



Folk Dance Scene



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Folk Dance Scene Committee

Coordinator	Jay Michtom	editor@FolkDanceScene.org	818.368.1957
Calendar		calendar@FolkDanceScene.org	
On the Scene	Jill Michtom	ots@FolkDanceScene.org	818.368.1957
Club Directory	Steve Himel	directory@FolkDanceScene.org	949.646.7082
Dancers Speak	Sandy Helperin	ds@FolkDanceScene.org	310.391.7382
Proofreading Editor	Jan Rayman	proof@FolkDanceScene.org	818.790.8523
	Carl Pilsecker	proof@FolkDanceScene.org	562.865.0873
Design and Layout Editors	Pat Cross, Don Krotser	design@FolkDanceScene.org	323.255.3809
Business Manager	Gerda Ben-Zeev	business@FolkDanceScene.org	310.399.2321
Contributing Editor	Elizabeth Wayland Barber		
Circulation	Sandy Helperin	circulation@FolkDanceScene.org	310.391.7382
Subscriptions	Gerda Ben-Zeev	subscriptions@FolkDanceScene.org	310.399.2321
Advertising	Steve Himel	ads@FolkDanceScene.org	949.646.7082
Printing Coordinator	Irwin Barr		310.202.6166
Jill and Jay Michtom 10824 Crebs Ave. Northridge, CA 91326	Gerda Ben-Zeev 19 Village Park Way Santa Monica, CA 90405		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, 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.

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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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.

Size (width x length)	Federation Club	Others	Payment to:
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On the cover: Photo courtesy of Wikipedia—public domain



Folk Dance Scene

Volume 54, No. 2
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The Corner

WHAT IS VMP?

A donation has been made to the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, with the intention of promoting folk dance. A portion of that donation has now been designated to the "Visiting Master-Teacher Program." The program will be for non-local teachers who are interested in coming to Southern California to teach. A new committee (VMP) has been formed to administer this and is forming a list of clubs that are interested in hosting master teachers. When teachers state their intent of coming here, clubs on the list will be notified.

If they hold a workshop at their location, and are Federation clubs, they will be reimbursed \$200 for the teaching. The committee will also help non-Federation clubs schedule teachings, but, as of now, they will not receive the reimbursement. The committee will be contacting master teachers to let them know that we will facilitate setting up workshops for them.

We hope that by assisting in the cost of having a master teacher, more clubs will be able to take part in this wonderful experience. If your club is interested in hosting a master teacher at some time in the future, please let me know (if you have not already done so) so I can put you on the list of those to be contacted. It might also be a good idea to tell me who the contact would be in your club, if it is not you.

Jay Michtom, Chair, VMP

818-368-1957, jaymichtom@yahoo.com

Editors' Corner

Honoring the spring equinox, Elizabeth (Betchen) Barber shares lore of luck and fertility in the cover story.

Find your choice of upcoming events in Calendar, On the Scene, and ads.

Hear from your fellow-dancers in Dancers Speak and Poetry Corner.

Enjoy the events you may have missed in Recent Events.

Be sure you have your poetry submitted by March 10th for April's Poetry Month issue!

Be of good cheer!

Pat Cross and Don Krotser

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Federation South Officers

President	Pauline Klak	310.832.1074
Vice-President	Diane Baker	949.675.2199
Treasurer	Mindy Belli	714.914.7713
Secretary	Leslie Halberg	661.296.0481
Membership	Bob Altman	714.891.0788
Historian	Wen-Li Chang	626.500.5035

For information about dancing in the area, contact the Federation at 310.478.6600 or Federation website: SoCalFolkdance.org

LAZARUS FESTIVAL

In Bulgaria on *Lazarouvanè*, Lazarus Day, groups of young girls called *Lazarki* still dress up in special costumes and visit each village house to bring “good luck” through their songs and dances—that is, bring life-force for crops, animals, and occupants for the coming year. Lazarus Saturday celebrates Jesus’ resurrection of Lazarus a few days before his own death, and the celebration falls the day before Palm Sunday, this year on March 31. And just as Easter, a week later, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, Lazarus Day celebrates the resurgence of the life in crops, animals, and ordinary humans in the spring. Who better to perform the rituals than young girls just “coming of age”? Their new fertility is viewed as so potent that it will rub off on everyone and everything around them, as we learn from the following Bulgarian Lazarka song:

*Wherever we have passed,
the wheat has grown, and grown so rich
that it weighed down on the Earth;
from two ears it bore a bushel,
from two grapes—a cask of wine!*

Weeks before Lazarus Saturday, as the world around them bursts into bloom, the girls begin meeting together to learn the requisite songs and dances, older teaching younger. At each household they will need appropriate verses for the master and mistress, for married and unmarried offspring of either sex, for the beehives and lambs, barns, fields, and woodlands. The tunes are few, the words many. Two girls, called *Shetalitsi*, do most of the dancing while the rest sing. On Lazarus weekend, the girls dress in their best holiday costumes, the most striking of which is a dark blue jumper ornamented with white cord sewn on in

elaborate curlicues (Photo 1). Then they load themselves with the family’s bridal jewelry, fancy metal belts, antique coin



Above: Photo 1: Lazarki from the district around Sofia, Bulgaria, wearing blue jumpers with white cord couched on in elaborate patterns. Note the huge traditional headdresses of flowers, which today are often replaced with a simple wreath. Photo from 1995.



