



# Folk Dance Scene



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## Folk Dance Scene Committee

Coordinator	Jay Michtom	editor@FolkDanceScene.org	818.368.1957
Calendar	Fran Prevas	calendar@FolkDanceScene.org	310.921.2860
On the Scene		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
Last Dance		lastdance@FolkDanceScene.org	562.865.0873
Proofreading Editor		proof@FolkDanceScene.org	562.865.0873
Design and Layout Editors	Pat Cross, Don Krotser	design@FolkDanceScene.org	323.255.3809
Business Manager	Jan Rayman	business@FolkDanceScene.org	818.790.8523
Contributing Editor	Elizabeth Wayland Barber		
Circulation	Sandy Helperin	circulation@FolkDanceScene.org	310.391.7382
Subscriptions	Jan Rayman	subscriptions@FolkDanceScene.org	818.790.8523
Advertising	Steve Himel	ads@FolkDanceScene.org	949.646.7082
Jill and Jay Michtom 10824 Crebs Ave. Northridge, CA 91326	Jan Rayman 4827 Grand Ave La Cañada, CA 91011	Sandy Helperin 4362 Coolidge Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90066	

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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.

**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.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscription orders and renewals should be addressed to Jan Rayman. Annual submission rates are: \$10 for pdf via email, or \$25 USA, \$30 Canada for a print version (other foreign subscriptions available by email only). Payment should be made to Folk Dance Federation of Calif., South. Change of address or circulation problems should be addressed to Jan Rayman; see table above.

**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. Payment should be made to Folk Dance Federation of Calif., South.

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*On the cover: Cover Photo:* Spring fertility characters, *baboúgeroi*, dancing just before Lent in the northern Greek village of Flámbouro, 2008.



# Folk Dance Scene

Volume 61, No. 3  
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## Editors' Corner

Now that we have passed the Vernal Equinox and time change into spring, Betchen's article reminds us of religious calendars, too. Folk customs are anchored in these, which evolved from pagan agricultural needs to inform the planting times.

In Costume Corner she introduces the best reference for research on the subject: an overview with promise of examples to come in subsequent issues of Scene.

Have a look at On the Scene, then find more options in Calendar, the Statewide article and ads.

See what our colleagues have to say in Dancers Speak and Poetry Corner.

Find contact information, times and places in Club Directory.

Be of good cheer!

*Pat Cross and Don Krotser*

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### Federation South Officers

President	Diane Baker	949.675.2199
Vice-President	Greg Solloway	972.467.1406
Treasurer	Mindy Belli	714.914.7713
Secretary	Margaret Lange	
Membership		
Historian	Wen-Li Chiang	626.500.5035

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

## The Corner

Feeling jubilant after the Cerritos Lunar New Year and Laguna Fest 2025, I congratulate the festival Chairs and their committees, and teachers Lee Otterholt, Rebecca Tsai, Tineke and Maurits Van Geel. Sadly, this winter brought loss as well. Dancers suffered property damage in the fires, Pasadena Co-op lost their venue and our community lost a beloved dancer and the mainstay of the Westside International Folk Dance Club, Asako Oshiro.

Spring, the season of sprouting and beginning is NOW. The Federation is in harmony! Upcoming: Statewide May Day Festival in Arroyo Grande, a collaborative event with Nevenka, a new editor for Scene and a fresh slate of officers.

Have you reserved a room in Arroyo Grande or neighboring beach town for the Statewide Festival May 2-4? Consider staying a few extra days to enjoy Morro Bay, exploring Montaña de Oro State Park or wine tasting....

More details will be forthcoming next month about the concert by Nevenka followed by dance party on Saturday May 10. Save the date.

Classroom teachers from multiple school districts attended the teacher training workshop conducted by Billy Burke. One of the Federation's goals to re-kindle folk dancing as an activity for school age children, and to provide additional opportunities for adults. Spearheaded by Toti O'Brien, the Federation Outreach committee introduced folk dance at Pasadena Art Night with a dance demonstration and audience participation March 14-reports next month.

Michael Wright will assume editorship of Scene this summer. How can we thank current coordinator Jay Michtom for his extraordinary service producing Scene? Please send me your ideas.

Elections are on the agenda; likewise, a vote to accept the application for associate membership of 2 local dance clubs. Scene readers who want to participate in decision making are invited to zoom to the next Federation Quarterly council meeting on Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. To receive the zoom link send a message to [info@socalfolkdance.org](mailto:info@socalfolkdance.org)

Please continue to wear your folkdance T shirts on as many occasions as are appropriate, then send a photo to our (almost) emeritus Scene Editor, Jay Michtom by April 10. A photo of you planting seedlings at a native plant garden might win you acclaim as "most willing to dig holes!" and your photo in Scene. I recently wore a dance T to the farmers' market in town and to a Symphony concert at UCI. The goal of the Dance T shirt campaign is to promote our passion within our circle of acquaintances and environs. Send photos to [jaymichtom@yahoo.com](mailto:jaymichtom@yahoo.com).

*Diane Baker*



# GREEK PRE-LENTEN DANCING

Each spring, for more than a week before the austerities of Lent begin, members of the Greek Orthodox Church “live it up”—eating and dancing their fill. In earlier times, it was the same in Russia, too, where people said that now was the time to gobble up the last non-Lenten foods they had stored for the winter, foods that would no longer keep until Easter, more than a month away. Modern refrigeration has made that less of an issue, but the customs continue.



**Photo 1:** Local people at open-air market dancing spontaneously to music of street musicians, during pre-Lenten festivities. Thessaloníki, Greece.

wooden cover over it (**Photo 2**). Day and night during the long weekend, Nigríta's main square was full of dancing, powered by musicians who drove south from Bulgaria daily (**Photo 3**) to provide live music for the Greeks, who preferred dancing to playing instruments. All the other towns, too, were full of dancing—just stop and join in, day or night! (**Photos 4, 5**) All one needed was some music and some space. In fact, the middle of the street was just fine for an impromptu *vari hassápiko* we noticed forming outside our café in Náoussa; the traffic just stopped and waited (**Photo 6**).

