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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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On the cover: Zoom Gaida players, screenshot from Kathy Molga







Volume 57, No. 1 February 2021

Editors' Corner

On the cover—who would have thought there were so many *gaida* players? Thanks to Kathy Molga for this and other photos of the Zoom Texa-Kolo Fest!

Check your dance options in Calendar and On the Scene. Due to Covid, many are and may be remote. So check close to the date, and check the Club Directory listings too.

Read what your colleagues have to say in Dancers Speak - including Sandy Helperin on postal problems and subscription solutions - and in Last Dance and Poetry Corner.

Club Directory is available—with the caveat noted. Be of good cheer!

Pat Cross and Don Krotser

Table of Contents	
The Corner	3
Texa-Kolo Fest	4
Calendar	8
On the Scene	10
Dancers Speak	12
Last Dance	13
Poetry Corner	16
Club Directory	18

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

Note from the Prez

Help yourself to a dance exercise snack break several times a day. "After an hour of sitting even a minute of activity improves fitness," say exercise physiologists. One can interrupt desk work without guilt to dance grapevines around the living room, do "The Standing 7 Minute Workout" posted on the NY Times website, salsa across the floor, or practice a beloved folk dance like *Vulpita*. (If you forgot the steps go to <u>http://socalfolkdance.org</u>. Choose "dances". Scroll down to "Dance Finder," choose the letter "V" and click on the green *Vulpita*.)

Are you seeking a novel dance exercise snack? Tune into "Bhangra Fusion" at 9:15 Monday & Wednesday mornings. Dale Adamson will guide you through movements derived from the Punjabi harvest celebration. Dale also teaches the Bhangra dance popular with folk dance groups. Details at Calendar of virtual events: https://daleadamson.com/eventscalendar/. Sample head to toes dance movements at the daily 10 a.m. World Dance for Humanity Zoom class. https://zoom.us/j/823393549. Meeting ID: 823-393-549. The session includes a mélange of salsa, afro, bhangra, classic jazz and pop steps. Choose any for your personal exercise snack breaks. Note that Zoom leaders frequently address modifications to accommodate knee & shoulder limitations, and seldom mention that folks with older spines should avoid simultaneous bending & twisting actions. Be aware and take care.

After your dance exercise snack break you may want to return to the Federation's website to view events on the calendar, and to plan your post Covid dance festival excursions. Dick Oakes has posted a comprehensive list of folklore camps, festivals & events throughout the USA.

Zoom dance learning tip of the month: Peek-a-boo, or now you see 'em, now you don't.

Continued on page 11...

TEXA-KOLO FEST

TEXA-KOLO WAS A WHOPPING SUCCESS!

Here's why.



Holly Plotner

With over 1300 registrants, 30 bands, dance teachers, song classes, music classes, performances and interviews, Texa-Kolo became an overnight hit. Seen in over 35 countries, from Australia to Hungary, from Guatemala to Hong Kong, from Norway to Turkey and everywhere in between, it was a true world-wide Megafest. The festival was co-directed by Bill Cope on the Kolo Festival side and Holly Plotner on the Texas Camp side. Representing the best of both the festival and dance camp, the online dance halls brought a taste of both traditions to Zoom viewers.



Bill Cope

Personally, I have been to both Texas Camp and Kolo Festival. I attended Texas Camp back in the 80s when Sunni Bloland was the headline teacher. I had forgotten about how much fun we had there, until I watched the Texas Dance Hall slideshow of bygone Camp days. That's when I spotted a photo of me dancing along with many of my old Texas friends. Memories started to flood in. I'm sure many viewers shared the same experience when watching an old performance, or listening to 15 of our favorite teachers interviewed by Sherry Cochran during her "Blast from the Past" cameos -- both pre-recorded and live.

Meanwhile, for the past few years I have also attended Kolo Festival on the same Thanksgiving weekend and haven't looked back since. Why? Kolofest offers live bands and plenty of them. If I was not dancing to John Morovich and the Chubritza band in the main dance hall, then I was in the Kafana enjoying the hauntingly beautiful Hungarian music of Danubius or the traditional music of Cabin19 or Zabava! Similarly, one could hear all this music in the online Zoom Kafana that represented the best of both Kolo festival and Texas camp, with over 20 bands from which to choose. In the main rooms dance classes were offered from great master teachers like Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu or Joe Graziosi. If that was not enough for us, there were singing classes by John Morovich, Maria Bebelekova or Michele Simon to name a few. So much talent was combined into one very packed weekend, with a little something for every taste.

Through the hard work and planning of co-directors Bill Cope (Kolo Festival) and Holly Plotner (Texas Camp), an additional 8-person steering committee (Adony Beniares, Ahmet Luleci, Cricket Raybern, Dale Adamson, Evan Chu, Paul Collins, Sherry Cochran, Wendy Brown) plus the contribution of literally dozens of dedicated volunteers, the world was able to see just why these two combined Thanksgiving weekend events have become such popular destinations for the past 50+ years. See <u>kolofestival.org</u> "Thank you" to glimpse the small army of volunteers and groups who made it happen. To top it all off, even John Filcich, who is now in his late 90s, danced a few Kolos with his daughter.

And the fun continues --- both Texas International Folk Dancers and Kolo Festival are busy planning their 2021 and 2022 events. As news becomes available it will appear on their respective websites, <u>tifd.org</u> and <u>https://kolofestival.org/</u>

The popularity didn't stop there. As the festival came to a close, thank you's began pouring into the Texa-Kolo festival's website. The letters, notes and accolades poured in for weeks to come.