Left: Photo 2: Two Lazarki (the Shetalitsi, or dancers, of a group) photographed in the 1920s. One has added tall feather-grass to her headdress, and each carries two dance handkerchiefs or hand-towels. Note the masses of metal jewelry.

necklaces, and special headdresses covered with bright paper flowers they call “tulips” and topped with long feathers or tall feathery grass (such as *Stipa pennata*) or boxwood sprigs, called *koylò* (Photo 2). The coins and other metal trappings jingle as the girls walk and dance, for the ringing of the metal is believed to chase away evil.

Setting out in bands of six or more, they go around the village. People open their doors, awaiting them eagerly. On the shoulder of a person to be addressed, one *Lazarka* places a white towel as a symbol or marker for the good forces the song will send him or her. The songs direct health, prosperity and a good harvest to the farmer and his wife, love and betrothal to unmarried young men and girls in the household, happiness and many children to newlyweds, and so on. For example:

*Dance for this young bride,
This year's bride,
And for next year's cradle.*

During the antiphonal song, the two dancers perform their steps, changing places back and forth as they dance to the 7/8, 5/8, or 4/4 rhythm, hands raised, often waving white handkerchiefs (Sketch). “Be sure to wave them high,” an old lady told her granddaughter, “for they chase away the evil.” Some of their dances resemble figures from the various *rūchenitsa* dances (always in 7/8) taught here in California, especially by Dick Crum, while their *bouyenek* has similarities to the *Dobrudžanska Rūka* we do. (In fact, *rūka* means “hand” and *rūchenitsa* “handkerchief dance” in Bulgarian, and Bulgarian girls always danced with a handkerchief in their hand or belt. If not, how could a boy steal it to show his interest in her?)

When the song ends, the recipient of the wishes returns the towel, with coins, eggs, or a bag of flour wrapped in it for the collection basket of the *Lazarki*. The girls will later make from these a ritual meal of pancakes, omelets, and the like, which they will eat together.



The same two Shetalitsi dancing “for abundance,” while waving their handkerchiefs to chase evil away from the ceremony (1920s)

If the woman keeps bees, the *Lazarki* gather around her, holding hands and dancing to the right in a closed circle so the bees will swarm at the woman’s hive and not fly away. “Stamping from foot to foot, they swing their bodies, jingle their trimmings and hold their hands in order to close the ring and ‘shut in’ fertility,” wrote an onlooker. The hive owner often spins white wool as they sing, with her spindle resting in a bowl of water (a spirit-medium); she may also “harvest” stalks of *koylò* from the girls’ headdresses like a bee collecting pollen, placing them in the water to gather some of the girls’ magical force. According to the ethnographers, “The housewife afterwards sprinkled this water over the bees and surrounded their hives with the yarn she had

spun. It was believed that as the dance and the spindle whirled about, so would the swarms of bees whirl around the hives, i.e. they would not escape.” The woolen yarn tied around the hive in a magic circle also serves the analogical purpose of sequestering “the good”—the valuable bees. If “luck” for the sheep is wanted as well, the *Lazarki* might sing:

*Jump, jump, Lazarke,
So that a lamb would jump
In the landlord's yard.
Whirl, whirl, Lazarke,
So that the bees would whirl
In the garden of the landlord.*

Thus the entire community looks to the unmarried girls of marriageable age—those with as-yet-unused fertility—as “conduits” of sacred fertility, magically passed along by dancing as they sing blessings. The dances are energetic and life-affirming, but not lascivious or even suggestive. Yet the Church does not allow the *Lazarki* to take communion that Sunday, in punishment for participating in non-Christian fertility rites. Related rites danced by girls still exist here and there in other, often remote, parts of Europe. But because the date of budding and blossoming is later, the farther north one goes, the rituals that occur in the Balkans in March fall on May Day in Britain, on *Semik* (the seventh Thursday after Easter, hence mid-May to June) in Russia, and at the summer solstice in Scandinavia.

Elizabeth Wayland Barber; adapted from
chap. 3 of her book *The Dancing Goddesses* (Norton, 2013)



Lazarki from Sveti Vrach, Sandanski 1918

Westwood Co-operative Folk Dancers
presents

A Spring Festival

Sunday, April 15, 2018
1:15 - 4:45 pm

An Afternoon of International Dances

Airconditioned

Wood Floor

Costumes Welcome

Pot luck snacks are welcome

New Location

Roxbury Park Community Center

471 S. Roxbury Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90212

(South of Olympic at Roxbury Dr.. past the tennis and basketball courts)

Sunday Parking.... Meters are free and residential parking available

\$5 Donation

for info call

Beverly Barr (310)202-6166

dancingbarrs@yahoo.com

Rita Sklar (310)657-6877

rwsklar@yahoo.com

Westwood Co-op Folk Dancers.

