

BALKANALIA!

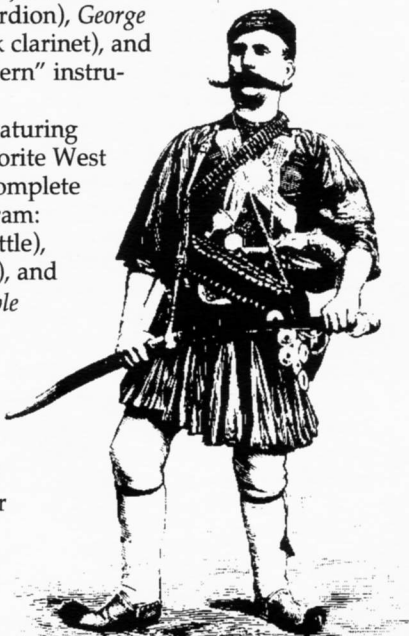
THIS LABOR DAY WEEKEND, EEFC will present our *very first ever Balkanalia!* workshop at Silver Falls State Park near Salem, Oregon. In this camp, you can expect a "short form" of our Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, with classes, excellent parties in the dance hall, and a rousing kafana scene. We have also scheduled in plenty of time for jamming, hiking the trails of Silver Falls, relaxing, and sleeping late (no classes before lunch, except one for you hardy dancers!).

For our inaugural year at Balkanalia, we have drawn our staff from our "regular" roster of teachers and musicians, including our **dance teachers**, *Steve Kotansky* (Balkan) and *Lise Liepman* (Turkish). **Singing instructors** are *Bob Beer* (Turkish), *Mary Sherhart* (Bulgarian), *Carol Silverman* (Rom), and *Kathryn Stately* (warm-up techniques). **Instrument teachers** are *Dan Auvil* (tupan), *David Bilides* (bitov instrument jam), *Erik Butterworth* (accordion), *George Chittenden* (Greek clarinet), and *Mark Levy* ("modern" instrument jam).

We are also featuring three of your favorite West Coast bands to complete an exciting program: *Aegean View* (Seattle), *Edessa* (Bay Area), and *Živo Bitov Ensemble* (Portland).

For more information or to request a brochure, contact Lanita Hyatt (503/245-8829) or Dennis Godfrey (503/641-6742), or e-mail: office@eefc.org.

See you there!



1997
WORKSHOP DATES

MENDOCINO
JUNE 28 - JULY 6

RAMBLEWOOD
JULY 19 - 27

BALKANALIA!
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
AUG. 29 - SEPT. 1

REGISTER EARLY!

**EEFC SPONSORS TOUR
FOR THE "QUEEN OF ROMANI MUSIC"**

CROWNED "The Queen of Romani Music" at the World Romani Congress in India in 1976, Esma Redžepova was the first Rom singer to become a commercial success with non-Rom audiences. For three decades she has traveled all over the world, performing to huge crowds with her husband and musical arranger, Stevo Teodosievski, who passed away this spring.

Esma and members of her band will tour the U.S. this summer, sponsored by the East European Folklife Center. The group will travel to ten cities and towns to give concerts and workshops, including teaching at both the Mendocino and Ramblewood Balkan Music & Dance Workshops.

Esma has hundreds of recordings to her credit, and is frequently heard on radio and television in the Balkans. With her husband and many other talented musicians, Esma has given hundreds of concerts to benefit humanitarian causes, and is now organizing a museum of Rom music, as well as a medical clinic in Skopje. Over the years, she and Stevo adopted over 40 talented disadvantaged boys into their home, which evolved into a school of folk music.

Esma will be touring with two renowned musicians from Skopje, Petar (Pero) Teodosijev and Simeon Atanasov, both proteges of the Teodosievski music school. Both are from the city of Kočani in Macedonia, and both are accomplished accordionists who have toured with the Teodosievski Ensemble. Petar is Stevo's nephew, and studied with him from the age of fifteen. Whereas Petar has per-



formed with Esma for many years, Simeon is a rising young star in the Rom music scene. Simeon is also an accomplished composer and tarabuka (doubek) player. The song, "Čaje, Čaje," for which he wrote the music, the text, and the arrangement, won the Grand Prize at the First Romani Music Festival in Skopje in 1993.

At the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, Esma will teach Rom singing, a style that many workshop participants have been exposed to through classes with Carol Silverman. At Mendocino, Simeon will teach advanced doubek and advanced accordion, and at Ramblewood, advanced accor-

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FROM THE EEFC BOARD

OUR 1997 CAMP YEAR officially started with the September meeting of the Board of Directors. This year we welcomed new members Lynette Garlan, Judy Newland, and Christine Vida. Our fall meeting is normally the "nuts and bolts" session, and this one was no exception. We reviewed the 1996 camps, agreed on the outline for the upcoming year's budget, elected officers, assigned committee responsibilities, and established directions for the major tasks of the coming year.

The 1996 camp year was very successful for us. The East Coast camp had the highest attendance yet at the Ramblewood facility, and the Mendocino workshop sold out earlier than ever before. The large turnout, along with a generous response to our fundraising programs (notably auction revenues that were almost fifty percent more than we had hoped for) produced a surplus for fiscal year 1996. With the more modest surplus from 1995, we've come about three-quarters of the way to recovering from the loss suffered in 1994, when sharply increased facility costs for and low attendance at the East Coast camp severely depleted our reserve fund.

