

# FFDC

## NEWSLETTER 1985

LET'S  
DANCE  
\*\*\*\*\*

AUGUST

FFDC  
11428 B Wagon Road  
Orlando, FL 32826

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Ormond Beach Int'l Folk Dan  
1018 Berkshire Road  
Daytona Beach, FL 32017

### Presidential Press Release

I hope everyone is having a fun-filled summer of dancing--either at home or while away!

SPRING FLING '85 was a great success bringing together about 80 dancers and friends at the Seabreeze recreation center in Daytona Beach. I hope those who attended had as much fun as we who sponsored it. In addition to a whole day of dancing, there was teaching by area leaders. A highlight of the evening dance party was the performance of two classic folk dances of India by Lina Amin Patel--truly exciting and perfect in execution. Many thanks to all who came and all who helped in any way.

Two comments on folk dancing, festivals and dancers:

1) About once a year we publish a list of the more common rules of folk dance etiquette. Unfortunately, a few long time dancers and leaders forget that these rules apply to them as well. Noted at Spring Fling and at the last few workshops were a few who went to the head of the line after it was well formed instead of properly joining in at the end. (One was even heard to ask what dance they were doing and that that person thought she/he saw it once!) A big NO-NO!! Also noted, and even more serious was a couple joining in at the head of the contr-type set after the proper number was there. This forced the end couple to drop off to find a new set or, in this case, sit out the dance. PLEASE, observe basic rules! A brand new dancer can be forgiven and taught--but what should we do with dancers and leaders who should know better? (Physical violence is outlawed, although often seriously considered at the time.) Hey! maybe we should print their names?

2) Many old time dancers remember when the Ormond Beach International Folk Dancers used to hold their workshops at the Nova Road Recreation Complex. During their last workshop there, some gym equipment was found damaged and they were no longer allowed the use of their facilities. They went to Daytona Beach. After Spring Fling '85, the city found a big mess in the gym area (where we had no right to be). Hamburger wrappers, spilt cokes and cups, smashed grapes and grape stems, and general litter all around. Worse, someone wrote in chalk all over their mats. We all know how fanatical gymnasts are about their area and equipment. No longer can we use their facilities unless we pay to have a city employee there to baby-sit us. (At time-and-a-half their salary) This is truly a very sad commentary on folk dancers. Where can they go next? Perhaps there is a small town that hasn't heard about those "sloppy" folk dancers. Carelessness of this sort is unfortunate and hurts everyone. Is Ormond's reputation and the hassels involved in putting on an affair worth it? This is the question they must now address--and we haven't helped a bit.

GEORGE WASHINGTON WEEKEND TEACHING STAFF: During a brief FFDC meeting at Spring Fling, the many names you suggested were discussed. Letters and phone calls will be made this month to see if we can get a staff under contract. We will report on this and our other projects in future newsletters. Until then: Have a happy summer of dance.....JULIUS

### Editorially SPEaking

Like many people this month, I'd like to add my thanks\*to Julius Horvath and OBIFDC. Without them we would miss a lot of good fun and great dancing as well as folk dance instruction. It is too often very easy to take this

kind of dedication for granted. I, for one, do not want that to happen. We love you'se guys. Many, many thanks.\*

NEXT ITEM: I understand some of you are still not receiving your newsletter. What can I say? I mail them to the address printed in last month's letter (of course, if you didn't get last month's letter what good is that)? If you still are having problems this month drop me a note and I'll do what I can. (NOTE: Don Davis: I have been mailing your letters to that new address, have you still not received them?)

NEXT ITEM: I would love to print some of your handywork--specifically I am looking for opinions and reactions to the Spring Fling '85, for publication in September's issue. Now is your chance to blossom as a journalist. I'm looking for that magical combination fo fact and sentiment that makes for Pulitzer Price winners ---but short of that I'll take what is submitted to me gratefully. PLEASE HELP! Also send me any other items: clippings, pictures, syllabi, words and music, recipes, games, poetry, jokes, questions, (answers), and your editorial comments about other events that are happening in the State (of Folk Dancing). Anything you think might be of interest to the members and consistency of the Florida Folk Dance Council. Thanks.

