

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- *Balkan Veselie*
- *Local Group Updates*
- *Mania from Albania*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY JACK SELTZER

Here comes our Balkan Veselie! This weekend we'll all come together for our Presidents' Weekend workshop. We ended up registering folks from all over the country again to our camp. California, Virginia, Illinois, Colorado, Virginia, Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Oregon, Washington DC, New Mexico, Maryland, Arizona, New York, and North Carolina are all represented. FFDC welcomes them wholeheartedly and wishes them all a safe trip to our Kissimmee hotel.

The camp is held at the Holiday Inn Main Gate East, 5711 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy (US 192), Kissimmee, FL, 800-672-9601. There are several ways to get there. Here are two:

- 1) From I-4 go east on Hwy 192 about 2 miles to the hotel on your left.
- 2) From Florida Turnpike, it's not as easy, but you can exit at Osceola Parkway and go west about 6 miles. Exit at the Poinciana/Vineland exit and go south on Vineland about 1/2 mile to Hwy 192. Go west on Hwy 192 about 2 miles to the hotel on your right.

Check into the hotel between 4 – 6 PM to get into your room. After you register in the front lobby, park your car in the back of the hotel to unpack your car. We'll be checking folks in for camp beginning around 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM at the entrance to the dance hall. Remember, dinner on Friday is on your

own. There are a number of restaurants close to the hotel, some within walking distance.

Dancing for the night begins at 7 PM so try to check into the hotel, get settled, register for the weekend and eat dinner before then if possible. Ethnic dance costumes are fun so bring a few if you have anything interesting in your closet. Note from the schedule posted at <http://www.floridafolkdancer.org/Camp2014/WorkshopSchedule.html> that Saturday night's party will be a Romanian theme and Sunday night's will be a Balkan theme. Keep in mind the schedule for the weekend so you can take advantage of all the fun activities even if you don't stay overnight at the hotel.

Any extra ethnic items you'd like to donate to the silent Olga Princi scholarship auction would be greatly appreciated. If there isn't a bid by Sunday, you can reclaim whatever you donated. If you have questions, please ask by calling me at 352-359-2903 or emailing me at seltzerj1@gmail.com. Also, bring a bathing suit. There is a swimming pool with cool water and a hot tub for relaxing in during any spare minutes.

We also congratulate one of Lynda Fagan's students, Olivia Bacallao, for being the Olga Princi scholarship recipient. We hope this is a life experience



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PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

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she can use to begin building a folk dance world for herself.

Finally, take a look at the preplanned programs for each dance night, posted at: <http://www.floridafolkdancer.org/>. There will be copies available at camp, but if you prefer, you can print it out ahead of time and make a note of dances you requested or know. You'll also be amazed how many of the unfamiliar dances you can dance. See <http://www.floridafolkdancer.org/Camp2014/PartyProgramAlpha.html>

for links to YouTube versions of most of the dances we will do at camp. Note that the dances are listed alphabetically and some versions may be different from the versions you know. Thanks to John Ward for compiling this list, with some assistance from Lita Pinter, Steve Turner and Doris Wolman. Also, thanks to John Daly for posting it on the website.

So see you soon. Enjoy your trip to camp.

EDITOR'S NOTE BY PAT PIERATTE

I have been even busier than usual, adding Pilates and yoga to my regular Jazzercise classes. I am enjoying these new forms of exercise, but I'm really looking forward to being able to folk dance with everyone again!

I am also looking forward to seeing the Duquesne University Tamburitzans at the Levy Performing Arts Center in Lake City on Saturday, March 8. They always come to Florida, but it is usually the southern and central parts of Florida, which are quite a way from my home base in Tallahassee. Lake City is the closest they have ever come to me! I did see one of their performances about ten years ago by staying with a folk dancer in central Florida. Several members of our former folk dance group will be driving over and joining some folk dancers from Gainesville for dinner and the performance.



This performance has a very economical ticket pricing. If you do not want to pay the regular price of \$20 a ticket, you can get a group together and purchase a flex pack of six tickets for \$70, a little under \$12 each! Or if you are a student, the price is only \$5! If you are interested in seeing this performance, you can call Bonita at 386-752-0094 or go to this website for more information: <http://communityconcerts.info/>.

