



November 2011

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications



HABITS AND CUSTOMS

As I travel around the world, I inevitably compare small habits and behaviors. Naturally I enjoy the stunning scenery, the friendly people, the fun activities and the unique experiences, but I am constantly seeing the little things that make me and my travel companions different from our hosts. Most Americans are hard-pressed these days to define American traditions because of the strong emphasis on cultural diversity and the focus on the customs handed down by one's family.

Our ethnic identity is mixed in the United States but we still have common threads. We have our national holidays but celebrate with variations. Thanksgiving dinner is famous for turkey, pumpkin pie, and corn on the cob but vegetarians and people from other lands may eat their traditional food. Christmas may be for Christians as a religious holiday but almost everyone gets into the Winter Holiday spirit with office parties, gift giving, winter festive decorations, and family visits.

So what are some of the little things that I have noticed? Since eating out when traveling is universal, I see how different it can be. For example, Americans love to have their drinks with straws and ice. This is not so in other parts of the world. Americans like to eat lunch around the noon hour not at 2 or 3 in the afternoon. Dinner is more common between six and seven and not eight, nine, or ten. I was recently in Panama and like other tropical countries mixing fresh fruits into juices was common; I enjoyed fresh mango, pineapple, watermelon, orange,

papaya and other flavors. Hot chocolate is available in the morning, afternoon, and evening in Switzerland. Tea is more often to be served in Thailand and coffee drinkers may not be able to get their fix. Heads, feet, and the full animal may be on your plate in China. In Switzerland, even the small family restaurants serve with full silverware (many forks, spoons, knives, etc. of all sizes).

In the hotels, wash cloths are expected in the U. S. but not necessarily so elsewhere. Our beds have sheets and blankets while Europe prefers sheets and down comforters. Our lobby floor is the first floor but in other parts of the world the first floor is one floor up. When we get on a bus we are expected to pay a driver or conductor but in Estonia it is all based on the honor system. People purchase tickets from a machine but don't have to show them to anyone. Often on the trains no one asked to see a ticket. In Fiji, they are more likely to function on "island time." In other words, if someone says "we will meet at nine," they may show up a little later and not be considered rude. Americans are more inclined to take elevators even if it is just a floor or two up whereas elsewhere taking stairs is commonplace.

Clothing, music, dance, and house designs are some other examples of what sets people apart as are ways the different sexes interact. I'll be describing some of these differences in future newsletters. There are many more examples of the small ways that we behave, talk, and view things so please send me your observations so that we can continue this dialogue in a future editorial.

HAPPY TURKEY DAY



No, it's not an Anatolian holiday. I refer to the holiday of Thanksgiving, when we honor the turkey by eating him! Legend has it that Benjamin Franklin voted for the turkey to be our national emblem. He may have, but there is no direct evidence of this. He did, however, write to his daughter Sarah opining that the turkey would have been a better choice than the bald eagle. He said that the eagle was a thief because it steals prey caught by other birds and that it was cowardly because smaller birds can chase it out of their territory. In contrast, he thought the turkey was a noble and courageous bird.

It's also surprisingly common to honor turkeys with dances! The Ragtime Era saw the popularity of the Turkey Trot, in which ballroom dancers imitated the turkey's movements. The Zuni tribe in the American Southwest also have a Turkey Dance which vaguely resembles the Turkey Trot! (After all, if you are imitating a turkey, you are imitating a turkey!) In Mexico the Maya call their dance in Spanish "Danza del Pavo," and it is a dance of thanksgiving, originally to their gods and now to the saints. In Oaxaca they dance "Baile del Guajolote" where couples at weddings tease each other with recently deceased turkeys. And you thought pushing cake in someone's face was bad!



contributed by
Preston Ashbourne



**TURKEY
STUFFING
CANDIED YAMS
CRANBERRY SAUCE
GREEN BEANS
JELLO SALAD
OTHER STUFF
MINCEMEAT PIE WITH
SAUCE
PUMPKIN PIE**

**Too stuffed
to write anything else**

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!

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.

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.

IRELAND'S 32

9:30 PM - 1:30 AM (full band)
November 4
13721 Burbank Blvd
Van Nuys, CA 91401

MULDOONS 2 - 4 PM

December 4 (full band)
January 15 (full band)
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>



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. See below for upcoming shows.

Free! and open to the public. Check with venue to confirm dates & times

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

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Native Voices is pleased to collaborate with ABD/Disney again this year on the 2011 Native American Impact Workshop to be held at the Autry National Center

Saturday, November 19, 2011 3pm

The Seventh Annual
Kenneth Karmiole lecture on the
History of the Book Trade:

*English Books Around the World:
India and the Globalization of the
English Book Trade*

A lecture given by Graham Shaw.

Clark Library, UCLA

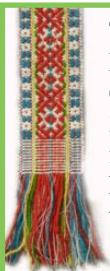
For details & registration:

www.c1718cs.ucla.edu/karmiole11.htm

**Saturday, November 19, 2011
10am to 3pm**

The 3rd Annual Cambodian Arts & Culture Exhibition at MacArthur Park
1321 E. Anaheim St, Long Beach, CA

Open to the public and FREE!
Featuring Cambodian classical dance and costuming, drawing, shadow puppets, music & musical instruments, textiles, dressmaking, weddings, gardening, cooking, and Kampuchea Krom history.



The Los Angeles Estonian House will hold its annual Christmas Fair on December 3, 2011. Experience Estonian food and culture. It runs a few hours beginning at 11am. Best to get there early.

1306 W. 24th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90007

call (323) 732-4362 for more info

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>

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.arcmusic.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

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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Support the Arts & Education!