In 2008, my sister and I and a friend accompanied Yvonne Hunt, the well-known teacher of Greek folk dances, to northern Greece to attend these celebrations. We didn't have to wait to go out to the villages to see impromptu dancing, for even in Thessaloníki, you only had to go to the big open-air market and sit down at some tiny table for Greek coffee or a soda to be surrounded by it. Street musicians would strike up a *syrtós* and half the people around would jump up into the narrow passageways and start to dance—mostly dancing in place because it was so crowded (**Photo 1**).

We shifted headquarters to the small town of Nigríta, where the hotel lobby sported a large oil painting of Gerakína—yes, the girl in the dance and song of that name, who fell down the well and shook her bracelets to attract attention. Unfortunately, the real event was less romantic than the song: she drowned before they could get her out, and the well now has a sturdy



**Photo 2:** Gerakína's well, visited by Yvonne Hunt and Ann Peters; Nigríta, northern Greece, spring 2008.

**Photo 3, below:** Young Bulgarian musician and his elderly uncle, playing dance music on their *zurlas* in the Nigrita town square, before Lent 2008.



**Photo 5:** And dancing every evening in Vamvakóphyto.



**Photo 4, above:** Spontaneous pre-Lenten dancing in a North Greek village square. (Author joined in, second from right.)







**Photo 6:** Finding a couple of passing musicians, 3 men started an impromptu *slow hassápi* in the street in the city of Náoussa. The line grew and traffic waited.



Certain villages, however, had special additional rituals which Yvonne knew about and whisked us to; for many Thracian and Macedonian villages had been repopulated with refugees, *village by village*, after the population exchange with Turkey in 1922, so they could maintain their ties and their customs. Agia Eléni, for example, contained people dislocated from the area south of Burgas, where the famous fire-walking had been maintained. This wasn't fire-walking season, but rather the time for a series of rituals by the men to jump-start the fertility of the fields. In Pondisméno, whose people had come from the north coast of Turkey, the men re-enacted the dances that their youth had been forced to dance for their erstwhile overlords (**Photo 7**).

Most spectacular of all was the ritual of the *Babougeroi*, which we saw re-enacted in Flámbouro and neighboring villages (**cover**

**Photo 7:** Fully costumed for the occasion, the men of Pondisméno perform for the whole town. We saw several little boys, also costumed, imitating the dances: future performers.



**Photo 8 above:** Our pretty friend Jaynie gets decked for a kiss by a roving *babougeros*, while passersby watch and laugh.

**photo**). These creatures, in various local forms, have been channeling the male half of fertility to the Balkan peninsula every spring since the Neolithic, when agriculture began. In the area of Flámbouro, the strongest men—and they must be strong, for those towering headdresses are built on thick wooden beams strapped to the wearer's back and shoulders—will put on their gear in the morning, and go through the village grabbing each young woman they see. They lay her on a patch of bare ground—and it can't be cement!—and give her a kiss (**Photo 8**), then they very politely set her back on her feet, restoring any lost shoes or handbags, and continue the hunt until they reach the village square.

The *babougeroi* begin the dancing. Their dance is slow and repetitious, but every few measures one or another dancer lowers the tip of his tall headdress to the ground (with obvious agrarian symbolism), then has to raise it again, which takes enormous strength. Meanwhile the villagers are gathering—and the crowd becomes huge, for busloads of the grown children of the villagers, now living in Athens where there are jobs, had arrived the day before, so all could share the occasion with their relatives. The exhausted *babougeroi* begin to retire and the villagers start to dance (**Photo 9**), filling the square with dancing which goes on until after dark. But not very late, for around 7:30 PM the bus drivers down in the lower square begin to honk their horns, for if they don't leave soon for the over 8-hour drive back to Athens, people won't get back in time for their Monday morning

jobs. But no one wants to stop dancing! What to do? Well, the entire crowd—locals, visitors, AND musicians—dance down the hill to the buses, where the visitors embark, the buses set off (accompanied by a lot of waving and blown kisses), and the remainder dance back up the hill to the main square. But the group is now so small, and the musicians so tired, that the festival soon closes...till next year.

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber



**Photo 9:** The crowd of half-costumed revelers in the main square of Flámbouro grows all day on the last Sunday before Lent, until by evening there is hardly room to dance.



# ON THE SCENE

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**Save the Date: Fall Camp Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 2025**



Colorful t-shirt at the CDM farmers' market.

The always popular Fall Camp will take place October 31 - November 2 at Brandeis Bardin Campus, near Simi Valley. Under the new leadership of Terry Gucwa, you will see some appealing changes, including the teaching, additional activities, new prices, and more. Details will be announced in the coming months.



Synevyr Ensemble at the Laguna Festival.



Dancing on the beach to close the Laguna Festival.





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**ALBANIA, GREECE, MACEDONIA and KOSOVO ext: May 21-June 2-4**

Led by Lee Otterholt, guided by Kliti Zika: Tirana, Durrës, Vlorë Folk Festival, Kruja, Gjirokastër, Saranda, Berat, Lake Prespa, Ochrid

**BULGARIA-Koprivshtitsa Festival (held every 5 years): July 29-August 11**

Led by Ventsi Milev:: Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko, Veliko Turnovo, Koprivshtitsa

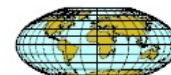
**ROMANIA: Sept 28-Oct 12** Bucharest, Brasov. Sibiu, Cluj, Sighet Marmatiei

**GREECE-GREEK ISLANDS: Oct 4-17**

Led by Lee Otterholt, Maroula Konti, guide: Athens, Nauplia, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Mycenae, and Epidaurus. **Greek Island Cruise:** Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi

**TURKEY: Oct 17-31**

Led by Lee Otterholt: Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Izmir, Kusadasi, Pergamon, Troy, Canakkale, and Bursa



Travel  
broadens  
one!

