



October 2011

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications



**ETHNIC  
PLAYS,  
FILMS, AND  
EXHIBITS**

The Earth Cultures Project promotes education through the arts by way of ethnic dance, music, art, and sharing ethnic cultural traditions. Understanding and appreciating others' values, practices, accomplishments, and history can only heighten appreciation of our own cultural experiences. Following are some events that also promote that understanding and appreciation.



Each year at the Autry National Center in Griffith Park (Los Angeles, Ca.), the Native Voices Festival of New Plays is presented. Native Voices at the Autry is the country's only Equity-theater company dedicated exclusively to producing new works by Native American playwrights. Choctaw Founder and Producing Artistic Director has created great productions that are also performed at the La Jolla Playhouse. The themes transcend ethnic backgrounds but have a poignancy due to the Native American perspectives. This year I saw "Cikiuteklluku" ("Giving Something Away") by Yup'ik playwright Holly Staton. The storyline ranged from boyfriend/girlfriend relationships, unplanned pregnancies, family conflicts, and relationships and cultural values conflicting between Caucasians and Yup'ik. Although performed by a mixed ethnic group of actors who were Gilzhiigoquay, Mohawk, Lipan-Mescalero Apache, Ojibway, and European-Americans, the conflicts that have to be dealt with affect all of us.

At the Los Angeles Fringe Festival was a performance of "Chela," written

and performed by Dulce Maria Solis. The play is based on her mothers' real story. Solis takes a dark comedic spin on her portrayal of a young Chela in the midst of life's crises. The actress' energy is commanding and her dynamic, one-woman, multimedia, theatrical piece explores a variety of aspects of love, sex, and domestic violence from Mexico to the United States. Info at: <http://thechelawebsite.com> or <http://dulcemariasolis.com>.

Each month I see a new film by China Films. "Beginning of the Great Revival" was a great historically-based drama feature film that gives a viewpoint of Chinese history during the revolution against the monarchy at the turn of the twentieth century. Fascinating to learn about it from the perspective of the Chinese. These films are excellent productions with beautiful music, entertaining stories, and superb actors.

As a lover of IMAX films, I am thrilled to recommend two recent IMAX films screened at the California Science Center, 700 Exposition Park Drive. Los Angeles, CA 90037, (323) 724-3623). It was delightful to finally see my friend Birute Galdikas on the big screen in "Born to Be Wild 3D" showing how she is caring for orphaned orangutans in Borneo, Indonesia. As one of the "Leaky angels" (Jane Goodall with chimpanzees and Diane Fossey with gorillas), Birute's fame has been delayed although her research on one of our closest living relatives is as significant as the other two scientists. The film focuses on the care of the over two hundred orangutan orphans that she and her native staff have to take care of and rehabilitate for possible release into the wild. Her work to try to keep the rainforests and parks from being cut down and the valuable information about

(continued on page 4, column 1)

**O ZAPFT IS!**



It's Oktoberfest season, announced in mid-September with the phrase "o Zapft Is" (It is tapped). Celebrants do drink a lot of beer! But that's not what it's all about. We should shout "happy anniversary" to honor the wedding of Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to the beautiful (and smart) teenaged Princess Therese von Saxe Hildburghausen of Austria on October 12 1810. 201 years ago these young royals united in the biggest wedding party anyone ever saw! This was the first ever Oktoberfest. The couple became King and Queen of Bavaria in 1825 and ruled until 1848.

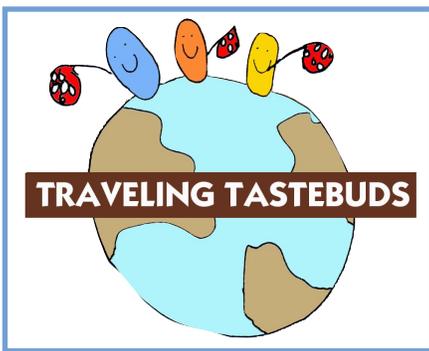
Oktoberfest has been evolving for two centuries. At the first Oktoberfest, the entertainment for the public was a horserace. In recent years, they've tried to decide whether to ban smoking. So far, it has not been banned entirely because the smoke masks the smell of spilled beer!

