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Florida Folkdancer

FFDC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1994

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Shirley Babiak

We returned to Sarasota September 12 (our 46th wedding anniversary) after a great gypsy summer. The wander-lust is satiated for awhile, but the backlog of mail will take weeks to answer.

Everyone should experience Kentucky Dance Institute, the workshop held at Morehead College in the hills of Appalachia, under the direction of STEW SHACKLETTE, where the next generation of folk dancers is being produced. One-third of the 100+ participants were under 25 years of age. They say that next year they will bring their friends and be the majority! For our grandchildren, Andrea, from Englewood, Florida and Jennifer, from Louisville, Kentucky, this was their 5th year at K.D.I.. We find that at 9 years our grandchildren are ready for this scene. I gave Stew the slogan: "Take your K-I-D to K.D.I."

The peak event has become the Southern Ball. For many girls it was their first experience dancing in a ballgown and the guys created a variety of "formal" costumes. Most of them even found a pair of "shoes" (what people wore before Reeboks). David Vinski was splendid in a white dinner jacket leading the elegant "Kostursko Oro".

At Maine Folk Dance Camp we were introduced to Argentine dancing. The professional duo called 'Las Pampas', LAURA & PEDRO ESCUDERO, presented us with the most challenging rhythms and body-styling in this hemisphere! None of us came close to being able to imitate the messages in this

body-language. After the third day, a slightly impatient Pedro (who gave instructions in Spanish) described what he wanted in the man's walk. "Normale! Suavé" Coming from a culture that lets it all hang out, Pedro's "normale" to us was an up-tight strut that we loved to watch, but couldn't duplicate. Their evening performances in gaucho, cabaret and folklore costumes were stunningly dramatic. We must try that again!

It was good to see Vonnie Brown again in Maine and to join the cast of characters in her hilarious Slovak Wedding.

Back in Kentucky, we joined the 3-day event called "Balance the Belle". It culminated with an excursion on the Ohio River aboard "The Belle of Louisville", a paddle-wheel steamboat with a huge wooden dance floor. I never saw such skilled contra dancing. I was distracted watching the improvisations of the ecstatic dancers. The caller, CIS HINKLE, stopped calling as soon as she saw that the dancers "had" the pattern.

These southerners put their whole body and soul into contra dancing: crouching, wiggling, with "inactives" spinning in place. (It certainly wasn't "sauvé!") On the return trip, we went up on deck to hear the lecture by historian Tom Owens.

The Ohio river runs deep in our family memories: we swam in it, sailed & kayaked on it and in 1978 rode its current at 4 mph on my son's log-raft that was headed for New Orleans.

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The Florida Folk Dance Council is a non-profit corporation which coordinates events, disseminates information and 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 OCTOBER ISSUE

OCTOBER 15, 1994

Mail information and articles to:

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

News Letter staff:

Thekla Kahn, Label-maker,
Jo Carr, Marion Hoercher,
Judy Stolberg & Virginia
Johnson - folders, staplers,
stampers and mailers. Yea!

FFDC MEMBERSHIP DUES \$\$\$\$ 1/2 YEAR SALE \$\$\$\$

Please send a check for FOUR dollars (\$4.00), made out to Florida Folk Dance Council to:

Diane Kralick
P.O. Box 07249
Fort Myers, Fl.
33919

EDITORS NOTES:

The Babiaks, Will and I had just finished an energetic routine of Stara Planina for a group in Venice. I thought, "Here is a golden opportunity" and I asked Shirley if I could have the mike to talk to the women and men. I began my talk, "Ladies and gentlemen I stand before you as living proof that there is life after breast cancer!"

The month of October is **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. Like measles, T.B., AIDES or other diseases, most of us are "aware" of Breast Cancer, but until our life is directly impacted by an illness there is always that little voice whispering in our ear, "Not to worry, those things happen to other people...not to me!"

During a routine physical in April of 1992 the Dr. felt "a slight thickening" in my left breast. The mammogram showed a definite change from my previous x-rays. The next 9 months my life revolved around surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. In the list of high risk people I was at the very bottom with only my age (60) being a risk factor.

The best way to tackle breast cancer is to discover it early and the best way to do that is with a monthly B.S.E. - Breast Self Exam, yearly medical check-up, and mammograms. Take charge of your life. If your doctor doesn't do a thorough breast exam...get another doctor.

Men can get breast cancer too! If a man finds a lump, bump or anything out of the ordinary get to the doctor fast!

As a breast cancer survivor I can truly say, "With out early detection you would have had a new editor over a year ago".

The life you save may be your own!.