## Western Europe

**SCANDINAVIA: June 10-23**

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

**IRELAND: Aug 2-14**

Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Kay Cleary: Galway, Connemara, Aran islands, Kerry, Cork, Blarney, Dublin.

**SPAIN: Sept 11-24** Malaga, Ronda, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba, Granada



## South America

**PERU-Nazca and Peruvian Amazon ext: May 21–30.**

Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Puno, Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca, Peruvian Amazon, Nazca

**ARGENTINA: Chile ext: Oct 5-15** Buenos Aires, Salta, Mendoza

**BRAZIL: Nov 3-14** Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Iguassu Falls

**ECUADOR: Galapagos ext: Dec 1-14**



## North America

**WESTERN CANADA: April 10-22** Calgary, Banff, Vancouver

**EASTERN CANADA: June 27-July 9** Montreal, Quebec, Halifax,

New Brunswick, Peggy's Cove (Nova Scotia), Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

## Middle East

**EGYPT: Feb 20-March 2** Cairo, Nile River cruise, Luxor, Aswan

**ISRAEL: March 2-13, November 2-13**

Led by Lee Friedman and guided by Joe Freedman: Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, Galilee, Haifa, Safed, Golan Heights.

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# COSTUME CORNER

## Researching “Traditional Rural Dress”

So you want to research a costume. Where do you start? You can begin with the internet, of course. The trouble with that is, things are not labeled well, if at all, and many of the images are sloppy, simplified, and/or sexified “stage” versions of what people *actually* wore. Thus I thought it would be helpful to share a variety of top-notch sources I’ve learned about, rather than just discussing one costume at a time. I’ll do this region by region over the next months—but I must start with the granddaddy of all costume sources, which covers most of the world, a lot of costume history, and more: Max Tilke’s *Kostümschnitte und Gewandformen* [Costume Patterns and Dress Forms] (Tübingen, 1945), available these days through interlibrary loan.

Don’t panic: yes, it’s in German, but fundamentally it’s in **pictures**. If you can figure out place names, you can use this remarkable book pretty well, for, as it says under the title, it is “an overview of costume patterns and clothing forms of all times and peoples from ancient times to modern,” with 128 large (13 x 9.25”) illustration pages, every sheet containing multiple illustrations. And unlike virtually every other book on folk dress, it really does consist principally of **construction diagrams** of the costume pieces themselves, with an occasional drawing of a similar costume as worn (**Photos 1, 2**). This is your source for *understanding* a costume: nowhere else has such a wealth of construction detail been brought together. Where exact construction is not directly available, as for clothing from the ancient world, Tilke chose the clearest ancient depictions he could find (**Photo 3**). The first 55 pages give brief elaborations of the contents of each plate (in German—but you can always get a friend to translate 2 or 3 sentences for you, once you locate the pay-dirt!).

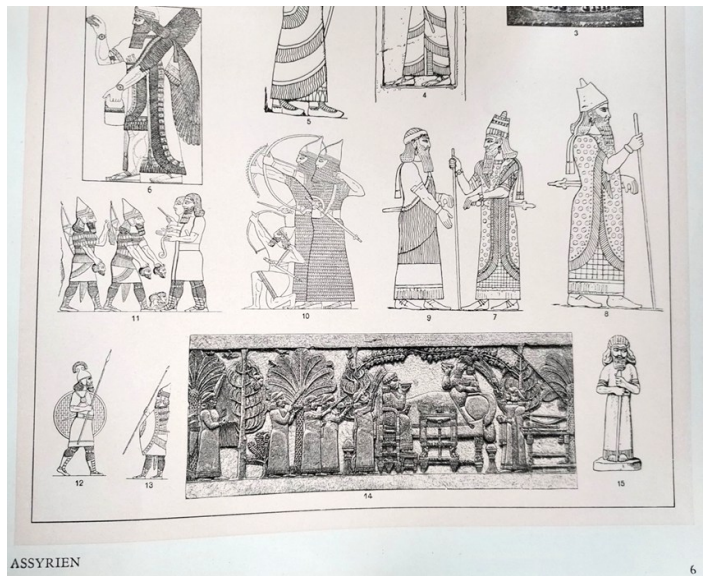
Note that Tilke’s coverage is indeed worldwide. So here is a rough run-down of the contents, in case your library will only send you photos of pages, not the whole book. (The binding is poor and mine is falling apart!) After 11 mostly black-and-white plates detailing ancient Mesopotamia (**Photo 3**), Egypt, Greece, Rome, etc., the book springs into full color for the Near East (pl. 12-23) and Africa (pl. 24-34), then line drawings again for Roman and medieval Europe (pl. 35-38). Next Tilke takes up the Slavs, Hungarians (**Photo 1**), and

**Photo 2:** Albanian women’s clothing, showing construction of various styles of coats. From Tilke, plate 64.

**Photo 1:** Hungarian shepherds, recent and older, with patterns for typical shirt (above) and pants (below). From Tilke, plate 42.



**Photo 3:** Ancient Assyrian costumes: careful drawings taken from the most detailed monuments. (The bottom frieze shows King Aššurbanipal himself feasting as he lounges on a couch in a garden, while his ornately dressed wife sits on a chair at his feet and servants attend them; 7<sup>th</sup> cent. BCE.) From Tilke, plate 6.



**Photo 4:** Plate showing development of women's crinoline skirts—these 2 rows from 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. From Tilke, plate 128.

Romanians in color (pl. 39-60, the Finnic peoples being tucked in with European Russia). Albania (**Photo 2**) and Greece come next (pl. 61-65), followed by Turkey and Spain (pl. 66-67). Then Great Russia gets a second shot (pl. 68-73) before Tilke slides south to Iran and the “-stans” (pl. 73-78). Next we find Central Asia, from Tibet in the north to India in the south (pl. 79-88), and finally we go east to China, Mongolia, Korea, and Japan (pl. 89-100), and even a plate for Indonesia and Oceania (pl. 101). Finally we reach Siberia (pl. 102-6) and the New World (pl. 107-16), finishing with a return to Europe to explore historical costume there from 800-1875 (pl. 117-128) (**Photo 4**). A rich source indeed!

