



December 2012

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications



THAILAND

While we often are focusing on the multitude of activities and cultural events in southern California, I would like to share some great ideas for travel to Thailand. Here are some highlights from a recent trip. Ecotourism often conjures an image of roughing it in the wild but in Thailand you can see beautiful nature while indulging your personal senses at accommodations in town that offer wonderful Thai hospitality, delicious food, and incredible spa experiences. The spas are abundant and will indulge your senses with great aromas, calming music, natural herbs, and lovely settings. **AIRLINES**—Thai Airways—In its 52nd year, the Thai Airways International Public Company Limited now offers flights to 74 cities and 36 countries on five continents. Information at 800-426-5204. Travelling on Asian airlines is a pleasure because of the beautiful outfits of flight attendants, friendly service, and a wide range of Asian and Western food. **HUA HIN** — This seaside resort on the Gulf of Siam, has wonderful hotels, spas, and shopping opportunities to relax, have a massage, and enjoy the fabulous Thai cuisine. Nearby there are palaces, temples, caves, national parks, and even a romantic train station. The town is about 2.5 hours from Bangkok. As in most resorts there are golf courses, tennis courts, horseback riding, fitness centers, swimming pools, fine dining, bars and other facilities including those for children. Sightseeing locations include: the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market;



Khao Wang Heritage Park, which is a hilltop summer palace of King Rama IV; Klaikangwon Palace, which has been the royal compound since 1926; Pa La-u Waterfall (63 km) in a pristine tropical forest; Wat Suwannaram, a temple from the Ayuthaya period; Kaho Sam Roi Yod National Park and the Phraya Nakorn Cave; and Bang Sapa for diving and snorkeling. Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa—Here you have a “Pillow Menu” and can choose from the following: contour (natural latex), detoxifier (bamboo charcoals), feather (duck down feathers), non-allergenic (polyester), orthopedic support (softball fibers), Igusa (Japanese Igusa grass covered with Tatami), or Shogun (Japanese sponge covered with a Tatami). The V Villas Hua Hin has full services and is designed for discerning guests in search of romance, revival, and recreation. **THE BARAI**—This residential spa offers exotic treatment rooms on beachfront land with tropical foliage adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Hua Hin. Designed by renowned Thai architect, Mr. Lek Bunnag, the luxurious accommodations, extensive spa treatments, and lifestyle programs are a holiday delight. Feel the peaceful surroundings as you chose a treatment (scrubs, facials, wraps, massages, and more) focused on maintaining the vitality and balance of the four elements of water, earth, air, and fire. They also offer classes in Thai cooking, herbal compress, garland making, and yoga. **CHIVA-SOM**— This international health resort in Hua Hin was designed by British architect Jean-Paul Blissett of the Syntax Group to blend Thai and Western designs. They offer more than

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EGGPLANT
Like it or Not

Preston Ashbourne



Recently after a dance rehearsal the Gypsy gang was having dinner in our favorite Italian food haunt, Mama’s Pizza. Some of us ordered eggplant dishes, and I couldn’t remember how to say it in Spanish. I asked a friend who is from Central America, what she called it and she said “aubergine”. I thought that can’t be, it’s too French! So I asked the owner of the restaurant, also a Central American, and he said “berenjena”. Another friend asked what it was in German. All this set me on a linguistic expedition in search of eggplants!



The English name is because the plants are ovoid and some varieties were small and white. That’s too easy. There are many names for this fruit (yes fruit), but many languages call it “aubergine”. Even the Germans, who also can call it “Eierfrucht” which means “eggs fruit”. An early name in English was “Jew’s Apple” because the Sephardic Jews apparently brought it to England. Aubergine may derive from Catalan “albergina” which may come from Arabic “al-badinjan” which comes from Persian “bademjan” which seems a likely candidate for the ancestor of the Spanish “berenjena”!

