the choristers sing, and when they come to a line about the goat reviving, it suddenly jumps up, springing back to life. The song ends with:

*Where the goat treads,  
There the wheat grows!  
With each flick of his tail,  
A whole sheaf appears,  
With each footfall,  
A shock of grain arises!*

At midwinter, the fields and forests of northern Europe seem totally dead, but with any luck (and a good dose of analogical magic) all will spring back to life in... well, in Spring. Just like the ritual goat.

Belarus (see **Map**), like most of Europe, has long celebrated the "Twelve Days of Christmas," which run from Christmas Eve, December 24, until Epiphany, January 6, the darkest, deadiest period of the year, the winter solstice. (Those, at any rate, are the dates for Catholics and Protestants; but the Orthodox—a majority in Belarus—still use the Julian calendar, which is now 13 days behind the



**Map of Belarus**, showing its position between Russia and Poland. The people of Belarus speak their own language, a type of East Slavic like Russian and Ukrainian (Polish belongs to West Slavic). All these dialect divisions go back to the separation of early Slavic tribes in the first millennium AD, Belarus descending from the Dregovich tribe, which settled in this area.

Gregorian; so Julian Christmas falls on Gregorian January 7.) Last December we looked at Swedish midwinter customs, which focus on bringing back the light. A bit farther south, in fact through much of Europe, the emphasis is on bringing back what will maintain life more directly: the crops.

Large furry beasts abound during the Twelve Days, not just in Belarus. In some areas the beasts are seen as evil spirits coming to steal the village's fertility, as for example the ferocious *kallikántzaroi* of Greece, who must be tricked and kept at bay until the holy Epiphany forces them back to the spirit-world. Elsewhere, a Hero character must vanquish the Beast character (masked villagers, both) in a mock battle, as in Thrace and Bulgaria. Or scary "good" creatures (agile village lads with scary masks) roam the countryside, frightening off the evil spirits (and citizens too!) by their noisy passage, as in Austria, Switzerland, parts of Germany, and Wales. Householders protect themselves by putting out the lights and hiding in bed after setting out propitiatory goodies, such as milk and cookies, next to possible points of entry like the door and chimney. (Sound familiar? That custom started with the Romans and became pan-European.)

But in Belarus the male spirit-creature is seen as beneficent, bringing the *seed* of life in the winter. (Then you have to wait through months of hidden gestation before you begin to see the results—with women, the bulge of the baby; with crops, the sprouting of the seed-corn sown the previous fall. So in the spring and summer, fertility becomes the concern of *female* spirit-creatures.) The "goat's" entourage, the traditional crowd of singers or carolers, often dress in costumes to help scare away the lurking evil spirits. The songs sung are called *kaliady* (Russian *koliády*), a word going all the way back to Latin *calendae* "first day of the month" (whence our word *calendar*). Originally, apparently, these magical carols were performed on the first day of January, which was also the first day of the New Year, to secure a new "lease" of fertility for rich harvests over the next year and to help scare off the demons so they couldn't follow us through the narrow time-portal into the next year. Now the songs are performed all through the Twelve Days, which are viewed as a celebration of both New Year and Christmas (New Year became all the more important when the Soviets suppressed Christmas), and indeed the word *Kaliady* now refers to the whole 12-day celebration.



**Fig. 1:** Woman in typical Belarusian costume offering bread and salt to guests.

If analogical magic to produce abundance is effective, then it must be carried out in as many ways as possible to bring as much plenty as possible. Since food is what is needed most, the tables are laden with food to show the possibly dim-witted spirits what is wanted! Thus at each house, the *kaliady*-singers are loaded with all sorts of snacks and goodies for their efforts, beyond the usual bread and salt given to guests (**Fig. 1**). Three feasts in particular, called *Kućcia* or *Kutsia*, are traditional. The first is on Christmas Eve, at the start of *Kaliady*, when the table is set with a

cloth over a pad of straw in honor of Jesus’s manger. Here one must serve 12 different dishes, in honor of the 12 Apostles, but none of them red meat—thus fish, vegetables, pancakes, mushrooms, oat porridge, and so on. The last dish is *kutsia* itself (Russian *kutiá*), made from wheat, honey, poppy seeds, raisins, and nuts (**Fig. 2**). A spoonful of this porridge is always set out on the doorstep for the spirit of winter, and the remains of the feast are left on the table till morning for the ancestors to come and partake. The second Kutsia feast occurs on New Year’s Eve, when all foods are welcome; and the third is on the eve of Epiphany, the last day of the great midwinter festival.



**Fig. 2:** The most essential part of the holiday feasts, the *kućcia* or *kutsia*, a sort of porridge made from many of the most important grains, fruits, and nuts—an agrarian custom traceable back for millennia.

During Soviet times, Christian customs were replaced with modern versions of much older folk traditions. In particular, gift-bringing St. Nicholas, our “Santa Claus,” was replaced with gift-bringing *Dzed Maroz* (Russian *Ded Moróz*), literally “Grandfather Frost,” and a female companion *Sneguróchka* or “Snow Maiden,” the former dressed in red, the latter in powder blue and white (**cover photo**). Hundreds of such pairs dress up during Kaliady and parade together through the streets of the cities (**Fig. 3**), to help welcome in the New Year. May you, too, have a happy one!

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber

**Fig. 3:** In Belarus during the Twelve Days of Christmas, couples dress up as Grandfather Frost and The Snow Maiden and have a grand parade through the streets (in this case, in Vitebsk).