For my overseas travel this year, I have chosen Jim Gold's Hungarian trip from July 11 to August 8, led by Adam Molnar. My sister finally got her passport so she could go with me. I'll bring some flyers to camp with me so perhaps some of you will be able to join the trip.

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB BY PAT HENDERSON



Our club celebrated the holidays with a fantastic party on December 18. We had 30 dancers come for the pot luck

December 31- January 7. They were our tour guides as we saw a lot of the island including Old San Juan, El Yunque National Forest, bioluminescent bay in the south, Ponce and the northern coast by Aguadilla. We saw Palmira's home town and homes where she and Manuel had lived.



Orlando and other folk dancers at a performance of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* last October. Kelly Fagan played Princess Puffer.

dinner with dancing afterward. With two weeks off for Christmas and New Year's Day on a Wednesday, we were happy to start dancing again on January 8. Two of our dancers who are also singers, Kelly Fagan and Jan Arcari, were in Christmas musicals. Jan sang with the Central Florida Community Art Chorus and Kelly was at the Breakthrough Theater in Winter Park. Both

were excellent shows. Some of our dancers had non-stop house guests including Phyllis Dammer and Mary Jean Linn.



Manuel and Palmira in front of their former home in Saba Grande, Puerto Rico; photo by Pat Henderson

Travel over the holidays included me accompanying my Aunt Betty to Branson with a group from Albany, Georgia in early November. My favorite show was the Chinese acrobats. Then Bobby and I joined Palmira and Manuel Mora-Valls on a trip to Puerto Rico from

Some central Florida dancers will be joining our group to dance a few Russian dances at the Albin Polasek Museum in Winter Park, as part of their Russian celebration on Sunday, March 2 between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. The occasion is a celebration before Lent similar to Mardi Gras. This is the same place where we did a Czech show in 2012. If you are in the area, we would love to have you come see our performance.

We look forward to dancing with everyone at camp!



Pat & Bobby at the site the Americans landed on the south side of Puerto Rico to start the Spanish-American War in 1898; photo by Manuel Mora-Valls

GAINESVILLE GOINGS-ON BY JACK SELTZER

Over the bayous and through the oil fields, Linda and I traveled to two thrilling folk dance experiences this past holiday season. It began with one night in Metairie, Louisiana, just outside New Orleans. After spending a fantastic week in the French Quarter, we were able to get rides so we could dance with the New Orleans folk dance group. This was Linda's homecoming as she moved from there in the early '80s. What a fun group! Every Thursday, folks come from all over to dance there, from Mississippi and all around the outskirts of New Orleans. What a great spirit they had, with enthusiasm galore! I've never experienced such a high spirited Mayim! One other highlight was Steve Collins playing a gaida or kaval for Cynorgorka and other dances. Thank you very much New Orleans, and to Lita for getting it together for us!

transporting the commerce of the area everywhere!

Friday was the night the fine Houston group has their weekly dance in Channing Hall at the Universalist Church. What a coincidence that visiting our son, Simon, for the first time there would end up being a 2nd consecutive night of dancing, 350 miles apart! What a fine time we had with the Houston group which I've read about all these years in newsletters. It was Texas folk dancing at its best. Again we were able to get rides so we could attend. It was interesting that we walked in while someone was teaching three of Steve Kotansky's workshop dances. I did my best to learn the correct styling and balance for these



Steve Collins playing gaida for New Orleans folk dancers

We were up early the next morning for a 350 mile drive through the bayous, swamps and oil fields between New Orleans and Houston on I-10. This was a busy ride with many, many trucks

dances. We recognized Kilic Dansi and Harishut, which was fun. But after relaxing with Yolanda and trying to leap through Karapyet, I knew I wasn't

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GAINESVILLE GOINGS-ON (CONTINUED)

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dancing 100%. The previous day's drive and the busy last week were finally catching up with me. But what a relaxing and inviting group we enjoyed for the first time in Houston. As Arnold would say, "I'll be back."

