

FFDC Newsletter

SEPTEMBER, 1988

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DO FOLK DANCERS HAVE TIME TO READ BOOKS, TOO?

I have just finished a (periodic?) re-reading of Richard Bach's "The Bridge Across Forever". We do not read books (nor experience anything else, for that matter) in a vacuum. When first I read this book, some three years ago, I knew it was good for me, worth keeping, and to be highly recommended to others. A lot has happened to me since then, however. The story grabs me lot harder now -- something like the kick from a mule! Among other things, I see a lot of myself there, both as I am now and as other ways I have been, many times before. I sure hope I see something of my future there, as well!

The subtitle is "a love story", which it most delightfully is -- in spades! (The bridge lingo fits, especially the title, but the GAME in this story is CHESS: No-holds-barred Power Chess; Respect, admire and learn-from-your-opponent chess; Fall-in-love-with-your-opponent-without-noticing chess.) And it has a happy ending for a change.

No matter that the sexes are reversed, I identify more with the character of Leslie Parrish trying to get through to a female version of Richard Bach. (But I have also worn my share of armor-plate in the past, reminiscent of Richard's character, as well.)

There is something for me to cry about on every other page or so, because I, too, have yearned for a "soul mate", and dispared of hope to ever find her. I thought I had found her once, but she may have been a mirage, like so many figments of a wishful imagination. The trouble was that she failed to recognise me as her "soul mate", so I never got that confirmation (that Leslie does get from Richard in the book) to definitely establish that she was the right one.

(Should the occasion arise to loan her the book again, I have thought I might recommend it more strongly: "If in some future moment, however briefly, you may sense a window open to the Universe, please read this. I would be most pleased to hear how it strikes you!")

I don't set much store by the parapsychological theme in this book -- communicating with past lives, future lives or alternate lives, out-of-body experiences and the like. I will admit that the emotional message is consistant, even here, but I don't think leaving it out would lessen the impact. (Since this has become almost a trademark of Richard Bach, doesn't destroy a very powerful story, and probably sells lots of books, I won't complain any further.)

This is also the book in which Bach outlines his troubles with the IRS, and recounts the nearly unbelievable cowardice of government bureaucracy. In summary, you are a cold fish, indeed, if it leaves you unmoved on all fronts!

-- David

NEWS FROM BATON-PENSA-ROUGE-COLA
(Diet or Regular?)
8-8-88

DEAR DAVID,

Well I'm doing it! I'm moving to Louisiana. I will be attending LSU at Baton Rouge. I will be studying a combination of Anthropology with an emphasis on Cajun culture, and secondary education social studies. These will allow me to do a variety of things, including teaching.

Baton Rouge is in the center, between Acadiana and New Orleans, each only an hour or so away! Baton Rouge has been getting it's own share of excellent Cajun music recently! I already have many dance and musician friends in Louisiana, so I will feel at home.

I can folk dance on Thursday in New Orleans, and Friday in Baton Rouge. I'll be in dance heaven!

I'm not abandoning Florida. I have weekends off to come home. And I will still travel.

Finally, your money? I don't understand the method of arriving at the amount, but that's o.k. (Only Bonnie knows -- Ed.)

As of Sept. 8, please send my newsletter to:
4155 Essen Lane #116
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Thanks --- Happy Dancing! --- Diana Polizo

Pensacola dancing:

Scottish - Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 PM, East Pensacola Heights
Community Center. Info: Sally Hall, (904) 932-3605

International - Fridays, 7:30-10:30 PM, (same place). Info:
Larry-Lou Foster, (904)

MOUSE MUSINGS
(no droppings this month)

If this is the summer doldrums, we can hardly wait for the Fall. We have been having a good turnout at our weekly sessions, including a sprinkling of newcomers and visitors. Whenever we do have travelers we let them know where the other groups in the state are, and how the FFDC tries real hard to coordinate all our activities. The extra newsletters do help. Gosh -- it wure would be great if someone would compile a national listing of folk dance clubs. And publish it. And distribute it. Or give us back our money. Any news on the Directory?
- Larry Wartell

(Should I say congratulations on your retirement, Larry? -- David)

MORE FEEDBACK ON CAMP LEADERSHIP

Art Kiefer says he worked for Terry, filling cabins when she was the director of the dance camp. He says: "No one told me that they remodelled some of the cabins, so I gave them out to the first groups to arrive. Then I found out that I had to relocate people who didn't like it. Don't know whose fault it was, but I hope it doesn't happen in the future. Sorry. I know that Terry must have a few gray hairs from that camp."

It can't be August 15th already, it just can't. Who or what is stealing the time? Why before you know it, that New Year's ball will be traveling along the apparatus in New York's Time Square, and it will illuminate as the first moment of 1989 arrives. Oh me, oh my.

