

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2016

Special Points of Interest:

- *CAMP!! CAMP!! CAMP!!*
- *ARE YOU REGISTERED?*
- *DID YOU ORDER A T-SHIRT?*
- *ARE YOU READY TO HAVE FUN?*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY PAT HENDERSON

It is a little over a month away from our weekend as I write this. Very close to the deadline for signing up to get a room at the hotel (we have 10 rooms available in our block). If you decided that you want to come but did not reserve a room yet, contact Ruth Ann, our treasurer so see if we have had any cancellations or if the hotel will allow us to add names to our rooming list. It may not be too late!

This year, we have a separate room for our snacks. It may be the same room that was our overflow dining room last year. Having the separate room will help us to manage the snacks better as they can stay in that room. The groups which are going to organize the snacks are: Balkan by the Beach on Friday, Orlando on Saturday, and Gainesville on Sunday. Since we always have too much, we will coordinate between the groups on what is brought so that we do not overdo it again! Every year we say that we will cut back so this year we will. FYI, since the room is our hospitality room, alcoholic beverages will be allowed. We will also ask for a water station in there.

Here are a few last minute tips and reminders:

1. Bring any folk costumes to wear to the nightly parties. Since the theme is Around the World, any costume is appropriate this year. Remember that Roberto is Italian so if anyone has an Italian costume, it would be especially welcomed. Some clubs

wear their club t-shirts on Saturday.

2. This year we will continue to have a dance program for each party. Andy Pollock has been compiling the dances requested at registration along with our traditional favorites. See the website: <http://www.folkdance.org> for a copy of it with the schedule. (You could download it if you wish.) One of our members, John Ward, has produced a collection of possible YouTube videos on the website for you to review a specific version of some of the dances.
3. Those arriving at the Orlando Airport (MCO) need to call the hotel at 407-240-1000 for their shuttle connection (indicate terminal A or B to hotel staff).
4. A syllabus will be available for you online only. It should be on the website by Friday, February 5th.
5. Donate ethnic items for the silent auction for Olga Princi Scholarship fund or bring items for giveaway or to sell directly to other dancers.
6. Check-in time is 3 pm and the hotel has a great heated pool and hot tub.

See you in Orlando!

P.S. Camp t-shirts with the camp logo are still available for ordering! Just let me know.



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EDITOR'S NOTES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

These notes are from someone's 1963 minutes, but for the most part are appropriate and should be thought about before camp (and other times also). I have no idea where they came from -- I found them in a folder that included Tiffany Teardrop. I'm assuming they are from Florida. I've seen others like them, but I like these.



1. *It may seem silly to write the obvious, but phrases such as "Please," "Thank you," "Pardon me," "May I help you," "Welcome to our group" are important.*
2. *Let the teacher do the teaching...be a helpful dancer, but don't coach your partner or person next to you while the teacher is trying to explain the dance. People can't listen to two voices at the same time... let only the teacher do the teaching and coaching.*
3. *Join the dance at the appropriate place. In a contra line, go to the foot of a line; do not break in along the line or at the head. In a line dance, go to the end of the line. Don't assume the leader's spot after it is formed or break into a line once it is moving. If you must leave a circle dance before it is over, join the two hands of your neighbors before you go so that you don't leave a sudden gap. If you are leading a line, make sure you know the dance, and more important, how it is the way the group has been taught.*
4. *If you are sitting out a dance, be quiet during the teaching. You may be disturbing those who are learning the dance. Once the music goes on, you can resume your chatting.*
5. *Just because you know the dance, it doesn't mean you should sit it out while others are learning it. Get up on the floor, and learn it again. You will be doing two things...helping new people to learn more rapidly and there is always some new point you maybe learning to make you a better dancer. And most important, don't stay out of the teaching process and then get on the floor and do the dance in a different way from that just taught by the teacher.*
6. *Wear appropriate folk dance clothes. Costumes are not necessary, but full skirts or dresses and low-heeled shoes are best for women. For men, short sleeved sport shirts and leather soled shoes are good. Tee-shirts for men are not acceptable in many groups. Slacks for women are definitely taboo (Editor's Note: boy, have things changed).*
7. *Make certain that both your clothes and you are clean and neat, and do use a deodorant. That beatnik look just doesn't go in folk dance circles that matter.*
8. *Help the new dancers, make the newcomers feel at home, and encourage their learning. Don't dance with the same person or the same group all the time. Avoid cliques...share your dancing with many people. It's a good feeling.*

