



CULTURALLY SPEAKING

The monthly newsletter of the Earth Cultures Project of Educational Communications

August 2012

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN, Executive Director of Educational Communications



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Los Angeles abounds with cultural activities and so many are free. Even museums that normally charge will have one free day a week or at least once a month. Then companies that normally charge a lot to hear perform get grants to offer free shows, usually in the summer.

ART SHOWS – The Los Angeles art community has exploded with art gallery receptions and openings on a weekly basis. I recently saw “Latin American Visions of LA,” which is a compilation of works by selected LA-based artists who were born in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay. This was organized by the ADC Contemporary & Building Bridges International Art Exchange in combination with those nations’ General Consulates. Also at Begamot Station Arts Center at 2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, CA, (free parking) are numerous other art galleries. Once a month they all open their galleries for a massive reception where you can roam from one to the other, all at no cost. 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. A private individual who has his collection downtown displayed memorabilia in the exhibit “Baseball: The All American Game.” Even for the non-sports fan some of the historic items were fascinating. The display “Ehren Tool Production or Destruction” features clay cups with war/peace imagery. The museum also has artist talks, free concerts, and other activities.



In the fall will be exhibits called: “L. A. Skin & Ink: Tattooing in Los Angeles From 1970 to the Present” and “Glass’s Big Bang: Studio Glass Turns 50.”

SUMMER CONCERTS – Every year small communities, business associations, and non-profit organizations sponsor free music concerts, usually outdoors; check city websites. A new feebie are the performances at California Plaza on Grand Avenue near 3rd Street in downtown Los Angeles, California. Performances this summer range from George Gershwin to jazz, classical, and Hawaiian. Info at (213) 687-2159 or www.grandperformances.org. The

LA Phil has members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic give free neighborhood chamber music concerts throughout the city. For more information call (323) 737-3325 or (323) 850-2000. The one I attended also featured the YOLA (Heart of Los Angeles Youth Orchestra) at HOLA Woodwind Ensemble. These young people did an excellent job playing with the professionals who shared works by Brahms and Holst. LA Phil also gave audience members free tickets to their concerts this summer at the Hollywood Bowl. Check out, too, the volunteer, non-profit organization Vineyard Touring Opera Company to learn about their concerts, (855) 575-0005, info@vtopera.org. Their May concert of Puccini’s Tosca was intimate and delightful at the Santa Monica Bay Woman’s Club. Another monthly concert can be heard at Saint James’ in the City, 3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010, www.SaintJamesLA.org. Their choir and orchestra performs gorgeous original and classical liturgical pieces that are beautiful to hear.

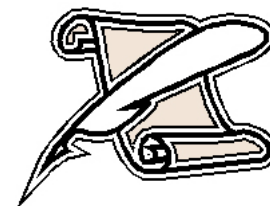
WRITING ABOUT WRITING

Preston Ashbourne



No, I’m not going to write about style in text, but something more basic! Literacy makes us civilized, and long ago early civilized cultures devised two methods of recording information and ideas. Only two. The first was to use pictures. This evolved into very formal systems such as Egyptian Hieroglyphics and Chinese Ideographs (or Logographs). But try studying Chinese writing, say, the next time you have 20 years to devote to it! Something more democratic was needed.

Someone figured a way to use certain hieroglyphics to represent their initial sounds, thus inventing the Alphabet. The first two characters were Alef=Ox and Bet=House. (The Greeks changed the names a little, to Alpha and Beta, hence alphabet) Look at a capital A,



turn it upside down, and its an ox’s face, cartoon-like. The point is his snout and the two upright lines

are his horns! Bet was the floor-plan of a simple house. This system had only a few symbols and took hours, not years, to learn. It was something useful to traders for bills of lading, invoices etc. so it spread all around the Mediterranean area. Each language adapted it to their linguistic needs and stylistic preferences eventually becoming the dozens of alphabets found around the world. The original Phoenician/Semitic style became the Greek then that became the Roman (that we use in Western

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RESTAURANTS IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