What a treat we've been having every New Year's Eve by folk dancing at Jualene's house. Our last dance of 2013 was Hungarian Kortanc, and the first dance of 2014 was the gypsy dance Ketri Ketri. Thanks go to Jualene and her fine hosting and to everyone joining in this year with the fine spirit & of course tasty dishes! Joining in from the Gainesville group were Mireille, Julieta, Max and Diane, Diane F, Nancy, Juanita, John and Joyce S, in addition to Jenneine Lambert from Naples, and a whole bunch of new men! Maybe we can bring the men back to our regular dance days for some more mixers, partners or set dances? The dancing made it very easy to wait up for the midnight celebration in Times Square. We all toast-

ed the New Year and sang along to Auld Lang Syne. I'll be ready for another dance like this at the end of 2014, but we have a whole year to live before then!

In other news, we had a fun party at Melinda's place recently, dancing in her foyer for all of her biker friends. Her home was really welcoming, and we might have recruited a few people to join us in the future.

Thanks also to Margaret for reviewing three of Mihai's dances recently. She taught Shioapa and Cimpoi, which are on the program for camp, as well as Joc Tiganesc de doi, a one-minute dance with lots of styling.

Some of us are planning to attend the performance of the national dance group of Siberia at the Philips Center in Gainesville on February 8 and/or the performance of the Tamburitians in Lake City on March 8. Let me know if you want to join us for the Tamburitzan performance. We plan to meet beforehand for a bite to eat. It should be fun!



**John Ward and Julieta Brambila
at New Year's Eve party**



Gainesville group dancing on New Year's Eve

SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS BY JUDY MERKT

With the addition of some new Grapeviners as well as the return of our snowbirds, our weekly circle has swelled to 35 to 40 dancers, making for an energy-filled room – what fun!

Recently we've been reviewing our summer-taught dances so our snowbirds and new folks have the opportunity to learn them. Also, Sanna Longden, who is visiting the Sarasota area with husband Mars, taught us a Japanese dance called "Believe", a simple but lovely dance set to equally lovely music.

Lastly, we welcomed the new year as well as the return of our seasonal members with our annual all-request Snow Ball on Wednesday, January

29th. We may have pictures and more details for the next newsletter.

During February, March, and April, it will be business as usual with our teaching segment spent learning or relearning dances presented by Andi Kapplin and our request segment spent "just doing" dances requested by attendees.

Of course we will have a couple of carloads of folks headed for the FFDC workshop and then in mid-April, we'll be celebrating World Dance Day with our annual party scheduled this year for April 16th. Mark your calendars and come join us - Sarasota ROCKS !



Sanna & Mars Longden from Chicago; photo by Varda Ruskin



Susan Bowers; photo by Varda Ruskin



Jill Lubiner; photo by Varda Ruskin



Dolly Chernus; photo by Varda Ruskin



Jean-Ellen Trapani; photo by Varda Ruskin

THE VILLAGES FOLK DANCERS BY SARAH JANE ZIMMERMAN

The Villages club has been in existence for one year now; we just had our first anniversary. We have about 20 dancers, some of whom folk danced and still dance in other states, and some of whom have never folk danced before. We've been learning mainly Balkan dances (since that's what I, as the leader, know best) but we have two members who are Israeli and Scottish dancers and we plan to incorporate more of those dances this year. Our dancers love the dances, but I need to challenge them to learn the names of the dances so they can request them.

Many thanks to Bobby from the Orlando group for giving me a flash drive of Orlando's music at the last Presidents' Day camp. I don't think we could have kept the group going without it (once I figured out how to download it). And thanks to a really great video site for folk dances, I've been able to refresh my memory for many of the dances we've taught. We are teaching mainly

beginning dances but everyone is catching on more quickly and it's a lot of fun to see the growth and the enthusiasm.

We performed three Greek dances (Syrto, Cretan Miserlou, and Hasapiko) during a Greek festival at St. Marks Church in Belleview, FL Jan 24-26. We danced at 1:45 on Sunday, January 26. The festival is always a lot of fun and there's good food and drink, too!