Members of the Folk Dance Federation of California, South

CALENDAR

Note: Federation events are in bold.

CALL TO CONFIRM ALL EVENTS

MARCH

2-4 Laguna Folk Dance Festival. Laguna Woods. Dance teachers: Gergana Panova, Roberto Bagnoli. Live music: Garlic Band, Veselba, Zimzala, Madison Avenue Folk. Music class with Miamon Miller, singing class with Michael Lawson.

Narodni events:

15 We will be having our **ST. PATRICK'S DAY Party**. As usual, we will have a wonderful exhibition of Irish dancing by the Lyons Academy of Dance. These ladies always put on a spectacular show. **\$5.00** for Narodni members, **\$7.00** for all others. Don't forget to wear green!

29 Narodni T-Shirt Night – Wear a Narodni t-shirt and save **\$1.00**. Bring a friend, and both of you will get in for free. **SPEAKING OF FREE** – come and see our **Free-for-all Table**. This is a great chance to pass on something you no longer need to someone else who can enjoy it.

17 St. Patrick's Day Party, with accordionist Chris Bajmakovich at Veselo Selo.

24 Folk/Roots Festival, presented by Folkworks. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 11000 National Blvd, Los Angeles. Concerts, workshops, jamming, square dancing, films. Early-bird tickets at FWFolkRootsFestival.com. For more information, email leda@FolkWorks.org.

APRIL

15 A Spring Festival, Westwood Co-op. **1:15-4:45** at a new location: Roxbury Park, 471 S. Roxbury, Beverly Hills. Wood floor, refreshments. See OTS and ad. Info: **310.657.6877**, rwsklkar@yahoo.com.

20-21 Aman Alumni Reunion at the Ojai Art Center in Ojai, Los Altos & Belmont. Workshop with Susy and Steve Kotansky, live music, singing. Info: heritagefolkdance@gmail.com. See ad.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

3/10 Workshop with Gergana Panova, 3:30-10:45 in Menlo Park. Bulgarian dance workshop, dinner, evening party. Info: LucySChang@gmail.com.

3/31 Balkan Plus FD Party, 7:30-11:00 in San Rafael. Info: wildwood_press@comcast.net.

5/18-20 Statewide Festival, Sacramento. Teachers: Steve Kotansky, Bruce Hamilton. See ad.

6/9-16 Scandia Camp Mendocino, Mendocino Woodlands. Info: scandiacampmendocino.org.

6/16-23 Mendocino Folklore Camp, Mendocino Woodlands. Dance classes, singing classes, music classes, live music, excellent food, great parties, redwoods location. See ad. Info: mendocinofolklore.org

6/23-30 Balkan Music and Dance Camp, Mendocino Woodlands. Info: eefc.org.

7/15-22, 7/22-29 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Two identical weeks. At UOP, Stockton.

OUT OF STATE

ILLINOIS

3/23-25 Balkanske Igre's Spring Festival. International House, 1414 E. 59th St., Chicago. Dance workshops with Yannis Konstandinou, Ahmet Luleci, Ventzi Sotirov. Info: www.balkanskeigre.org. 847.331.7842. See ad.

MAINE

8/12-18, 8/19-25 Mainewoods Dance Camp, Fryeburg. Teachers: Week One: Roberto Bagnoli, Steve Kotansky, Richard Schmidt; Week Two: Wim Bekooy, France Bourque-Moreau, Yves Moreau. Woodsy setting along river, good food, parties, live music. Info: www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org.

NEW JERSEY

4/26-28 *National Folk Organization Annual Conference*. Tenafly. Info: nfo-usa.org.

NEW YORK

5/11-13 *International Folkdance Camp* with Sonia and Cristian, Maurits van Geel, Moshe Eskayo and Joan Hantman. At Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction. For more information, please contact Joan Hantman, jehdance@gmail.com.

8/4-11 *Balkan Music and Dance Camp*. Iroquois Springs. Info: eefc.org.

WASHINGTON

5/25-28 *Northwest Folklife Festival*, Seattle. Info: nwfolklife.org/festival.

FOREIGN

BALKAN

7/29-8/12 *Balkan Adventure* Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt: Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania, Greece. Includes local Koprivshtitsa folk festival. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com.

CANADA

4/20-22 *Lyrids FD Festival*, Vancouver. Teachers: Sonia and Cristian, live music with Miamon Miller, Michael Lawson. Info: lyridsfolkdancefestival.org.

ISRAEL

3/11-22 *Tour*, led by Jim Gold and Joe Freedman: Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias Safed, Golan Heights. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com.

NORWAY/DENMARK/SWEDEN

6/12-25 *Tour*, led by Lee Otterholt: Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg (Elsinore), Copenhagen. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com.

POLAND

6/11-25 *Tour*, led by Richard Schmidt: Kraków, Rzeszów, Zakopane, Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Olsztyn, Żelazowa Wola, Warszawa. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com.

ROMANIA

7/1-12 *Tour*, led by Lee Otterholt: Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Sighetu Marmatiei, Piatra Neamt, Brasov. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com.