So what did they say?

"...this was a fantastic event across time-zones and many computers."

"Great job coordinating Texa-Kolo!!! Really smooth to participants. Kudos."

"It was a tremendous event only made possible by all the hard work of many people -- organizers,

teachers, performers and a fantastic tech crew."

- "Even when Zoom took away the breakout rooms, it didn't take the tech crew long to...come up with a work-around and implement it."
- "This was a fantastic event across time zones and people's computers!"

"Thank you all for the tremendous chance to dance and sing "together" this special, long Weekend." After being part of this weekend of music, dance, teaching, parties, interviews and performances, all I could think of was, "How fortunate am I to be part of this wonderfully talented community of artists." This sentiment was shared by both Bill Cope and Holly Plotner as we talked and shared our impressions at the end of Sunday evening's closing dance party. The Texa-Kolo Festival gave us more than just entertainment. It gave us a way to reconnect with an incredibly diverse set of people who have a variety of stories to tell about the traditions that are celebrated in many parts of the world and have become such an integral part of our lives. It provided us with healing through connection by dancing with friends both old and new. For one memorable weekend, we were able to forget the forced isolation that has kept us all in our homes for these many months. In the shared love we have for anything and everything "folk", Texa-Kolo brought us all just a little closer together for one fabulous weekend. It was pure joy!

Kathy Molga, contributor

The following article first appeared in Let's Dance Magazine, January 2021, and is reprinted here with permission.

THE GLOBAL TEXA-KOLO FESTIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA

It was a Thanksgiving weekend like no other. The organizers for Texas International Folk Dance Camp in San Antonio and for California Kolo Festival in San Francisco and a hundred and more of their friends put on

an amazing event that attracted hundreds of us to a virtual celebration of dancing, music, performances and folk culture.

There were many opportunities to learn: Joe Graziosi taught us 18 Greek dances. Sonia and Cristian taught us 9 Romanian dances. Michel Hardbarger taught fun



Melanie Kareem



Christian and Sonia

family dances. Maria Bebelekova, John Morovich, Michel Simon and Shirley Johnson taught singing classes, Melanie Kareem taught ukulele classes, and there were at least six instrumental jam sessions. Did I

mention the fantastic schedule, color coded to help us find dance classes, singing classes, instrumental classes, warm up sessions, culture corners, performances, and chat rooms?

In the evenings there were performances for dancing by more than 24 different Balkan bands from all over the country. Simultaneously there were videos of dance performances curated by Ahmet Luleci and international folk dancing organized by the Texas Camp. There were after parties every night.

The tech crew was kept busy, helping us navigate between virtual dance and chat spaces, quickly playing recorded teaching sessions when a teacher's live Zoom session was having problems, and monitoring chat. When we logged in on Saturday morning we were met by the message: "Hi Friends! We are having so much fun at Texa-Kolo that we are crashing Zoom!" The tech crew quickly made changes in the procedures for getting to the events and we kept on having fun.

It's not too late to express your thanks to the hosts or the teachers or performers for this amazing four day event. Kolo Festival and Texas International Folk Dance Camp both have websites and opportunities to donate.

Karen Wilson-Bell, contributor

TECHIES RUSHED TO THE RESCUE AFTER ZOOM FAILED TEXA-KOLO FEST 2020

Numerous planning sessions preceded the launch of the g-normous virtual Texa-Kolo Fest at 10 am on Thanksgiving Day. Dancers were registered, musicians rehearsed, volunteers trained, detailed schedules posted and log in instructions carefully prepared. Two dance halls, a Kafana, Amphitheater, and numerous lounges for chatting had been devised to allow for simultaneous instruction, dance parties and socializing. By 5 pm the construction was breaking down. Dancers could no longer move from the "Welcome Center" to the dance hall or the break-out room of their choice. The tech team laboriously helped folks enter dance halls until they also lost control. Shirley Johnson and her accordion were stuck, too. Since she could not get into the Texas Camp Dance Hall for her set, she played for folks stranded in the Welcome Center to dance. Soon all Thursday evening parties were routed to the Welcome Center.



Paul Collins

Techies independently investigated, communicated, collaborated, and devised work arounds while the party continued. The diligent tech team confidently went to sleep. Then on Friday, they had to address more Zoom Gloom. Paul Collins, the Chicago Virtual Dance Room host and experienced Zoom Tech, explained the cause of the disruption and how the techies kept Texa-Kolo alive and thriving.

Non – commercial, free Zoom accounts are normally restricted to meetings of 40 minutes duration. For Thanksgiving weekend Zoom turned off the meter; families and friends could chat endlessly. This created a burden for Zoom servers around the world. Texa-Kolo Fest got relayed to a cloud server in Japan. The bits and bytes to allow folks to move into and out of the various break out rooms were not available. The first solution on Friday required participants to navigate between rooms by logging onto 4 separate urls, 2 with confounding passwords. Shortcut links were supplied in the chat, and also sent by email to

those who had registered. Some of the tech team morphed into "Customer support personnel" while others continued to seek a more elegant solution for moving between venues.