—Elizabeth Wayland Barber



# STATEWIDE 2025 IN ARROYO GRANDE

## MAY DAY IN THE VILLAGE

The Statewide 2025 dance festival, May 2nd to the 4th, will take place in Arroyo Grande, California. Two master teachers, Željko Jergan and William (Billy) C. Burke, will bring a wealth of knowledge, each with over 50 years of experience, to their workshops.



A native of Varaždin, Croatia, Željko Jergan is a renowned choreographer and teacher of Croatian dance. He was a leading performer with the Croatian National Folk Ensemble LADO and performed with the Zagreb National Ballet and modern dance companies. Since moving to the United

States in 1986, Željko has created hundreds of original choreographies for amateur and professional ensembles worldwide. Željko has shared his knowledge and stylings of Croatian folk dance through seminars and workshops in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Taiwan.

Billy Burke, a native of California, was introduced to folk dance at an early age by his mother, who studied the field of folk dance. Billy became a professional dancer at 19 and toured the United States and Canada with the Don Cossack Choir. In 1970, he moved to Los Angeles and joined the AMAN Folk Ensemble. He was also the original director of the Chamber Ensemble, which toured schools in the Los Angeles area. Moving from the stage to the classroom, he taught traditional and traditional/recreational dance in the Los Angeles public schools for 37 years. He parlayed his experience in dance education into his book *A Celebration of Diversity: the introduction of traditional/recreational dance into the primary and secondary classroom*, which was published in 2024. At Statewide, Billy will be presenting dances from Northern Macedonia, plus some from other areas.



To enhance the experience of learning challenging new dances, the festival will include two dance parties with international dance music by the multi-instrumental band, Chubritza, plus a cultural talk by the president of Nipomo's historic DANA Adobe, a

performance by the Solvang dancers, a happy hour featuring the music of Big Rock Balalaika, puzzles and crafts, and a free community dance on Sunday afternoon to include the Maypole dance.

As if two master teachers, parties, and enhancements weren't enough reason to attend the Statewide festival, the California Central Coast area is rich with natural beauty and cultural significance and offers much to see and do for those who can extend their stay or for those bringing a partner less inclined to dance.

The Village of Arroyo Grande features historical buildings and museums, antique stores, boutique shops, a music store, and restaurants and cafes. The Pacific Ocean is a five-mile drive away. Five beach cities line the coast, each with unique charm: Grover Beach, Oceano, Pismo Beach, Shell Beach, and Avila Beach. Venture farther north to Highway 1 and explore the beach cities of Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, and Cambria.

About 15 miles up Highway 101 from Arroyo Grande sits San Luis Obispo, a vibrant college town with many shops and eateries. The Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, founded in 1772, is in the heart of downtown, near the SLO Museum of Art and the historical museum housed in a Carnegie Library built in 1905.

Over 400 vineyards and wineries are sprinkled throughout Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo Counties. Over 15 golf courses from Nipomo to Paso Robles feature differing geography and style. For nature immersion and spectacular ocean and bay views, there are hiking and walking trails for every level.

For a detailed list of places and activities, see the [Statewide](https://socalfolkdance.org/statewide.htm) website ([socalfolkdance.org/statewide.htm](https://socalfolkdance.org/statewide.htm)) where the host dance club, BayOsos Folk Dancers from Los Osos, have compiled some of their personal favorites. On the website, you'll also find a link to the host hotel, details on dining during the festival, directions, and a link to submit requests for the dance parties. Early registration ends April 5th. Registration is available online through Ticket Tailor (a \$6 fee added) or by check via USPS to registrar (download registration form from website).

On behalf of the BayOsos Folk Dancers and the Folk Dance Federation of California South, we hope to see you on the dance floor in Arroyo Grande in May.

Margaret Lange

# CALENDAR

## APRIL

- Weekends Apr. 5 – May 19 *Renaissance Pleasure Faire* 15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale, CA · Ph: 626.969.4750 Tickets: <https://renfair.com/socal/>
- 5-6 *Scandinavian Festival* at Cal Lutheran, 60 W Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. 10-6 pm Sat, 10-5 pm Sun, Admission \$15, free for children under 13 and Cal Lutheran students and staff [www.callutheran.edu/calendar/event/6286](http://www.callutheran.edu/calendar/event/6286)
- 6 *Ukrainian Art Center Pysanky Festival* noon-5 pm – Workshops for children, adults & seniors, Unique handmade Ukrainian Art & Crafts, Flags, & goods. Chervona Kalyna dance ensemble, Namysto dance troupe, & other dance groups, choral singers & musicians, delicious traditional cuisine, bar & soft drinks. Free Admission. 4315 Melrose Ave, LA, park in the LACC lots off Helio-trope
- 6 *Springtime Dance Workshop* - info historical-teaanddance@gmail.com register at <https://historicalteaanddance.org/>
- 6 **Kypseli presents Orestis & Friends (Orestis Koletsos, Giannis Karalis, Panagiotis Pappageorgiou) - \$25, 4-7 pm at the Tango Room, 4346 Woodman Dr, Sherman Oaks [www.kypseli.events](http://www.kypseli.events)**
- 20 *St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Easter Picnic* Brookside Park, 360 N. Arroyo Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91103, 1-7 pm Adults (13 +Older) \$15 Children (12 & Under) FREE. Foods and Desserts will be available for purchase: Credit Or Debit Card Only- No Cash Accepted <https://saintsophia.org/event/easter-picnic-3/>

