



President's Message by Gary Berke

Dear Dancers,

I write this letter with a heavy heart. People who dance with me have seen me very little and I have to admit, if my stamina on the dance floor is any indication, I'm in a serious decline. How dramatic that sounds, but it means that I will be unable to continue as president. PLEASE, think about someone who can do this job, including yourself.

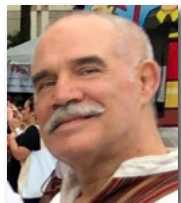
Just a few weeks to camp, and I hope to see you all there. It should be quite exciting, as the venue has proven to be perfect for our needs, and I received almost 100% approval of our accommodations. The management is unchanged and as helpful and no nonsense as ever, and I will remind them to include meal vouchers and parking passes in our welcome packets, the only hitch last year. I will hopefully be able to do the noisy auction, which was a big hit last year. My health has required a refurbishment of my sense of humor.

This is an election year. Carla will also be unavailable to continue as Vice President. If my health improves, I will consider staying on, but... We have someone standing for Treasurer to replace Eva, who deserves our great thanks. That isn't an easy job. And Pat will continue as Secretary unless she decides to do something else, but we need some younger blood. I've spoken to a couple of people, who might step in when they retire, but that's not for a few years. The President and Treasurer's job takes more time than working people have, unless they're very organized. Having an "everything will work out just fine," attitude doesn't hurt either, because if you do your job, it does. Unfortunately, no amount of brainwashing has succeeded in instilling this attitude in me.

We have lost many people this year, and I plan to expand the memorial moment a bit. I hope to sing something and people can walk in front of me with an 8x10 photo of the folk dance friend you want to us remember, ending with placing their photo on our memorial table if you like. Please let either Pat or Vicki know if you plan to remember someone, so we can plan to have room to display their picture in our memorial alcove.

Happy Holidays

Gary



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President's Message

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P.G.

Pat, Carla, and I just spent a very interesting afternoon going through the amazing variety of treasures Terry left for the Auction. There are clothes, masks, costume jewelry and decorative items around a folk theme, and other people may bring stuff as well. Be ready to bid!

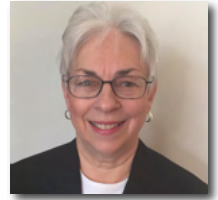


Message From The Editor...

All articles for the March-April 2025 issue must be submitted by Thursday, February 27. Please send articles for insertion to newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org email address. Thank you

Club Reports In

Heard It From the Grapeviners by Carol Spangler



The Grapeviners are happy to announce that Ranita Gomez has agreed to join the Grapeviners' Board. She is one of our most enthusiastic dancers as you can see from the pic below. Her "dancing story" started when she was five years old and attended the Ruth Miltmore Dance Studio in Detroit, taking lessons in tap, ballet, and acrobatics. In Junior High, she discovered Israeli dance at the new JCC in Detroit. In the evenings, she joined about 100 other pre-teens in the gym where there was a teacher and a man playing an accordion. She said, "We must have danced for hours (or so it seemed) and I was hooked." She continued to do Israeli at every opportunity during high school.



It was in college that she first encountered international folk dance. Quite by accident, she discovered that every Saturday night, Detroit's Second Avenue was closed off through the Wayne State University campus and all the international students gathered there to dance. She danced most Saturday nights and took folk dance classes at the University to learn more dances. She continued to dance on and off over the years of marriage, career, and children, but got back into it regularly when she moved to Tampa and found Andi Kapplin's Tuesday night Israeli group. When her mother was at Menorah Manor in St. Pete, she added another Sunday night group. Later, when she moved to Sarasota, she joined another group lead by Andi, which is our Grapeviners.

As you know, I always like to hear favorite folk dance stories. When I asked Ranita, she shared a beautiful

one all the way from Jerusalem. "One of my best dance memories was at a CAJE conference in Jerusalem. After the opening night ceremonies and concerts, all of the participants needed to cross over the Sinatra Plaza at midnight to get back to our dorms. There was a full band and great teacher lying in wait. The opening dance was 'Od Lo Ahavati Di.' Everyone stopped to join in until there were over 200 people dancing in concentric circles under an amazing starry sky. What a special experience!" If you have joined the folk dance circle, it isn't just luck that your life's path leads you to such wonderful experiences and memories.

