



# CULTURALLY SPEAKING

The monthly newsletter of the Earth Cultures Project of Educational Communications

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications

April 2012



## EARTH MONTH IS AN AMERICAN CULTURAL TRADITION

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was held across the United States, mainly on college and university campuses. As the organizer for that event in Southern California, I am excited to see that the tradition continues. This is truly an American “happening” because most of the rest of the world celebrates World Environment Day on June 5. And it was done in a grassroots manner, pre-internet and cell phones. While there was a national office, we basically used them to buy buttons, bumper stickers, posters, and t-shirts. We did everything locally regarding this “Environmental Teach-In.” But now you can join in the celebrations which continue in this April.

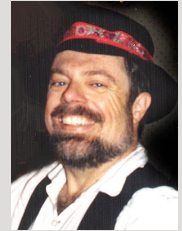
In 2012, Educational Communications’ Ecology Center of Southern California and Earth Cultures Project will have a table at the Beverly Hills Earth Day Celebration April 15 from 9 to 1. Check your local cities for events on April 21 and 22. There will be a festival from the 20-22 in Santa Monica and from the 21-22 in Topanga. Don’t forget my talk on April 21 (see separate announcement). Amigos de Bolsa Chica in Huntington Beach from 10 to 3 will have a fun run/walk plus nature walks at the Ecological Reserve. Most libraries have free talks so ask your local branch what is happening at their site and in your community. And most parks and nature centers will have special hikes, walks, and talks. Throughout the month there are green building conferences, business sustainability summits and other talks, symposia, and performances. Check them out.

Unlike some of the “fancy, expensive”

*continued on page 2, column 3*

## WHAN THAT APRILLE WITH HIS SHOURES SOTE

by Preston Ashbourne



We call this newsletter “Culturally Speaking” and human culture is highly dependant on our ability to use Language. Of course we speak in many tongues that evolve, borrow from each other, divide into different languages, and sometimes become extinct.

So for the month of April I’m reminded of a classic piece of English literature that is almost unreadable to speakers of 21st century English, the Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer who lived in the 1300’s. I titled this piece with his opening line “whan that Aprille with his shoures sote” which means: “when that April with its wet showers”.

OK, “whan” for when isn’t too big a stretch to comprehend, add a syllable to April making “aPREEla”, “SHOO rus” for showers and what in the world is “sote”?

“Sote” (pronounced SO-ta) means wet and gave us the words “sot” (a drunk) and “besotted” (intoxicated with love). Seven hundred years can make a lot of difference in a language!

Go back a thousand years and what is called “Old English” or “Anglo-Saxon” is incomprehensible to anyone who has not studied it as a foreign language! For example: “ure gedaeghwamlche hlaf syle us to-daeg” which is “give us this day our daily bread”! Broken down this is: ure=our gedaeghwamlche=daily hlaf=loaf (hence bread) syle=give (may be related to “sell”) us=us (yay! The only word in this sentence that hasn’t changed its appearance - but, it’s pronounced “oos”) to-daeg=today (pronounced “toe-da-ee”).

Now you have something to ponder during the shoures of Aprille while awaiting the floures of May!



## World of Dance

stories from the world of dance



### FLAMENCO

by Assieh "La Mora"

Flamenco originated within the Gypsies and its geographical birthplace is Andalusia, Spain. The word appears in literature in the late 1700s, yet, we do not have any valid written record of the music prior to second half of the 1900s. Flamenco is often improvised and spontaneous and is compared with Jazz.

The singing, guitar and dance are the 3 most important elements of this art.

Despite many theories about the origin of this art, what is obvious, is a definite influence of other cultural music and dance in flamenco and one of them is definitely the influence of music from Persia. As an Iranian flamenco dancer, teacher and choreographer, I was always fascinated by the connection between Iranian traditional folk music and dance and flamenco. The similarities which I experienced, made me reach deeper into the history of this art: An energetic and passionate combination of singing, guitar, dance, clapping and colorful costumes.

The influence of the 9th century Persian poet and musician, Ziryab, who settled in the city of Cordoba in southern Spain, in the music of Spain can't be denied. In fact he established a school of music in Cordoba and made the city an important center for music. Ziryab's composition are said to be found in many Flamenco songs. He is also credited with introducing to Spain

the Persian lute which according to some, later become the Spanish guitar. Paco de Lucia, the flamenco phenomenon in the 1990s, has dedicated his album "Zyryab" to Ziryab . . ." Shiraz-born poet/musician."

