

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
1976



ffdc newsletter



HUNGARIAN WORKSHOP

Halloween weekend, Tallahassee was the scene of a very successful Hungarian workshop led by Andor Czompo, and sponsored by the Florida Folk Dance Council. The workshop began with a party Friday night in the F.S.U. Union ballroom, dancing to a program of requests sent in ahead of time by participants. The dancers enjoyed the variety of dances, and appreciated knowing what dances were coming next, thanks to the beautifully lettered signs made by Sally Jones.

Saturday was an exciting experience, as Andor taught us about six Hungarian and Transylvanian dances. Some were slow, graceful, and beautiful, and others were more lively, and contained intricate steps. My favorites were the csardases which combined both elements, starting with basic csardas steps which let you relax and enjoy the haunting violin music, and ending with fast, impressive steps which are as exciting to watch as they are to do. Andor is an excellent teacher, thorough and entertaining at the same time. He was careful to point out the differences between the dances as they are done in Hungary, and the way that U.S. folk dancers can do them for their "recreational purposes." One major difference, of course, is that in Hungary the dances are an integral part of the culture, and in the U.S., we are doing the dances out of context and for a different purpose. Improvisation in dancing is something which is natural to someone who grew up in the culture which produced the dances, but it is something which is very hard for most American folk dancers. Andor not only taught us set sequences for the dances, but he also gave us some direction about when and how to improvise in order not to violate the cultural heritage of the dances.

Following the afternoon session, a pot luck supper was held in the Seminole Dining Room, located close to Montgomery Gym where the workshop was held. Everyone contributed a dish to help make the supper a delicious banquet. Special thanks go to the Tallahassee folk dancers who prepared Hungarian main dishes, and to Adele Liskov, who coordinated the dinner.

The party Saturday night was a kaleidoscope of color and sound, as dancers waltzed, drmesed, and polkaed in their festive costumes. About halfway into the evening, Andor showed several nice films of Hungarian dances. He told us some interesting things about Hungary, and pointed out what was authentic in the films and what was added for the sake of the camera. After the films, the dancing continued until about 1:00 a.m., and, since the time changed that night, there was still time for most to get a decent night's sleep before the review session Sunday.

Andor began Sunday morning by teaching the remaining two dances which he hadn't had time to teach on Saturday, thereby creating what may be a unique situation--a folk dance instructor actually teaching all of, and only the dances included in the syllabus! Andor wound up the workshop by reviewing all of the dances which he had taught.

This was the first weekend workshop with a major teacher which the F.S.U. Folk Dancers have organized, and I was very pleased with how smoothly everything went. A great deal of credit goes to the many people who helped me with the workshop--Pat Brodsky and Patti Schutt who handled space reservations and sleeping accommodations; Juan Dominguez-Morales who helped arrange the dance programs from the requests sent in; Lee Burgess who taped the programs; Dan Thompson who along with Juan and Lee were in charge of the programs and requests; Adele

Liskov who organized the pot luck supper, and the many people who helped out in other ways. p.2
And of course, we owe a big THANK YOU! to Andor Czompo, the delightful teacher who made this
Hungarian workshop a truly memorable experience.

-Pat Jung

PENSACOLA THANKSGIVING WORKSHOP

Pensacola again hosted a very enjoyable workshop during Thanksgiving weekend this year. The teacher this time was Ron Wixman, teaching Bulgarian and Armenian dances. The weekend began with a party Friday night, during which Ron taught several dances. Saturday the teaching began in earnest, and Ron outlasted most of us in his stamina; people were exhausted while Ron was still full of pep late Saturday afternoon. I can still hear his words ringing in my ears: "Half-way, all the way, right leg, hands up!" (And now I can hear everyone who wasn't there scratching their heads in confusion!) After showers and/or naps, people emerged refreshed for the dinner and costume party. The dancing was done to a good balance of records and the Pensacola Folk Band, which gets better each time I hear it. We also enjoyed hearing honorary PFB member Daemon's zurna again.

After dancing late Saturday night, most people still managed to get up for the review session Sunday morning. It was good seeing old and new friends from different parts of Florida, Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and a few other areas. A special treat was seeing two former Tallahasseeans, Jackie Kracker, who now works and dances in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Craig Miller, who has been working in Colorado, and will soon be on his way to Central and South America on vacation. We had to say goodbye to Jackie again Saturday night, but Craig came back to Tallahassee with us and stayed for a week before he went back to St. Petersburg to prepare for his trip.