We also had an interesting addition to our circle last week. Michael Segal from Buffalo attended the Grapeviners dances while visiting his parents, Carol and Erwin. He joined right in knowing most of the dances and catching on quickly to ones he didn't already know. When I asked him about his dance experience, he told me that he was a member of no less than four groups; International, Irish, Israeli, and Scottish. In the pic below, Delores Lustig is catching up on all their news during the break.



OIFDC by Pat Henderson



We had our annual Halloween Party on October 30. International and Halloween costumes were encouraged. A few days later was Fall Fling in Melbourne on November 2 and we took our van full.



It was a fun day and many thanks to John and the South Brevard Folk Dancers. The following day, many of us went to the Greek Festival in Maitland.

dance with us on December 4. We celebrated Kelly and Janel's birthdays on December 11. Then our Holiday Party was on December 18. We started the evening with a potluck supper meeting an hour earlier at 6:30pm. Many delicious dishes were enjoyed as we celebrated the holidays.

As if these were not enough parties, we had a New Year's Day party starting with some dancing and then a cookout of hamburgers and hot dogs. It was a fun day to socialize with our folk dance family and do some dancing. Gary came over from Clearwater and Tami came for a visit from Utah. They were both former members of our group and it was wonderful to have them back.



Julieta and some other Gainesville dancers joined us and they were at the Fall Fling also.

Traveling during the holidays were Kelly with her sister, Lynda to Colorado to be with family; Cathy for Thanksgiving through the new year with family in Arizona; and Nicki with family in Ohio.

The next weekend on November 10, Bobby and I and a few others attended our first Bulgarian Festival. We did a few Bulgarian dances with the locals and then the DJ put on Makendonsko Devojce. The Bulgarian performance group was not there since the leader had a death in the family. Put it on your calendar for next year. The food was very good.



The following Wednesday on November 13, Ellen from Honolulu and her friend, Gladys from NY danced with our group. Then Pearl from Jacksonville was spending the week in Orlando for her birthday. Her son, Charles, brought her to

Happy New Year to everyone. See a lot of you at the workshop at the end of the month.

Gainesville International Folk Dancers by June Littler and Joyce Story



In addition to meeting regularly on Wednesday evenings, GIFD also participates in activities for the benefit of the community.

1. Al'z Place

Since 2018 GIFD has danced about once a month at Al'z Place, a day care center facility for those with memory issues and early Alzheimer's. After a hiatus caused by Covid, we have resumed dancing there regularly. Our audience always appreciates us, and we are glad to share with them the fun of international folk dancing and our love for it. Joyce Story books our schedule with Al'z Place, organizes our program, and makes sure we all know what we're dancing. One of the best things about dancing there is when you can see everyone in the front row tapping a foot with the beat! That's when we know we and our music are really doing a public service.



2. UNICEF

For the last few years, we have been dancing for what is now an annual fundraiser in October for UNICEF. This year it was held in a large meeting room with a lovely wood floor at Oak Hammock Retirement Community. We have also traditionally ended our performance with Zemer Atik.



3. AAUW

June is a member of the local American Association of University Women (AAUW), which has an annual fund raiser to support an incoming eighth grade girl to go to next summer's science camp. At their fundraisers in the past, they have had string quartets and other musical groups for entertainment. This year, June "volunteered" us. Six GIFD dancers, three men and three women, did our thing. We were the hit of the day (well, at least as popular as the refreshments). The fund raiser was held in a private home. We ended with Zemer Atik, inviting others to join us.



4. Hawthorne's Christmas Forest

This is GIFD's contribution to Hawthorne's Christmas Forest. (Hawthorne is a small town near Gainesville).



Events

Winter Workshop 2025!

Registration for the workshop is open on the FFDC website...www.floridafolkdancer.org.

T-SHIRT ORDERS

There have been inquiries about ordering a t-shirt if you didn't request one initially when registering - or if you can't make the workshop but still want a t-shirt...Just use the on-line registration form and select the ad hoc option, and order the shirt style and size you want. The color t-shirt this year is purple. Select your size and if you want a men's (traditional style t-shirt) or women's cut (scoop neck).



EVENING PARTY DANCE REQUESTS

Important: There is a new method for requesting dances for the evening party this year. We are using a website called dancevotes.online.

The link to this site is on the registration form, but some of you may have missed it. But you still have a chance to vote and request dances.

Go to: <https://dancevotes.online/florida-folk-dance-camp/>

You will be asked to setup a userid and password.