Late Friday evening a "landing page" was introduced. From the landing page festival goers could readily navigate between the 4 rooms, and also find links to schedules, playlists, song lyrics and more. Hurrah! I hurriedly checked my email and pasted the landing page link for easy access. Fortunately, Paul Collins had created a "landing page" for the Door County Virtual Fest in July, and has a lightning-fast brain for writing code. With Bill Cope's blessing Paul re-purposed the Door County landing page and got it up and running, for Texa-Kolo. (All while simultaneously organizing the Saturday evening after party, a task that required confirming co-hosts and doing sound checks to provide high quality music.)

Did the tech team then retire from duty and begin an enjoyable weekend of dance? Not a chance! The Welcome Center became the "Help Desk" for baffled Zoom users. And one solution does not fit all, not when participants are accessing festival links from phones, tablets and computers with a variety of operating systems (including Linux, Paul reports.) Paul reworked the original log in page to read "Zoom Breakout Rooms Not Working - Visit the Texa-Kolo landing page at dcff.net/texa-kolo" to further guide confused participants.

Throughout the four days of the festival the team of Volunteer Techies expedited instruction, recorded music, live music, videos of live music, culture sessions, interviews, announcements, films, video dance clips, and resolved Zoom hassles with zero assistance from Zoom Engineers. Please join me in offering a resounding "Thank you!" to the Texa-Kolo Tech Team! Maybe they should have a tip jar like the musicians.



Diane Baker, Contributor

Tech Team

Note: Federation events are in bold.

- **ONLINE:** Events are often scheduled with little lead time and may be canceled on short notice.
- Dale Adamson's Google calendar of online events is usually up to date. <u>https://daleadamson.com/</u> <u>events-calendar/</u> and Aaron Alpert maintains a list of Israeli dance online at <u>http://</u> <u>www.nirkoda.com/virtual</u>

FOLK DANCE GROUPS MEETING ON ZOOM

- LIFE Balkan Dancers on Fridays at 8. Contact Sherry Cochran at worldance1@gmail.com for the link and password.
- Laguna International Dancers. Holds regular Zoom dance events twice a week, Wednesday and Sunday evening from 6-8. We open the waiting room at 5:45 and let people chat and socialize until we start dancing at 6. The teacher/dance leader is Lee Otterholt. The first half hour is teaching and dancing of easier dances and the last hour from 7 to 8 includes teaching and dancing of some more challenging dances. (A little more teaching on Wednesdays, a little less teaching on Sundays.)
- The Folk Arts Center of New England is continuing its very successful series of master teachers, which has attracted over 400 folk dancers from around the world. Most Saturdays at 11 am, <u>http://www.facone.org/programs-onlineevents.html</u>
- Ethnic Dance Chicago, Illinois Fridays at 7:30 -11 CDT (5:30 - 9 pm Pacific Time). 1st half hour warm ups, discussion, with discussion following after 8 pm Pacific Time. Schedule and info at www.ethnicdance.net/virtualdanceroom/
- Cerritos Folk Dancers. Cerritos Folk Dancers conduct virtual classes through Zoom on every Tuesday evening, from 6:00 to 8:45. It is open to the public. Donation is \$4 each time. Other options to donate are available. The first time participating in CFD's Tuesday class is free of charge. Contact <u>CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com</u> for the weekly playlists and other details.
- *The Peninsula Dancers* from Northern CA have been holding Zoom sessions every 2nd Sunday and every 3rd Saturday of the month from 3-6:30,

also broadcast on their Facebook page <u>https://</u> <u>www.facebook.com/PFDCouncil/</u> Check with virtualfolkdance@gmail.com or check the Facebook page for the Zoom link.

- *Tuesday Night Revival* (Boston MIT) meets every 3rd Saturday, 5-8 pm Pacific Time <u>https://</u> <u>tuesdaynightrevival.com/</u> or join Zoom at <u>https://</u> <u>tinyurl.com/tnrzoom</u>
- San Diego Folk Dancers are on Zoom, usually on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, depending on other online events. Check their Facebook page at S. D. Folk Dance Center. Social time at 6:30 pm, teaching at 7 pm, followed by International Dancing. The Zoom link is on <u>http://</u> <u>folkdancecenter.org/newsletter.html</u>
- Roberto Bagnoli holds Israeli and Balkan dance parties from Rome, often on Sunday mornings and/or weekdays at noon. Check his webpage <u>http://morenu.it/</u> for the current schedule and Zoom links.
- *Kypseli* has been presenting Greek dance and music sessions on Zoom on occasional Saturdays, sometimes from Greece. Information will be on their Facebook page and website <u>www.kypseli.org</u>
- Ira Weisburd teaches line dances and hosts a Balkan -Israeli Session, usually recorded for later viewing. Donations requested. <u>https://</u> <u>www.facebook.com/dancewithira</u> Ira's classes are now broadcast on his YouTube Channel his Facebook page redirects to: <u>https://</u> <u>www.youtube.com/user/iraweisburd</u>

2021

FEBRUARY

6 Kypseli hosts a dance workshop with Kyriakos Moisidis from Greece (originally scheduled for Jan 30) <u>www.kypseli.org</u>

- 12 Virtual Dance Room hosts *Door County Folk Festival - Mardi Gras Edition*. All live music. Details will be posted at <u>http://www.dcff.net/</u> and/ or <u>www.virtualdanceroom.net</u>
- 13 Virtual Croatian Cultural Extravaganza, St. Anthony's - Details will be posted at <u>https://www.facebook.com/events/585470205502112/</u>

13 Mainewoods Virtual Dance Camp - details will be posted at <u>https://</u>

www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org/. See OTS.

