

# Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

## Special Points of Interest:

- *Sad Losses in our folk dance community—see Obituaries*
- *Fall Fling*

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY PAT HENDERSON



Florida Folk Dance Council lost one of its founding members, David Digby, on July 6 from a reaction to chemotherapy. He had a type of leukemia that was dormant for a number of years until this year. He attended camp in February but did not have his usual energy. He and Dorothy had just sold their house in Atlanta and moved outside the city to Norcross right before camp. The loss is especially hard for me since I have known David since I started dancing in 1973. He was the leader of the Orlando group at that time, a group that he had started in 1971. Around 1985, he moved to Tampa and worked for Honeywell for a few years before he went to Emory to get his doctorate. Even though he lived in Atlanta, he still attended our camp every year and Orlando's anniversary parties every five years. He had to miss this year's celebration since he was just starting the chemo in April. So Terry asked members to send in any remembrances of David for this issue which

we will dedicate to him. It is still hard for me to believe that he is gone but he will never be forgotten.

In my last article about the 2017 camp, I mentioned that we are not going to have the meeting space on Monday to dance and that we would do the review the last session on Sunday. I should have been more specific and said that it is the last teaching session on Sunday. So we will start with a teaching session at 2 pm and Sonia and Cristian will complete their review by 5 pm.

They can set the exact schedule at their own pace. Of course, we are having our usual Sunday night dance party which will run until 11:30 pm so that we can get our items out of the ballroom by midnight. We will be having our snack in the same room which will be a lot better than this year. However, I have to remind everyone to bus their own table. The hotel staff will not come

*(Continued on page 2)*

## EDITOR'S NOTES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS



Sadly, this is not the best of times for Folk dancers. Not only did we lose Juanita Schockey from Orlando in May, but David Digby, former Floridian, Juanita Barry from Gainesville, and Flo Korchin from Sarasota have left us

since our last issue. This issue is dedicated to them - although keep reading - there are other things too!

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

clean up after us which was part of the deal of us getting to have the snack coming from us and not the hotel.

I am excited to announce that the price for camp for next year has been reduced by \$50 for full time registrants and will be \$325. Registration is set to open September 15, so go to [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org) for more information. Again, we are offering a rate for triples in addition to doubles and singles. Basically, the cost of the room is \$100 a night and it includes breakfast for two. If you choose to do a la

carte and stay only two nights, you will save \$25 over the cost of full time. So I am hoping that everyone who usually stays on Sunday will stay on Sunday so that we have enough room nights to get the meeting space at no charge. Registration either full time or a la carte includes membership. However, if you wish mail delivery of the newsletter, that will be \$10.

## DAVID DIGBY—OBITUARY



Born November 11, 1930, David Digby died July 6, 2016 at age 85. He earned his undergraduate degree at Reed College in Oregon after 3 years in the U.S. Army Signal Corp during the Korean War. In 1989 he moved to Atlanta to attend Emory University, receiving his PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology in 1996 at the age of 66. He worked at Clark Atlanta University for 10 years and then taught biology online. When he did retire in his eighties, he spent his time doing genealogy research and writing. He was a member of the Atlanta Writers Club and Genealogy Study Group. He was a member of MENSA, loved photography and traveling. In his college years, David found his love of international folk dance, which spread to English Country dance and contra dancing. He never missed a contra dance unless he was sick or out of town. He did all this dancing in flip flops. Whenever he moved or traveled to a new place, he connected with dancers. While working for Martin-Marietta Aerospace in Orlando for 14 years, as an engineer and computer architect, he started a folk dance group in 1971, which also performed, and still thrives. He was a founding member of the Florida Folk Dance Council. He met his wife, Dorothy, at an English country dance in 1989 and they have been dancing ever since. Also surviving him are his 3 children by his first wife and 8 grandchildren. His family and friends will miss his ability to enjoy life and his unique, interesting and intelligent mind. David donated his body to science at Emory University School of Medicine.

## TRIBUTE TO DAVID DIGBY



*See further comments on  
the FFDC Web site*

**Pat Henderson** – Bobby and I had traveled to Atlanta for David's 80th birthday on November 11, 2010. That night was the first night of a regional contra weekend and there were hundreds of dancers in the building as big as a gymnasium. At some point during the evening, the caller announced David's birthday and his age. One of the young dancers close to me and in a different line than David asked if I knew him. I promptly pointed him out in his flip flop glory and the young dancer could not believe that David was 80!