This year, the Board's first priority was to explore facility options for our East Coast workshop. Through the summer and into the fall, a committee headed by outgoing board member Jeanne Busch established priorities for our workshop needs and solicited proposals from different facilities, including Camp Ramblewood. After careful consideration, we elected to sign a multi-year contract with Ramblewood, thereby stabilizing our already positive relationship with the management of that facility. In addition to ensuring our dates for camp in the next few years, this relationship provides for further improvements to Ramblewood, including the construction of a new open-air dance pavilion.

One of the most exciting things being planned for 1997 is our first regional weekend camp. Set for Labor Day Weekend at Silver Falls State Park near Salem, Oregon, *Balkanalia!* will be a "short form" version of our regular camps, with instrument, singing, and dance classes, parties, and kafana, in a holiday weekend format. In addition to providing an additional dose of Balkan music and dancing for our regular



All of the EEFC board members chipped in to rent a house in Yachats, Oregon for our spring meeting. The setting was so inspiring, we were able to accomplish an enormous amount of work in a short time. Nancy Leeper and Rachel MacFarlane organized the logistics for the meeting, with all of us benefiting from Rachel's masterful work in the kitchen! Back row, L-R: Craig Kurumada, Lynette Garlan, Dennis Godfrey, Nancy Leeper, George Long. Front row, L-R: Jerry Agin, Rachel MacFarlane, Belle Birchfield and Judy Newland.

campers in the Northwest, we hope this camp will allow EEFC to reach a new group of people who may not have been able to attend a week-long workshop, but would like to test the waters with a shorter program. If successful, it could serve as a pilot for other regional workshops around the country.

A long-range board priority is the effort to provide greater financial stability from year to year. Until now, virtually all of the income of EEFC has been directly tied to camp attendance. The great majority of this comes from camp tuition, while our other major sources (the auctions, kafanas, the store, and vendor payments) are also critically dependent on attendance. Unfortunately, most of our expenses are fixed (and paid for!) before camp income begin to come in, and we can't know just what our attendance will be until the last minute, making income prediction very difficult.

While camp-related income sources will continue to dominate for the foreseeable future, the Board has taken a major step toward providing a more stable income in the form of our EEFC membership organization. In early November a letter was mailed out to all of you, inviting you to join as supporting members of EEFC. The drive was very successful (*see page 10*), and the money raised from membership payments will help provide a cushion against the ups and downs of annual revenues from camp attendance.

In April, the EEFC board met in Yachats, Oregon to discuss long-range goals and strategies to achieve those goals. By holding this meeting on the West Coast, we were fortunate to have the additional input of program director Rachel MacFarlane, Eugene, Oregon, and development coordinator, Craig Kurumada, Arcata, Calif.

With the budget set for the year at

the fall meeting, and camp production well underway, the board uses the somewhat more relaxed format of the spring meeting to assess old systems and brainstorm new ways of approaching the business of running the camps. In addition, we establish priorities for new projects that will contribute to EEFC's mission of promoting folk music and dance of the Balkans.

All in all, we on the Board of Directors are looking forward to an exciting year ahead, with projects that we hope will carry into the future beyond 1997. We hope to make the East European Folklife Center a stronger, more secure organization that can try out new ideas, while continuing to provide better and better programs to even more people who share our interest in the music, dance, and culture of the Balkans.

—George Long, president

P.S. If you would like to know more about how the Board operates, or about EEFC in general, please join us at **Lunch with the Board** at lunchtime on Thursday at each workshop this summer. In a question and answer panel format, the Board and EEFC staff members will answer your questions.

We also to invite all of you to a special **Membership Reception** at each workshop (definitely *not* "members only"!). At this social event, you can chat with board members and staff to find out more about our organization in a less formal setting. The time and day of this event will be announced at the orientation meeting on the first Saturday of each workshop. We hope to meet and talk with you at these events!



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For information about the East European Folklife Center, the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, or to be included on our mailing list, contact us at the address above, call 541 / 687-6799, or send e-mail to office@eefc.org. Address all comments or submissions to this newsletter to Nancy Leeper, editor, *EEFC News*.

EEFC Administrative Staff, 1996-97

Nancy Leeper,
Administrative Director
Rachel MacFarlane,
Program Director & Office Manager
Craig Kurumada,
Development Director

EEFC Board of Directors, 1996-97

Jerry Agin
Secretary
Belle Birchfield
Lynette Garlan
Treasurer
Dennis Godfrey
Nancy Leeper
ex officio
George Long
President
Judy Newland

Minutes from the Sept. 1996 and April 1997 EEFC Board of Directors meetings are available from Jerry Agin, Secretary. Contact him at 247 Main Entrance Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15228, or e-mail: agin@cgi.com.



Visit the EEFC website at: www.cnct.com/~ginbirch.eefc/

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Folks,

This the best time of year for EEFC. With the Mendocino workshop just days away and Ramblewood following quickly on its heels, we now start to see our work over the past year begin to take shape. In the dark, rainy days of winter, it's easy for us in Eugene to forget the magic of listening to the music drifting through the redwoods at Mendocino, or watching fireflies in the early evening hours at Ramblewood, hearing many voices singing together outside by the pool. We forget to remember how much we miss the special friends we see perhaps only once a year, and just how precious those eight-day stretches in the summer are to us.

