



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

Special Points of Interest:

- February 12—FFDC—See President's Notes for:
 - Some key deadlines regarding registration
 - Olga Princi Scholarship information
- April 2—Save the Date for Spring Fling

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY PAT HENDERSON



We are just over three months away from our wonderful long weekend getaway otherwise known as "camp". Now that we will be returning to the same hotel, Renaissance Orlando Airport, it should be easier on us. If you have already registered, thank you. If you haven't, please do so now at www.folkdance.org. You can register online and pay with Pay Pal or a credit card online. You can also print out the form online and mail it in with your check. One item not on the form - (made by Terry during Fall Fling) is that women can order V-neck or scoop neck t-shirts. The logo for this year is the dancing world (see flyer) and the T-shirts will be a light color (likely white) and have more than one color ink to do justice to the world. Contact our treasurer Ruth Ann Fay at: treasurer@folkdance.org if you have already ordered and want to change styles. Remember that January 5 is the last day to reserve a room at the hotel and February 5 is the last day for ordering meals.

The Olga Princi Scholarship Committee chaired by Kelly Fagan has given the FFDC Board their report. The following are the procedures for the Olga Princi Scholarship from the report of the committee and were approved by the FFDC Board.

OLGA PRINCI SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURE

Mission:

To commemorate the life of Olga Princi, beloved friend of Julius Horvath, by providing scholarship assistance to

folk dancers, new and old, to attend Florida Folk Dance Camp.

Application

- 1) An open letter from the applicant to The Florida Folk Dance Council to include a brief background, why he/she wishes to attend camp, and how he/she hopes to use the experience.
- 2) If possible, a letter supporting applicant from sponsoring folk dancer or group leader.
- 3) The letters can be sent by email or regular mail to the President of the Florida Folk Dance Council. (President's Note: These letters need to be sent to me at president@folkdance.org by December 15, 2015. We have a little over \$2,000 in the Olga Princi Scholarship fund and the Board will determine the amount to award based on the requests received.)

Selection

Applications will be reviewed and recipients of scholarship monies will be selected by the entire Board of Florida Folk Dance Council. Full and partial scholarships are at the discretion of the Board. Sincere interest, enthusiasm, willingness to work, and financial need are important considerations.

Notification

The Board shall notify all applicants of

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

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their scholarship status, as soon as decisions are made. The Board, or its designee, shall assist recipient(s) in camp registration process.

Duties of Scholarship Recipients

1. To attend FFDC Camp, enjoy, and learn new folk dances
2. To assist with duties as needed during FFDC Camp (e.g. Registration, snack set-up and tear down, errands, miscellaneous clean-up, Olga Princi Silent Auction, etc.)

3. To write an article for Florida Folkdancer following camp

Fund Raising

- ◆ Annual Olga Princi Silent Auction
- ◆ Olga Princi live auction
- ◆ Other fund raising initiatives
- ◆ Private donations solicited during registration

EDITOR'S NOTES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

I was hoping to have more reports on trips in this issue, but don't want to wait forever...but enjoy what is here, read carefully about "camp", follow the saga of Tiffany Tear-drop and learn something from Andy.



TAMBURITZA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (TAA) ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANZA BY VICKI KULIFAY

Nothing like being on business travel and discovering a TAA event happening in the same location. I was excited to see that TAA's 2015 Extravaganza was being held in Chicago immediately following a work conference.

For those not familiar with the Extravaganza, it is a 4-day event of Tamburitza music, dancing, and singing. Generally held in September or October, different cities across the US host it. This year, 18 bands from around the country participated (from St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Chicago, San Francisco, Phoenix, Cleveland, Buffalo...). There were concerts, breakout rooms for different bands, ad hoc playing in the lobby, dancing with Zeljko Jergen, food, and just general Tamburitzan

immersion. I only managed to stay up until 2 am or so for the two nights I was there—others lasted much longer into the morning.

Special to me was connecting with some of my folk dance friends of Hawaii (who come every year to the Extravaganza) and some of my junior tammy friends from when I was growing up in Pittsburgh.

I especially enjoyed the music of Orkestar Zabava, who specialize in Tamburitza dance music. I was in the McKeesport Junior Tammies with one of the members (Frank Bozicevic). This was the group that kept me up until 2 am dancing....



BALKAN JOURNEY BY GARY BERKE



(Editor's Note: edited by Editor w/Gary's permission)

I went to Bulgaria with Martha Forsyth and along with the usual two-weeks of touring, we did two festivals, Koprivshitsa, of course, but first we went to a smaller one in Dobrovo. The festival was called small because there was only one stage, and there were many vendors selling their wares, especially to Americans. The setting was beautiful, garlanded by trees. The local groups sang mostly in unison and were clearly there to show their local traditions not the least of which were their amazing costumes. The name of the town from which each group hailed was put up when they sang, and there was some simple dancing. Although it was a small festival, groups came from as far away as Turkey, Slovakia and Montenegro. These groups were much more show oriented. I saw the Turks who were really from Cyprus, their sign said. Immediately one could tell they were different by the colors of their costumes if the differences in the music weren't enough. The most outstanding feature of the Turks were their radiant, smiling faces. They were having a good time, and their dances were more showy.