I also learned some non-linguistic trivia. Eggplant is a nightshade and therefore can be somewhat toxic, as are its close relatives: tomatoes, potatoes, and tobacco!

I won’t get into the thousands of recipes for eggplant/aubergine/berenjena. I think it’s a yummy fruit any way it’s prepared!

Letter from the editor ...



TRADITIONS

December always calls to me with memories of the sweets I grew up with, particularly star cookies. We call them star cookies, but in Armenian they're called kurabia, soft buttery cookies that melt in your mouth. Ours were special because they contained atar of roses a highly concentrated "essence" of rose. They say it takes 1000 petals to make one drop. And the roses have to be picked at just the right time of day, late enough that the fragrance is full, but not so late that the sun has burned it away. Our special vial of atar of roses came to my parents in the 1950s. It was a gift from one of my grandfather's sisters whose husband was successful in the new country and could afford this rare and expensive flavoring. The small vial was only about 1/3 full at this time. It was so potent that my mother flavored several dozen cookies by sticking a toothpick into the vial and then swirling it around in the dough. The 1/3-full vial lasted almost thirty years.

And then come the memories of locum, flavored with oil of Bergamot. Not the candy quickly thickened with gelatin, no, this was made the old way with cornstarch, stirring constantly for two hours. We all took turns.

But traditions change and grow with each family. Now the star cookies come in two forms, the traditional five-pointed star, and also a batch with six points, in honor of the Jewish daughter-in-law. And we visit my half-Norwegian cousins who have lots of decorations and memories from Norway. And the family keeps growing and bringing new ways to celebrate. We're a true melting pot. Between the blood lines and the airlines we've added Puerto Rico, Scotland, Chumash Indians, the Phillipines and Spain, as well as a few memories from those who lived in Greece and Zaire. I'm sure I'm forgetting someone or somewhere.

Traditions are wonderful ----
to keep, and to create!

Happy December to all!

Nickie Hovhannessian

DECEMBER

(shamelessly copied word for word from Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December>)

December (di:'sembər/ dee-SEM-bər) is the 12th and last month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days.

December starts on the same day of the week as September every year and ends on the same day as April every year.

December is the month with the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the longest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

December in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to June in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological winter is 1 December. In the Southern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological summer is 1 December.

Etymology:

In Latin, decem means "ten". December was also the tenth month in the Roman calendar until a monthless winter period was divided between January and February.

Description:

December's flower is the narcissus or holly.

December's birthstones are turquoise, lapis lazuli, zircon, topaz (blue), or tanzanite.

Events in December:

Day of Restoration of Independence of Portugal (**December 1**)

Union Day of Romania (**December 1**)

World AIDS Day (**December 1**)

National Day of United Arab Emirates (**December 2**)

Sinterklaas in the Netherlands (**December 5**)

Father's Day (King's Birthday) in Thailand (**December 5**)

Independence Day in Finland (**December 6**)

Constitution Day in Spain (**December 6**)

Saint Nicholas Day in Greece (**December 6**)

Pearl Harbor Day in the United States (**December 7**)

Fukuoka Marathon is held on first Sunday in December.

Día de la Madre en Panamá (Mother's Day) in Panama. (**December 8**)

Day of the Mary Immaculate Conception. (**December 8**)

Constitution Day in Romania. (**December 8**)

In the Ásatrú religion, Egil Skallagrímsson's Day (**December 9**) is a day of remembrance for the Viking hero.

Nobel Prizes awarded (**December 10**) on the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

Human Rights Day (**December 10**)

Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, or Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, in Mexico (**December 12**)

Independence Day (Jamhuri Day) in Kenya (**December 12**)

Saint Lucy (**December 13**)

Honolulu Marathon is held on second Sunday in December.

Monkey Day (**December 14**)

Bill of Rights Day (United States). (**December 15**)

Zamenhof Day (**December 15**)

Victory day of Bangladesh (**December 16**)

National Day of Kingdom of Bahrain (**December 12**)

Day of Reconciliation in South Africa (**December 16**).