ORLANDO

Beth Anthony



Vacations and obligations depleted our ranks occasionally this summer, but we trooped along. Bobby Quibodeaux and Pat Henderson took off on a tour of the Southeast, seeing David Digby and Dorothy at home in Atlanta and Frank and Mickey Cross and clan on their Carolina vacation. Pat said the atmosphere at Folkmoot was so invigorating that they plan to go again. Dancers were surrounded by other dancers watching still more dancers perform.

Some bittersweet news: Congratulations are due to Dr. Harold R. Jung who is now an Associate Professor, Director of Student Teaching at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, TN, as of August 18th. Edwina Scinta will follow Hal as soon as she can arrange the sale of her house. Edwina said she'll try to visit with folk dancers throughout Florida before she leaves.

OIFDC voted for amended bylaws recently. The change was to reflect the group's philosophy of an emphasis on recreational dance.

Myriam LeMay reports that DeLand's inaugural year of first and third Tuesdays started by Joan and Wall Washington has continued through the summer.

Have any of Florida folk dancers performed at Renaissance festivals? Lake Mary will have it's second annual festival in February. Coworkers of mine at AAA are heavily involved in the production, and I casually mentioned two dances that were around in that era. However, Deane Jordan is positive that the music for Elljah and for the fast half of Daronee are post-Renaissance. I'm sure there are others, perhaps even with the appropriate era music, but maybe not enough to suggest a

program. (I haven't asked any of our seasoned dancers here yet. It only occurred to me yesterday. (Must be the blonde factor.)

More thoughts on costuming: Campbell's Historic Patterns and Other Treasures, P.O. Box 400, Gratz, PA 17030-0400 (catalog \$4.50) carries Folkwear's ethnic patterns. The two I bought are well researched (an Austrian dirndl and a Ukrainian shirt), with instructions for different eras and areas, and are easily sized. They aren't cheap, and they aren't simple. As dancers we often have to stray from authentic cuts and materials for comfort and practicality. That's okay, I sew like I cook: instructions are open to interpretation.

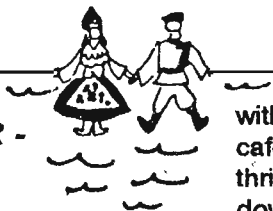
The German American Society in Casselberry will hold it's Oktoberfest on successive Saturdays from 3 PM to midnight, October 8th and 15th. There's an admission charge of \$4, and plenty of food and dancing in and out. None of us have made specific plans yet, but we'll be there. Prosit!

GRAPEVINERS - Sarasota

John Millett, Scribe

Things should be settling down now -- but they aren't. While most of the travelers have returned from the North or from Europe, others have launched forth. Virginia Johnson and Marian Hoercher report that the Czech Republic was GREAT!

We have maintained a good circle. In fact, our group appears to be growing steadily. And we still enjoy that occasional out-of-town visitor, like Andi Kapplin from Tampa. Ann Kessler will be back next month when the crowds really begin to pick up. We look forward to another great season!



DANCING ON THE WATER - Ellie Hall - Orlando

The first annual cruise on the St. Lawrence River with Mel Mann's **Dance On The Water**, August 7-13, 1994, was great fun, especially for the 106 folk dancers. That large number under Marianne Taylor's easy exuberance danced on the upper deck, outside, or in the ballroom whenever we had a chance. A good start was the first night's Beef Stroganoff with noodles to 'die for'! The real highlights of the cruise on the ship *Gruziya* were the crew shows during which members performed Ukrainian songs and dances in traditional dress. My favorite was the "Beriozka" (The Birch Tree), a women's dance.

At sea we cruised past beautiful glacier-made cliffs in the Saquenay River similar to famous fjords of Norway. We saw white and black whales that are different in size and behavior, more playful, than the humpbacks in Alaskan waters.

On the only rainy day we toured St. Pierre, one of three islands still owned by France, still called "DeGaulles' baby". We saw the hotel where Al Capone stayed while smuggling liquor during, as the hotel leaflet put it, "the great American Prohibition Experiment". I discovered that P.E.I. refers to Prince Edward Island, postcard pretty and known for Forillon National Park, Canada's favorite tourist spot. I liked the green skyline, rocky cliffs and beaches unmarred by billboards. Also on the island is the house that inspired Anne of Green Gables. Yearly about 15,000 Japanese visit the spot familiar to all since the book is required reading in Japanese schools.

By visiting Quebec City I learned to pronounce it "kaybeck". We had onion soup

with white wine (what else!) in an outdoor cafe along a boulevard much like Paris. Final thrill was a quick ride back to the ship, down a steep hill in an outdoor glass elevator, a funicular, for the price of a "loonie", a Canadian dollar. The cruise began and ended in Montreal, another magical place. From our pier Annette Brand, my Canadian roommate, pointed out Habitat that was built for the 1976 World's Fair. This is now used for housing with an easy commute to downtown Montreal.

