

Florida Folkdancer

FFDC NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1994

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Shirley Babiak

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at camp and hearing about your latest adventures. (I'm especially looking forward to hearing about Annie Martin's trip to Bulgaria where she danced with Petar Iliev's troupe in Sophia.)

We have succeeded in involving several genuine "ethnics", to give us personal contact with the cultures we are studying and to make it more like a trip abroad. We'll meet to Slovak-Americans: RON TOMOCIK & TED PETROSKY. Ron will assist Vonnie, playing accordion accompaniment to dance instruction. [See page 6] This is the custom at all workshops in Europe. Live music allows the teachers the freedom to vary the tempo when necessary. Ted is an FFDC member from Riviera Beach who speaks fluent Slovak and has extensive knowledge of Slovakia. He will be in charge of Vonnie's culture displays and Slovak videos.

We expect half a dozen Ukrainian-Americans to attend camp. You'll meet the BOYSIUKS, the POSNACHIWSKYS, as well as a BABIAK and a SENYK.

Our sound system will be provided once again by ANDY POLLOCK. Andy will transport and set-up all the electronic gear required for the big hall. [Any "roadies" out there? Muscle is needed to handle equipment.]

FRIDAY: THE REGISTRATION DESK OPENS AT 4 PM. MARIE MILLETT and ANN PAIGE will do the welcoming. If you arrive earlier, use the Silver Springs Discount Coupon enclosed on page 4. Friday evening we will hold a pot-luck dinner beginning at 6. To take part in this event, PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH, SALAD OR DESERT FOR SIX PEOPLE. We'll provide

electric warmers and paper plates, etc..

The Dance Party begins at 7:30 PM.

MARY HOLMER has designed a program of dances that can include our newcomers in at least every second dance. The 10 PM refreshments will be complements of Sarasota and our new Ukrainian-American members. After refreshments, we'll divide up: there will be request dancing in the main hall, and a camp fire sing-along on the grounds.

SATURDAY: The Dance Party will be programmed by JUDITH BAIZAN from her vast store of audience participation type dances. She'll select fun-experiences for newcomers and repeat the dances from Friday night that proved most successful with our Débutantes. (In France folk dance beginners are called "débutantes") There are still openings in the evening SHOW TIMES. If your group wants to 'show', bring your costumes and see me about putting you on the program.

SUNDAY: BOBBY QUIBODEAUX will program the Dance Party and ORLANDO will provide the refreshments.

THE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER PROHIBITS THE POSSESSION OR USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS ON THEIR PROPERTY and SMOKING IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE CABINS OR ON THE GROUNDS.

With all these interesting people and the remarkable hospitality skills of your Sarasota hostesses, we'll have a good time rain or shine.

WE NEED A GROUP TO VOLUNTEER TO BRING SLOVAK REFRESHMENTS FOR SATURDAY NIGHT.

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The Florida Folk Dance Council is a non-profit corporation which coordinated events, disseminates information, encourages education and appreciation of International Folk Dances and related cultural activities for groups and individuals in Florida. Membership is \$8.00 per calendar year collected in January.

The editor reserves the right to edit material submitted to the newsletter. All material must be dated and signed.

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE
FEBRUARY 15, 1994**

Mail information and articles to:

FFDC Newsletter
Barbara B. Simmons
1404 Point Crisp Rd.
Sarasota, Fl. 34242
(813) 349-1626

Newsletter staff:

Thekla Kahn, Jo Carr, Marion Hoercher
and Judy Stolberg.

DUES IS LIKE GRITS!

Money is due
Dues is due
Dues are due
Just like grits...
Dues be due.