Ron Wixman taught some very nice Bulgarian dances as well as some pretty Armenian dances. Many people were intrigued by the Armenian dances, since they are very different from what most of the groups do around here.

Ron was a very interesting teacher. The following are some of the memorable points which Ron made:

--Reka is really a men's dance in the villages of Bulgaria; the second step which we do was added by a performing group, so that women in the group could do the dance for a performance. (Think about that the next time someone refuses to let a man dance Reka!)

--Pas de bas do not exist in any Balkan dances. If you are doing a Balkan dance with pas de bas in it, it probably should be some other step, such as the sopka step.

--Which hand goes over and which goes under? The general rule throughout the Balkans is that the hand in the direction you are moving first goes under; the other hand goes over. This is true in basket, little finger, shoulder, or regular hand holds.

--Think "up" in Bulgarian dances. The first beat is always accented in Bulgarian dances, usually by an upward movement. The rest of the movements are lower, and more down to earth.

--Sestorka is danced in Serbia with small steps, not the large movements most U.S. folk dancers use in it. This is typical of the corruption of many dances when they are brought to the U.S. The styling is changed for performances, for recreational dancing, or just through carelessness.

--Armenians do not move their hands in time to the music, as the Turks often do. Sometimes they bounce to the music, and that may make it look like they are moving their hands independently up and down.

In summary, it was a very enjoyable workshop, and we are already looking forward to next year's Thanksgiving workshop. What better way to work off all that turkey and dressing?

-Pat Jung

The "Around the World" dancers are now meeting on Saturday, 2-4 p.m., at the New Collins Community Center, 3900 N.E. 3rd Ave, City of Oakland Park. Call Bea Statnick at 771-5287 before you go, since the time and place are subject to change.

Note: the following is a slightly edited version of a letter received from Judith Magyar, editor of "Karikazo", Hungarian Folklore Newsletter, in response to the article by Ginny Corwin, "Let's Dance in Romania", printed recently in the FFDC Newsletter, and in Viltis.

TRANSYLVANIA-ACTUALLY EXISTS

I feel obligated to correct some statements Ms. Corwin made in her report about her trip to Romania this past summer. It was a group trip organized by Sunni Bloland and quoting the article: "by her friend Anca, Head of Ethnic Dances for ALL OF ROMANIA."

In the following, I do not intend to judge Ms. Corwin, Sunni Bloland, or the tour, which sounds like it was a lot of fun for all who took part in it. I only wish to assert some facts about the "other side" of life in Romania.

From the article by Ms. Corwin, it seems that there is plenty of Romanian dancing in Romania, which is only right. However, if Anca is the head of ALL ETHNIC DANCES, people on the tour should have left Romania with a more complete picture of the ethnic life there. For some, not accidental reason Ms. Corwin's and other groups are not given even the smallest insight into the folklore of minorities, while traveling in Romania.

As a coincidence, I was also in Romania this past summer: namely in Transylvania. In Hungarian it is called Erdely... Having read Ms. Corwin's recount, it is evident that we visited different places. I am sorry that she and others in her group have to find out reading these lines about the rich Hungarian folklore of Transylvania... (ed. note: there are 2½ million Hungarians living in Erdely, or Transylvania. They have lived there for about a thousand years and have had a big influence on the culture of the area)

The region was very much alive for me: talking to women on their way to the fields; enjoying the christening and wedding festivities of a village in the Kalotaszeg region. These festivities also take place in the "cultural center", but not for the benefit of tourists—they are real, the entire village taking part in them, sharing the work and the fun. The costumes worn by the women and little girls are still part of the everyday wear here. Red, white, green, colors of the Hungarian flag are found on many clothing articles and in embroideries. People dance the "forgos" (whirling dance), legenyés (men's dance) to the tunes of a Hungarian gypsy band. The girls spice the music with improvised verses about the dancers—in Hungarian, of course. In church, and if they feel it is safe, sing the Hungarian national anthem: "Isten, add meg a magyart..." (God, bless the magyar people).