One may not think about going to a college to eat but CafeWest at West Los Angeles College Student Services Building in Culver City (on the hill south of Jefferson near Overland) has a unique variety of food with many organic and local offerings. Plus you can visit the art gallery, library, and other resources and events at the college. Their coffee from Dillanos Coffee Roasters is acquired at or above fair-trade prices and the company supports environmentally-friendly renewable energy through the purchase of green power and they have direct relationships with farmers which enhances the farmers' standards of living and educates them on superior farming practices. Cafe West is operated by Pasadena's Lovebirds Cafe & Bakery and is open throughout the year (closed on Sundays). They offer a multi-cultural fare of traditional American, Chinese, Mexican, and Italiana food and have their signature baked goods and other breakfast items available.

Spitfire Grill is celebrating 20 years at the Santa Monica Airport. With seating inside and out you can enjoy their omelets and other breakfast items from 7:30 Am to 3 PM. Lunches and dinners include burgers, salads, sandwiches, and entrees from seafood to chicken, beef, pork, and pasta. Tasty deserts include chocolate chip cookie sundaes, apple crumbles, and other treats such as carrot cake. Drinks include free refills on

fountain drinks and there are draft and bottled beers plus speciality coffees. Reading the menu is fun because the sandwiches are named for airplanes including: the beechcraft, commanche, cessna, cherokee, lear jet, clipper, and spruce goose.

In the new and emerging art district of Culver City near the historic Helms Building between Venice and Washington Boulevard, east of Robertson Blvd., are many new art galleries and up-scale but reasonably-priced restaurants. Batch Restaurant & Bar, 8631 Washgton Blvd., Culver City, 90232, has a terrific menu with creative items from a graduate of Trade-Technical College's award-winning culinary program. The owners, Mat Gries and James Couey, also have created an outdoor eating area where you can dine with your dog. They feature artisanal food and handcrafted cocktails. Everything, including condiments, is made in-house and most items are local and organic. My tasty meal included a "Very Cranberry Mocktail" with the starters Head Cheese, Pickled Shiitake, Cornichons, House Grain Mustard Manilla Clams, PBR, Chorizo Tomato Sauce Green Garlic Snap Pea Hummus with Lemon. There was a Farro Grain Salad with Roasted Chicken, Rocket Cherry Tomatoes, Nuts, and Balsamic Vinaigrette. Entrees included Short Rib in Mole with Jasmine Rice, Gremolata; Lamb Meatballs with Mint Scented Pasta, Rocket, and Pecorino, and Pork Shank with Golden Beet Farrotto, and Currant and Hazelnut Herb Salad. Accompaniments were Cheesy Mac with Pancetta and Roasted Asparagus. To wrap up the meal we had Banana Tarte Tartin with Chantilly Cream.

Contributed by Nancy Pearlman

**As always,
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.

WRITING ABOUT WRITING

by Preston Ashbourne

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European languages) and Greek also yielded Cyrillic. The original style also became the Hebrew/Aramaic and Arabic styles. A modification of Hebrew gives the Yiddish alphabet and a version of the Arabic becomes Farsi.

But what happened with Chinese? They still use the one-character one-word system you see on Chinese menus or wherever. China was and is a big place. It is full of differing dialects of Chinese and different languages as well. Managing such a huge entity required a means of communication that worked no matter what language the people communicating spoke. Two people who cannot say a word to each other could send mail in Chinese writing that both could read, if trained to. For example, the old character for "horse" is a sort of stick figure of a horse (neck, mane, torso, tail, 4 legs. No head.). It's pronounced "ma" in Mandarin, "horse" in English and "caballo" in Spanish! (They have a modernized, shorthand version of this character in mainland China).

The bizarre quality of English spelling has some of the good points of both writing systems. It's alphabetic, mostly, but idiosyncratic spellings act like Chinese characters. They tell you something about the history or relationships of the words. When "Read" is pronounced "red", it's the past tense of the same verb!

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

Olympus Greek Tavern,
 6304 Laurel Canyon, North Hollywood,
 (818) 766-4100
 Call John, (949) 581-5664, for show dates
 and times. Monthly Armenian, Greek
 and International Folk Dance Music
 reservations required,
 \$15 min.charge, food and drink available

<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.