## MAY

- 2-4 **Statewide 2025 Portuguese Hall in Arroyo Grande – master teachers Zeljko Jergan and Billy Burke, music by Chubritza <https://socalfolkdance.org/statewide.htm> See ad and article.**
- 3-4 *Rokdim Ba Valley Spring Mini Camp* with Yaron Malihi and Tamir Scherzer sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/rokdimbavalley> new location in Van Nuys, CA 91406. Info Miri at (805) 300-3372 or rokdimbavalley@gmail.com
- 4 *Alice in Wonderland Tea Social* - info historical-teaanddance@gmail.com register at <https://historicalteaanddance.org/>
- 4 *BACES (Bulgarian American Cultural and Educational Society) St George's Day celebration* at Cheviot Hills Park - Save the Date - delicious

traditional food, music, dancing and great company [www.facebook.com/events/9583738951690824](http://www.facebook.com/events/9583738951690824)

- 16-18 *OC Greek Fest*, St. John the Baptist, 405 North Dale Ave, Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 827-0181 <https://ocgreekfest.com/>
- 17 *12th Czech, Moravian and Slovak Festival*, 4975 Memorial Dr, La Mesa CA 91942 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1566328803952911/>
- 18 **Cerritos Folk Dance Festival** hosted by Cerritos Folk Dancers. Sunday 1-5:40 pm, Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St., Cerritos, CA 90703. Donation: \$12 (or \$10 if paid by 5/11/2025). No teaching/reviewing. Info: Wen Chiang (626) 500-5035, or [CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com](mailto:CerritosFolkDancers@gmail.com)
- 18 *Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest* King Gillette Ranch, 26800 Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas, CA, 91302 [www.topangabanjofiddle.org/](http://www.topangabanjofiddle.org/)
- 23-26 *Camp SheLanu* Israeli Dance Camp at Brandeis [www.campshelanu.com/](http://www.campshelanu.com/)
- 24-25 *Valley Greek Festival* St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church 9501 Balboa Blvd, Northridge, CA Live music with Synthesi <https://valleygreekfestival.com/>
- 29 *UCLA Music of Mexico Ensemble and Klezmer Music Ensemble concert*, 7 pm (Free at Schoenberg Hall and streamed online) <https://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/event/music-of-mexico-ensemble-and-klezmer-music-ensemble/>

## JUNE

- 1 *Turkish Festival*, Long Beach – save the date
- 1 *Bruce Hamilton Dance Workshop* -info historical-teaanddance@gmail.com registration form <https://historicalteaanddance.org/>
- 7-8 *Downey Greek Food Festival* 10830 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90241
- 14-15 – *Covina Greek Festival* 20340 East Covina Boulevard, Covina, CA 91724 (626) 967-5524 <https://covinagreekfestival.com/>
- 20-22 *Irvine Greek Fest*, St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604

## JULY

- 18-20 *South Bay Greek Festival* St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church 722 Knob Hill Ave, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 [www.sbgreekfestival.com/](http://www.sbgreekfestival.com/)

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 3 *Voice of Roma Herdeljezi Festival*, at Ashkenaz in Berkeley, co-sponsored by Berkeley Balkan Baccanal. Daytime ticketed instrumental and singing workshops, Free evening panel discussion and dance workshop with Sani Rifati, Evening ticketed concert/dance party with Orkestra Džambo Aguševi and friends, Rumen Shopov and Ork. Merakli, and The Stevens Family "Gypsy Boys"

June 28-July 5 *Mendocino Balkan Camp* <https://eefc.org/balkan-camp/west-coast/>

July 5-12 *Middle Eastern Music and Dance Camp 2025* Mendocino Woodlands, CA, USA [www.middleeastcamp.com](http://www.middleeastcamp.com) email: gamze@middleeastcamp.com

July 18-20, *2nd Annual Filcich Folk Dance Festival*, at the Arcata Veterans Hall in Arcata, CA. will include a special tribute to Dick Crum. <https://www.filcichfestival.com/>

July 20-Aug 3 *Stockton Folk Dance Camp*, Weeks 1 and 2 [https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org/summer\\_camp/](https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org/summer_camp/) See ad.

Aug 1-9 *Lark Camp at Mendocino* [www.larkcamp.org/](http://www.larkcamp.org/)

## OUT OF STATE

Apr 2-6 - *NFO Conference* in Portland, OR <https://info-usa.com/annual-nfo-conference>

Apr 25-27 *Genci Kastrati at Boulder Folk Dancers* [www.boulderfolkdancers.org/schedule/2025-bifd-annual-workshop](http://www.boulderfolkdancers.org/schedule/2025-bifd-annual-workshop)

May 9-11 *Lyrids Folk Dance Festival 2025*, Željko Jerčan and Joe Graziosi featured teachers. Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall, 12460 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2J5 (same as last year), <https://lyridsfolkdancefestival.org/>. Catered meals, hotel in walking distance. Fragrance Free.

May 16-18 *IFC International Folk Dance Camp* Circle Lodge in NY's Hudson Valley, featuring Daniel Sandu and Roberto Bagnoli Live music with Tom Pixton and the Arlington Trio. For more information: <https://ifc-ny.com/> or contact Joan at [DanceIFC@gmail.com](mailto:DanceIFC@gmail.com)

June 12-15 *June Camp*, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, IL, with Steve Kotansky, music with Tom Paxton, Ralph Iverson, & Brian Wilson <http://sites.google.com/site/junecampifd>

July 11-13 *45th Annual Door County Folk Festival* - in new location in Sturgeon Bay, WI <https://dcff.net>

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[csmit2u@yahoo.com](mailto:csmit2u@yahoo.com)

The deadline is May 15th



# CELEBRATION OF LIFE

## ***Beryl "Asako" Oshiro Celebration of Life held March 16, 2025, in West Los Angeles and live on Zoom***

Our global folk dance community lost our dear friend and fellow dancer, Asako Oshiro, on January 3, 2025.

Even before we left the ICU after a five-day vigil, we made plans to throw her a beautiful sendoff. Over the next two and a half months, members of Friday Night L.I.F.E., Westside Folkdancers, AMAN, and members of Nevenka met frequently to plan and allocate the many tasks we needed to complete to create this lovely celebration.