They say "time flies when you're having fun." What I want to know is: "Are we having fun yet?" I guess that there is some truth to this saying. There is also truth in the idea that time seems to speed up as one gets older. Remember when you were a kid and it took forever for the weekend to get here, or for the school year to be finished, or for your next birthday to arrive? Of course I can only speak for myself, but I know that pretty soon I'll be able to make it to the next year with only a hop-step-step, a twirl, and a few good czardas steps. Wow, imagine that!

Still and all, I figure that as long as we're all young at heart, we might as well use our time wisely. For me, this means completing my term as FFDC president. Like "Ronnie," I'm on the way out. Six more months (but who's counting?), and as they say, I'll be history---at least as an FFDC officer. Needless to say, I will be both sad and glad about the finish of my term in office.

As I step down, aside, or whatever it is that past presidents do, one of you will step forward to lead us into a new decade. (How's that for awesome?) It is my sincere hope that not only the next president, but also the new treasurer and editor will again be folkdancers with a passion for serving.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if this year when we hold our February meeting, several members would not only be nominated but also accept with enthusiasm. As a matter of fact, wouldn't it be fabulous if a few reps from specific cities stood up and said, "We have three people who are interested in running for the three offices. Just imagine how wonderful it would be to have all three officers in one city. (This has been done before you know.) The advantages to having all the officers in one geographical area are numerous. Mostly, they can communicate, plan, help one another and work as a team a little more effectively than three individuals who must rely solely on the telephone or the U.S. mail.

As long as I'm dreaming, I figure that I might as well dream big. I thought that perhaps if I planted the seed early enough, the roots would take hold, and by February, we would witness the fruition of a dream come true. Think about it.....get excited. Be part of the dream.

See you at camp.

Bonnie

P.S. We need you! Calling all artists, calling all artists ...

The annual opportunity for you to have your original design worn by fellow folk dancers and other famous people has arrived. A Greek, Hungarian, generic, or multi-ethnic design would be fantastic.

Send me a finished copy of your design by October 31. The winner of our T-shirt contest will receive a free T-shirt, and a free 1 year subscription to the FFDC newsletter. Who could ask for anything more?

Chefs and recipe collectors: How about helping me find some recipes for camp? I need to start buttering up the cook as soon as possible. Easy, reasonably-priced recipes are what I'm looking for.

Thanks,

- Bonnie

SARASOTA INTERNATIONAL SAYINGS

Our super summer session will end with a gala "Welcome Back" party for the vacationing Babiaks. Shirley and Demetrius will begin their regular teaching schedule October 6.

We encourage all friends of the Babiaks to bring a dish and join us for this summer/fall celebration. Costumes are welcome but not obligatory. Smooth soled shoes suggested. Proceeds go to Judy and Debbie Norris to help pay their way to Ocala Folk Dance Camp 1989. (see EVENTS listing)

- Eleanor Gleiter

SARASOTA SCOTTISH STUFF

The newsletter is really terrific!!! Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers had a great time performing at the recent Florida Folk Festival in White Springs. Live music for dancing was provided by The Wind That Shakes The Barley, from Tampa.

It was especially terrific visiting with friends from all over, including a favorite former member of our group, Kathy Dudek, who is now living and dancing in North Carolina.

We now meet on Tuesdays. Thanks,

- Jeanie Whitehead

FOLK FEST NEWS

By now all the performing groups should have received a-thick packet of information. (Many thanks to Mark, Irma, David and Kathie for helping me wrestle with the word processors to produce it - it seemed easier learning foreign languages or how to drive a car, but then that was a long time ago.)

Tickets for the show will be \$4 for non-performers, if purchased through us ahead of time. Best way is to purchase through your local performing group -- they have order forms and we save postage by mailing them back in groups. For those of you who don't live near any of the performing groups, we will enclose an order form in next month's newsletter. There is no admission charge for the Saturday dance party or the Sunday afterparty.

Buy tickets ahead! It is a small hall and we may sell out!

Schedule: Tampa, Folk Fest 1988

Friday, November 11 - Regular dance night at Hunt Center

Saturday, November 12 - Evening dance party

Sunday, November 13 - 2 PM Performance, then afterparty

Group Directors: By now you should have mailed in your "Master Segment Sheet" and your Program Notes. If not, please do so NOW.

Coming Next Month: Who our guest group will be, plus updates on who's performing what.

-- Andy Pollock

Question: Is it really true that Andy has discovered who "Tiffany" is, and plans to reveal her identity at the Saturday evening party on November 12?

(Maybe not, but do you dare chance not being there to find out?

-- Ed.)

"SPECIAL EVENT" ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Performances, as well as workshops & general participation!)

