



# CULTURALLY SPEAKING

The monthly newsletter of the Earth Cultures Project of Educational Communications

*MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications*

February 2012



## CULTURAL ATTITUDES TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

I recently travelled to Chattanooga, Tennessee, as a media representative to participate in the "Energy and Climate

Policy in Germany and the United States Best Practice Examples on a Local Level TransAtlantic Media Dialogue and Networking Seminar," sponsored by the German Embassy (2300 M St., N. W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037). Gathered together were urban planners, sustainability experts, and press from eight sister cities in Germany and the United States (Los Angeles, CA/Berlin; Chicago, IL/Hamburg; Columbus, OH/Dresden; Chattanooga, TN/Hamm, Westphalia). While the purpose was to discuss solutions and projects on how to implement climate and renewable energy initiatives on a local level it also gave me an opportunity to see how cultural attitudes can affect making a community sustainable.

It was very clear that the Germans simply considered it "common sense" to save energy, to reduce waste, and to use transportation other than cars. Berlin has eliminated landfills altogether with a total life-cycle approach to products. Using bicycles in their compact cities was more reasonable and ecological than driving cars. Hamm has re-established an old custom of planting a tree in honor of one's wedding. The Germans also encouraged supporting sustainability throughout the world by donating financial resources to projects and countries in need and by sharing their experiences as was obvious during this summit.

Chattanooga was a polluted city that has cleaned its air and chosen the "sustainable" approach to redevelopment

and is quite proud of taking that direction. Such a cultural attitude can only enhance positive changes in a community. It has revitalized a dilapidated inner city with shops, restaurants, convention centers, art galleries, an aquarium, and museums. The riverfront has a beautiful pathway to walk or jog and includes a pedestrian (actually non-motorized vehicles like bikes are allowed) bridge to the other shore which is a vibrant shopping and recreation area. A brownfield (an area that may or may not be toxic but was used for industrial purposes) has not only been cleaned up but new wildlife habitat with a stream was created at the Volkswagen facility whose factory is certified platinum by the U. S. Green Building Council. We rode bicycles from a rent-a-bike vendor that has thirty spots to pickup and dropoff bikes. And then the day after the Dialogue, some of us attended an old-fashioned pancake breakfast in the new arts district. Volunteers served the food and musicians played bluegrass music to which I, of course, got up and danced (good Appalachian clogging).

Developing a sustainable operation whether for a business, a city, or even your own home, requires an action plan and the willingness to change attitudes and behavior. Hundreds of thousands of toiletries have been thrown away by the hotel industry but the useful soaps and other items can be a valuable resource if someone is willing to collect and redistribute to needy shelters in this country or organizations in needy countries. If elected local officials change building codes, builders and remodelers can establish greywater systems and compost toilets. The Chicago Housing Authority replaced showerheads and aerators in 14,500 units and within six

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## MULTICULTURAL?

*The other night I was*

*waiting for the Greek*

*dance club Kypseli"*

*to start*



*at the Tango Room*

*watching a Salsa class*

*that was teaching "Bachata"*

*a dance from the Dominican Republic*

*whose basic steps (minus Latin hip*

*motion)*

*were the same as the Hungarian Csardas*

*and with Latin motion were similar to*

*Hula*

*and in 2/4 time would be a Polka.*

*How's that for a multi-cultural experience?*

There are possibly thousands of folk/ethnic dances in the world but there are commonalities. After all, there are only so many ways a human body can move. The step I was observing is called "Chasse" (shah-SAY not "sashay") in formal dance terms and 'Csardas' (CHAR-dosh) by folk dancers. Here's how to do it. To either side, step sideways then close the trailing foot. Step sideways again and just touch the floor with the other foot, so you're then free to head the other direction! Done in ballroom position with a partner it's a csardas. Done solo with legs bent, hips

swaying and using the arms to act out the lyrics, it's a hula! Do it to your favorite music that is in 4/4 time and you are dancing with a step from many cultures!



