

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is how I feel!

Handy Andy Pollock

Aladdin's Lamp? Is there some kind of magic lamp in the material I received when I took office? I wished there would be dancing in Ocala - it happened; in Jacksonville - it happened! Let's test this further - how about a club in say...Appalachicola, and how about a resurgence of dancing in Tallahassee, Orlando, Daytona Beach, Miami and Tampa-St. Pete. While we're at it, how about some new young dancers and more men for every club?

It's time to mark your fall dance calendar -August 24, help Orlando celebrate it's 25th (see flyer); September 5, Israeli in Orlando with Dany Benshalom, David Skidmore from Boston on October 5 in Pinellas Park, (more info next month); Fall Fling in Deland on October 26; Romanian dance workshop with Mihai David (who brought Floricica Olteneasca, Hora Fetelor and tons more stuff to this country) on November 9 in Gainesville; I've heard wonderful things about the Mountain Playshop (very reasonable, Aug. 16-18) in N.C. (call Terry A. or Rusty Maynard, 704-298-4828. Hey - we certainly aren't lacking for places to go, things to do, people to see! See you at one, more than one, or all of the above.

Well, here I am again. In the same awful mood. I thought I had this computer thing knocked, waited til the last minute to insert all of your wonderful news, and was blasted with my usual bad luck of computerism. I cannot find last month's issue in the computer, had to start from scratch, and am not sure I have been successful. My plan was to make each issue niftier, but I seem to still be at square one. It is very frustrating, and very time consuming. Andy - use that magic lamp to get me through this!!!!

On a different subject, if you are "on line", Pat Henderson has sent in a great list of places you can surf, and I think Gainesville has sent me further information. I also hope this issue has a list of FD'rs who are have E-mail addresses. I may include some who are not members, just to be nice! If you don't see the list, look for it next month. Also look for update on members and repair on last month's list. Bye - Terry

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL

FOLK DANCE CLUB

CELEBRATES ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY

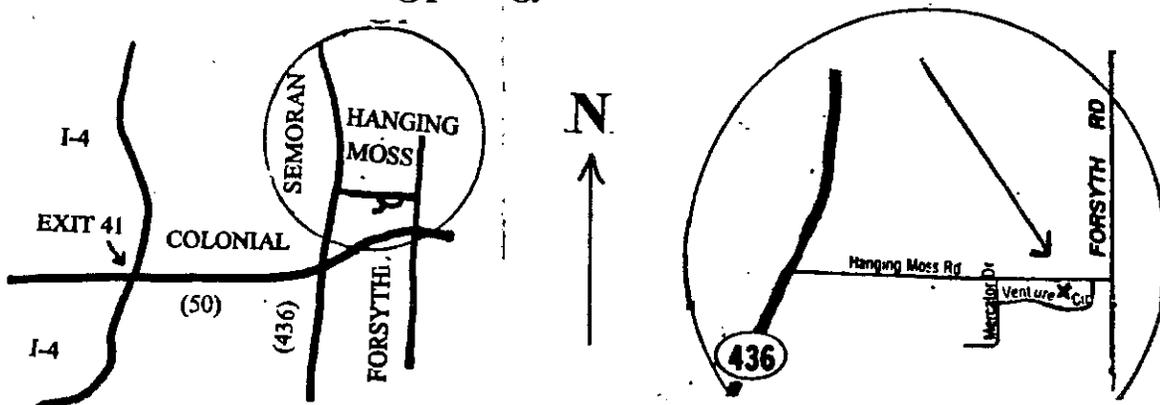
WHEN: AUGUST 24, 1996 2:00-10:00 pm

**WHERE: WHIRL & TWIRL SQUARE DANCE CLUB
6949 Venture Circle, Orlando**

WHAT TO BRING: DISH FOR POT LUCK DINNER

\$3.00 ADMISSION FOR HALL RENT

The air-conditioned hall has a gorgeous, cushioned wood floor. David Digby, founder of OIFDC will be our special guest. Accommodations will be available in dancer's homes on a first-come, first-served basis. Closest motel is Holiday Inn Express East, 8750 E. Hwy 50, 1-800-465-4329. For further information, contact Bobby Quibodeaux at 407-275-6247 9859 Berry Dease Road, Orlando, FL 32825 e-mail rkhd58a@prodigy.com



I-4 To Hwy. 50 East, Left on 436 (N. Semoran), rt. on Hanging Moss, rt. on Venture

Clearwater Calling!