- Sept 2-5 Buffalo Gap Camp - Dick Crum, Bora Ozkok, Danny Hathaway. c/o Mel Diamond, 2414 East Gate Dr, Sil. Spr, MD 20906. (301) 871-8788
- Sept 2-5 Oglebay FD Camp - Joe Graziosi, Sandy Starkman, Bill Alkire. FD Camp c/o Stifer Center, 1330 National Rd, Wheeling, WV 26003.
- September 15-19, Cajun Music & Dance Tour - \$275 - Diana Polizo, 2400 Sunnydale Lane, Cantonment, FL 32533. (904) 968-2628
- September 25 - Tampa - 1-5 PM - Swing & Contra Dance - (813) 839-3649 or 882-4472 - (see full page 7 flier)
- September 25 - Miami - 1-5 PM - Old Time Dance - (305) 235-2122
- September 29, 6-10:30 PM, WELCOME BACK BABIAK POTLUCK PARTY, Boniface Parish Hall, 5616 Midnight Pass Rd, Siesta Key. (813) 955-1361
- October 1 - Pensacola, 9 AM - 1 PM - SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING WORKSHOP + GALA, 7-11 PM. Info: Sally (904) 932-3605 (see Ad on back page)
- October 11 - St. Pete, 7 PM - Early American Dance FREE (813) 544-3280
- November 13 - Folk Fest '88 - 2PM, Performing Arts Center, Tampa. - (see FOLKFEST article, page 4) -
- December 27-January 1, 1989 - Micanope Music and Dance Camp at Camp Ocala. Send \$75 deposit to Micanope Music & Dance Camp, PO Box 12135, Gainesville, FL 32604 - (Total is \$280 if paid before October 1.) For more information call (904) 495-2243.

AS THE OPANCI HOP-STEP-STEP: INSTALLMENT 4
by Tiffany Teardrop

(When last we left our Opaville friends, our heroine, Ethel Ann, had laid a TERRIBLE CURSE on gorgeous Alex Arkan and had stormed out of the dance hall. We now find her in the swamp cooling off, so to speak. What she doesn't know is that Alex has followed her and is now wading through the swamp himself.)

"Ethel Ann! Ethel Ann! Please let me explain."

"What's to explain?" she asked. "You show up here in the Neverblades with the ABSOLUTELY MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN! What's to explain?"

"Ethel Ann, she's my wombmate. She's spent the last five years in the Yukon and just got in to town last night. I couldn't just leave her at home alone so I brought her with me."

Ethel Ann, surprised at Alex's apparent speech impediment, answered, "Sure! What kind of roommate spends five years in the Yukon?!"

"No, not roommate ... WOMBMATE. She's my twin sister, Annabelle."

"Oh." said Ethel Ann sheepishly.

"Ethel Ann," said Alex, "Will you marry me?"

"Huh?"

"You are the most fascinating, complex, disarming woman I have ever met. Let's leave right now. We can drive down to Port Snodhill catch a plane to Lost Wages and be married by this evening. Then we can honeymoon in Bulgaria. I think there's even a Festival going on there."

"Alex, you may be the absolutely most gorgeous hunk I've ever seen, but you're also the CRAZIEST! It's four o'clock in the morning! And what about your sister? Are you going to just leave her here? And besides, Miriam Mayim is expecting to ride back to Opaville with me. We can't just run off like this! We have responsibilities!"

(continued on next page)

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"We'll leave notes for Annabelle and Miriam. You can leave Miriam the keys to your car, and she and Annabelle can ride home together. I'm sure they'll get along together just fine. Come on Ethel Ann. If we run off together now, it will give folks something to talk about, and Norbert will have some juicy tidbits for the newsletter."

"I don't know what's wrong with me," said Ethel Ann, "But O.K., I'll marry you."

"Good. Now let's get out of here! This place gives new meaning to the phrase, 'Up to your ass in alligators.'"

Twenty-two hours later, in a hotel room in Lost Wages, Ethel Ann Arbuckle-Arkan was sleeping contentedly. Alex quietly sat up on the edge of the bed and gingerly picked up the phone and dialed a number. A Voice at the other end answered. It was a nondescript voice ... somehow masculine yet feminine at the same time.

"I'm here," whispered Alex hoping Ethel Ann would not awaken. He needn't have worried. Ethel Ann was snoring like a buzz saw.

"It's about time," said the VOICE. "What took you so long?"

"I stopped on the way to get married," answered Alex.

"YOU WHAT?! GOOD GOD, MAN, ARE YOU CRAZY?!" the VOICE was furious.

"Calm down," whispered Alex. "You'd like her. She has spunk. Besides I thought it would be USEFUL to have a wife."

"TERRIFIC," said the VOICE with disgust. "Are you going to tell her about us?"

"I'd rather not," answered Alex, "She might not take it too well."

"I'm not taking this too well," said the VOICE. "Listen, I must see you right away."