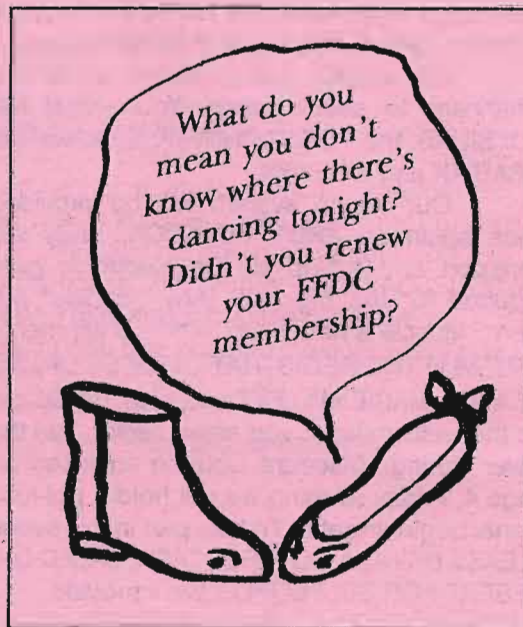
See form on page....11

EDITORS NOTES:

THANK YOU! January was the first month since I took over as Editor that there were no newsletters returned because of people having moved. Hurrah!

Your MARCH issue of *Florida Folkdancer* may be a few days late. We will wait until after dance camp for the finishing touches. Hopefully the issue will include news and pictures from camp AND the new FFDC membership list for 1994. Of course we will continue to update the membership list monthly. However, if you wish to see your name in print on the master list send in your dues pronto!

**THIS ISSUE OF FLORIDA FOLKDANCER -
FEBRUARY 1994 - WILL BE THE LAST COPY
MAILED TO ANYONE WHO HAS NOT PAID
1994 DUES. SURE HOPE THAT ISN'T YOU.**



SARASOTA -

A rich variety of folk dance opportunities are available in Sarasota in 1994 for residents and visitors. The groups range in size from 8+ to 75+. (You're likely to find our Marion Hoercher at ALL of them!)

SUNDAY NIGHT: There's a Folkdance Happening at Pelican Cove (Admission by gate-clearance only). Lou and Ann Paige bring equipment and tapes; dances are led (not taught) by whomever wishes to lead a particular one. Attendance ranges from 8 to 20, with a predominating interest in Balkan.

MONDAY: Dancing by-invitation-only for couples is hosted by the Holmers at "Marienborg", their hall which features a sprung-wood floor...so nice on the knees and feet. Each month Mary focuses on a different country and plans a sequence of instructed dances which lead to easy performance at the monthly dance party. Surrounded by folk crafts, the costumed dancers enjoy a sit-down, pot-luck dinner featuring the country-of-the-month cuisine.

TUESDAY: The Babiak Dance Ensemble rehearses at St. Boniface. The group, of 3-4 couples and half-dozen singles, polishes up specific repertoires for presentations at schools, nursing homes, condos, clubs and local festivals. Of the recently acquired hard-working Ukrainians, Mario Bojsiuk claims he's lost 14 pounds since taking up folk dancing!

WEDNESDAY: The largest folk dance group, The Grapeviners, meet at the Unitarian Church under the leadership of Marie and John Millett. Last week they had 60 dancers ranging from raw beginners to hardcore Balkanophiles. Beginners start at 6 PM and give way to more advanced dancing after 8.

THURSDAY: Cubby Whitehead teaches Scottish Country Dancing at the Adult Recreation Center at the rear of Exhibition Hall on US 41. The group, varying from 8 dancers (in the

heat of summer) to 32+ during season, skips happily along on a brand new sprung-wood floor. This group, among whom newcomers are always welcome, enjoys dressing up and showing their knees; they schedule several parties during the year.

FRIDAY: Sarasotans are free to travel to TAMPA to dance.

SATURDAY: The FIRST Sat. of each month finds an entirely different set of 40-75 people (often men outnumber women!) indulging shamelessly in high-jinx aerobic Contra Dancing at Crocker Church.

One may also find line, clogging, country western and Sufi dancing offered throughout the week.

The most promising new dance group is the **GARDEN FOLK DANCERS**, of Garden Elementary School in South Venice. Music Director Allan Carle has carefully selected from 30-40 4th, 5th & 6th graders to study folkdance each Monday with the Babiaks. Last semester they performed at a Venice City Festival. To complement a special study project on African-American heritage they will add 2 African-American dances to their repertory next semester.

CLUB WISE what seems to be working in Sarasota is (1) variety of dance opportunities and (2) mutual assistance. The main-line leaders recommend talented dancers to the performing groups, which, in turn, advertise the recreational groups to audiences where they appear. Area leaders, such as the Holmers have assisted with teaching the school groups. It may be significant that none of these groups are parliamentary in organization. None have officers or by-laws.