- 16 Jaap Leegwater workshop 7:30-10:30 pm. <u>https://</u> <u>burnabyfolkdance.org/event/jaap-leegwater-</u> <u>online-workshops/</u>
- 23 Jaap Leegwater workshop review <u>https://</u> <u>burnabyfolkdance.org/event/jaap-leegwater-</u> <u>online-workshops-2/</u>
- 27 Kypseli hosts a Greek dance workshop with Joe Graziosi. Info at <u>www.kypseli.org</u>

MARCH

- 6-7 Balkan Night NW from Seattle online 4-9 pm Details at <u>https://www.balkannightnw.com/</u> and <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> BalkanNightNorthwest/
- 12-14 Laguna Folk Dance Festival will hold a joint online festival with the San Antonio Festival. See OTS. Details will be posted at <u>https://</u> <u>springfestival.us/</u>

APRIL

- 7-11 National Folk Organization Annual Conference on Zoom <u>http://nfo-usa.org/annual-conference/</u>
- 23-25 *Lyrids Folk Dance Festival* on Zoom featuring Tineke and Maurits van Geel <u>https://</u> <u>lyridsfolkdancefestival.org/</u>
- 23-25 New England Folk Festival <u>https://</u> www.neffa.org/neffa-online/

MAY

- 1 Cerritos Folk Dance Festival. Info: chiangwenli@yahoo.com or CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com
- 2 SoCal Folk Fest at the Ukrainian Center, 4315 Melrose, LA (postponed from 2020)

NOVEMBER

12-14 Fall Camp. Teachers TBA. See OTS. Info: Dance@FallCamp.org, https://fallcamp.org

OUT OF STATE

FOREIGN

ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

5/4-16//2021 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Includes Tirana, Durres, Viora FD Festival, Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra. Extension 5/16-18. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

BULGARIA

8/2-15/2021. Koprivshtitsa Festival tour. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

CENTRAL EUROPE

6/14-27/2023 Folk Dance and Yodeling Tour to Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Switzerland. Led by Jim Gold, Lee Otterholt and Lee Friedman. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

GREECE

10/9-22/2021 *Tour of Greece and Greek Islands*. Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt. Athens, Sparta, Delphi, etc. plus cruise to islands. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

IRELAND

8/5-17/2023 Tour led by Jim Gold and Lee Friedman. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

ISRAEL

3/13-24/2022 or Germany in June *Tour led by Jim Gold, Joe Freedman and Lee Friedman.* Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN

6/8-21/2021 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE

5/22-6/3/2021 Tour led by Martha Tavera. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

ROMANIA

10/3-16/2022 Klezmer and Folk Dance Tour. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.

SPAIN

9/14-27/2023 *Tour led by Lee Otterholt*. Malaga, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Jaen, Granada. Info: www.JimGold.com, 201.836.0362. See ad.



LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL CAMP 2021

Fall Camp 2021 is scheduled for Nov. 12-14 at the same beautiful Brandeis-Bardin Campus where more than 90 dancers enjoyed Fall Camp 2019. At the submission deadline for this issue, infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci had recently opined that "by early fall" we could be "back to some strong semblance of normality." For now, that is sufficient to provide encouragement that Fall Camp will take place. But make no mistake about it: Fall Camp 2021 will not be merely a "normal" dance camp. We expect it to be extraordinary!

We are delighted that Roberto Bagnoli will be one of our master teachers this year, presenting international dances that are sure to be new hits. We will announce the other master teacher in a few months. In addition, Fall Camp will feature lots more dancing and music as well as a variety of other funfilled activities, some like those from 2019 and others that will be new. In fact, for this year we are looking into configuring one of the rooms on campus as a biosafety level 3 facility for those of you who want to engage in some creative games with SARS-CoV-2. Nevertheless, of course, we will ensure that all our plans and decisions reflect the latest guidance from health experts.

Marc Rayman

ANNOUNCING THE LAGUNA-SAN ANTONIO SPRING FESTIVAL

Festival Title: "The Laguna-San Antonio Spring Festival"

Date held on: March 12 - 14, 2021

Festival Theme: "Dancing in the Sun"

Activities: Get your dancing shoes on for a weekend of Teaching, Music, Performances and Dance Parties!

For more information please go to: springfestival.us

Lee Otterholt 949 933-6294 (mobile), Leeotterholt@yahoo.com

MAINEWOODS DANCE CAMP E-EVENT

Anticipating Cabin Fever? Come spend a virtual day at camp with us!

Saturday, February 13, 2021

Enjoy many of our favorite Mainewoods traditions:

- Dance Workshops and Reviews with Featured Guests
- Ethnic Theme Day
- Dance Swap
- **Music Class**
- Ethnic Recipes
- Cocktails and Mocktails
- Evening Dance Party followed by Late Night Dancing

Activities occur from morning until late night. Join as many as you would like—one, two or all of them!

Info at: mdc@mainewoodsdancecamp.org

PASADENA FOLK DANCE CO-OP

We are planning to resume dancing—together in live gatherings—as soon as there is a safe, regulation-compliant way to do so. In the meantime, updates and resources can be found on our website, <u>www.pasadenafolkdance.org</u>. Also, we're sending out a brief monthly email with updates and dance resources. If you'd like to be added to that mailing list, please contact Mari at

mari2@workableeconomics.com. Meanwhile remember these wise words from Alice Walker: "Hard times require furious dancing"

Mari Werner

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op Publicity

DANCE IN ITALY

Dear Choreographers, Art Directors and Terpsichore Dance friends and colleagues,

The Dance Grand Prix Italy Competition invites your dance school group to perform and teach at the most prestigious theatres in the European art cities the next 2021 season.