After setting up your userid and password, make sure you are back on [Florida Folk Dance Camp 2025](#) to pick your dances - otherwise you'll be selecting dances for other events, not ours.

Andi Kapplin will compile the lists for the evening parties.

John Daly's 80th Birthday Party/ Workshop!

With Andy Taylor-Blenis Teaching a Variety of Fun Dances

January 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2025

Melbourne Village Hall

535 Hammock Drive, Melbourne Village, FL



The next event in Melbourne will be John's 80th birthday party on the weekend of January 17, 18, and 19. Friday, January 17, will be our usual Friday evening dance; on Saturday, Andy Taylor-Blenis will teach a variety of fun dances, with the usual potluck at lunch; on Sunday morning there will be a review. At lunchtime on Sunday, we will open the party to the community for a general lunch and birthday party with community dances led by Andy. We in Melbourne hope all will be able to come.

Fall Fling 2024 Recap by John Daly

What a wonderful time at Fall Fling this year. Friends came from all over Florida including Orlando, Tallahassee, Citra, Tampa, and Gainesville. And we did 70 dances of all types in the time from 11 am until around 5 pm. As to lunch, it always amazes me what a variety of wonderful food shows up for our potluck lunch.

I think this is the second event we have held at the Melbourne Village Hall since moving from the Community House. I appreciate the Village Hall because it has a full kitchen, good acoustics, and the sun doesn't shine in during the afternoon. I'm sorry we no longer have a wood floor, but the owners of the Community House now have it rented almost every weekend for expensive weddings, showers, and similar events. So the Village Hall is more readily available, and the staff have been very helpful to us.



Footnotes

Dancing in Eau Claire by Cheri Ruiz



Greetings from Eau Claire! This charming small town in northwestern Wisconsin was named by the first European settlers in 1845. Eau Claire, “clear water,” is situated on the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers, in the Chippewa Valley.

The sacred land of the Ojibwe, Dakota, and Ho-Chunk, has seen its future change hands between French trappers, to a university town heavily influenced by German and Norwegian immigrants. Today, this diverse community has a growing multigenerational Hmong community as well. From a logging town, dotted by farms, to emerging as the world's horseradish capital, Eau Claire is a microcosm of a bigger city. The Twin Cities is just an hour and a half away.

Eau Claire is plentiful in farmer's markets, cafes, the arts, and folk dancing! The Eau Claire International Folk Dancers started 45 years ago by Doc Reid and Kathy Johns. Paul Wagner and Cindy Schlosser were there from the beginning, and Paul has been leading the group ever since. Dancing is at the downtown YMCA on the 1st and third Friday of every month, and we dance from 6:30 until about 8:15. New and long-lost dances are taught and reviewed, and then there is time for requests.

While Paul was teaching folk dance in New Zealand this fall, a few of us took turns leading the group. Some nights, classes tend to be on the smaller side,



while other times, university students decide to join in, or anyone from the community generally.

Some of the dances I taught were new to a few. Port Said, High Green Mountain, and Yaylalar (GIFD staples) were all well-received and enjoyed. I also reviewed some older Israeli dances (Sulam Ya'akov, Hora Medura and Tzadik Katamar to name a few.)

While many of the dances looked familiar to me, such as Sa Gijjile, Paraliakos, Kendime, Ma Navu, and Moj Maro Moj Marine, which are loved and danced often, I learned some new ones! Syen Tu is a wonderful Tibetan dance that I'm happy to say I now know, as is Primavera en Salonico, a beautiful Sephardic song from Greece. Also, it was interesting to find that some dances, such as Erev Shel Shoshanim, are danced a little differently.

While spending a year in a new place can be challenging, belonging to this group has been welcoming, and fostered a sense of community for me and my family. We recently enjoyed attending a 40-year-old tradition called Cookie Night at the Terwilligers, where one of the dancers hosts a fabulous display of homemade cookies from around the world, on the last Friday before Christmas. There are several opportunities to get together during the darker and colder months. At the beginning of the new year, there is a pizza party at Paul's house, where we all bring an ingredient or two.

Another recent and notable experience here in Eau Claire was the rare opportunity to see a live performance of Zedashe Ensemble, a polyphonic



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Dancing in Eau Claire (Continued)

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vocal choir and folk dance group from Signaghi, Caucasus Georgia. They were simply awe-inspiring!