But now, with much of the preparation behind us (but still miles to go before everyone is settled in their cabins that first night at Mendo), we eagerly anticipate the long, dusty drive into the Woodlands. At the end of that road, we'll see our friends from years past, watch the first of this year's Balkan camps take shape, and then experience the magic again for eight days. And after a short recovery time in Eugene, we get to start all over again at Ramblewood!

Over the years, I've heard many speculations about how the camps "happen." Comments range from, "Don't tell me anything—I want to believe it all comes together by magic!" to phone messages asking "Please have your secretary send me some information on the camps."

Well, (for those of you who still wish to believe "magic" mode of production, you might want to stop reading for a while), the truth is that it takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people to make the camps "happen." Unlike many organizations, our board of directors is a hard-working one, not a "figurehead" entity. This year, along with all the day-to-day business of budgets, long-range planning, and time-consuming committee work, individuals on our board have committed time and energy over and above their

board responsibilities to create three very special events.

I'd like to mention two efforts in particular. **Belle Birchfield** (New York), along with a team of advisors and assistants, has put in countless hours to bring Esma Redžepova, Pero Teodosievski, and Simeon Atanasov to the U.S. Because of her efforts, we are able to experience this remarkable Rom music at our workshops, as well as in many communities around the country (see schedule on page 5).

Dennis Godfrey (Portland, Oregon) is realizing his long-time dream of creating a regional weekend Balkan music and dance camp at Silver Falls State Park in Oregon, under the auspices of EEFC. He is working with volunteers in the Northwest to produce this summer's Labor Day Weekend *Balkanalia*!

These are just two of the many projects the board oversees each year. Both Belle and Dennis would be the first to demur and give credit to all the volunteers who are giving so generously of their time to make these events a reality. We are all lucky to have individuals on our board with such a strong commitment to the Balkan music and dance community.

As for the "home office" of EEFC in Eugene, I'm sorry to dispel your notions of "magic" and "secretaries." Neither is quite accurate—our work to produce the camps falls somewhere in between. Right about now, in these last days before the camps begin, we are wishing as hard as we can for both "magic" and "secretaries"!

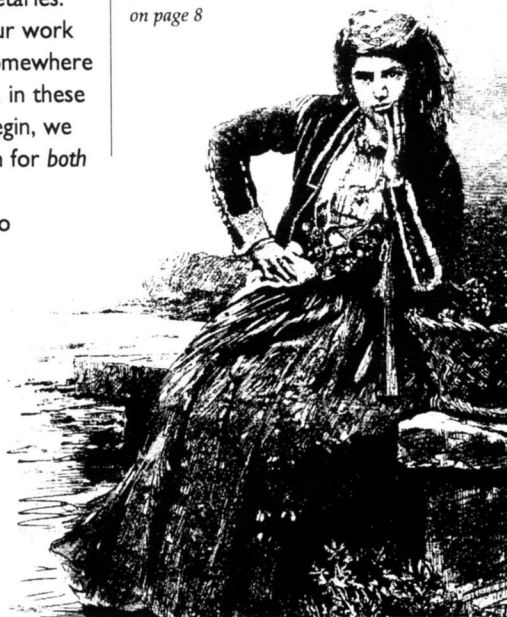
It takes well over a year to plan and produce each camp season. Much careful thought is poured into the selection of staff by Rachel and the Program/Staff Selection committee of the board. This group decides which classes will be taught, and keeps track of opportunities for bringing foreign artists to our

workshops. The planning process for the following year's camps begins almost before the workshops end in the summer.

With the institution of a membership organization this year, EEFC is beginning to take on a slightly different character. One hope we have for this organization is that it will enable us to coordinate the volunteer time offered by so many of you. Until now, we have not had the resources to effectively employ the skills and resources we have available in our dispersed community of devoted "Balkan campers." To do this, careful planning and strong communication is necessary to ensure that offers of volunteer time are not lost in the messiness of running an organization with such a dispersed base of support.

This year, inspired by the creation of the planning/management team that Dennis has put together for *Balkanalia*!, we're making some adjustments in our administration to make the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops run more smoothly. Both Mendocino and Ramblewood will run pretty much as they have in the past few years, with the addition of a site manager (in training) for each workshop. At Mendocino, veteran dishwasher and trusty kafana

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on page 8*



A FEW OF OUR EXCELLENT 1997 VOLUNTEERS

Jerry Agin*
Belle Birchfield*
Priscilla Carlson
Melanie Chalom
Lynette Garlan*
Dennis Godfrey*
Lanita Hyatt
Craig Kurumada*
Don Leeper
Nancy Leeper*
Ruth Leeper
Mark Levy
George Long*
Rachel MacFarlane*
Linnea Mandell
Judy Newland*
Diane Rainsford
Martie Ripson
Jeff Schwartz
Carol Silverman
Judy Stafford
Randy Trigg
Cari Vanderkar
Elizabeth Wartluft-
Murphy
Kim Wolter

This list is by no means exhaustive. If you have devoted your time and talents to EEFC, let us know! The gift of your time is a valuable contribution to our organization.

