

Florida Folk Dancer

November 2000

Florida Camp 2001

Weekend after President's Day
February 23-26, 2001

Dennis Boxell

Greece, Thrace, Serbia



Olga Sandolowich

Macedonia

Florida Camp 2001

Although we have described Florida Camp 2001 as a Balkan Bash, our two highly talented instructors will present styles and dances which will appeal to all. Even if you don't think of yourself as a Balkan enthusiast, we have planned a program which we hope will keep you dancing and happy. Come for a weekend of fine teaching, good fellowship, and fun request parties. Registration forms are included in this issue.

Dennis Boxell

Dennis Boxell of California focuses on South-Eastern European culture and dances.. He has been teaching folk dance since the 1950's while still in his teens. Yves Moreau credits Dennis, Dick Crum and Michel Cartier for his interest in Balkan music and dance. Dennis formerly directed the KOLEDA ENSEMBLE of Seattle. Dennis' research includes Greece, Macedonia and Thrace and he has studied other Balkan and Near Eastern ethnic groups, Crow Indians and areas in the Appalachians.

Dennis is originally from Minneapolis and began learning the dances of Croatian and Serbian immigrants there in the mid-1950's. Dennis met Dick Crum, folk dance researcher and choreographer of the Duquesne University Tamburitians, and was inspired to develop further his interest in Balkan dance.

From 1958-1961, Dennis served in the Army in West Germany. Trained in the Czech language (top of his class) for his Army tour, Dennis has since acquired a working knowledge of Serbo-Croatian and Bulgarian. In 1960 he toured with the National Folk Ensemble of Yugoslavia while on a 30 day leave from the Army. He also studied Yugoslavian and Bulgarian dance in London where he learned the five original dances that he first taught at the 1962 Kolo Festival in San Francisco: Bavno Oro, Ravno Oro, Tresenica, Sitno Zensko and Belo Lence. Next he taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp for five years in a row and became the first Balkan dance teacher to do an extended national teaching tour. Bavno Oro is still a favorite everywhere.

Dennis has continued to research dance and study with teachers in the Balkans, record music, choreograph, and present dances to the folk dance world.

Olga Sandolowich

Olga Sandolowich of Ontario, Canada is a Balkan folk dance and Macedonian specialist and is a well known international dance teacher in North America. Olga established Selyani Macedonian Folklore Group in 1969 and was the first dance instructor and choreographer (1969-1975). She is still a resource person for the group. (Selyani means "the Villagers.") Olga also participates in Mariposa in the Schools (MITS), which is a service of the Mariposa Folk Festival of Toronto to provide teachers of folk music, dance, traditions and games to classroom students. If you like Atanas's dances, you'll love Olga's teaching.

Florida FolkDancer

The Florida FolkDancer is a monthly publication of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc, a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to further knowledge, performance, and recreational enjoyment of International Folk Dance.

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SOME MACEDONIAN FACTS and HISTORY

Carol McGinn

To see two beautiful Macedonian costumes in color, go to www.faq.macedonia.org/the.arts/

GEOGRAPHY Macedonia is about the size of Vermont or Maryland with a population (est. July 2000) of 2,041,467. The capital is Skopje. Independence was achieved 17 Sept. 1991 from the former Yugoslavia without bloodshed.

Macedonia is totally landlocked, mountainous, with deep basins and valleys and 3 large lakes. **CLIMATE** is warm and dry in summer and autumn with relatively cold winters and heavy snowfall. It is in an earthquake zone. **LAND USE:** arable land 24%; permanent pasture 25%; forest and woodland 39%; permanent crops 2%; other 10%. **ETHNIC GROUPS:** Macedonian 66.6%; Albanian 22.7% (see note below); Turkish 4%; Roma 2.2% (gypsies); Serb 2.1%; Other 2.4%. **RELIGIONS:** Macedonian Orthodox 67%; Muslim 30%; other 3%. **LANGUAGES:** Macedonian 70%; Albanian 21%; Turkish 3%; Serbo-Croatian 3%; other 3%.

NOTE: Albanians refused to participate in the 1991 census in Macedonia and they claim to be 40% of the population. Serbs say their population is four to ten times as many as were counted. There are 25 ethnic groups living in Macedonia.

The only Macedonian dictionary I found was in Cyrillic with no clues to pronunciation, so here are a few Slavic words:

Zdravo said when people meet, meaning "flourish" Priyatno same as 'bon appetit' Sbogom good-bye (Serbian) Korzo or Corso the evening village people parade, "to walk in the corso"

POLITICS Macedonia was the poorest republic when Yugoslavia broke up in 1991. Most of the young people have moved to cities looking for jobs and a better life. Workers (I assume mostly male) emigrate to Germany, Kuwait, Moscow, anywhere for jobs. In the past century hundreds of thousands have left to work abroad. Approximately one third still live in the US, Canada, Australia and Western Europe. Albanians have moved into their deserted houses and villages.