Too, one can find a multitude of dance opportunities nearby! I attended the Tapestry International Folkdance workshop in early November with guest choreographer Sev Avakian. This amazing Armenian dance teacher leads the Sassoun Dance Ensemble in Toronto. The evening included live music from Orkestar Bez Ime and plenty of



dancing. I enjoyed meeting new friends from Nebraska, Minnesota, and other places.

There are quite a few upcoming workshops in the area, such as SNOFA, in nearby Hudson, which hosts folk dance teachers from the Midwest. Folk Ball in Madison is another popular event. This year's spotlight teacher is Michael

Ginsburg, with more live music after the workshops. There's also the Door County Folk Festival in July, as well as workshops in the Chicago area, notably June Camp (International Folk Dance in the Midwest.) There are several groups nearby folk dancing, in Minneapolis, Madison, Appleton, Milwaukee, and Winona, just to name a few. Lastly, Folklore Village, near Madison, is a very intriguing place, that hosts a myriad of educational folklife workshops throughout the year. Everything from Nordic healing herbs to Japanese embroidery happens at Folklore Village.

I'm looking forward to not only teaching again in March, but attending more workshops, and learning as much as possible to share with my folk dance family in Florida! Until then, cheers from the northern magical land of Eau Claire!



Florida Ethnic Festivals by Chris Webber



I was fortunate to attend my first Oktoberfest at the German American Society of Central Florida in Casselberry on Saturday, October 5. The festival originated during the Napoleonic Era as a means to celebrate a royal wedding. Its purpose has since evolved to be more of celebration of German folk culture in general. Traditional food cooked onsite was available for purchase, which included pretzels, schnitzel, sauerkraut, and bratwurst. There was enough beer to float the place.

Four music groups were advertised to perform, but only two showed up. One was something of a karaoke ensemble whereas the other consisted of a female vocalist, accordionist, and drummer. The latter played basically the same set every 90 minutes, which consisted of a few yodeling numbers, the Chicken Dance, and various pop songs (by Abba, Depeche Mode, Taylor Swift, Blondie, and Shania Twain). Unfortunately little folk dancing was done as the opportunities were scarce and willing participants were scarcer. I tried my best to polka with a few brave souls. It was fun. There were a few brief showcased dancers of club members in traditional garb, which naturally a delight to observe.

On Saturday, October 12 I attended my first Serb Fest at St. Petka Serbian Orthodox Church in Longwood. This was the first time I was surrounded by people who conversed neither in English nor Spanish. It struck me as odd considering that I spent the first 19 years of my life a few blocks away from the church and I never knew such a community existed. Thinking back there were numerous students at my schools who had seemingly South Slavic surnames. Serbian dishes and beverages for sale were hyper-abundant. There was even a detached building that was loaded with pastries, cakes, and other sweets. The signs were largely in Serbian and thus written in Cyrillic script. Were I to have attempted to place an order, I would not have even been able to attempt pronunciation. Luckily there were large menus with photographs and English language explanations of what the entrees were. I bought a beef dish. I couldn't tell you what it

was called, but it tasted great. Through an accidental observation, I sighted at least half a dozen whole hogs being cooked on spits. Too bad that the organizers decided to effectively shield those from view. I think it is good for people to see their food in all of its phases of existence.

The local church affiliated dance group that performed was well disciplined and dressed to the nines in folk garb. There were so many participants one could not help but wonder if membership in the dance club was a prerequisite for church membership. A few more (presumably church affiliated) troupes from out of state were scheduled to perform but could not make it due to the recent hurricane. There was a large and high stage on which the small Serb folk band performed while out of nowhere a sea of Serbs started line dancing in front of the stage. The topography was such that the dancers were only visible by those who either sat right in front of them or who stood near. They danced what I believe is called a kolo. The accordionist was having such a good time at a few points he even descended the stage so as to stand next to the plain clothed dancers and reciprocate the energy they provided.

The announcements were all in Serbian, save for the one in which the emcee stated in English that all were welcome to participate in the dance. The first go around I was content to watch mainly for the sake of admiration but also to take mental notes on technique. Afterwards I participated and had a great time. The younger girls especially were quite talented and did things with their feet that seemed to defy the force of gravity. I was holding the hand of one and didn't even notice a change in weight as she seemed to propel herself upward (via kicking her legs) for seconds at a time. The evening concluded with a performance by a Serbian folk rock band.