SCOTLAND

9/9-22 *Tour*, led by Richard Schmidt: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Loch Lomond, Loch Ness, Fort William, Mallaig, Isle of Skye, Inverness, Aberdeen, Perth. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com.

SPAIN

10/12-22 *Tour*, led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman: Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada. See ad. Info: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com or www.jimgold.com.



Let's Dance!
The Magazine of International
Folk Dance

Join the Folk Dance Federation of California
and receive *Let's Dance!*
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The where, when, how and who of International Folk Dancing

Membership application
available on line at www.folkdance.com.
Pay on-line or send application with check to
Alicia LaFetra, Membership,
1614 Peacock Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94087



*Ensemble Balkanske Igre's
53rd Anniversary*



SPRING FESTIVAL

March 23-25, 2018

International House, 1414 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637
(Hyde Park/University of Chicago)

Dance and Music of the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Eastern Mediterranean

Enjoy the best in Balkan, Eastern European, and Mediterranean dance, music, and culture with world renowned master teachers, spectacular live music, riveting dance & musical performances. Dance on a sprung oak floor. Sing, jam, and celebrate with friends new and old from coast to coast and Canada!

March 23-25, 2018, Friday, 8pm – midnight / Saturday to Sunday, 9am-5pm
Workshops, Party, Culture Sessions with Master Teachers and Artists

Dance Workshops: **Yannis Konstandinou, Ahmet Lüleci, Ventzi Sotirov**

Singing & Music Workshops: **Chris Bajmakovich, James Stoyanoff**
plus special workshops in Macedonian & Balkan dances with Galia Miloucheva & others

SATURDAY EVENING, March 24, 7pm, Concert & Dance Party featuring the finest live music
and dances from all regions of the Balkans and Eastern Europe/Mediterranean

Info/Reservations: 847-331-7842 or 847-858-9822
Balkanske Igre, PO Box 1157, Chicago, IL 60690

balkanske_igre@yahoo.com
www.balkanskeigre.org

Shuttle between O'Hare and Midway Airports and the International House/University of Chicago: www.airportexpress.com or call 888.2THEVAN/888-284-3826. Plentiful housing options near campus; please contact us for details. Program subject to change. Spring Festival is co-sponsored by the University of Chicago International House, CEERES, WHPK, and the Ensemble Balkanske Igre.

Please complete and **return to John Kuo, 9201 Mason, Morton Grove, IL 60053 - please make checks payable to: "Balkanske Igre"**. NOTE: EARLY REGISTRATION +WEEKEND PASS OPTIONS YIELD SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS.

Student				
/FDCC	General	Note:	Friday & Saturday evening concert & parties included	
Seniors			in weekend packages; evening dinners & syllabus are	
			extra. Individual workshop admission is \$10/\$12.	
Weekend Pass (Fri evening through Sun)	___\$140 ___\$160	,\$150/\$170 after 2/10/2018,	\$160/\$180 after 3/10/2018	
Saturday evening concert & dance party only	___\$ 30 ___\$ 40	(included in weekend pass)		
Syllabus	___\$20			
Dinner Saturday evening	___\$30	Please check if __vegetarian, __vegan, __food allergies:	_____	
Post-festival Sunday dinner/party w/live music	___\$40	at an ethnic restaurant tba		

for a total of \$ _____

Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ Other Phone _____

City/State/Zip/Country _____

E-mail Address _____

Jim Gold International Tours: 2018

itineraries at: www.jimgold.com

Dear Folk Traveler,
May you folk dance with joy!
May you folk dance on our unique Balkan tour!

BALKAN ADVENTURE! July 29-August 12, 2018

Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania, Greece!
Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt



We'll be visiting some areas folk dance tours have
never seen before!

Since these countries share borders and are close together, we'll
be able to meet and **dance with local Bulgarians, Serbians,
Albanians, Macedonians, and Greeks!**

In addition, you'll be dazzled by breathtaking scenery, art
from Thracian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine times, as well as
learning dances from the folk dance teachers traveling with us.

See our exciting Balkan Adventure itinerary at
www.jimgold.com . Then click on 2018 Folk Tours.



We'd love to have you join us.
Any questions, please contact me.
Jim

2018 TOURS

Poland: June 11-25, 2018. Led by Richard Schmidt

Norway, Denmark, Sweden: June 12-25, 2018. Led by Lee Otterholt

Romania: July 1-12, 2018. Led by Lee Otterholt

Scotland: September 9-22, 2018. Led Richard Schmidt

Spain: October 11-22, 2018. Led by Jim Gold with Lee Friedman



Travel
broadens
one!

TOUR REGISTRATION: Can't wait to go! Reserve my place! Mail your \$200 per
person deposit. Or with credit card at: www.jimgold.com

Tour(s) desired _____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone(_____) _____ Email _____

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(201) 836-0362 www.jimgold.com Email: jimgold@jimgold.com

ON THE SCENE

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

We dance every Friday night at 7:30, at the Throop Unitarian Church at 300 S. Los Robles in Pasadena. March, we will be teaching *Ec Ec* a dance from Albania, and *Arnold's Circle*, a mixer from England. Check PasadenaFolkDanceCoop.org for our weekly dance program, teaching schedule, and more.