D.A. Tyler & Shirley Babiak

Check your FFDC Dance Directory for where to dance in Florida. There are 41 different clubs listed in the 1994 edition with 4 more additions in the 1993 December Florida Folkdancer.

SILVER SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Silver Springs is a jungle-like refuge with monkeys and aquatic birds and glass-bottom boats gliding over ribbon grass. It is one of the oldest and best known tourist attractions in the state of Florida, and it is located right across the road from the Christian Conference Center where we are holding our February Folk Dance Camp.

The cold, crystalline water surfacing here makes this ancient hole in the ground one of the most bountiful in Florida. Spouting 850 million gallons of water a day, Silver Springs could fill an Olympic pool in two minutes.

This is the grandmother of spas that started luring vacationers to Florida in the 1840's. In 1860, steamboats ferried tourists up the broad St. Johns River, up the winding, tree-canopied Oklawaha River and finally up the tiny Silver River to the spring.

The river was the stage for six **Tarzan** movies in the 1930's and more than 100 episodes of Lloyd Bridge's television series **Sea Hunt** in the 50s and 60s. Now the park passes as a nature preserve, caring for injured wild animals and breeding rare creatures in captivity. Shows are more classroom than circus.

Glass-bottom boats tour the Springs. During the Jungle Cruise visitors can spot zebras, giraffes and ostriches. Jeep Safari is a four-wheel adventure through an area where monkeys, alligators and herds of deer and zebra roam free. The Lost River Voyage takes visitors back to early Florida. At Doolittle's Petting Zoo, Llama, deer, sheep and baby goats may be hand-fed.

Five hours is the suggested amount of time to see the **WHOLE** thing.

In 1972, the Spring was declared an historic landmark. Last month on December 15, 1993 Gov. Lawton Chiles and the state Cabinet unanimously agreed to pay \$21.5 million for the 250 acre park area currently owned by Florida Leisure Corporation.

The 32 acres of land at the spring head belongs to the University of Florida Foundation, a private not-for-profit organization that raises money to support Florida's State University. This foundation currently rents the spring to the operators of Silver Spring for \$25,000 a year in a lease that was supposed to run until 2073.

Under the new agreement just signed by the government, the attraction will continue running for another 15 years, paying the state an annual fee of \$925,000. In 2008, the operators will remove the Wild Waters slide, the Safari Jeep Tour and the Jungle Cruise, and Silver Springs will become a new state park.

This action by the state was taken to prevent the current owners from "developing the site" and to prevent former Gov. Claude Kirk (Gov. 1967-71) from executing a plan to pump the water from the spring to South Florida.

Copies of the 2/4/93
FFDC Annual Meeting
will be available at
Dance camp so you can
refresh your memory
and make notes ahead
of time for the General
Meeting, Sunday after-
noon at 4:10.





TAMPA FRIENDS
of

Old-Time Dance



Welcomes

Kathy Anderson from Dayton, OH

and

All Days and Onions from Micanopy, FL

for a

Workshop and Dance

on Saturday February 26, 1994

at the Pinellas Park Auditorium

7690 59 St. N. Pinellas Park

Kathy Anderson is known for her high energy, fun-filled squares and contras. She has called all over the county, including the Augusta Heritage workshops and Vernal's All Night Equinox.

"I like contras with flowing movement and unusual figures. I strive for quick, clear teaching and like to call with energy and enthusiasm. I enjoy challenging squares with good flow and energy; some are traditional, but many come from midwestern dance writers or from the early 50's Western movement."

All Days and Onions, one of Florida's most exciting dance bands, is well known for keeping dancers continuously thrilled. This imaginative group consists of Faye Baird, Susan Marynowski, Tom Staley and Peter Martin.