Pasadena Folk Dance  
Co-Op's  
Winter Festival

1:30-5:30

JANUARY 20, 2019

Scottish Rite Center  
150 North Madison  
Pasadena

MUSIC BY

FIFTH FRIDAY

Desserts and Savories

Dance list available after December 1  
[PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org](http://PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org)

\$10.00

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*Sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South*

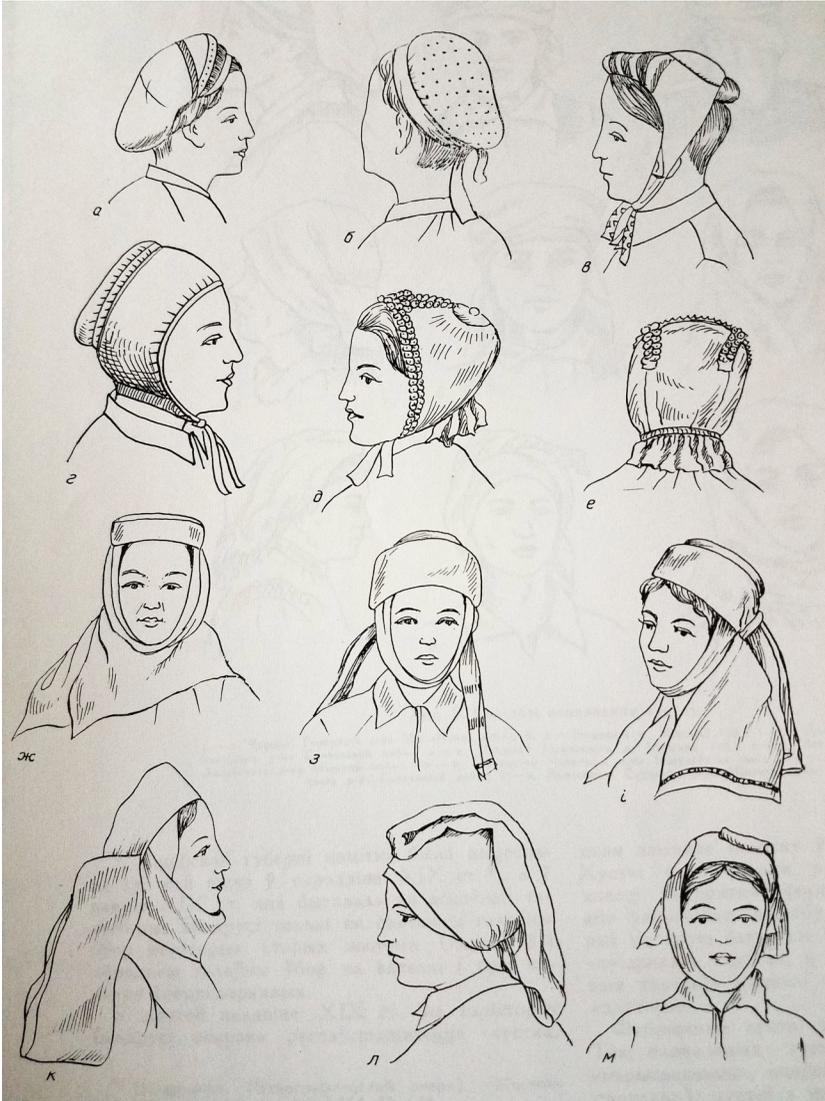
# COSTUME CORNER

## BELARUS

Compared to the costumes of others around them, the traditional costumes of most Belarusians glisten with a great deal of white, so much so that some think the name came from this very fact: *Bela-rus* literally means “White Russia.” Certainly the basic garment is a long-tailed white linen shirt for men and a white linen

chemise for women, often with a white apron and white headdress, any or all of which may be decorated with flashes of bright red. In some areas, the men even wear white pants, and the winter coat is often white. Living at about the northernmost limit of where flax can be grown, the “White Russians” were very proud of their flax, whitening it in the sun and hand-spinning and weaving it up lovingly for use in culturally and ritually significant ways.

The women’s costumes (as so often in Europe) differed widely from village to village, to the point that one could tell by the clothes exactly where a girl came from. Much of this variation resulted from political history and the constant readjustments of both political and religious borders. Thus the central and western regions share garment-types and silhouettes with Poland to the west, the southern strip with Ukraine to the south, the northwest with Lithuania and Scandinavia beyond, and the northern sector with North Great Russia to the northeast. So it’s in the southeast, especially in the old province of Eastern Palesie (Homiejskaja on the



**Fig. 1:** A dozen ways of tying your namitka.



**Fig. 2:** Woman from Turaŭ area wearing halovačka headdress, made from a namitka wrapped over a huge frame.

map in the lead article), that we find a concentration of archaic and characteristically Belarusian garments.

One of these is the *namitka* or *namétka*, literally “covering,” which covers a woman’s head. If unmarried, the girl’s hair shows; in some areas her *namitka* is a simple rectangle hanging far down her back like a filmy white veil. If married, however, the woman’s hair traditionally had to be covered completely (as was true in most of Europe for millennia), and each area has its own and often very complex way of tying the linen strip around the head (**Fig. 1**). In many areas, the ends are elaborately embroidered or woven with colorful designs, red and black predominating. One particular headdress is famous for the huge frame over which it is tied (**Fig. 2**).

Another interesting and very ancient garment is a sort of back-apron called a *panióva*. It is traditionally awarded to the girl when she reaches puberty, serving as a visible sign that she is now able to bear children and thus may be sought as a bride. In Belarus, Ukraine, and South Great Russia, this *paniova* is a rectangle of cloth always woven with stripes that usually intersect as squares (details vary by local tradition). In most areas, the *paniova* is simply wrapped around behind, left open in front, and tied at the waist. Another quite different apron is then tied across the front.

Sometimes the *paniova* is so large that its corners are tucked up into the waistband, showing the white chemise underneath (**Fig. 3**; and similarly tucked, for example, in Oryol, South Great Russia, and in Šumadija, Serbia).

But in the extreme

southeast corner of Belarus, in Nehlubka, the women took to tying one checkered *paniova* at a jaunty angle in the very back, and another of the same pattern hung straight, but in front, with a plain dark front-apron lashed squarely on top of everything (**Fig. 4**).

