



September 2012

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications



**FILMS, FESTIVALS, THEATRES,  
PERFORMANCES**

**Movies:**

Various film festivals in southern California feature both fiction and documentary films that give a look at other cultures. At the 6th Annual Los Angeles Greek Film Festival, the documentary “Sayome” shares how a woman is caught between two cultures. She grew up in Japan and married a Greek sailor and lived for 35 years in Crete before returning to her family in Japan. Her visit back to her homeland with her son, who speaks no Japanese, presents the problems of mixed heritage families and someone who became assimilated in an adopted culture. As producer Rea Apostolides comments, “Our globalized world has forced us to travel and change identities and nationalities, languages, customs, and beliefs, just like we change clothes. But underneath the surface of alternate identities, lies something deeper and unchangeable.” “The Fountain of Youth” is a short 16-minute animated film about an elderly woodcutter who stumbles upon the fountain of youth in the mountain forest in Japan. This delightful and sad piece shares our wishes to be young and yet presents what we may lose if we are able to go back to a different time. “The Palace” won the Orpheus Award for best short film and explores the 1974 Cyprus conflict (between Greece and Turkey) where a conscript soldier comes face to face with a family in hiding.

At the 30th Annual Contemporary Documentaries Series by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, “This Way of Life” presents a family in the Ruahine Mountains of New Zealand and the idyllic life that is disrupted when

their home and land is confiscated. “The Warriors of Quigang” covers the story of farmers and villagers whose way of life in Quigang, China, has been harmed due to a toxic chemical factory. Civil disobedience and protests aren’t common in that part of the country yet the local people were able to raise attention to get their water and air cleaned up; the film presents the struggles from the Chinese viewpoint. “Gasland” follows Josh Fox in the United States as he investigates the drilling for natural gas and discovers the serious pollution and contamination problems caused by drilling methods that have been exempted from the standards required by the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival “Valley of Saints” was an award-winner at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Director Musa Syeed presents the problems of a dying lake in the Kashmir region of India while at the same time exploring a young woman and man’s relationship that also threatens a childhood friendship. “Where Heaven Meets Hell” is a powerful documentary set in the rain forests of Eastern Java, Indonesia, and the hardships and dangers of 500 sulfur miners who carry backbreaking loads as they scale the active volcano Kawah Ijen. Sulfur, used for sugar, matches, and cosmetics, is obtained by men in endemic poverty who are separated for weeks at a time from families and who desire better working conditions.

**Festivals, Theaters, And Performances**

The Tadasana Yoga and Music Festival in Santa Monica, California, in April,

*continued on page 4, column 1*

**DANCE NAMES**

*Preston Ashbourne*



We need to name things. We have names that come from Biblical sources like my middle name David, place names like my first and last names, names of trades like “smith”: But where do the names of dances come from?

Let’s start in the ragtime era (1890-1914), when there was a rage for naming dances after animals, giving us: the Grizzly Bear for California’s state mammal, and the Turkey Trot for the bird that almost became our national bird, and the Fox Trot for Harry Fox, a vaudeville comedian and dancer who made the dance popular and therefore it has nothing to do with animals!

In Latin dances we have the Cha cha cha, apparently named for the sound of the feet doing the chasse step typical of the dance. By the way, the dance does NOT go One Two Chachacha. It goes Two Three Chachacha (2-3-4 & 1). The Chacha is related to the Mambo which means “conversation with the gods”. That in turn is related to the Rumba, which means “party” but originally was from rumbó which meant the course of a ship! Then of course there’s the Macarena, named for the girl in the song!

Tango has about 15 different explanations, none of them very satisfying. But one I sort of like is that it was from an African language and means an enclosure, or for our purposes, a dancehall!

If you Boogie Woogie (mbugi-mvugi) it means you dance until your clothes fall off!

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**WORDS FROM LIANA'S WORLD**

by Liana Hovhannessian

**Clothing That Doesn't Make Sense**

So you think it's hard to tell the difference between one traditional costume from another, that the style from one country looks the exactly the same as another country's attire? Don't feel bad, you're right! For centuries countries have influenced neighboring countries with their foods, traditions, language, and clothing. So of course things look alike if they are from a place you are not familiar with.



Now the thing to do is look for the clues to help differentiate one costume from another. What helps me is to start from the top and work your way down. Here is a list to help you on your way.