There were a handful of Greek festivals, many of which on the same dates. Orlando, Tampa, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, and probably half a dozen others in Florida hosted their own during the second half of 2024. I barely attended the one held on

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Florida Ethnic Festivals (Continued)

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Sunday, November 3 in Maitland (suburb of Orlando) at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Close parking came with a fee, but parking was free for those willing to walk half a dozen blocks. Entry was free which was great, but I was told that the event was cashless, which is a downer. The collective refusal of vendors to accept cash constitutes a form currency devaluation. So much for a federal reserve note being “legal tender for all debts public and private.” And who doesn’t like having privacy that can be afforded by paying with paper and metal money that works even in the absence of electricity and WIFI?

I first attended Holy Trinity’s Greek Festival in 2007. The number of dance troupes the church organized was impressive then, as was the number of dancers in each troupe (seemingly organized by age). The church’s dancers then were great and on my latest visit they were phenomenal. The circus tent was barely covering all of them. Their dances were choreographed to prerecorded music and presented for show. This contrasts with the effectively unrehearsed dancing of Florida Folk Dancers that extemporaneously happens to the live music.

Going back to my first Greek Fest I distinctly recall seeing a certain short 4-year-old girl dancing as a “Little Aegean.” As her troupe circled round she sported a smile from ear to ear and it seemed as she was looking at her parents in the audience for the entirety of her 360 degree revolution around the circle. I thought it was among the cutest things I ever saw. Now she is a 20-something, still short (by grown up standards), and still dancing. Yes, she still smiles and she kept her gaze where it was “supposed” to have been. I was able to do two dances with Bobby and company. What a privilege.

The feasting, dancing, and band area was on a concrete slab and under cover. I was told by a reliable source that the band this year didn’t play as many dance songs as they had in previous years, though all the songs were composed and sung in

Greek. What a shame. I earlier wrote that I barely attended the event because I popped in around the time it started and left an hour and half later to attend a performance of Mozart’s Requiem. I returned back to the fest for the last two songs performed by the Aegean Duo. There was one last dance in which I participated. The line consisted of mostly women who had spent the day cooking. One still had a plastic glove on. I thought she was doing fine, but she excused herself and told me that she didn’t know what she was doing in an almost apologetic tone. I wish I would have voiced my disagreement and encouraged her to dance the remaining 100 seconds of the festival’s last song.

On Saturday, November 9 I went to my (and probably Florida’s) first Georgian Festival in Longwood at St. Stephen’s Orthodox Church. This festival very much had the air of being an outdoor lunch for a small and seemingly tight knit Georgian diaspora very far from home. The church was small though elaborate. The grounds were well maintained though there was little in the way of level terrain. The majority of the yard seemed to be engineered to hold water in the event of a downpour. There were some shade trees mostly clustered on the periphery of where things happened. Visitors were more likely to hear Georgian than English. There were only two tables selling food, and the signs were overwhelmingly in Georgian. Available for purchase were Lobiani, Khachapuri, and Mchadi. I don’t remember what any of those were. There were shawarmas being cooked, but it took an hour to make one. Everything looked tasty.

There was little musical entertainment, and it seemed spontaneous. A man strummed and plucked an instrumental on an electric guitar though the amplifier was set to have about no distortion. A woman clad in folk garb sang two songs to a prerecorded accompaniment. She performed a solo dance to a third prerecorded track. A man may have performed a short solo piece on a flute. The festival was short and for the last 20 minutes traditional dance music

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Florida Ethnic Festivals (Continued)

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was played and 3 or 4 dancers shared their talents with those who were lucky enough to watch. The Georgian dance I saw looked exceedingly difficult. In fact, considering the terrain I would also characterize it as dangerous. One thing for sure is that never before have I seen men look so proud during a dance. It really seems as though the men do the elaborate moves while the women stick to the safer and less flamboyant maneuvers. I was hoping to see a performing group similar to Trio Mandili, three young Georgian women who sing folk tunes and play their own instruments. In fact, if I had the money I would book them to play the next Georgian Festival!

The very next day after the Georgian Festival, I attended my first Bulgarian Festival in Altamonte Springs, also in Seminole County not far from Orlando. This festival was held at St. George Bulgarian Orthodox Church. The church must have been small and modest as I don't remember seeing it. From what I gather there is an effort to raise funds to build a sanctuary. For now services are probably held in a simple building that was once a private residence. On site parking as well as admission were free, and cash was accepted. Yippee! The lay of the land was quite flat. There was a large tent that housed a small stage that stood mere feet above the ground. Numerous tables were arranged in the shade provided by the large canopy. There weren't very many empty seats available. I think it safe to say that the only non-Bulgarians there were the Florida Folk Dancers.