Also characteristic of women’s costumes in Belarus, as well as in Lithuania, is a multicolored woven sash that ends in a cascade of fringes or pompoms, another ancient symbol of the woman’s ability to bear children.



**Fig. 3:** Women wearing paniova (special back-apron) tucked up behind: from Kalinkavičy (left) and Brahin (right).

In fact, boys used to tease the girls as to whether their sashes were “bushy” yet!

Anyone interested in studying the costumes of Belarus would do well to look at the carefully illustrated book by Michaś Ramaniuk (*Belarusian National Dress*, 2003; text in English, French, German, and Belarusian), the result of 25 years of painstaking research and the source of the color illustrations here.

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber



**Fig. 4:** Women from Nehlubka wearing the paniova in a unique way.

# STATEWIDE 2019

## MIHAI DAVID, STATEWIDE 2019 TEACHER, RECOUNTS HIS LIFE IN DANCE

Where and when did we first dance *Florica Oltenasca*? How did those challenging steps become a favorite of recreational dancers? What was Mihai David's first teaching gig in the US? How did he become a dancer? These are questions I had in mind as I chatted with Mihai this month.

First he responded to inquiries about his Romanian childhood. As landowners his family would have been sent from Besarabia to Siberia in 1944 when the Communist regime came to power. Wisely, his parents and relatives relocated to Bucharest, where Mihai was born. He began to study dance at age 8, was accepted into the School of Choreography, rehearsed with the amateur ensemble "UTM," performed with the ensemble Ciprian Porumbescu, then with the Romanian State Folk Ballet Ciocarlia while still a student. Joining the Music Hall Ensemble provided Mihai the opportunity to tour internationally in 1966. The last stop on the tour was Italy, and since he spoke Italian, Mihai seized the chance to request political asylum. Upon learning that he was a professional dancer the US Department of State sent Mihai to Boston, home of the Boston Ballet, and thought to be one of the most "cultured" cities in the USA. Two ladies in an impressively long car collected him at the airport for transfer to a boarding house. Almost immediately he received a Social Security card, got hired by the ballet and was assigned a draft number. His ambition was not to be a ballet dancer, so when the Boston Ballet closed for the season, and the draft board sent a notice to enlist, Mihai accepted an invitation to move to Buffalo, NY. Friends of a friend offered to teach him the craft of diamond cutting while he worked in their family jewelry factory. Mihai progressed rapidly from "sander/buffer" to diamond setting, but manufacturing jewelry was not his career goal, and the draft board had ferreted out his new address. Time to move on!

Mihai caught a flight to Detroit, home of a large Romanian diaspora. Dressed in a

striking new suit, he asked a waitress to direct him to the Romanian church. The priest, confusing "choreographer" with "typographer," and needing some manuscripts printed, invited Mihai to move in with his family and get to work. Fortunately, the priest also needed a choreographer/soloist. After Sunday service the priest took Mihai to the basement and said, "Show me what you've got!" The priest was elated with the impromptu exhibition. The Romanian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity sponsored a dance ensemble that participated annually in a spring competition between all the Eastern Orthodox churches in the Midwest. Mihai trained the ensemble, choreographed two suites, and performed as soloist in the competition. Holy Trinity received the loudest ovation and took home the trophy, which heretofore had been won by the Russians. The priest was ecstatic! Mihai was bored. His ambition was not to perform with a church ensemble, and besides, the draft board had his Detroit address.

In 1968 Mihai drove west in an underpowered American Motors Javelin. He found work in Las



Vegas, dancing a sensuous pas de deux on stage with a talented partner, both scantily dressed. When the bartender's union went on strike, thus closing Vegas clubs, Mihai visited California. He dropped into a festival in San Diego and performed a Transylvanian solo, *Dans din Oas*, wearing boots borrowed from a Gandy Dancer. In 1969 he taught *Rustemul, Cimpoi* and *Mindrele* at Kolo Fest. During a break Madelyn Taylor said, "These are easy dances; show us something flashy!" Someone put the needle on a recording of music from Oltenia. Mihai launched into showy kicks, stamps & clicks like he had performed on stage with Ciocarlia. Mady shouted, "I want to learn that!" And, she did, but later, at Zorba's after Mihai assembled the steps for the second half of *Florica Oltenasca*.

Alas the draft notices caught up with him again. He had failed the English exam on a prior induction test and had avoided draft notices by giving the draft board an address in the Bay Area (Sunni Boland's) while working in Las Vegas. Mihai passed the English test in 1970, was bussed to Fort Ord for basic training, and assigned to military police school in Augusta, GA. He opted for something more exciting—paratrooper! Not being a fool, nor "bird shit," he soon realized that dropping out of the sky was not his life ambition and returned to the military police assignment. Mihai could run a 5-minute mile, and could imagine himself enforcing, rather than breaking, the law. In Augusta he even found time to take some dance classes with Edward Vilella before the Army sent him to keep the peace on a base in Maryland. There he was "discovered" by Phyllis Diamond, who ran a folkdance club in Bethesda, MD, and directed the holiday dance camp Buffalo Gap in the boondocks of West Virginia. She invited him to visit camp while on leave. Subsequently Mihai was featured as instructor for numerous Buffalo Gap Folk Dance Camps.

President Nixon terminated Mihai's army career after just 19 months by announcing that military service in the US would be voluntary. Mihai did not volunteer; the Army was not his life ambition. In 1971 he drove a '56 Jaguar to California and found his way to the Intersection for Wednesday evening Balkan dancing. Ruby Vuceta invited him to teach at the Intersection and also at her Hollywood Playground classes. Dances taught at his first gig included *Bruil lui Tosca* and *Tarina de la Abrud*. His career as a featured folk

dance teacher at camps and clubs—Zorba's, Café Dansa, Gypsy Camp-- flourished. Concurrently Mihai studied acting at the LA Theatre of Arts, under the direction of Madame Oleska. Fortunately for us folk dancers, Mihai found no time to audition while running Gypsy Camp. Otherwise Mihai might be remembered for B movies instead of exciting dances.

