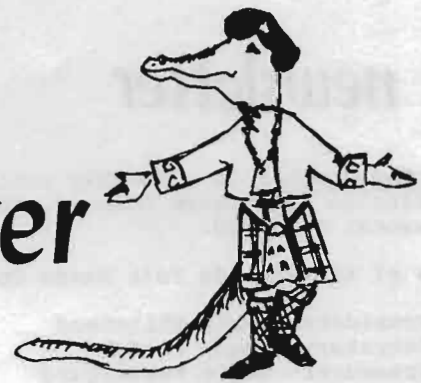




june 1973

ffdc newsletter



The President's Corner CUBBY WHITEHEAD

The rapidly expanding recreational folk dance activity in the state is, indeed, gratifying, after many years of no state-wide activity and very few (possibly only my own) groups meeting regularly. About two years ago, the general situation changed rapidly: suddenly many persons had interest in folk dancing, many others with folk dance experience moved into the state, and several groups as separated as Pensacola and Miami began regular meetings. It was to establish liaison, information interchange, and state-wide cooperative folk dance activity that the Florida Folk Dance Council was formed.

The Council is formed of representatives from the various groups and Council representatives decide among themselves how best to further the purpose of the Council which, simply put, is to promote recreational folk dancing. The reason for it all is to have good, wholesome fun, and if in the process we learn something of other cultures and promote better worldwide understanding, so much the better!

We have made rapid progress: after the first organizational throes and two workshops (!) with several persons doing yeoman work (special roses to Nelle Westergard for serving as Secretary and as editor of the newsletter), we now have an ongoing, viable Council with two workshops a year as part of the regular schedule, plus a professionally done newsletter.

The Florida Folk Dance Council exists solely to benefit its members and can best fulfill this function by a broadly based membership from all parts of the state. Urge all your folk dancing friends to become members. They will be kept informed and we will be able to keep in touch with them.

* * *

Recreational folk dancing is not a competitive activity; rather by its very nature it is a cooperative activity. We should always be willing to assist the interested newcomer to the joys of this activity. We were all beginners once, and we needed a helpful guiding hand, just as we should offer such to those just introduced to folk dancing. The important thing is not the mastery of steps, the ability to perform exotic figures, or the memorization of a vast number of dances, but rather that we are participating together in a beautiful activity, no matter how simple the steps or figures.

Viel freude beim tanz!

ffdc newsletter

The ffdc newsletter is a monthly publication of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Rt. 3, Box 90, Sarasota, FL 33580.

Officers of the Florida Folk Dance Council are:

President--Cubby Whitehead
Secretary--Donna Pezdek
Treasurer--Nelle Westergard

Individual membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council is \$3.00 per year. Members are entitled to receive the Newsletter. It is available to nonmembers at 50¢ per copy. Groups may be listed in the ffdc directory free of charge.

Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to Helen Hyams, 449 Anastasia, #2, Coral Gables, FL 33134.

ADVERTISING RATES

	One Month	Six Months	One Year
Full page	\$9.00	\$49.50	\$90.00
Half page	5.00	27.50	50.00
Quarter page	3.00	16.50	30.00
Eighth page	1.75	9.50	17.50

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Whiteheads have a pair of scissors acquired at the Avon Park camp. If you lost a pair, please contact them.

COSTUME

WILL MAKE
beaded stomacher (\$25)
and belt (\$20)
to order for
Hardanger Fjord Norwegian costume.

Write specifications to:

NELLE E. WESTERGARD
9330 N. Highland
Tampa, FL 33612

ffdc directory

CLEARWATER Scottish Dancing, Sun. 7:30 p.m., Peace Memorial Church, 107 S. Osceola. Contact John Marsden, 107 S. Osceola, Clearwater 33516, (813) 447-6176.

CLEARWATER St. Petersburg Junior College Folk Dance Club, Clearwater Campus, Thurs. 6-8 p.m., in the field house, through the middle of June. Contact Donna Pezdek, #106, 1630 Jefferson Ave., Largo, (813) 585-2592.