The high point of the show was the Montenegrans, who did dances from all over Serbia and Montenegro. Like the Turks, they were young; most of the Bulgarians were at least middle aged. Only about 20% were young. We do not do many Montenegrans dances, and their style was opposite to any Balkan style I had ever seen. Most of the Balkan dances are close to the ground. The Montenegrans were all about flight. After a particularly Croatian style dance with lots of shaking, one of my fellow tourists made a comment that in some parts of Croatia, they test the endurance of their women in their dances. The same could be said of every dance done by the Montenegrans. The women were just as flight oriented as the men. The only negative thing that could be said about the performance was that they didn't sing too well at times, but they always danced with

such spirit, freedom and joy that at one point I had to say that one dance came from the Israeli part of Montenegro.

Bulgarian harmony is an exaltation of the interval of the second. It sounds better in their music than any other. Alas, only a couple of non-unison groups performed, but one group of women intermixed two duets, each with many seconds, and I had to shout out a big YES at the end of their performance.

Koprivshitsa was a huge festival with seven or eight stages spread out strategically over a half mile of hills to avoid sound interference between stages. Unfortunately, I got sick and only attended the first day until 2PM. I lucked upon the opening ceremonies, which were inspiring and highlighted the amazing local variety in Bulgarian culture, one region at a time. After that, it was hard to choose where to go. The paper guide was in Bulgarian. The dance shows were in the minority, at least when I was there, and we were able to get comfortable on the ground in the shade for a great show, it was often followed by a comedy show which we could not understand.

In the evening, there were at least 300 people dancing in the town square, but our 8PM dinner time came right in the middle of it, so we missed most of it. It was wonderful to see how the often dour Bulgarians could be so happy when they danced.

We ate breakfast with three lovely people from other tours. I met Pat from the panhandle and Tim Sneed from Augusta in the square. Pat P. was on Jim Gold's tour and Tim was on Nadia's tour, I think, if anyone knows who she is.

After the tour, I stayed two weeks on my own and visited Serbia, Macedonia, Greece and Istanbul, but I was pretty exhausted from touring, so I mostly soaked in the lifestyle.

(Editor's Note: the rest was very interesting – have a personal conversation with Gary! Other dancers went to Bulgaria, Poland and Romania as well – Julieta, Pat P, Kelley, Ann, Barry Sieger – ask them at camp)

RADOST — A NEW VISION? BY LYNDA FAGAN



Radost dance club has been dancing every Thursday for an hour since the beginning of September. We have 2 new dancers for a total of 6. One of the newbies is a freshman who brought her dues and registration card even before dancing with us the first time!

This year we're tackling dances at a quicker pace, learning at least 2 new dances each week. (Though most dances are actually review for the veterans.) Up to now, my entire repertoire has been camp dances from the last few years. Thanks to YouTube, I'm also trying to learn some Florida Folkdance favorites: Rustemul, Valle Pogonishte, Takanata, and T'Filati.

Five of my dancers will graduate this year. Part of my challenge with building Radost dance club at Vanguard High School is that the type of students who are interested in joining (usually IB) are already involved in several other clubs and sports. They simply don't have enough time to "do it all." For example, there were 3 more freshmen that joined us in the beginning this year, but swim team was a conflict.

I am brainstorming other ideas for expanding International Folk Dance to

young people. My ultimate goal is to have a costumed group that can perform at venues in Marion County: downtown square, Ocala Civic Theatre, Fine Arts Festival of Ocala, the Villages. I am currently exploring the local homeschooling community as a possibility. My experience with homeschool families in Iowa is that the parents are usually eager to find ways to incorporate music, art, culture, and physical activity into their childrens' curriculum. This might also be a way to get even younger dance students involved, so that they can dance with a group for more than just 4 years, as in my high school group.

At least two of my dancers are planning to attend Florida Folk Dance Camp. After experiencing Ed Austin as an instructor at Kentucky Dance Institute this summer, I learned that he is especially gifted at working with young people. So much fun! If you know of any young people who might be interested in folk dancing, this is a great year to invite them to camp! (*Editor's Note: we should all do this!*)

TAMPA TRIVIA BY TERRY ABRAHAMS



We actually had a new person come dance with us a couple of times – Susan Taylor - the head of the dance department at the University of Tampa! She's got a really busy schedule, but hopes to be back with us in 2016, and may bring a few students. I'm not holding my breath, but wouldn't it be nice. We're so envious of all of the rest of you that just have new people fall into your groups...Other than that, Judith attended one of her Scan camps, one

of her kids celebrated his 60th birthday (OMG); Andi returned from Canada (thank heavens); Andy still testing our skills with new dances he remembers from when he was up north; I helped out in one of the Orlando performances, went to the contra Fall Ball, a fencing tournament (no I didn't win), and Richmond (see article). And there you have it.

GRAPEVNER GREETINGS BY JILL LUBINER



As summer fades into the rear view mirror, the Grapeviners are looking back on wonderful travel experiences that occurred over the “slower season”. Ranita and Galen continued their quest to hike the Appalachian Trail. For the past twenty five years they have been hiking small segments of the AT. This summer they covered sections in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. The favorite part of each trip is getting to swim in pristine swimming holes. Faith went on a safari in South Africa and stayed on a private animal reserve. There was big excitement one evening at the reserve when an uninvited lion roamed the grounds and all the guests had to remain in their rooms. The lion departed the following morning, no late checkout requested. I traveled to China with my family—a true eye opening

cultural experience! The favorite parts of our trip were the visits to smaller cities—

Lijiang and Shangri-La. Each city had exquisite natural and historic sites.