Workshop in Contras and Squares 3-6 PM \$3.00

Potluck Supper 6-7 PM

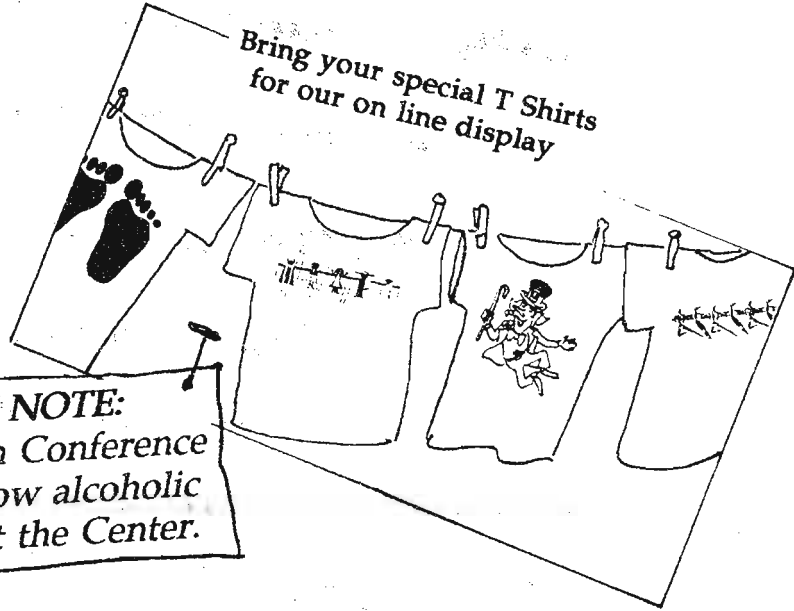
Dance 7:30-11:30 PM \$6.00

For More Information call 576-4931 or 596-5384

MORE NOTES FOR DANCE CAMP



Bring your special T Shirts
for our on line display



PLEASE NOTE:
The Christian Conference
does not allow alcoholic
beverages at the Center.

FOLK DANCE COURTESY

1. **HELP THE NEW DANCERS** - try to make the new dancers feel at home and encourage their learning
2. **BE APPRECIATIVE TO NEW OR VISITING INSTRUCTORS** - keep an open mind about alternative dance styling and new terminology.
3. **LET THE TEACHER DO THE TEACHING** - even though you would like to help your partner or the neighbor, you may be more of a hindrance and disturb their concentration.
4. **JOIN THE DANCE AT THE APPROPRIATE PLACE** - in a line dance, go to the end of the line or long ways set, go to the bottom of the set. When joining a contra line (Don't jump in front of the leader when the line has already been formed. When joining a contra line of the people on either side of you.
5. **DO NOT LEAVE A CIRCLE DANCE** while the dance is in progress without first joining the hands
6. **IF YOU ARE SITTING OUT A DANCE, DON'T TALK OR MAKE NOISE** the dancers can not hear the music or the instructions.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due January 1, 1994. It would be a big help if you would all sit down right this minute and fill out the form at the bottom of the page, write a check for \$8 to the FFDC and mail application form and your check **today** to:

FFDC Treasurer
Ann Paige
5747 Sandy Point Dr.
Sarasota, Fl. 34233

There are no family or group memberships. Each person needs to fill out an application and send \$8. We routinely send one copy of The Florida Folkdancer to each address unless otherwise instructed.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

RENEWAL

IS NOW
DUE

NEW MEMBER

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

GROUP I DANCE WITH: _____

MY DANCE LEADER IS: _____

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR: \$ _____ DATE: _____

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COPY THIS FORM

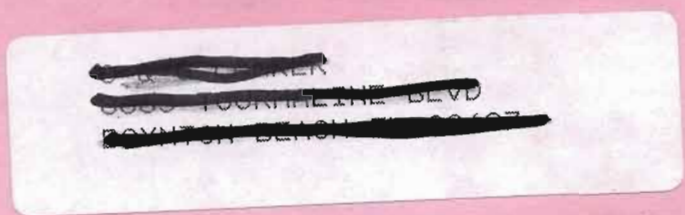
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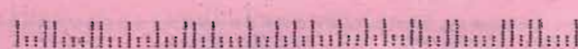
Editor: Barbara B. Simmons

1404 Point Crisp Rd.

Sarasota, Fl. 34242



FORWARDING AND
ADDRESS CORRECTION 32
REQUESTED



Last Chance

Registration for Dance Camp officially closes
with the last mail delivery on FEBRUARY 2, 1994
If you have been dragging you feet or suddenly have
discovered that your are free to attend camp send in
your registration immediately or call Ann Paige -
813-923-2343 to see if there are spaces available.