"If we could at this time, shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

- . There would be 57 asians, 21 europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South) and 8 africans.
- . 70 would be non-white; 30 white.
- . 70 would be non-christian; 30 christian.
- . 50% of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people.
- . All 6 would be citizens of the United States.
- . 70 would be unable to read.
- . 50 would suffer from malnutrition.
- . 80 would live in sub-standard housing.
- . Only 1 would have a college education.

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for both tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent."

This was an article that was given to us when I went to a graphology (handwriting analysis) conference in San Diego at the end of June. It was a course on the "major" alphabets of the world and the "different" characteristics of each, etc. Anyay, I immediately thought of all my folk dance friends and how this could apply to the "feet" also. Wouldn't these 100 people make an interesting folk dance circle (only for those malnourished we would have to start with a Sarasota party before the dancing).

Anyway, I miss everyone so much! For the past 5 summers we were always so busy packing a motor home and travelling that the full impact of not dancing in Florida didn't hit me until Fred and I eagerly returned to you in the fall. But before we left for L.I. to spend the month of July, I was debating which way to point the car (we sold the motor home in

January). But as of now, the dance race has begun ! It seems that you can now dance on L.I. (as in a few other places in America) any day or evening of the week. The first five days were devoted to family and then - Wed. nite with my old group ("Annie's Coop"), Thurs. morning with Danny Uziel and Edith Jason; Friday morning with Sid and Ida Fidelman (where we met Ron and Janet Schiff and had lunch with them also); Sat. nite dance party with Sid and Ida and Ron and Janet again (and a host of other friends). We let the Herman's Sunday nite group go by for now (which a few dedicated teachers are continuing - as my group did). Soon we will dance Mon. nite with Estella Birnbaum (my favorite Balkan teacher to whom I owe so much) and Ellen Gollan on Thurs. nite (and could be Tues. nite also). We are forced to miss many dancing opportunities (including ballroom and country western) because of visits with those who don't folk dance (or as Lou Paige calls them - the unenlightened).

Happy dancing to all and look forward to early fall when we will see all of you again.

Ann Kessler and Fred

Why Dance?

A View from the 16th Century

And there is more to it than this, for dancing is practised to reveal whether lovers are in good health and sound of limb, after which they are permitted to kiss their mistresses in order that they may touch and savour one another, thus to ascertain if they are shapely or emit an unpleasant odour as of bad meat.

Therefore, from this standpoint, quite apart from the many other advantages to be derived from dancing, it becomes an essentiality in a well ordered society.

*Thoinot Arbeau
Orchesography (1589)
trans. Mary Stewart Evans*



**SOUTH BREVARD
INTERNATIONAL DANCERS**

The big news from here is the visit on July 12 of a whole bunch of folks from Orlando. It was great having all these good friends show up to dance.

We've been having 15 to 18 people each Friday, about a third are new people who are, so far at least, enthusiastic about folk dancing. What are we doing to bring them in? I don't have a clue. It seems to be a certain amount of random chance. Some say they have been seeing our announcement in the newspaper for several years and just decided to come, and others say they've come because one of our enthusiastic people invited them. It seems you have to spread the word to 100 people to get one to come, and you have to get 10 to come in order to get one to stay!

How will we try to keep their interest? Partly by being friendly. It's important. Partly by giving them success oriented teaching. I also think D.A. Tyler was right about the music and the sound. One of our most enthusiastic dancers keeps reminding me that it was the music that caught her interest when she first came. It's hard to find the time, but I think this means good quality music and a good sound system which can put out the music without sounding strained.