Andi has returned from her summer location and we have just started our second session of new dance instruction. So far we are all enjoying the music and steps of Hagan Habiladi and Ciganskoto. Andi has also been including a review of an older dance as part of our “after instruction” dance set. As a new dancer among much more experienced dancers I appreciate all of the instruction I can get!

We are looking forward to seeing and dancing with more returning Grapeviners as the season progresses.

BBB BY DEBBIE LAZAROVIC AND ROBIN BRIGAERTS



Hello Fellow Florida Dancers. Just want to let you know that we have a great group of dancers in Delray Beach, BBB, Balkan By the Beach. It started almost one year ago.

We had a strong group in the winter. As you know South Florida has many snowbirds, so we were a small group during the summer. Robin has been doing an awesome job of keeping the group alive. She provides a delightful playlist every week. The music is wonderful as are the dances she selects. Janet Higgs co-runs the group in season. I have been in Germany for the last 4 weeks. I look forward to my return in 2 weeks when I will get to dance with this lovely group. Kudos to Robin and Janet!

(Editor's Note: Robin didn't know Debbie was going to give this nice kudos) Our small, dedicated group of dancers has kept Balkan by the Beach going through the spring and summer and into the fall. We're very excited to be welcoming back the snowbirds, includ-

ing our co-leader Janet Higgs, who has been to workshops all over the world since the last time we saw her. We can't wait to see what new dances they will bring with them to Florida! We are still meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st Street, Delray Beach. Our cost is still a low \$5 for Delray Beach residents and \$6 for others. Please note our new meeting time: Fridays from 10:45 to 1:15. In this new time slot, we have the building to ourselves and no longer have to worry about disturbing the chess club with our loud music. We also let out in time to have lunch in the many interesting restaurants in our area. If you are in South Florida on a Friday, we hope you will stop by and dance with us. Please contact either Robin or Janet for more information: Robin at rbrigaerts@gmail.com or Janet at 317-797-3435 or janetlee1003@comcast.net.

ORLANDO OFFERINGS BY PAT HENDERSON



Our group resumed dancing in September after a hiatus in July and August. We danced in three locations the first three weeks as we were flooded at the dance studio behind our house. August was 8 inches more than normal and it kept coming in September. Fortunately, we are back to normal now as October rolled in. On September 9, we had a party to celebrate Manuel Mora-Valls 70th birthday. Then Bobby hit the same milestone on October 5 and the group had a party for him at dance on October 7. Dancers brought food, wine and cards and we had a lot of fun both evenings. We have two new members this season: Audrey James who used to dance with the local German group, and Kathy Holleman, a dancer from North Carolina who lives in Palm Bay now. It is always wonderful to welcome new people to the group.

Since we did not dance in the summer, I did not submit an article for the previous issue. Therefore, I have a lot of travel news from our members. I will start with Kelly Fagan. She and Deane Jordan spent 10 days in the North Carolina mountains visiting with her parents. When she came home, she was in the play Godspell that ran two weekends in September. In October, she, Pat P., Julieta, and Diane stayed in a yurt in Torreya State Park up in the panhandle. Two of our members went to Europe in July and August. First,

Barry Sieger was on the Jim Gold trip to Poland which included a side trip to Berlin. Then he went on his own to Israel and was impressed with the country, especially Jerusalem.



Deltona Festival

Gary Berke went on a folk dance tour to Bulgaria for the Koprivshitsa Festival and another one. Afterward, he went on his own to Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, and then Istanbul. Phyllis Dammer and her extended family enjoyed a cruise of the British Isles and then she and her husband, Ed, took the repositioning cruise home by way of Portugal. Nicki Wise visited her son in Cincinnati and Juanita Schockey went to her high school reunion in Wheeling, WV. Rich and Linda Nicoli spent the summer up north with family and took a trip to Germany which was a river cruise and a biking trip. Ann Rob-

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Albin Polasek Museum Performers

ORLANDO OFFERINGS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 6)

inson spent time in Penland, NC for a glass jewelry workshop in October. Jan Lathi traveled to Austin Texas and toured the LBJ Library and Lady Bird Johnson Gardens. Finally, Bobby and I took a trip to the Pittsburgh area to see my relatives and then to Binghamton, NY to visit friends. We went by Gettysburg National Battlefield Park between locations. We especially enjoyed the Watkins Glen Gorge on the Finger Lakes in NY. A lot of us attended an Oktoberfest here.

Usually our group has very few performances but we performed twice in the fall. The first one was on September 19 for the first annual Deltona International Festival. It turned out that we were the only group doing any European dances. We did a wide variety of dances including Tzadik Katamar, Above the Rainbow, Hora Veche, Somogy Karikazo and Svatba. We had ten of us performing, including Terry who came from Tampa for the show.

Then on October 25, we performed at the Albin Polasek Museum for their Czech Independence Day. Albin Polasek was a Czech sculptor so that is the reason for the celebration. We did mainly Czech dances including Louky which many of us just learned a few days before! Thank you to Rick and Linda Nicoli for being our coaches and teaching us the Czech Mazurka. They danced Vrtielka Czardas as a single couple dance and looked fabulous. The audience really appreciated us



Manuel and Palmira



Kelly and Dean at Greek Festival

and made us feel welcome. We offered Doublebska Polka as an audience participation dance at the end and many of them joined us. (see photos from both shows)

And finally, we were saddened to hear the news that we lost a former member, Wally Washington, on October 18. See full article on page 9.