I grew up among musicians and singers, mainly traditional and folk. Being Kurd on my father's side, naturally I was also introduced to Kurdish music and dance which is quite dynamic in rhythm as well as colorful in presentation. . . So my first encounter with flamenco was quite interesting because I felt very close to it. Even though I could not understand Spanish, I was able to feel their singing. Later on, when I began teaching flamenco, I realized that my Iranian students had felt the same connection once they were introduced to flamenco.

Spain's famous poet and writer Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936) called flamenco one of the most gigantic inventions of the Spanish people. The tragic lyrics and tones of flamenco clearly reflect the suffering of the gypsy people.



### EARTH MONTH IS AN AMERICAN CULTURAL TRADITION

by Nancy Pearlman

continued from page 1, column 1

events today, in 1970 volunteers from various nonprofit organizations brought tables and put out literature and invited people to come to a free program to try to get them to sign petitions, write letters, and join their cause. Businesses basically boycotted the activities because at the time it was the "environment versus the economy," at least to them. Now we know that as every business seems to want to promote their "greenness" that ecological sustainability is good for the environment and the economy and necessary to save our planet earth. Back then, activists weren't afraid to discuss the overpopulation problem (now almost taboo), pushed for saving wildlife and wilderness, and advocated less consumerism. The trend now is simply to talk about global warming/climate change, urge purchase of products that are organic and "natural," and emphasize how to make money by being greener. I would love to see a blend of the old with the new.

During that first 1970 event, I organized 1,000 bicyclists to ride down Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles to promote alternative transportation. Finally the area is developing some bike paths. We didn't bother to get permits because bicycles are legal on the roads. And we had fun, too, wearing gas masks and parading around as our favorite animal friends (unlike so many of the new expos and programs that I attend where a business suit is proper attire). Nonetheless, the 2012 Earth Day events should be worth going to. Most have free speakers and music, literature tables, and children's activities.

There has been a shift in cultural attitudes toward protecting our earth, living more sustainability, and having a smaller footprint on the planet. Please do your part and join in this cultural experience.







## TRAVELING TASTEBUDS

Good flavors are all a matter of opinion. Take dogs for instance. Actually, I probably don't even have to put it into words. Suffice it to say that if you have a cat and a dog, make sure to empty the sandbox immediately after the cat uses it.

People all over the world have their own idea of delicacy. Termites, intestines, and blood (Masai, not vampires) . . . the flavors delight us.

One very cold, wet night in December, after performing gypsy dances in the mud at the wedding of an unnamed very famous musician, my friend and I went back to her house wet and freezing. Her mother served us the most delicious Estonian traditional hot spiced red wine. It really hit the spot. As we sat and talked and warmed up, I felt something at my feet. It was their dog, happily eating the mud off my shoes! Each to his own.

--Nickie Hovhannessian

Have a good (or bad) food memory, recipe or restaurant? Write to us (200 words or less) at:

**culturallyspeaking@  
earthculturesproject.org**

You may see it published!

As always, don't forget the hungry.

**www.freerice.com**

**Play a free game and rice will be donated to those who need it!**

*FreeRice is a non-profit website run by the United Nations World Food Programme.*

## SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



### 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.

#### Market at the Casbah Middle Eastern Dance Festival

**April 14** 11:30am - 6 pm -- John plays at 2:30pm

Orangethorpe United Methodist Church  
2351 W. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton, CA.  
<http://www.marketatthecasbah.com/>

**April 15 & 29** (Usually twice a month)

Olympus Greek Tavern, 6304 Laurel Canyon, North Hollywood,  
(818) 766-4100 call to confirm dates & times Reservations required,  
\$15 minimum charge, food and drink available

**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>

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

**Renaissance Pleasure Faire**

**April 7 to May 20**

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



# LECTURE

Culture of Peace  
Resource Center

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



## War as the Ultimate Ecological Pollution

By Nancy Pearlman,  
Environmentalist and Global 500 Laureate

**4 pm, Saturday, April 21, 2012**  
At the Culture of Peace Resource Center,  
606 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401



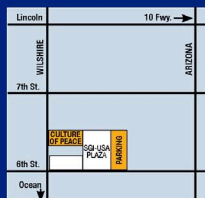
**Nancy Pearlman**  
Environmentalist and  
Global 500 Laureate

*"The fact that war causes horrible ecological damage demonstrates the importance of peace and environmental organizations working together to protect the earth's unique ecosystems. In my talk, I will discuss the varied ways that war impacts the environment and share positive ecological lifestyle solutions, innovative green technologies, and new ecological models that can be followed to help save our planet."*

—Nancy Pearlman  
Environmentalist and Global 500 Laureate

Ms. Pearlman is an award-winning broadcaster, environmentalist, college instructor, and host of the three-time Emmy nominated ENEWS television series. For thirty-five years, she has given her time and energy to the environmental cause and was selected by the United Nations Environment Programme as a Global 500 Laureate. Ms. Pearlman currently serves as second vice president of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees.