NARODNI INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS

March 1– Diane Baker will be reviewing *Ec Ec*.

March 8 – Bob Altman will teach the French dance, *La Salamandre*.

March 15–Narodni will be having our ST. PATRICK'S DAY Party. As usual, we will have a wonderful exhibition of Irish dancing by the Lyons Academy of Dance. \$5.00 for Narodni members, \$7.00 for all others. Don't forget to wear green!

March 22 – Bob Altman will be reviewing *La Salamandre*.

March 29 – NARODNI T-SHIRT NIGHT – Wear a Narodni t-shirt and save \$1.00. Bring a friend, and both of you will get in for free.

Our regular meeting night is Thursday 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

For more information contact Julith Neff at 562.881.9504 (cell). You can also visit our website at www.narodni.org for basic information.

Julith Neff

MOONLIGHT EVENTS ORGANIZATION

This organization organizes trips to various countries in Europe. Find out more about them at their website: <http://folklorefestivals.org/?sLang=en>

TEACHING AT WESTWOOD CO-OP

Gerda Ben-Zeev will teach the Israeli line dance *Lo Gava Libi* and Harry Evans will teach the Armenian line dance *Garoon*. Judy Aronson will review last month's teaching of *Eten Bamidbar* from Israel and Sandy Helperin will review last month's teaching of *Fado*, Portuguese.

We dance from 7:30 to 9:45 every Thursday evening.

See our information in the Club Directory.

WESTWOOD FESTIVAL

Westwood Coop Folk Dancers Spring Festival is planned for Sunday, April 15 at a **new location** at the Roxbury Park Community Center in Beverly Hills. The address is 471 S. Roxbury Drive and is south of Olympic Blvd. The festival starts at 1:15 p.m. but if you come early you can stretch your arms and legs in beautiful Roxbury Park. In addition to grass and trees, the park also has a playground (for your inner child), basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, picnic areas and paths for walking. We will be dancing indoors in a beautiful large multipurpose room with a wood floor and air conditioning. Our international dance program will have our, and probably, your favorite dances. On Sundays, the parking meters are free and there are no parking restrictions on most of the residential streets. Read more info on the flyer in this issue of Folk Dance Scene.

Rita Sklar



2018 Statewide Folk Dance Festival

Sacramento, California

"GATEWAY to the SIERRAS"

May 18-20, 2018

Masonic Temple, 1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Friday: Evening party with live music

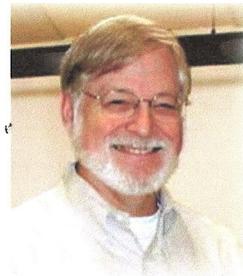
Saturday: Workshops, special catered Balkan dinner, evening party with live music

Sunday: Reviews, special catered Mexican lunch, afternoon party (recorded music)

Guest Teachers:

STEVE KOTANSKY BALKAN DANCE (Non-partner)

BRUCE HAMILTON ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE (Partner)



Live Music by CHUBRITZA 

Sponsored by Sacramento International Folk Dance & Arts Council

Information: www.folkdancesac.org

Members of the Folk Dance Federation of California & the National Folk Organization - all 501(c)3 organizations

Statewide 2018 * *Gateway to the Sierras* * Additional Information

THE PLACE: Masonic Temple, 1193 J Street (23rd and J Street) Sacramento. This site will be 100 years old in 2018. It has a large beautiful dance floor with the dining room next to it where you can meet and greet old friends.

HEADQUARTERS: Best Western Sutter House, 1100 H Street, Sacramento. Special room rates will be available starting in March. Contact the motel at (916)441-1314 The last day reservation can be made with the special rate will be April. 18, 2018. Be sure to tell them it's for the Statewide Dance Festival. All rooms have two queen beds. It has a very good morning breakfast. You will have free parking. It is an easy walk from the motel to the Masonic Temple (two blocks). A good plan to save some money would be to share the room and walk to the dance site.

PARKING: There is one level of limited parking next to the Masonic Temple. There is a high rise parking garage at 10th and I Street behind the Masonic Temple. There other parking facilities in the area. Parking on the streets is expensive. Note: The streets in downtown Sacramento are named with letters A-Z (west to east) and with numbers 1-65 (north to south).

OUR TEACHERS: Steve Kotansky: He lived in Europe for a number of years. Steve worked with many ethnic communities while living in Germany. He took advantage of his proximity to study and research the dances the Balkans and Eastern European countries. Dick Crum praised his abilities very highly.

Bruce Hamilton: He is a well-respected thoughtful and energetic teacher of English and Scottish dancing with 45 years of experience. He has taught workshops all around the United States and in the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan and Australia.

LIVE MUSIC: CHUBRITZA is well known throughout California as they have been featured in several dance camps as well as past Statewide Festivals. They are known for their variety and mixture of international musical tastes and textures, while retaining a Balkan and Eastern European emphasis.