The Ukraine, free since 1992 and the biggest country in Europe outside of Russia, boasts 100% literacy with 56 million people. The country has huge natural resources. We found the Ukrainian hosts to be warm, wonderful during the **Dance On The Water** cruise.

A WEEK AT K.D.I. KENTUCKY DANCE INSTITUTE D.A. Tyler

My attendance was a miracle of serendipity and synchronicity. The entire week was a joy, from the drive north to Morehead College swapping stories with my scholarship sponsors Shirley and Demitri Babiak, admiring the hilly countryside, to the airport trip home the following Saturday.

Warm & gracious, Anna Lewis Shacklette (who is struggling valiantly with overwhelming physical difficulties) assigned me to share a room with Barbara Danzig, of Louisville. By the time I'd arranged my stripped-down, yet complicated, wardrobe (8 ziplock bags of accessories to create 7 specific costume effects from 4 or 5 basic, interchangeable elements which also served as everyday workshop wear) in desk drawers & and a small closet without hangers, she arrived. We yakked up a storm while she

(Continued from page 4)
 unpacked. I scrounged pillows (one later served as a bustle), and we strolled across the street to the building housing the cafeteria and spacious wood floored ballroom.

Meeting everyone for the first time (Floridians, you're missing a GREAT experience by not attending!), I was struck with the enthusiasm and warmth everywhere. There were a dozen or so young people, many folk dance teachers, and lots, like myself, who were just "doing it".

Over the week I came to appreciate more and more Stew Shacklette's firm yet easy administration and quiet warmth (I keep coming back to that word, THE keynote of the week) that kept things in line when they wavered.

Each day's teaching session was followed by an evening dance during which we practiced what we'd learned interspersed among old favorites.

After THAT, if one were still rarin' to go at 10PM there was a snack cabaret spearheaded by Troy Schwartz, who also put out a daily newsletter and schedule. The usual mood for these late-night gatherings was, in the beginning, full voiced and jolly, so I contributed sing-along-silly-songs, as did others, and Troy conducted games that had everyone laughing. Later in the week, as the energy reserves tapered off, many of the young people sang lovely songs of their own making, or that were important expressions of themselves - a deeper level of sharing.

During the day Vicky Goodloe ran us through Scottish skip-changes, of which my favorite was the simple but very satisfying "The Fusilier's Dream". Roo Lester built daily toward our eventual mastery of "Hambo", exposing many erroneous concepts in the process. As entertainment one evening, she

and her partner, Harry Khamis, performed many variations for us.

David Vinsky choreographed an elegant dance to show off the Southern Ball gowns, in addition to teaching some jolly Balkan dances. I enjoyed Bea Montross's Latin styling and the selection of international dances Sandy Starkman offered. Stew's square dance and contra calls stayed within the group's general ability and were great fun. Since I really NEEDED that afternoon break, I didn't take clogging, but judging from the evening "show & tell", they were darn good, too!

A few demonstrations and/or skits were given each evening. Shirley taught the Puerto Rican "Plena" to her granddaughters and 3 young men who, together with Babiaks and me, sizzled the audience with a fiery foursome rendition, accompanied by shouts and whistles of appreciation from our audience. (Especially those who caught a glimpse of the red-ribboned black garter high on my right thigh!)

We scholarship students put together a skit in which yours truly portrayed an Ancient Auntie transformed into Dancing Demon. The auction of clothing and goodies, including crayon drawings by children of attendees, brought a rousing \$2,000 for the Scholarship Fund from the cheerful group! (That's REALLY showing appreciation!)

If you're an impatient, ambitious and critical 'hot-shot', K.D.I. is probably not for you. But should you opt for a variety of well-taught dances among considerate and friendly people, a WARM atmosphere (except for the building, which was meat-locker temperature) this is an inexpensive week you can't afford to miss! I'm ever so grateful! Shirley kept nagging me to go and for all her help getting there and back! See you there next year.



TOURING EUROPE

Betty N. Dodd

[The following is a drastically edited version of Betty's Summer of '94. If you would like an unabridged copy of Betty's trip send an SASE to the Folkdancer editor.] bbs

Betty had a fabulous tour of Western and Eastern Europe. Flying to London for a two day visit she continued on to Brussels, Belgium; Hanover, Cologne, Rothenburg, Berlin, and Munich, Germany; Warsaw, Cracow, and Zelazowa Woola, Poland; Budapest, Hungary; Vienna and Salzburg Austria.