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9. *When the teacher announces that a dance is only for those who know it, don't get up on the floor if you don't know it. During unfamiliar circle dances, you spoil the fun of others if you join the circle not knowing the dance. On the other hand, if you are doubtful, but do know the dance, it is wise to dance in an outer ring or get behind the others to refresh your memory.*
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10. *Cooperate when couples or individuals are needed to fill in sets.*
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11. *Keep hands off the records and record player. Such equipment represents a big financial investment and mishandling either can cause serious damage. Most lenders will be happy to give you record numbers or tell you about their equipment...just don't touch! (Editor's Note: You can update this yourself.)*
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12. *Don't offer gratuitous advice to the teacher or leader during the process of teaching. Suggestions ARE appreciated at a quiet moment during free periods or after the session. Don't tell a leader he is teaching dance wrong in the middle of his teaching...you may want to say afterwards that you learned the dance in a different manner, and you'd like to compare notes about it...after all you could be the wrong one.*
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13. *When visiting other folk dance groups, check to see if they are doing a different version from the one you know. Then, "when in Rome" do as the Romans do, or else sit it out. Don't assume that the group is doing the dance wrong...maybe they are, but don't you go out and do something different from everyone else on the floor.*
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14. *When attending special dances of ethnic or nationality groups, dress and act appropriately for the occasion. These are usually dress-up affairs and folk dance clothes are not in order. Guests at such functions should be prepared to spend money for food, drink and possible contributions. The musicians will have a prepared program for the regulars and folk dancers should not offer advice as to what to play just for them.*
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15. *Be a responsive and enthusiastic member of the group. Show your appreciation. Thank your partner and your neighbors after a dance. Say good night at the end and don't forget to the same for the teacher.*
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16. *Because the general public still tends to think of folk dancing as either "sissy" stuff or "kooky," every effort must be made by both dancers and leaders to conduct themselves in a healthy, normal, well-behaved manner in folk dance situations. (Editor's Note: you mean we aren't kooky?)*
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GRAPEVINEER GREETINGS BY JILL LUBINER



January brings the start of the New Year as well as the return of familiar faces from cold places! The Grapeviners welcome back dancers from Massachusetts, Colorado, Maryland, and Illinois. Our Wednesday evening sessions are also welcoming visiting dancers courtesy of our newly redesigned and updated website. Big thanks go to Sergio for all of his continued website work!

We will be honoring our dear friend Marie Millett on January 13 with an evening of Marie's favorite dances as well as some older dances that were popular during Marie's stewardship of the Grapeviners. We will also be having a silent auction for some of her folk related items with the proceeds going into the Grapeviners' treasury for future programming.

Our annual Snowball party will be held on January 27 with extended "all request" dancing and a break for snacks

and beverages.

New dances, new faces, and of course, some new resolutions for 2016! Grapeviners plan to: "go on and plug along", "do more traveling", "be more patient" and "less sensitive", "meditate every day," "go flying more" and of course, "eat more dark chocolate." Chocolate sure sounds good to me! Best wishes for a happy and a healthy new year!!

P.S. Our website:

ifdsarasota.webs.com --Sergio has done a fabulous job with our website. There are links with videos to many of the dances we do. It is a great way to check out dances for review or to try to find some that you like, but can't remember the steps, or just to enjoy watching the dances and listening to the music. You may be surprised to find one that you love, but can't remember the name!!!!

BALKAN BY THE BEACH RINGS IN 2016 WITH STYLE BY ROBIN BRIGAERTS



It wasn't quite New Year's Eve, so we called it an Almost New Year's Eve Party. In addition to our Balkan by the Beach dancers, we invited people from the entire South Florida international folk dance community. More than fifty people joined in the festivities, including several who had just arrived from the New York area.

We asked everyone to bring a dish or drink to share and we wound up with a whole counter full of delicacies, from shrimp to nuts. My husband, Paul Brigaerts, who used to cater San Francisco's Kolo Festival in the 1960s, took charge of arranging the feast.

We encouraged ethnic dress, and many people came in costume.