Details like video photo montages of her life; displays of her costumes, keepsakes, and crafts; tributes in-person, pre-recorded, and live on Zoom by her friends from around the world; tasty appetizers and desserts; a Mediterranean food truck arrived to serve us dinner; a filigreed guestbook box with wooden hearts to capture our written sentiments; handmade fused-glass hearts as remembrances for attendees; a toast with her own Slivo; and lots of dancing!

The event was joyous and sentimental. The sense of love and community was palpable.

Whether you attended or just expressed your love for Asako:

*Mahalo*

The two Remembrance videos are located at these links:

<https://youtu.be/k9bZGUdyRR0?si=cNCCQI8M4ficaEEw> (Sherry's)

<https://youtu.be/wmXuWUwZdJo?si=TPrKm2ptySpdF6hw>  
(Laurie's)

Photos from the day are located at this link: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QgXW2tRBXFIWfj7BPSHFpGdZVTt2siq?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QgXW2tRBXFIWfj7BPSHFpGdZVTt2siq?usp=drive_link)

I will soon edit and post a video of the March 16th Celebration on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@LifeBalkanDancers/videos>

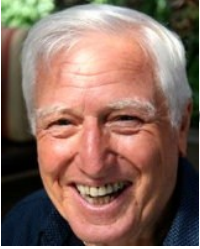
*Sherry Cochran*



Photo by Mady Newfield

# DANCERS SPEAK

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## I Met Esma

I met Esma Redžepova almost forty years ago. This beautiful Macedonian Roma girl, dressed in her native costume, gracing a Monitor 33rpm long-play (LP) record, was serenading a small boy beating a huge drum at her feet. Her image and the beautiful songs she sang swirled in my mind for all these years. *Čaje Šukarije* (beautiful girl in Roma) was one of my favorites.

When I found out that Esma finally decided to come to California, I made a date to see her perform at the Santa Monica Pier.

With my LP record in hand, I sat in the intimate performance hall as it slowly started to fill with people. Local Roma seemed to dominate the few folkdance friends I spied in the audience. Finally the band filed in and started playing some of the tunes I carried in my mind all of these years. What a difference hearing the live band instead the scratchy records. As the excitement increased, the band was joined by a beautiful older lady. I was waiting for my

young friend, however as soon as this lady started singing I realized that this was Esma. The image of the girl in my mind has not aged a bit over the forty years, yet when I heard the voice, Esma became again the youthful image of my dreams. She sang both in Serbian and Roma, but as the requests



from the audience for Roma prevailed and as the folkdance audience joined in, the party became a true Rom event.

At the intermission I was finally able to elbow my way through the crowd to Esma to talk to her and have her sign my LP record. She was delighted to know that I admired her singing all these years and introduced me to Sami, the boy with the drum, who now a grown man, played the clarinet in Esma's group.

Besides seeing Esma and having her sign my record, what touched me the most was the pride of the Roma people, when they realized that a "Gadjo" (foreigner) admired their Rom singer and their culture. You could see it in their eyes as they passed the autographed LP record from hand to hand.

So what did I learn from this?

I learned that just a small token of recognition, such as a smile or even better a minor local phrase such as *Kako Si* or *Sar San?* (How are you?) opens the door to the soul of the people. We are all one big family with the same needs and desires. We all celebrate our joy with songs and dances. And, as you folk dancers know the songs and dances are as varied as the cultures on this planet.

Smile. Learn a phrase in the local language. Hum or sing a song to a dance you learned. Try it. You will get what I am talking about.

*Editor's note:* Esma died on December 11, 2016 at 73 years of age.

*Lou Pechi*

# POETRY CORNER

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## FOR POETRY MONTH...

*Explore* a classic poem... read it every day  
Listen carefully to what it wants to say,  
Be it complex or simple or plain  
A symphony of meaning does it contain

So... define that alluring little word  
Follow the thought that it has spurred,  
Tarry a while on that strange phrase  
Let it creep into your mind-maze,  
Probe the depths of that shiny insight  
Let it grow wings and... perhaps... take flight.

Achieving this glorious fermentation  
You inhale the fumes of inspiration

--- Camille Dull



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Folk Dance

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Pay on-line or send application with check to  
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927 Springfield Drive  
Millbrae, CA 94030



Save the Date

Save the Date

# 2025 Statewide Dance Festival

May Day in the Village

May 2 to 4, 2025



At the Portuguese Hall, 707 Huasna Rd. in the Village of Arroyo Grande, five miles from the beach

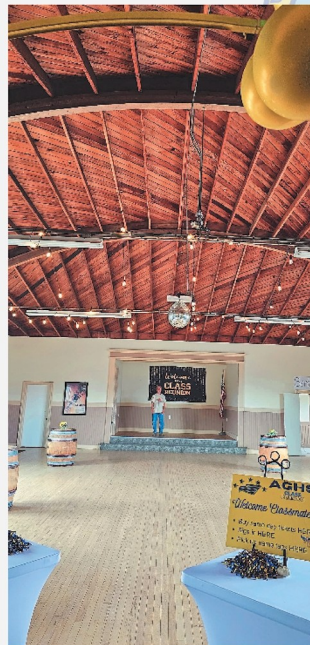
## Two Master Teachers:



**Željko Jergan**  
Croatian dances



**Billy Burke**  
No. Macedonian  
dances & more



More info to follow at  
[www.statewide.folkdance.com](http://www.statewide.folkdance.com)

Live Music by Chubritza



# STATEWIDE 2025 FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

**May 2 - 4, 2025, at the Arroyo Grande Portuguese Hall,  
707 Huasna Road, Arroyo Grande. Doors open at noon  
on Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday**

(Please register individually, one form per person)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of dance group, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## Early Registration Prices

FESTIVAL PACKAGE (Includes ALL workshops and parties (not Saturday dinner nor Sunday box lunch)

{ } \$170.00 when payment is received by ~~March 31<sup>st</sup>~~ **extended to April 5<sup>th</sup>**

{ } \$220.00 when payment is received after April 5<sup>th</sup>

Daily Events (ONLY for early registration received by April 5.)