All the signs and announcements were in Bulgarian. Luckily the women serving the food were happy to translate and explain for the benefit of us non-Bulgarian speakers. I recall making a combo and a lady intimated that I should have vegetables to round out my plate. I told her that I liked vegetables in general and I was sure her specific vegetables tasted great but I was just sticking to a budget. She then put a double dose on my plate and told the "cashier" that I didn't have to pay for them. What hospitality. Also for sale were kebabs (chicken and beef), pork chops,

and a beef dish. I was very surprised not to see lamb or even mutton offered. Perhaps I have seen the four hour and 48 minute long epic film "Time of Violence" (Bulgarian with English subtitles) too many times. It portrays a 17th century Bulgarian shepherd community on the Rhodopes mountains. The food was great.

Unfortunately there was no access to running water. Porta-potties were available. I like to brush my teeth after meals so I ended up doing so in a corner under a tree. I used my drinking water to rinse my mouth and upset some men. One of whom was nice enough to explain that they found it disrespectful, at least partially, because I spat on church grounds. I'm just glad I wasn't kicked out. Next time I'll chew gum instead.

There was a childrens chorus that sang a song or two acapella. The lyrics were in Bulgarian, but I swear the melody was the same as the English nursery song "Five Little Ducks." And yes, that song is great. A young man played a song on a large wooden flute. He was accompanied by a young girl who played a drum. It sounded really good and my only complaints were that the song was too short and that they didn't play more. One of the Florida Folk Dancers recognized melody instantly, knew the accompanying dance, and really wanted to dance to it. I wonder how that would have been received. The young man seemed as though he would appreciate sharing the spotlight. A woman seated behind me told me (probably because I don't speak Bulgarian) that the man and the girl had never played a duet with each other before. They both performed perfectly.

A handful of folk songs were played on the PA. A line of dancers filled the small stage and then filled the even smaller area in front of the stage. The Florida Folk Dancers no doubt shocked the Bulgarian community by doing such a fantastic job of doing the Bulgarian dances so well. That may have been why one old timer shared his ouzo with several Florida Folk Dancers. A few spoke to Pat Henderson at

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Florida Ethnic Festivals (Continued)

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length and seemed quite interested in attending one of the many weekly Wednesday dances in Orlando.

I was surprised that the organizers didn't continue playing the folk music. Were it my shindig I would have played the folk music until the event was over whether people danced or not. There was also a dance contest in which participants simultaneously competed against each other. There were different categories: disco, rockabilly, tango, and maybe more. Many laughs were had, and when all was said and done everyone seemed to receive a prize. The only reason I even understood the contest rules was because an organizer was kind enough to approach the Florida Folk Dancers and hash out what was said in Bulgarian.

St Marks Greek Orthodox Church in Belleview (near Ocala) will have a Greek Fest on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 21, 22, and 23 respectively. Friday and Saturday it is 11am to 8pm, and Sunday it runs from 11am to 6pm. I hope to see you there!



Calendar and Tours

Look for more information on events, tours,
and cruises on the FFDC website calendar:
www.floridafolkdancer.org