While we ate, Evelyn Halper and Doris Wolman entertained us with a perfor-

mance of the Scandinavian dance Ox-en Tanz. I wish I could include Frank and Carole Rubin's video to give you a taste of the hilarious performance, but this still photo will have to do. Sorry we



(Continued on page 5)

BALKAN BY THE BEACH RINGS IN 2016 WITH STYLE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 4)

As the evening drew to a close, we dimmed the lights and did our traditional closing dance, Makedonsko Devojche, to candle light.



don't have one showing all the funny faces Evelyn was making at Doris.

It wasn't just a New Year's Eve party. It was also a celebration of Balkan by the Beach's first anniversary. So we ate cake.

Then the dancing began. Co-leader Janet Higgs led us in the participatory dance De Strigat. Unfortunately the photo doesn't capture either Janet or her gorgeous ethnic costume. Let's hope she wears it to the upcoming President's Day Weekend!



Finally, it was time to toast the New Year. With a flute of



Ninety-nine-year-old Clarice Adler had a yen to do one of her favorite dances. Fortunately, she wasn't the only one in the mood. Her daughter Marilyn Papayanis, Florida dance teacher Ira Weisburd, and fellow folk dancers Evelyn Halper and Adrienne Hornstein decided to join in the fun.



"champagne" (sparkling apple cider) in hand, we all sang Auld Lang Syne before heading home.

International folk dancing is alive and well in South Florida and off to a good start in 2016!



Dear Terry,

Here is an addition to the article that you received from Robin Brigaerts for the FFDC Newsletter.

The link below is a video of the dance performance my friend Evelyn Halper and I gave at the Almost New Year's Eve Folk Dance party earlier this week. Robin included a still shot in the article she sent you.

The dance is called the Oxen Tanz. Versions are found in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. I first discovered it back in the 1950's.

The story is as follows:

Two people from the same town meet while they are visiting another city. Though they are acquainted, they really don't like each other very much.

You should find it amusing. Doris

Click on the link: It will open in a short while

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cjejyjqjeg0m9b5/Oxentanz.mp4?dl=0>

TAMPA TRIVIA BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

We get our jollies by going to other people's groups. First, Vicki found the Croatian Club in Clearwater that was having a Thanksgiving party. Judith, Ernesto, Andy, and Vicki and I all went and were accepted immediately. They didn't "folk" dance (their DJ only did popular Croatian stuff), but Vicki took a CD with her and though he couldn't play it, he figured out he had a few other things that might work, so we danced to those, and from this got a NEW dancer! She is Croatian, and knows the melodies and a few of the steps, and we are working hard to keep her!

I had a great time in Orlando at their holiday party, and in St. Pete at the Israeli Marathon on December 2. The big Contra Snowball is coming and a few of us will do that and then look forward to our FFDC Camp!

Getting excited to see you all.



Judith, Ernesto, Andy, Vicki, and Terry at Croatian Dinner.

Kay Demo found this—check it out...

<https://www.facebook.com/fesztnytva/videos/473579582815804/>

ORLANDO OFFERINGS BY PAT HENDERSON



Our club ended the year with a great holiday party on December 16 with 37 people attending. We started with a covered dish dinner before dancing. It was great that we were having an endless heat wave as we used two tables set up outside on the balcony. We welcomed Annelies Mostert and her husband, Bert, from the Netherlands who will be in Florida for three months. Ellen Spielvogel and her husband, Lester, from Honolulu also attended. Julieta Brambila and Diane Fanara from Gainesville came for the party along with Terry Abrahams from Tampa. During dance, we have to do Jingle Bells, a trio mixer of the season! The group gave Bobby and me a set of dishes and the name of the pattern is Folk Dance! They also gave us gift certificates to two restaurants. We have the greatest folk dance group!

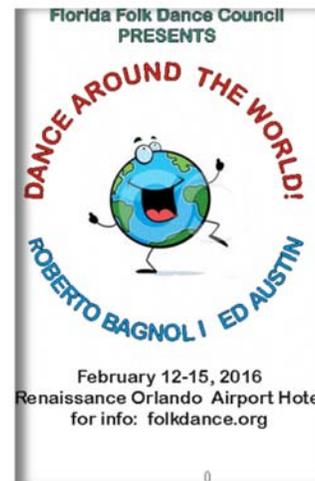
We continued to dance the last two Wednesdays of December since the holidays did not interfere. Ann Brand, from Ottawa, Canada is another snowbird who has been dancing with us recently.