"Dance Grand Prix" in Italy from 21 to 25 June 2021 during summer time, for schools and groups from all over, acceptance to our annual festivals has been extremely competitive, please prepare your application promptly according to the guidelines.

To receive your Reg. Form, or if you have questions? Please email to organizer E-Mail:

danceeurope2021@gmail.com



Let's Dance! The Magazine of International Folk Dance

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

Membership application available on line at <u>www.folkdance.com.</u> Pay on-line or send application with check to Marsha Rosenblatt, Membership, 927 Springfield Drive Millbrae, CA 94030



The Corner continued from page three...

Your eyes are glued on the teacher's feet. You're following, saying the cues to yourself. Look away and see your own feet in your "mind's eye". Find out what sequences you know, and which ones you still need to pay attention to. Continue the game of watching the leader and testing yourself. Naturally you'll look down at your own feet to ascertain that you've got the pattern. Ok, do it once or twice, then look up and visualize your feet. Feel the rhythm in your body and sense where you are moving spatially—pie cuts, in and out, right turn, backwards. "Eyes up" prevents you from bumping into obstacles in the room. Exercise snack breaks won't be nutritious if you're injured.

Diane Baker, Federation President

CONSIDER RECEIVING YOUR FOLK DANCE SCENE ELECTRONICALLY

Many of you have noticed that since early fall your Folk Dance Scene has often arrived late, mangled, or not at all. All of us who work to get Scene to you each month have been troubled about this and I hope you will consider switching to the e-version. There are many benefits to getting Scene on your computer, phone, or tablet.

For instance,

1.You will receive a perfect copy in a very timely manner.

2. All photos in each issue will be in color.

3. You won't have to search your house to find Scene, it will be close at hand.

4. You can enlarge the print to whatever size you want.

5. You will be saving money as the e-version is a mere \$10 a year.

So that you may see how convenient it is to get the e-version, we will send each subscriber the e-version (along with the print version if you are now getting the print version) for the next 3 months. Once you see that you like the e-version you can switch over.

We thank you for subscribing and will be happy to get Scene to you whichever way you chose.

Sandy Helperin

AULD LANG SYNE AT 8:55 P.M.!

For Camille and me New Year's Eve has long been a time of folk dancing out the Old Year - at Pasadena Coop, or Veselo, or Narodni. Staying up and mobile until midnight had been a challenge, but the energy and conviviality of our fellow dancers had always buoyed our spirits, enlivened our bodies, and carried us through to the magic hour. So 2020's Covid pandemic constituted a major obstacle to maintaining our tradition.

The Internet came to our rescue by informing us of the Zoom folk dance party to be sponsored by the New England Folk Arts Center near Boston. At 7 P.M., PST, we signed on and for the next two hours celebrated in our living room. Musicians from near and far provided live music for us to dance to De Secarat, Twelfth Street Rag, Djurjevica, Rororspols, Karamfil, Schottishe ... Ahmet Luleci led us through several of his dances. A genial gentleman from California by the name of Lee Otterholt guided us in a sprightly rendition of Jove Malo Mome. Musical interludes and a lively drum performance were interspersed between dances.

At 8:55 P.M., PST, we joined in singing Auld Lang Syne, followed by a 9:00 P.M., PST, shouting of HAPPY NEW YEAR. Camille and I then adjourned to our kitchen for some New Year's Eve treats to complete a fun-filled, Covid-couldn't-stop-it party. *Carl Pilsecker*

NOTE FROM A SUBSCRIBER

You are doing a fantastic job with all the articles, since events are being cancelled or are on Zoom. The issues are still great. Received my Scene today and read it from front page to last. Incredible that we can have a 24-page magazine when there are no dance sessions meeting in person. Who could have imagined we would still have notes about groups and sessions plus of course poems and folklore articles etc.

Martha Awdziewicz

SANS FRONTIÈRES

Exciting local band, *Sans Frontières*, played 2 sets in the Kafana during Kolo Festival 2020. Terry Gucwa, band director, explains how musicians play together virtually for dancers.

Performing for the Kolo Festival was a very different thing than any of us in *Sans Frontières* would have imagined this time last year. The process starts in the same way it did before the pandemic, in that I make arrangements which specify who sings or plays what notes on what instrument. Then I distribute the written notation along with demonstration recordings of the music as it should sound. Then we each individually learn and practice our parts.

From there the similarity ends. Instead of rehearsing the piece together, we each video ourselves with cell phones or laptops playing our own individual part. We each record many takes before we feel we have an acceptable recording of ourselves. When we play our recordings back to ourselves, they don't sound interesting. It can be hard to imagine that anyone would want to listen to it. But the band members, with fingers crossed, dutifully make and submit their contributions to the process, hoping it all comes out OK in the end. I also send out demonstration recordings to one or more prospective dancers, hoping I can find persons brave enough to video themselves, and trust that the result will be something they can feel good about.

I take the individual contributions and use audio (Audacity) and video software (Adobe Premiere Pro) to merge them together. I merge the audio separately from the video because with sound I can synchronize the parts within hundredths of a second, depending on the frequency of the sound. Video is limited by frame rate, which can vary from 10 to 30 frames per second, depending upon the camera and sometimes, the lighting conditions.

