

Florida FolkDancer

August, 2001

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: Pat Henderson

It is time for your president to plan for the instructors for next year's camp. I need the help from any of you who attend workshops this summer like KDI, Balkan Camp, Stockton, etc. If you think an instructor would be good for our group, please let me know. (407-275-6247 or henderp@hotmail.com) I am hoping to have an instructor that does both couple and non-couple dances like France Moreau did. We can advertise that one session out of four each day will be for couple dances instead of the usual 50/50 (exception being this year's camp, of course.) I will do my best to make next year's camp the best possible. Please help me with your recommendations. Hey, it worked for me ten years ago!

PARTY - OIFDC'S 30th ANNIVERSARY

By Pat Henderson

On July 14, about 40 dancers gathered in Orlando at the Whirl and Twirl Square Dance Club to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Orlando International Folk Dance Club. David Digy, the club's founder, traveled from Atlanta with Dorothy Archer to attend the party. Shortly after his arrival, we danced David Hamelich which means "David came to the party"! Then we danced a program that I had planned which featured a dance from each year of the club's existence starting with 1971. For each year after camp started in the 1980s, the instructors were noted with a dance that was a favorite of our group from that camp. Also, a few dances came from some of the Israeli workshops sponsored by the Orlando Israeli group. After the dance program, we enjoyed a pot luck dinner with great ethnic flavors. Special thanks go to Juanita Schockey, Joy Herndon and Ann Robinson for their assistance in setting up and preparing for the dinner. We enjoyed seeing dancers and friends who traveled from Melbourne, Palm Coast,

Ormond Beach, Palm Beach, Miami, Tampa and DeLand. Where were you, Gainesville? David and Dorothy from Atlanta and Virginia Marzal from Miami get the awards for the most distance traveled! Bobby Quibodeaux, my husband, was the disc jockey, reviewed a few of the dances, and danced way more than anyone expected since he was only 18 days out of heart surgery! He said that he slept the best that night and felt the best the day after the party since his surgery. (We thank everyone who called, emailed, and sent cards to Bobby during this ordeal!) Thanks to everyone who participated in this great event. There is a t-shirt that is available for \$10. Contact me to request one.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

By John Daly

The www.folkdance.org website is not currently available.

There's a long, strange story about the web site. We are still negotiating to get it back up. It was originally hosted by IAG. IAG was bought out by onemain.com. Then onemain was bought out by earthlink. Having purchased all these web accounts, earthlink then turned them all off, just as you see on the web page.

There are quite a number of businesses and organizations here in Melbourne which have been affected because my ISP had been very enthusiastic about selling and hosting web sites. Florida Today ran a feature article on the situation a week or so ago. Julius Horvath is the owner of the domain name and has spent enormous amounts of time on hold with earthlink customer service and has received absolutely zero response. We have no idea what they want to bring the site back up.

So.....Julius contracted with another ISP to host the site. They have great customer support, but . . . the domain name "www.folkdance.org"

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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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Subscriptions are \$12 per year and includes membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council. The membership year runs from one Annual Camp (usually February) to the next. New members will get membership for \$10 if they opt to receive the newsletter electronically.

Check the following website for further information on folk dancing in Florida: www.folkdance.org

Included in this issue is the FFDC Membership Directory. Please check your listing to ensure that the information is correct. Contact Bobby Q. with any changes: bobbyquibodeaux@att.net or send to Pat's address above. We will update the directory with changes in a subsequent issue.

Mark Your Calendar:

Mountain Playshop: August 10-12. See online description at www.main.nc.us/ifaa.

Cassadaga Contra Dance: August 11. With Eric Harris. See article below for web address for info.

English Country Dance: August 24, 2001: Time- 8 PM to 10:30 PM; beginner lesson at 7:45. Location - St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine St., St. Augustine, FL. Live music with Jubilee; calling by Charlie Dyer. Cost- Donation of \$6 per person.

Mainewoods Dance Camp 2001: Weekly sessions Aug. 4-Sept. 3, \$460 week, \$260 for Labor Day Weekend. www.erols.com/mainewds (908) 647-2936.

Labor Day Israeli F. D. Weekend, Aug. 31 – Sept. 3. Ruthy Slann, (864) 654-3511.

St. Augustine Greek Festival at the Armory. Oct. 12-13. Live Band. Contact: Mikae Gaetanos 904-471-8278

Fall Fling, Nov. 10th, Melbourne.

Send your items for ethnic and dance happenings by emailing to the editor by the 15th of the month deadline for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

Answers to "Match the dance to the country":

Alunelul - Romania
Karapyet - Russia
Kasapsko - Macedonia
Paidushko - Bulgaria
Pata Pata - So. Africa
Somogyi Karikazo - Hungary
5 Figure Cacak - Serbia
Bare Necessities - England
Daronee - Armenia
Sapari - Israel

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which Julius bought and paid for is still linked to IAG's server by the domain name server. The domain name server, which is separate from everyone else, has had bad experiences with fraud and won't make the transfer until they receive a confirmation by e-mail from Julius through his IAG mail account because that's the contact point of record. Julius can't access his IAG mail account because earthlink has turned it off -- or more likely changed the logon name "to better serve our customers" as they explained when they did the same to me.

