



July 2009

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Prez Sez

Yikes! Is it too hot to dance? Almost! I'm looking forward to February, when it might be a little cooler, and, of course, to "camp". I hope you have marked your calendar for February 12–15. Here's the latest information: First teacher: Željko Jergan – Croatian! We had the pleasure of Željko back in 1998 and I think it's time to have him again! See his bio, below – he's quite a guy! Once you read it, you'll know you have to be there!

We have a "logo" for "Camp" 2010. See the [picture on page 4](#). Any time you see it, you will know it is about camp 2010. It will be the T-shirt design, the buttons, the syllabus, the ads. I'm thinking white on black at this moment, and there could be a reverse version - black on white. It's the opanci's you liked on the black shirt years ago – sort of a come back!

Hope some of you are going to Folkmoot (see [Events](#)) or have managed some of the Greek festivals that abound in Florida. I see so much stuff around from NFO, etc. We certainly don't live in the heart of international folk dance activity, but that which is near here, we must do! I'm done and this is short – a miracle!

– Terry

Željko Jergan

Željko Jergan is a renowned choreographer and teacher of Croatian folk dance throughout the world, having conducted seminars and workshops in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and Taiwan. A native of Varaždin, Croatia, Željko was a leading performer with the Croatian National Folk Ensemble LADO for twelve years. He also performed with the Zagreb National Ballet and Modern Dance companies for several years.

Since moving to the United States in 1986, he has choreographed for 95 different performing ensembles, including *Les Sortilèges*, *Brigham Young University*, *Radost Folk Ensemble* and the *Duquesne University Tamburitzans* and for both the eastern and western Canadian *Croatian Folklore Festivals*. He serves as artistic director for *Kraljica Jelena Folklore Ensemble*, Kitchener, Ontario and *Hrvatsko Prelo*, Oakville, Ontario and is the artistic director for the *Folklore Ensemble Hrvatski Tanac*, *Jadran Junior Tamburitzans* and *Kumovi Adult Ensemble*, of Pittsburgh, *St. Anthony's Folklore Ensemble* of Los Angeles and the *Koraci Ensemble* of San Jose, CA.

Željko continually strives to elevate the level of authenticity and presentation of these ensembles, which showcase their culture at the highest level among amateur ensembles. Željko has received two full fellowship grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in support of his artistic work. He was selected as the Guest Conductor for the 2009 CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival held at Chicago, Illinois, July 3-5.



Željko Jergan

Grapevine International Folk Dancers of Sarasota

by Marie Millett

May was our outreach month. We participated in the Sarasota County Arts Council Arts Night downtown. We set up the computer in front of a T-shirt store and showed folk dancing. We also went to a retirement community to teach a folk dance class in a wellness and fitness promotion for the community. We didn't get any new dancers, but a few more people now know about international folk dancing.

Delores Lustig taught our folk dancing in June and did a very good job. She and Faith Kibler enjoyed the English Country Dance Mayfair Ball in May (see article in June issue of FFD). Judy Merkt is teaching in July and has come up with some new dances that we haven't enjoyed before such as *Corlu* and *Esmer*.

Varda Ruskin enjoyed four weeks of Israeli dancing in New York City. We're glad to have her back.

We have had good attendance this summer except for July 1 when it rained and rained and rained, but we still had eleven enthusiastic dancers.

Our recreation center will undergo some repairs soon; we will not meet July 29th or August 5th. Andi suggested that they take out the pillars while they were at it, but I don't think that's going to happen. We hear from Andi – she is teaching some dances in Vancouver. We miss her and look forward to her return in September.

Orlando International Folk Dance Club

by Pat Henderson

We were able to dance the entire month of June at our home without being rained out as we were in May. Actually, our side of Orlando is not waterlogged, yet, but it probably will be by the time you read this. Now it is July and we are on our two month hiatus until September. However, the group is planning a field trip to dance with the Melbourne group on Friday, July 31.

A number of our dancers have been trying to escape the Florida heat this summer. Phyllis Dammer and her husband, Ed, were in Illinois for the graduation of a grandson from high school, then took a road trip to Lake of the Ozarks and to Kansas City for Phyllis to see family. Nicki Wise and her husband, John, took a long road trip for most of the month of May up to the Midwest and back; she was home a couple of weeks and then they were off to Costa Rica.

Mary Jean Linn and her husband, Bill Byars were in Asheville, NC for the contra dance Summer Soiree. Eva Gaber visited her father in Detroit and then went to a business conference in Toronto. Grandfather watched Felissa and Lila while Eva was gone. Juanita Schokey visited family in West Virginia. Ann Robinson attended a craft school in the mountains of North Carolina and specialized in glass beads. Finally, Bobby and I took a four night cruise to Key West and Cozumel on Royal Caribbean, out of Ft. Lauderdale. We could not believe how absolutely blue and clear the water was in Cozumel.

We hope that everyone is having a good summer.



Oh, How We Dance

When I sent out the call for articles for this newsletter, I asked our members to write about the different types of dancing that they do, comparing and contrasting with international folk dance. So far, one response has come in, below. I'd like to present more views in future newsletters.

Gary and I have become a little familiar with the Scandinavian dance community in North America in the last year or so. As we are hoping to do some more Scandinavian dancing this summer, I will hold off until a later issue to write about that.

– Caroline

From Bernice Roth:

I do Scottish Country Dancing, English country dancing, Line Dancing, Contra and Israeli. I find that many of the steps in line dancing are taken from many of the International dances that we do. They call them something else but they are vines and Yemenites and cherkessiyas etc. The music is different for all the categories, but the steps are the same.