Hannukah (**December 20** in 2011) (*editor's note: December 9 in 2012*)

First day of winter (**December 21**)

Solstice (called the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere and the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere) occurs on dates varying from **December 20 to December 22** (in UTC). See also Yule

The Emperor's Birthday, a national holiday in Japan (**December 23**)

Festivus (**December 23**)

HumanLight (Humanist holiday), (**December 23**)

Christmas Eve (**December 24**)

Christmas (**December 25**)

Boxing Day (**December 26**)

Day of Goodwill (**December 26**)

Kwanzaa (**December 26 to January 1**)

Independence Day in Slovenia - Independence and Unity Day, (**December 26**)

Proclamation Day in South Australia (**December 28**)

Philippines – Rizal Day (**December 30**)

New Year's Eve (**December 31**)

Yule

December symbols:

The poinsettia

December's birthstone is the blue turquoise or zircon, and the recently added tanzanite.

Its birth flower is the Holly or Euphorbia pulcherrima.[1]

The Zodiac sign for December are Sagittarius (until December 21) or Capricorn (December 22 onwards).

THAILAND

by Nancy Pearlman

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150 treatments and activities include spa, holistic, fitness and physiotherapy and have qualified natural health practitioners along with their therapist. Along with a variety of spa treatments they offer meditation, Thai Boxing, Pranayama, yoga, Tai Chi, aqua aerobics, fitball classes, gyrokinesis, metabolic breathing, mien acupressure, and body conditioning. They have worldwide cuisine and even bicycle and kayak rentals. For those wanting to learn how to do spa treatments they have full courses in massage, beauty, holistic, and management.

PATRAVADI THEATER—This “Home for Performing Artists” has incredible productions. “Eclipse” is a contemporary rhythm moving across the face of traditional Thai drumming and dance and is visually stunning and aurally pulsating. “Sudsakorn” is a Thai Musical Theater at Vic Hua Hin They also have an arts camps and a high school. The school was founded by Patravadi Mejudhon.

AYUTTHAYA—This ancient yet modern city was formally designated Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya and was the Thai capital for 417 years. It is also a province with many activities along the Chao Phraya River. Just 75 kilometers north of Bangkok, there are magnificent ruins along with the perfectly preserved royal palace of Bang Pa-in as well as the H. M. the Queen’s Bang Sai Arts and Crafts Center. Founded in 1350 by King U-Thong, 33 kings and several dynasties have ruled the kingdom. The city was sacked by the Burmese in 1767. UNESCO declared the Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park a World Heritage site in 1991. Along with the Buddha statues and the wats (temples) are palaces and service buildings, forts, and fortresses, museums, and historical study centers. The wats are especially interesting for their unique architecture.

CHAOPHRAYA RIVER CRUISES—You don’t have to stay overnight on a cruise but can see the city’s skyline while having a fine dining experience. Grand Pearl Cruise, The Grand Pearl Co, 123-125 Soi Charoennakorn 13, Charoennakorn Road, Klongsarn, Bangkok 10600, Thailand, offers a complete package of welcome drinks and snacks, a Thai and International Buffet Dinner, Thai Classical Dance Show, and Live Music while cruising for two hours. They also operate the Ayutthaya Lunch Cruise to the ancient city of Ayutthaya so that you can see the ancient capital’s

Wat Mahatad, Wat Phrasrisanphet and Wihan Phramongkhon Bophit. Providing dining and sightseeing and overnight trips are the Manohra Luxury Cruises, 257 Charoennakorn Road, Bangkok 10600, Thailand.