I will have some pictures for future newsletters. If you want to folk dance with us at The Villages, we meet on Wed. at 3:00. Please call me at 760-793-2720 a day or so in advance so I can get a guest pass for you and give you directions to the correct recreation center, of the thirty or so recreation centers in the Villages.

We have a couple of people coming to the Presidents' Day camp, so we'll see you all there!



DELAND DOINGS BY RUTH ANN FAY

We had a good group in DeLand on December 3rd for Kelly's Birthday week. The attached picture shows Jean Wald, Kelly Fagan, Myriam Lemay, Pat Henderson, Bobby Q, and me. Karen Hecht-

man was there taking the photo, and we also had a new dancer who had to leave early.



DeLand group celebrating Kelly Fagan's birthday



MANIA FROM ALBANIA: AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM GOLD BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

Terry: Jim, I understand the October, 2013 tour you led to Albania was the first folk dance tour done in that country. How was it?

Jim: It was a great trip! Of the 24 people on this trip, 18 had been on other tours of mine (in fact, one said this was her seventh tour!), so the trip was sort of a fun reunion!

Since this was my first trip to Albania, I approached it with low-to-no expectations. In this fine state of mind, the events that took place on our Albanian tour far surpassed anything I had expected. From our flight on Turkish airlines, to spending our final Lek (Albanian currency) on amazing costumes, we were continuously pleased with our adventures on this new journey. Lee Otterholt traveled with us as our folk dance specialist. We danced with Lee and local dancers and teachers everywhere we went. In fact, every night we met a different Albanian dance group that both performed and taught us their dances. I don't know who was more excited – Lee or the groups! We were all in heaven! The hotels, service, food, people, weather and dances were all were amazingly good!

Terry: I imagine the group enjoyed your easy, laid-back leadership style and the calming effect it has on anxious travelers.

Jim: Yes, ours was a wonderful group to lead. And with all the exciting events, daily rides through dramatic mountains, old towns, wild rivers, seaside towns, and more, the entire trip ran very smoothly. Our Albanian guide, Kliti Zeka was wonderful. He was responsible, caring, knowledgeable, with a sense of humor, history, local politics, and more. Our travelers also loved our friendly bus driver, Kristo. An excellent driver, he kept us safe on those curvy,



mountainous, and often scary roads. In Saranda, on the Albanian coast, after the polyphonic singing group, Ensemble Zeri I Bilbilit te Sarandes performed for us and we got up to dance, Kristo with his joyful smile, joined us dancing an unmatched Pogonishte! We managed to see everything, do everything, dance everything, eat everything – what can I say? This was a GREAT trip!

Terry: Tell me more about the dancing, since this interview is for the Florida Folk Dancer. Did you dance, see performances or take lessons from any Albanian teachers or groups?

Jim: Yes, we had wonderful dance occasions. I have the contact information for the seven groups we met, and will be glad to share it with anyone who is interested. Some of the dance occasions are captured on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8OSyZhUqPHZO4BMXepMkkU2YKJxUWdN>.

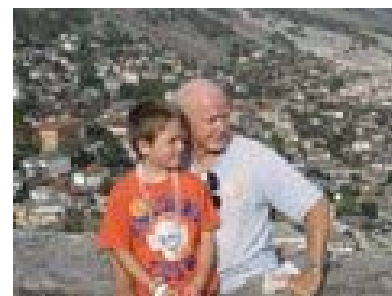


Albanian Lute player; photo by Lee Otterholt

Terry: Can you give me a quick summary of the whole trip?

Jim: It's difficult to make 2 weeks a short interview! We started with a tour of Durres (where we landed), then drove to the 7th century BC archaeological site of Apollonia, the second largest Greek colony in Albania. We drove along the coast of Vlora Bay and the spectacular Albanian Riviera looking down at the Ionian Sea. We continued through the seven villages of the Himara region and then visited Ali Pasha's castle where we danced (Bora Ozkuk's) Ali Pasha on the roof! After an overnight at the lovely beach town of Saranda, we departed by ferry for three days on the Ionian island of Corfu! Upon returning to Alba-

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Lee Otterholt and his son Sebastian; photo by Lee Otterholt

MANIA FROM ALBANIA: AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM GOLD (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 8)

nia, we visited the 7th century BC city of Butrinti, Berat, one of the most fascinating Albanian towns. Leaving the southern Tosk area of Albania, we traveled north to the Gegh area of Shkodra, and then to Albania's capital city of Tirana for an exciting dance and tour finale.