Then there's the challenge of how to lay out com-



ponent videos of five, six, seven, eight, or more musicians and dancers - some in portrait, some in landscape, and some in square format - facing a variety of directions. I haven't come up with a formula for that, yet, and I'm reluctant to resign myself to a formula. I just experiment with our contributions as I receive them until I feel I have a layout that fits the music and varied roles of the participants.

When the music, images, and movements of musicians and dancers all come together, magic happens. Those individual parts that seemed dull, each become exciting and mesh together with the other participants. I figure it's actually the same magic that happens when we are all together, except it's just

delayed a few weeks. For now, we must be patient, stay safe and healthy, and go with delayed magic until once again we make that magic by being together.

Terry Gucwa

Sans Frontières, clockwise from lower left, Mindy Belli, Lance Gucwa, Lee Otterholt, Sebastian Otterholt, Barbara Gershman, Terry Gucwa, Marcella Lawson, with Marcella Lawson and Lee Otterholt dancing.



RUTH ROSEN

Ruth Rosen was a folk dancer for many years. Also an accomplished violinist and artist. Below is her obituary published in Los Angeles Times.

May 30, 1933 - December 27, 2020. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ruth Rosen on Dec. 27 in Carmel, CA. Ruth was the

beloved wife of Dr. Lawrence Rosen for 63 years, loving mother of David, Brant (Hallie) and Ian, grandmother of Gabriel and Jonah and aunt/big sister to Dorice. Ruth was born in Los Angeles, where she lived for her entire life; she was the youngest daughter of Simon and Gertrude Israel and sister of Mildred and Frances. A gifted violinist and artist, Ruth will always be remembered for her endlessly creative spirit, her sweet, loving heart and ever-present, infectious laugh. Her memory will forever be a blessing.

A tribute to her:

LAST DANCE

Ruth was a talented artist. She enjoyed folk dancing with Westwood. She played the violin at a Synagogue in Santa Monica. Ruth and Larry had mini concerts at their home in Santa Monica and I was invited to several of them. She was a wonderful hostess.

Rita Sklar

MEMORIES OF RICHARD DUREE

Rich Duree passed away late last year and we printed tributes to him in our previous issue. Here is one more memory of him.

I first met Richard back in 1984 at Santa Ana

Continued on page 14...

College Folkdancers. He was teaching often for that group and I was working in Orange County. One night he and I were talking about how I got into dancing through a high school U.S History class. We were all required to dance and as we were attempting it, our teacher reminded us how Americans danced, and why that one became popular. She was quite a wonderful woman who never told you that you were wrong dance-wise, but recommended a slightly different way to hold a hand or foot. She gave me a different outlook on how and why dance events happened.

This was an inspiration to Richard who often said "but look at the shoes and clothes the people wore and see how and why a dance movement was done". A few years later this approach to American History became: "dance your way through American History" as my teacher called it. Rich used this idea to choreograph a suite for his dance group Dunaj for "Ragtime through the 40's dances".

In the '90's when he finally found his favorite life and dance partner, Ruth Levin, he discovered a new lease on life. She energized him in a new way and encouraged him to try new things he was resistant to do – but became some of his best choreographies. He also started looking at dance more deeply.

Though many took his classes, few discovered his greatest achievements. Though many of us read his articles in Folk Dance Scene, few corresponded with him in letter-writing, and yes, he had a fabulous handwriting. His letters were a treat – now did you ever think he did that? But also it made me think: "I'm sorry I will not read another letter from him." He said I revived the art of letter-writing; that encouraged me.

For all the dance lessons and Magyar dance cycles and love for the Ragtime Balls he set up and all the dances I had with him –the memories are wonderful.

Richard may have left us in the middle of a great last item, but he really left when Ruth died. His heart died then so now he is happier with her.

Dance a Tango in memory of them.

Nancy Milligan The girl in the swirly skirt

SOPHIE POSTER

Sophie Poster was a long-time folk dancer in the Los Angeles area. She passed away in her sleep at 7am on December 5, 2020 at age 101 years. She had been having breathing problems and was on oxygen for about a week. It wasn't Covid. Her mind was sharp. She had trouble speaking because of shortness of breath, but could write out what she needed.

We will miss her so much. She did dance (and lead *Rumelaj*, her favorite) on her 100th birthday party. We didn't get to have her birthday party this year for 101, although several friends danced with masks outside her house for the occasion. There was a Zoom memorial for her on January 17th.

Below is a summary of her life from her family.

Sophia grew up in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles. Her father was a carpenter and her mother a seamstress. Her life was hard because her father frequently travelled, and her mother was ill. But Sophia was smart and did well in school. The family were members of a Jewish labor rights organization called The Workman's Circle, where Sophia met her husband Max Poster. After high school, Sophia went to college and graduated from UC Berkeley. Then she and Max were married.

During WWII Sophia worked as a draftswoman designing airplane noses, while Max was in basic training. Max went to Europe at the very end of the war and was killed in Italy. Shortly after his death, her daughter (Maxine) was born, whom she raised as a single mother. When her daughter was about 2 years old, Sophia went to UCLA for her master's degree in social work and began a career in that field at a time when few women were pursuing professional degrees. She worked for several government agencies and for a private non-profit mental health clinic. Sophia also had a private practice and saw patients well into her retirement.

