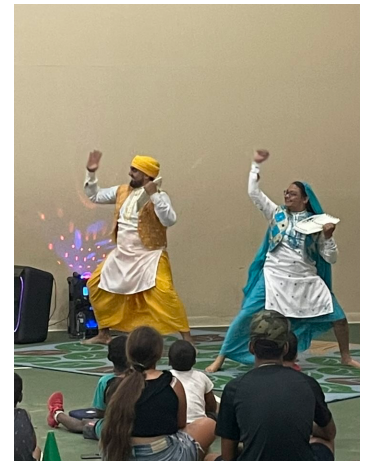




The Many Cultures of Camp YOMECA





**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

WITH THE HELP OF

**NEW JERSEY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

RARITAN VALLEY YMCA

Camp YOMECA

Presents

a series of exciting Cultural Events spotlighting the many wonderful cultures that make up the Fabric of Our Community on every Friday between 4:00pm-6:00pm this SUMMER!!! We are providing these humanities experiences to our campers which will help deepen the understanding of all of us and our world.

LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC

Africans brought to North America were forbidden to play the drum for fear they could use it to communicate and coordinate rebellion. "From not being allowed to play the drums comes the blues and jazz among African Americans. But Africans in the Caribbean, especially **Cuba**, kept the drum. From the tambor come rhythmical sounds that have been here for years," notes **Eddie Palmieri** the legendary, South Bronx born **Puerto Rican** American, pianist.

By the 1930s, the musical forms of Africans in the Caribbean and in the US began to mix. Two Afro-Cuban musicians, **Mario Bauza** and **Chano Pozo**, were vital in this process. Chano was a master conga player from the city of Havana. Soon after he arrived in the US, he met jazz trumpeter **Dizzy Gillespie**. They played together for years. Thus, Cuba's African rhythms and percussion made their way into Jazz.

Meanwhile, Mario Bauza, soon after he arrived, joined famed bandleader **Cab Calloway**. Later with Machito (Frank Grillo), Bauza formed his own band. It popularized the Cuban dances, **Mambo** and **Rumba**, throughout the country. Mario Bauza also became the Father of **Salsa**, a mixture of Jazz and Afro-Cuban rhythms that still dominates the musical scene in Cuban and Puerto Rican communities at home and abroad. Bauza led the way for **Ray Barretto**, **Titu Puente**, Eddie Palmieri and others in the forefront of Salsa today.

So much for the musicians. What about the singers? They include **Xiomara Alfaro**, **Margarita Lecuona**, **Ruth Fernandez**, **Xiomara Fortuna** and **Celia Cruz**, the most famous Cuban vocalist. In the 1970s regularly hailed as the "**Queen of Salsa**" and the "**Queen of Latin Music**," Celia Cruz began her career in her native land in the 1950s where she was the most celebrated singer of Cuba's **Guaracha** music. Ruth Fernández who was called "the soul of Puerto Rico made into song," was both a vocalist and a politician serving as an influential member of Puerto Rico's Senate from '73 to '81. Xiomara Fortuna is a contemporary Dominican singer and composer, famous in the genre of World Music which combines rock, jazz and African based.

Merengue is the popular music in the Dominican Republic, but they also have folk music, purely African in origin. **Mabobas** are Dominican work songs from the countryside and **Congos** are songs to African spirits. Both are played on **atables**, percussion instruments made from tree trunks.

In Puerto Rico, besides **Salsa**, the **Bomba** and the **Plena** can often be heard. *La Plena* uses the African method of call-and-response. The lead singer improvises verses around a chorus sung by the group. Gospel music in the US has the same format. *La Bomba*, called the newspaper of the people, are songs based on real events in local communities, sung at weddings, birthdays, and other occasions.



INDIA

India, with a population of **1,400,000,000** has four times as many people as the US. In fact, one out of every six people on the earth lives in India. Each of India's two largest cities, Mumbai with 13,000,000, and Delhi with 12,000,000, are far larger than New York.

India has a number of somewhat different cultures, each with their own language and traditions. Almost half the population belongs to is **Hindi**, from which the name **India** is derived. Each culture has its own distinct traditions and dances. We will be looking at some of them today.

English is widely spoken in India, for it was once a colony of Britain. However, **Mahatma Gandhi** led the nation in a non-violent revolution employing **passive resistance**, that is, non-compliance to the rules set up by the British to maintain control. Martin Luther King, Jr. used the same approach in the civil rights movement in the United States in the '50s and '60s.

Each of the cultures of India has its own movie studios, making movies in the languages and traditions of the particular group. The overall movie industry in India, often referred to as **Bollywood**, produces far more films each year than Hollywood does. The dances in these movies, though based on **traditional dances**, are somewhat modified to conform to popular tastes. In a sense, they are diluting the original cultures, but in another sense, they are exposing the world to the cultures of India and also maintaining the interest of the younger generations of Indians in their ancestral traditions.

Dances of India...