His life purpose is dance. Performing on stage as a child, Mihai found the audience response intoxicating. The magic has continued through many years of performing and teaching crowds of eager dancers around the world. The magic will continue at Statewide 2019 in Claremont, CA. **Which dances from Mihai's repertoire would you like new members of your local club to learn? Please suggest dances for Mihai to teach at Ethnic Treasures Statewide Festival to [vicepresident@socalfolkdance.org](mailto:vicepresident@socalfolkdance.org). See you in Claremont May 31, 2019!**

- Diane Baker



### *Let's Dance!*

The Magazine of International Folk Dance

Join the Folk Dance Federation of California and receive *Let's Dance!* 10 issues for \$35/year

### **The where, when, how and who of International Folk Dancing**

Membership application available on line at [www.folkdance.com](http://www.folkdance.com). Pay on-line or send application with check to Alicia LaFetra, Membership, 1614 Peacock Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94087

# CALENDAR

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Note: Federation events are in bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

## DECEMBER

**6 Loui Tucker teaching at Westwood Coop,**  
7:30 at 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.  
A. Info: rwsklar@yahoo.com,  
310.657.6877.

**7 Loui Tucker teaching at West Valley, 7:15 at**  
7326 Jordan, Canoga Park. Info:  
Lila@Aurich.com, 818.348.6133

9 *First Sunday Dance Project in Ventura*  
\*\*\*\*\*cancelled\*\*\*\*\*. See OTS

**14 Holiday Party with live music at Kypseli.**  
See OTS.

**31 New Year's Eve party hosted by Pasadena**  
Co-op. 7:30-10:30 (Chicago New Year's  
time). See OTS and ad.

## 2019

### JANUARY

**20 Winter Festival, hosted by Pasadena Co-**  
op. 1:30-5:30 at Scottish Rite Center, 150  
N. Madison, Pasadena. Live music by Fifth  
Friday. Desserts and savories. See OTS  
and ad.

### FEBRUARY

15 *Ahmet Luleci teaching at LIFE*, 8:00 at 10936  
Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A. Info:  
www.lifebalkandancers.com,  
worldance1@gmail.com

**16 Lunar New Year Festival. Ahmet Luleci and**  
Evren Soytopcu Kiyak teaching. At  
Cerritos Sr. Ctr. Save the date!

**17 Ahmet Luleci teaching at Laguna Int'l**  
*Dancers*, at 24112 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna  
Woods. Info:7kahnmiriam@gmail.com,  
949.770.7026.

**19 Ahmet Luleci teaching at Tuesday Gypsies.**  
7:45 at 9635 Venice Blvd., Culver City.  
Info: sandyhelperin@icloud.com,  
310.391.7382

### MARCH

**1-3 Laguna Festival with Steve Kotansky,**  
Bata Marcetic. Save the date! See ad.

### MAY

**31-6/2 Statewide 2019, at Edmunds Ballroom**  
on the Pomona College Campus in  
Claremont. See article.

### OUT OF STATE

#### FLORIDA

2/8-11 *Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Weekend*  
*Workshop*. Clarion Orlando Airport Hotel.  
Turkish dances with Ahmet Luleci and Evren  
Soytopcu Kiyak and Macedonian dances with  
Vlasto Petrovski. Contact: Terry at  
tabrahams@tampabay.rr.com or  
www.folkdance.org.

#### NEW YORK

5/10-12 *International Folkdance Camp*, Friday –  
Sunday, at Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction, NY.

### FOREIGN

#### ADRIATIC

6/1-15 *Adriatic Cruise*, with Dance on the Water.  
Save the date! Info: 510.549.0037 or  
www.folkdanceonthewater.org

#### MACEDONIA

12/24/18-1/2/19 *Folklore tour of Mavrovo & Skopje*.  
For more information and registrations write to  
orovodec55@gmail.com



49th Annual  
**LAGUNA FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL**

**CLUBHOUSE 2**

24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

**MARCH 1-3, 2019**

(Friday thru Sunday)



Rec. Dept. Approved

*Gate clearance needed unless pre-registering. Please:*

email [Zkahnmiriam@gmail.com](mailto:Zkahnmiriam@gmail.com) or call cell: (949) 680-9946; home: (949) 770-7026  
*"for Laguna Woods Village residents and their guests only"*

**Master Teachers:**

**STEVE KOTANSKY**  
 International Folk Dances

*You will be  
 welcomed by  
 MADISON  
 AVENUE FOLK*

**BATA MARCETIĆ**  
 Dances from Serbia

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Live music Saturday and Sunday  
**MIAMON MILLER & FRIENDS**  
 and singalongs with  
**MICHAEL LAWSON**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**FRIDAY** evening doors open 7:15 PM for live music & dancing.

7:40-11:40 Teaching by Steve and Bata + live music & dancing.....\$25

**SATURDAY** workshops 9:00-12:00 and 1:10-5:00.....\$45

Saturday **DANCE PARTY** (Dinner must be ordered separately) 5:15-11:40..... \$30

**SUNDAY** all day 9:45AM-5:00PM including Concert from 1:00-2:00.....\$30  
 live music "MIAMON & FRIENDS"; (Dance Concert FREE by itself)

**PASSPORTS:**

**HOTEL INFO:** Ayres Hotel, walking distance - discounts

for "Laguna Woods Groups" (price includes full hot breakfast) - CALL (949) 588-0131

*All events: \$90 prepaid, (\$110 at the door)*  
**DEADLINE TO PREPAY:**  
**FEB.20**  
*Dance descriptions: free downloads*

**Catered food available on site - orders must be placed by Feb. 20, using registration form**

.....  
**Advance Passport and/or Meal Registration (register individually)**  
.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ meals may be ordered  
Passport All events.....\$90.-  
Saturday lunch.....\$12   
Saturday dinner....\$17   
Sunday lunch.....\$13   
passport