*board members and administrative staff members who contributed time beyond their board responsibilities or staff contracts.

PECE ATANASOVSKI

PETAR (PECE) ATANASOVSKI, died on Sept. 14, 1996 in Prilep, Macedonia. Born in 1927 in the village of Dolneni, Pece danced with the Skopje-based ensemble *Tanec*, played gajda for the Zagreb ensemble *Lado*, and was director of the folklore program at Radio-Televizija Skopje for many years. He and his ensemble, the *Pece Atanasovski Folk Instrument Orchestra*, specialized in and perfected the "izvorno" style of Macedonian folk music using village instruments. They had hundreds of recordings to their credit, and accompanied many of the best known singers of the day.

Pece was familiar to generations of North American folk-dancers. He produced an annual folk dance seminar in Oteševo, Macedonia, and conducted folk dance tours throughout North America from the 1960s until his untimely death last fall.

Pece had just sat down from dancing at a party, when he suffered a fatal heart attack. At least 500 people attended his funeral, and the crowd gave him one last round of applause which lasted for a good five minutes. He was buried with a bottle of rakija at his feet, and his wristwatch, shoelaces and tie were loosened to make his final rest more comfortable.



Shapes hanging in air:

Sheep's breath
Mountain steam
Melody's muscle
A song opening like a loaf.

So you'll play, Pece?
Lead the line, show it
Twirl and squat, step and
Lift and turn, step stamp

Take my hands, guide them
Shape my beat, make it
Take my drum, fix it.

But today is another dance.
Today, a silent gajda plays the
tune.

You're still now, *zemljak*.
It's the earth's turn
to hold your shoulders.

—Jerry Kisslinger

Pece's influence on the Macedonian folk music and dance scene in North America is truly unquantifiable. Our best memories of such individuals are often expressed through the sharing of stories and experiences, and two members of our EEFC community have kindly contributed fond thoughts of Pece to share with you on our pages. Such reminiscences give a different glimpse into the fine and funny character of our friend. We are lucky to have known him.

Please permit me to add my all-time favorite mental snapshot of Pece to our community's album . . .

Old World Music & Dance Camp, Camp Starlight, about three years ago . . .

Beautiful morning, I'm awakened by music and by kids giggling a few yards from my cabin. I peer out and see:

There's Pece in a deep squat, poised to spring momentarily. His fists are raised to his temples, fist two fingers of each hand pointed upward. The group of youngsters are squatting roundabout, carefully imitating every move.

I don't recall the name of the dance now, but they're learning to be rabbits, Macedonian-style. We were treated to the full performance later on in the weekend.

The man left behind many wonderful things for every one of us. —Batja Bell



STEVO TEODOSIEVSKI

STEVO TEODOSIEVSKI (born 1924 in the village of Kočani, was of Eastern Orthodox Macedonian ancestry; died 1997 in Skopje, Macedonia) continued to teach musicianship to Rom children, to organize and to direct Rom music festivals, and to play music even through his long bout with prostate cancer. Speeches at his memorial service emphasized his role in bridging Macedonian and Rom cultures, recognized that his music with Rom themes will live for gen-

erations, and noted his role as a caring teacher and mentor to Rom children.

Among his accomplishments, he composed some 500 works, recorded 150 phonograph records (78 rpm, 45 rpm, and LP), twenty-seven audio-cassettes, two CDs, ten videos, and two television films. His music school trained several generations of musicians, including forty-three orphaned children. His *Teodosievski Ensemble*, with his wife, Esma Redžepova, have given 856 benefit concerts.

Over the last ten years, he and Esma have supported the construction of the not-yet-completed Red Cross outpatient clinic and space for a theater-museum of Rom culture in Skopje. His legacy of integrating Rom music themes into his compositions and his training of musicianship to Rom children will continue to live through his music and future generations of musicians.

Several of his "children" accompanied his coffin, with one of his classic compositions, "Zošto si me, majko, rodila" ("Mother, why did you give me life?").

—Elsie Ivancich
Dunin



Carol Silverman

ESMA continued from page 1

dion and Rom ensemble. Pero will teach intermediate accordion at both workshops.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from these extraordinary musicians at our workshops. Many thanks go to EEFC board member, Belle Birchfield, who has spent many hours over the last year coordinating the tour. We hope you don't miss this unique experience!

—Carol Silverman

ESMA'S TOUR SCHEDULE

New York City, June 19

Master class, vocal workshop. \$25.00 per person.

For information, contact Belle Birchfield, 212/942-2847;

e-mail: ginbirch@cnct.com; www.cnct.com/~ginbirch/fdf/esma.htm.

New York City, June 20

Concert and dance, Hungarian House, 7:30 p.m. \$15 donation.

For information, contact Belle Birchfield, 212/942-2847;

e-mail: ginbirch@cnct.com; www.cnct.com/~ginbirch/fdf/esma.htm.

Denver, June 24

Concert and dance.

For information, contact Julie Lancaster, 303/733-1120;

e-mail: lancastj@aol.com.

San Francisco, June 27

Concert and dance, Slavonic Center.

For information, contact John Daley, 510/841-0934.