Sophia loved traveling and visited most European countries, North Africa, Israel and Asia. Sophia was passionate about Balkan dancing and music. She had an active social life and enjoyed dancing three times a week for much of her adult life. Sophia loved books and frequently devoured a book a week. She had many other hobbies including knitting, home decorating and real estate. She took a lot of time to keep in touch with a large extended family spread around the US. She met many lifelong friends in her world travels and was active with Friendship Force International. Sophia also helped newcomers to this country by orienting them to living in the US, providing various kinds of support and friendship.

Sophia never remarried, but for more than 30 years she found companionship with Bulgarian musician Dimitar Trifinov, and the two lived together in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. She died on Saturday, December 5, 2020 in her West Los Angeles home at 101. Sophia is survived by her daughter, Maxine Leichter, 2 grandchildren, Noah Brickman and Rachael Brickman Levin, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Maxine Leichter and Rachael Brickman



Tributes and memories of Sophie from her dancing friends.

Sophia Poster's recent passing reminded me of the many ways one person can contribute to a movement. Sophia never missed a music or dance event and spread the word of upcoming events with great urgency. She told me more than once that "you must always support the Arts!" She made it a point to call me to announce, and again to remind me of visits by ethnic orchestras and singers performing in our area. I considered it important not to ignore her advice and, because of Sophia's push, I saw wonderful amazing performances in venues all over the Southland, including her own backyard. If I did miss an event I would get a phone call that let me know how disappointed she was at my loss.

When the war in Bosnia started, Sophia organized a fundraising event at a public venue with music and food and at which my family worked. She had a facility for putting people together who like to sing and learn songs in monthly locations around the area. She opened a world of scholars and musicians to us such as Ankica Petrovic, Ethnomusicologist from Sarajevo who was then teaching at UCLA and Flory Jagoda who brought to us beautiful Sephardic Jewish songs from her early life in Bosnia.

Before her 100th birthday, she and I had many conversations. She was celebrating on June 2nd, but I was committed to the Federation's Statewide in Claremont. I tried to figure out a way to be in two cities at once but had to miss her milestone birthday party. Sophia very graciously asked her guests, in lieu of birthday gifts, to donate to our Folk Dance Federation of California South, in her name. Again she taught me and all her friends a lesson. Support the Arts in every way that you can. Our lives are vastly richer for knowing her.

Pauline Klak, Federation Past President

Sophie came to my Balkan class every week, no matter how she was feeling, for over 37 years, from the time it was at Cafe Danssa, to Pacific Arts, to LA DanceFit. She loved live music and she loved to laugh and party. In 1994, when I started L.I.F.E. Camp, the first all live-music Camp in southern California, Sophie was the first to register! And when my husband Michael and I enrolled my class in learning and performing the choreography from Michael Jackson's "Remember the Time" video for the camp, Sophie was not about to be left out. She came to all the rehearsals and gave 100%! You can see her dancing it at age 75 at the end of the clip in our short tribute video at https://youtu.be/ hFv5L0OKIzQ. There was no one like her and we will all miss her terribly.

> Love and light, Sherry Cochran

This is sad news indeed. Sophie was a long-time and ardent supporter of the Society, and I will miss corresponding with her. She also was the only listed contact person for the Alive IFD group, the Braddock School IFD group (until last January), the Gypsies IFD group, and the Westwood Co-op IFD group.

> Ron Houston, Trustee The Society of Folk Dance Historians

More information about Sophie

There is a short video tribute we did on 12/11/20 at Friday Night L.I.F.E. on the Life Balkan Dancers channel. <u>https://youtu.be/hFv5L0OKIzQ</u>

A nice interview with Sophia. Watch at full screen - it's like having her right there.

https://www.facebook.com/Alumni.UCLA/videos/ celebrating-ucla-centenarians-sophia-poster-msw-52/2677181425663638/

WHEN WE'RE NOT DANCING TOGETHER IN THE SAME ROOM HOLDING HANDS

When we're not dancing it's melded days and empty nights and fly-away hours When we're not dancing it's weeks with voids where easy banter and melodies should be When we're not dancing it's just memories of pinkies entwined...

and hands reaching for a basket hold... and thumbs in belts When we're not dancing it's longing for festivals and food tables, fun parties, and finding partners for Postie's Jig

When we're not dancing I miss walking into a sea of waves and smiles, and stepping into *Cobankat* or *Rumelaj, Ordu* or *Koritsa*, or...

When we're not dancing I miss the energy pulsing through the room, the vibration of the floor boards, the long or short lines, the melodies all mixed up

When we're not dancing I miss the sprung wood floor with its scarred and discolored boards, nail heads polished to gleaming

When we're not dancing I miss the expanse where seven wide turns never run out of space

When we're not dancing there's no Ralph's meringue cookies with chocolate chips, no Ted and Carol's tangerines, no Diane's chocolate almonds,

no Pauline and Ed's 'delectables,' no Camille and Carl's oranges or Swiss chard or streams of nasturtiums

When we're not dancing I have no place to bring my excess of shortbread or Russian tea cakes ...and I eat them all by myself alone

When we're not dancing I yearn to be in a room full of people, brushing shoulders, twirling or sitting quietly or talking or just enjoying being in a room full of people...