Traveling since the last issue were Kelly Fagan who visited Torreya State Park in the panhandle and a state park in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia with Julieta and others in November and January. She also spend over a week for her birthday in Denver, in the mountains up from Boulder, and at Crested Butte Ski Resort. She actually spend her birthday night with my daughter in the mountains. Phyllis Dammer and her husband, Ed, spent the holidays with her family in Ohio.

We hope that everyone has a healthy and happy new year!

Sadly...

Jan Arcari's mother passed away on Christmas Eve morning. That is why we have not seen her lately. I know that she will return to dancing as soon as she can. Her mom had been suffering from Alzheimer's for 8 years.



DELAND DOINGS BY KELLY FAGAN



DeLand International Folk Dance is alive and well. Join us on any 1st and 3rd Tuesday. We start with 5:30 pm supper (venue varies) then 7-9 pm dance at Rosewood Center. Contact Ruthann or Kelly to confirm. We're looking forward to seeing all at CAMP!



ISRAELI MARATHON IN ST. PETE BY TERRY ABRAHAMS



David Levine put on a Marathon on January 2, (which we found out was his 50th birthday) and it was a great celebration. He was joined by his wife,

few who had left when we took it. We did requests all night, but for one dance taught that's brand new, but supposedly great---me – not so much. Andi's got one she's gonna teach that you ALL will love – another Greek (music, Israeli steps) one. In the meantime, there was also wonderful cheese, crackers, pretzels and cake with drinks – enough to keep us all going. People came from Orlando (Pat, Bobby, Gary), Sarasota (Susan, Varda, Elizabeth, Ranita, Cecilia), Tampa (Andi, Jen, Bill, Suzie and myself). Sara and Joanna (former Floridians) were in from Canada and NC and it was great seeing them. I won't list the St. Pete dancers. Hope he does it again next year!



David Levine (leader of St. Pete Israeli group) getting his Birthday cake.

three kids and parents (who are always there, God bless them) We came at 7:00, some of us left early, some managed to stay until midnight, but all had fun. There are at least 30 in this picture (below) and I think there were a



David's parents, Maury and Marilyn Levine doing Turkish Kiss.



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 fifth chapter.

When we last saw our friends, Ethel Ann and Alex, there was a dark cloud of secrecy hovering over their very young marriage. We now join them on their honeymoon in Bulgaria. Ethel Ann still has no iota of an inkling that there is anything amiss.

"Oh, Alex," said Ethel Ann. I've never been so happy in my entire life! These last two days have been wonderful!"

"I feel the same way, Ethel Ann," replied Alex: "I can't help feeling that marrying you was the best thing that ever happened to me. But still, I feel there's something wrong."

"What do you mean?" asked Ethel Ann. Her face blanched.

"Well, here we are in Bulgaria at folk dance festival." Said Alex with a spark of mischief in his eyes, "and you don't even have a pair of Opanci."

Ethel Ann looked greatly relieved. "OH, Alex, You're such a TEASE!"

"No, seriously, Ethel Ann, I want to get you the best pair of Opanci a folk dancer ever had."

"You don't mean it! Not the kind with..."

"Yes, Ethel Ann, the kind with the CURLY TOE!"

"Oh, Alex, how exciting! Why I'm getting goose pimples just thinking about it!"

"Look" said Alex, "Here's an Opanci Shop. How convenient!"

Ethel Ann and Alex went into the shop and were greeted warmly by the proprietor. He had been making loads of money all day off of crazy American folk dancers who wanted to buy his funny-looking shoes. He never would understand these Americans, but he liked their money. If they wanted to spend it on his Opanci, who was he to argue?

"Good afternoon." Said Alex after consulting his Bulgarian phrase book.

"Good afternoon" answered the Proprietor in English.

"I would like to purchase a pair of Opanci for the lady."

"Of course." Said the proprietor, He brought out several pairs. The first pair Ethel Ann tried on was too large. The

next pair was too small.

Alex aid, "Actually I was looking for something a little DIFFERENT. Do you have a really SPECIAL pair we could see?"

The proprietor looked at Alex cautiously. "Yes, I have a SPECIAL pair that I was saving for a very SPECIAL PERSON. Perhaps your charming lady is the one." The proprietor went into the back of the shop and returned momentarily with another pair of Opanci. It was indeed BEAUTIFUL! And best of all, it had a CURLY TOE! Ethel Ann

(Continued on page 10)

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 9)

tried the pair on, and it fit PERFECTLY!