**Catered Meals on site - Menu:**  
**Sat. lunch:** Russian salad; breaded chicken schnitzel, lemon wedge, mashed potatoes; rolls & butter; Serbian chocolate balls  
**Sat. dinner:** Serbian salad, cucu,feta, tom, green onion dressing; white fish cooked Greek way; Serbian cevabci - gravy, Serbian cabbage; rolls&butter; Serbian walnut pie  
**Sun. lunch:** tossed green salad, dressing on side; vegetable frittata; fresh fruit platter; Italian bread sticks; lemon meringue pie

**Total check \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
Free late snacks and wine  
Fri. & Sat. night

Your email address (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mail with check payable to Laguna International Dancers (before Feb. 20) to:**Folk Dance Festival 5483 C Paseo del Lago W. Laguna Woods CA 92637

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** [www.lagunainternationaldancers.com](http://www.lagunainternationaldancers.com)  
Visit "Laguna International Dancers" on Facebook

"Laguna International Dancers" is a member Club of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

# ON THE SCENE

## NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

December 6 & 13 Stockton Camp Dances.

December 20 We will review *Jingle Bells* and *Happy New Year* to bring in the holidays.

December 27 Narodni's annual Holiday party: an all request evening. Deck yourself out in things that are red, green, and sparkly and perhaps unload a few holiday sugar plums.

2019 Déjà Vu Month. We will welcome in the new year by featuring dances we have learned in the last year by the "Country of the Month."

January 3 – Dances of Bulgaria

January 10 – Dances of Romania

January 17 – Dances of Greece

January 24 – Dances of Russia

January 31 – T-Shirt Night. Wear your Narodni T-shirt and get in for \$3.00 instead of \$4. This will be an all-request evening.

Our regular meeting night is Thursdays at the Bellflower Woman's Club from 7:30 to 10:30. If you want to get on the mailing list to receive our weekly email announcements, you can sign up at [narodni@callicomp.info](mailto:narodni@callicomp.info).

For more information contact Julith Neff at (562) 881-9504 (cell). You can also visit our website at [www.narodni.org](http://www.narodni.org) for basic information.

*Julith Neff*

## KYSELI PRESENTS LIVE MUSIC

Kypseli Greek Dance Center will celebrate the holidays with a live music evening featuring well-loved musicians Alekos Galas on bouzouki, Dimitar Bogdanov on clarinet, Dimitris Papakosta on keyboard plus singer Takis Kokotas Stathoulis on December 14. This group appears at major Greek festivals around the state and in various clubs and special occasions. *Mezedes* (appetizers) will be served. Live music will be interspersed with recorded traditional Greek folk dance selections. Program starts at 8:30 PM. No class that evening. Admission is \$20. Kypseli meets in the Tango Room at 4346 Woodman Avenue in Sherman Oaks. Parking in front and back of the venue. For additional information see [www.kypseli.org](http://www.kypseli.org) or write to [xorepse@gmail.com](mailto:xorepse@gmail.com).

*Jozef Bilman*

## VENTURA FIRST SUNDAY DANCE PROJECT CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER

Valerie Daley has had to cancel the December 9 First Sunday Dance Project in Ventura. The site where it was to be held is having some renovations and is not available. Stay tuned for later dates.

## WANT A MIDWEEK AFTERNOON BOOST?

Join the Mountain Dancers on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month. New dances are taught, and some familiar dances are reviewed, every session

You'll find us at the South Pasadena Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave.

It's \$5.00 for the session, from 1:30 to 3:00, followed by free refreshments.

For more information, call Roz Witt, at 626-797-4453.

## NEW WEBSITE

Here's a "new" website for your consideration: [sfdh.org](http://sfdh.org)

It is the website for the Society of Folk Dance Historians (SFDH) in Austin, Texas (Ron Houston, director). I have been working on the site since July. We finally got it up on the same web host as the Federation (Dreamhost). Still have some work to do, but it's now up on the web.

*Dick Oakes*

## PASADENA NEWS

We looked and looked and begged and pleaded, but we could not find a place for a traditional New Year's Eve party. So we are planning an all-request Chicago New Year's Eve party. We'll dance from 7:00 to 10:30 (12:30 Chicago time) at the Altadena Community Church, just off North Lake. Turn east at Altadena Drive and look left for the driveway entrance. This is the same place that we danced all of September. Check out the ad in this issue.

For December, Richard Mazon will be teaching a Filipino couple dance *Carinosa* and I will be reviewing the Hungarian individual dance *Ciganytanc*. The Winter Festival is coming up in January on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Look for an ad in this issue of Scene. For the latest information visit our web site

[www.PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org](http://www.PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org) for our weekly dance program, teaching schedule, and more.

Visit us at The Old North Church any Friday starting at 7:30. The church is located on the north side of Sierra Madre Blvd, just across from the NE corner of the park. The driveway is on the west side of the building. Drive slowly as it is easy to miss, but we'll have a sign to guide you.

*Marshall Cates*

## **CAMP HESS KRAMER**

A new Camp Hess Kramer folk dance weekend had been scheduled for Nov. 1-3, 2019. The new committee was preparing to solicit feedback from throughout our folk dance community early in November to ensure we could plan a fun, vibrant camp. We regret that the terrible Woolsey Fire that wreaked destruction across such a wide area reached Hess Kramer. At press time for this issue of *Scene*, it was too soon for us to know what the implications of the damage there would be for our dance camp. We still want to find a way to hold a revitalized weekend of dancing. We will keep you informed as we learn more about Hess Kramer and as we consider alternatives.

*Camp Hess Kramer committee*

*(Marc Rayman, Gerda Ben-Zeev, Sandy Helperin, Pauline Klak, Marcella Lawson)*



## **VESELO SELO**

Dec. 1 Shana Winokur teaching

Dec. 8 Hanukkah Lights request

Dec. 15 Paul Petrescu teaching

Dec. 22 DARK

Dec. 29 Pre-New Year's Eve party with music by Interfolk. Bring ethnic snacks to share.

