

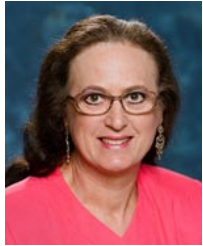


CULTURALLY SPEAKING

The monthly newsletter of the Earth Cultures Project of Educational Communications

September 2011

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications



FESTIVALS AND CONCERTS

The Los Angeles area abounds with cultural activities and so many of

them are free. Every summer most of the small cities (Culver City, Burbank, Santa Monica, etc.) and even Los Angeles (at MacArthur Park) have free concerts. At most of these you sit on the lawn and have a picnic. But this type of concert or show allows you to get up and move and dance whenever you feel like it.

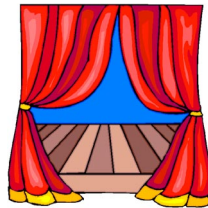
The fall is always a time of festivals. The Jewish new year is held at synagogues and community centers throughout the world and special festivals and choral music programs are open to people of all faiths. Of course, December is the month for Christmas chorales and caroling at Christian churches and houses of prayer. The Buddhists hold numerous festivals including one of Southeast Asian Dance at the SGI Friendship Center. October has fun Halloween Parties by various organizations. At German-themed bars and restaurants you can drink, sing, and dance at the Oktoberfests.

Between May and October each year, Greekfests are held at the various Greek Orthodox Churches throughout Southern California. Each weekend they set aside two to three days to have booths with Greek arts and crafts, home-cooked Greek food, tours and talks about their churches and religion, and for folk dancers, the opportunity to dance for hours to live bands.



My good fortune has enabled me to see a number of musical comedies at

the Pantages Theater in Hollywood, California, including "Shrek The Musical," and "In the Heights." A few months ago I thoroughly enjoyed "Billy Elliot The Musical" at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas, Texas. It was truly amazing to see such a young man dance, act, and sing throughout the production. The story is based on a real life coal mining strike in Northern England and also focuses on a young boy who preferred dancing to boxing and the



family conflicts that that decision created. (In 1984, 300,000 men worked in the mines; today that number is 1,000.) From April 12-June, 2012, this show will be in Hollywood, California, at the Pantages. Other shows scheduled for the Pantage's 2011-2012 season include "Mamma Mia!," "The Addams Family," "Come Fly Away," and "Riverdance." Many years ago the Irish put together a stage production of just Irish dancing and music and "Riverdance" became a phenomenon. I've seen it twice and plan on seeing it again live; not to mention how many times I've watched the video. The precision of the tap dancing is remarkable.

Plan ahead to next June and the Hollywood Fringe Festival. There are over one hundred plays, comedy acts, cabaret shows, musicals, operas, dance, physical theater, ceremonies, workshops, and other events. For information, www.HollywoodFringe.org. There will also be the 11th anniversary of Dance Camera West which has three days of workshops, talks, and films on dance; information at Dance Camera West, 3400 San Marino Street, #R, Los Angeles, CA 90006.

LISTEN TO THE SHOFAR



At sundown September 28th (this year) begins the holiday called Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year. It means the "Head of the Year." It's actually the 1st of Tishrei, the seventh month of the lunar calendar! It begins the Yamim Noraim, the ten Days of Awe during which people can repent their sins and be written into the Book of Life on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). The Torah doesn't mention Rosh HaShanah but refers to that date as Zichron Trua "Remembrance of the Blowing of the Shofar (ram's horn)." The shofar is blown on Rosh HaShanah of course, but also during the entire month of Elul which precedes it. There are 3 basic ways to sound the horn:

Tekiah
one long blast
(originally to call people together)

Shevarim
three shorter ones
(originally to set off in a march)

Teruah
nine quick little blasts
(originally to go into battle)

So at the end of the month wish your friends Shanah Tovah (good year in Hebrew) or Gut Yor (same thing in Yiddish), eat some apples with honey (for a sweet year) and listen to the shofar!



contributed by
Preston Ashbourne



KUFTA

My Grandpa Mardiros made Harpoot Kufta. These meatball-style delectities made from meat, bulghur and a few other ingredients, were the closest you could come to edible heaven, except for rose-flavored star cookies. But that's another article! After the ingredients were painstakingly formed into perfect balls, they would be cooked in boiling chicken broth and served with the broth in a bowl. Grandpa even counted how many we ate, and if we didn't eat as many as the last time, he would let us know. Once as a teenager, I visited my grandparents with some friends. Thinking that we were young and would rather eat pizza, they served us pizza, and more pizza, and finally the kufta. How I wished I hadn't filled up on the pizza first, something I could have any time. I was there for the best kufta in the world.

Mardiros came from Harpoot. His recipe came from there. Armenians from other parts of the world make kufta in different ways. I've tried to replicate those wonderful meat & bulghur balls. It takes a special talent. Once, outside at a family gathering, a kufta ball fell on the dirt. It was going to be thrown away. One of the aunts raced over, picked it up and brushed it off. "You never throw even one of these away!" she said. Our whole family knew the value of this recipe that traveled thousands of miles and through many, many decades to live on in our kitchens and our memories.

*Contributed by
Nickie Hovhannessian*

Have a good (or bad) food memory,
recipe or restaurant?

Write to us (200 words or less)

earthculturesproject@yahoo.com

You may see it published!

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



ANITA AND THE YANKS

Anita and the Yanks broke into the Celtic rock music scene in 2008 and have built an impressive fan base in and around the Los Angeles area. Lead singer, guitarist Anita Mansfield and Bryan Dobbs mandolin player started out as a duo and they picked up Ryan Dean (drums) Damon Stout (bass) and Pat D'Arcy (uilleann pipes) along the way, featuring special guests Rachel Grace and Chris Loken on violin.