FULL MOON SATURDAY
Sat, Aug 04 4:00 PM
 Pasadena, CA

MULDOONS IRISH PUB
Sat, Aug 5 2 PM - 4 PM
 202 Newport Center Drive
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

GALLAGHER'S PUB & GRILL
Sun, Aug 19 3 - 6 PM
 300 Pacific Coast Hwy
 Huntington Beach, CA 92648

FINN MC COOL'S IRISH PUB
Tue, Aug 21 9 PM
 2702 Main St
 Santa Monica, CA 90405

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

THE FORD AMPHITHEATRE
Sun, Sep 16
 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East,
 Los Angeles, CA 90068

www.anitaandtheyanks.com



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.



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

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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.

Sun, Sep 9

Cevapcici festival
Angel's Gate Cultural Center
3601 Gaffey St
San Pedro, CA 90731
festival hours 11am - 6pm
free admission
email: info@angelsgateart.org

Cevapcici Festival is on Facebook

www.gypsyfolkensemble.com

**Unfinished Business: 25 Years
of Discourse in Los Angeles
exhibition
on view July 13-August 26, 2012**

**WUHO Gallery
6518 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90028**

LA Forum has brought together young designers, seasoned professionals, critics, urban theorists, artists, students, and others interested in their physical environment through a diverse series of activities. Built around material pulled from the LA Forum's 25-year old archive of newsletters, books, pamphlets, photo-series, multimedia soundbites, video projections, and other memorabilia, **Unfinished Business: 25 Years of Discourse in Los Angeles** revisits a rich history of commentary and debate to strike a provocative dialogue between architectural eras in Los Angeles.

**[laforum.org/content/
special-events/
unfinished-business](http://laforum.org/content/special-events/unfinished-business)**

LOOMING ELECTION: WOVEN WORKS

Works by Tanya Aguiñiga,
Connie Lippert, Michael F. Rohde,
Cameron Taylor-Brown,
and Consuelo Jimenez Underwood
Craft in America Study Center
June 16 - September 1, 2012

In light of the imminent 2012 election, Craft in America proudly gathers together politically charged work by five contemporary textile innovators. This is a vast and varied group of exceptionally skilled artists who push the medium of fiber, and the traditional technique of weaving, into new realms. Their work redefines what weaving can be, in terms of method, material and meaning. Visually engulfing, boldly crafted, their messages speak loud and clear, causing us to reconsider the road our nation has paved and where we are heading.

www.craftinamerica.org

The Craft in America Study Center
8415 West Third Street

2 blocks East of La Cienega

Thursday - Saturday

from 12:00 - 6:00 pm.

For more information and to RSVP:

info@craftinamerica.org
or (323) 951-0610.

CATALINA, CALIFORNIA

Take the Catalina Express (800-429-4601) on any of its regularly scheduled boats.
Book a Paradiso Package at the Hotel Villa Portofino. (888) 510-0555
or (310) 510-0555 for more information.

CONCERT SERIES continues on August 11, 18 and September 2, 2012.

The Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce and the Xceptional Music Company present a series of free family friendly concerts at Wrigley Stage from 7:30 to 9:45 pm. Information: www.CatalinaChamber.com/concerts

The Four Preps perform at the Avalon Theater in the famed Casino,
Friday, August 24, 6:00pm to 8:00pm, singing a stunning repertoire that includes their signature song "26 Miles Across the Sea,"

The Catalina Island Women's Forum

17th Annual Wine Festival, Saturday, September 15, 2012, 2:00pm to 5:00pm

**The 54th Annual Catalina Festival of Art and Kids Art Show
Friday to Sunday, September 21-23, 2012**

Artists from all over the country exhibit along Crescent Avenue
Catalina Art Association. (310) 510-2788.

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

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

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The 2nd Annual Zeitgeist Media Festival

“Changing the World Through Art”
Avalon Theatre, Hollywood CA
Sunday, August 5th, 2012
4:00pm – 11:00pm (Doors
3:30pm)

The second annual Zeitgeist Media Festival (ZMF), uniting the world through the arts, at the historic Avalon Theatre in Hollywood, coupled with numerous sympathetic events worldwide on the same weekend as a statement of global solidarity.