Mendocino, California, June 28-July 6

Balkan Music & Dance Workshop at Mendocino Woodlands.

For information, contact Rachel MacFarlane, 541/344-6349;

e-mail: office@eefc.org.

Los Angeles, July 11

Noontime concert at California Plaza, 300 South Grand Ave.

This performance is produced by California Plaza Presents.

Chicago, July 13

Concert and dance, Sv. Petka Orthodox Church.

For information, contact John Kuo, 773/324-1247;

e-mail: jkuo@vnet.ibm.com.

Madison, Wisconsin, July 15

Concert, Edgewood College Activities Center, 7:30 p.m. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door.

For information, contact Dan Talmo, 608/233-5322.

Pittsburgh, July 17

Concert, Serbian Club.

For information, contact Lynette Garlan, 412/243-2481;

e-mail: lynette@cs.cmu.edu.

Silver Springs, Maryland, July 18

Concert and dance sponsored by Old World Music and Dance.

For information, contact Larry Weiner, 301/565-0539;

e-mail: weiner@mail.erols.com.

Darlington, Maryland, July 19-27

Balkan Music & Dance Workshop at Camp Ramblewood.

For information, contact Rachel MacFarlane, 541/344-6349;

e-mail: office@eefc.org.

RAMBLEWOOD STAFF UPDATE

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the following additions to our 1997 Ramblewood teaching staff.

Lauren Brody has been researching, singing and playing Bulgarian folk music since 1968. She has been a member of *Pitu Guli*, *Novo Selo*, *Ženska Pesna*, *Merak Gypsy Band*, *Trio Svetlina*, and *Kapelye*. Lauren recently returned to the U.S. after a three-and-a-half year stay in Bulgaria, where she researched the Bulgarian commercial recording industry. She is currently preparing a CD of Bulgarian folk music from the inter-war period, which is due out this summer on the Yazoo label. *Lauren will teach beginning Bulgarian singing and "basic Balkan" singing at Ramblewood.*

Seido Salifoski was born in Prilep, Macedonia, and has performed Macedonian, Serbian, Albanian, Turkish, Rom and Middle Eastern music extensively in the New York area for over 15 years. He has appeared in concert with many leading artists from those areas, recently with the Turkish pop artist Tarkan on a U.S.-Turkey live simulcast. Seido is featured on several Macedonian and Albanian recordings. He currently plays with *Paradox Trio* (a Balkan jazz-fusion group), *Avram Pengas' Noga Group*, and the *Yuri Yunakov Band*. *Seido will teach beginning and intermediate doumbek at Ramblewood.*



ALBANIAN SINGER TO TEACH AT RAMBLEWOOD

MERITA HALILI is one of Albania's top performers. Born in the capital city of Tiranë, she grew up singing the lyric songs of her native region of Central Albania, and is today the foremost exponent of that style.

As a young girl, Merita sang with relatives and friends at family celebrations. In her teenage years she joined an amateur folklore ensemble and attended a special music high school, where she studied classical singing for four years. Her nationwide debut came in 1983, at the age of seventeen, when she sang at the National Folk Festival in the town of Gjirokastër. Soon afterwards she began to perform on Albanian Radio and Television and as a soloist with the State Ensemble for Folk Songs and Dances, and subsequently became one of the most popular singers in the country. Merita was among the first singers in Albania to release her own audio cassette, which still sells briskly wherever Albanians live. Perhaps her greatest recognition came in 1995, when she was awarded the top prize at a gala festival held in Tiranë in which ninety singers from throughout the Albanian diaspora participated.

The repertoire for which Merita is best known is that of the towns of Central Albania (Shqipëria e Mesme), particularly Tiranë, Elbasan, Kavajë, and Durrës. Situated on the coastal plain in the middle of the country, this region was a center of cultural activities during the Ottoman period and gained further importance when Tiranë became the capital in 1920. Until World War II, singing by community members at urban weddings and other large family celebrations was augmented by songs and instrumental music performed by ensembles of professional male entertainers called ahengxhinj, who

might be of Albanian or Rom (Gypsy) ethnicity. A typical ensemble or aheng consisted of violin, clarinet, llautë (a fretted, short-necked lute) or saz (fretted long-necked lute), and dajre (large frame drum). Often a group of four or five women, called çengi, would accompany the men's ensemble to an event, where they would sing to dajre accompaniment and perhaps also dance for the guests.

It is among the ahengxhinj and çengi that the most celebrated repertoire of Central Albanian towns developed, in a style that represents a local elaboration of Ottoman compositional techniques. Most songs, whether delicate love lyrics or spirited historical narratives, feature an alternation of vocal melody with instrumental interludes. Frequently they are in additive meters such as 9/8 or 7/4, and may be divided into several distinct sections, including ones in free meter. Their expansive melodies, which extend up to two octaves in range, include cascades of intricate ornamentation, as well as scales and chromaticisms that are characteristic of the Ottoman system of melodic modes or makams. Merita compares the most elaborate and dramatic of these songs to the opera arias that she studied as part of her classical training. After World War II, the accordion was introduced to the accompanying ensemble and quickly replaced the plucked strings. More recently, instruments such as saxophone, electric guitar and bass, synthesizer, and drumset have been used to give this repertoire a more contemporary feel.