Bharatnatyam - Bharatanatyam is a major form of Indian classical dance that originated in Tamil Nadu. Bharatanatyam is the dance that encompasses music, rhythm and expression and strictly adheres to the Natyashastra (the scripture of classical Indian dance). Originally a temple dance for women, Bharatanatyam often is used to express Hindu religious stories and devotions.



Kathak

Kathak is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance. The origin of Kathak is traditionally attributed to the traveling bards in the of ancient northern India known as Kathakars or storytellers.

Kathak is characterized by intricate footwork and precise rhythmic patterns that the dancer articulates by controlling about 100 ankle bells. It takes its movements from life, stylizes them, and adds the complex rhythmic patterns. Kathak is danced by both males and females; many of the dances convey moods of love.



Bhangrā – It's is a type of traditional folk dance of Punjab, originating in the Sialkot area of Punjab. It is done in the season of harvesting. Bhangra is especially associated with the Vaisakhi festival that celebrates the harvest. Bhangra has a very energetic and lively tone, and the dance is equally vivacious.

CHINA – Interesting Facts

- **China** is the world's **most populous** nation.
- **China** is the world's **largest manufacturer and largest exporter**.
- A **quarter of all world trade** takes place between the US and China.
- China has the **largest** and fastest growing **armed forces** in the world.
- The **Great Wall of China** is the only manmade structure visible from space.
- The Chinese **invented papermaking, printing, the compass + gunpowder**.
- **Chinese mathematicians** were first to develop the idea of **negative numbers**.
- China today is at the very forefront of the development of **Artificial Intelligence**.
- Chinese navigators made several trips to the Americas, **long before Columbus**.
- After the **Opium Wars**, in the 1840s, Britain took control of the port of **Hong Kong**.
- **Britain** used it as a base to **import Opium** into the country on an unrestricted basis.
- The Opium Trade was stopped after the **Chinese Revolution**, which ended in 1949.
- The defeated Western-leaning government fled to the Chinese island called **Taiwan**.
- The government of China **regained control of the port city of Hong Kong in 1998**.
- Today, the **Chinese government wants to regain control of the island of Taiwan**.



AFRICA

Did you know that **Africa is not a country? It is a continent.** There are 53 countries in Africa. Africa has more gold, jewels, plutonium, platinum, chromium, and copper than any other continent. Africa's **Nile River is the longest river** in the world. **The Sahara** Desert in Northern Africa is the largest desert in the world. It is **bigger than the entire United States.**

Did you know that Africa is more than three times the size of the United States? Did you know that more than 800 million people live in Africa, over 100 million in Nigeria alone? **Human life began in Africa,** and people lived there over 4 million years before we lived anywhere else. Did you know that the pyramids of Egypt are the only "Wonders of the World" that still exist?

Did you know that Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is so tall that even though it lies on the equator, its top is covered with snow all year round? The southern part of Africa is so far south that the climate is not tropical but temperate. **It snows in South Africa in the summer,** yes, the summer, because South Africa is in the Southern Temperate Zone, and so its seasons are the reverse of ours here in the Northern Temperate Zone.

Did you know that Nigeria has the largest Black population in the world, Brazil the second largest and the US the third? Did you know that **everyone is descended from a woman who lived in Africa 200,000 years ago?**



Botafogo Bay



Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania

EGYPT

Our **Calendar** was developed by the ancient Egyptians.

Civilization has flourished in the Nile Valley **for at least 8,000 years**.

The **Nile** River is the **longest river in the world**, the Mississippi is second longest.

95% of the people of Egypt live in the Nile Valley, which is only 5% of Egypt's land area.

The **Coptic** faith is far older than Catholicism. It is the **oldest branch** of Christianity.

The **Washington Monument** is an obelisk built in imitation of the **obelisks of Egypt**.

The ancient Egyptian game **Senet** is the forerunner of both **Chess** and **Backgammon**.

The ancient Egyptian sacred means of writing, **hieroglyphics**, is composed of **800 symbols**.

Pharaoh **Ankhnaten** came up with **Monotheism**, the idea that there is only one God.

Egypt, with 102,000 million people has the **second largest** population in Africa after Nigeria.

The Great **Pyramid at Giza** is the **oldest**, by far, of the **Seven Wonders** of the Ancient World and it is the **only one still standing**. No one knows how it was constructed. . . In 44 BC **Julius Caesar** destroyed the **750,000** handwritten **books** contained in the Great Library at Alexandria, Egypt. The vast knowledge it contained was thus **forever lost** to humankind. . . The **Suez Canal** built in 1869 which passes through Northern Egypt, **cuts off 6,000 miles** for shipping trips between Europe and Asia. . . The Nile River's gigantic **Aswan Dam** was constructed with help from the United States and Russia. Each was given an Egyptian Temple as a token of thanks. The United States was given The Temple at Dendur which was dismantled, and reconstructed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



IRELAND

. . . The **British Isles** consist of a number of islands off the coast of Northern Europe. **Great Britain** and **Ireland** are the largest of the British Isles.