Event Calendar

- 2025-01-18 - **John Daly 80th Birthday Party**, Melbourne Village, FL, www.floridafolkdancer.org/Flings/BirthdayFling2025/BirthdayWorkshop2025.html, Brevard Dancers
- 2025-01-24 - **Folk Ball Festival**, Madison, WI, <http://www.facebook.com/people/Madison-Folk-Ball/100080154913514>, Madison Folk Dance Club
- 2025-01-24 - **Florida Snow Ball**, Gulfport, FL, www.floridasnowball.com, Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance
- 2025-01-31 - **Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Workshop**, Kissimmee, FL, www.floridafolkdancer.org, FFDC
- 2025-01-31 - **Virtual Stockton Winter Folk Dance Camp**, Virtual, www.folkdancecamp.org
- 2025-02-14 - **Flurry Festival**, Saratoga Springs, NY, www.flurryfestival.org
- 2025-02-15 - **Lunar New Year Festival**, Cerritos, CA, www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm, Folk Dance Federation of California, South
- 2025-02-21 - **Snopa!**, Hudson, WI, www.tinyurl.com/snopaifd
- 2025-02-21 - **Greek Festival**, Sarasota, FL, www.stbarbarafestival.org, St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-02-21 - **Greek Festival**, Ft. Myers, FL, www.greekfestfortmyers.com, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-02-21 - **Greek Festival**, Melbourne, FL, www.saint-katherine.org/fest_info.html, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-03-01 - **Veselo Festival**, Eugene, OR, www.veselofolkdancers.org
- 2025-03-02 - **The Tamburitzans**, Avon Park, FL, www.thetamburitzans.org/
- 2025-03-07 - **Laguna Folk Dance Festival**, Laguna Woods, CA, www.lagunainternationaldancers.com
- 2025-03-07 - **Annual Redbud Romp**, Powell, TN, www.oakridgefolkdancers.org/, Oak Ridge Folk Dancers
- 2025-03-08 - **Boston Playford Ball**, Melrose, MA, www.cds-boston.org/, Boston Country Dance Society
- 2025-03-09 - **The Tamburitzans**, Sarasota, FL, www.thetamburitzans.org/
- 2025-03-21 - **Spring Norwegian Dance Weekend**, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org/, Folklore Village
- 2025-03-21 - **Playford Ball Weekend**, Nashville, TN, www.nashvillecountrydancers.org/, Nashville Country Dancers
- 2025-03-28 - **San Antonio Folklife and Dance Festival**, San Antonio, TX, www.safdf.org, SAFDF
- 2025-04-02 - **NFO Annual Conference**, Portland, OR, www.nfo-usa.org/, National Folk Organization (NFO)
- 2025-04-03 - **Kochavim Israeli Dance Camp**, Wimberley, TX, www.kochavim.net/
- 2025-04-07 - **World Fest at Silver Dollar City**, Branson, MO, <http://www.thousandhills.com/branson-attractions/area-attractions/silver-dollar-city/world-fest>
- 2025-04-11 - **Cajun and Music and Dance Weekend**, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org/, Folklore Village
- 2025-04-11 - **Springdans Northwest**, Seabeck, WA, www.skandia-folkdance.org/, Skandia Folkdance Society
- 2025-04-25 - **New England Folk Festival**, Malborough, MA, www.neffa.org/festival-home, New England Folk Festival Association (NEFFA)
- 2025-05-02 - **California Statewide Festival**, Arroyo Grande, CA, www.socialfolkdance.org
- 2025-05-09 - **English Country Dance Weekend**, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org/, Folklore Village
- 2025-05-09 - **Lyrids Folk Dance Festival**, Vancouver, Canada, www.lyridsfolkdancefestival.org/
- 2025-05-16 - **International Folk Dance Camp**, Hopewell Junction, NY, www.ifc-ny.com/, IFC
- 2025-05-16 - **Ontario Folk Dance Camp**, Waterloo, ON, Canada, www.ontariofolkdancecamp.ca/, Ontario Folk Dance Association
- 2025-06-12 - **June Camp: An International Folk Dance Weekend**, Lake Forest, IL, www.sites.google.com/site/junecampifd

Folk Dance Tour Contacts

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, contact moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com.

For tours with Sonia and Cristian, see <http://www.soniacristian.net> or contact Sonia at sonia_dion@hotmail.com.

For Jim Gold Folk Tours, see <http://www.jimgold.com> 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 tours with Tineke van Geel (sometimes assisted by Maurits), contact them at <http://www.tinekevangeel.nl>.

For the Macedonian and Bulgarian Folk Tour, please contact Vlasto at sunstagecompany@gmail.com or visit <https://sunstagecompany.wixsite.com/arts>

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!)

Process For Sending Group Email Blasts to FFDC Membership

Start by creating an email to be sent to:

reqmsg@floridafolkdancer.org

(reqmsg stands for "request message.")

Include in that email these three items:

1. A Subject Line for the email you are asking to be sent.
2. The body text of the email - what you want it to say. We won't be editing your text, so please make sure its clear and will make sense to the recipients.
3. A contact email or phone number - someone the recipient can contact if they want more information about the subject.

Allow at least a **one week processing time** on these distributions, though generally they go out much more quickly than that.

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Submissions: Send event notices for the calendar to Pat Henderson.
Send all other newsletter submissions to the newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org email address.

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