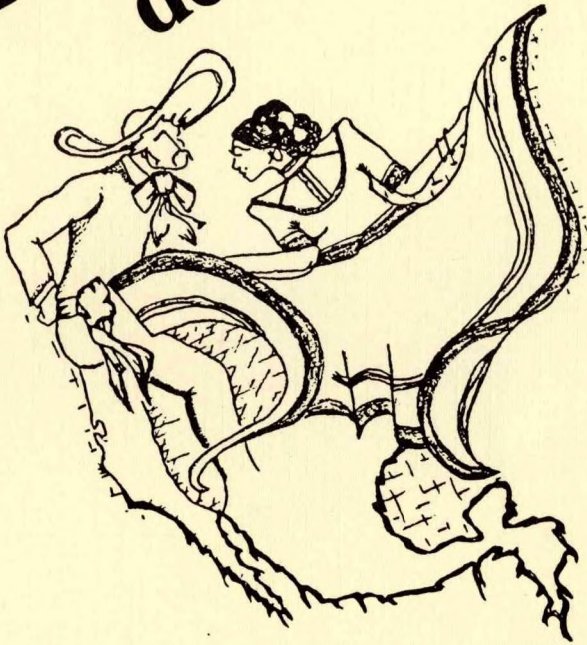


**RAICES**  
de



**MEXICO**

# RAICES DE MEXICO



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Five years ago an ambitious political science graduate from Berkeley decided he wanted to do something significant for the East Palo Alto community where he lived. He wanted to keep alive his Mexican ancestral roots by teaching his folkloric knowledge to the youth of the community, this he decided was better than politics. Consequently, "RAICES DE MEXICO" was born.



A couple from the children's group.

Entering its sixth year, Raices de Mexico, a non-profit association, has donated its services to entertain senior citizens and war veterans. The Group has done fundraisers, participated in community functions, parades, grand openings and school celebrations. Raices de Mexico has presented shows around the Bay Area, from Mt. Diablo, San Francisco to San Jose.



Redwood City 4th of July Parade 1984

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The Group's objective is to grow, improve, and continue enhancing the community by presenting cultural programming of exceptional quality thru our music and dance, as well as educating each dancer about Mexican music folklore.



Tamaulipas — Querreque

After the terrible earthquake (September 19, 1985), which left thousands homeless in Mexico City, Raices de Mexico participated with the Redwood City Mexican American community in conjunction with Pete's Harbor in a massive fundraiser for the victims of this calamity. Also, Raices sponsored two fundraisers of their own, one with Stanford University and the other at the Sunnyvale Community Center. Both were very successful.



Jalisco

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For four consecutive years, Raices de Mexico has performed at the University of California Cinco de Mayo celebrations held at the Greek Theater in Berkeley, as well as for the Medical School at San Francisco State University, including other primary and secondary schools in the Bay Area.



Some of the members of the children's group.

Students are exposed to a variety of dances from major regions of Mexico. Through the dance classes they develop their coordination, musical aptitude, stage presence, and self-esteem. Working in a group situation also enhances artistic character building and leadership qualities. The group is comprised of children ranging in ages from 6 to 12 years boys and girls, and young adults ranging in ages 13 and older. Children learn the regions of Jalisco (Botella, Machetes, Caballito, Culebra, Jarabe Tapatio), Norte (Taconazo, Santa Rita, Se Puede Pasar, Capsula, Sapo y la Rana, Cerro de la Silla) and Michoacan (Viejitos, Jarabe Michoacano, Arriba Pichacuaro). The young adults learn Jalisco (Negra, Jarabe Tapatio, Carretero, Gavilan, Madrugada, Tranchetes), Norte (Taconazo, Santa Rita, Se Puede Pasar, Capsula, Mezquiton), Veracruz (Bamba, Colas, Iguana, Tilingo-Lingo, Pijul), Tamaulipas (Querreque, Chaparrera, La Rosa, Tamaulipeco).

Ruben Avelar, instructor/choreographer, has been dancing most of his life. What was once a childhood hobby became a community project. Ruben has received instruction from Los Lupenos of San Jose as well as Dr. Susan Cashion, Director of Dance for Stanford University. His artistic talents encompass aspects of photography as well as dancing.



La Bamba — Ruben Avelar

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The Board of Directors of Raices de Mexico are parents and members of the community who encourage the dancers, provide transportation and assist in all group activities. Raices is not just dancing. Members also participate in group activities such as potlucks, holiday parties, trips to the waterslides/conferences/parks. We believe that along with hard work there must be time for leisure as well. Raices is funded solely by membership dues and performance fees.

Future plans include expanding into surrounding communities, acquiring material for new dances for new regions, maintaining a high level of performance and quality for the Group as a whole, and increasing our membership. As a newly formed non-profit organization your tax-deductible donations and contributions are most sincerely welcomed and appreciated.

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