Through her entire trip Betty was impressed by the examples of Gothic, Renaissance and Rococo architecture. She especially marveled at the restorations of the buildings that were so badly bombed in WW II.

Highlights of Betty's tour included:

Berlin: You can still see pieces of The Wall standing as a reminder of events that we must not let happen again. Berlin has become the largest city in Western Europe and will eventually be the capital of Germany. The well-known "Check Point Charlie" is now a museum.

Poland: When she reached Warsaw, Betty felt like she had been there before. Maybe because since becoming a folk dancer she has fallen in love with its music and culture. (She had the same feeling when visiting Hungary). Betty compared Warsaw, which was devastated during WW II, with the legend of the Phoenix. . . rising from the ashes.

Chopin has been Betty's favorite composer since she was very young. Visiting his birthplace, his home in Zelazowa Woola, was a dream come true. Betty got "goose bumps" and couldn't believe she was

actually there.

D-Day was celebrated in Cracow, the capital of Poland. Flags of the allied nations were displayed. The Mayor's emotional speech was translated by their guide as tears rolled down his cheeks. Quite a few people, including Betty's group, had tears in their eyes. That evening she went to dinner and a folklore show. It was fantastic! The best part of it was the audience participation. Betty got to dance a couple of beautiful dances with them.

Hungary: Across the Tatra mountains of Slovakia to Budapest, they went to dinner at a restaurant well known for its "pierogies" (dumplings). They were serenaded by a band playing romantic gypsy music. There was also a presentation by a group of folk dancers, doing a series of dances with spinning steps and some Czardas. She thought of our great dancer Julius Horvath from Daytona.

Austria: Vienna, the Metropolis of music, is beautiful and splendid. Johann Strauss made both the Danube river and the Vienna Wood famous through his waltzes. From Vienna they went Salzburg which is Mozart's birthplace. It was there that the movie *Sound Of Music* was made. High up in the mountain is the Hohensalzburg Fortress, which can be seen from far away.

Munich: Oktoberfest is Munich's special season, a great beer drinking celebration that lasts for 16 days. They went to the most celebrated beer hall the Hofbrauhaus, where they ate, drank beer and listened to the brass bands playing very lively music. A folk group performed the well known polkas and other dances, the kind that we dance in our folk festivals, such as Klaptanz. Betty often thought of her folk dancing friends wishing they were with her.

NEW MEMBERS:

Estrella Engelhardt
3458 Fairview Drive
Sarasota, FL, 34239

Donna E. Maksymowich-Waskiewicz
Richard Waskiewicz
10181 S.W. 57th Ct.
Cooper City FL. 33328
305-434-4635

Jacqui Archer
4205 Winners Circle #514
Sarasota, FL 34238
813-925-9877

Gloria Plank
906 Southern Pine Ln.
Sarasota, FL
813-355-6855

1994 DIRECTORY ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS

Cut and paste new information in your 1994 directory
AREA 4 - SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

FORT MYERS

SHALOM FOLK DANCERS INTERNATIONAL

Location: Jewish Federation of Lee County
6315-A Presidential Ct.

Contact: Tina Pegler 813-267-0834 or Lynn Badagnani 813-549-3807

SATURDAY 9:30AM-12PM
FREE

DANCE AROUND THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL (New name)

SARASOTA

IRISH DANCING

Location: St. Martha's Church, 200 Orange Ave
Contact Kathleen Brady 813-924-5246

WEDNESDAY 7-9 PM

AREA 5 - SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

PLANTATION

HALPERN DANCERS - INTERNATIONAL/ISRAELI/LINE

Location: 1141 Lauderdale West Dr.
Club House

Contact: Abe & Vivian Halpern 305-473-6161

TUESDAY 7-9 PM

Intermediate \$2

FRIDAY 10-11:30 AM

Beginners \$2

HALLANDALE

HALPERN DANCERS - INTERNATIONAL/ISRAELI/LINE

Location: City Park Community Center
501 S.E. 1st Ave.

Contact: Abe & Vivian Halpern 305-473-6161

WEDNESDAY 10-12 NOON

Inter/Advance \$2

Florida FolkDancer
FFDC Newsletter
Editor: Barbara B. Simmons
1404 Point Crisp Rd.
Sarasota, Fl. 34242

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

In Memory of

Vyts Beliajus

1908 - 1994

On September 20, the body of VYTS BELIAJUS, the founder and guiding hand of VILTIS died in Denver, but his ever-living spirit stayed around to witness the event he had been planning and anticipating for years: the Golden Anniversary of VILTIS magazine. On September 24, his folk dancing children from all over the world gathered in Denver to celebrate the wonder of this man who spent his life fostering the Spirit of the Dance.

Shirley Babiak