In the cemeteries, tomb stone-epitaphs testify to the age-old personal tragedies and lives spent by Hungarians on Transylvanian soil.

In Kolozsvár (Cluj), I met young girls and lads from the town of Szek, at their regular gathering place and enjoyed their special singing and dancing particularly because we have already been doing their dances in the United States; and now saw it for real! The town of Szek (Sic) is in the Mezőség region of Transylvania. Young people from there often leave for other towns to work in factories, to become servants, but keep together. Another interesting fact is that today's form of Táncház (Dance House) in Hungary originates from Szek. As long as I reminisce about Kolozsvár, the last line of a folk song I heard in Transylvania rings in my ears: "Lesz meg a magyaroké Kolozsvár" (Kolozsvár will belong to Hungarians at one time...) Nowadays it is a great risk to think along these lines in Romania about a town that is officially called Cluj.

In Transylvania today, Hungarian folklore and culture is fighting for survival. The young people of Szek meet outdoors, and they dance in spite of the curtailing laws. Hungarian groups are dissolved or influenced in their repertoire by officials. In the "Transylvanian Museum" of Kolozsvár the most characteristic Hungarian costumes of the region are missing; the creations of folk artists are shown with texts in Romanian only.

While the government states that it furthers the ethnic life of minorities in Romania, Hungarian schools are closed, folk music and dance research is possible only with a license—if one gets it. Books in Hungarian are published in few copies, many of them are translations of Romanian works. The same is true in the theatre.

The various folk festivals throughout Romania give a mis-shapen picture of minorities' ethnic life. In the case of Hungarians, they are either not invited or in many cases are clad in tasteless "cute" mini-costumes that are not representative at all.

I could name more sad facts that perhaps prompted a 12 year old boy to say to me:
 "I don't know who I am any more...in school I learn one thing and at home the other side of it."

As a propagator of Hungarian folklore I feel I have to correct false ideas about the heritage of all Hungarians, to the best of my knowledge. This will in me was reinforced by a text I read on a tombstone in the cemetery of a village in Kalotaszeg:

"I lived 70 useful years."

"Eltem 70 hasznos evet."

The villages of Transylvania only appear to be quiet...(Transylvania), through its language and living folk culture instinctively wants to stay Hungarian as if in hope for a better future. If they can help it, they will not be reduced to being only an "influence" in a land they lived on for many centuries.

-Judith Magyar

SARASOTA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Sarasota group is having a Christmas party on Wednesday, December 15. It will be held at the Sarasota Recreation Club, at 9th Street and U.S. 41. The party will begin with a covered dish International supper at 7:00, with dancing following at about 8:30. Bring a covered dish, a 50¢ donation, costumes, and any holiday customs from other countries. Any questions? Contact Jeanie Whitehead at (813)755-6212. Jeanie also reports that their Scottish group is meeting twice a month, but that the dates will probably change starting in January, so contact her before attending.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

More information will be provided about these events as we receive it; a contact person is listed for each, for your convenience.

February 25,26,27: Bulgarian workshop with Dennis Boxell and Mary Hoagland (singing and dancing). There will be split sessions for men's dancing and women's singing groups. Place: Florida International University; price \$10. Contact Marilyn Rath, 3000 Natoma St., Miami, Fl, 33133.

February or March: Scottish workshop with Marianne Taylor, in St. Petersburg area. If you are interested in attending, contact Doug or Mary Taylor, 8011 Country Club Drive North, St. Petersburg, Fl, 33710, by January 15. They need to know how big a room to reserve for the workshop. Phone number: (813) 345-6987. Last year's workshop was a big success.

April 29,30,and May 1: Polish workshop with Ada and Jas Dziewanowski, sponsored by the Tampa group. Contact Judith Baizan, 2503 Palm Dr, Tampa, Fl., 33609. Phone: (813) 257-0001.