Halloween in Orlando!

THE VIVACIOUS VILLAGERS (THE VILLAGES) BY SARA JANE ZIMMERMAN



The Villages International Folk Dance club was on hiatus from July until the middle of September. I was in California during those months, readying some property for rental. It was a very smoky summer since the big fires in Sequoia were only 26 miles as the crow flies from our property in Big Pine, California. (Bet you never heard of it!) I'm delighted to be back in Florida and don't plan to go back to California for a long time. We resumed our dancing September 16, with about 8 people regulars, we're back up to our usual 20-25. We've received invitations to come perform at a couple of assisted living centers here and our first performance will be November 11 at the Mission Oaks Assisted Living and Memory

Center. We're doing mostly the same dances every meeting until the performance to help those relatively new to folk dancing (that would be most everyone) feel comfortable and confident. Everyone is very enthusiastic about doing it and if it goes well it may be a monthly thing. We meet every Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:30 and if anyone ever wants to come visit The Villages we'd love to have you. We almost had Pat and Bob by this summer but we were on hiatus! If anyone feels like coming to The Villages and dancing, please give me a call at (760)793-2720. I can give you directions to the recreation center we meet in (there are lots of different rec. centers here) and get you a guest I.D. card. Meanwhile, OPA to everyone!



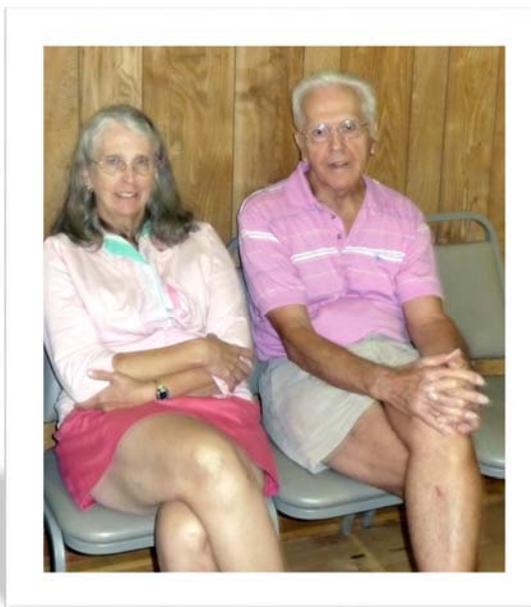
A salute to our folkdancing veterans...Bobby - Air Force, Fred - Navy, Deane - Army. We thank you for your service!

Wally Washington—The Last Dance

The Orlando group lost another member on October 18, when Wally Washington joined his beloved Joan. The actual cause of death was probably kidney failure but those who knew them would say he died of a broken heart. A funeral was held in Deland on October 23 and Ruth Ann Fay hosted a reception at her home afterwards. His ashes will be combined with Joan's and they will be laid to rest in the national cemetery in Michigan.

Here is a brief biography of Wally. He was born on February 25, 1926 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. He served in the U.S. Navy. He then went to college and worked as an electrical engineer for the railroad. He married and had two daughters. One daughter died in a fire when she was 40 and the other lives in Michigan in the house Wally grew up in. The surviving daughter has six children with three still living at home. After his divorce, Wally met Joan at folk dancing and they finished their working life in Michigan. They built a home with their own hands in Yale, Michigan outside of Detroit. Later, when he retired from the railroad and she retired early from a telephone

company, they bought a second home in Deland, Florida and became our group's only snowbirds. They immediately joined as many dance groups as they could find around Central Florida. They came to Orlando to dance most weeks during the six months they lived in Florida. They also square danced in Daytona and started an international group in Deland and that group is still meeting twice a month. In their earlier years in Florida, they also attended the Orlando Israeli group and went down to Melbourne international on Fridays. They had a full life traveling on mystery trips where one would plan a surprise trip away for a night or two for the other one. They also liked to take cruises and one was to Hawaii from California after they rode the train across the country to get there. Of course, they spent two months out of the year preparing for the trips between Florida and Michigan. Bobby and I traveled to their Michigan home in 2000 and went on several other trips in Florida with them. The last one was to Cape Coral in February 2014. It is always sad when we lose a member of our folk dance family.



RICHMOND FOLK FESTIVAL BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

I didn't go out of the country, but I did go to Richmond to see my travel buddy, Jodi, who I no longer travel with, due to lack of funds, and we timed it for the Richmond Folk Festival. But first on Thursday, I danced with the Richmond Israeli group, and did a bunch of dances we don't do in Tampa, so that was fun. Then Friday night (after a day of heavy shopping) we went to the Opera – Orpheus in the Underworld, a very very witty light operetta which one couldn't help but enjoy. Then Saturday on to the Festival. It was free, but it was suggested we "make a drop in the bucket", (carried around by volunteers), which apparently works very well. Decisions were tough, there were seven stages going on at a time, so for the most part Jodi and I picked "International" groups (big surprise). I could go on and on, but quickly, we heard an Iranian father/son duo playing Iranian bagpipe and drums, who were

unbelievable; a tap dancer from Brazil (combined with Afro and fusion, dancing to the beat of a female bassist; Oneida Indians; a Bolivian dancers parade – we missed the show (now I don't have to go to Bolivia – spectacular) Cambodian dancers; Georgian singers and dancers; a pre-eminent cantor (the most unforgettable I've ever heard) singing with a Klezmer group. On the "local" side, there was the Sun-Ra Arkestra, another jazz band, and a famous DJ Grandmaster. On both days there was a "jam" session – one of all the percussionists that had performed, and one - all reeds. All fabulous! I just may have to go back again next year!