FT. LAUDERDALE Around-the-World Dancers, Sat. beginners, 1-2 p.m.; intermediate-advanced, 2:30-5 p.m., Holiday Park Social Annex, 844 N.E. 7th Ave., through June. Contact Bea or Phil Statnick, 91 N.E. 46th St., Ft. Lauderdale 33308, (305) 771-5287.

GAINESVILLE Meetings Fri. 9:30-12 p.m., Norman Hall Gym, Univ. of Florida. Contact John Ward, 508 N.W. 36th Dr., Gainesville 32601, (904) 376-0224; or Barbara Klingberg, Box 228 Jennings Hall, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville 32601.

MIAMI Miami International Folk Dancers, Wed. beginners, 7:30-8:15 p.m.; intermediates, 8:30-10:30 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 7701 S.W. 76th Ave. Contact Harold or Helen Pelta, 16200 S.W. 87th Ave., Miami 33157, (305) 233-5916.

MIAMI University of Miami Folk Dance Club, will resume in the fall. Contact Helen Hyams, 449 Anastasia, Coral Gables 33134, (305) 448-5117.

MIAMI Scottish Country Dancing, Tues. 7:30-10 p.m., Palmetto Jr. High School, 7351 S.W. 128 St., through June 19. Contact Ken or Isis Hilton, 11600 S.W. 70th Ave., Miami, (305) 667-9059.

MIAMI Belly Dance Lessons, Phillis Kapp Studio of The Dance, 247 Malaga Ave., Coral Gables. Contact Karen Gillis, 711 N.W. 1st Ave., Ft. Lauderdale 33311, (305) 763-1193.

MIAMI BEACH The group led by Morris and Mary Urovsky will resume in the fall.

ORLANDO Orlando International Folk Dance Club, Wed. 7:57-10:30 p.m., Unitarian Church, 1815 E. Robinson (at Hampton). Contact Dave Digby, 311 S. Brown Ave., Orlando 32801, (305) 894-3743; or Larry Wartell, 5706 Eggleston Ave., Orlando 32810, (305) 645-0290.

PENSACOLA Contact Jim Marsh, Physics Dept., Univ. of West Fla., Pensacola 32504, for time and place of meetings. Home phone (904) 438-3284.

SARASOTA The Folksdancing, 2nd and 4th Fri. of month, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Sugar Creek Camp Resort, 3300 26th Ave. E., Bradenton. Scottish Country Dancing, 2nd and 4th Mon. at the Folk House. For specific meetings contact Cubby or Jeanie Whitehead, Rt. 3, Box 90, Sarasota 33580, (813) 755-7005 or 755-6212.

TALLAHASSEE International dancing, Sun. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Student Union, Fla. State Univ. Contact Hal or Pat Jung, 1406 Atkamire Dr., Tallahassee 32304, (904) 576-7683.

TAMPA Meetings Fri. 7-10 p.m., Forest Hills Community Center, 724 W. 109th Ave., Tampa. Contact Nelle E. Westergard, 9330 N. Highland St., Tampa 33612, (813) 932-0830; or Judith or Ernesto Baizan, 2503 Palm Dr., Tampa 33609, (813) 257-0001 or 257-1881.

WEST PALM BEACH Sun. night meetings. Contact Mrs. June Volpi, 251 16th Way W., Riviera Beach, (305) 848-2072.

WEST PALM BEACH Beginners and intermediate folk dancing, Century Village. Contact Rose or Sam Kanars, 129 E. Hampton, Century Village, W. Palm Beach 33401.

Editor's note: We try to be as up-to-date as possible with the Directory, but in the summer it is wise to contact the contact people for a group you are attending for the first time, to make sure that it isn't on vacation. And group leaders, please send me any changes of time or place as soon as possible, to avoid disappointing visitors.

This is the first in a series of articles on dance groups and leaders in Florida. You are invited to submit similar articles on your groups.