“These are just what I wanted.” Said Alex, and he paid the proprietor.

Ethel Ann and Alex left the shop and were walking down the street marveling at how fortunate they were to have found such a BEAUTIFUL pair of Opanci, when two men in gray suits and narrow gray ties jumped out of an alley and grabbed Alex! Alex quickly tossed the pair of Opanci to Ethel Ann and shouted, “Run! HURRY! YOU HAVE TO GET AWAY!”

Ethel Ann started running as the men shoved Alex into an old blue car that was waiting for them. She kept running, although she had no idea where she was going. Suddenly another blue car pulled up next to her and a VOICE SHOUTED. QUICK, ETHEL ANN, GET IN!” Ethel Ann jumped in the car and it sped off.

“Now listen carefully,” said the voice. We have to get you out of the country. We’re taking you to a special plane that will take you to New York. From

there you will board a plane to Port Snodhill where you will find your car waiting for you in the airport parking lot. You will find money to pay for the parking in the glove box. Then you will drive back to Opaville and go on with your life.”

Ethel Ann finally caught her breath, looked at the person from whom the voice emanated and said, “What is going on here?!” The voice said, “Well, Alex would be very upset with me for telling you this, but I think you have the right to know...”

Fellow Folk dancers, that’s it for this installment. Ethel Ann has certainly asked a key question. What IS going on here? Who were those men in gray suits and narrow gray ties? Why did they kidnap Alex? Will Ethel Ann make it back to Opaville and get on with her life? Until next time, keep your flies zipped and remember, even if the leader is doing the dance wrong, do it his/her way anyway. It’s not polite to contradance the leader.

I remain yours faithfully, Tiffany Tear-drop.

NOTE FROM YVES MOREAU

Dear Friends: I'm happy to announce that I have just released a new Bulgarian folk music CD called “Georgi Koev - Legend of the Bulgarian Clarinet”. All details available at:

<http://www.bourque-moreau.com/georgi-koev.html>

EVENTS

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

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

January 22—**Ocala Greek Festival**, Greek Orthodox Mission of Greater Ocala, Belleview, FL,

January 22—**Florida Snow Ball**, Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance, Gulfport, FL

January 29—**Folk Ball Festival**, Madison Folk Dance Club, Madison, WI,

February 12—**FFDC Presidents Weekend Folk Dance Workshop**, Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc., Orlando, FL,

February 27—**Duquesne University Tamburitzans Show**, Leesburg, FL,

February 27—**Duquesne University Tamburitzans Show**, Leesburg, FL,

February 28—**Duquesne University Tamburitzans Show**, Leesburg, FL,

March 04—**Duquesne University Tamburitzans Show**, Tarpon Springs, FL,

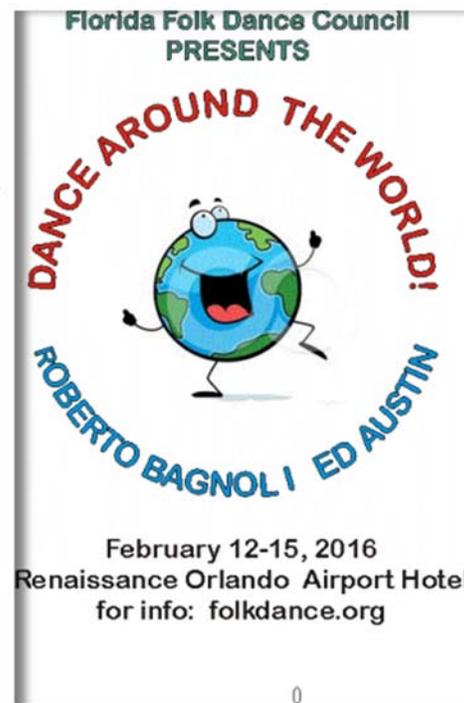
March 05—**Duquesne University Tamburitzans Show**, Tarpon Springs, FL,

March 10—**NFO Annual Conference**, National Folk Organization (NFO), San Jose, CA,

March 18—**San Antonio Folk Dance Festival**, San Antonio, TX

April 02—**Spring Fling / Orlando 45th Anniversary Celebration**, FFDC and OIFDC, Orlando, FL,

April 29—**Lyrids Folk Dance Festival**, Barnaby, BC, Canada



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.moisidis-dance.gr/en/> or contact moisidiskyriakos@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

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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