. . . **Great Britain** is divided into England, Scotland and Wales. The **United Kingdom**, whose capital is London, consists of **England, Scotland, Wales** and the **Northern tip of Ireland**.

. . . The rest of **Ireland**, which contains 70% of the population and 83% of the area of the island, **is an independent country**.

. . . In the 1970s and 1980s, there was a violent conflict, known as the **Troubled Times**, in Northern Ireland as the independent country of Ireland tried to reclaim the entire island.

. . . The ancient people of the British Isles were called **Celts**. Their culture has largely disappeared in Great Britain but has remained strong in Ireland.

. . . The learned leaders of the Celts were the mysterious **Druids**. They possessed vast practical and mystical knowledge, and, although well read in several language, they never put their beliefs down in writing.

. . . **St. Patrick's Day**, March 17th, is the most prominent Irish celebration and it is observed not only in Ireland but also in the US and in every other country with a large Irish community. St. Patrick, though, wasn't Irish. He was a Roman and a missionary for the early Catholic Church.

. . . There are numerous **Irish folktales** about leprechauns, small greenish figures that play harmless pranks, and **fairies** spirits that can do good or ill. They are believed to be holdovers from Irish pre-Christian beliefs.

. . . There was a terrible **famine in Ireland in the 1840s** which led millions to leave the island. Today the population of Ireland is 5,000,000, while the Irish American population is 32,000,000.

. . . **Irish Travelers** are a group of people, numbering in the thousands, who for centuries have roamed the Irish countryside. They are also to be found in the United States.

. . . **Irish Step Dance** is traditional Irish dancing to **bagpipe** music. It is very colorful and energetic, and in every movement the dancers make, their backs are kept absolutely straight.





ITALY



Italy is a peninsula, shaped like a boot worn during the European Renaissance.

The **European Renaissance began in Italy**. It is the period after the turbulent Middle Ages, which began after the Fall of the Roman Empire in 500 AD. It lasted until the Renaissance, or Rebirth, of Europe a thousand years later.

There have been thriving civilizations in Italy for thousands of years. One of the most prominent, early ones, was that of the **Etruscans**. The Etruscans came from the East and settled in the most fertile region of the Italian Peninsula.

Rome was founded in 750 BC and was the closest city to the very advanced Etruscan migrants. Over time, Rome conquered and absorbed the Etruscans and their culture.

Rome is located in the middle of the Italian Peninsula, and Italy is in the middle of the **Mediterranean Sea**. *Medi* is middle, and *Terra* is another name for the Earth. The Mediterranean is the Sea in the Middle of the Earth. Eventually, by the year 100 AD, the **Roman Empire** included most of Europe, all of the coast of the Mediterranean, and it stretched as far East as what is today the nation of Iran.

The Romans built excellent roads all across Europe and they constructed aqueducts to bring water into the city. Some of these **roads and aqueducts** are still in use. In ancient Europe, they had a saying, "All Roads Lead to Rome." Rome's stone roads were raised slightly above the surrounding ground, and that is where the word **highway** comes from.

Rome is home to **Vatican City**, an independent nation wherein the Pope lives. The Pope wielded great power over Europe before the Protestant Reformation in the 1600s.

Venice is a city in the North of Italy with few streets and many canals, that people use for transportation. Italy did not become a **unified nation** until **1870**, before that it was a collection of principalities, of which Venice was one of the most prominent.

Italy has a population of **60 million**, and **16 million** people identify as Italian Americans.



OUR SERVICES



Summer Camp YOMECA

The YMCA camp experience provides children with an opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, develop their character, and build their self-esteem, while feeling safe and accepted.



Swim Lessons

Swim lessons at Raritan Valley YMCA help swimmers of all ages improve their skills. Whether you're an absolute beginner learning basic water skills or preparing for competition-level swimming.



Early Childcare

The YMCA is more than just a Childcare Center. When you join the Y, you are part of a community that provides positive experiences for a lifetime.



After-school Enrichment Program

The YMCA's After School program provides children with a safe and fun environment full of new experiences and activities to keep everyone engaged, enriched, and inspired to try new things.



RARITAN VALLEY YMCA

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Registration open for Pre-K - 5th Grade

Hours: Dismissal - 7pm

Limited slots available.

The YMCA's After School program provides children with a safe and fun environment full of new experiences and activities to keep everyone engaged, enriched, and inspired to try new things.

**TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED
ON REGULAR AND EARLY
DISMISSAL DAYS**

PROGRAM FEATURES

Homework assistance

Healthy snacks provided

C.A.T.C.H. nutrition and physical education

Science fair

Special events and holiday celebrations

Literacy program

SCHOOLS WE SERVE

Memorial Elementary School
Warnsdorfer Elementary School
Hatikvah Charter School
Lawrence Brook School

NO SCHOOL? FUN DAY CAMPS!

VACATION - SNOW DAY - SUMMER

- Team Bonding
- Enrichment Activities
- Fitness Games
- Events

7AM- 7PM

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To learn more, visit us
at raritanvalleyymca.org