As she was growing up, Merita modeled her singing not only on family music making but also on recordings of older singers. These included both taped performances housed in the Institute of Folklore in Tiranë, and performances broadcast on Albanian radio by two famous

CAMP NOTES

NEW DANCE PAVILION AT RAMBLEWOOD

A new outdoor wooden dance floor pavilion is being built at Ramblewood and will be completed in time for our workshop. The pavilion is located near the dining hall, and will provide easy access between the Kafana and evening parties, as well as a cooler environment for dancing! Other changes at Ramblewood include the complete refurbishing of the White House and several of the cabins, calling card phones in every cabin (calls out only) and recycling facilities. Plans for the future include complete dishwashing facilities. *Our hats off to you, Harry! Thanks!*

GUESTS OF THE BOARD

Each year the Board of Directors of the EEFC designates one or more individuals as "Guest of the Board." The purpose of the designation is to recognize extraordinary contributions made by an individual to the EEFC Camps or to Balkan Folklore. This year's Guest of the Board at Mendocino will be **Rich Schultz**, in recognition of his role in setting up and maintaining for many years the EEFC listserver for the e-mail discussion group. The Guests of the Board at Ramblewood are **Miriam Milgram**, in recognition of her research in Bulgarian songs and folk crafts, and **Ethel Raim**, in recognition of her numerous contributions to the Balkan folk music community.

GUESTS OF THE COMMUNITY

This year, several fund-raising campaigns were launched over the EEFC listserve and in local communities to help bring visiting Balkan folk artists to each of our workshops. This year, members of the EEFC community have joined forces to bring three Bulgarian artists to Mendocino. Our friends **Iliana Bozhanova** and **Lyuben Dossev** will join us again this year at Mendocino as recipients of Guest of the Community scholarships. The third Mendocino scholarship recipient, **Dimitur (Mitko) Trifonov**, is a highly acclaimed musician and arranger, who is visiting friends and colleagues in the Bay Area this summer.

Individuals in the North Carolina Balkan camp community have joined forces with **Sema Saatcioglu** to help her and her son, **Varol Saatcioglu** attend Ramblewood this year. Sema taught and choreographed folk dances in her native Turkey and Varol has been dancing in the Chapel Hill community since they moved to that area three years ago.

In addition to workshop scholarships, East and West coast clarinet players and others are contributing funds to assist **Nikola Iliev** and his son with trans-Atlantic airfare for this acclaimed artist, who will be teaching at both the Mendocino and Ramblewood workshops (see article on page 8).

We are pleased to see such a strong community effort to bring these fine artists and good friends to our workshops!



woman singers of the previous generation, Hafsa Zyberi from Tiranë and Fitnete Rexha from Krufë, the latter of whom also coached her personally. In collaboration with musicians and arrangers at Albanian Radio and Television, she then developed her own approach to these songs, which includes more elaborate instrumental arrangements and full use of her prodigious range and vocal technique. More recently, Merita has recorded several newly composed songs, as well as a few popular Turkish and Rom songs. Some of her best-known performances were featured in the soundtrack for the acclaimed Italian film "Lamerica."

Merita's husband and principal accompanist, Raif Hyseni, hails from Kosova, a province of Yugoslavia with a large Albanian majority. Through his recordings and media appearances, Raif has become known as a major innovator on the accordion, for which he has composed dozens of instrumental melodies. In 1995 Merita and Raif immigrated the United States, and now make their home in Caldwell, New Jersey. The perform frequently in the tri-state area in Albanian restaurants and festivals, and at community weddings.

Merita and Raif are just two of the outstanding Albanian singers and instrumentalists who have

immigrated to the New York-New Jersey area in the past few years from Albania and the former Yugoslavia. They join a diverse and growing Albanian population whose roots go back to early settlers from southern Albania who came to New York shortly after the turn of the century, and who now live largely in the city's suburbs. Among the largest of present-day communities are the north Albanians from Montenegro (Mali i Zi) who live primarily in the Bronx and Westchester County. This community sponsors an Albanian Festival each fall. North and South Albanians from the Struga district of Macedonia have settled in large numbers in New Jersey, while North Albanians from the Dibra district of Macedonia live in Staten Island. Recent immigrants from Kosova as well as Albania may be found throughout the New York area. Musicians from the community may be heard at several Albanian clubs located in Manhattan, Staten Island, and New Jersey.

—Jane C. Sugarman

Please join us in welcoming both Merita and Raif to the Ramblewood Balkan Music & Dance Workshop this summer. See you there!

ACCLAIMED BULGARIAN CLARINETIST AT BALKAN MUSIC & DANCE WORKSHOPS

NIKOLA ILIEV, one of the most popular folk clarinetist in Bulgaria, was born in the village of Konuš, in the heart of Bulgarian Thrace. Although he did not begin playing the clarinet until the late age of sixteen, he showed an innate sense of composition. Only a few years after he had picked up the instrument for the first time, Nikola became the only clarinetist accepted to the Plovdiv musical conservatory, where he became a student of master clarinetist Petko Radev. Radev's style, later modified by Nikola, exemplified a refinement of the sound quality with which folk clarinetists played, while preserving the traditional Thracian style of folk music, including varieties of very exact stylistic ornaments and trills. Nikola completed his education with a Master's degree from the Sofia Conservatory of Music.