BANGKOK—There are over 300 wats (temples) in the capital city, every one different and fascinating. The Emerald Buddha Temple is the world’s most spectacular and is in the same compound as the golden-spired Grand Palace, a former royal residence. The Buddha is over three meters tall, made of pure gold, and in the Reclining Buddha Temple the figure is 46 meters long. The Temple of the Dawn is on the Chao Phraya River and its pagoda is decorated with mosaics of antique Chinese porcelain. The climb up 300 steps to the Golden Mount is worthwhile for superb views and for the shrine set under a golden spire while at its base another temple contains one of the world’s largest bronze Buddha statues. The Suan Pakkad Palace has a superb collection of art and antiques and the Vimanmek Royal Mansion is now a museum. The Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall displays outstanding examples of Thai handicrafts as does the National Museum which also has historical and royal artifacts. The town is a shoppers paradise with malls and stores everywhere and with over 10,000 stalls alone at the Chatuchak Weekend Market. Thai silk is found everywhere. Vie Hotel Bangkok—A delightful, newly designed (by J&H Boiffils’ from France) modern-style hotel in a convenient location in downtown Bangkok. While just waiting in the lobby you can get a quick, free five minute massage. They offer special room packages with complimentary day passes on the skytrain, meals, WI-FI, champagne cocktails, late checkouts, herbal teas, and more. They have a boutique spa with packages covering body exfoliation, body wraps, facial treatment, and manicure and pedicure. There is even high tea offered if you don’t want to engage in Happy Hour. And they have a Dance Club with Yoga, Thai-Chi, Muay Thai, and Body Combat along with jazz and social dancing. Siam Niramit Show—This is a must-



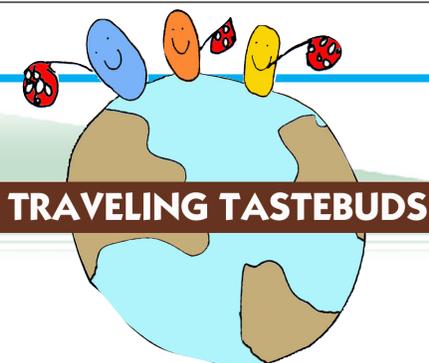
see show. Spectacular costumes, music, and dancing. Before the performance, take time to enjoy the Thai Village with authentically designed exhibits where local people from throughout Thailand share their arts and crafts. This is one of the largest stage productions in the world with 150 performers and 500 costumes, amazing special effects, and state of the art technology. Through song and dance you will journey back into history to the ancient Kingdom of Lanna, have a “journey Beyond Imagination to the Blissful Heaven” and the celebrate the Loy Krathong Festival. The Thai food buffet dinner is a great start. The souvenir shop will provide pictures of you with gorgeous backdrops and colorful greeters.

WATPO THAI TRADITIONAL MEDICAL AND MASSAGE SCHOOL—Wat Phra Chetuphon is popularly known as the Temple of the Reclining Buddha as well as being Thailand’s first open university when King Rama I founded Bangkok at the beginning of the present Chakri Dynasty in 1782. This school was opened inside WATPO in 1955 to teach traditional Thai knowledge.

THE OASIS SPA—Located in Bangkok, Chiangmai, Pattaya, and Phuket, you can “unwind, relax, rejuvenate, and indulge in a world of beauty, serenity, and pleasure.” Their specialists will pamper you in your own private garden. Packages range from 1.5 hours to 4 hours with oil massages, body scrubs, body wraps (coconut butter, Thai Herbal Clay, Morocco Red Clay or Aloe & Lavender), Thai herbal steam, facials (a large variety to choose from), hydrotherapy (from milk to floral) and more. They even have an “Authentic Lanna Music Therapy Gold Massage.”

HELLFIRE PASS MEMORIAL, BURMA-THAILAND RAILWAY—Operated by the Australian government, this museum and memorial can be done on a day excursion from Bangkok. You can also go to the scenic Kanchanaburi which has the famous Bridge over the River Kwai which you are allowed to walk across. The Memorial is dedicated to the Allied prisoners of war and Asian laborers at the railway.