The first half of our session is devoted to showing them dances and dance steps. Frankly, they seem ready to dance all night, but after a couple of hours, I'm ready to quit teaching! So the second half moves into request dancing, with an attempt to intersperse easy dances that the new people have either already seen or can pick up. It's sort of a mixed blessing, because we would have liked to do more dance with the Orlando group, but I also really wanted to give our new people plenty of good dance experience. Hopefully we struck a good balance and everybody enjoyed themselves.

By the way, we plan to be open all

summer, so come on by. Probably a good idea to call first, just to be sure, but we expect to be here. Wish us luck. New dancers anywhere translates into more dancers to spread the word. Hopefully by February, we can graduate at least some of them to President's Day Camp.

John Daly

ORLANDO NEWS (OFDC)

Since our group is on a summer hiatus, eight of us visited Melbourne on July 12 and danced with John Daly's group. They are having an upswing in people this summer while other groups are having a downswing! We enjoyed dancing again since we were suffering from international dance withdrawal.

We hope a lot of you are planning to come to the anniversary party on the 24th of August. (See flyer elsewhere) We hope to make it to be like one of our "flings". Also, the Florida Folk Dance Council will be 25 years old this fall. Perhaps, the Council will have another activity to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the council. (Hint, hint).

Pat Henderson [Editor's note:
Looks like Andy already is seeing to this!]



MARILYN RATH UPDATE

[Marilyn has been e-mailing Judith through my computer - lots of us knew Marilyn when she was in Florida. She has moved to Bulgaria (quite some time ago) and this is her latest news to Judith. I had some room and thought you all might enjoy this. Ed.]

We did get to Koprivštitsa last summer, I described how people were getting ripped off left and right. . . I would like to order the Time of the Gypsies movie if anyone knows how. Most of it was filmed here in Skopje. I have the local version, but am after the English subtitle version. Danced for the first time in years at a wedding last weekend. My newspaper for foreigners is really going well and I'm up to 100 copies a month now. I am also typing in Cyrillic the memoirs of the 6th Brigade from the 2nd World War for Cele's Brigada Group. They will have it printed if I finish it before I pass away. I've finished 274 single spaced pages with 85 more to go. I am at least beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel! When I finish 50 pages or so, I have a "lektorkorektor" go over the finished product. She picks up all the mistakes that Cele and I miss. It is a project that consumes my days and nights. Cele does all the cleaning, shopping, housework, brings me coffee, coca cola, tea, cookies, etc. just to keep me typing, typing, typing. I will have a great sense of accomplishment when and if I finish. I don't have a cyrillic keyboard so I have to memorize where all the sh, ch, zh, ts, etc. are. All those consonants together drive me bananas. When I have time, I'll e-mail Clinton's directive to airlift vowels to Bosnia (someone got it off the net).

CHANGES IN ADDRESS STUFF:

Elaine Hendricks: Add Drive and #103
Phone: 954-435-0827
Directory listing ok.

Lynn Badagnani
211 E.E. 46th St.
Cape Coral, FL 33904
941-549-3807

Thekla Kahn: 941-378-3728

Shalom Folk Dancers
Monday nights 6:30-8:00
6237-E Presidential Court
Ft. Myers, FL 33919

OUT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

GREEK - ST. LOUIS - OCTOBER 11-14
Write Greek American Folklore Society
25-14 Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106
Tel/fax 718-956-3544

NEW ORLEANS - STEVE KOTANSKY and
LIVE MUSIC - NOVEMBER 1-3 Call 504-
486-2276 or email: BenWaMa@aol.com or
write Cresecent City International Dancers,
353 Little Farms Ave. River Ridge, LA 70123

I RISH I WAS IRISH

IRISH FEIS (CONTEST) OCTOBER 11-12
Enter or just watch - at Safety Harbor Resort.
For further information write Jack Duffy,
Chairman, 700 Starkey Road #216, Largo, FL
33771. Entry closing date is 9/25/96. This
could be fun to watch, even if you don't want
to enter the competition. And Safety Harbor
Resort is cool!



Summer is here and Norman Hall Gym is hot as usual. But the enthusiasm and good sized groups of dancers continues unabated. Somehow we manage with the fans and lots of cold water and juices.