*contributed by  
Preston Ashbourne*



On Valentine's Day don't forget to thank Mexico. They gave us chocolate. The Aztec leader, Moctezuma, drank up to 40 cups of chocolate a day. But we're not talking about milk chocolate. He drank a very bitter drink and must have been totally wired. It was only after chocolate was taken to Europe, where cream and sugar were added, that we have the chocolates we know today.



**Thank you Mexico!!**

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

[culturallyspeaking@earthculturesproject.org](mailto:culturallyspeaking@earthculturesproject.org)

You may see it published!

As always,  
don't forget the hungry.

Go to

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



### 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.

### FINN MC COOL'S IRISH PUB

**Fri, Feb 3** 10 PM - 1:30 AM  
**Tue, Mar 6** (duo) 8 - 11:30 PM  
**Fri, Jun 1** 10 PM - 1:30 AM  
 2702 Main St  
 Santa Monica, CA 90405

### IRELAND'S 32

**Fri, Mar 2** 9:30 PM - 1:30 AM  
 13721 Burbank Blvd  
 Van Nuys, CA 91401

### MULDOONS PUB

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

### LA IRISH FAIR MUSIC FESTIVAL

10 AM - 6 PM  
**Sat, Mar 10 and Sun, Mar 11**  
 601 W. McKinley Ave  
 Pomona, CA 91768

### PADDY O'S

**Fri, Mar 16** 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
 20320 South Western Avenue  
 Torrance, CA 90501

**TILTED KILT** 2 PM - 5 PM  
**Sat, Mar 17** St. Patricks Day!  
 6575 E. PCH, Long Beach, CA

**IRISH TIMES** 9:30 PM - 1 AM  
**Sat, Mar 17** St. Patricks Day!  
 3267 Motor Ave, LA, CA 90034

### TAM O'SHANTER

**Fri, Mar 23** 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
 2980 Los Feliz Blvd,  
 Los Angeles, CA 90039

### THE FORD AMPHITHEATRE

**Sun, Sep 16**  
 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East,  
 LA, CA 90068

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

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

**MORE UPCOMING EVENTS 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.

**Regular events:****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

**Saturday, February 25, 2012  
7:30 PM**

**John and Helen Bilezikjian  
in concert**

**Folk Music Center**

220 Yale, Claremont, CA 91711  
(909) 624-2928

Doors open at 7 PM  
\$12 per person



<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 website below for workshops and assemblies available.

**The Gypsy Folk Ensemble will be performing and teaching  
Russian dances at Kidspace Museum in Pasadena  
on March 6, 2012 at 6pm.**

**This is a free family night during the hours of 4-8pm.**

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

**Directions to Kidspace**

Kidspace is located at 480 N. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91103, at the west end of Brookside Park near the Rose Bowl stadium. The museum occupies the buildings that formerly housed the Fannie Morrison Horticultural Center.

Free parking is available in Lot I, next to the west end of Brookside Park near the Rose Bowl.

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

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

**CULTURAL ATTITUDES  
TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY**  
by Nancy Pearlman  
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weeks got a payback. In the United States, sustainability seems to be driven by economic savings while in Germany it seems to be driven by the importance of protecting our planet's resources. Regardless of the country, though, the focus on training people at colleges and universities in the fields of green technology and green research is gaining momentum.

Significant contributions to eliminating climate change is possible. It is impossible to summarize a three-day event in a short article but if you want more details, request a free sample copy of Educational Communications' The Compendium Newsletter, or tune into my radio show interviews on Environmental Directions, [www.ecoprojects.org](http://www.ecoprojects.org). Regardless of where each person lives, it is obvious that a personal commitment is essential along with the support of society through a positive cultural attitude.

**DONATION AND  
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.



**Support the Arts & Education!**

**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.arcmusic.co.uk>

**FOR KIDS**

**Yahoo's site for kids to learn about the world's countries**  
<http://www.kids.yahoo.com/reference/world-factbook>

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY DK PUBLISHING**  
<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*

**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)

**Pulse of the Planet**  
<http://www.pulseplanet.com>

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

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

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

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

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**(310) 559-9160**

*or by email at*

**info@earthculturesproject.org**

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