



November 2010

**MESSAGE FROM
NANCY PEARLMAN**



I was privileged to be invited to be a judge at the International Youth Music and Arts Festival which was

held July 22-24, 2010, in Los Angeles. With a range of expertise in performing and teaching singing and ethnic dance, the judges also included Julie Nelson, Toti O'Brien, Nickie Hovhannessian, and Esther Leon Schwartz. We had three days of performances to select the finalists who performed in the San Gabriel Valley. Some of the highlights and video from the event are at the website for the festival,

www.youthfestivalusa.org. They are looking for groups and individuals for the next competition to be held July 20-23, 2011 in the Los Angeles area. The young dancers, singers, and musicians performed with such enthusiasm and excellence. There was a music and dance troupe flown in from China as well as some young people of Russian and Armenian heritage who all performed traditional folk dances from their or their parents' native lands. The classical music played on the piano and other instruments was superbly performed. It is a delight to see young people have such a wonderful opportunity to exhibit their talents and we were pleased to be able to be judges.

*Nancy Pearlman, Executive Director
Educational Communications*

**THE GEOGRAPHY OF DANCE
PART 2**

We know we can draw a line across Europe separating a northwestern area where couple dances predominate and a southeastern region where line and circle dances are standard. How did this come about? Folk dance scholars believe that line and circle dances were once the only form of dance all over Europe but that couple dances started to appear possibly around the 12th century and spread over western Europe. But by that time historical events had made eastern and western Europe quite different from each other culturally and couple dances failed to penetrate the east. That couple dance / line dance line also divides Europe into a Catholic (and later Protestant) West using the Latin alphabet and an Orthodox East using the Cyrillic or Greek alphabets. These cultural differences in turn hark back to divisions between the western Roman Empire and the eastern Byzantine Empire, and later the conquests of Charlemagne in the West, and the European section of the Ottoman Empire in the East.

contributed by Joseph Abbate



WESTWARD HO???

Have you ever eaten a lotus root? While in an Indian restaurant I saw lotus on the menu and said "I gotta try that!" After all, several Asian gods are associated with the lotus, so why not? Lotus root is tangy and sweet, looks like a wagon wheel when sliced, and has a texture like an apple. It's full of vitamins, minerals and fiber. Try it!

contributed by Preston Ashbourne



coming soon

The Los Angeles Estonian House will hold its annual Christmas Fair on December 4, 2010.

This is your chance to 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

**November
fun**

A wonderful list of cultural happenings around Southern California can be found at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calttechfolkdance>

**EARTH CULTURES
PROJECT**

contact information

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