The locals don't usually refer to the event as Oktoberfest. It is always held in the fields which used to be outside of the town that were named for the bride "Theresen-wiesen" (Therese's fields) so they call the whole event "Wiesn" (fields)!



If you want to participate in the real Oktoberfest in Bavaria, it's too late. It ended on October 3rd this year! But there are plenty of places in the USA still celebrating, so go, drink beer or not, eat Bratwurst and dance a Polka or the Chicken Dance, just don't forget Ludwig and Therese!

contributed by  
Preston Ashbourne



## “OKTOBEERFEST”

**Question:** What would Oktoberfest be without BEER?

**Answer:** Probably nonexistent.....

Oktoberfest is the annual celebration for the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig (later King Ludwig I of Bavaria) and Princess Therese von Saxe Hildburghausen of Austria. But who really cares? Without the music, dancing, food, and drink (especially the Beer), this celebration would have probably ended long ago.

So why is the “Beer” so important? I suppose I could say..... “If you have to ask that question you wouldn’t understand”. Nonetheless, I’ll try to explain the importance of the “Beer”.

**First:** Beer is the oldest known man-made drink. No one really knows how far back in time it was invented. Early written accounts date back 3000 years to the Egyptians. However there are much earlier texts related to beer. In fact, it was probably beer that was the inspiration for developing writing in the first place. To keep records of trade and exchange.

**Second:** Beer was probably the first known form of payment for the exchange of goods and services. It is documented in ancient Egyptian records that payment to the slaves that built the Pyramids was in beer.

**Third:** Beer rather than water was the preferred drink of early man. Water would often make you sick because of all the little nasty bacteria living in it. Beer rarely if ever made you ill because of the way it’s made....Note: Louis Pasteur was experimenting with different beers trying to figure out why most beer was sterile but some could still cause illness. He found out that the process of boiling the water in the preparation of beer

killed all known pathogens. Hence the term “Pasteurization” came to be known. Initially he was working with “Beer” not “Milk”.

**Fourth:** Beer is probably the reason we changed from being a hunter-gatherer species to an agricultural society. The more barley you grow the more beer you can produce.

So now you know some of the reasons why beer is so important. If you still don’t understand, don’t worry about it, just go have a beer and relax.

**Modern Beer:** Beer as it is known today was invented by the Germans. They added “Hops” to the ancient recipes to bitter and flavor the beer. Before this time all beer had a faint sickly sweet flavor. It was also the Germans that standardized the ingredients in beer.

**Beer and the Black Plague:** During the time of the Plague in Europe, people had no idea how the disease was transmitted. In Germany the disease killed so many people (Up to 2/3 of the population in some areas), that the Germans created laws know as the “Purity Laws” or the “Reinheitsgebot” to stem the spread of the disease. This is when the ingredients for “Beer” was standardized. According to the Germans, there are four, and only four ingredients in beer.

**Number One:** Water

**Number Two:** Malted Barley

**Number Three:** Hops

**Number Four:** Yeast

These ingredients, and only these ingredients, were permitted to be called beer. Anything else added to this mix is not considered “Beer” in Germany. According to the Germans, Budweiser, Miller, and Coors, are not “Beers” because they contain rice.

This was also the time that German Beer steins with a lid were invented. One of the Purity laws stated “When food or drink is left unattended it must be covered. Germans noticed that flies would land in their food and drink when they weren’t watching. Knowing where flies also land, garbage and cow pies for



example, they surmised that the flies might be the source of the spread of the plague. They were wrong of course, but at least it kept the flies out of their beer.

