MORI ODAJO SARENA
(Northern Greece)

Folk dancers originally learned this dance as "Kostursko Oro". John Filcich learned and adapted it from the mother of Dimitri Valkanov who first presented it in the 1950's. Dimitri, a well-known Macedonian clarinet player from San Francisco, originally comes from the Kastoria (Kostur) region in northern Greece. Since the original music was not available in those days, the dance was put to the tune of "Dodek je moma pri majka" and the tune of "Bisero ќerko" was also tried by Mr. Filcich.

Many years later, Bob Liebman brought us the correct dance after having filmed a group of refugee women from the Kastoria region at a festival in Skoplje, Yugoslavia. The correct melody and dance styling were now, for the first time, available to us.

To continue to make matters confusing, members of the Macedonian Dance Ensemble "Tanec" and the well known Skopje singing group "Bapčorki" converted the tune from the original 5/8 meter to the more popular 7/8 "Lesnoto" meter, publishing it as "Mori Čupi Kosturčanki" (The Girls of Kastoria). The original village dance is described below and not the California version.

Pronunciation: MO-ree O-da-yo SHA-reh-na
Music: Dennis Boxell CD "Song Dances of Macedonia"
Meter: 5/8   <u>1-2-3</u>   <u>4-5</u>   (slow, quick)
Formation: Line of women in "W" position.

Meas.	Ct.	PATTERN
1	1	Facing center but somewhat R and traveling RLOD, Cross and step on Lft in front of Rft (Slow). Lft is pointed center.
	2	Step Rft to R (Quick).
2	1	Cross and step on Lft in front of Rft again (Slow).
	2	Step Rft to R (Quick).
3	1	Touch or "plop" Lft in front of Rft (Slow).
	2	Step on Lft slightly back and sideward L (Quick),
4	1	Close Rft to Lft without touching floor, using a CW circling gesture of Rft, before stepping to R at end of beat (Slow).
	2	Cross and step on Lft in front of Rft.
5	1	Now facing dead center, close and touch ball of Rft near L heel without taking weight (Slow).
	2	Starting to move RLOD again, Step sideward R on Rft (Quick).

Note: The dance has a slight rocking fwd and back motion that is produced by stepping slightly backward on Rft and slightly fwd to center on Lft when moving R LOD.