From an early age, Nikola began recording his compositions with the most popular folk artists of the time. His compositions are

standards on folk music radio shows, and his music is popular not only in his home country, but also in Greece, the former Yugoslavia, Romania and throughout the Balkans. Nikola has served as a judge for many folk music competitions held in Bulgaria, and himself holds many awards from these same competitions. He has worked closely with many of the soloists of the Mystery of Bulgarian Voices women's choir, with whom he has also made many recordings.

Composing and playing in this progressive style of traditional Thracian folk music, Nikola has amassed a large following of folk music fans. A founding pioneer of the contemporary wedding band style, he has influenced and paved the way for the renowned musicians of the next generation, including Ivo Papasov and Yuri Yunakov. His Konušenska Grupa has been active for over thirty years, playing for concerts, weddings and recording extensively for Bulgarian National Radio and Television and Balkanton. 🎷

EEFC is pleased to bring Nikola Iliev

to both the Mendocino and Ramblewood Balkan Music & Dance Workshops this year. As a goodwill gesture, I would like to see the Balkan clarinet players community and Bulgarian music lovers in general rally together to help with Nikola's airfare from Bulgaria, which is currently being subsidized by his son, Ilian, who is a hard-working classical clarinet student at Juilliard. (Once in the U.S., the EEFC will cover Nikola's expenses). If each of us donates \$25.00, or whatever we can afford, we can help make this fantastic opportunity come about. When I mentioned this idea to Mark Levy, he said, "Great! Count me in. I'm very excited about his being here!"

Please send your tax-deductible donation to: EEFC, P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403. Make your check to EEFC, and write "Nikola Iliev" on the memo line, so that we know where to direct the donation. If you have any questions, call Judy at 206/783-9395. I hope you join me in this rare opportunity to help bring this extraordinary musician into our midst.

—Judy Newland

EEFC Board Member & Clarinet Player

FROM THE EDITOR *cont. from page 3*

worker **Lisa Shochat** will take this position. At Ramblewood, our communications expert and long-time East Coast camper, **Martie Ripson**, will take on the task. Both will work closely with me this year to learn and document the administrative "details" that make the camps work. Next year, they will take on their tasks "independently" (with kibbitzing from me, no doubt, whether they want it or not!) We expect that the camps will run more efficiently by spreading out tasks and responsibilities among more people, and I am delighted to find two such competent (and fun) individuals with whom to make this adjustment in our on-site camp management.

For both the staff and the board of directors, it is not easy doing our jobs in our respective "kitchen table" offices. We don't have the luxury of face-to-face meetings and planning sessions, but we have learned to

communicate fairly well through constant e-mail communication, and over the phone. Although e-mail has greatly eased communication within the organization, eliminating the need for awkward and expensive conference calls for routine discussions, it is easy to feel isolated from one another, even with almost daily contact during busy times.

In order to ease some of the difficulty inherent in communications in an organization as dispersed as ours, volunteer **Martie Ripson** is revolutionizing our way of doing business by donating her time, talent, and equipment to set us up on Lotus Notes intranet software. By using this system, we will be able to expand and enhance our internal internet communications. It's a complicated system, and a novel one (especially for small non-profit organizations like ours). Dennis Godfrey and I have been working with Martie to learn the system "on the fly" this

season, and we already see many possibilities for future applications.

This summer, we look forward to the Mendocino, Ramblewood, and Balkanalia workshops as opportunities to actually see people enjoying the fruits of our labors in our various homes. We hope that many of you stop by the Membership Reception at each camp and introduce yourselves to us! You will be able to enjoy refreshments and chat with EEFC administrative staff and board members as our way of saying *thank you* for being a part of our community. (And who knows—you might even get me to divulge just exactly what we use that "office use only" box for on the registration forms!)

See you at camp!

—Nancy Leeper

Administrative Director

eeefc fundraising

GREETINGS, CAMPERS!

As you know, the live auctions at the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops have added much-needed dollars to the EEFC coffers, thanks to your generosity. They have also been a source of some of the greatest entertainment moments of camp! (see *Ramblewood Auction announcement below*)

Please take a moment to think of what you can contribute. We are especially interested in services and unique items for the auction. If you already have something in mind, please let us know! We can let all the campers know early and give them food for thought. Let your imaginations run wild!

Please call me at 707/822-8045, or e-mail me at ckurumada@aol.com.
Let the bidding commence!

—Craig Kurumada
Development Director

YOU CAN HELP!

It takes a great deal to make the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops happen. If you have contacts who might donate or even sell cheaply such items as: copiers, computers, kitchen supplies, kafana supplies (yes, wine and beer), office supplies, cleaning equipment, dubbing equipment (including decks and tapes), or most any tangible item or service, please direct them to: Craig Kurumada, 841 Villa Way, Arcata, CA 95521, 707/822-8045 or e-mail ckurumada@aol.com.

AND DON'T FORGET

Join us at our special *Membership Reception and Lunch with the Board* at each workshop to find out more about the East European Folklife Center, and to chat with board and staff members.
See you there!