Jan. 5 All request

Jan.12 All request

Jan.19 Shana Winokur teaching

Jan.26 Shana Winokur reviews

*Lu Perry*

## **VISITING MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM**

The Federation's Visiting Master Teacher program has two workshop series scheduled:

Loui Tucker will be presenting international dances at Westwood Coop on Thursday December 6th, and at West Valley Folk Dancers on Friday December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ahmet Luleci will be here for the Cerritos Festival on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and will be presenting Turkish dance workshops before and after. Below is his schedule so far; contact me if you would like to set up a workshop at your club.

Friday February 15 - Friday Night LIFE

Saturday February 16 - Cerritos Festival

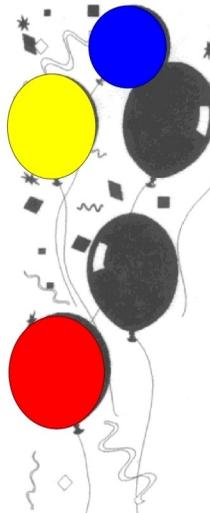
Sunday February 17 - Laguna Folkdancers

Tuesday February 19 -Tuesday Gypsies

These events are co-sponsored by the Federation and the club and are open to all.

*Jay Michtom, VMT Chair*

818.368.1957, [jaymichtom@yahoo.com](mailto:jaymichtom@yahoo.com)



# NEW YEARS EVE PARTY



HOSTED BY  
PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

THE ALTADENA COMMUNITY CHURCH



943 ALTADENA DRIVE  
ALTADENA



7:30-10:30

A CHICAGO NEW YEAR



(IT WILL BE MIDNIGHT IN CHICAGO)



LIVE MUSIC BY THE FIFTH FRIDAY

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**ARGENTINA, and CHILE:** March 29-April 8, 8-10, 2019. Led by Jim Gold  
Buenos Aires, Salta, San Antonia de los Cobres, Quebrada de Humahuaca,  
Mendoza, Santiago

**ALBANIA and KOSOVO:** May 7-19, 19-21, 2019

Led by Lee Otterholt Tirana, Durres, Vlora Folk Dance Festival! Kruja,  
Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra

**POLAND:** June 10-24, 2019. Led by Richard Schmidt

Led by Richard Schmidt: Kraków, Rzeszów, Zakopane,  
Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Olsztyn, Żelazowa Wola, Warszawa

**NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN:** June 11-24, 2019.

Led by Lee Otterholt: Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen

**IRELAND:** July 13-25, 2019: Led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman

Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Doolin, Killarney, Kerry,  
Cork, Blarney, Belfast, Dublin

**ROMANIA:** October 12-24, 2019. Led by Jim Gold

Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighetu Marmatiei, Piatra Neamt, Brasov

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# POETRY CORNER

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## I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'll dance from here to eternity.  
My life has been filled with good times  
Shared by family, friends and rhymes  
"All the world's a stage and the people  
merely players in it  
Each making their entrances and exits."  
Twas time to go and now I'm free.  
Dance on . . . . . and Remember me.

*With loving memories  
from Henrietta Bemis*



## A BABE'S BENEDICTION



Warmth and comfort seep through me  
Holding you against my heart...  
And then your squirrelling movement...  
Twisting your little head around,  
Gazing up into my eyes,  
And smiling your slow dimpled smile

Like a royal benediction, a bestowal  
Granting me the great privilege of caring for you

In your helplessness and complete trust,  
Your eyes are the world, blessing me  
For holding gently  
The great hope and promise  
That is the newborn babe

*Camille Dull*

*To Veselo  
and to the entire Southern California Folkdance Community*

**Celebration!**

Moments extending  
Towards infinity-in-both-directions

Present us with  
Plains and plains and plains  
Of our ancestors  
Of those whose absent poignancy  
Rendered them more present  
Than we might imagine  
Rendered them  
Anchored into our hearts  
into our marrow  
into our fibre

Unseen smiles  
Reverberate into the future

We must always remember  
We must celebrate when  
The slight chance occasions itself

It is our duty  
It is our sanctification

It is (at least one of the very big) reasons  
Why we are here

Seizing the time with joy  
Repairing the fractures  
coming out whole

Celebration!

*Happy New Year!  
Karen Belkic  
Written in Irvine, California  
January 1, 2002*

LIMERICK

A folk dancer I know loves to brag;  
Can't stop him without affixing a gag.

Last night I just ran

As he began:

"Lit a fire with my Salty Dog Rag ... ..  
(Continued on page 52)

*Carl Pilsecker*



# RECENT EVENTS

## CAMP HESS KRAMER AFTER WOOLSEY FIRE



*Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz, Pasadena Star News*

Many of us remember and cherish October weekends spent at the delightful Camp Hess Kramer where we danced till we ached and then snuck off to the beach to feel the cold waters of the Pacific soothe us.

So we are saddened to hear of the destruction of the camp by the Woolsey fire. Newspapers have reported that 87 of the 97 buildings of Hess Kramer and its sister camp, Hilltop have been reduced to ashes.

Officials of the camp say that they will rebuild. We'll look forward to meeting there again in some future fall.



## DANCE FOR LIFE AT VESELO SELO

On November 3rd, Veselo Selo, led by president Lu Perry, recognized and celebrated the life of our wonderful friend, Henrietta Bemis. We followed the plan that Henrietta herself had laid out for an evening which she called Dance for Life.



A recorded music program of dances that Henrietta requested and led by the leaders that she selected started the evening. We had an orchestra, Veselba, with Macedonian and Bulgarian dances. Veselba played one special dance that Henrietta wanted, Trugnala Rumjana, which ended the evening with singing and a big group hug.