Terry: Did you encounter any problems?

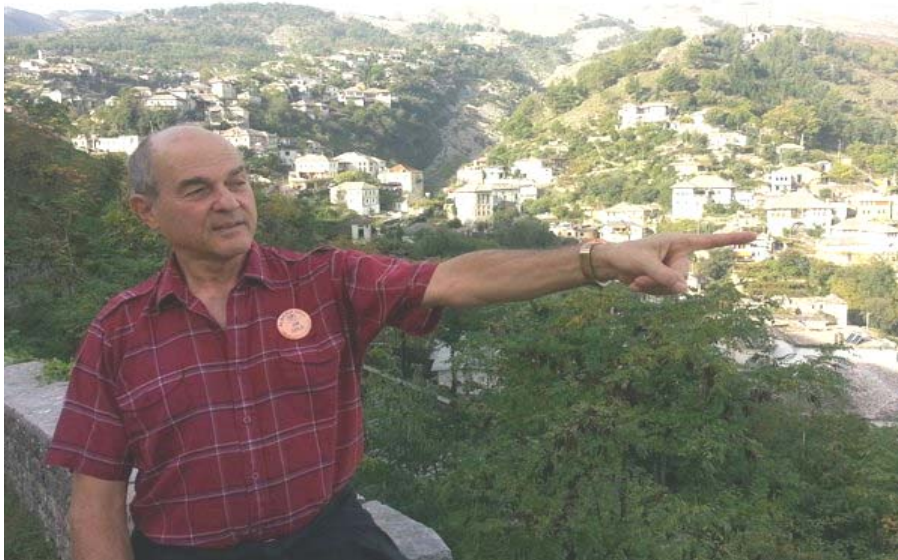
Jim: no, the only sad part of the trip was that it had to end! I'm sure there will be another Albanian trip! Watch this space... as I say the magical word – Mirupafshim – Goodbye!

Terry: Thanks Jim – it sounds wonderful. I'll see you on another trip!

[Editor's Note: Jim has scheduled another Albanian trip for 2015.]



Lee Otterholt, Greek dance teacher in Corfu. and Jim Gold; photo by Jeff Eisen



Jim Gold in Albania; photo by Jim Gold

EVENTS

February 14-17, FFDC Presidents Weekend (A Balkan Veselie)

Sponsored by: Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

Place: Holiday Inn Main Gate East, 5711 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, FL

Information: <http://folkdance.org/>, Jack Seltzer at seltzerj1@gmail.com or 352-359-2903**February 21-23, Melbourne Greek Festival**

Sponsored by: St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 5965 N. Wickham Road

Information: <http://www.saint-katherine.org/info%20festival.html> or 321-254-1045**February 21-23, Lecanto Greek Festival**

Sponsored by: Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 4705 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy

Information: www.stmichaelgoc.org/festival.html or 352-527-0766**February 21-23, Winter Haven Greek Festival**

Sponsored by: St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 1030 Bradbury Road

Information: 863-299-4532

February 22, International Festival

Sponsored by: Florida Institute of Technology

Place: Panther Plaza, Florida Institute of Technology

Information: www.fit.edu/iss/international-fest.php**February 28-March 2: Ft. Myers Greek Festival**

Sponsored by: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 8210 Cypress Lake Drive

Information: www.greekfestfortmyers.com/, officeagoc@gmail.com or (239) 481-2099**February 28-March 2, St. Petersburg Greek Festival**

Sponsored by: St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 3600 76th St. N, St. Petersburg, FL

Information: <http://www.ststefanos.org/Super-Greek-Festival/st-stefanos-annual-super-greek-festival.html> or (727) 345-8235**March 1-8, Duquesne University Tamburitzans** Florida performances

Sponsored by: Duquesne University

Places: Sarasota (March 1); Tamarac (March 2); Palm Beach Gardens (March 3); Delray Beach (March 3); Avon Park (March 4); Tarpon Springs (March 6); Palm Beach Gardens (March 7); Lake City (March 8)