This not-for-profit Activist Arts Festival features music, visual art, comedy, speakers and theatrics - including this year's theme of socially relevant Film Shorts. With over 40 performances & screenings this 7-hour event will be a landmark experience!

www.zeitgeistmediafestival.org

CHINATOWN SUMMER NIGHTS - LA CHINATOWN

August 11 & 25
5 p.m. to midnight.

Back by popular demand, the third annual Chinatown Summer Nights presented by the Chinatown BID and KCRW 89.9 promises to be spectacular with a fresh lineup of great food, art and music. Part food event, part summer party, Chinatown Summer Nights offers Los Angeles a truly unique and immersive experience outside of the usual summer festival fare.

Free and open to all ages.
943 – 951 N. Broadway, LA,
in Central and West Plazas.

www.chinatownla.com
www.chinatownsummernights.com

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

Larry B. Wilder

Saturday – August 25th, 2012
8:00 pm – Concert and Hoot.

Larry is a national yodeling champion and founder of the Americana Trio and the Stumptown Stars. He is a master of the guitar, banjo, and autoharp as well as a songwriter, musicologist and published author. Before moving to Oregon, Larry was a leader of the East Valley Hoot of the Songmakers organization. He has opened for Willie Nelson, Pete Seeger, Bonnie Raitt, Merle Travis, and many others in his long performing career. After the concert he will be leading a hootenanny/jam. So bring your instruments and voices and stay for the jam. This show is specially priced at \$10. For more about Larry go to www.larrywildermusic.com

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.
barb@noblehouseconcerts.com

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER - SUNSET CONCERTS

2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd, Los
Angeles, CA 90049
(310) 440-4500

Parking: \$10 per car (cash only);
Carpooling encouraged • Street
parking strictly prohibited; Or take
Metro Rapid 761

THE ALAEV FAMILY

Thursday, August 2, 8:00 p.m.
West Coast premiere of the eight-
member multigenerational band.

ORQUESTA SARABIA

Roberto Rodriguez, Director
Thursday, August 9, 8:00 p.m.
West Coast premiere! Cuban
composer and percussionist Roberto
Juan Rodriguez returns with a ten-
piece ensemble of superb musicians
of Cuban, Jewish, and Arabic
backgrounds.

DE TEMPS ANTAN

Thursday, August 16, 8:00 p.m.
West Coast premiere! The dynamic
trio of Éric Beaudry, André Brunet,
and Pierre-Luc Dupuis performs
time-honored melodies from the
stomping grounds of Quebec's
musical past.

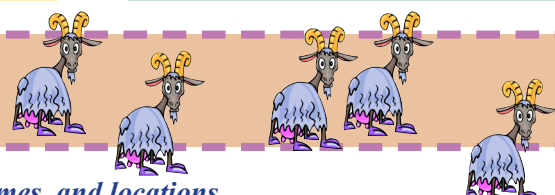
LA SANTA CECILIA

Thursday, August 23, 8:00 p.m.
Grammy-nominated ensemble La
Santa Cecilia create a genre-defying
hybrid that combines uptempo Latin
rhythms, Mexican melodies, and
Afro-Cuban percussion with rock
and jazz vibes.

ERIC BIBB'S STRING BAND

Featuring Dirk Powell & Cedric Watson
Thursday, August 30, 8:00 p.m.
World premiere of Eric Bibb's
String Band!

August is . . .
National Goat Cheese Month



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

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 Tolerance
www.museumoftolerance.com

Pacific Asia Museum
www.pacificasiamuseum.org

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

Current Cultural Happenings Around Los Angeles
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/>

(These links are for reference only and are not necessarily endorsed by Educational Communications)

Support the Arts & Education!



DONATION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Your donation will help bring the arts back to education under the Earth Cultures Project, or help fund other projects of Educational Communications. Volunteers are always needed in the office. If you are interested in volunteering please call (310) 559-9160.

This is Culturally Speaking, the monthly 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.

EARTH CULTURES PROJECT

www.earthculturesproject.org

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Email regarding design or content, please write to designer/editor:
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