You can still see most of the site as rehosted, but you have to use the IP address which is 65.108.202.99. All you need to do is put that in on the address line of your browser. Sorry about the difficulty, we'll get it back up as soon as we can get the various bureaucracies to cooperate.

OIFDC News

By Pat Henderson

Many members traveled during the summer. Bobby and I were in San Francisco and Yosemite National Park during June. We danced in Santa Cruz and Palo Alto during the vacation. The dance party in Palo Alto featured two different dances starting in two rooms simultaneously! The party was made up of members from the individual smaller groups in the area. Joe and Lucy Birkemeier and Ellie Hall traveled to Greece and the Greek Isles on the Dance on the Water cruise. Juanita Schockey and Ann Robinson attended the Kentucky Dance Institute. We look forward to learning new dances from them. Other activities of members include Kelly Fagan performing in 1776 in Eustis and of course, our 30th Anniversary Party. Our group is planning a visit to dance with the Melbourne group on August 17. I have heard rumors that some of the DeLand group will be going also. Since our group is on hiatus during July and August, we look forward to visiting the Melbourne group.

A NOTE FROM A PAST PRESIDENT

By John Daly

I've been enjoying the freedom which comes from turning an organization such as the

FFDC over to highly competent successors. The most visible evidence, of course, is the Florida FolkDancer with Jan Lathi as editor. I'm really glad she has been able to work well with the various groups as it's fun to see what others are doing.

In that vein, the South Brevard group is carrying on with enthusiasm. We've been reviewing some of the Macedonian dances from Camp. We dance every Friday evening at the Henegar center in downtown Melbourne and are looking forward to a visit from Orlando folks in August. Everybody is always welcome. Give us a call to check that something hasn't happened and to get directions. I'm at 321-951-9623.

We're also planning for Fall Fling on Saturday, November 10th. Most FFDC members will be familiar with the format. We meet at Melbourne Village Hall about 11 am. Dance for a bit. Break for a potluck lunch. Dance until supper. Break for supper using leftover from lunch and whatever else we can find. Barbara and I usually smoke a turkey so we've never run out. Then we dance until 11 pm or until everybody fades away.

I've also reserved the room for Sunday November 11th, but haven't really planned the day. Possibilities are a return visit from Dennis Boxell (but cost would be around \$30 per person for that day --unless we decide to just host it ourselves) or a Couples Fling as we did a few years ago. Suggestions are welcome. (72300.757@compuserve.com or jdaly@onemain.com or jdaly@palmnet.net -- surely one of them will still work!!)

I've also been enjoying a new hobby -- antique, or at least vintage, sewing Machines. It all started when Barbara was trying to sew up a costume and kept having trouble with the sewing machine. So we hauled out my Mother's old Singer Featherweight. It ran beautifully. But in servicing and adjusting it I began learning a little about sewing machines. We though a larger machine might be easier and looked for a "rotary." Well, that led to two more sewing machines. Then a treadle, and the dealer threw in an extra head. Then Julius began looking for them at garage sales and came up with a Singer 201 in an art deco cabinet. An early zig-zag machine turned up in a thrift store. And I picked up a really neat little chain stitch machine which we've used to add decorative stitches to

some things. It's been a lot of fun, so don't throw away that old sewing machine!

Best wishes to all and see you at Fall Fling if not before.

TALES FROM TURKEY/TAMPA

By Terry Abrahamson

Hi Everyone!

I'm back from Turkey and have much too much to tell, so am going to tell you only about the dancing/music happenings.

1. The first week we were on our own in Istanbul without our tour group; found a little piece of paper advertising a FOLK DANCE SHOW (in English) and immediately went to see it. There were very few in the audience - it turns out it was their first week of performing! It was a lovely performance, with dances from all areas of Turkey, excellent costumes, good choreography that didn't get in the way of it being "folky" and excellent dancers. As we exited, a gentleman asked us how we enjoyed it - it turned out he was the originator/organizer of the show and wanted input. Actually invited us back to the Friday performance and to talk with the dancers, and perhaps work out with them, but we weren't in the right place that Friday - much to my dismay.

2. We saw a few versions of the Whirling Dervishes, but while in Konya, where the whole thing got started, there was an entire showing of the whole Sema - the musicians, the greetings, the organization, the whirling. This usually happens only once a year, but apparently they have decided to take advantage of our curiosity and now make this very fine presentation. This is one of Jodi's passions, so it was especially interesting.

3. The first day guide suggested that sometime during our week on our own, we should go to a 3:00 show at the Military Museum. We tried to go, but got lost on our way to a synagogue and missed the 3:00 deadline. Luckily, the last day of our trip, we tried again. First, the museum itself, which sounds dull, was great- costumes, weapons, flags - but at 3:00 we followed the group to the second floor to the auditorium. I had been told the performance was outside, so already disappointed. But there were two huge kettledrums dressed in red in the center of the stage. Lights were lowered and on the wall a

slide presentation began - all about the place of music in battle - very very well done, but just a slide presentation. Again a bit disappointed. Then as the lights went up, the wall opened up - we see a garden and at the end of the walk (about 1/2 block away) we see a huge group (50+) of men dressed in full historical regalia marching toward us. They march into the room through the open wall - men with standards, men with swords, men with instruments. Had they not played a note we were happy. But they played. They formed a circle. There were trumpets, zurnas, small double drums, regular marching drums, bigger drums and one guy who played the kettledrums. They played about 1/2 hour of Turkish march music, and it was fantastic.