Back in the Old Country,

When guilds of artisans (like EEFC) needed to replenish their coffins, uh, *coffers*, batwinged representatives would set forth in the dark of night to drain the populace dry.

In our time, in the Village of Ramblewood, EEFC has chosen to address its fundraising needs in a less *pointed* manner, by offering a toothsome entertainment known far and wide as an "Auction". On Wednesday evening at twilight we will convene to begin our annual fundraising event.

In spite of the lingering daylight, we can expect to see the bloodsucking fundraisers of yore to be in attendance. Be prepared to save your neck with wooden stakes, crosses, and, of course, abundant supplies of garlic.

To appease the ambassadors of darkness, we ask that you contribute your finest (or silliest) possessions, and your most valued services (a neck rub, perhaps?) for redistribution to the populace. Flatter Count Dracula and his minions by coming dressed to kill in your most ghoulish garb.

for more information, contact our
Mistress of the Night

Judy Stafford, 919/383-7172
jas@biostat.mc.duke.edu

P.S. The Dracarena will be taught.

CAMP NOTES

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR RAMBLEWOOD YET?

If not, please remember that the EEFC office is closed between June 25 and July 10, and between July 16 and August 4. If you would like to join us, please follow these instructions. Thanks!

If you want to register for Ramblewood you must do the following to receive your confirmation and other information materials in time for camp:

1. Mail your registration and payment to the office (EEFC, P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403), making sure that we RECEIVE it no later than Friday, July 11. We cannot guarantee confirmations or provide other information for registrations received after that date.

AND

2. Contact Suze Stentz, Ramblewood Registrar, and confirm with her that you will be coming to camp, and that you have mailed your registration and payment to the office. Call her at 919/967-9514 (Chapel Hill, North Carolina), or send e-mail to her at SuzeStentz@aol.com.

If you cannot mail your registration in time for us to receive it by Friday, July 11, you must:

1. Contact Suze Stentz (see above) to tell her of your plans to attend the Ramblewood workshop.

AND

2. Bring your payment with you to the workshop.

EVENING PARTIES, SPECIAL EVENTS

It is possible to attend the **evening parties**, starting after 8 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person, per party, payable in the dance hall (look for sign).

It is also possible to attend just the **lamb roast** or Friday evening's **Kafana Night** festivities. The cost for each of these events is \$35.00 (includes evening party). **Advance registrations are necessary for these two events: Please make reservations with the EEFC office by July 15.**

Note: The fees for these events (including evening parties) do not include overnight accommodations or meals other than dinner at Kafana Night or Saturday's lamb roast.

EEFC OFFICE, SUMMER 1997

The Eugene, OR office
is closed June 25–July 10, and July 16–August 4.

The Chapel Hill, NC office (Suze Stentz)
is closed after July 17.

EEFC BECOMES A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION

THIS YEAR, EEFC has made the transition to a membership organization. Our aim is to help secure the financial base of the organization. Thank you for making the drive successful!

Membership is a new phase for us, and we are interested in your ideas and comments about membership and where to go from here. We have kept things simple this year for a number of reasons, but most of all because don't want to obscure the fact that camp itself is really the best reason for becoming a member.

We will have a new event at camp this year to recognize members. At each camp, there will be a reception to honor our members. *All campers are invited to this event.* We look forward to seeing and hearing from many of you there.

Thanks and kudos to all of you who have become our very first members!

—Belle Birchfield
Membership Coordinator

The East European Folklife Center, Inc. is a not-for-profit, tax exempt corporation. Membership fees and other donations to EEFC are tax deductible.

join the crowd!



If you would like to become a supporting member of EEFC, please complete the form on this page and mail it with your payment to the EEFC office. All contributions mailed before October 1, 1997 will be good for the remainder of the **1997 calendar year**. Membership payments mailed *after* that date will be valid for all of 1998. *Thanks for your support!!*

1 9 9 7 E E F C M E M B E R S H I P

Please mail this form (or copy) with your payment to EEFC, P.O. Box 3969, Eugene, OR 97403. Thanks!

YES!

I (we) want to help sustain the community of the Balkan Music & Dance Workshops, and would like to join as a member for the 1997 calendar year.

name(s) _____

address _____

city/state/zip _____

phone _____ / _____

e-mail _____

___ I wish my contribution to be anonymous.

All contributions are fully tax deductible.

BASIC MEMBERSHIP

___ \$30 Individual

___ \$45 Family

___ \$20 Student

I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF:

___ \$25

___ \$50

___ \$100

___ \$1,000 Benefactor

___ other \$ _____

I CAN'T JOIN EEFC TODAY

but here is my donation in support of the
Balkan Music & Dance Workshops:

___ \$5 ___ \$10 ___ \$15 ___ \$20 ___ other \$ _____

1997 CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU

for your generous support of the East European Folklife Center! In this (our first) membership year we surpassed our expectations. Our 1997 membership drive brought in nearly \$10,000 in membership fees and additional contributions. In addition, nearly 200 of your households have joined us in support of EEFC's programs.

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DEE ALBERT & SHELLY FINVER
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FRED ZEMKE
thank you!

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CAMP RAMBLEWOOD, MARYLAND: JULY 19-27

BALKANALIA!
SILVER FALLS STATE PARK, OREGON: AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1