INFORMATION—Tourism Authority of Thailand, 611 North Larchmont Blvd., 1st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90004, 323-461-9814, tatla@ix.netcom.com, tatla@tat.or.th



ORGANIC FOOD

by Nancy Pearlman

FREE DELIVERY BY ORGANIC EXPRESS—A new service in Southern California provides weekly and bi-weekly deliveries of organic fruits and vegetables. All the items meet the standards set by the California Organic Food Act of 1990. A \$25 box contains 12-16 types of produce with several servings of each. The \$35 box simply has more of these same items. If there is an item you don't want, they will respect your wishes. You can also add groceries to your produce orders. Delivery day depends on your zip code. You can order online at organicexpress.com or write to Organic Express, P. O. Box 11328, Carson, CA 90749, or call 310 ORGANIC.

CATERING BY SOL COOPERATIVE—The S.O.L. (seasonal, organic, and local) menu is 100% vegan and 1000% delicious. Their produce can come from Los Angeles' South Central Farmers Co-op, Buenorostro Farm, and Community Services Unlimited & Lane's garden among other places. At a meal for the Sustainability Lecture Series at Antioch University in Culver City they provided: Roasted red pepper hummus with French bread from Homeboy Bakery & Sweat Peas; baby spinach with strawberries, sweet peas, roasted almonds with Balsamic reduction; warm-roasted rainbow beet salad; chickpea casserole with lemon, herbs, and onions; Rotelle rice pasta with creamy garlic sauce and roasted first-of-the-season zucchini; lemon cake with rose water frosting; and passion fruit iced tea. Contact them at www.solcooperative.org, (310) 867-0696, or Solcooperative@gmail.com.

ORGANIC MEAL DELIVERIES—NutriFit provides "Family Fare" entrees, breakfasts, dressings/sauces, soups, salads, and sides as well as baked goods such as muffins, pies, and cakes, and energy bar snacks. They cook the food in West Los Angeles and will deliver or mail as arranged. They meet individual diet needs with personalized meal plans. The foods are also suitable for vegans and vegetarians even though they have meat (chicken, turkey, beef, and fish) options. Their menus indicate what is gluten and dairy free. NutriFit has over 2,400 recipes in their database from which to choose. Their food is grown sustainably on their own organic company farm. They also have a long-standing tradition of philanthropy. Founding Director Jacqueline Keller, who is a Board Certified Professional Health and Wellness Coach, has also authored the book "Body After Baby: A Simple Healthy Plan to Lose Your Baby Weight Fast." NutriFit can be reached at www.nutrifitonline.com - 11692 Gateway Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064, (310) 473-1989, or (800) 341-4190.

CLICK & COOK

Websites
With Tasty Recipes

In General

www.everylastrecipe.com

World Holidays Recipes

www.tasteofhome.com/Recipes/Holiday---Celebration-Recipes

www.whats4eats.com/holidays/

Recipes from Around the World

allrecipes.com/recipes/world-cuisine/

www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes/cuisines/

Recipes from Around the World - Vegetarian & Vegan

www.ivu.org/recipes/

www.vegetarianrecipesandcooking.com/

As always,
please 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.*

*Have a good (or bad) food memory,
recipe or restaurant? Write to us at:
culturallyspeaking@earthculturesproject.org
and you may see it published.*

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.

Celebrating New Year’s Eve in Royal Oak, Michigan?

Come see John perform at St John Armenian Church Banquet Center, Royal Oak, MI For Information & Reservations please call:
Chris Korkoian @ 248-217-5447
or Ed Bedikian @ 248-705-5819

<http://dantzrecords.com>

ANITA AND THE YANKS

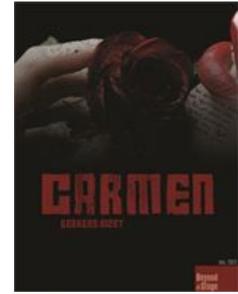


Anita and the Yanks broke into the Celtic rock music scene in 2008 and have built an impressive fan base in and around the Los Angeles area. Lead singer, guitarist Anita Mansfield and Bryan Dobbs mandolin player started out as a duo and they picked up Ryan Dean (drums) Damon Stout (bass) and Pat D’Arcy (uilleann pipes) along the way, featuring special guests Rachel Grace and Chris Loken on violin.