For the summer there will be no rehearsals at Pofahls. Interest in performing has dwindled as has the number of people who perform. Depending on what happens, we shall probably resume dancing on Sundays in the early fall. At that time we might concentrate on learning and refining advanced dances.

A few weeks ago about a half dozen folks from the group met at Toshi's and built a strong wood cabinet to store all of our sound equipment so that Toshi or others would not have to take everything home each Friday night and then bring it back the following week. They added large wheels to the bottom of the cabinet too, so that it could be wheeled easily in and out of the closet in the gym. Tom and Sachi donated the money, and I am happy to report that they were repaid by everyone in the group who donated money.

The folkdance listserv which Tom set up has been a wonderful way for members (as well as dancers from other groups around the country) to communicate. Currently there has been a lot of discussion about having different types of dances such as Swing, Cajun, African, etc.

The "Spring Celebration and International Dance" party held at the Thelma Boltin Rec Center on May 4 was a grand success, thanks to Tom who was our fearless leader and to all who assisted, such as Toni, Toshi, Pam, Jenna, Sachi, Mike J., Mike M., Rosellen and others. Folks who had not been dancing for a while also showed up at this event and it was great to see them.

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer. Joyce Dewsbury

TAMPA TIDBITS

Our summer break hasn't been too traumatic. As mentioned, Terry and Andi have made a couple of trips to Sarasota, Andy to Gainesville, contra survives, and our July 20 Saturday of dancing was quite fun - we were joined by Bobby and Pat from Orlando, and DA and Cece from Sarasota. We all went to dinner afterwards and socialized for a couple of hours and it turned out to be a nice relaxing day of dance. We're looking forward to all of the other calendar events. Following a performance in Ybor City, we continued to dance a couple of Mondays at Maria Pasetti's, but that died a natural death. Guess we need this summer break.

Andi's daughter recently left for a year of studies in Jerusalem, Terry spent one day at the Olympics (the day before the bomb!) seeing a lot of fencing and buying stuff, and enjoying the ambiance, and is now helping her friend Herb Berkowitz run for judge (Tampans - please vote for him) and also helping her daughter who just bought a laundromat. Bert and Roseann are happy in their summer home in NC, the Baizans here and there as usual.

Andy and Terry attended Karen Boon Von Ochssen's birthday party at a house on the water in St. Pete. Lots of fun and good wished to Karen. Many of her Gainesville dancers were in attendance.

MOST IMPORTANTLY - we are moving back to Fridays in the fall. Our first date will be September 6. We'll be at Kate Jackson Rec Center which is in Hyde Park (where the Israeli group meets and where Contra often meets). If you are coming to dance with us, call Terry or someone for directions. I don't have a map on me! See ya!

FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Page

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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 group and individuals in Florida. Membership is \$10.00 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 MATERIAL IS THE
15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH**

Order of preference for article formats:

- 1.) E-MAIL to tja2090@aol.com.
 - 2.) floppy disk (IBM compatible formatted disk).
 3. U.S. mail. *or microsoft pub.*
- Mail information, articles, change of address and membership money to:

FFDC NEWSLETTER
TERRY ABRAHAMS
717 SOUTH EDISON
TAMPA FL 33606



JERUSALEM 3000

VILTIS advertises 3 new folk dance books containing photos from 83 different countries, photographed in southern California during actual dance performances. There are lists where pictures of national costumes can be found in hundreds of magazines and books, discussions of similarities and differences between folk dances, origins of fertility dances, and more. Write for a free catalogue to WENZEL PRESS, P.O. box 14789-V, Long Beach, CA 90803

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If you are interested in more information about dancing information on the net, I have found some articles in the Amin magazine. It's old, but might be informative. I will mail copies to anyone who wants this info. TA

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AYLARLAR - Turkish Dance - The man is looking over all the hills for his soul mate, he is alone, desperately seeking a Susan with great love of dance. (Thank you for that tidbit Jenneine) (By the way - Jenneine will be in Jamaica on a medical mission from July 10-20 - hope we hear more about it.)



Portrait of Scotsman in a dour moment. Our fearless leader prior to performance. (Cubby hates this, but I think it's great!) - DA Tyler

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED



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