Terry with Bolivian Dancer

KARMIEL USA BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

Every Labor Day weekend, there is an Israeli dance camp, the last few years on "the Mountain" in North Carolina. This year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of this camp, which has always been led by Dany Ben Shalom and Ruthy Slann, but the last two years Dany has been unable to get the kind of Visa the TSA wants him to have. So this year Ruthy had three other teachers chosen by Ruthy, and the four of them did an excellent job of teaching us a few oldies, and a lot of newies; It's very nice not to have a choreographer that just touts his own stuff. With Dany's advice (he's still "with us") they (Joseph, Melissa, and Sara), taught the year's latest and greatest, and it was quite a challenge! Also Mary from Atlanta taught a Turkish dance, which some of us remember. Bobby (Quibideaux) usually does the vide-
oing, and this year invented a rolling

chair from which to film, and the DVD is absolutely amazing! Ruthy gave as a gift to each of us, a CD with the "best" dances from the 20 years (one or two for each year) and I compiled all the songs I could find that we've made up over the years and sang parts of them with Donna as well as a new one for this year. I also managed to find all of my Karmiel USA buttons, which became part of the terrific decorations done by Liv-
ia. A great cake finished us off! Those of you who do Israeli dancing should consider this weekend for next year.



MY 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! BY VICKI KULIFAY



Coming up to my 60th birthday, Bernie, my husband, asked me what I wanted to do special. So thinking about the travel locations on my bucket list, I came up with a “two-fer!” I have always dreamed of going on an ocean liner (not a cruise ship) so wanted to check that box. And being a slight bit of a WWII buff, wanted to explore a little of that. So after a lot of internet searches and soul-searching, we built the two-part vacation – a cruise on the Queen Victoria (of course!) followed by a trip to the Normandy battlefields.



The Queen – Not wanting to take chances on delayed flights, we arrived at Southampton, England (port of departure) a day early (note to anyone traveling to England – nonstop flight from Tampa to Gatwick Airport – fabulous!). We had a wonderful day looking all around the historic parts of Southampton, eating fish & chips, and marveling at some of the beautiful gardens. We also learned that day that our departure from the port the next day was going to be something pretty special. All three Queens (the Queen Victoria, the Queen Mary, and the Queen Elizabeth) would be departing Southampton together.

This was only the 4th time in history this had happened. The hotel warned us it would mean a very busy morning as thousands of passengers (not just Cunard, but all the other cruise ships) would all be hustling to their ships.

The next morning, we were in the lobby in plenty of time, our taxi arrived

and delivered us just down to the road to the check-in. Cunard knows what they are doing, and in no time at all, we were sitting on the balcony of our cabin, drinking champagne, and looking at one of Britain’s Royal bands giving us a salute send-off from the docks.

As the Queen Victoria left the dock, we started darting from place to place around the ship to get views of the other Queens.

There was a particular schedule and pattern – each of the Queens taking turns leading, and sometimes all three in a row with a different ship in the middle. There was champagne flowing, British flags waving, helicopters flying overhead, and people lining the shores waving and clapping. It took about 2 hours for the ships to clear the harbor, where each split off in its own direction. It all added something special to the trip we hadn’t expected to experience.

There was something extra special about this particular Queen Victoria cruise. It happened to be the Lusitania Remembrance Cruise. It was 100 years ago that the Lusitania was sunk by a German U-Boat – May 7, 1915. For those of you interested in the Lusitania, I highly recommend reading *Dead Wake*, by Erik Larson. Bernie and I both read it before the cruise (ok, maybe not a good idea to read about a ship sinking before going on a cruise), but it is fascinating reading.

We were very lucky in that a granddaughter of one of the Lusitania’s survivors (Avis Dolphin) was at our dinner table. Hearing the personal stories added so much to our trip. There were also storyboards and exhibitions around the ship of china, silver, and



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60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! (CONTINUED)

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other items highlighting Lusitania and the sinking.

Our first port of call was Guernsey, a charming British island off the coast of France. We climbed many steps up into the neighborhoods, saw where Victor Hugo supposedly lived while he penned "Les Misérables," toured the WWII occupation museum, which was housed in a cave-like area dug by the Nazis to hold fuel tanks for subs (never finished), and walked the grounds of the Castle Cornet, the 800 year old fort built on the rocks overlooking the harbor. Unfortunately, though we were on Guernsey, we didn't see any Guernsey cows. But when we got back on ship, we discovered the English pub restaurant – where we were able to get some excellent fish & chips.

Our next port, the following day, was La Havre, France. We did a cheese-tasting tour, which was less than spectacular (both the cheese and the tour). We did get to see a bit (50 minutes) of Deauville, a beautiful seaside resort town where the wealthy of Paris escape to (out of our price range).

After a full day at sea sail, it was May 7th. I do confess that at 3 am that morning, the Queen Victoria did stop over the spot where the Lusitania lay on the ocean floor. There were special ceremonies for Lusitania family members. We didn't wake up.....