**1. The hair and headwear:** When dressed traditionally, women tend to do their hair up all fancy. For example Armenian and Georgian women both wear long braids. The difference is in the number of braids. Armenian women only have two while Georgian women usually have four (two in the front and two in the back). In general for various countries braids are common, but to distinguish the differences look at the number, the way they are pinned up, and length. Also flowers, scarves, and hats are good clues as well.



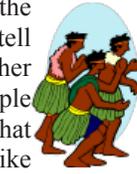
With men, some hats may look alike at first but if you look close enough the answer can be right in front of you. For example the Germans and Italians both wear green semi small Alpine caps. These hats can be turned into either country's hat depending on how you shape it. Worn with the top-middle part pushed down and the back of the rim up you've got a German hat. When the top part is pushed up and the rim pushed down you've got an Italian hat.



**2. Around-the-neck-items:** Jewelry. From pearls to wooden beads, from coins to flowers, what the jewelry is made out of, can tell you a lot. Nature and the weather are good for clues. An example that I have come across is that people from tropical islands like



the Hawaiians wear a lot of flowers and shells, things that are accessible to the people that live there. Many people wear coins as jewelry, (women wear them to show off their dowry), so look at how they are strung together and the colors to determine where they are from. Men sometimes will wear scarves or hankies around their necks. Depending on color, the way they are tied, and pattern will allow you to distinguish their origin.



**3. Middle wear:** Vests are extremely popular for both men and women to wear from the old days. Certain women's Polish vests and Hungarian vests have embroidered flower patterns on them. The Polish vests are black with colorful flowers while the Hungarian vests are white with colorful flowers. Little differences can make a big change from one place to the next. Embroidery, weaving patterns, and dyes are good clues to look for. Men in many places wear pants, sometimes skirts (yes skirts), and many of those pants are black. Look at the stitching and the cut of the pants, and notice how the material moves with the legs. In certain countries men have beautiful embroidery on their pants with specific designs made by only certain regions or villages, same with women's aprons. A woman's apron in many countries can have a significant meaning in their lives. It shows the place or status of a girl or woman. A plain apron usually means a young unmarried girl, and when she is married she wears a fancier designed apron with a pattern significant to the village in which she comes from.



have a significant meaning in their lives. It shows the place or status of a girl or woman. A plain apron usually means a young unmarried girl, and when she is married she wears a fancier designed apron with a pattern significant to the village in which she comes from.

**4. Now for my personal favorite, SHOES:** Shoes and socks. We'll start with socks. In Eastern Europe and nearby countries socks are beautifully knitted with intricate patterns. As you might have noticed from the previous clues I have talked about, flowers are a common design you will see in both men and woman's clothing. Socks are no different. People from Dorborján in Bulgaria wear white socks with bold beautiful flowers in front of the shin area. Scandinavian socks tend to have more geometric designs like diamonds and square-like patterns (for both men and women).



As for shoes I can tell you this, there are thousands of styles, variations, and ways to wear them. The typical generic-looking shoes that I've seen are black boots with a heel like the Hungarians and Slovaks wear, black character shoes that women wear, and flat-brown slipper-like shoes that you either tie or strap to your feet that both men and women wear (in Serbia they are called Opanci). They are made from various types of leather and very flexible. Personally the Opanci are the most comfortable!



Once you are more familiar with the old world of clothing the blur of colors and fabric will fade and the understanding of why people wear what they wear will become clear while the meanings behind the designs will make sense. It will get easier the more you look. If you want to look up costumes a good place to start is countrys' state ensemble's websites. LADO, Croatia's state ensemble, has beautiful traditional wear to look at online. Or The Duquesne University Tamburitzans have many costumes from all over the world. If you're feeling adventurous look up a local folk festival near you where they will have groups come in to perform, and where you can see the costumes up close!



**LADO:**  
<http://www.lado.hr/>  
**Tamburitzans:**  
<http://www.duq.edu/tamburitzans/>



## TRAVELING TASTEBUDS



*bowl of poi*

**POI** by Nancy Pearlman

During the summer months, many organizations, senior centers, and even private parties have luau-themed celebrations. As a performer doing the show “Echoes of Polynesia” featuring the dances and customs of Hawaii, New Zealand (the Maori people), and Tahiti, we talk about poi. And while these establishments will often have roast pig and some other traditional foods, I’ve yet to see them serve poi but my curiosity has still been peaked to find out what it really is.