THE SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY 5/18: 6:30 p.m. Doors open; 7:00 p.m. Warm-up dances; 7:30 p.m. Chubritza starts. Teachers will be introduced during the evening. 10:30 p.m. doors close.

SATURDAY 5/19: 9:00 a.m. Doors open; 9:15 Warm-up; 9:45 a.m. Steve Kotansky 11:15 a.m. Bruce Hamilton; 12:25 Lunch - on you own. 2:00 p.m. Bruce Hamilton; 3:30 p.m. Steve Kotansky; 5:00 p.m. Past President's Reception; 6:00 p.m. Balkan Dinner; 7:15 p.m. Balkan Party with Chubritza and other special events. 10:30 p.m. doors close.

SUNDAY 5/20: 9:30 Doors open and warm-up; 10:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. teacher reviews. 12:20 p.m. Mexican Luncheon; 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. All request program

OUR MEALS: The **Saturday Balkan Dinner** will be catered by the "Citrus Plaza Catering Service". Menu: Greek Salad (v); "Olive appetizer; Provencal Cabbage Salad (v); Eggplant Rolls (v); Puff Pastry Triangles; Special Ukrainian Plate; Koreyskava Morkava (v); Cabbage Rolls (v); Chicken Kabobs; Mashed Potatoes and Gravy (v); Rice Pilaf with Beef; German Bread; and to top it all off, Russian Napoleon Cake. "v" indicates vegetarian dishes. The **Sunday Mexican Lunch** will be catered by "Martha's Taqueria" Menu: You will be able to make your tacos with Carnitas, tinga (shredded chicken), Fritos and rice and finally chips with two different salsa's.

BALKAN PARTY: The party will start Saturday night with a catered meal with an emphasis on Russian cuisine starting at 6:00 p.m. Following the meal will be an exhibition of Croatian dances and singing by Skalinada. Chubritza will then start the dance program. Several of the dances introduced by our guest teachers will be done during the evening. Be sure to wear something Balkan for the program. It will be a party to remember.

Statewide 2018 - May 18-20

Gateway to the Sierras

Pre-Registration Form - Please register individually
➔ \$100 before Friday May 11, / \$110 at the door.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone _____ Address: _____

ALL EVENTS (pre registration by Friday May 11- Package Price \$ 100_____/ \$110 at the door.
(Includes all workshops, parties, and snack bar. **Does not include SPECIAL OFFERINGS items.**)

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY: (Live music with Chubritza)..... \$20 _____

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOP:..... \$25 _____

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOP:..... \$25 _____

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY: (Live music with Chubritza)..... \$20 _____

SUNDAY MORNING TEACHER REVIEW:..... \$25 _____

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PARTY: (Recorded music)..... \$10 _____

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

DVD of all workshop dances taught \$ 20 _____

Paper Syllabus Note: Syllabus will be available on line at SIFDAC & the Federation... \$ 8 _____

MEALS (PRE-ORDERS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED - limited extras)

SATURDAY BALKAN DINNER: (Citrus Plaza Catering - menu available on-line) \$18 _____

SUNDAY MEXICAN LUNCH: (Martha's Taqueria - menu available on-line) \$12 _____

Total: \$ _____

Payment Options

- Send check or money order payable to SIFDAC and mail to Cookie Brakebill, 3404 Chugwater Court, Antelope, CA 95843
- Register online at <http://statewide2018.bpt.me>

Look for details about hotels, parking, menus, schedule, etc. at folkdance.com

Note: Reduced rates for students up to the age of 23 for Individual Events: Contact Barbara Bevan for information at (916)923-1555 or [<dancesong20@att.net>](mailto:dancesong20@att.net)

DANCERS SPEAK

ATTRACTING NEWBIES

An introduction and progress report from Jan Rayman:

In the article below, Mindy Belli has artfully summarized the knowledge my husband Marc and I, as well as Loui Tucker, have learned about recruiting and retaining new folk dancers. Since last year, when my article, "Foothill Folk Dancers: A Learning Experience for All," appeared in the Folk Dance Scene, there has been some progress in attracting new people to folk dancing by forming introductory groups. Most recently, Sandy Helperin (with help from Teri Hoffman) has started a beginners' group on the Westside. Valerie Daley's group in Ventura has grown and her dancers have become very proficient. Pat Cross and Don Krotser continue to teach beginners at the Pasadena Senior Center, many of whom go on to dance at the Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op. Maria Pahos-Benson has a beginners' group in Laguna. Beverly Barr, who has brought many new people to folk dancing in the past, continues her beginners' group. Marc's and my group, Foothill International Folk Dancers, has grown and developed into a community of enthusiastic friends and dancers.

Please forgive me if you started a beginner-friendly group or expanded an existing group but were left out of this short summary. I would love to hear from you and others who are trying to bring more people to folk dancing. Perhaps we can share our experiences and lessons learned in the Folk Dance Scene. You can contact me at JanRayman@charter.net.

Ideas for Attracting and Retaining New Folk Dancers

Based on lessons learned and shared by Loui Tucker and Jan and Marc Rayman of the Foothill International Folk Dancers, a new group dedicated to beginners.