Since so many Macedonians have immigrated I began to wonder, "Who is left that is a 'Macedonian'?" Just two examples of genocide by

the Turks show what could have easily occurred in Macedonia. In the Persian War of 1727 the Turks took 10,000 Bosnian soldiers and less than 500 returned. In the Russian War of 1735 the Turks took 20,000 Bosnian soldiers and 1,340 returned. I can't find a map which separates Bosnia's territory from Herzegovina to compare size of the countries, nor population figures for 1700's, but I guess Macedonia's male population was decimated in proportion by Turkish war requirements.

So, what makes a Macedonian? Their church. When there was no country called Macedonia, their church prevented them from losing their identity. Macedonians love their church though they may not be very religious.

Macedonia was ruled by the Ottoman Turks until 1913 and was kept in medieval conditions by Turkish misgovernment since 1389. The Balkan Wars of 1912-13 ended in partition of Macedonia into three parts. Vardar Macedonia became part of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (renamed Yugoslavia in 1929); Pirin Macedonia went to Bulgaria; and Aegean Macedonia is now in Northern Greece. The Greeks tried to erase all trace of the Macedonian people by bringing in ethnic Greeks from Asia Minor and forced out thousands of Macedonians and Turks. Macedonians who left could not return to their villages and visas were denied to their relatives. Names were changed to Greek-sounding names. Macedonian language was forbidden.

When Macedonia became a republic in 1991, Greece objected to the use of the name Macedonia saying it was a Hellenic name. Greece also objected to the new Macedonian flag, again saying the symbols used were Hellenic. Since Macedonia is landlocked, the Greek port of Thessaloniki had been used for exporting agricultural products, but Greece refused access thereby creating more economic hardship for the new country. Greece finally lifted the trade blockade in 1995. The Kosovo conflict has also caused severe economic problems in Macedonia.

Today, Macedonia has a large population of Albanians and they fear that any Albanian violence in Kosovo will spill over into Macedonia. Albanians in Macedonia claim discrimination in education (Albanians use the Roman alphabet, whereas Macedonians used Cyrillic), access to public-sector jobs and representative government. The vast majority of Albanians are Muslims and are the fastest growing population in Europe. It is said, "We will beat you in the bedrooms," is an Albanian strategy for achieving power in the Balkans. Macedonians fear Albanians want to take over their country. "They have their own country and they want to carve up ours. We have no other homeland." Albania is probably the poorest nation in Europe and overcrowded.

DANCE AND MUSIC From Macedonian Folk Dances, LP-15: "Almost all Macedonian folk dances are in open circle or line formation, no partners, with leader at the right end. Generally everyone in the line does the same step, following the leader who is usually the best dancer. Many Macedonian line dances are for men only, some are for women only. Before World War II men and women always danced in separate lines, but recently both sexes mix in the lines, women doing the same steps but with more restraint.

"**MACEDONIAN MUSICAL RHYTHMS** are considerably more varied than those of most Western music which uses only the simple rhythm groups of 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 beats. In the Macedonian folk music on this album one finds rhythm groups of 7 beats, 9 beats, and 11 beats counted 2 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 2 and 3 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2.

"**OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** for traditional Macedonian folk music, by far the most important are the zurla (a reed instrument) -- usually played in tandem, only playing melody while the other plays a drone note -- and the gajda (bagpipe). The supelka (1-inch flue) and faval (2-3

foot flute) are used for the melody sometimes, as are also the tambura (mandoline-like stringed instrument) and, very occasionally, the dzumbus (a Turkish many-stringed instrument) and the ut (the Turkish and Arabic oud, a lute-like instrument).

"Since about the beginning of this century, modern orchestra instruments, particularly the accordion and clarinet have taken a definite place in Macedonian folk music. Further, since the Balkan Wars (c. 1912), brass instruments have been introduced in many villages, especially in the south.

"The rhythm instruments for Macedonian folk dancing are the tapan or bubanj (big drum), tarabuka (small hand drum), and daire (tambourine)."

COSTUME In "the old days" Macedonian women wore white serge coats covered with black embroidery using Christian symbols that they had stitched when they were young. The coats were thick as carpets with wide sleeves. Embroidery was used on kerchiefs, jackets, trousers, often in black but also in bright, rich or shallow red.