The last time I was in Hawaii, I remember the horrible taste of this dish and how it looks like a bowl of mud but I didn’t realize how important it was to the culture.

My references point out that poi is a Hawaiian word for this Polynesian staple food. It is made by mashing the cooked corm (baked or steamed) of the taro or kalo plant, until it is a highly viscous fluid. Water is added to achieve a desired consistency which can range from liquid to dough-like. Apparently, though, Samoan poi is a creamy dessert created by mashing ripe bananas with coconut cream and Tahitian po’e is a sweet, pudding like dish made with bananas, papaya, or mangoes cooked with manioc and coconut cream. Obviously words have different meanings depending on where you are.

As an anthropologist, I am also interested in the cultural use of food items and the beliefs associated with them. Poi, I knew, was special to the Polynesians, but I didn’t realize that the bowl of poi was considered such an important and sacred part of the daily Hawaiian life that whenever a bowl of poi was uncovered at a family dinner, it was believed that the spirit of Haloa, the ancestor of the Hawaiian people, was present. This is because Hawaiians believe that the taro plant or kalo is the original ancestor of the Hawaiian people. Because of that, all conflict among family members has to come to an immediate halt. How nice to think that a dish of food can stop problems between people. As an environmentalist, I am also concerned about agricultural issues. Shortages in taro production in recent years have occurred due to pests and labor shortages. On one of my documentary video shoots, I was pleased to find that some native Hawaiians were trying to protect the ancient taro fields from being destroyed by resorts and other developments and the lack of water due to resorts and housing using more than their share was being addressed.

But let’s go back to the taste issue. I have since found out that fresh poi can be sweet and edible by itself but that each day thereafter the poi loses sweetness and turns slightly sour due to a natural fermentation that involves lactobacillus, yeast, and Geotrichum. Apparently sour poi, an acquired taste, is still quite edible but better with salted fish. Other people find poi more palatable when it is mixed with milk and/or sugar. It is also recommended to eat some fruit to balance the poi effect. It is so nutritious that it can be substituted for milk for babies born with an allergy to dairy products. As is the case whenever you travel, give new food a try and see how you like it.

*reference source for text and photo: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poi\\_\(food\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poi_(food))*

As always,  
don’t forget the hungry.

[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.*

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

[culturallyspeaking@earthculturesproject.org](mailto:culturallyspeaking@earthculturesproject.org)  
and you may see it published.

## DANCE NAMES

*by Preston Ashbourne*

*continued from page 1, column 3*

If you dance Flamenco you may become ruddy like a Fleming or like a Flamingo, or maybe you are a displaced peasant (from Arabic Fella Menguus). Or not.

In Folkdance we have the famous Greek dance Hasapiko, from the Turkish for Butcher. The butcher’s guild adopted the dance from warriors. Also Greek the Syrto, the line dance known for 2500 years already, means “dragging”, because it is done in a line with a leader who appears to be dragging everyone else! But for a real tongue-twister dance name, try

D’Hammerschmidtsgesellen Tanz

It’s a patty-cake like dance (with muscles) and means the Blacksmith’s Apprentice Dance in German.

And way up north in Estonia there’s a dance called Kalamees (Kallah Mace) the Fisherman where you act out being cold!

Last but far from least, there’s the classic dance the Waltz. The Waltz is a turning dance and that is what waltz means. The word is related to the word “revolution”, so fellow dancers, how many RPMs can you do?



**FILMS, FESTIVALS, THEATRES, PERFORMANCES**

by Nancy Pearlman

continued from page 1, column 1

had numerous tents with various yoga teachers offering instruction. Exhibitors offered healthy foods, organic clothing, and natural body care products. Evenings had musicians performing on a variety of instruments. Contact Info@tadasanafestival.com.

Get Lit-Words Ignite is a non-profit organization, 142 N. Hayworth Avenue, LA, CA 90048, or www.getlit.org, (310) 962-6696, focused on increasing teen literacy through classical poetry. They have a performance troupe of teens that is available for events and also recite original works along with an in-school curriculum and after school writing program.

Generation Rescue Foundation, (Jenny McCarthy's autism organization) www.GenerationRescue.org, was the recipient for some of the proceeds from the play, "A Child Left Behind," written and performed by Alan Aymie and directed by Paul Stein. The world premiere was presented at the Katselas Theatre Company, 254 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, California, (702) 582-8587. Any student and teacher can easily identify with the main character as the performance looks at the hysterical ironies and heartbreak of our educational system and the daily challenges that teachers face in Los Angeles. Aymie also shares the difficulties of having a son assessed with Asperger's Syndrome. Tremendous energy, wonderfully written and performed and certainly worth seeing.