Perhaps because beginners are now so out-numbered by experienced dancers, we have discovered that when someone bravely shows up to try folk dancing at a folk dance group, they will feel more comfortable and be more likely to return if the teaching and program are modified to accommodate them. Those modifications can be frustrating to the typical music programmer (and teacher), and boring for more experienced dancers. This problem is even worse in a large group or one constrained by rules and traditions, because flexibility is more difficult. In addition to those problems, beginners are likely to feel intimidated if surrounded by advanced dancers, even if those dancers try to help them. But there are solutions.

For many newbies, an hour or an evening dedicated to beginners is more likely to keep 'em coming. It is also less likely to frustrate more experienced dancers or frustrate the programmers and teachers. Below, you'll find Jan's tips for attracting newbies (to support a special hour or evening) – based partly on the new media available today.

Whether you dedicate a special time to newbies, or simply want to better accommodate them in your current group, you might benefit from the following tips. They are a blend of the advice given by Loui Tucker at Stockton Camp and given by Jan Rayman to describe what she and Marc learned from their group for beginners, the Foothill International Folk Dancers of La Canada.

Tips for Teaching Beginners

Be extra patient. If your group will include more advanced dancers, encourage them to also be patient. This might seem obvious, but many have forgotten how very difficult it can be to learn folk dance steps.

Provide very descriptive and clear instructions. Simple terms such as "step-together-step" or "step-behind" are meaningless or even misleading to new dancers.

Don't try to teach the steps for the first time while playing the music and doing the dance. Announcing steps during the dance is a great reinforcement, but is not sufficient and can be intimidating and disheartening to a beginner because they often cannot keep up. During a dance, try to announce steps in advance.

Keep the program moving along, not too fast and not too slow. Start the music quickly, so you can keep the group on the floor and dancing. Also, repeat and/or slow-down the more challenging portions of a dance. Using a remote controller for the music player makes this much easier.

Avoid describing a dance as “easy.” First, it might not be easy for the newbie, in which case, they are likely to think, “I’m struggling with an easy dance; so I have no talent for folk dancing.” Secondly, if the dance is actually easy for them, let them feel gratified with their success.

Be prepared to accept that some newbies just won’t catch on to folk dancing, usually because they are uncoordinated or cannot move in-time to music. Try to silently identify them and gently leave them behind by focusing more on the other dancers. If you spend a lot of time repeating basic steps for one dancer, the others won’t learn enough and they will become bored. In such cases, you can strive to help such people feel some sense of accomplishment (i.e., they learned something) and know that their effort to learn is recognized and appreciated.

Most importantly, try to make people feel good about themselves. Acknowledge their efforts to learn. It’s also helpful to explain that advanced dancers are a minority and something special.

Programming for Beginners

It’s best to create a program of introductory dances that build upon one another, so the grapevine and step-together-step learned in one dance will be used in the next dance.

Select material that is relatively easy and has beautiful, exciting, or interesting music.

If a very experienced dancer attends, have at least one dance they can enjoy (and show off a bit if that’s their style). With a mixed-experience group, have a dance that’s new to everyone - both the experienced and the new dancers.

Be sure to prepare a contingency program because it’s hard to predict what mix of dancers will show up. Modify your teaching plan to suit the mix of people who show-up.

Try to provide a broad repertoire and encourage newbies to tell you which dances they like and which they don’t. Dances that might be popular include *Zemer Atik*, *L’Homme Qui Marche*, *Senin Canina*, *Eastbourne Rover*, *I Walk the Line*, and *Believe*.

It can be fun to repeat a dance to different music across the weeks, to hold dancers’ interest.

Try to list all the dances taught and danced (along with videos) on the group’s website.

Include some challenging dances in the second half of the session. Some new dancers will be determined to learn a difficult dance (such as *Vlasko*) if the music or moves are captivating. When they learn a difficult dance, they will feel more accomplished.

Publicizing a New Dance Group

Try to use more than one means to inform the community of your dance group. We suggest a website for the group, a Meetup.com group, an article in a local newspaper, and/or advertising in a local or neighborhood news e-group such as Nextdoor.com. Try to have a positive listing on Yelp. You could also invite a local reporter, blogger, or the like to attend a session (perhaps for a special event designed to appeal to them and/or to provide them more to write about).

If you create a website for the group, try to use a well-known domain name, such as .org or .com. Foothill International Dancers used “.dance” because .org and .com were already taken, but some people have trouble using the “.dance” domain name because they think something is missing, so we don’t advise it.

Thanks to Loui Tucker for the advice she gave in a lecture at the Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Additional thanks to Marc and Jan Rayman and for beginning a new group specifically to teach beginners how to dance AND to teach themselves how to attract and retain beginners: the Foothill International Folk Dancers of La Canada. Finally, thank you to Jan Rayman for honestly reporting in detail what worked – and what didn’t work.

Mindy Belli

AMAN

Ojai Reunion 2018

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~ April 20-21, 2018 ~



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Friday – “Alumni Reunion Day” (4/20) **For AMAN Alumni + Guest**

Afternoon “AMAN Tribute” Workshops // Evening Reunion Happy Hour, Dinner & Special Reunion Program // Nighttime “Alumni Cabaret” and Dancing w/Live Music.