"I can come right now. Ethel Ann is sleeping. Do you have PROTECTION?"

"Yes, but you should bring your own PROTECTION. I want you to be SAFE."

They hung up. Alex dressed and pulled something out of the drawer of the nightstand. He cautiously left the room. Two hours later he was back and in bed next to Ethel Ann, who was still snoring.

Well, fellow folkdancers, WHAT is going on here? Who is the VOICE? Why doesn't Alex want to tell Ethel Ann? WHAT doesn't Alex want to tell Ethel Ann? What kind of PROTECTION do Alex and the VOICE have? Could they possibly be ... but we mustn't even think that. Oh Poor Ethel Ann, what will become of her? And what about our friends from Opaville? What can they be thinking/saying about Ethel Ann and Alex? Is anyone wrestling an alligator? Until next time keep your belts buckled, and remember ... If you must eat onions before folkdancing, be sure and keep a good supply of breath mints. I remain yours faithfully,

Tiffany Teardrop

LOST, STRAYED, STOLEN AND/OR FOUND DEPARTMENT

Maria Pasetti is very anxious to get back her tape of Bulgarian music that disappeared from Hunt Center some time ago. It is a real Bulgarian tape -- no English words on the label, even, so it should be rather easy to recognise. 'Nuff said -- no questions asked!

Tampa Friends of Olde Tyme Dance presents

A Swing & Contra Dance

swing music - T.J. Wangerman
& friends

contra music - Squirrelly Germs

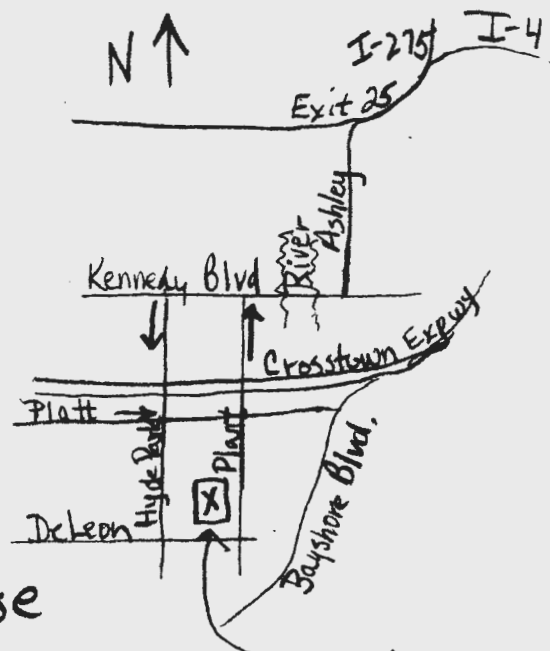
Sunday
Sep 25, 1-5 PM
\$5.00 donation

contra dancing - Cis Hinkle
since moving to Florida recently, Cis has fast become one of the most respected callers in the state, she called our June dance, and we are delighted to have her back.

swing dance - Lee Woodfin
assisted by Paul McClamma, known to many of us as a folkdancer, Lee is a former Arthur Murray instructor. She taught with them in both Boston & Tampa.



about the hall
• suspended wood floor
• bigger than Hunt
• good airconditioning
x no chairs - so bring a chair or cushion if you want one



Stafford Stiles House
315 Plant Ave. Tampa

315 Plant Ave.

Info. 813-839-3649
or 882-4472

FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL
3303 PRICE AVENUE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33611
(address correction requested)

*****not*a*paid*ad*****

Frank Cross sent us the following card,
with a note suggesting that these people
make and/or sell ethnic clothes. Anyone
want to check them out? Ask them if they
would like to buy a real ad with us:

Bead Different

Rhinestones - Beads- Trims
Feathers - Sequins - Supplies
Custom Sewing and Design
Theatrical Fabrics - Stretch Fabrics

Hours 10 am - 5 pm
Mon. - Sat.
1-800 BEADS-78

Chicago Area:
#7 W. Quincy
Westmont, IL 60559
(312) 971-3377

*****not*a*paid*ad*****

*****paid*ad*****

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING FALL WORKSHOP for beginners and intermediate
9 AM - 1 PM SATURDAY, October 1 - Pensacola

Come learn the basic steps and figures.
EVENING GALA 7-11 PM.

Location: East Pensacola Heights Community Center, Pensacola, Florida

Registration === \$10 by Sept 23 to:
Sally G. Hall, 302 Camelia St, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.

Information: (904) 932-3605

*****paid*ad*****

CALI-TAMPA-FORNIA TRIVIA

Nancy Bercu has called in to report her safe arrival on the West
Coast. (She went wading in the Pacific Ocean to make it official.)
She is visiting her mother in Los Angeles, but should be all the way
home to Sonoma by the time you read this. She said to say "hi" to
everybody, so this is it: "HI!"

-- David