- Lectures are free and open to the public.
- Free parking the 606 Wilshire parking structure.
- Join the Culture of Peace lecture email list and get monthly announcements about upcoming events by sending a request to [peacelectures@sgi-usa.org](mailto:peacelectures@sgi-usa.org).
- Reception to follow.
- Come and win a \$50 gift certificate for culture of peace books and gift items!
- Purchase the book *Voices for a Culture of Peace Vol. I* at [www.cultureofpeacepress.com](http://www.cultureofpeacepress.com).
- Find Culture of Peace Press on Facebook.



### Upcoming Lectures

Saturday May 19 4pm  
Saturday June 16 4pm  
Saturday July 21 4pm  
Saturday August 18 4pm  
Saturday September 15 4pm

Culture of Peace Resource Center

Sponsored by Soka Gakkai International-USA

310-260-8900

[www.sgi.org](http://www.sgi.org)



### ASSIEH "LA MORA"

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 a world 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 website for workshops and assemblies available.

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



### 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

**Fri, Apr 6 9:30 PM - 1:30 AM**  
13721 Burbank Blvd  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

#### MULDOONS PUB

**Sun, Apr 22 2 PM - 4 PM**  
202 Newport Center Drive  
Newport Beach, CA

#### FINN MC COOL'S IRISH PUB

**Fri, Jun 1 10 PM - 1:30 AM**  
2702 Main St  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

**THE FORD AMPHITHEATRE Sun, Sep 16 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Los Angeles, CA 90068**

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

*Always check with venues to confirm dates, times, and locations.*



## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### THE G2 GALLERY

Nature & Wildlife Photography  
1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd.  
Venice, CA 90291

#### Ansel Adams

February 21 - May 13

#### Cheryl Medow

April 3 - May 13

Usually free, some charge for special events. See website for details.

[www.theG2gallery.com](http://www.theG2gallery.com)

### CONTRA-TIEMPO

**Tuesday April 3, 2012**

CONTRA-TIEMPO, LA's nationally and internationally acclaimed Urban Latin Dance Company, presents its Annual Charity Gala to raise \$60,000, which will provide 10 under-served public schools in Los Angeles with much needed arts education and dance residencies. Come enjoy a night of dancing, food, drinks, silent auctions, and live music.

7pm-11pm -- La Fonda Supper Club 2501 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles, CA [www.lafondasupperclub.com](http://www.lafondasupperclub.com)

Get tickets now:

<http://contra-tiempo.org/events.html>

### AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

**Friday, April 6, 2012**

#### Noche de Estrellas

Latin-Themed Late Night

6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Live Latin Music, Dancing, Dinner, & More. Party with the sea stars at the Aquarium's Latin-themed Late Night. Cost: \$14.95 per adult (12+), \$13.95 per child (3-11), and free for kids ages 0-3 and Aquarium members (food and drinks sold separately)

100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA

Info: 562-590-3100

[www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

### "IN PARIS" - April 11 to April 21

A groundbreaking new play based on a Russian romance!

**Mikhail Baryshnikov Anna Sinyakina**

The Broad Stage

Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica

\$50 to \$175

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

### FREE Spring Concert Series

St. James Presbyterian Church  
19414 Ventura Blvd, Tarzana, 91356  
for information, call M-F 818-345-2057

**Sunday, April 15, 2012 4:00 PM**

### THE ANDREE EXPEDITION

Music by Dominick Argento

Vocals: Christian Nova;

Piano: Frank Garvey

A musical retelling of the failed attempt by three Swedish explorers to be the first to reach the North Pole in a hydrogen balloon! The program will begin with a powerpoint visual presentation describing the journey and including images the men photographed in 1897

### ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

Bringing together the passionate and diverse music of Spain with the vibrant, ancient form of the Indian Classical tradition.

### Luckman Fine Arts Complex

Cal State LA

5151 State University Drive

Los Angeles

**April 21 8pm**

\$25 to \$40

[www.luckmanarts.org](http://www.luckmanarts.org)

### THEATRE RAYMOND KABBAZ

10361 W. Pico Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90064

(310) 286-0553

**Thur, April 26 – 7:30PM**

#### MDAJO

French Pop-Soul Singer!

**Wed, May 9 – 7:30PM**

#### SAMARABALOUF

French Gypsy Band with accordionist

Jean-Luc Amestoy

Boogie-Woogie blues, Flamenco Rock and Klesmer

See website for details.