Saturday – “Institute & Parties” (4/21) **For All - Open to the Public**



- Morning Festival/Institute with **SUSY & STEVE KOTANSKY**

- ◆ Hungarian Dance Workshop
- ◆ Balkan/Rom Dance Workshop

- Afternoon “LA Coffee House –Oldies Party” with DJ Billy Burke – recorded program & requests (vintage AMAN t-shirts, belts & opanci are a must)
- Nighttime Ladarke sing along, Dance Party w/Live Music (AMAN musicians & friends), and a Late Night Kafana!

SO... the time is finally here to begin making your accommodations and travel plans for this fun event... we're going to have a blast!

Visit www.amansociety.com

For more detailed information on: Event Schedule, Registration, Meals, Workshops and Local Accommodations (motel/hotel/camping)

(*Note: Saturday dinner is NOT part of any package, sold separately)



PAST AMAN INSTITUTE (1970'S)

*Presented by Aman Alumni Society / Event Chairs: Susie Burke & Barbara Gordon
with support from the California Multicultural Arts Institute (CMAI)*

POETRY CORNER

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH... SO...

Climb on board and careen into Scene
With your terse verse
Or ratiocination or philosophical observation
Or a simple, silly-sauce cinquain.

Write the song you're singing inside; don't let it hide.
Be laser-light with *lilting lyrics*...or serious...
Or as preposterous as a rhinosteros.
Flit, fly... dally or dance...with poetry.

Taake your tiimme...
Waltz those syllables across the white page,
ENGAGE!
With your mood, your musings your mutterings and more.

Then...tidy it up by March 10 and send it to Sandy*
She's so dandy...
She'll pass it along to Jay and it'll start on its way
To Carl, Steve, and Betchen,

Then Jan twirls it off in a different direction
To Donald and Pat... and that's that!
It's kneaded into Scene with butter and cream
And appears on the pages...it's outrageous the journey it takes
Before it settles in place.

Lots of folks mix this stew, I've just mentioned a few.
So hooray for you and the whole aggregation
It takes to publish this entertaining, enlightening, engrossing
Folk dance sensation.

Camille Dull

*Sandy's email address: sandyhelperin@icloud.com



LIMERICK

Here's some wonderful news:
I found the answer to lingering blues!
Folk dancing's the cure.
But next time, for sure,
I heed the flier: Wear Comfortable Shoes.

Carl Pilsecker

56th Annual
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Exquisite Nature



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 Garfiaz (Latin Couple)

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- Child (0-12yrs) - Free

*Discounts and work-exchange scholarships available.
 Visit us online for more info.

www.MendocinoFolkloreCamp.com

RECENT EVENTS



Narodni celebrates again

Oxy Folk and Historical Dance Troupe performs Spanish Waltz within the choreography to Count of Luxembourg Waltzes during Occidental College Waltz Night annual event held this year on February 17



Allan Knorr and Betchen Barber, teachers of the troupe, observe their handiwork

CLUB DIRECTORY

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: 4th 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 dancermmm@gmail.com Marie Montes

Ethnic Express: Wed 6:30 except holidays. East Las Vegas Community Ctr, 250 N. Eastern Ave, **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 *Vincen-tyhcheng@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 xorepse@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. Woman's Club, 1424 Fremont Ave, **S. PASADENA** (626) 355-9220

johnmeursinge@gmail.com John Meursinge
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). Throop Unitarian Church, 300 S. Los Robles, **PASADENA.** (626) 914-4006 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 *cameronflanders@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 Los Angeles Folk Dancers:** Mon 7:30-10:00 (Beg 7:30-8). Brockton School, 1309 Armacost Ave, **WEST LA.** (310) 202-6166 dancingbarrs@yahoo.com Beverly Barr

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: Mon 1:30-3:00 Senior Center, 5056 Van Nuys Blvd, **SHERMAN OAKS.** 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 Masonic 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 L.A** 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 Mulholland, **L.A** (818) 343-8009 Natalie Stern

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

Kayso 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

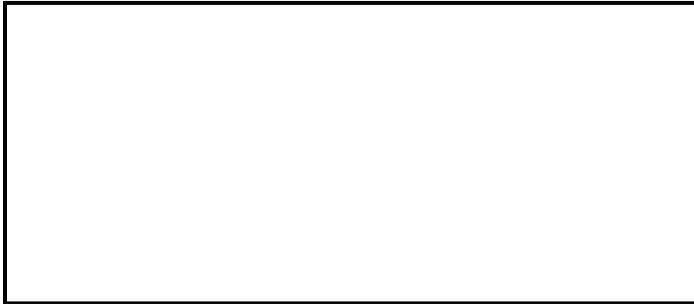
Topanga Canyon Int'l FD: Fri 9:30am-11:00am. Froggy's Restaurant, 1105 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd, **TOPANGA.** (310) 455-1051 Melanie Kareem

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 UniversityDanceClubs@yahoo.com James Zimmer

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