At a more reasonable time in the morning (7 am), we docked at Cobh (pronounced "cove"), Ireland. From here, we took a bus tour to Blarney Castle – and loved it. The grounds were gorgeous (springtime in Ireland – can't beat it), the stone walls of the castle were astounding, and the poison garden was intriguing. And yes, we kissed the Stone! All in all, a wonderful morning.

Once we got back to the dock, it was short walk into Cobh. The maritime history related to this small town is incredible. In 1912, Queenstown (as it was then known) was the last stop of

the Titanic before starting its ill-favored passage across the Atlantic. In 1915, it was the town where rescue boats came from to pick up Lusitania survivors, and where many of the dead were brought. This day (May 7, 2015) was a great holiday with many ceremonies commemorating the Lusitania. Bernie and I decided to skip some of ceremonies and instead trek to the cemetery where unidentified dead from the Lusitania were buried. It was a 1.9 km very hilly walk (up, down, up, down). Then we had to walk back to town. But the historical cemetery was worth it. After that walk, we felt we deserved an order of fish & chips, which we ate on the sidewalk leaning against the wall for St Colman's Cathedral. The Cathedral was beautiful inside – majestic as only all 1800's gothic cathedrals can be. We finished touring Cobh by walking more of its historic streets and stopping in small shops and museums.

The next day found us at our last port of call – Dublin, Ireland. And it rained, followed by rain, and more rain. We ventured out to the shopping district for some souvenirs, then to the Dublin Castle, where much of Ireland's government is housed today. A mix of fortress, prison, and modern buildings, there isn't much to see, but still very worth it for a perspective on Ireland's development as their own country. It was still raining when we passed through the Temple Bar area of Dublin, famous for its bars and restaurants. So we felt the urge to get some fish & chips and listen to some Irish music. The rain finally did us in and we headed back to the ship.



The beautiful Blarney Castle in Ireland.

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60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 12)

Our next day at sea was my birthday. A massage, a facial, a birthday card from Cunard, and a rose from Bernie, and waiters singing me Happy Birthday – a very fine day. And the next morning we would be back in the Port of Southampton.

But before I get to phase two of our trip, a bit about the on-board life on the Queen Victoria. She is elegant, and we really dressed for dinner every night. Two of the nights Bernie even rented a tuxedo to wear. Our tablemates were from Britain and South Africa. Afternoon high tea, ballroom dance lessons, jigsaw puzzles, live show performances, nightclub dancing, breakfast buffets, reading on our balcony with the ocean slipping by, sipping late night cocktails with shipmates in the piano bar...all pretty special.

am departure from the upper deck, then went and explore the ship. These ferries are like cruise ships – 3 restaurants, movie theaters, bars, entertainment. We found a cozy bar and were enjoying what was supposed to be a six-hour trip, when the PA announced that due to a dock strike issue in La Havre, we had to land in Cherbourg instead. So now the trip was eight



Fish & Chips with Mushy Peas!



Queen Victoria Waiters Singing Happy Birthday!

Normandy, France - But phase two of the trip was about to begin. So off we headed to Portsmouth to catch the ferry to France. Portsmouth is a very historic maritime port, specifically militarily. The historic dockyards hold the HMS Warrior 1860, the HMS Victory from the Battle of Trafalgar, and the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's 16th century warship. A protective seawall extends for miles (we walked several of them) – which on this lovely spring day, was full of people enjoying ice cream, walking dogs, taking in the incredible view, and eating fish & chips.

Early the next morning we took a taxi to the ferry port and boarded the Brittany Ferry "Mont St Michel" for our trip from Portsmouth to La Havre, France. We had booked a cabin as I don't travel well on bumpy waters and wanted a place to lay down if needed. It came in handy as we dropped our luggage in our tiny cabin (two bunks, tiny desk, and full bathroom)! We watched our 8

hours. We decided to take a nap.

We were awakened from the nap with the announcement that the dock strikers would not let us into Cherbourg, and we were now heading for Roscoff. So our 8-hour trip was now 12 hours. Heavily discounted food and refunded fares didn't quite make one feel better, but it wasn't like we could jump ship. Once we docked in Roscoff we had a 3-hour bus trip to LaHavre, then a 45-minute taxi ride to Bayeux. Finally reached our hotel at 1 am, exhausted from not doing much the previous 24 hours.

But the next three days in France made up for it all. After a wonderful breakfast in the hotel, we set out to explore Bayeux. The British Cemetery, the Museum of the Battle of Normandy, the Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux (where the 290 foot long tapestry tells the story leading up to the Battle of Hastings), and the magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral (built around the same time as the one in Paris), all made for an incredible day. Bayeux

(Continued on page 14)

60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 13)

had very little war damage done to it, so I could do on for ages about the small stone streets and beautiful buildings. And the food – the patisseries, the boulangeries, the mussels, the apples, the wine...

We woke the next morning to the sound of hustle and bustle below our window – the weekly farmers market was setting up shop in the street. Flowers galore, homemade sausages, wonderful stinky cheeses, and fish so fresh it was still flopping. I could only gaze as obviously none could come back home with us (sigh). But we still had the best part of trip ahead of us. Renting a car, we started the trek to the Normandy Beaches. The day was



Standing in a bomb crater at Pointe du Hoc.

so heartfelt and beautiful and uplifting. The American Cemetery and Memorial was our first stop. We then walked down to the beach and could only imagine with awe the invasion itself. We wandered further down the beach and climbed back up via another route to visit other memorials, bunkers, and museums. Back on the road, we would stop at other museums and memorials on our way to Point du Hoc. There you can stand in the craters left by the bombs and scramble over and through the remains of the German bunkers. All awe-inspiring.