NEW EDITOR NEEDED

Our newsletter editor, Beadie, has decided that she doesn't have enough time to devote to the newsletter, so we are looking for another newsletter editor. Thanks, Beadie, for all your hard work. Are there any volunteers for newsletter helpers or editors out there? Let me know if you can contribute some time to it; I'm trying to find a local editor, since the newsletter is being printed here, but so far, no luck. Someone might be able to do it at the beginning of next quarter when we regain the dancers who have dropped out in the end of the quarter rush. But in any case, we could use some helpers to keep us informed on what their groups are doing, write reports on workshops, etc. The editor should be free to do just that--edit, not spend so much time actually writing the articles, which is what I suspect has happened too often in the past. If each group could appoint one or two conscientious people to write articles on what their group is doing, and maybe write feature articles once in awhile, we would be able to have a good quality newsletter without overly burdening any one person. How about it, troops, any volunteers for helpers?

I also have to fill the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the FFDC, which would ideally be a local dancer, so that business can be handled more efficiently. Dan Thompson has had to resign because of the heavy study and practice schedule demanded by a music major. Someone has been asked to fill this position, but has not yet accepted.

-Pat Jung

Originally, membership in the FFDC ran from spring workshop to spring workshop. As more members joined at different times during the year, the transition was made for the membership to run for one year from the time the fee was paid. In some cases, however, the joining date was not recorded in the record books, and it has always been a problem for individual members to know when their membership expired. We are trying to remedy that situation by putting the expiration date on the address label of the newsletter, right after your name. Take a look at your label now, to see if it's time to renew.

The month and year of expiration are listed numerically; for example 2/77 means that your membership expires in February, 1977. If the date on your label is any month is '76, this is your last issue unless you renew your membership before January 5. If the date is ?/76, it means that the month you paid in 1975 was not recorded; when you renew, please tell us what month you paid in 1975, if you know, so we can credit you with a year's membership from that time. And of course, if you paid in the first few months of 1975, you need to pay \$3 for 1976 and \$3 for 1977. If the date on the label is ?/?, it means that your name is on the membership list, but there is no record of your having paid on any date! This will be your last issue, too, unless we hear from you by Jan. 5. One reason that the newsletter has been so expensive in the past, **is** that we have been sending them to people who have not renewed their memberships when they should have; this system of letting people know when their memberships expire should remedy the situation. The newsletter is currently being printed on the FSU campus, at about 2¢/page, or 3¢/two sided page, which is much less than what it had been costing before. We are also exploring the possibility of getting a cheaper postal rate on the newsletter; so we are trying to cut down on newsletter expenses. Also, this smaller type allows more to be put in the newsletter in the same amount of space. We will be using Xeroxable press-on labels for the addresses, as soon as we have an up-to-date list of who is really still a member (January 5; don't forget to renew before then.) If you have any other ideas for improvement of the newsletter or other things, don't hesitate to let us know.

UPDATING OF FFDC DIRECTORY

All group leaders, please contact me at P.O.Box U-6947, F.S.U., 32313, before January 5, to tell me the current information about your group, so we can update the FFDC Directory. Needed: the name of your group, when and where you meet, admission charged, if any, and the names and addresses of one or two contact people.

-Pat Jung

FSU FOLK DANCERS IN TRANSYLVANIA! (Transylvania County, N.C., that is)

On the weekend of November 12-14, nine FSU folk dancers drove to Brevard College, Brevard, North Carolina, to see our good friend Mimi Jones, and to put on a performance at the college. Mimi has missed folk dancing since she moved from Tallahassee last fall, and, like many others in her position, she decided to start a folk dance group so that she could dance again. She invited us to come up to Brevard to perform in order to generate some interest in folk dancing at the small college. Little did she know we'd be crazy enough to accept! The performance went very well; we did a variety of International dances, in two costumes. We performed for about an hour, and then taught some easy dances to those in the audience who wanted to stay. Although the audience was small, many of them stayed and thoroughly enjoyed the dances we taught. Most who stayed expressed an interest in meeting with Mimi to learn more dances.

The trip was long and exhausting, but the fun of being with friends, seeing snow fall in the beautiful mountains, and helping a good friend start a folk dance group made the trip very worthwhile.

-Pat Jung

MARILYN'S MOVIES

Marilyn Rath has many silent movies which she took of festivals in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Romania. She would be willing to show these at a future workshop, if people are interested. Write her and tell her YES! (Maybe at the Bulgarian workshop in February?)