**Larry Wartell** – The Orlando group started with a "classified advertisement" looking for folk dancers, placed by David in the Martin-Marietta monthly newsletter. My wife and I had done some folk dancing elsewhere, so we responded to the notice; shortly afterwards not quite a dozen of us started meeting at the Unitarian Church on Robinson Avenue in Orlando. David had a remarkable repertoire and memory and flip-flops! That was back in 1971. Our first performance was maybe two years later at the Tupperware Auditorium just south of Orlando for a festival of dance, mostly ballet and modern dance, so we were "different." We did one dance - "Bucimis". Our group still had trouble with the last step sequence, so David cut that out completely and we just repeated the previous sequences one more time.

**Terry Abrahams** – those of us who traveled north for Israeli dance camp always made a point of staying with David and Dorothy in Atlanta on our way up. It was such a pleasure to see his smiling face - always happy, he bragged about his yard, loved his dog, helped Dorothy to serve food, played games. Never a bad moment! We will continue to visit Dorothy – keeping his memory alive.

**Julieta Brambila** – In 2008 I spent time with David and Dorothy in their home in Decatur, near Atlanta. I was returning from Nashville from my second arthroscopic left hip surgery. My friend Toni Albiñana met me in Nashville and drove me back to Gainesville on a rental car, stopping overnight at their house. I am forever thankful for their kindness to me and cherish the vivid memories I have of being with both David and Dorothy. Actually, this overnight stop made it a great trip. It was not the first time I had stayed in their home, since I had previously attended Rang Tang workshops. I treasure kindness and hope I can return many fold to Dorothy the kindness she and David showed to me.



## JUANITA BARRY—OBITUARY



Juanita passed away peacefully on July 16, 2016 surrounded by loving family and friends. She was born in Oakland, CA on November-29, 1938 and was raised in Auburn, CA the oldest of four siblings. She attended San Jose State University and then served as a Lieutenant in the Air Force. After many years in occupational therapy, she became an acupuncturist, working in Miami and Gainesville. Juanita is survived by Jim, her husband of 40 years, two daughters, Marcelina and Reyna Dawn, two step-sons, Kenneth and Raymond, two siblings, and her grandchildren.

According to a reliable source, after being born, Juanita looked around and said to herself 'Oh no, not this stinky old planet again.' Perhaps as a reflection of this, she grew to have little interest in the world of politics, social media or class distinctions. She was never known to engage in double-talk, backstabbing, manipulation, or grudges. What she believed in was being practical and responsible, loving and giving, and always allowing others the space to make their own choices. Indeed, hers was a rich and satisfying life.

Among other things, Juanita has enjoyed traveling, gardening, dancing, sewing, reading, watching movies, exploring the spiritual realm, caring for her pussycats, and anything and everything involving her children and grandchildren. To the casual observer, she may have impressed as a quiet conservative person, but in fact she had a truly adventurous spirit.

In the 12 years since her retirement, she was very active. High on the list was her beloved folk dancing group, the clogging group, and the Tree City Quilters where she was recently elected Vice President. She was an inspiration to the group members and will be sorely missed. She was known as the 'scrap lady' in her quilting circle, creating beautiful works of art and functional quilt pieces which she donated to Shands hospital, Haven Hospice, friends, family, and others who will treasure these pieces forever.

## TRIBUTE TO JUANITA BARRY

**Julieta Brambila** – (On July 17) I just learned Juanita passed away at 10:30 pm last night, surrounded by family. She was cared for by Hospice since Wednesday. I was lucky to visit with her Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Friday night we danced her favorite folk dances and toasted to her life with

**Diane Fanara** – So very good to know that Jim and her step sons were in attendance Friday at Folk Dancing. My friend is now dancing with the stars. Much love Juanita. We will miss you dearly. Peace and love to all.

**Arlene Bargard** – Juanita was a warm, lovely presence at folk dancing. She danced with ease and fluidity. It was always a pleasure to be in her company. A huge loss.

**June Littler** – Juanita and I shared a common malady, we couldn't remember most of the names of the dances, but when the music came on, away she'd go. I don't think she ever sat down for a dance (I did, now and then). Next lifetime we might do better. Hopa, Juanita!

**John Ward** – Juanita was very quiet and unassuming, but one of our more accomplished dancers. She will be missed.



Amore Amaretto. Her husband Jim and step sons Ray and Ken enjoyed watching us dance. Juanita is now dancing in the sky and will never get tired. Juanita is sorely missed.