Leaving Point du Hoc, we spotted a small mention in a guidebook about the

Maisy Battery. Turned out to be a very interesting side trip about a German battery which was completely buried over and more or less wiped out of the history books for 63 years. It is too long and detailed to go into here, but if you are interested, there is a book, *The Cover Up At Omaha Beach*, written by Gary Stern.

Our next day travels took us to Utah Beach.

I would say the Utah Beach Museum was the best of all of them. And no visit to this part of France would be complete with stopping in Ste-Mère-Église, where the invasion paratrooper with his chute still hang from the church steeple (immortalized by Red Buttons in the movie *The Longest Day*). We also managed to get to Arromanches, where the last remains of the artificial ports (Mulberry Harbours) used in the invasion were installed.

Friday morning was our departure back to Le Havre for a ferry ride returning to Portsmouth. We were assured all strike issues were over and it was smooth sailing – which thankfully it was. From Portsmouth to Gatwick, a night in the hotel, then the uneventful flight back to Tampa. The only bad part – turns out I'm allergic to France. By the time I got home I was under a full-scale attack of sneezing, coughing, and hacking yuk. Took weeks for it to go away. But I still consider it a small price to pay for seeing Normandy.



The magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral in Bayeux



The Farmers Market being setup outside our window at Hotel Churchill in Bayeux.

AS THE OPANCI HOP STEP STEP BY TIFFANY TEARDROP



(Editor's Note: Kathie Aagaard was cleaning out a drawer and found this! This continuing story was written in 1988 and the installments continued monthly in the newsletter. No one knew who wrote it, but it was lots of fun making guesses. Some of us finally found out, but I'm not telling now either. For those who remember and want to smile, and for those who missed it first time around, I'm retyping it (no computers in those days) and here is the third chapter.)

(When at last we left our Opaville friends, our heroine, Ethel Ann, had laid a TERRIBLE CURSE on gorgeous Alex Arkan and had stormed out of the dance hall. We now find her in the swamp cooling off, so to speak. What she doesn't know is that Alex has followed her and is now wading through the swamp himself.)

"Ethel Ann! Ethel Ann! Please let me explain."

"What's to explain?" she asked. "You show up here in the Neverblades with the ABSOLUTELY MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN! What's to explain?"

:"Ethel Ann, she's my wombmate.

She's spent the last five years in the Yukon and just got in to town last night. I couldn't just leave her at home alone so I brought her with me."

Ethel Ann, surprised at Alex's apparent speech impediment answered. "Sure! What kind of roommate spends five years in the Yukon?!"

"NO, not roommate...WOMBMATE. She's my twin sister, Annabelle."

"Oh." Said Ethel Ann sheepishly.

"Ethel Ann" said Alex, "Will you marry me?"

"Huh?"

"You are the most fascinating, complex, disarming woman I have ever met. Let's leave right now. We can drive down to Port Snodhill, catch a plane to Lost Wages and be married by this evening. Then we can honeymoon in Bulgaria. I think there's even a Festival going on there."

"Alex, you may be the absolutely most gorgeous hunk I've ever seen, but you're also the CRAZIEST! It's four o'clock in the morning! And what about your sister? Are you going to just leave her here? And besides, Miriam Mayim is expecting to ride back to Opaville with me. We can't just run off like this! We have responsibilities!"

"We'll leave notes for Annabelle and Miriam. You can leave Miriam the keys to your car, and she and Annabelle can ride home together. I'm sure they'll get along together just fine. Come on Ethel

Ann. If we run off together now, it will give folks something to talk about, and Norbert will have some juicy tidbits for the newsletter."

"I don't know what's wrong with me," said Ethel Ann, "But O.K., I'll

marry you.

"Good. Now let's get out of here! This place gives new meaning to the phrase, 'Up to your ass in alligators.'"

Twenty-two hours later, in a hotel room in Lost Wages, Ethel Ann Arbuckle-Arkan was sleeping contentedly. Alex quietly sat up on the edge of the bed and gingerly picked up the phone and dialed a number. A VOICE at the other end answered. It was a nondescript voice...somehow masculine, yet feminine at the same time.

(Continued on page 16)

SAVE THE DATE!

April 2, 2016

**Spring Fling
and**

**Orlando 45th Anniversary
Celebration**

FFDC and OIFDC

**Whirl and Twirl
Square Dance Hall**

**6949 Venture Circle,
Orlando, FL**



AS THE OPANCI HOP STEP STEP (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 15)

"I'm here." Whispered Alex hoping Ethel Ann would not awaken. He needn't have worried. Ethel Ann was snoring like a buzz saw.

"It's about time," said the VOICE. "What took you so long?"

"I stopped on the way to get married," answered Alex.

"YOU WHAT?! GOOD GOD, MAN, ARE YOU CRAZY?" The voice was furious.

"Calm down," whispered Alex. "You'd like her. She has spunk. Besides I thought it would be USEFUL to have a wife."