Scottish Country Dancing

led by KEN and ISIS HILTON

A welcome addition to the Miami folk dance scene is the new Scottish Country Dance class led by Ken and Isis Hilton at the Palmetto Junior High School in Miami. The steps are taught with care and great attention to detail, but smoothly enough so that newcomers find themselves whirling through a set the first evening.

Natives of Derby, England, but of Scottish background, Ken and Isis started Scottish Country Dancing with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Derby Branch, in 1951 and continued with the Derby Scottish Association and Burns Club, of which they are still members.

In September 1969, Ken, an engineer, was temporarily transferred to Lancaster, California, a small town in the Mojave desert. At first they enjoyed learning American Square Dancing, but soon the urge to resume Scottish dancing prompted them to teach a group of the square dancers a reel and a jig. Soon a new class was formed, which is still operating in Lancaster. As soon as some standard and confidence had been achieved, the class ventured out to dances held in the Los Angeles area by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, a group with a membership of over 200 in the Los Angeles area.



Ken and Isis were invited to join the Los Angeles Demonstration Team, a distinct honor, but in June 1972, Ken's work moved him to Miami. Since they found no existing group in the area, they again decided to start one.

Scottish Country Dancing is the ballroom dancing of Scotland, and as such is enjoyed by every class of society. Thus the obvious place to start was through a community program. Tom Hagerman, Director of Palmetto Senior Community School, was approached, and he offered to encourage the formation of a new class by including it in his program.



Ken and Isis started with seven students on December 5th, but are now delighted to have over 25 enthusiastic students every week.

One of the first projects of the class was to put together a team to demonstrate Scottish Country Dancing at the Around the World Fair, sponsored by patrons of the Museum of Science, at Tropical Park on March 17th and 18th--something of an achievement after less than a dozen lessons.

The classes will be suspending for the summer in June, after a party and exhibition on May 28. We know that they'll be back in the fall with an active schedule and many eager students.

Camp News NELLE WESTERGARD

As camp director and registrar I am happy to announce that we have found a Labor Day campsite with an AIR-CONDITIONED dance hall: Camp McConnell in Micanopy. Our featured teacher will be Rudy Ulibarri from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. In addition to folk dancing, he also teaches English, Spanish, guitar, and recorder, as well as freelancing as an actor now and then. Vyts Beliajus calls him warm, unassuming despite his many talents, and delightful.

Although the registration deadline is August 15, I would appreciate getting the forms as soon as possible. A successful camp can only come from many helping hands and I am looking to all of you for help and cooperation. Address any questions or comments to me:

Nelle Westergard
9330 N. Highland
Tampa, FL 33612

MIAMI

HELEN HYAMS



Although the Miami International Folk Dancers roll on all summer, most of the Miami groups are disbanding until the fall. The University of Miami Folk Dance Club ended the year with a party, and as the pictures show, everyone enjoyed themselves.

On the weekend of July 8, twelve members of Ken and Isis Hilton's Scottish Country Dancing class will be journeying to North Carolina to participate in the Grandfather Mountain Highland Gathering and Highland Games. Among the games will be caber tossing, tossing of sheaves, shotputting, and track (with a 25-mile marathon run). There will also be a Highland Ball and a Ceili. Miami's St. Andrew's Pipe Band will also participate.

A mini-demonstration group (below) showed balkan dances to several groups at the University of Miami, including the folk dance class Harold Pelta taught for the University this year. (There's an audience in front of the group--honest!)



Dancing in the Dark? See the Light

... AND DANCE WITH US!
THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL
FOLK DANCERS

First Unitarian Church
7701 S.W. 76th Ave.
Wednesday nights

CONTACT: Harold or Helen Pelta
16200 S.W. 87th Ave.
Miami 33157

ORLANDO DAVE DIGBY

We have performed at both the Winter Park and College Park Art Festivals recently, as well as at the Israel Anniversary Celebration at Eola Park. I have also taught beginning dances to the Quakers' Yearly Meeting at Lake Byrd Lodge on Easter Weekend, and to the Orlando Unitarians on Sunday, May 7. (Both of these occurred in locations which have seen more serious folk dancing recently.) By the way, there are camping facilities at Lake Byrd Lodge--our people just didn't know about them.