GALLAGHER’S PUB & GRILL (trio)

Sun, Dec 9 3 - 6 PM
300 Pacific Coast Hwy
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

www.anitaandtheyanks.com



The Carmen Project

Collaborative Art at its finest.

Saturday, December 1st
7:30 PM
[www.thecarmenproject.com/
Purchase-Tickets.html](http://www.thecarmenproject.com/Purchase-Tickets.html)

Carmen: in Concert is a collaborative arts performance, uniting opera, dance, visual art, improvisational acting, culinary art, and media art to create something innovative and inspiring for performers and audiences. Over 100 artists are uniting to create Carmen: the opera

The largest goal is to combine the unexpected, while staying 100% true to each unique art form.

Dance is the focal point of Carmen: in concert. Each character, through kinesthetic movement, will be portrayed in its emotional rawness and genuine emotion. Through the dance, the music will sing. The opera will be performed in its entirety, in French, by some of Los Angeles’ most talented operatic talent.

Running Time: 2 hours 5 minutes, with a 20 minute intermission

But wait, that’s not all...

The pre-show, a place to come early, have a bite to eat or a drink, and enjoy the atmosphere, will include street performers, artists, musicians and actors, all showcases their skills.

And food trucks! We even believe that food is an art form and Los Angeles is known for it’s food trucks!

There truly is something for everyone at Carmen: in concert.

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.

free & open to the public in December:

**Celebrate Las Posadas, Hanukkah,
Kwanzaa, & Christmas**

Tuesday, December 4, 2012 6 PM
East Los Angeles library,
4837 E 3rd St, Los Angeles 90022
323-264 0155

www.gypsyfolkensemble.com

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

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT: THE FUSION OF FOOD AND CRAFT

An Exhibition in Three Servings

The Craft in America Study Center at **8415 West Third Street** proudly inaugurates a three-part series of exhibitions focusing on the intersection of contemporary craft and food.

Food as impetus for craft: November 17, 2012- January 19, 2013

Food as subject for craft: February 2, 2013 - April 6, 2013

Food as medium for craft: April 20, 2013 - June 22, 2013

Food was a motivational font for craft from its earliest origins. Objects have facilitated and elevated the act of cooking and consumption throughout history, from woven baskets to clay storage jars, blown glass vessels and metal utensils. A lecture and workshop schedule is forthcoming: Laura Wood, "Love-Hunger," Katherine Gray, "Decanter Tower," Kristin duCharme, "Figure" in chocolate

Craft in America is a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and advancing original handcrafted work, through educational programs in all media, accessible to all.

The Study Center is open Thursday - Saturday from 12:00 - 6:00 pm. For more information: info@craftinamerica.org or (323) 951-0610. Contact: Emily Zaidenm (323) 951-0610m emilyzaiden@craftinamerica.org

THE FOLK MUSIC CENTER

CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, December 1st

7:00pm sharp.

Ian Whitcomb

Book Signing, Sing-Along and Discussion on all things Ukulele

Sunday, December 16th

6:30pm (doors@6p) \$12

Holiday Harp concert

Come join us in celebrating the magic of the season. Students of all ages performing timeless Holiday music from around the globe.

All events held at the
**FOLK MUSIC CENTER
Museum and Store**

220 Yale Ave, Claremont, Ca.

Call (909) 624-2928 for tickets and info.

Or email at concerts@folkmusiccenter.com.