4. When we were at Effeses we had a tour guide that spoke English (we were with a Dutch group, so didn't always have that advantage); a few days later we ran into him in the streets of Selchuk, we had tea, I said we were still looking for dancing; he suggested a show he said was the best in the world. Said it would be difficult to get tickets, but he got us some. The last night of our trip we went - and it was - are you ready for this? - "Sultans of the Dance." Yes, Virginia, it did resemble Lord of the Dance. But if you liked that, this was even better. The tunes were often ones I knew from our dancing, the steps were also very recognizable (the choreographer is a folk dance specialist). Then they slicked it up - just like the Irish, but the music was fabulous, the connections to their history very well done -and all in all it was definitely not to be forgotten. I am trying to get hold of the video and if am successful will bring it to camp in February. By the way, this cost about \$13.00!!!! Not a bad ending to our trip!

5. I also managed to dance in a leather shop where a couple of guys were playing a couple of instruments, one of the restaurants we ate in offered a total Turkish evening and we did two folk dances; a carpet salesman taught me another while I bought a carpet; I did buy a Dumbuk (drum) - look out for me at camp; belly danced on a table in a silver shop (hmmm); danced with some drunks at a restaurant; danced at a Turkish disco with Turkish disco music - the waiters took us - we had asked for Turkish music - well, it was... Bought CD's of all - disco, belly dancing (drumming) and some wonderful

classical Turkish music from the drum store.

So that's as short as I can make it. I give the editor full rights to eliminate anything she wants! The group still hangs on. People are on trips and I'll make it their responsibility to tell you about them. I'm taking care of me!!! See you at something...sorry I missed the Orlando party. Someone have another! Thank God Bobby is all right.

GAINESVILLE

From Raluca Rosca

As you might imagine its hot and humid in Gainesville. Even so, our travelers got back from abroad in almost dancing condition: Arleen from Ireland, Jenneine from her mission trips in Ukraine and Costa Rica, Toshi and Jenna from their British vacation. The (US) continental travelers are also active, which explains the somehow low attendance. However, the last Friday of July was very animated: news of Annie Martin, formerly a dancer with the group, visiting from California got everybody in the gym, even people long 'missing in action'! And it was well worth it, from a reconstructed Geamparalele to Kujawiak Niebieski, we did them all. As for the first week of August—it had a cozy quality, with the extra visit from a lady from Arizona. Now settled in their new house, Jack and Linda are back to dancing (and teaching) on a regular basis. We also have a new talented member in Sasha Shapiro, another of our welcomed lady-bugs (i.e. entomologists-turned-dancers).

Happy dancing summer to you all, Raluca (still around until December, news received enthusiastically by my dancing friends and less so by my Romanian family...)

LATHI WINS GOLD!

By Jan Lathi

Amar Lathi of Palm Coast won a gold medal for 50 yard Backstroke in the 65-69 year age group at the Senior Olympics National Swimming Championship in Baton Rouge on July 23-25, where he swam for the State of Florida. Amar also won a Silver Medal for 100 yard Backstroke, a Bronze for 100 yard Butterfly, a fourth place ribbon for 50 yard

butterfly, and a sixth place ribbon for 50 yard Freestyle.

The Olympics were quite impressive – each state wore matching shirts and sat in a block at the Opening Ceremonies on July 22nd. We witnessed the torch being brought in by past Olympians, the Parade of Athletes from each state, the presentation of dignitaries (Louisiana State senator, and Mayor of Baton Rouge, etc.), the raising of the Olympic and U.S. flags over the ceremonies, etc. Olympians ranged from 50 years up. The oldest swimmer was 97!

The Olympics included other sports such as Track & Field, Archery, Tennis, Golf, Volleyball, Basketball, etc. 25,000 participants and attendees were expected at the various venues at Louisiana State University.

CASSADAGA CONTRA

By Miriam LeMay

Happy Rainy Florida Summer!

Just a reminder, while the whole world slows down a little bit when it is raining outside, you can be dancing inside! You probably won't slow down, but you will have a great time!

The next Cassadaga Contra Dance will be at 8PM on August 11. Eric Harris will be calling and Southern Jubilee will be playing. Every dance is taught, and beginners are welcome. If you need directions please send me an email mlemay@mindspring.com or you can check out the web page Stuart had kindly created for us:

<http://members.aol.com/OTownFOFF/Cassadaga.html>

See you there!

Congratulations to Kay Demos of Warren, NJ on her retirement from Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc. of Nutley, NJ. Kay attended camp this past February and currently is the Business Manager of Mainwoods Dance Camp.