At the Ahmanson Theatre at the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles, they will offer \$20.00 tickets at the night of the performance which can save you over one hundred dollars.

The Craft and Folk Art Museum, 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, (323) 937-4230, across from the La Brea Tar Pits, always has changing exhibitions. Their store features crafts from around the world.



**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.



Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012  
**Bedouin Bazaar**  
 Al Bahr Shrine Center  
 5440 Kearney Mesa Rd.  
 San Diego 92111  
 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
 Belly Dancing Show

**JOHN AND HELEN BILEZIKJIAN IN CONCERT**  
 Saturday, November 10, 2012 at 7:30 pm  
 Doors open at 7pm • \$12 per person  
**Folk Music Center**  
 220 Yale, Claremont, CA 91711  
 (909) 624-2928  
 CDs available for purchase at concert

<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, Sep 9, Sun Oct 14, Sun, Nov 11, Sun, Dec 9**  
 3 - 6 PM  
 300 Pacific Coast Hwy, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**BOONDOCKS**  
**Sat, Sep 15 4 PM**  
 100 E Harrison St, Corona, CA 92879

**MULDOONS IRISH PUB**  
**Sun, Sep 16 2 PM - 4 PM**  
 202 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

**IRELAND'S 32**  
**Fri, Sep 21 9:30 PM - 1:30 AM**  
 13721 Burbank Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91401

**FINN MC COOL'S IRISH PUB (duo)**  
**Tue, Oct 2 9 PM**  
 2702 Main St, Santa Monica, CA 90405

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

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

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**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.

**NOBLE HOUSE CONCERTS**  
**5705 Noble Avenue**  
**Sherman Oaks, California 91411**  
**(818) 780-5979**

**Richard and Julie Smith**  
 Friday - September 7th, 2012  
 7:30 pm

Richard Smith was a musical prodigy who played guitar with Chet Atkins at the age of eleven. He is a master of many guitar styles, including such greats as Django Reinhardt and Les Paul. He is also an accomplished violin and banjo player. He married Julie, an accomplished cellist and singer, and they settled in Nashville, Tennessee. Together, they perform an incredible range of musical styles from country, blue grass, mainstream jazz, pop, rock, and classical. When they play together, it'll melt your heart and blow your socks off! Suggested donation is \$15. [arb@noblehouseconcerts.com](mailto:arb@noblehouseconcerts.com)



### 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.

**See below for upcoming show, free and open to the public.**

**Culver City Julian Dixon Library**  
 celebrates the LA County Libraries Centennial with a presentation of American Dance by the Gypsy Folk Ensemble

**Saturday, September 8 2pm**

4975 Overland Ave  
 Culver City 90230

(310) 559-1676

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

### LA RIVER EXPEDITIONS BOATING TOURS ON LOS ANGELES RIVER

Officially-permitted boating trips on the LA River in an expanded recreational-educational paddle program running from July through September 2012 in the Sepulveda Basin stretch of the San Fernando Valley. Administered in partnership with the San Joaquin River Stewardship Program, the tours are licensed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in a welcomed commitment to encourage recreational use of the river.

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

### FOLK FESTIVALS

#### Cevapcici Festival

**Sun, Sep 9**

Angel's Gate Cultural Center  
 CANCELLED - The festival is hoping to resume in 2013.

#### St. Sophia Greek Festival

**Sept 7-9** Fri 5-11 pm,  
 Sat 1 - 11 pm, Sun noon - 10 pm  
 1324 S. Normandie, LA, CA 90006  
 Friday \$3, Sat-Sun \$5, kids under 12 free, \$1 off coupon on website  
<http://www.lagreekfest.com>  
 (323) 737-2424

#### Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Festival - Cardiff by the Sea

**Sept 8-9, 2012**, Sat 10 am - 10 pm,  
 Sun 11 am - 9 pm  
 3459 Manchester Ave. #32,  
 Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007  
 \$3, Children under 12 Free; free parking at Mira Costa College  
<http://www.cardiffgreekfest.org>  
 (760) 942-0920

#### St. George Greek Food Festival

**Fri-Sat, Sept 7-8** - Fri 4-11 pm,  
 Sat 1 - 11 pm  
 401 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA  
 93301 Admission: \$5  
 Children Under 12 Free  
 Live Greek music by Synthesi.  
<http://www.stgeorgebakersfield.org>,  
 (661) 325-8694