FROM THE TRAVELING BABIAKS

Dear Dancers: We are here in Folkestone (near Dover) at an International Folklore Festival. We just came in by train from Wales where we attended the annual GWYLIFAN in Cardiff, a gathering of Welsh, English and Scottish dancers to celebrate Midsummer's Day. The parade and street dancing were rained out, but the Saturday evening "barn dance" and the Sunday morning workshop made our trip there well worthwhile. \*\*\*\*\*About 450 dancers filled the main salon of the City Hall, an ornate domed palace built at the end of the 19th century when Cardiff was enjoying a coal-based prosperity. The huge wooden dance floor bounced lightly under our feet. \*\*\*\*\*Rhodri Jones, the caller, was dressed in a Welsh kilt and the different Welsh dance groups and their musicians were all wearing their distinctive costumes.\*\*\*\*\*The dancing was intense. I was surprised at how different the familiar dances are when done with total energy. Doing the side-sliding figure in "Dashing White Sergeants" you are practically air-bourne! There was plenty of stamping, jumping and shouting. They say here that interest in Welsh dancing is growing by leaps and bounds. Everyone was cheerful and inclusive and full of fun. They were also full of bitter, ale, lager and shandy. \*\*\*\*\*At breaks in the dancing, there was a performance by a Welsh Team and a demonstration of an 18th century Minuet by Pat and Don Courtney of the Covent Gardens Minuet Society in full costume from white wigs to high heeled shoes. At midnight the dancing moved out of City Hall and into a nearby hotel, where the "sprung" floor was almost as large.\*\*\*\*\*At the Sunday morning workshop, we were taught the Minuet, several Scottish dances and then we were asked to teach something American. Everyone was up and mingling for "Western Trio Mixer" and the version of "Virginia Reel" I learned fifty years ago at a Grange Hall in Pomona, NY. Rhodri Jones noted that it was a medley of three of their dances.\*\*\*\*\*We are full of admiration for these Welsh dancers. For them, dancing is a competitive sport. They refer to their groups as "Teams". Before an event they rehearse five nights a week for three hours and all day Sunday. The propelling motivation comes from a revived sense of national identity. All the dancers learn Welsh and the calls are given in Welsh--"unless there are monolinguals present." This enthusiasm for Welsh'ness' is a joy to witness and to be included in.\*\*\*\*\* Sincerely,

TAMP TRIVIA

Those who didn't make it to the Spring Fling (yes, the mid-July one) missed a fun time with a lot of good dancing. Many thanks to Julius and his enthusiastic crew.\*\*\*\*\*What's happening in Tampa is that good dancers from elsewhere are swelling our ranks and making Friday night dancing better than ever, in spite of regulars being off on vacation. And the wonder of it all is that these great people are not just traveling through, they are here to stay. They are now us! Lee Woodfin from Boston, Mark and Irma Polster, most recently from Texas, and David and Bob from Orlando, (we would weep, too, if they were going instead of coming). This may mean a revival of couple dancing!\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*On the first Friday of the month we are trying an "International Dance For Everybody" event. The next ones will be August 2 and September 6. During these evening nearly all of the dances are briefly taught--talked or walked through. Although the dances are all easy we are trying to make the programs varied enough to keep our experienced dancers interested. We hope some of you will come a-visiting.

Judith

ORMOND ODDS AND ENDS:

Ormond has their share of world travelers with Elizabeth to leave soon for Europe. \*\*\*\*\* Wednesday during her brief visit to Daytona. Spring Fling.\*\*\*\*\*Spring Fling was a BLAST! time during the day and evening. Thanks to all opportunity to provide folk dancers a chance to requested prices for our painted "embroidered" \$40 with the individual prices of : blouse-\$6, for quantity. These are the same as we used at Folkdancefest '85. To order, call: Olga Princi at 904-258-7375 or write to her at: 1017 Chippewa Trail, Holly Hill, FL 32017--Sorry, no credit cards or foreign currency.\*\*\*\*\* Have a happy summer!!!!!! OBIFD



Debbie dancing her way across Yugoslavia and We were happy to have Lina dance with us last Naturally we talked her into dancing for us at About 80 dancers and friends visited us some- who came and to all who helped. We enjoyed the get together this summer.\*\*\*\*\*Many of you Hungarian Kalocsa costumes. A complete set is vest-\$20, apron-\$20, cap-\$5. Discount prices To order, call: Olga Princi at 904-258-7375 or write to her at: 1017 Chippewa Trail, Holly Hill, FL 32017--Sorry, no credit cards or foreign currency.\*\*\*\*\*

MOUSE MUSINGS

We want to thank Julius and company for sponsoring the Spring Fling '85 on July 13. It was good to see our folk dancing friends again and to dance all day. We will try to keep the tradition and sponsor the Winter Fling in January.\*\*\*\*\*Our performing group had a re-organisational meeting and barbecue in Mid-June. John Karris was applauded for his efforts and the success of last year's performance season. We had many new performers who required a great deal of practive and instruction. And John was teacher, manager, scheduler, director, and technician for the group. For this coming performance season, we divided up the responsibilities. The results for officers in the performance group are: Costumes: Raynette Kibbee, Mickey Cross, Katy Warner, and Elinor Hall; Booking: Pat Henderson; Technical Manager: Bobby Quibodeaux; Directing: Phyllis Kelley, Su Boer, David Digby, Jim Warner, Raynette Kibbee, and Bobby Quibodeaux. We will let you know how our group fares with "rule by committee"!!!!\*\*\*\*\*We also had our annual Wednesday night election in July. The results are: Raynette Kibbee was re-elected President for the fourth year. Jim Warner was re-elected Treasurer, Pat Henderson was re-elected secretary and Katy Warner was re-elected as Publicity Manager. (Sounds like your typical summer re-runs, doesn't? Congratulations officers for a job well done--or rarely done.)\*\*\*\*\*Another thing that we are excited about is the Advanced Folk Dancing Class that we are working with Valnecia Community College to offer this fall beginning on September 14. The time is 2-4 p.m. (Saturdays) We invite anyone within driving distance to sign up for the class. The cost is \$25 for 14 sessions. Contact any of our officers for information.