**German Beer:** There are basically two main classes of beer.

**Lagers, and ales:** Almost all German Beers fall into the “Lager” category. Lagers are brewed with a bottom fermenting yeast at very low temperatures just above freezing, for a long period of time (As much as a year). Ales are brewed with a top fermenting yeast at temperatures between 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit for a much shorter period of time, about a month. In fact the term “lagering” when translated means aging. Check out the three letters in the middle of L(AGE)R. A coincidence?

**Oktoberfest Beers:** Specialty brews are created for this celebration with the addition of what are know as adjuncts. Cloves, Ginger and other spices may be added to these special brews. When these extra ingredients are added, these brews are not called “Beer” they are called “Oktoberfest” due to the original purity laws which defined the ingredients which can be called “Beer”.

**God’s Apology To Man:** It has been told that God felt sorry for Adam after kicking him out of the garden of Eden. Adam had become angry with Eve for tricking him into eating the apple which resulted in their expulsion from paradise. After a while, God noticed that Adam would not talk to Eve or even touch her. God came to the realization, that in order to perpetuate the species Adam must forgive his spouse. So he came to Adam with the gift of “Beer”, and told him....”Adam, drink this special brew. Eve should look a whole hell of a lot better after drinking some of this. This of course was the invention of what is known today as “Beer Goggles” and is also the reason “In heaven there is no beer”.  
Prosit,

*Contributed by  
Stephen Theodore*

Have a good (or bad) food memory, recipe or restaurant with an ethnic touch? Write to us (300 words or less)

[earthculturesproject@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

#### 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 - Celtic Rock Stage

**October 8** 2, 4 & 5 PM

**October 9** 2 & 3:30 PM

(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

#### NOVEL CAFE 7 - 10 PM

#### October 21

1713 E. Colorado Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91106

#### IRELAND'S 32 9:30 PM - 1:30 AM

(full band)

#### November 4

13721 Burbank Blvd  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

[www.anitaandtheyanks.com](http://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.

#### Sunday, October 2 around 6:00 pm

Olympus Greek Tavern, 6304 Laurel Canyon, North Hollywood, CA 91606  
Corner of Sylvan St. & Laurel Canyon Blvd. (818) 766-4100

#### 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>

### 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.*

#### 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

#### Nov 17 "Country Western Hoedown"

Covina City Library -- 4:00pm  
234 N. 2nd Ave, Covina 91723  
(626) 967-3935

#### Dec 10 "International Holidays"

Julian Dixon Library 2:00pm  
4975 Overland Ave., Culver City  
90230  
(310) 559-1676

[www.gypsyfolkensemble.com](http://www.gypsyfolkensemble.com)

**(ETHNIC PLAYS, FILMS, AND EXHIBITS)**  
*continued from page 1, column 2)*

one of the great apes still needs to be put into a full-length documentary film. The other story in "Born to Be Wild 3D" is about a long-time inhabitant of East Africa who cares for baby elephants. Again, the charming pictures of keepers with their baby elephants following them is captivating and the bigger plight of elephants being poached for their ivory is yet another film in the making. The film is a heartwarming and moving depiction of two ladies who are extraordinary people who rescue and raise and defend endangered wild animals. "Arabia 3D Film" and the "1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization Exhibit" takes audiences deep inside the heart of Saudi Arabia to travel with camel caravans across sand dunes, dive into the treasure-laden Red Sea and experience the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. The international traveling exhibit explores the scientific contributions of scholars from the diverse region stretching from Spain through China during the 7th to 17th centuries. While Europe was in the Middle Ages with little scientific research and discovery, the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa were flourishing with scientific exploration including not just male Muslim scholars but females and Jewish scientists, philosophers, academicians, and leaders.



This beautiful sash could only mean one thing.  
Estonian Fair coming in December!  
Stay tuned for more details.

**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/](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>

**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/folkdanc/folkdanc.htm>

**Folkways** (ethnic music)  
<http://www.folkways.si.edu/index.aspx>

**ARC Music** (ethnic music CDs)  
<http://www.aremusic.co.uk>

**ARTS AND CULTURES**

**Smithsonian Magazine Arts & Cultures**  
<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**

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