FFDC Directory

SUNDAY

CLEARWATER Scottish Dancing, 7:30pm
John Marsden (813)447-6176
ST PETERSBURG Eckerd College Folk
Dancers 6-7:30pm. Dick Bredenberg
(813)867-5061
TALLAHASSEE FSU International Folk
Dancers 7:30-10:30pm. Pat Jung
(904)576-3028

MONDAY

DAYTONA BEACH International Dancing
7:30-10pm Susan Horvath (904)
255-5767
LEESBURG International Folkdancing
7:30-9pm. Tom/Helen Sears (904)
787-5333 days; 787-0861 eves.
WEST PALM Main Clubhouse, 7:30-10 pm
Advanced. Sam/Rose Kanars
686-7145 for info.

TUESDAY

HALLANDALE International Folk Dancir
7-10pm Clarice/Bernie Adler
(305)233-3117
LAKELAND-WINTER HAVEN Folk Dancing
7:30 pm. Donna Roe (813)683-0320
MIAMI Israeli Dancing 7:30-9:30pm
Yosef Yanich (305)576-4330
MIAMI Univ of Miami International
Folk Dance Group. Ira Weisburd
(305)538-3966
FT LAUDERDALE Around the World
Dancers of the Jewish Comm Ctr
Bea/Phil Statnick 771-5287.

WEST PALM Hastings Clubhouse 10-11:30 a.m.
Beginners Sam/Rose Kanars
686-7145 for info

WEST PALM BEACH International Folk
Dancing, 1-3 pm Archie & Zoe
Juris (305) 968-3152

WEDNESDAY

MIAMI International Folk Dancers
7:30-10pm. Ginny/Manny Corwin
(305)444-3730
ORLANDO International Folk Dance
Club 7:57-10:30pm. Dave Digby
(305)422-2028; Larry Wartell
645-0290
SARASOTA The Folksdancing 1st &
3rd Wed. Cubby/Jeanie Whitehead
(813)755-6212 or 755-7005

HOLLYWOOD Around the World Folk
Dancing Course, Broward Comm
Coll. 581-8700 Ext 228 for info.

WEST PALM Hastings Clubhouse, 10-12 noon
Sam/Rose Kanars 686-7145 info. Intermed.

THURSDAY

TALLAHASSEE FSU International Folk
Dancers 7-10pm Bob Weinstein
(904)222-7576

WEST PALM BEACH Scottish & Eng-
lish Country Dancing 7:30 pm
Mac & Helen Reiskind, Howard
Park Clubhouse

FRIDAY

FT LAUDERDALE Folk & Round Dance
Class 2-4pm Abe/Vivian Halpern
(305)791-8833
GAINESVILLE Univ of Fla Folk
Dance Club 9-12M. John Ward
(904)376-0224
MIAMI City of Miami International
Folk Dancers. Every other Fri.
9-10:30pm. Marilyn Roth (305)
856-1314; Joe Knight 595-0666
MIAMI Scottish Country Dancing
7:45-9:45pm. Ken/Isis Hilton
(305)667-9059
MIAMI BEACH Israeli Dancing 9-1
Yosef Yanich (305)576-4330
MIRAMAR Irish/American Ceili Club
4th Fri. Mary Borden (305)
625-1652; Jack Smith 587-5552
PENSACOLA Tzigany, U of W. Fla
7:30-? Jim Marsh (904)438-3284
Drew Harris 434-3744
TAMPA 7-10pm. Judith/Ernesto
Baizan (813)257-0001 or
245-1881

SATURDAY

FT LAUDERDALE Around-the-World
Dancers. 2-4 pm Bea/Phil Stat-
nick (305)771-5287. New Collins Com. Cntr
MIAMI Univ of Miami International
Folk Dance Group. Ira Weisburd
(305) 538-3966
MIAMI Israeli Coffee House
Yosef Yanich (305)576-4330

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HALLANDALE Workshops, Internation
al folk dances. Bea/Charles
Kaufman (305)929-5359
MIAMI Belly Dance Lessons. Linda
Hyams (305)573-7956
MIAMI-FT LAUDERDALE Belly Dance
Lessons. Karen Gillis (305)
763-1193
SARASOTA New College Folk Dancers
(during school term) Elaine
Feder (813)349-6413
WEST PALM BEACH Folk Dancing.
Rose/Sam Kanars, 129 Easthamp-
ton, Century Village 33401