{ } \$65.00 Friday afternoon dance workshop and evening dance.

{ } \$90.00 All day Saturday, AM and PM workshops and evening dance.

{ } \$30 Sunday morning workshop, Sunday afternoon no charge.

**Subtotal festival package and events: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## "At the Door" Prices

At the Door Prices	
Friday	
Classes	\$35.00
Party	\$40.00
Saturday	
AM Classes	\$35.00
PM Classes	\$35.00
Party	\$40.00
Sunday	
Reviews	\$35.00
Afternoon	\$0.00
Total	\$220.00

## Additional offerings:

(Meals only available with pre-registration.)

{ } \$43.00 Saturday Catered Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Mediterranean meal, vegetarian & vegan options.

{ } \$19.00 Sunday box lunch with water bottle \_\_\_\_\_

Sandwiches, vegetarian & chicken option.

{ } Consider making a Donation, thank you! \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Host hotel: Hampton Inn and Suites, 1400 W Branch St, Arroyo Grande.

Group rates are available (\$162 & \$172); see link on Statewide website.

Ample onsite parking. Generous snacks will be provided. The Arroyo Grande Village is a short drive from the hall and provides lots of dining opportunities.

**To register with this mail-in form:** Send form with your check postmarked by deadline shown above (made payable to **Folk Dance Federation of CA, South**) to:

Statewide registrar, c/o M. Lange, 421 N Las Flores Dr, Nipomo, CA 93444. Please write one check for registration and additional offerings. **Online Registration:** At [statewide.folkdance.com](http://statewide.folkdance.com). **please note there is a \$6 fee for online service.**

Visit the Statewide 2025 webpage [statewide.folkdance.com](http://statewide.folkdance.com) for the latest information about schedules, teachers, hotels, restaurants, parking, directions, etc. **Masks are optional and proof of vaccination requirements will follow CDC, State, and County COVID regulations at the time of the event.** Statewide 2025 is sponsored by the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, a non-profit organization.

# STOCKTON

FOLK DANCE CAMP

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**



**July 20 – July 27, 2025  
July 27 – August 3, 2025**

Come join us for one or both weeks  
of dancing, friendship, and fun at our in-  
person camp in Stockton, California

Check out  
[www.stocktonfolkdancecamp.org](http://www.stocktonfolkdancecamp.org)  
for information and registration.

## 2025 Guest Artists

**Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu – Romania**

**Miroslav "Bata" Marčetić – Serbian**

**Gabriel Frontera – Spanish Couple**

**Richard Schmidt – Polish Couple**

**Roo Lester – Spanish Basque**

**Ed Austin – Classic Dances**

**Stacy Rose – Contras**

**and our amazing band**

**Tom Pixton, Ralph Iverson, and Brian Wilson**

<https://stocktonfolkdancecamp.org>



# CLUB DIRECTORY

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

*For changes, additions, or deletions email [directory@folkdancecene.org](mailto:directory@folkdancecene.org)*

## Federation Clubs

**Bay Osos Folk Dancers:** Tue 11:00-3:00. South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, **Los Osos**. 818-203-5812 [wburke.dance@gmail.com](mailto:wburke.dance@gmail.com) Billy Burke, [BayOsosFolkDancers.org](http://BayOsosFolkDancers.org).

**\*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](mailto:gbsham@gmail.com) Georgina, 858-722-0489 [yueugenia@yahoo.com](mailto:yueugenia@yahoo.com) Chin Yu, [sites.google.com/site/cabrillodancers](http://sites.google.com/site/cabrillodancers)

**Cerritos Folk Dancers:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Tue 5:00-7:45 Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South St, **CERRITOS**. (626) 500-5035 [chiangwenli@yahoo.com](mailto:chiangwenli@yahoo.com) Wen Chiang

**Conejo Valley Folk Dancers:** Wed 7:30-9:30. Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W Hillcrest Dr, **THOUSAND OAKS**. [paula.davis@bucknell.edu](mailto:paula.davis@bucknell.edu), Paula, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/265181362778249>

**Fantasy Folk Dance Club:** Sun 3:00 - 7:00. St Thomas Aquinas Church, 1501 S Atlantic Blvd, **MONTREY PARK**. [vincentyhcheng@gmail.com](mailto:vincentyhcheng@gmail.com) 626-429-9008 Vincent Cheng. Sat 10-noon. Langley Senior Center, 400 W Emerson Ave., **Monterey Park**. (626) 673-2184 Peter Lin

**Folk Dance Center:** Wed 9:30-11:30am, Sat 7-10 . Oasis Wellness Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr, **La Mesa**. [jknappster@gmail.com](mailto:jknappster@gmail.com) John, [www.folkdancecenter.org](http://www.folkdancecenter.org)

**Friday Night L.I.F.E.:** Fri 8:00-11:00. LA DanceFit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd **WEST L.A** [www.lifebalkandancers.com](http://www.lifebalkandancers.com) [worldance1@gmail.com](mailto:worldance1@gmail.com) Sherry Cochran

**Int'l Folk Dance Club - Laguna Woods:** Tue 10:00am-12:00. Clubhouse 1, 24232 Calle Aragon, **LAGUNA WOODS**. (949) 939-0604 Marilyn Michael Yurk. First-time dancers call Marilyn for gate clearance. [www.lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/dance-club-international-folk](http://www.lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/dance-club-international-folk)

**Kypseli Greek Folk Dancing:** Occasional Sunday live music events. 310-508-9676 Anne Sirota. [www.kypseli.events](http://www.kypseli.events)

**Laguna Int'l Dancers:** Wed 6:00-8:30 at Clubhouse 2, 24112 Moulton Pkwy, **LAGUNA WOODS**. Fri 1:30-4:00 at Clubhouse 7 24111 Moulton Pkwy, **Laguna Woods**. Sun 6:00-8:00 on Zoom. [leeotterholt@yahoo.com](mailto:leeotterholt@yahoo.com) Lee. [www.lagunainternationaldancers.com](http://www.lagunainternationaldancers.com)