– Bernice

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Tampa Trivia

by Terry Abrahams

The international group is short of people this summer, so doing a very small amount of dancing. If Judith is out of town, we don't dance, if I'm out of town, we don't dance. Ursula comes when we do, Andy is in town, and that's it. And to think Tampa used to be the King of the International groups in Florida. Sob!

So it's all about me. I have to brag a little here. I did finally go the USFA Nationals (fencing) and entered the very first ever 70+ Women's Foil and Sabre. Before I tell you about that, I was at the very first 60+ and did take first! Well, I've done it again – I'm the national champ in foil, third in saber. I had a great time – winning is always good, but I also saw all my 60+ buddies. (I didn't fence with them, though. I didn't want to spend another \$70; besides, that competition is to qualify for the US team to go to the world competition and I don't have the \$\$ to go to Moscow; so no point in fencing).

I roomed with old friends, bought some new equipment, drank more than I ate (it was a very expensive resort) and even got to see an old high school girlfriend who lives in Dallas. There will be 70+ competition at World for the men, but not for women, yet. All in all, a good week! I'm also having my knees fixed with some sort of injection, and they're already feeling better. I had cortisone shots before I went to Nationals. Between skin docs, knee docs, physical therapy, cancer docs, regular checkups, like Bobbie says, I wouldn't have a social life if it weren't for my doctor appointments. Well, a slight exaggeration – I am playing my accordion with a couple of groups, at a couple of Irish pubs. This weekend we're playing at a co-op art shop. Still doing yoga, still trying to get people to read my website and buy buttons! Then I could take more trips! So now me, me, me, is signing off.

From the Editor

Well, this is a short issue, coming out in the summer doldrums and just a month after the last one. A lot of our Florida dancers are traveling this summer. I hope you are dancing a lot and/or seeing dance performances and doing lots of other exciting things that you can write about for the newsletter.

Gary and I went to the Nordic Fiddles and Feet Scandinavian Dance Camp in New Hampshire over July 1. Judith Baizan was there, too, and Sandy Cowan, who used to spend her winters on the Florida west coast and come to Florida Folk Dance Camp. It took Sandy and I a while to figure out where we knew each other from. I tried to talk her into coming to our camp again, but there is an annual dance event in the northeast the same weekend.



The camp was good, the dance teachers were good, the music was good, and the food was unbelievable, including breads baked on the premises, a lobster dinner one night and an incredible smorgasbord the last evening. The setting, Camp Ogontz, is beautiful – on a lake, with views of the White Mountains in the background. The only significant drawback was that it rained every day of the six we were there – sometimes all day.

I don't have the pictures that I'd like to have because all my camera batteries ran down before the last night, when people were dancing in costume. The picture below, left shows Loretta Kelly, one of the fiddle teachers at the camp, performing at a concert given by the music staff and students.

–CL

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October

October 16-18 Sharpes Assembly

English Country Dance Weekend

Caller: Gene Murrow, music by Full Circle

Place: Kenilworth Lodge, 1610 SE Lakeview Drive,
Sebring, FL 33870

Price: \$130, double occupancy

Information: chagalo.org/ecd/ecdspec.shtml

Contact: Catie Condran Geist, 321-427-3587,
catiegeist@att.net

October 29 - November 1 Greek Festival, Lecanto

Place: Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church,
4705 W. Gulf-to-Lake Hwy [S.R. 44 West], Lecanto,
Florida

Information: stmichaelgoc.org/festival.html

Contact: 352-527-0766,
president@stmichaelgoc.org

November

November 26 – 29 Texas Camp

Sponsored by Texas International Folk Dancers.
Teachers have not been announced yet. Check their
website for more information in their next newsletter.

Place: Greene Family Camp, 1192 Smith Lane,
Bruceville, Texas 76630

Information: www.tifd.org

Contact: board@tifd.org

December

December 26 - January 1, 2010 Berea College Christmas Country Dance School

Classes in dance: contra, squares, Scandinavian
(with Roo Lester), English country, clogging, Morris,
Irish, rapper sword. Also dance calling, singing,
dance band; storytelling, and crafts.

Information:

www.berea.edu/peh/dance/ccds/default.asp

Contact: 859-985-3431, ccds@bereda.edu

2010

February 12-15, 2010 Florida Folk Dance "Camp"

Place: *Westgate Inn and Suites* at 9200 West U.S.
Hwy 192 in Kissimmee (c. 1 mile east of U.S. 27)

See [Prez Sez](#) and look for more information in the
future on the FFDC website and in the newsletter.

International Folk Dance Tours

*Notices of selected tours, workshops, etc. are published in the
newsletter and changed with each issue. A more complete list
of tours can be found in the calendar on the FFDC website.*

2010

June 10-26, 2010 Folkdance On The Water, China and Yangtze River

Led by Mel Mann, with dance teacher Sandy
Starkmann

Two days in Shanghai plus eight-day Yangtze River
Cruise

Prices start at \$2,699 for early signup ending
September 15, 2009

Information:

www.folkdanceonthewater.org/indexb.php

Contact: Mel Mann, 510-526-4033,
meldancing@aol.com

August 3 - 15, 2010 Bulgarian Tour

Led by Jim Gold

Includes the weekend Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival,
held once every five years.

Information: www.jimgold.com/Bulgaria2010.htm

Contact: Jim Gold International, 201-836-0362,
jimgold@jimgold.com

Several FFDC dancers, including Pat Henderson
and Bobby Quibodeaux, are interested in taking this
Bulgarian tour. Pat reports that the tour is filling up
fast. If you are interested, make your plans now!

*Please note: The Florida Folk Dancer prints information on folk
dance tours, camps and other events that may be of interest to our
readers. This does not imply an endorsement or recommendation
of any tour or camp (except our own FFDC events!).*

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FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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FFDC Website: www.folkdance.org