CAT 'N' FIDDLE 7-10 PM
(full band)
September 4, 11, 18 & 25
6530 W Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA
90028

THE LITTLE BAR 9:30 PM - 1 AM
(full band)
September 8
757 S. La Brea Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90036

JOXER DALY'S 9:30 PM - 1:30 AM
(full band)
September 16
11168 Washington Blvd
Culver City, CA

NOVEL CAFE 7 - 10 PM
(trio)
September 23
1713 E. Colorado Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91106

IRELAND'S 32 9:30 PM - 1:30 AM
(full band)
September 30
13721 Burbank Blvd
Van Nuys, CA 91401

CANCER FUNDRAISER
2:30 - 3:30 PM
(full band)
October 1
The Moose Lodge
1600 Ocean Park Blvd..
Santa Monica, CA 90405

SEASIDE HIGHLAND GAMES FESTIVAL
October 8 & 9
(full band)
Ventura, CA
<http://www.seaside-games.com>

PADDY O'S 5 - 9 PM
(full band)
October 14
20320 South Western Ave
Torrance, CA 90501

MULDOONS 2 - 4 PM
(full band)
October 16
202 Newport Center Drive
Newport Beach, CA

www.anitaandtheyanks.com



JOHN BILEZIKJIAN

John Bilezikjian is "America's Oud Virtuoso". Mr. Bilezikjian may be the most prominent Oudist of his generation. He is a master Oudist who has elevated this instrument to the concert stage as well as continues to perform as a folk musician. He has performed for some 51 years on this ancient eleven stringed Persian fretless instrument dating back some 2,000 years. The Oud is performed with an eagle's quill. See below for John's performance schedule.

First Tuesday of the Month 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Casablanca Restaurant, 6030 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad, CA. 92008
(760) 603-9672 Belly Dancing and Folk Dancing

Third Thursday, Every other Month 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm
Tango Del Rey, 3567 Del Rey St., San Diego, CA. 92109 (858) 794-2687
With featured and guest belly dancers and Frank Lazzaro and Dave Dhillon

<http://dantzrecords.com>

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ASSIEH LAMORA



Assieh was born and raised in Iran. She started her Flamenco dance training at early age in Los Angeles and later in Spain at Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy in Madrid with master teachers like; La Tati, Ciro, Carmela Greco, La Truco, Manolete and in Sevilla at Manolo Marin Dance Academy. She has also studied under private training of Angelita Vargas and Pepa Montes. She teaches at Gypsy Camp near Motor and National in Los Angeles. Call for class schedule: (310) 558-0746.



GYPSY FOLK ENSEMBLE

The Gypsy Folk Ensemble is an ethnic and folk dance performing company based in Los Angeles, California which was formed in 1978 to preserve, perform and teach traditional folk dances from countries around the world.

Upcoming Shows

Free! and open to the public

Check with venue to confirm dates & times.

Sept 10

Čevapčići Festival 11am - 6pm
Angels Gate Cultural Center
3601 S. Gaffey St
NCO Road, Building H
San Pedro, CA
1-1:30 pm Greek dancing by the
Gypsy Folk Ensemble

Oct 1 "Mexican Mosaic"

A.C. Bilbrew Library - 2:00pm
2906 S. La Brea Ave.
Los Angeles 90016 (323) 733-1196

Oct 1 "Oktoberfest"

Hermosa Beach Library - 2:30pm
550 Pier Ave.
Hermosa Bch 90254
(310) 379-8475

www.gypsyfolkensemble.com

LINKS OF INTEREST

(see below for clickable links if viewing on the webpage)

MUSEUMS

Bowers Museum

<http://www.bowers.org>

Craft & Folk Art Museum

<http://www.cafam.org>

Metropolitan Museum of Art

(search the database for works of art,
costumes & more)
http://www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/

Museum of Latin American Art

<http://www.molaa.org>

Pacific Asia Museum

<http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org>

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

Current Cultural Happenings Around Los Angeles

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
caltechfolkdance](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/caltechfolkdance)

Olvera Street in Los Angeles

<http://olvera-street.com>

Folkworks (click on "calendar")

<http://www.folkworks.org/>

FOLK DANCE & FOLK MUSIC INFORMATION

Dick Oakes' Folk Dance Pages

[http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdance/
folkdance.htm](http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdance/folkdance.htm)

Folkways (ethnic music)

<http://www.folkways.si.edu/index.aspx>

ARC Music (ethnic music CDs)

<http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

ARTS AND CULTURES

Smithsonian Magazine Arts & Cultures

[http://www.smithsonianmag.com/
arts-culture](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture)

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

<http://www.folklife.si.edu/>

BBC - Holidays Around the World and so much more!

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/
humanplanetexplorer/events_and_festivals](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/humanplanetexplorer/events_and_festivals)

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

BYKI

Free language software downloads
<http://www.byki.com/>

FREELANG

Free bilingual dictionary downloads
<http://www.freelang.net/>

(These links are for reference only and are not endorsed by
Educational Communications)

ABOUT THE EARTH CULTURES PROJECT

Earth Cultures is one of the projects of Educational Communications, a non-profit 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization founded in 1958, dedicated to improving the quality of life on this planet. The organization produces documentaries and works with several performing groups and individuals through its Earth Cultures Project to promote cultural awareness and provide education through the arts.

Educational Communications is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. This is the monthly newsletter of Earth Cultures, one of Educational Communications' many projects which focuses on "Education through the Arts." Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.

EARTH CULTURES PROJECT

www.earthculturesproject.org

Reach us by phone at

(310) 559-9160

or by email at

info@earthculturesproject.org

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 351419

Los Angeles, CA 90035-9119



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