

Excerpt from Culturally Speaking

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So here I was, writing this column and then distracted by lots of cars going down the road and then some wonderful music coming from **Opus 40**, an

environmental sculpture by **Harvey Fite** just down the road from our office and a popular location for a variety of events. I remembered that the **Vanaver Caravan** was to perform and so, notebook and camera in hand, I headed down the road. I am so pleased I went to see this dance performance done amongst earth sculpture of bluestone. The choreography by **Livia Vanaver** was specific to the site. People on blankets with picnics were asked to move to the



Dancers from Vanaver Caravan's Summer Dance Institute performing at Opus 40, Saugerties

back quarry where dancers from the **Summer Dance Institute** began in one of the quarries and then were led from one rock formation to another, leaving a dancer to do a solo in relationship to the stone and then we were led to another formation. A beautiful dance by Livia before the group of dancers delighted us with their final performance. Also part of the program was a flamenco dance by **Marina Lopez**, several tap dance routines by **Nathan Bugh** and music by **Andy Teirstein**, **Bill Vanaver**, **Toby Stover** and **Fode Sissoko**. As is their usual custom, the Dancers invited the audience to the performing area for more dancing. Their next performance will be October 5 at **Fall for Dance** at the **Ulster County Fairgrounds**, and their big local performance (as they do travel around the country) will be at **SUNY New Paltz** on Dec 19-21 collaborating with the theater group **Arm of the Sea** for a holiday show called "**Into the Light**". For more information see their site at www.vanavercaravan.org

I also went to LA to visit childhood friends and while I was there went to both the **Getty Museum** and **Villa** as well as to **Laguna** for the **Pageant of the Masters**. More about that trip in the Travel and Culture column next month.