Norm Rosen read a poem which Henrietta had written out, and Lu Perry gave a speech which recounted all the many dance groups which Henrietta had belonged to over the years, as well as her theater group, belly dance, and her love of clowning for children's hospital events.

Following the eulogy were beautiful exhibitions: a tango performed by Richard and Ruth Duree, an action-packed medley by Scandia led by Stefanie Holzman, and lovely belly dancer Taji who performed to Armenian music recorded and written by the late John Bilezikjian.

More than 100 attendees included Laura and David Carman and Nancy Atwood down from Washington State.



Lu reminded us how lucky we all were to have had Henrietta Bemis in our lives.

It was a party Henrietta planned and she would have enjoyed.

*Pauline Klak*



## HALLOWEEN PARTY AT NARODNI

Halloween Party at Narodni, when Kathy Draper, John Redden, Amy Dale, Palma Goulet and Stefanie Holzman enjoy Flemish mazurka. A scary time was had by all!

*Caption by Camille Dull. Photo by Ralph van Middlesworth.*



*Continued from The Corner on page 3.*

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# CLUB DIRECTORY

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Most groups welcome beginning dancers. The groups with an \* below have sessions specifically for beginners.

## Federation Clubs

**Bay Osos Folk Dancers:** Tue 11:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, **LOS OSOS.** (805) 534-1501 Anne Tiber.

\***Cabrillo Folk Dancers:** Tue 7:00-9:30 (Beg 7-8). Balboa Park. Balboa Park Club, 2144 Pan American, **SAN DIEGO.** (858) 459-1336 gbsham@gmail.com Georgina.

**Cafe Asteria:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 7:30-11:30. LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, **WEST LA.** jsavin@ctcg.com (310) 229-8947 Jerald Savin

**Cerritos Folk Dancers:** Tue 6:00-8:45. Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS.** (562) 338-2298 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen Chiang

**Conejo Valley Folk Dancers:** Wed 7:30-9:30. Conejo Rec Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, **THOUSAND OAKS.** (206) 849-1190 dancermm@gmail.com Marie Montes

**Ethnic Express:** Wed 6:30 except holidays. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 So. Brush St, **LAS VEGAS.** (702) 732-4871 rpkillian@gmail.com Richard Killian

**Fantasy Folk Dance Club:** Sun 4:00 - 7:00. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd, **MONTEREY PARK.** tiggerbyc@yahoo.com (626) 458-8851 Sophie Chen. *Fri 8:15-10:45. El Monte Chamber of Commerce, 10505 Valley Blvd EL MONTE.* (626) 429-9008 *Vincentyhcheng@gmail.com Vincent Cheng*

**Int'l Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods:** Tue 9:00am-11:00. Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon, **LAGUNA WOODS.** (949) 454-0837 friedagorelick@hotmail.com Frieda Gorelick

**Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing:** Fri 8:30-11:30. The Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Ave, **SHERMAN OAKS.** www.kypseli.org (310) 508-9676 Anne Sirota xorepsc@gmail.com

**Laguna Int'l Dancers:** Wed 6:00-9:00, Sun 6:00-9:00. Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, **LAGUNA WOODS.** (949) 770-7026 7kahnmiriam@gmail.com Miriam Kahn

**Mountain Dancers:** 1st & 3rd Tue 1:30-3:30 (Oct. thru June). Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave, **S. PASADENA** (626) 355-9220 johnmeursing@gmail.com John Meursing

**Narodni Int'l Folkdancers:** Thu 7:30-10:30. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BELLFLOWER.** (562) 881-9504 julithilona@yahoo.com Julith Neff

\***Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op:** Fri 7:30-10:30 (Beg 7:30-8). The Old North Church, 191w West Sierra Madre Blvd, **Sierra Madre.** (626) 893-8508 ricklynnbingle@gmail.com Lynn Bingle



**Prescott Int'l Folkdancers:** Sun 3:00-5:00. First Congregational Church, 216 E. Gurley St, **PRES-COTT, AZ.** (928) 925-8995 raweston@earthlink.net Dick Weston

**Rainbow Senior Club:** Sun 3:00-6:00. Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave, **ALHAMBRA.** (626) 456-1900 ksun310@yahoo.com Kevin Sun

**San Diego Vintage Dancers:** Dance Place, 2650 Truxton Rd, **SAN DIEGO.** (858) 622-9924 drjenma@pacbell.net Mary Jennings

**Skandia South Dance Club:** Mon 6:45-9:45. Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center, **ANAHEIM.** (714) 893-8888 tedmart@juno.com Ted Martin. *Sat (usually first) 3:30-10:00. Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhoda Way, CULVER CITY. (562) 732-4990 camer-onflanders@gmail.com Cameron Flanders*

**Solvang Village Folk Dancers:** Sat 6:30-8:30 (except 3rd Sat). Bethania Lutheran, 603 Atterdag Rd, **SOLVANG.** 3rd Sat 1:00-3. Corner Alisal & Copenhagen, **Solvang** (805) 688-3397 dlh4362@gmail.com David Heald

**Tuesday Gypsies:** Tue 7:45-10:30. Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, **CULVER CITY.** (310) 391-7382 sandyhelperin@icloud.com Sandy Helperin

**Veselo Selo Folkdancers:** Sat 7:30-10:30. Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor, **ANAHEIM.** (714) 828-2581 Lu Perry

**Vintage Israeli Dancing:** One Sat per month 8:16-12:00. Anisa's School of Dance, 14252 Ventura Blvd, **SHERMAN OAKS.** (818) 881-7494 (after noon) Louis, dovbyrd@aol.com

**West Valley Folk Dancers:** Fri 7:15-10:00. Senior Center, 7326 Jordan Ave, **CANOGA PARK.** (818) 348-6133 lila@aurich.com Lila Aurich

**Westchester Lariats:** Mon 4:00-9:00. Westchester Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson, **LOS ANGELES.** (310) 689-9176 veniceii@yahoo.com Ina Hall