<http://folkmusiccenter.com>



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

CLASSES OFFERED

ANAITÉ ARNOLD



TwinkleTwos
TipToeTots
Wee Ballet
Pre-Ballet & Ballet
Kids Flamenco
ages 2-10+

(310) 384-4921

Eleve Ballet Academy

www.eledeballet.com/instructors.html



ASSIEH "LA MORA"

Born and raised in Iran, Assieh started her Flamenco dance training in LA and later in Madrid, Spain at Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy 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 in LA. Call for class schedule: (310) 558-0746.

DANCE MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

with Olivia Regalado

Wednesdays until Dec 12 - \$20/class

10-11:30am at Gypsy Camp in LA

(310) 482-7251

olivia.regalado@rocketmail.com

METHODOLOGY GIRARD ACTING STUDIOS

Limited space. Call to register
310.699.3030 wendygirard.com
[facebook.com/GirardStudio](https://www.facebook.com/GirardStudio)
Hollywood & Palm Springs

YIDDISH DANCE CLASS

at Workmen's Circle

Thursdays 7-9:30pm

Oct 18th—Dec 6th,

(no class Nov 22) Cost: \$180

renowned Yiddish dance master

Bruce Bierman

December 6th, will be a special Chanukah Freylekh with latkes, vodka and klezmer dance. All levels welcome.

www.circlesocal.org

1525 S. Robertson Blvd. LA

WORTH WATCHING ON YOUTUBE

FLASH MOBS

Amsterdam

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAXAs03xsl8&feature=related>

Madrid

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iop2b3oq100>

Russia

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc4xbmFpDRA>

MUSIC NEWS

The very first performances anywhere in the world of **S. POLONSKI'S COMPLETE SET OF SONGS** by forces organized by the Arbeter Ring (Workmen's Circle) in Los Angeles (2008) and Tucson (2009), drew a wildly enthusiastic and appreciative response, given that only one song in this collection, "A krenetse/A Well," ever became widely known in the West.

The Songbook we uncovered for these performances is a rare item few scholars even knew about. Your contribution to The Sholem Educational Institute, Inc., a nonprofit 501c3 corporation (Federal Tax ID Number 95-2112000), is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Donations of any size are welcome. The faster we raise our production budget, the sooner we can get on to producing the CD. All contributions of \$54 or more (Triple Khay) will be acknowledged in print in the accompanying CD booklet (unless you wish to remain anonymous).

Please make checks payable to (and be sure to mention "Polonski Project"):

Sholem Educational Institute, Inc.
P. O. Box 4508
Culver City, CA 90231

LITERARY & POETRY NEWS

CALLING ALL CALIFORNIA STUDENTS!

You are invited to enter the **California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest!** Let our coast and ocean inspire you! Win great prizes! Have your work featured online and exhibited throughout California!

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest. Up to ten winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$50 gift certificate for educational supplies, courtesy of Acorn Naturalists. All winners and honorable mentions will receive tickets for their families to visit the Aquarium of the Pacific, courtesy of the Aquarium. Students may have their work featured on Commission web pages and materials, and winning entries will be exhibited throughout the state.

Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2013 to be eligible for the upcoming contest. For rules and entry form (and helpful links for teachers and students), visit our website, email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) Coast-4U. You can also download a contest flyer.

The 2012 contest is currently on exhibit at Crystal Cove State Park cottage #46. Visit it there until the end of December, when it travels to its next location at Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center in Ventura Harbor.

Visit the California Coastal
Commission's Public Education
Program on the web at:
www.coastforyou.org

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont St
San Francisco, California 94105

"HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FOOD" JOURNALISM AWARDS

WASHINGTON – Earth Day Network has joined forces with author and food activist Michael Pollan, the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, and Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard Project to launch the first annual Healthy and Sustainable School Food Journalism Awards. Aimed at high school students ages 13 to 18, the competition seeks to bring the hard facts about school food to entire school communities and mobilize a healthy school movement across the nation. Submissions must be received by February 28, 2013. Finalists will be selected by March 31, 2013. Winners will be announced on or around Earth Day, April 22, 2013. To learn more about the Healthy and Sustainable School Food Journalism Awards, go to www.earthday.org/journalismaward.