TAMPA NELLE WESTERGARD

Believe it or not, some of our "can't get enough" dancers are finally crying "whoa" after dancing through the past month's busy schedule. First came Sunburst I, a church folk festival, and then, the following Sunday we danced for the annual Easter folk song competition at the Beaux Arts Gallery in Pinellas Park. For International Week at the University of South Florida we conducted a workshop on campus and performed in the talent show. In between those two nights we visited the Swedish-American Club in St. Petersburg, and were truly gratified by the wonderful reception we were given. ("I remember that dance from fifty years ago in Sweden," etc.) Nor was it over yet. On Saturday, May 17, we danced for the Veterans Hospital here in Tampa. Is it any wonder our usually enthusiastic crowd is looking forward to a summer lull!

* * *

In the middle of June we shall be losing a dearly loved and very valuable member of our group. Donna Pezdek is moving to Delaware and a new job. Our loss is also Florida's as Donna has worked very hard to further the cause of folk dancing here since her arrival in 1971. She is a founding member of the Council as well as its current Secretary. We wish her luck in her new job and hope she can make it down to some of our camps every so often.

[Editor's note: Donna wrote an interesting article on the formation of the Florida Folk Dance Council that appeared in the May Viltis.]

and more TAMPA DONNA PEZDEK

The Tampa group is alive and well. On April 28, sailors from a Russian ship in port at Tampa came to Friday night folk dancing at the invitation of Judith, Nelle, and myself during a visit to their ship earlier in the week. This was the first Russian ship in Tampa since World War II. I believe they all had a good time doing waltzes and polkas and various folk dances. At any rate, at the end, the first mate of the ship presented the Tampa group with a book describing (unfortunately in Russian) a Russian folk dance group.

Saturday night, May 6, the Tampa International Folk Dancers performed dances from several different countries at the University of South Florida International Week (sponsored by their World Affairs Council). Various foreign student groups also danced, sang, etc. This celebration climaxed a week of foreign films, fashion shows, singing, and dancing.

SARASOTA

JEANIE WHITEHEAD

The Folksdancing of the Sarasota area enjoyed a surprise visit in April at their Sugar Creek dance from Bart Corwin, son of Miami folk dancers Ginny and Manny Corwin. Bart added greatly to the group and we enjoyed learning several new kolos from him. He was a house guest of the Bernie Feders on Siesta Key while on his journey to the Northwest.

Saturday, May 12, several of our dancers participated in the Ringling Museum's annual art carnival in Sarasota. In addition to helping in various of the twenty-eight booths, we led folk dancing on the green at the beautiful museum grounds on Sarasota Bay. This affair is a terrific presentation of a wide variety of "arty crafts" for children from 2 to 102 years to creatively "do their thing," from pistol painting to hand puppets, complete with puppet stage and mirror for viewing their productions.

On May 6, the Charles Geislars, the John Letteleirs, and the Whitehead family were happy to take part in the first of Dick and Huldah Bredenberg's dances in St. Petersburg. These are to be family affairs held at 7:30 p.m., the first and third Fridays of the month, at the Eckerd College gym. By the way, Fritz Geisler, the sixteen-year-old son of Charles and Elizabeth, will spend the summer with the Asolo Theater group. Fritz's theatrical aspirations were sparked when he and Randi Whitehead responded to a call to our group for folk dancers for the Christmas production at the Asolo Theater of "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

We are pleased to see more folk dancing in our public schools. Two of our youngest dancers, Ted Stephan and Susanne Whitehead, recently took part in a program at Booker-Bay Haven School, Sarasota, entitled, "Dances Around the World." Ted, his parents, John and Nolia, and his younger brother, Chuck, will enjoy visiting John's homeland of Germany this summer.