"TERRIFIC," said the VOICE with disgust. "Are you going to tell her about us?"

"I'd rather not," answered Alex. "She might not take it too well."

"I'm not taking this too well," said the VOICE. "Listen, I must see you right away."

"I can come right now. Ethel Ann is sleeping. Do you have PROTECTION?"

"Yes, but you should bring your own PROTECTION. I want you to be SAFE."

They hung up. Alex dressed and pulled something out of the drawer of the nightstand. He cautiously left the room. Two hours later, he was back and in bed next to Ethel Ann, who was still snoring.

Well, fellow folk dancers, WHAT is going on here? Who is the VOICE? Why doesn't Alex want to tell Ethel Ann? WHAT doesn't Alex want to tell Ethel Ann? What kind of PROTECTION do Alex and the VOICE have? Could they possibly be... but we mustn't even think that. Oh Poor Ethel Ann, what will become of her? And what about our friends from Opaville? What can they be thinking/saying about Ethel Ann and Alex? Is anyone wrestling an alligator? Until next time, keep your belts buckled, and remember... If you must eat onions before folkdancing, be sure and keep a good supply of breath mints.

I remain yours faithfully,

Tiffany Teardrop

MISSING SYLLABI URLS BY ANDY POLLOCK

Those who read carefully will remember that after Spring Fling I said here are two syllabi of what was taught. Unfortunately the attachments got mislaid, so here are the URLs for the syllabi.

The Patrunina one has a link to a YouTube video of Greek dancers doing the same version to the same music that we used. Although Jaap's original notes to Topcjijska Reka (the one Andi taught) are available on the Stockton site, they specify squats as opposed to a small jump back which would make it

a more physical dance than the way we do it (they also add a small variation). The other notes that are available online will not really work for Patrunino (Not the fault of the two distinguished researchers who wrote them in my opinion. They may have been watching a village with a bad leader or one that was using a tune with the perceived downbeat in a different place in the music.)



<http://jabc.info/syll/Patrunino.pdf>

<http://jabc.info/syll/Topcjijska%20Reka%20from%20Bulgaria.pdf>

EVENTS

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

November 26—**Texas Folk Dance Camp**; Texas International Folk Dancers, Bruceville, TX

November 26—**Southern California Skandia Festival**; Julian, CA

November 27—**64th Annual Kolo Festival**; San Francisco, CA

December 25—**Machol Miami**; Ft. Lauderdale, FL

December 26—**Winter Dance Week**; Brasstown, NC

December 26—**Christmas Country Dance School**; Berea, KY

January 15—**Orange Blossom Ball**; S. Daytona, FL

January 22—**Ocala Greek Festival**; Bellville, FL

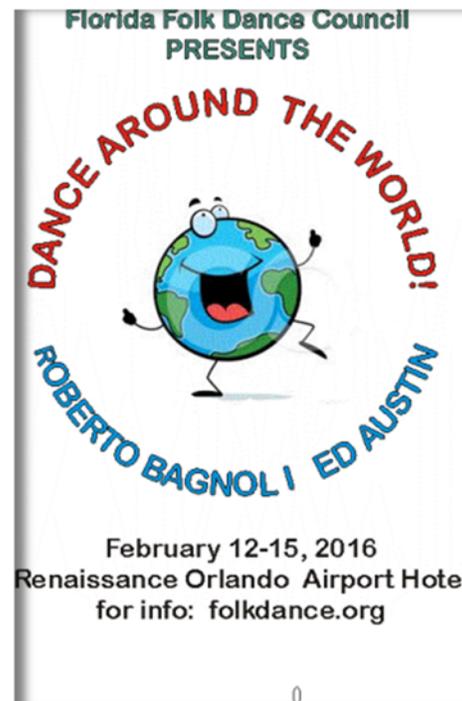
January 22—**Florida Snow Ball**; Gulfport, FL

January 29—**Folk Ball Festival**

February 12—**FFDC Presidents Weekend Folk Dance Workshop**; Orlando, FL

COME CRUISE WITH US

Next April 15-29, several Florida folk dancers are joining Yves and France Moreau along with Steve and Susan Kotansky for the repositioning Celebrity cruise. The ship leaves Ft. Lauderdale on April 15, stops in the Azores, Lisbon, and three ports in Spain--Cadiz, Malaga, and Alicante before ending in Barcelona. A few dancers are staying in Barcelona a few days to sight see. Join the fun if there is still space available. The price is very reasonable for the cruise--\$1000-\$1300 per person for inside cabin to balcony for two weeks. Then Yves requires \$400 for the dancing on board.



FOLK DANCE TOURS

For **Tours and Cruises with Yves Moreau**, see www.folkdancecruise.com or contact info@bourquemoreau.com or 450-659-9271.

For **Dance on the Water Folk Tours**, see <http://folkdanceonthewater.org/> or contact David and Marija Hillis at folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com or 510-459-0092.

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

For **Tours with Sonia and Cristian**, see http://www.soniacristian.net/workshop_schedule.ws 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.

For **Tours with Zeljko Jergen**, contact Fusae Senzaki Carroll at fusaec@aol.com or 916-798-4675

For folk dance tours organized by **Goran Alachki (a premier accordion player)**, see www.alachki-tour.com or contact David Golber, dgolber@aol.com, 781-396-2323. A tour to Macedonia is upcoming in May 2016.

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

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