## FLO GREENFIELD KORCHIN—OBITUARY



Florence Greenfield Korchin passed away peacefully on July 17, 2016 at her home in Sarasota, FL. Flo taught high school science and then physics at Middlesex County College, New Jersey. She authored *Science in the Marketplace*, a high school text book used in high schools across the country. She never stopped learning, studying for her Masters Degree while working full time and raising children, traveling the world, and enthusiastically attending Sarasota's Lifelong Learning Academy for many years.

After retiring, Florence recorded newspaper readings for the visually impaired, actively participated in many volunteer organizations, notably Brandeis Women, and enthusiastically attended Sarasota's theater, opera, art and lecture series. She shared her love of nature with her children and grandchildren and was a member and admirer of Selby Gardens and the Ringling Museum and grounds. She was an energetic member of Temple Emanu-El and Sarasota's Grapevine International Folk Dance, attending until her last days. She also enjoyed golf, tennis, ridge, weaving, cooking, reading and "hanging out" with friends and family.

### TRIBUTE TO FLO GREENFIELD

Flo Korchin was a very dear and wonderful friend, not only of the Grapeviners, but to all who knew her personally. As many of you know, she had a stroke in October 2014 and had been recovering ever since. She had returned to folk dance and seemed to be doing well.

*Sarasota also lost Janet Scheff, a former folk dancer.*

## TAMPA HAPPENING BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

We are so sad about the recent loss of folk dancers, our hearts go out to all who lost family and friends. On the bright side, we DO have a new person! Margaret has been coming long enough now that we're sure she likes us and is picking up folk dancing as quickly as anyone would hope. So even in the summer there are 5 of us! Ernesto has an oxygen machine (?) which makes him more able to dance, and for that we are all grateful.

I'm teaching a beginning Israeli Dance class at a synagogue in Tampa, and our regular Israeli group has started up again. I was in NC over Labor Day

Weekend for Ruthy's Karmiel USA - a wonderful weekend.

Vicki Kulifay just returned from a trip to Poland and Germany. Hopefully we'll get an article from her for the next issue.

This from Charlene Heaton, now of Baton Rouge, former Tampan and camp attendee: "Hi Terry, Several of my friends had to evacuate and are anxious about their homes; no flooding in my neighborhood, thankfully."

And I'm having an 80th birthday party at my home on September 24 to which all folk dancers are invited!



## A WALK IN SCOTLAND BY JOHN DALY

Just got back (literally just got back--24 hours awake) from walking for two weeks in Scotland with my son, John. We attended the Highland Games, met the Chief of our Clan (minor royalty to be sure--his day job is as a real estate broker in Edinburgh), located the site

of the family castle (destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in the English Civil war--MacNabs were on the wrong side, not that it was hard to be on the wrong side of Oliver Cromwell). All in all a great trip.



## A FABULOUS JOURNEY BY KELLY FAGAN

Friends, I wish to invite you to come journey with me to La Mancha. I have truly been blessed beyond measure. This will mark my fifth, and likely final portrayal of the tragic and beautiful Aldonza, transformed by her Don Quixote. Embracing this role which I adore at this juncture in my life and theatrical development has rendered me giddy. I would love to share this beautiful story with you. A story of dreaming, hope, and personal redemption. Gateway Center of the Arts, DeBary, September 16-25, 2016 (a dear friend created this photo collage several years ago).



## ORLANDO OFFERINGS BY PAT HENDERSON



Our group is on hiatus from dancing every Wednesday until the September 7. In the meantime, we are saddened by the death of our founding father, David Digby. Where ever you are David, we hope that you are dancing.

Our group is still coping with the loss of Juanita Schockey in May. Since her funeral was in West Virginia, I co-organized a Celebration of Life for her along with one of the bridge players from Fairways Country Club, where Juanita lived. It was held on the afternoon of August 7 at a clubhouse in Fairways. I introduced the speakers and interjected my own stories about Juanita. Juanita's two daughters, Linda and Diana, were there along with Linda's teenage grandsons, Austin and Ethan. Linda spoke about the family and other special times in Juanita's life. Kelly Fagan sang "Amazing Grace" and "You Are My Sunshine" as we remembered Juanita. The folk dancers performed Lemon Tree, a dance that Juanita choreographed about 20 years ago. Several people shared remembrances and Fred, her widower, spoke at the end. We then had refreshments and danced for about thirty minutes. It was wonderful to be together again and dance. Juanita's daughters and one great grandson joined us for some of the dances.