FIFTH ANNUAL PETS ADD LIFE CHILDREN'S POETRY CONTEST SEPT. 1 - JAN. 31

American Pet Products Association (APPA) encourages students grades 3rd-8th to submit creative poems for a shot at scholarship dollars and other pet prizes.

(Greenwich, CT) – Bob Vetere, APPA President, is pleased to announce that beginning September 1, 2012 the organization will be accepting submissions for its 5th Annual Pets Add Life Children's Poetry Contest. Students are encouraged to write unique poems about the joys and benefits of owning pets for a chance at top prizes. One student from each grade level (6 total) nationwide will win a \$250 gift certificate for pet products, and a "by-line" in a nationally circulated publication. In addition, the six winning students' classrooms will each win a \$1,000 scholarship to spend on pet-related education or to support a pet in their classroom.

To learn more about the Pets Add Life Children's Poetry Contest, read previous winning poems, upload your submission, or download a printed submission form, please visit www.petsaddlife.org or contact Brooke Gersich at The Impetus Agency, 775.322.4022 or Brooke@theimpetusagency.com

December is . . .

What happened to all those things I was gonna do in 2012?

Month

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST

MUSEUMS

The Autry National Center
www.theautry.org

Bowers Museum
www.bowers.org

Craft & Folk Art Museum
www.cafam.org

The Getty
www.getty.edu

Metropolitan Museum of Art
(search the database for works of art, costumes & more)
www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/

Museum of Latin American Art
www.molaa.org

Museum of Making Music
www.museumofmakingmusic.org

Museum of Tolerance
www.museumoftolerance.com

Pacific Asia Museum
www.pacificasiamuseum.org

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

Current Cultural Happenings Around Los Angeles by Fran P.
groups.yahoo.com/group/caltechfolkdance

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

Folkworks (click on "calendar")
www.folkworks.org/

FOLK DANCE & FOLK MUSIC INFORMATION

Dick Oakes' Folk Dance Pages
www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/folkdanc.htm

Folkways (ethnic music)
www.folkways.si.edu/index.aspx

ARC Music (ethnic music CDs)
www.arcmusic.co.uk

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

BYKI
Free language software downloads
www.byki.com/

FREELANG
Free bilingual dictionary downloads
www.freelang.net/

ARTS AND CULTURES

Smithsonian Magazine Arts & Cultures
www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
www.folklife.si.edu/

BBC - Holidays Around the World and so much more!
www.bbc.co.uk/naturehumanplanetexplorer/events_and_festivals

Pulse of the Planet
www.pulseplanet.com

SOME CULTURAL CENTERS

Acadian Cultural Center
www.nps.gov/jela/new-acadian-cultural-center.htm

Croatian Cultural Center
www.croatianamericanweb.org/index.php

Hibulb Cultural Center
http://www.hibulbculturalcenter.org/

Ilanka Cultural Center
www.ilankacenter.org/

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
www.indianpueblo.org/

Levantine Cultural Center
www.levantinecenter.org

Polynesian Cultural Center
http://www.polynesia.com/

Skirball Cultural Center
http://www.skirball.org/

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
www.wvculture.org/

FOR KIDS

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

CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY DK PUBLISHING

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
http://www.bowers.org/kidseum.php/

(All links listed in this newsletter are for reference only and are not necessarily endorsed by Educational Communications)



Support the Arts & Education!

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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. See www.earthculturesproject.org/fundraising.html for painless ways to donate.

This is Culturally Speaking, the monthly electronic newsletter of the Earth Cultures Project, one of Educational Communications' many projects which focuses on cultures of our planet and "Education through the Arts." Educational Communications is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1958, dedicated to improving the quality of life on this planet.. Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.

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