Information: http://www.duq.edu/Documents/tamburitzans/_pdf/schedule.pdf**March 6-7, Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA**

Place: Lowndes County Conference Center

Information: www.GAinternationalfolkfair.org, serenahuang@gainternationalfolkfair.org or (229) 506-1973**March 13-16, NFO Annual Conference** (and **March 14-16, San Antonio Folk Dance Festival**)

Sponsored by: National Folk Organization

Place: San Antonio, TX

Information: <http://www.nfo-usa.org/Conference2014.htm>, <http://safdf.org/index.html> or info@safdf.org**March 21-22, Spring Fling with Ron Wallace**

Sponsored by: Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers

Place: Cocoa Beach Recreation Center

Information: jkutzner@earthlink.net or 321-255-2756

Cost: \$40

*Look for more
event, tour and
cruise notices on
the calendar of
the FFDC
website
www.folkdance.org*

EVENTS (CONTINUED)

March 29-30, **Israeli Dance Workshop** with Dany Benshalom and Ruthy Slann

Sponsored by: Orlando Israeli Dancers

Place: Jewish Community Center, 851 N. Maitland Avenue

Information: dmeitin@cfl.rr.com or 407-257-9147

April 12, **Spring Fling**

Sponsored by: FFDC and OIFDC

Place: Geneva Community Center, 161 First Street, Geneva (near Orlando)

Information: henderp@bellsouth.net or 407-275-6247

April 15-23, **Shen Yun Chinese Dance Performances**

Places: West Palm Beach, April 15-16; Miami, April 18-20; Sarasota April 22-23

Information: <http://tickets.shenyun.com/>

May 10, **Tea Dance** (1-4 pm) and **Mayfair Ball** (7-10pm)

Place: Saint Cloud Community Center, 3101 17th Street Saint Cloud, FL

Information: <http://dancefl.us/ecd/StCloudECD.php>

May 23-25, **Florida Folk Festival**

Sponsored by: Florida State Parks

Place: Stephen Foster State Park, 11016 Lillian Saunders Drive, White Springs

Information: www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest or 877-635-3655

June 14-21, **Scandia Camp Mendocino**

Place: Mendocino Woodlands, CA

Information: www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org or roo@scandiacamp.org

September 12-14, **Mountain Playshop** with Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Place: YMCA Blue Ridge, 84 Blue Ridge Circle, Black Mountain, NC

Information: watch for information at www.mountainplayshop.org

FOLK DANCE TOURS

For **Tours and Cruises with Yves Moreau**, see www.folkdancecruise.com or contact info@bourquemoreau.com or 450-659-9271. The remaining choice for 2014 is a New Zealand/Australia cruise in November.

For **Dance on the Water Folk Tours**, see <http://folkdanceonthewater.org/> or contact David and Marija Hillis at folkdanceon-thewater@gmail.com or 510-459-0092. Choices include the Adriatic Coast including Croatia and Slovenia in June and July, and Madrid, Moorish Spain, and Portugal in October.

For **Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisisdis**, see <http://www.moisisdis-dance.gr/en/> or contact moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com

For the **Tour of Romania with Sonia and Cristian** in July, see www.soniacristian.net or contact Sonia at sonia_dion@hotmail.com.

For **Jim Gold Folk Tours**, see <http://www.jimgold.com/folkTours.htm> or contact Jim Gold at jimgold@jimgold.com or 201-836-0362. Choices for 2014 include: Israel in March, Armenia in May, Poland in June, Norway in June, Greece and its islands in June and July, Ireland in July and August, Hungary in July and August, French Canada in September and Balkan Splendor and Dubrovnik extension in October. Choices so far for 2015 include Albania in May and Bulgaria and the big Koprivshitsa Festival in August.

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!)

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

Florida Folk Dancer is published six times a year by the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc., a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to further knowledge, performance, and recreational enjoyment of International Folk Dance.

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Submissions: Send event notices for the calendar or the newsletter to Pat Henderson. Send all other newsletter submissions to the Editor.

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