#### St. Anthony Greek Festival

**Sept. 14-16** Fri 5-10 pm,  
 Sat 12-10 pm, Sun 12-9 pm  
 Santa Anita Racetrack, 285 W  
 Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA  
 91007 \$3, 12 and under free.  
 Info: [www.pasadenagreekfest.org](http://www.pasadenagreekfest.org),  
 (626) 449-6943

#### Saint Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

1621 West Garvey Avenue,  
 Alhambra CA  
**September 15th & 16th**  
 Adults \$3, Children Under 12 Free,  
 Parking Free Live Serbian Music,  
 Folklore Performances, Authentic  
 Serbian Food and Pastries

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

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Theatre Raymond Kabbaz  
10361 West Pico Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

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

The Consulate General of Switzerland  
in Los Angeles presents

### THE 2ND EDITION OF Short Films, Long Night

**Friday, September 7, 2012**  
6 – 10.30 pm

Short Films, Long Night is an event dedicated to Swiss short films featuring fictions, dramas, comedies and documentaries of the Swiss short world made in Los Angeles and made in Switzerland. Evening presented by Swiss actress Florine Deplazes.

Snacks and drinks will be provided by our partners Swiss Chef Restaurant and Chalet Edelweiss.

Admission is free.

RSVP before Thursday, September 6:  
[rsvp.trk@lyceela.org](mailto:rsvp.trk@lyceela.org)

### September 21 & 22

A one man show in French with English subtitles featuring original songs by Michel Jonasz. Written and directed by Michel Jonasz. Michel Jonasz embodies Abraham, his Polish Jewish grandfather, a famous cantor with a unique voice, who just before he died, is recalling his deepest memories.

Dinner and Opera  
presented by  
Casa Italiana Opera Company  
Giuseppe Verdi's

### Rigoletto

General Director  
Janet DeMay  
Musical Director  
Joel Lish  
September 9, 2012

Casa Italiana  
Cultural Center  
1051 North  
Broadway  
Los Angeles, CA

Dinner 2:30  
Opera 4:00  
Tickets  
Single \$50.00  
Opera only \$25.00  
Purchase online



[rigolettotickets.eventbrite.com](http://rigolettotickets.eventbrite.com)  
[casaitalianaopera.org](http://casaitalianaopera.org)

For a \$15.00 discount use Promo code: Earth

Creative Design and Graphics by Cheryl Nelson info call 802-981-1604

Unity-and-Diversity World Council  
presents:

**Peace Sunday / Peace Fest 2012**  
at the IMAN Cultural Center 3376  
Motor Ave., LA, CA 90034

**Fri. Sept 21st - Sun., Sept 23rd**

A transformative weekend-long celebration and educational convergence presented by the Unity-and-Diversity World Council along with numerous other co-sponsoring and participating organizations.

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

### September 20, 2012

The Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles will hold a celebratory concert dedicated to the 35th anniversary of NASA's Voyager spacecraft carrying Golden Records, which include the Azerbaijani Mugham. Azerbaijani Mugham is a highly complex art form that weds classical poetry and musical improvisation in specific local modes. UNESCO recognized it in 2003 as a "Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity".

**7:30pm Schoenberg Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles**  
**Featuring Azerbaijani Virtuoso Mugham Trio**

RSVP is required. RSVPs will be accepted at [protocol@azconsulatela.org](mailto:protocol@azconsulatela.org)

"Golden Records". included aboard both Voyager spacecraft, contain, among others, a small musical collection representing the Earth's musical heritage, and are intended for any intelligent extraterrestrial life form, or for future humans, who may find them. Selected by NASA's Voyager Committee from among thousands of musical compositions from across the globe, a record of Azerbaijani Mugham "Shur" played in balaban, national wind instrument, was also included in the Golden Records.

**Aquarium of the Pacific**  
100 Aquarium Way,  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Info/Tickets: 562-590-3100 or  
[www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

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

**Saturday & Sunday,**  
**September 22-23, 2012**  
**Moompetam:**

**Native American Festival**  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

In celebration of the local Native American cultures, the Aquarium of the Pacific will host its eighth annual Moompetam Festival. This weekend celebration will feature traditional cultural crafts, storytelling, other educational programs, live demonstrations, music and dance celebrating the indigenous California Indian maritime cultures, including Tongva, Chumash, Acjachemen, Costanoan, Luiseno, and Kumeyaay.