**Narodni Int'l Folkdancers:** Thu 8:00-10:00. Woman's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St, **BELLFLOWER**. (562) 410-6964 [julithilona@gmail.com](mailto:julithilona@gmail.com) Julith Neff [www.narodni.org](http://www.narodni.org)

**Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op:** Fri 7:30-9:30. 1st Christian Church of El Monte, 11025 Lambert Ave, **El Monte**. **Temporary location, for current info contact:** [www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org](http://www.pasadenafolkdancecoop.org); 626-808-0361, [info@pasadenafolkdancecoop.org](mailto:info@pasadenafolkdancecoop.org) Mari Werner

**Prescott Int'l Folkdancers:** Sun 2:00-4:00. Prescott Boys & Girls Club, 335 East Aubrey St, **PRESCOTT, AZ**. (928) 925-8995 Dick Weston [Prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net](mailto:Prescott.intl.folkdancers@earthlink.net). [www.prescottinternationalfolkdancers.org/](http://www.prescottinternationalfolkdancers.org/)

# CLUB DIRECTORY (CONT)

**Rainbow Senior Club:** Sun 2:00-5:00. Joslyn Senior Center 210 N. Chapel Ave, **ALHAMBRA**. (626) 456-1900 ksun310@yahoo.com Kevin Sun.

**Solvang Village Folk Dancers:** Thu & Sat 4:00-8:00. Buellton Recreation Center, 301 2nd St, **Buellton**. 3rd Sat 1:00-3:00. Jensen Square, Corner Alisal & Copenhagen, **Solvang** (805) 688-3397 dlh4362@gmail.com David Heald

**Ventura Int'l Folkdancers:** Tue&Thu 1:30-3:00. 2nd Sun 1:30-3:30 (may change due to conflicts - check with Valerie). Ventura YMCA, 3760 Telegraph Rd, **Ventura**. Non-members check with Valerie first. (805) 746-0884 dancing.valerie@gmail.com Valerie Daley. www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067987230157

**Vintage Israeli Dancing:** One Sat per month 8:16-12:00. Danzmundo World Dance & Fitness Studio (DWDFS), 16733 Ventura Blvd., #13, **ENCINO**. (310) 351-2166 jrbythec@aol.com Jim Rothman. www.vintageisraelidancing.org

**West Valley Folk Dancers:** Fri 2:00-4:00. Canoga Park Sr. Ctr. 7326 Jordan Ave. **Canoga Park**. (818) 979-5030. jaymichtom@yahoo.com. Jay Michtom, psw20@icloud.com Paul Waller, WestValleyFolkDancers.org

## Exhibition Groups

**Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble:** United Hungarian House, 1975 Washington, **LOS ANGELES**. (805) 341-9640 sissykf@earthlink.net Sissy Keresztes-Fischer. Www.KarpatokFolkEnsemble.com

**Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble:** Wed 8:00-10:00, Fri 7:00 - 9:00, Sat 2:30-4:00. Our Lady of the Bright Mount , 3424 W Adams Blvd, **LOS ANGELES**. (626) 827-7338 elistarr@yahoo.com Elizabeth Romuzga. Www.krakusy.com

**Scandia Dancers:** Thu 7:30-9:30. (714) 356-7745 sholzman1@verizon.net Stefanie Holzman

**Westchester Lariats:** Mon 4:00-9:00. Holy Nativity Church, 6700 W. 83rd St, **LOS ANGELES**. 310-913-5736 elizvalla@gmail.com Elizabeth Kane. Www.WestchesterLariats.org

## Non-Federation Clubs

**Caltech Folkdancers:** Tue 7:30. Caltech Campus, Dabney Hall, parking on California Blvd. or Throop Church, 300 Los Robles, **Pasadena**. (626) 797-5157 Nancy Milligan. **Not currently dancing**

**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 3:00-5:00 Nov-Apr. Community Room, Mizell Center, 480 South Sunrise Way, **PALM SPRINGS**. (760) 342-1297 Helen Smith

**\*Foothill Folk Dancers:** Thu 8:00-10:00. Nourishing Spirits Center @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 808 Foothill Blvd., **LA CAÑADA** (818) 790-8523 JanRayman@charter.net www.Foothill.Dance

**\*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

**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 8:00-10:00PM. Oak Park Stage, corner Junipero and Calle Real, **SANTA BARBARA.** soriasusan@gmail.com Susan Soria, or michalcathy@cox.net (805.895.4885) Michal Lynch

**Santa Barbara Int'l Folk Dancers:** In-person but schedule is in flux. Contact Michal Lynch for info michalcathy@cox.net, 805-895-4885.

**Southern Nevada Int'l FD:** Thu 4:00-6:00.  
Ballroom Addiction, 2301 Renaissance Dr., **Las Vegas, NV.** hugagiraffe@cox.net Eileen Hug

**UCLA Ballroom Club & UCLA Int'l Folkdancers:**  
Cultural, Historical & Ballroom: Thu 7-9. Kerckhoff Hall Room 135 **WESTWOOD.** RSVP required  
HistoricalDance@yahoo.com

**\*Westside Daytime Folkdancers:** Wed 12:00-2.  
Culver City Senior Center 4095 Overland Blvd, **Culver City.** sandysmail1000@gmail.com, (310) 391-7382 Sandy Helperin



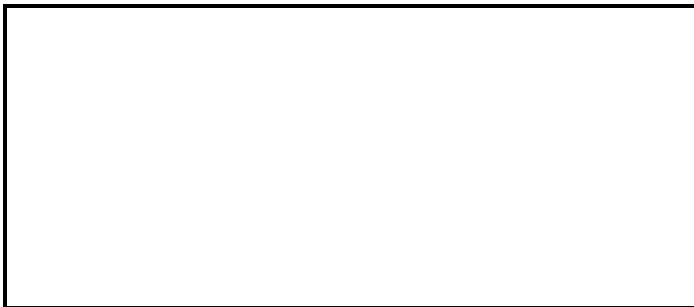


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