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

FREE Brass Quintet Concert for

### MASTERS IN THE CHAPEL SERIES

**April 27th at 7:30 p.m.**

Members of the Los Angeles

Philharmonic – James Wilt, trumpet;

Christopher Still, trumpet; Eric Overholt,

horn; James Miller, trombone; and

Norman Pearson, tuba

First Lutheran Church of Venice 815

Venice Boulevard, CA 90291

[www.flvenice.org/masters.html](http://www.flvenice.org/masters.html)

(310) 821-2740.

### ISRAEL'S 64TH INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL

Rancho Park, Los Angeles

**April 29 10am to 6pm**

<http://www.celebrateisraelfestival.com/>

### AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

**Saturday & Sunday, April 28-29**

**for International Children's Day**

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The Aquarium of the Pacific's seventh annual International Children's Day is a special festival for kids. Celebrating the amazing talents of children of all cultures, this festival will feature international music and dance performances by kids. An international choir, Mexican folkloric dance, Pacific Islander, Cambodian, Chinese, and Japanese traditional dance, Native American song and dance, and West African drum and dance are among the children's performances.

General admission--\$24.95 adult (12+), \$21.95 senior (62+), \$13.95 child (3-11), and free for children under age three and Aquarium members.

100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA

Info: 562-590-3100

[www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

**April 29**

is

**International Dance Day!**

*Always check with venues to confirm dates, times, and locations.*

**LINKS OF INTEREST***(see below for clickable links if viewing on the webpage)***MUSEUMS**

**The Autry National Center**  
[www.theautry.org](http://www.theautry.org)

**Bowers Museum**  
[www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org)

**Craft & Folk Art Museum**  
[www.cafam.org](http://www.cafam.org)

**The Getty**  
[www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu)

**Metropolitan Museum of Art**  
*(search the database for works of art, costumes & more)*  
[www.metmuseum.org/works\\_of\\_art/](http://www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/)

**Museum of Latin American Art**  
[www.molaa.org](http://www.molaa.org)

**Museum of Tolerance**  
[www.museumoftolerance.com](http://www.museumoftolerance.com)

**Pacific Asia Museum**  
[www.pacificasiamuseum.org](http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org)

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA**

**Current Cultural Happenings Around Los Angeles**  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/caltechfolkdance](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/caltechfolkdance)

**Olvera Street in Los Angeles**  
<http://olvera-street.com>

**Folkworks** (click on "calendar")  
[www.folkworks.org/](http://www.folkworks.org/)

**FOLK DANCE & FOLK MUSIC INFORMATION**

**Dick Oakes' Folk Dance Pages**  
[www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/folkdanc.htm](http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/folkdanc.htm)

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

**ARC Music** (ethnic music CDs)  
[www.arcmusic.co.uk](http://www.arcmusic.co.uk)

**ARTS AND CULTURES**

**Smithsonian Magazine Arts & Cultures**  
[www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture)

**Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage**  
[www.folklife.si.edu/](http://www.folklife.si.edu/)

**BBC - Holidays Around the World and so much more!**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/naturehumanplanetexplorer/events\\_and\\_festivals](http://www.bbc.co.uk/naturehumanplanetexplorer/events_and_festivals)

**Pulse of the Planet**  
[www.pulseplanet.com](http://www.pulseplanet.com)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**BYKI**  
 Free language software downloads  
[www.byki.com/](http://www.byki.com/)

**FREELANG**  
 Free bilingual dictionary downloads  
[www.freelang.net/](http://www.freelang.net/)

**FOR KIDS**

**Yahoo's site for kids to learn about the world's countries**  
[www.kids.yahoo.com/reference/world-factbook](http://www.kids.yahoo.com/reference/world-factbook)

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY DK PUBLISHING**  
[www.us.dk.com](http://www.us.dk.com)

*Complete Flags of the World*  
*My World, My Story:*  
*Life Stories from Teens from Around the World*  
*Homes Around the World*  
*Children Just Like Me*  
*A Life Like Mine*

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS**  
<http://kidspacemuseum.org>

(These links are for reference only and are not necessarily 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.

**DONATION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Your donation will help bring the arts back to education under the Earth Cultures Project, or help fund other projects of Educational Communications. Volunteers are always needed in the office. If you are interested in volunteering please call (310) 559-9160.



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

**EARTH CULTURES PROJECT**

[www.earthculturesproject.org](http://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**

email regarding this newsletter and to subscribe please write to:  
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**@earthculturesproject.org**

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