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS & INFLUENCE FOLK DANCERS  
WITH DANCE ETIQUETTE  
TO ALL FOLK DANCERS OLD AND NEW

E. Krehm

From many years of experience in attending conferences, workshops, camps, etc., I have learned from others and have also experienced, that certain guidelines should be adhered to when dancing in any form.

The following ideas are not only mine, but also other leaders in the Folk Dance Field.

1. CLEANINESS--Would you enjoy dancing with someone who did not use deodorant? Breathed into your face after a feast of garlic, onions, etc., or a good shot of liquor or beer?
2. PROPER CLOTHING--Tight or heavy clothing will make dancing uncomfortable. FOR GIRLS--Full skirts or dresses with low heeled shoes--soft pliable leather is preferred. FOR MEN--Comfortable sport shirts, long or short sleeves, soft leather shoes. Slacks for girls are not recommended for many reasons--rubber soled shoes are a hindrance?
3. POLITENESS--How often have you neglected to say, "Pardon me," "Thank you," "May I help you?" or "Welcome to our group" to a new member?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DANCE DO'S AND DONT'S

4. JOIN THE DANCE AT THE APPROPRIATE PLACE--In a line dance, go to the end of the line--do not break the line in the center, don't jump in front of the leader when the line has already been formed. Do not assume the position of lead in a line unless you know the dance very well, as all eyes are on you. Dance the way the group has been taught. When joining a contra line or longways dance, go to the end or bottom of the set, never break into the center or at the top after the sets are formed.
5. LET THE TEACHER DO THE TEACHING--Even though you would like to help your partner or the neighbor, you may be more of a hindrance. People can only listen to one voice at a time. Usually the teacher can explain more thoroughly than you could.
6. IF YOU ARE SITTING OUT A DANCE--Do not talk or make noise. This can distract the teacher and dancers while steps are being explained. When the music starts, so can you.
7. DON'T JUST SIT AROUND--When a dance that you know is being taught, join in and practice it. By doing this you can help the new people to learn quickly and you may learn a new point or two yourself. It is not polite to sit it out while the teaching is going on and then jump in when the music is put on (and perhaps do something different).
8. HELP THE NEW DANCERS--Try to make the new dancers feel at home and encourage their learning as much as possible. Do not dance with the same person all the time; try to avoid cliques, but share your knowledge with everyone. It is a good feeling.
9. COOPERATION--Try to cooperate when couples or individuals are needed to fill in sets.
10. KNOWING YOUR DANCE--When a dance is announced do not get up unless you know it. Joining an unfamiliar circle dance can spoil it for others who do know it. If you are in doubt, stand on the outside of the circle or behind someone to refresh your memory. Do not try to learn a dance from just watching.
11. EXTRA DONT'S--Do not leave the dance if you lose your partner in a mixer. Do not leave a circle dance while the dance is in progress without joining the hands of the people on either side of you. Do not put dances on the request list unless you can lead or dance them. Often people put dances on the list just to learn them--this is wrong--you can learn the wrong way, as has been proven many times in the past.
12. DO NOT TOUCH--Do not touch the record or record player. These represent a substantial investment. Mishandling them can cause damage or breakage. If you ask for record numbers, etc., your leader will be most happy to help you.
13. NO GRATUITOUS--No gratuitous advice to the teacher or leader during the process of teaching. Suggestions are appreciated at a quiet moment during the free periods or after the session. Do not tell the teacher that he or she is teaching the dance wrong during the session. Afterwards, you can say that you learned a different version of the dance and then compare notes--perhaps you could have learned the dance wrong.
14. VISITING OTHER GROUPS--When visiting other groups, make sure they are dancing the same version as you know--as the old saying goes, "When in Rome do as the Romans." Do not get up and do something different--sit it out. There are different versions of the same

14. VISITING OTHER GROUPS-When visiting other groups, make sure they are dancing the same version as you know--as the old saying goes, "When in Rome do as the Romans." Do not get up and do something different--sit it out. There are different versions of the same dances being taught.
15. BE RESPONSIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC-Be an appreciative member of your group by thanking your neighbor or partner after a dance. A friendly goodnight to one and all is in order.
16. DO NOT FORGET-NEVER FORGET THAT YOU YOURSELF WERE ONCE A BEGINNER!
17. Don't talk in the circle or line during the dance--some might just like to hear the music.
18. Be courteous to new or visiting instructors; join in the teaching even if it is a dance you know well, or a country you aren't particularly interested in. Who knows, you might be asked to teach when visiting another group.
19. ??????????YOUR SUGGESTIONS????????????????????

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