**Westwood Co-op:** Thu 7:30-9:45. Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd, **WEST LA.** (310) 657-6877 rwsklar@yahoo.com Rita Sklar

## Exhibition Groups

**Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble:** Wed 8:00. United Hungarian House, 1975 Washington, **LOS ANGELES.** (310) 350-1135 Livia Schachinger

**Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble:** Tue 7:00-9:30 Sat 2:15-4:15. Polish Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd, **LOS ANGELES.** (626) 827-7338 elistarr@yahoo.com Ela Romuzga

**Scandia Dancers:** Tue 7:00-10:00. Woman's Club, **BELLFLOWER.** (714) 356-7745 sholzman1@verizon.net Stefanie Holzman

**UCSB Middle Eastern Ensemble:** Tue 7:00-10:00. Gehringer Music Bldg, UCSB Campus, **SANTA BARBARA.** (805) 729-6453 scottmarcu@aol.com Scott Marcus

## Non-Federation Clubs

**Beverly Barr Daytime Classes:** *Tue 10:45am-12:30. Roxbury Park Rec. Center, 471 So. Roxbury, BEVERLY HILLS.* Wed 12:30-2:00. Culver City Senior Center, northwest corner Culver & Overland, **CULVER CITY.** (310) 202-6166

**Cafe Aman:** 2nd Sat 7:00-11:00. Teach 7:45-8:45  
LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd,  
**WEST LA**, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com  
ianprice@hotmail.com

**Cal Tech Folkdancers:** Tue 7:30. Cal Tech Campus,  
Dabney Hall, **PASADENA**, parking off Del Mar. (626)  
797-5157 Nancy Milligan

**Claremont Israeli Dancers:** Mon 7:00-10:00 Ma-  
sonic Lodge, 272 W. 8th St, **CLAREMONT**. (909) 921  
-7115 Yael

**Desert Dancers:** Thu 7:00-9:00 Nov-April. Hi Desert  
Dance Center, 725 S. Gateway St, **RIDGECREST**.  
(760) 371-5669 Nora Nuckles

**Desert Int'l Folk Dancers:** Thu 7:00-9:00 Nov-Apr.  
Leisure Center Dance Studio, 401 S. Pavilion Way,  
**PALM SPRINGS**. (760) 342-1297 Helen Smith

**Folk Dance Center:** Every Evening. 4569 30th St,  
**SAN DIEGO**. (619) 466-4043,  
www.folkdancecenter.org

\***Foothill Folk Dancers:** Thu 7:30-9:30. Community  
Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr., **LA CAÑADA** (818)  
790-8523 JanRayman@charter.net

**Friday Night L.I.F.E.:** Fri 8:00-11:00. LA DanceFit  
Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd **WEST LA**  
www.lifebalkandancers.com  
worldance1@gmail.com Sherry

**Israeli Dancing-James Zimmer:** Tue 8:00-12:00.  
Westside JCC, 5870 W Olympic, **L.A.** (310) 284-  
3638 James Zimmer israelidance@yahoo.com

\***Israeli Dancing-Natalie Stern:** Mon 10:00am-  
11:45 & noon-1:00(Beg); Tue 10:30am-noon; Wed  
7:00-9:30; Thu 10:15am-12:00, 12:05-1:05(Beg).  
American Jewish Univ Dance Studio, 15600 Mul-  
holland, **L.A** (818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern

**Israeli Dancing-Yoni Carr:** Mon 7:00-11:30 Begin-  
ners at 7:00. Infinity Sport Dance Center, 4428 Con-  
voy St, **SAN DIEGO**. (619) 227-0110 Yoni

**Keyso Folk Dancers:** Fri 9:30am-12:00. Balboa  
Park, Casa del Prado room 206, **SAN DIEGO** (619)  
463-7529 Joe Sigona

**San Diego Folk Dancers:** Mon 7:30-9:00. Balboa  
Park Club, Balboa Park, **SAN DIEGO** (858) 278-4619  
Jeanne Cate

**Santa Barbara Balkan Folk Dancers:** Wed 8:00-  
10:30. Oak Park Stage, corner Junipero and Calle  
Real, **SANTA BARBARA**. (805) 682-4511 Luis Goena

**Santa Monica College Int'l Dance Club:** Tue, Thu  
11:15am-12:35. Santa Monica College Clock Tower  
or LS Bldg, 1900 Pico Blvd, **SANTA MONICA**. (310)  
284-3638 James Zimmer

**Topanga Canyon Int'l FD:** Fri 9:30am-11:00am.  
Froggy's Restaurant, 1105 N. Topanga Canyon  
Blvd, **TOPANGA** . (310) 455-1051 Melanie Kareem

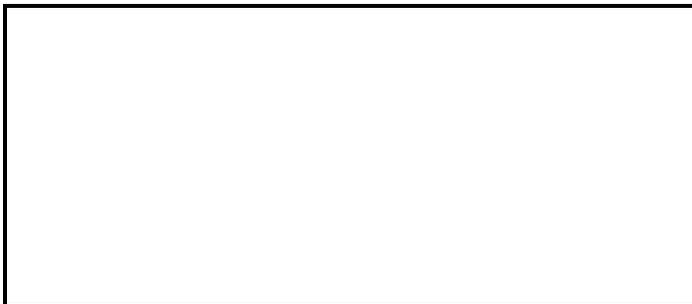
**UCLA Ballroom Club & UCLA Int'l Folkdancers:**  
Mon 7:00-9:00(ballroom), 9:00-11:00 (folk ). UCLA  
Kerckhoff Hall, **WESTWOOD**. (310) 284-3636 Uni-  
versityDanceClubs@yahoo.com James Zimmer

**Ventura Folk Dancers:** Tue 1:15-2:30, Thu 1:45-  
3:00. YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd, **Ventura**. (805)-  
746-0884 Valerie Daley.

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