It is the summer so many people are traveling. Gary Berke is spending the summer in the Adirondacks at his sister's wildlife refuge. Mary Jean Lynn and her husband, Bill Byars, visited family in Washington and Oregon. Caroline Lanker was also on the west coast and visited family in Oregon and attended the Stockton Folk Dance

Camp. Kelly Fagan spend over a week in western North Carolina in the mountains vacationing with her family. Manuel and Palmira Mora-Valls visited with her family in Puerto Rico. I spent a few days in Chicago as the alumnae chapter representative at my sorority's national convention. I flew in early and Roo Lester picked me up and we ran errands together and then had dinner before she took me to my hotel. She teaches so many workshops that I was fortunate to find her at home. If I missed other trips, I will catch up with yours next issue.

One unfortunate event in June saw Nicki Wise take a fall at her aerobics class and break her femur. After a stint in the hospital and some pins, she recovered at home. She hopes to be ready to dance by September.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!



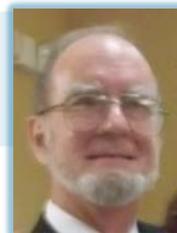
Dancing at Juanita's Memorial.

## GAINESVILLE DANCE NEWS BY JULIETA BRAMBILA



Gainesville Folk Dancers at ArtWalk in downtown Gainesville on Friday 29 May 2015.

## FALL FLING AND DANCE FOR DAVID BY JOHN DALY



The annual Fall Fling, which will include an hour of David's favorite dances, will be held at the Hester Wagner Community House in Melbourne Village, FL on Saturday October 8. We are hoping that Dorothy (David's wife) will be coming from Norcross, GA.

Dancing will begin at 11:00. Please bring a dish to share at the covered dish lunch.

It will end when we are too tired to dance!

John Daly invites everyone to come early and dance with his group on Friday night, and/or stay over for Sunday morning breakfast and dancing.

The address is 6100 Hall Road, Melbourne, FL 32904.

## THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF FAILURE IN LEARNING DANCES BY ANDY POLLOCK



I thought I'd title this article with the real subject matter rather than the type of click-bait title that I used last month. For those who like those type of titles this one would be- "The worst dancer in the room."

Many years ago I was at a dance camp in Pauling, New York at the evening party. Everyone was dancing a popular intermediate level dance. There was one person in the room who evidently didn't know the dance. He looked awful doing it, but a strange thing happened as we came to the top of the tune and the music repeated. In the blink of an eye he went from being the worst looking dancer in the room to the best looking dancer. Most of you know him—his name is Mihai David. One time through --that's all it takes for a really good dancer to grab an intermediate level dance. I suspect if the dance had been four times as hard that the results would have been the same.

Imagine if you went to a workshop and everyone else in the circle learned at the speed Mihai did. Most of us would get very frustrated by our failure to keep up. A very few would probably raise their game and take their dancing to the next level.

Beginners go through something similar to this when they walk into an established group. Obviously too much failure, especially too soon, is something that we want to protect new dancers from.

Many people who have danced for a long time are comfortable with their skill level and don't care too much about increasing it, even if they are still happy to learn new dances. For younger dancers and experienced dancers who are looking to raise their skill level, I offer one tip- **you need to fail every so often.** If you are successful in getting every dance that you try to learn, you need to try some that you can't quite get. There are other things that will help you take your dancing to a new level- such as immersion- a whole weekend or week of learning dances. Most people are aware of that, but I think we often neglect the benefits of partial failure. **It is on that fringe between what we can get and what we can't, that dance that is just a hair too difficult to get at the speed that it is being taught (or to follow from behind) that people often make rapid improvement in their skill level.**

I sometimes teach material that is a little over people's ability to learn or execute. They may not get it, but when I drop the level down to a hard intermediate dance, it becomes very easy. It wasn't inherently easy but the skill that builds up from fighting for the truly advanced dance makes it seem easy.

As usual these are my own thoughts—they may be wrong. Even if they are right they may not work for you.

## EVENTS

*Look for more event information, tour, and cruise notices on the calendar of the FFDC website [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)*

Note that most events are weekend events. The date shown is generally the beginning date of the weekend.