When we're not dancing together in the same room holding hands

I learn to cherish all the familiar, fragile things I thought would last forever

Camille Dull

Jim Gold International Folk Tours: 2021-23

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Le Kri PERU, Le Qu NORW E BULGA Le So GREEC Le De	d by Lee Otterh uja, Saranda, B BOLIVIA, C d by Martha Tav techua Village, AY, DENMA d by Lee Otterh RIA: August d by Jim Gold, fia, Plovdiv, Ba CE and the C d by Jim Gold a lphi, Meteora, M	SOVO: May 4-16, ext. 16-18, 2021 nolt. Tirana, Durres, Vlora Folk Dance Festival! erat, Shkodra, Gjirokastra CHILE: May 22-June 3, 2021 vera. Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, Uyuni, La Paz, Atacama Desert ARK, SWEDEN: June 8-21, 2021 nolt. Oslo, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Copenhagen t 2-15, 2021 Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival Tour Lee Otterholt, Lee Friedman nsko, Veliko Turnovo GREEK ISLANDS: October 9-22, 2021 and Lee Otterholt.: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olymp Mycenae, and Epidaurus, Greek Island Cruise to Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey)	!
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CLUB DIRECTORY

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

Federation Clubs

*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.

Cerritos Folk Dancers: Tue 6:00-8:45. Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS**. (562) 865-8854 chiangwenli@yahoo.com Wen Chiang

Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Wed 7:30-9:30. Conejo Rec Center, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, THOUSAND OAKS. (805) 495-6491 mar601@earthlink.net Marion Miller

Ethnic Express: Wed 6:30 except holidays. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 So. Brush St, LAS VE-GAS. (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) 688 -9245 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-12:00. Clubhouse 6, 24061 Algarrobo, LA-GUNA 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 (323) 660-1030 jozefbilman1030@aol.com Jozef Bilman

Laguna Int'l Dancers: Wed 6:00-8:30, Sun 6:00-8:30. Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, LAGUNA WOODS. (949) 770-7026 7kahnmiriam@gmail.com Miriam Kahn www.lagunainternationaldancers.com

Mountain Dancers: 1st & 3rd Tue 1:30-3:30 (Oct. thru June). 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, **BellFlow-ER.** (562) 881-9504 julithilona@gmail.com Julith Neff

*Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op: Fri 7:30-10:30 (Beg 7:30-8). Altadena Community Church, 943 E Altadena Dr, Altadena. (626) 808-0361 mari2@workableeconomics.com Mari Werner

Prescott Int'l Folkdancers: Sun 3:00-5:00. First Congregational Church, 216 E. Gurley St, PRES-COTT, AZ. (928) 925-8995 Pres-

cott.intl.folkdancers@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

Skandia South Dance Club: Mon 7:00-9:45. Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center, ANAHEIM. (714) 893-8888 tedmart@juno.com Ted Martin.

Solvang Village Folk Dancers: Sat 6:30-8:30 (except 3rd Sat). Buellton Recreation Center, 301 2nd St, Buellton. 3rd Sat 1:30-3:30. Corner Alisal & Copenhagen, Solvang (805) 688-3397 dlh4362@gmail.com David Heald

Tuesday Gypsies: Tue 7:45-10:15. Masonic Lodge, 9635 Venice Blvd, **CULVER CITY.** (310) 391-7382 sandyhelperin@icloud.com Sandy Helperin

Ventura Int'l Folkdancers: Tue 1:15, Thu 1:45, 1st Sun 3:30. Ventura YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd, Ventura. (805) 647-1634 danc-

ing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie Daley

Veselo Selo Folkdancers: Sat 7:30-10:30. Unitarian Church, 511 S. Harbor, ANAHEIM.

veseloselo1@yahoo.com (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)

richterlouis@aol.com Louis

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

Westchester Lariats: Mon 4:00-9:00. United 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. (805) 341-9640 sissykf@earthlink.net Sissy Keresztes-Fischer

Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble: Tue 7:30-9:30 Sat 9:00-10:00. Szarotka Retirement Home, 3400 W Adams Blvd, Los ANGELES. Sat 2:15-4:15. Polish Parish Hall, 3424 W Adams Blvd, Los ANGE-LES. (626) 827-7338 elistarrr@yahoo.com Elizabeth 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 BAR-BARA. (805) 729-6453 scottmarcu@aol.com Scott Marcus

Non–Federation Clubs

Bay Osos Folk Dancers: Tue 11:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos. (805) 534-1501, annetiber@charter.net Anne Tiber.

Cafe Aman: 2nd Sat 7:00-11:30. Teach 7:30-8:30 LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd, WEST LA, ianpricebey@gmail.com, madelyntaylor@hotmail.com

Caltech Folkdancers: Tue 7:30. Cal Tech Campus, Dabney Hall, parking on California Blvd. or Throop Church, 300 Los Robles, **Pasadena**. (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. Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, La Mesa. (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 www.Foothill.Dance

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 Cochran

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 @ AJU-Natalie & Pat: Mon 10:30am-1:00, noon-1:00(Beg); Thu 10:30am-11:30. American Jewish Univ Dance Studio, 15600 Mulholland, L.A 818-642-3585 Pat Jordan

Israeli Dancing-Yoni Carr: Mon 7:00-11:30 Beginners at 7:00. Infinity Sport Dance Center, 4428 Convoy 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: Mon 6:00-8:30, Wed 12:30-2:00, Wed 8:00-10:00. Oak Park Stage, corner Junipero and Calle Real, SANTA BAR-BARA. 805.895.4885 Michal Lynch soriasusan@gmail.com Susan Soria

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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