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**September 29-30, 2012**  
**Baja Splash Cultural Festival**

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

In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month and Mexican Independence Day, the Aquarium of the Pacific will host its eleventh annual Baja Splash Cultural Festival featuring live entertainment, crafts, educational programs, ethnic entrees, and much more. The Aquarium's weekend festival will celebrate the beauty and diversity of Hispanic cultures through song, dance, art, and cultural displays. Mariachi music, Mexican folkloric and Aztec dance troupes, interactive mural painting, Salvadoran dance, and other special programs will be featured. Guests can also learn more about the amazing animals of Baja, Mexico and how they can help protect them.

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

**MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN SO CAL****“WHY OPERA???”**

**DR. VIOREL GHEORGHE,**  
answers such burning questions as:

- ♪ *Why does everybody die in operas?*
- ♪ *Why do they keep singing when they die?*
- ♪ *If high notes shatter glass, why are there so many drinking songs in operas?*  
...and much more

**HERE'S WHY!**

A complete performance  
of the one-act comic opera

**GIANNI SCHICCHI**

by Giacomo Puccini

Sung in English  
Fully Staged with Orchestra



**OCTOBER 27 - SANTA MONICA BAY WOMAN'S CLUB**  
**NOVEMBER 3 - WOMAN'S CLUB OF CLAREMONT**  
General Admission \$10 Preferred Seating \$20  
Student/Senior \$5  
[www.vtopera.com](http://www.vtopera.com)

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

**MUSIC NEWS**

**Robby Romero's 'Who's Gonna Save You' Music Single  
Debuts In Southwest  
Addresses Impacts Of Climate Change  
On Indigenous Peoples**

*"It's about respect – respect for earth, respect for water, respect for all life."*

Chief Oren Lyons (Faithkeeper, Onondaga Nation)

Taos, N.M.— Native Children's Survival's (NCS) Groundbreaking music single "Who's Gonna Save You" has been released to Triple A radio stations in the Southwest, specifically Santa Fe, Taos and Durango while the global release drop date is set for the fall.

"Who's Gonna Save You," had its world broadcast premiere during the United Nations Annual Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP17), which was held Nov. 28 to Dec. 9, 2011 in Durban, South Africa. It premiered on South African Broadcasting Company's (SABC 1) Yo TV on Friday, Dec. 2. Yo TV reaches millions of young people daily. In conjunction with the music picture premiere on Dec. 2, Romero made a live appearance on e.TV's "Sunrise" show in Johannesburg with an Indigenous African youth choir.

"Who's Gonna Save" will be released in a DVD/CD eco package this November during Native American Heritage Month. The two-disc set is available now and for a limited time exclusively at the Project Protect website ( <http://projectprotectawarenesscampaign.com>.)

**WORTH WATCHING ON YOUTUBE****FLASH MOBS:****Amsterdam**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAXAs03xsI8&feature=related>

**Madrid**

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

**Russia**

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

**POETRY NEWS**

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

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

(Greenwich, CT) – Calling all creative students! Bob Vetere, APPA President, is pleased to announce that beginning Sat., 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.

"It's so fun to read all the poems every year and really see how much of an impact pets have on these young kids," Vetere said. "With more than 1,000 poems submitted for the last contest, we look forward to continuing the momentum in our fifth year and encourage even more students to participate. It truly is a great opportunity for kids to creatively express their love of hermit crabs, fish, rabbits, dogs, cats, horses, and everything in between, while competing for some really great prizes."

Students in grades 3rd-8th are invited to write a unique poem about their pets, what they love about them and the joys they bring, and then post it online at [www.PetsAddLife.org](http://www.PetsAddLife.org) or mail their final poem and submission form to: Pets Add Life, 661 Sierra Rose Dr., Reno, NV 89511. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2013 at 5:00pm EST.

In addition, teachers within the contest grade levels are welcome to incorporate this national contest into their lesson plans, and submit poems in one entry, on behalf of his/her classroom. 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](http://www.petsaddlife.org) or contact Brooke Gersich at The Impetus Agency, 775.322.4022 or [Brooke@theimpetusagency.com](mailto:Brooke@theimpetusagency.com)

**September is . . .**

**National Hispanic Heritage 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/

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## EARTH CULTURES PROJECT

www.earthculturesproject.org

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