Bibliography: Some facts found at a CIA web-site for Macedonia: www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mk.html

Folkraft LP-15, Vol. 1, Macedonian Folk Dance, liner notes by Dennis Boxell and Rickey Holden, about 1966.

National Public Radio news report, Oct. 24, 2000

National Geographic, March 1996

Burn This House, the Making and Unmaking of Yugoslavia, by Jasminka Udovicki and James Ridgeway, editors, Duke University Press, Durham, 1997. This book is a collection of articles written by journalists, Muslims, Serbs, Croats, historians and former diplomats still living in the former Yugoslavia.

Black Lamb and Grey Falcon, by Rebecca West, Penguin Books, 1982 (originally published 1940).

-- End --

Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc
Florida Camp
Weekend after President's Day
February 23-26, 2001

REGISTRATION FORM
(One per Person please)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

email: _____ Phone: _____

FFDC Membership (one per household) = \$ 10.00

Camp Fees:

Full Time

___ on campus (Three days, nine meals) \$170.00 = _____
 ___ off campus (Three days, nine meals) \$125.00 = _____

Part Time

___ Two days, six meals, ON campus \$130.00 = _____
 ___ One day, three meals, ON campus \$90.00 = _____
 ___ Two days, six meals, OFF campus \$100.00 = _____
 ___ One day, three meals, OFF campus \$75.00 = _____

Arrival: Fr: ___ Sa: ___ Su: ___ Mo: ___ First Meal: B ___ L ___ S ___

Departure: Fr: ___ Sa ___ Su: ___ Mo: ___ Last Meal: B ___ L ___ S ___

Tents = full OFF campus fee + \$6.00 each day per person ___ days x \$6 = _____

RV's = full OFF campus fee + \$20.00 each day per vehicle ___ days x \$20 = _____

T-shirt(s) Small ___ Medium ___ Large ___ \$10.00 = _____

Camp Video: \$15.00 = _____

Contributions to Olga Princi Scholarship are appreciated (but not required) = _____

If postmarked before January 15, 2001: take a \$10.00 discount = ()

TOTAL PAYMENT = \$ _____

Diet Preference (check one) Regular (with meat) _____ Vegetarian _____

Cabin Preference: Men ___ Quiet Women: ___ Rowdy Women: ___ Couples: ___

A few upgraded cabins are available for an additional \$5. per night -- inquire if interested

Please Note: Remember that dancing, like any physical activity, carries the risk of injury. We dance on a concrete floor. The Camp environment is rural with limited lighting and rough walkways. Neither Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc., or its members, officers, or directors have the resources to cover the costs of injuries or illness. While we don't want to discourage anyone from coming to Camp, your attendance is your representation that you have adequate insurance or other resources to cover your medical costs, lost wages, and pain and suffering without recourse to the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc. or its officers, directors, or members should you suffer any injury.

Make check payable to "FFDC"
 Send To:
 Joan Washington
 311 S. Montgomery St.
 DeLand, FL 32720-5122

Any questions about registration call
 John or Barbara Daly at 321-951-9623
 email to: jdaly@palmnet.net
 web pages: www.folkdance.org

Sharpes Assembly

The Sharpes Assembly 3rd Annual Contra and English Country Dance Festival was held the long weekend of Oct. 7 at the venerable Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring Florida. Eighty dancers and leaders enjoyed 2 large wooden floor dance halls and a total of 16 callers and teachers, all of whom were volunteers. Special guest contra caller Rusty Wright came from Deming, New Mexico and other out-of-state dancers came from New York, Connecticut, Georgia, West Virginia and Kentucky. The program included 2 evening balls, daytime dance workshops and informal square, round and folk dance sessions, as well as swims in an 85 degree outdoor pool. The lodge has been booked to repeat this event in 2001 and 2002 during the first full weekend in October. The weekend was under the direction of George and Onie Senyk who have led the Sharpes Assembly and its predecessors for 20 years. A number of members from the Lloyd Shaw Foundation, Contralab and CDSS were in attendance.



Coming Events

Fall Fling

Melbourne Village
November 11, 2000
Contact:
John Daly
321-951-9623

Autumn Leaves

Durham
November 10-12
Tom Bozigian
Lebanese and new Armenian dances
Opet will be there.
Cost \$55 'til Oct 25
\$60 thereafter.
Contact: Janet Epstein
615-297-2546
Mary Lou
615-385-0424
mlduram1@juno.com.

Camp 2001

Feb 23 to Feb 26, 2001
Balkan Bash
Dennis Boxell
Olga Sandolowich

National Folk Organization

Feb 22 to Feb 25, 2001
Annual Conference
Ball State University
Contact: Vonnie Brown
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Baton Rouge, LA 70808-5912
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