A first for the Whitehead family is being looked forward to this summer. Plans are being made to attend the Lighted Lantern Folk Dance Camp in July in Golden, Colorado. This is a week-long camp which does include families in its program, something that has been difficult to find. If anyone can tell us of folk dances en route (going through Dallas and returning via St. Louis), please drop us a note.

More news of those spending summer up north--Doris and Ray Scott and family, Englewood, have returned to Deposit, N.Y., where they spend a busy summer as proprietors of Scott's Oquaga Lake House. They have informal folk dancing throughout the summer and on June 8-10 will have a special weekend with Mel Diamond of Washington, D.C., and Roger Knox, of Ithaca, N.Y., leading international dances and contras and reels, respectively. (The Scott family attended our Avon Park weekend.)

and from a new member

DICK BREDEBERG

We have been looking for folk dancers for five years in Florida, and didn't find any till this year. Now they seem to be all around us. We started a group dancing at the Eckerd College gym with the aid of the Whiteheads on May 6. We are going to meet May 18 and June 1 to see if there is enough local interest to sustain a group that is basically family oriented. We had over thirty out on May 6, so I think we will probably make a go of it and start up in a serious fashion in the fall.

FT. LAUDERDALE BEA STATNICK

A great many "firsts" have made 1972-73 an artistically rewarding season for the "Around-the-World" Folk Dancers of Ft. Lauderdale. The 1973-74 season promises to be even better.

On November 19, 1972, the group performed at the Pompano Park Race Track, at a benefit for the Ft. Lauderdale Museum of the Arts. January 13, 20, and 27, 1973, saw their theatrical dancing debut in the B'nai B'rith's "Saint's Alive" production in Ft. Lauderdale High School, for which the dancers received rave notices.

On Saturday, April 21, the "Around-the-World" dancers attended the Bar Mitzvah services and reception from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Temple Sholom in Pompano Beach in honor of Steve Corley, nephew of Bea and Phil Statnick (Steve is also the technician for the group). For the first time in its 13-year existence, Temple Sholom's walls resounded with the sounds of folk dancing. Rabbi Skop said that he did not know the Israeli folk dancing was so beautiful. He's hoping that a dance class may be started there in the fall.

When the reception ended, the dance and food moved on to the Holiday Park Social Annex, where the festivities continued till 7 p.m. On May 11, Steve was notified that he had earned a \$1000 scholarship for a four-week tour of Israel and Italy. He will leave Ft. Lauderdale on June 20 to start his trip. Bon Voyage!

April 28 was another dancing engagement, this time in the clubroom of the Mainlands community, with many of its members exposed to folk dancing for the first time. A good time was had by all. Thursday, May 10, the Lauderhill Shopping Mall on Hwy. 441 had a folk dance exhibit and audience participation for the first time, which was very well received.

The group is in the seasonal process of dispersing for the summer. Classes will continue through June.

Bea Statnick has been on a one-man crusade to persuade the City of Ft. Lauderdale to build a slab for dancing in the newly opened Snyder Park, which is only in phase 1 of its development, with phase 2 still on the drawing board. No provision has ever been made in park planning to include this cement slab for dance. It could be used for all types of dance: folk, square, round, ballroom, etc., as well as for exhibitions and festivals, concerts, schools, and other groups. The promise has been made that this provision will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors in charge of Snyder Park's planning and construction, and that there is a good chance that this slab will be included along with the boating, fishing, swimming, and other recreational features that are planned.

On Sunday, October 14, 1973, every dancer is invited and urged to attend the Picnic and Dance under the auspices of the "Around-the-World" Folk Dancers. Bring your dancin' feet, food, and beverages, plus charcoal (grills are available), a swim suit, and your favorite records.

Dave Digby would like to know if other clubs are interested in exchanging costume ideas with Orlando. Contact him if you have ideas on the subject. Remember, we can print and draw and photograph costume ideas in the Newsletter.

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next month:

MIAMI'S INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL