

Florida Folk Dancer

January, 2002

PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN

By Pat Henderson

I just read an article in the *Orlando Sentinel* that announced the **Florida Folk Festival 2002** lost its state funding during the last special legislative session. This saddens me greatly since I have enjoyed going to the festival many years and performed several times. One year, I organized a statewide folk dance program that we presented on the main stage. It is especially sad since 2002 would be the 50th anniversary of the festival. The article in the *Sentinel* stated that the State Department (Division of Historical Resources), who has organized the festival since 1979, hinted that the festival may be organized by the Parks Department since the site is the Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center. Friends of Florida Folk is organizing a letter writing campaign to Governor Bush. If you have time and the inclination, I encourage you to write the governor to find a way to save the festival. Ironically, I called Tallahassee this past week and received a registration packet for a performing group. The accompanying letter mentioned nothing about the funding problem. I will send in the form just in case another department/area organizes the event. If the event is held, we will need some of you to be the performers for the Florida Folk Dancers show. I will keep you posted as I find out more information.

Camp registrations are coming in and I have heard that a lot of people are excited about our selection of instructors this year. I anticipate a "sellout", so please register as soon as possible. Remember that you get a \$10 discount if you register by January 15. You also get another \$10 discount if you are a current member. After you register, you should get a confirmation packet with camp information either by email or regular mail. Please read the general information about camp since we are not printing it in the newsletter. If you registered and you have not received a confirmation, contact Terry at 813-234-1231 or email her at

Terry.abrahams@verizon.net. A list of motels is included in this newsletter for those not wishing to stay at the camp. The newly remodeled cabins are as nice as a room at the Holiday Inn so please consider staying in the cabins this year.

We need **volunteers** to help with camp. If you would like to help with registration, play the music for the instructor, run a night program, or be the group to sponsor Saturday night's snack, please let me know. (407-275-6247 or henderp@bellsouth.net)

I have had no recommendations or nominations for the **Olga Princi Scholarship** and I have only one volunteer for the work stipend. If anyone wishes to apply for either of these, please contact me at previously mentioned phone and email as soon as possible.

I wish everyone a great and prosperous New Year. I hope that 2002 will be much better than 2001. At least, a lot of us will come together for four days in February to share our love of dance and each other to celebrate life.

MELBOURNE

By John Daly

Melbourne is planning a party on Saturday, Jan. 12th, at the Melbourne Village Hall. Some of the group have been talking about doing something for several weeks but just hadn't gotten it completely put together.

The occasion (if we need one) is that Fannie has been dancing with us for a year (for those who don't know Fannie, you'll meet her at the party). The party is being hosted by her! Let's call it a Newcomer's Party and we'll try to have enough easy dances for newcomers to enjoy, interspersed, of course, with the usual favorites that we have all done for years. Having said that, I don't intend to have any instruction, except possibly for set dances which require everybody to be doing the same thing. I'm thinking of the parties we did out west where the newcomers were expected to have learned enough easy dances to participate without instruction. The other reason is that Terry made some casual comment that it would be nice to have

a party between Fall Fling and Camp and this is a great opportunity.

I don't want this to be a clone of Fall Fling, but there aren't too many possible variations on the dance party theme. We'll start dancing at 11:00 and bring in platters for a light lunch about noon. We'll keep snacks about during the afternoon. Hopefully enough people will want to dance into the evening, and if so we'll bring in something for supper and then just keep dancing.

Hopefully you still have the map from Fall Fling, it's the same location and driving directions. If you don't still have the map, probably the quickest source would be the web page, I think it's still there from the Fall Fling publicity.

This will be our treat. We will provide lunch and light snacks. Sometime during the afternoon we'll see how many people want to stay for supper. If someone has a special potluck contribution they want to bring, then please do so. But we do plan to have enough without expecting people to bring potluck.

So that's the plan. John

J-S-H-R-T-W-I-A-N-E-R-S

These ladies are anxious to attend this year's spectacular Florida Dance Camp: they were the first camp registrants and will each get a free t-shirt. **Joy Herndon** and **Juanita Schockey**, congratulations!

G-A-I-N-E-S-V-I-L-L-E

By Raluca Rosca

(The Editor wishes to apologize for the lateness of the inclusion of this article.)

Greetings from the lost group!

Oops, we've done it again--the Gainesville group missed a fabulous Fling and has only Murphy's law applied to event scheduling as an excuse. No, we didn't go to Jacksonville for the Florida-Georgia game (as half of this fair city of ours did) --instead we went to the "Mata Hari" dance show (a production of the local professional company 'Dance Alive', featuring not only classical ballet, Indian dance, tango, waltz numbers, but also the stage set by our own Balkan-dancer-in-residence Margaret Tolbert!). The last time that Margaret designed a set for Dance Alive, the show was 'Dracula' in which

folk dancers were on the stage doing 'Hora de la Gorj'. We promise to try hard for the next one...

We have to add in our defense that the Sunday after Fling we performed for the Gainesville Downtown Arts Festival. This is the first time we danced for this annual event in some ... years, and we have to report a fair success! 12 people (including 3 recruits, properly trained--welcome to the group Amy, Nicole, Laura!) did one or more of Baso, Cetvorka, Sabrali se Sabrali, Keciko. The audience was very appreciative and (surprise!) even joined us in An Dro Retourne (remember that one? - the funky music arrangement, sheep-counting Briton dance taught by France Moreau in 1999 at the President's Day camp). I have to mention here six year-old Olya, who inherited her parents' passions--she promises to be a dancer like her mom and a photographer like her dad (I'll let you know who took better pictures of our group dancing--she or I). Other ethnic numbers featured in the Festival were the local Morris Dancers (all bells on green costumes in a lively program), the local 'lost and found' Greek dance group 'Parnasus' (all dressed up in impressive 'original copies of authentic costumes' but rarely if ever dancing at the local Greek festivals and fund-raising events) and an African drums band, joined by four dancing members (who made everything but stones and booths to move).

What else should I mention? We are welcoming a sudden demand that keeps us dancing/teaching on campus and in the community and we hope to get some 'young blood' out of it. Dancing in Norman Gym is as good as ever, stop by if you are in Gainesville on Mondays or Fridays. In October we had such a pleasant guest in the person of Andy Pollock--an announced visit would have brought more 'serious dancers' in the gym, but we hoped he enjoyed our dancing company anyhow.

Anything else? Well, yours sincerely defended her dissertation on a tongue-breaking topic on October 25, celebrated for three days with eccentric circles of friends, and is in the job market ever since. If you see in the Classifieds 'Young fearful dancer needs teaching job; associated folkdance group a must', this is my ad. Now seriously, any tip on an opening or contact in your local higher education institution would be GREATLY appreciated. I can teach basic engineering courses (Statics, Dynamics, Physics with vectors and such) or any level of math.

December came with all kind of gifts: great workshop news (Lia and Theodor Vasilescu for Florida Camp, Nicolas Hilferink for Rang Tang, should I call 'hurray for Romanian dance' in here?), a performance for Shands Hospital holiday show arranged by Shelley (imagine Keciko done in the hospital main atrium, trying to face the audience without kicking the piano--- it surely got more attention than the carols sing-along). It came with my commencement ceremony (Julieta managed to be two places almost at once-- first producing zurna-like sounds when I was crossing the stage, then dancing with the group for the Solstice festival!), preceded by an enjoyable Friday dance in star/lamplight in front of Norman Gym (this one to be repeated on January 4th). It came with surprise gifts for my graduation (including Dr Seuss's 'Oh, the places you'll go'-- one good medicine for post-graduation blues). So... here I stay, curious what January will bring.

On this Bavno Oro tune let me wish you 'Happy assorted holidays' ! Raluca (a.k.a. Dr. Rosca at the same (352) 846 -5487).

rarosca@ufl.edu

*SARASOTA
GRAPES AND VINE*

By Thekla Kahn

We thought you should know the venue of our April 6 & 7, 2002 Israeli Dance Workshop led by Don Schillinger! It's a really neat place, just off I-75. The Longwood Park, 6050 Longwood Run Blvd, is a county facility and easy to reach. There is lots of space for parking and a good floor, although not wood. You will reach it from I-75 exit 40, (University Parkway) go West to Longwood Run (light) turn left until you see a sign on right side of road. We know that there's some time yet, but we would love to hear from you. Send your check to Nancy Wilusz at 3880 Poinier Ct, Sarasota, FL 34232. For any questions you can e-mail me at warka@home.com

In the meantime we are dancing some of Don's dances at our Wednesday night sessions. We have had some very exciting visitors from all over the US! Visitors are coming, no matter what the Press states! A Happy New Year to all, and Happy Dancing!

ROMANIA, part 1

by Carol McGinn (words in italics are Romanian words)

DESCRIPTION: Romania is roughly circular, bordered by the Black Sea to the east, and the Danube River and Bulgaria to the south, Yugoslavia to the southwest, Hungary to the northwest, and Ukraine to the north. Moldova/Moldavia, formerly united with Romania, has been independent since 1991, lies to the northeast.

The capital of Romania since 1861 and largest city is Bucharest. It was the capital of Wallachia in 1698. Major languages are Romanian and Hungarian. There are also many people of German descent. Major religion is Eastern Orthodoxy.

Romanian, written in Cyrillic, is based on Latin with influences from French, Greek, Slav and Turkish. Romanian sounds similar to Italian, French, or Spanish. Romania is a little smaller than Wyoming or Oregon and a little larger than Utah; over twice the size of Hungary; over twice the size of Florida. Contains about 24 million people.

ROMANIAN FLAG: In 1859 Wallachia and Moldavia joined and became Romania in 1861. Wallachia's colors were blue and yellow; Moldavia's colors were blue and red. The Romanian flag took its present form in 1866 with equal blue, yellow and red vertical stripes, similar to the French tricolor.

DANCE: Romanian folk dance (*Jocuri*), songs and clothing/costumes differ from region to region due to the historical differences that divide the country into regions. Villages were self sufficient and isolated in the earliest years, and traditions evolved that were specific to each village.

Traditional folk dances do not have a definite date of creation. Tradition handed down the dances to the next generation. Dances changed.

Every good dancer tends to have a personal imprint he/she gives to a dance, a variation.

Younger people dance with more energy, more precise movements, more unity. Older dancers may not lift the knee as high or jump and hop with the energy of others, but perhaps they enjoy the dance more, or feel more community spirit with the other dancers.

Dance descriptions of any old dance are rare.

Folk dances were an integral part of village life and celebrations: weddings, births, christenings, deaths; holidays; arrival of spring, harvest time,

market day; insuring the continuation of life; fertility of people and the soil, rain, good weather.

REGIONS and DANCES: There are several areas of Romania: Transylvania, Wallachia or Walachia, Moldavia (separate from Moldova, which is an independent country), Dobroja or Dobrogea, Bucovina, Banat and Oltenia. Only Banat, Transylvania and Moldavia appear on maps I found, along with names of 40 states/provinces.

Hora is danced all over Romania, in a closed circle (rarely open), by men and women, holding hands. *Sirba* is also danced all over Romania, in an open circle (sometimes closed), by men and women, with small jumps, shoulder hold.

WALLACHIA and MUNTENIA - in the south part of Romania. Bucharest/ *Bucuresti*, the capital, is here. Produces corn, sunflowers, wheat and other grains; farmland, vineyards and orchards. Contains many resorts and beautiful scenery and oil fields.

Sirba and *Hora* originated here. *Brau* (girdle) dance was done by men only, but now done by both men and women. Dances show Transylvanian and Bulgarian influences. Dances done by men and women, groups, open or closed circle, married and unmarried, boys and girls.

There are some couple dances. Dances are fast, with lots of stamping, complicated footwork, virtuoso dance steps, shoulder or waist (belt?) hold. There is no hand slapping on the legs. Arm movements reflect Bulgarian influence.

DOBROGEA/DOBRUJA - the flattest part of Romania. Lies between the Danube River in the south and the Black Sea in the east. Contains farms, spas, beaches. The north third is marshes, fishing towns and an important wildlife sanctuary.

TRANSYLVANIA - The central area containing the Transylvanian Alps or southern Carpathian Mountains which are horseshoe shaped, surrounding the Transylvanian plateau and easily crossed. Varies from 3,000 to 6,000 ft. or 914 - 1829 meters. Many Hungarians and Germans live there.

Usually couple dances and danced in groups of three dances, one after another. *Invirtita*, *Hategana*, *Hora*. some special women's dances with singing. Also *Calusar* which is danced at Christmas and New Year's. *Breaza*, a lively syncopated dance, found in SE Transylvania and the lower Danube, originally from shepherd dances, danced in pairs, often in a circle.

MOLDAVIA and BUCOVINA - In the northeast and north central part of Romania. Bordered by Ukraine on the north. Bucovina is a small area in the north, where the *Bistrita* River, 5 yards wide, cut a gorge 1,000 feet deep. MOLDOVA is now a separate country on the eastern border of Romania, a former satellite of the USSR.

MOLDAVIA - Polish dances (*trilesesti*). Dance usually slower and more calm than in Oltenia and Wallachia. Music exhibits a steady rhythm.

BANAT and OLTENIA - Banat is in the western part of Romania, between Yugoslavia and Transylvanian Alps. OLTENIA lies between Transylvania and Wallachia. Also home to Hungarians, Germans (Swabians), Serbs, though most are Romanians.

BANAT - Men's dances predominate, though there are some for couples. Leaps on one foot, complex steps. Music is melodious. Couples face, holding hands and go under arch of another couple. Men whirl around the women.

OLTENIA - dances are divided into 2 areas: (1) sub Carpathian, influenced by Transylvania and (2) Danube lowlands, influenced by Bulgaria.

There are men's dances (*Brau or Brui*), women/girl dances, and mixed group dances.

Men and women usually dance side by side.

Dances for 2 or 3 are rare and found mostly in the mountains. Men's dances are mostly in lines, basket or waist hold, with fast, intricate, fluid footwork. There are many crossing steps in place, fast twisting of the body, single and double crossing of the feet, heel taps, rhythmic running, all done on the balls of the feet.

Dancers shout frequently. Men's dances are found all over Oltenia, esp. near Danube.

Hora, Briu, Rustemule, Alunelul, Trei pazeste.

Dances named for flowers: *tranafirul* (rose), *busiocul* (basil); for animals: *ariciul* (hedgehog), *vulpea* (fox), *birsancuta* (lamb); for objects: *itele* (thread), *troaca* (trough); for women's names: *Ileana, Radurianca, Simiana.*

Dance done for performance may be based on traditional dances, but choreographers and professional dancers try to create spectacular effects and win a completion. One is not superior to the other, but do not mistake one for the other.

MUSIC

Romanian musical instruments include pan pipes (*nai*), bagpipes, *caval* (a long shepherd's pipe usually played solo), flute, cymbals, drum (*timbalu*), *cobza* (a kind of lute), violins, small double bass (*gorduna*), and a stringed dulcimer-

like instrument played with padded sticks (*tambal*).

Each region has collections of songs, usually sad, called *doine*. These are lyrical songs, allowing for improvisation, express longing, sadness, and rebellion. Music was not written down, but passed from one generation to the next.

In 1949 the Romanian Communist Government created the Folklore Institute to collect, study and utilize popular music, literature and dance. Folklorists collected material from each region with recording equipment and film. [Perhaps Theodor and Lia Vasilescu can tell us if any of this survives today and is available. Remember Dennis Boxell's movie?] The government also encouraged regional dance and music competitions. Amateur and professional dance companies were financially supported by the government.

FAMOUS PEOPLE: Do you have an ominous feeling when you hear the word, "Transylvania?" Vlad Tepes of Bran Castle, near *Brasov*, ruled Wallachia between 1456 and 1462. He was also known as Vlad the Impaler because of a peculiar habit, which makes me queasy to think about. He fought the Turks who also did not fight very nicely and was killed by Turks in 1476. The myth of the vampire, Count Dracula, was created by an Irish novelist, Bram Stoker, in 1897 which could be based on Vlad's peculiarities.

More recent well-known benign Romanians are Ilie Nastase (tennis), Nadia Comaneci (Olympic gymnast), Georges Enesco (classical composer of "Romanian Rhapsodies"), Eugene Ionesco (playwright), and Constantin Brancusi (sculptor who lived and worked mostly in Paris).

Bibliography:

A Guide to Central Europe, Richard Bassett, Viking Press, 1987.

Fodor's Eastern Europe: Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria. Fodor's Travel Publications, 1994.

Collier's Encyclopedia, Vol. 3, 1997, page 487.

Britannica, Vol. 14, 1989, page 582.

Folk Costumes of the World, Robert Harrold and Phyllida Legg, Castell Publications, 1999.

Romania, Betty Carran, Children's Press, Chicago, 1988.

Romania, Keith Lye, Franklin Watts Publication, London, 1988.

Rumanian Folk Dance, CE 3010, Classic Editions, record jacket.

The Folk Music of Rumania, The Atlas Series of Music from Around the World, 6109, record

jacket.

The Romanian Folk Ensemble "Ciocirlia" (the Sky Lark), EPE 0377, record jacket.

Flags of the World, Eve Devereux, Crescent Books, NY, 1992.

Between the Woods and the Water, by Patrick Leigh-Fermor, who walked through Romania in the early 1930's on his way to Istanbul. He describes clothes he saw on the people. If you find a copy of this book, I (Carol McGinn) would like to see it.

National Geographic, "Americans Afoot in Rumania," Dan Dimancescu, June 1969, Vol. 135, No. 6, pages 810-845.

Europe Travel Book, AAA Publishing, Heathrow, FL, 1999, pages 207-215.

Happy Hula-days from DeLand

By Joan Washington

The DeLand International Folk Dancers' annual holiday party took on a Hawaiian theme this year and it was a lot of fun.

When our emerging social director, Myriam Lemay, first mentioned a Hawaiian theme I wasn't too enthused, but it might be all the fresh pineapple we had been eating that got me in the spirit. Dancers were invited to dress Hawaiian if they wished. A prize was offered for the best Hawaiian costume and extra points were awarded for a Hawaiian costume in the red and green color scheme. Our panel of biased and subjective judges had sole responsibility for selecting the winner. There were some very attractive costume selections, but if you've never seen your FFDC president and vice president, Pat and Bobby, in green plastic grass skirts with red tinsel leis...well, they won the golden pineapple plant award hands down.

The finger food did not have to follow the Hawaiian theme, but we did have fresh pineapple, canned pineapple, and Mauna Loa chocolate dipped macadamia nuts. Wally served his world famous punch - after all one of the main ingredients is Hawaiian Punch. During refreshment time, we listened to Hawaiian music, of course.

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.

President: Pat Henderson
9859 Berry Dease Rd.
Orlando, FL 32825
407-275-6247
henderp@bellsouth.net

Vice-President: Bobby Quibodeaux
Treasurer/Secretary: Terry Abrahams

Please send all submissions to:

Newsletter Editor: Jan Lathi
38 St. Andrews Court.
Palm Coast, FL 32137
amarjan@bestnetpc.com

Deadline: 15th of the month prior to publication

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Subscriptions are \$15 per year and include membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council. The membership year runs from one Annual Camp (usually February) to the next. Members can receive the newsletter electronically if desired.

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

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Tamburitzans, Saturday, January 5 in Crescent City at the George C. Miller Middle School. 7pm. Buy ticket at the door (usually \$10).

Newcomers Party, January 12, in Melbourne, 11 am to ?

FFDC Camp Weekend, February 22-25, 2002. Silver Springs, FL. Save this date!

Israeli Dance Weekend with Don Schillinger, April 6th & 7th, 2002, Longwood Park, 6050 Longwood Run Blvd., Sarasota, FL. \$35.00 covers dance & food. Sponsored by the Sarasota Grapeviners. Send check to Nancy Wilusz at 3880 Poinier Ct, Sarasota, FL 34232. e-mail contact Thekla at warka@home.com

15th Annual Israeli Dance Workshop, sponsored by the JCC of Greater Orlando will be on April 27 and 28, 2002. Teacher to be announced.

Dance on the Water, 18th annual folk dance cruises. June 10-24, 2002 – Galapagos/Ecuador, July 23-Aug 6, 2002 – Alaska Inside Passage. Contact Mel Mann, 510-526-4033 or meldancing@aol.com or www.FolkDanceOnTheWater.org. (Several Florida folk dancers plan to go to the Alaska trip. The more, the merrier, so check this out and join us for fun, education, and dancing enjoyment!)

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S T O D R. RALUCA ROSCA on her dissertation, survival and graduation. We all dance in celebration for her! In fact, I think we'll have two Romanian dance workshops this year just to honor her Romanian contribution to our United States and Folk Dance subculture.. One at FL (used to be President's Day) camp and one at Rang Tang April 6th. We are also planning on attending WDC World Dance Camp in Tarpon Springs, Jan 4,5,6 Including the Tamburitzan show. What fun!!
From Jenneine Lambert

Florida Folk Dance Council
c/o Lathi
38 St. Andrews Court
Palm Coast, FL 32137

First Class

*HAPPY NEW YEAR,
EVERYONE!*

**FLORIDA CAMP 2002
FEBRUARY 22-25, 2002
SILVER SPRINGS, FLORIDA**

INSTRUCTORS:

SANDY STARKMAN

Teaching International Dances

AND

THEODOR AND LIA VASILESCU

Teaching Romanian Dances

Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

**Florida Camp
February 22-25, 2002**

**REGISTRATION FORM
(One per person please)**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

email: _____ Phone: _____

Do you want to receive your newsletter by email? Yes _____ No _____

Camp Fees:

Full Time

___ On campus (Three nights, nine meals)	\$185.00	= _____
___ Off campus (Three nights, nine meals)	\$135.00	= _____

Part Time

___ Two nights, six meals, ON campus	\$140.00	= _____
___ One night, three meals, ON campus	\$70.00	= _____
___ Two nights, six meals, OFF campus	\$100.00	= _____
___ One night, three meals, OFF campus	\$55.00	= _____

Tents = full OFF campus fee = _____

RV's = full OFF campus fee + \$20.00 per vehicle = _____

FFDC Membership (one per household) \$15.00 = _____

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

Camp Videos (2 videos this year; one is prerecorded): \$25.00 = _____

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

If you are a **current** member, take a \$10.00 discount = (-)

If postmarked by January 15, 2002, take a \$10.00 discount (**Full time only**) = (-)

NEW: Student discount of \$10 per day = (-)

TOTAL PAYMENT = \$ _____

Night parties are on a walk-in basis: \$10 (\$5 students) per night

NOTE: First meal is supper on Friday; last meal is lunch on Monday

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

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

Diet Preference (check one) Regular (with meat) ___ Vegetarian ___ Lactose Intolerant ___

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

ALL CABINS HAVE BEEN UPGRADED THIS YEAR!

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., nor its members, officers, nor 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:
Terry Abrahams
701 W Idlewild Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604

Any questions about registration?

Call: Terry at 813-234-1231 or
email to: terry.abrahams@verizon.net
Web page: www.folkdance.org