September 4—Enchanted Southwest, Albuquerque, NM

September 14—International Dance Workshop w/Ira Weisburd, 10:30-12:30 am, Delray Beach, Florida \*\*

September 15—Tamburitza Extravaganza, Rosemont, Illinois

September 22—Pourparler, Eugene, Oregon

September 22—World Camp, Rock Hill, New York

September 23—Mountain Playshop, Black Mountain, North Carolina

September 23—Fandango Dance Weekend, Clarkston, Georgia

September 30—SerbFest (St. Petersburg), St. Petersburg, Florida

October 07—Greek Festival, St. Augustine, Florida

October 07-09—Fall Fling, Melbourne Village, Florida

October 07—Serb-Fest 2016 (Orlando), Longwood, Florida

October 07—Oktoberfest International and Dance Weekend, Fairlee, Vermont

October 14—Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance, Sebring, Florida

October 21—Greek Festival, Tallahassee, Florida

October 21—Fall Swedish Music and Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, Wisconsin

October 21—Greek Festival, Lecanto, Florida

October 21—Hess Kramer Workshop Weekend, Northridge, California

October 27—SPIFFS International Folk Fair, St. Petersburg, Florida

November 04—Greek Festival, Maitland, Florida

November 06—Autumn Leaves, Nashville, Tennessee

November 10—Greek Festival, Daytona Beach, Florida

November 11—Greek Festival, Tampa, Florida

November 24—Texas Folk Dance Camp, Bruceville, Texas

\*\*Folk dancing, at beginner and intermediate levels, continues year round at Temple Anshei Shalom in Delray Beach on Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:30 am. Call Ricki Soltan at 561-499-8490 for information.



**FALL FLING/DANCE FOR DAVID**

OCTOBER 8, 2016  
11:00 - ???  
HESTER WAGNER  
COMMUNITY HOUSE  
6100 HALL RD  
MELBOURNE VILLAGE, 32904  
Please bring a covered dish



**TERRY'S 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY!**

4909 N. River Boulevard

Tampa, FL 33603

Saturday, September 24, 2016

8:00 - ????

RSVP:

[tabrahams@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tabrahams@tampabay.rr.com)

Or 813-810-6703 (Susan)



**From the FFDC Editor:****Published in the  
AARP Bulletin – Jan/Feb 2016 – a Reader’s Response**

*“Thank you for the article ‘Fear of Falling; in the December issue of the Bulletin Your Health). I began to experience problems with balance in my early 60s. The solution for me (and my wife) was to take up ball-room dancing! It’s fun, it’s something we can do together, it doesn’t require expensive equipment, and our studio throws a dance party every weekend so we can show off our moves. You don’t have to bring a partner; there are always people to dance with. We’ve made some great friends, and not only have I improved my balance, I’ve increased my strength and flexibility, too. I can heartily recommend dancing as an enjoyable way to improve your fitness.”*

Editor’s Note: let’s substitute in folk dancing – and once again, dancing is good for our health.

**FOLK DANCE TOURS**

**Tours and Cruises with Yves Moreau**, see [www.folkdancecruise.com](http://www.folkdancecruise.com) or contact [info@bourquemoreau.com](mailto:info@bourquemoreau.com) or 450-659-9271.

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

**Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis**, see <http://www.moisidis-dance.gr/en/> or contact [moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com](mailto:moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com).

**Tours with Sonia and Cristian**, see [http://www.soniacristian.net/workshop\\_schedule.ws](http://www.soniacristian.net/workshop_schedule.ws) or contact Sonia at [sonia\\_dion@hotmail.com](mailto:sonia_dion@hotmail.com).

**Jim Gold Folk Tours**, see <http://www.jimgold.com/folkTours.htm> or contact Jim Gold at [jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com) or 201-836-0362. Upcoming—October 15 to the Greek Isles with Lee Otterhold, and November 7 to India.

**Tours with Zeljko Jergen**, contact Fusae Senzaki Carroll at [fusaec@aol.com](mailto:fusaec@aol.com) or 916-798-4675

**Alachki-Tours**, organized by **Goran Alachki (a premier accordion player)**, see [www.alachki-tour.com](http://www.alachki-tour.com) or contact David Golber, [dgolber@aol.com](mailto:dgolber@aol.com), 781-396-2323.

**Dance With Israel**, Contact Naomi Taussig for more info: [naomitaussig@gmail.com](mailto:naomitaussig@gmail.com) or 604-568-4771 or contact ARZA WORLD at 1-888-811-2812

*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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FFDC Website: [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)



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