

Florida Folk Dancer

April / May 2003

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ann Kessler

My dear Folk Dance Friends -

Just a short message this month as summer fast approaches and snowbirds are flying away (I could never understand why they call them snowbirds - why not SUNbirds in search of the sun???) and summer plans being planned. I, and your board, for one thing, have been busy thinking of much needed by-law revisions and when they reach fruition, will share them with you.

Our treasurer, J.P. Miller has asked me to remind you to please pay your dues in the very small amount of \$15.00 for the year (if it has not already been done). JP's address is:

JP Miller
2006 Oak Street
Melbourne, FL 32901

These monies go toward the production of our monthly newsletters (production goes on even during the summer) and to aid in the cost of any advertising, particularly for the annual Folk Dance Camp. And the purpose of the newsletter is to facilitate communication among Florida International Folk Dance Groups and dancers, and to further the knowledge of, appreciation for, and encourage participation in Folk Dance activities or related cultural activities in Florida, as well as in national and/or international functions.

In the future, the fiscal year of FFDC, Inc. will run from March 1st through the last day in February with dues being due by March 1st, but newcomers are welcome to join anytime. Please, if you have not paid your membership dues, please do so as soon as possible because

we need ALL of you (and not just your money).

Keep on dancing, because - *remember* - NOTHING HURTS WHEN YOU DANCE! See you on the dance floor.

P.S. And did you know that the founding "mothers" of our not-for-profit corporation, "Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc." (a.k.a. FFDC, Inc.) in the year 1980 are: Judith Baizan, Andi Kapplin, and Terry Abrahams? Thank you Moms!

EDITOR'S WORDS

by Dan Lampert

By now, you've probably noticed a change in the format of this newsletter. Hopefully, it's more read-able and print-able by everyone.

Specifically, I've picked text fonts and margins that are standard on both PCs and Macintoshes. I'm also publishing the newsletter in PDF format, which is a world-wide standard. To make the transition easier, the newsletter will still be available in Word and RTF formats for a while.

If you have comments about the new format of the newsletter, please email me at dan@webuniv.com

FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL, May 23-25, 2003

by Pat Henderson

The 51st Florida Folk Festival will be held again in White Springs over Memorial Weekend, May 23-25. The Florida Folk Dance Council will have a workshop or two during the weekend. If anyone wishes

to attend the festival, let Pat Henderson know as soon as possible to put you on the list for tickets as a participant. Each participant can get two tickets. If you wish a free camping space, let Pat know that also at henderp@bellsouth.net or 407-275-6247.

OTHER UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Memorial Day Weekend International Folk Dance Festival. May 23-26, 2003. Cherry Hill Park College Park, MD. Yves Moreau, Theodor Vasilescu and others. \$160. 301-871-8788 or diamonddancecircle@comcast.net

Orient Camp at Camp Bournedale in Plymouth, MA. May 23-26, 2003. Ahmet and others. \$315. 617-232-4140 or info@worldcamp.us www.orientcamp.us

World Camp in same location as Orient Camp. October 10-13, 2003. Zeljko Jergan, Joe Graziosi, Steve Kotansky, Yves Moreau and others. \$315. Phone 617-232-4140 or info@worldcamp.us www.worldcamp.us

Montreal Perseids Dance Camp. August 3-9, 2003. Atanas, Jaap and Joe Graziosi. \$370-\$470 depending on accommodations. 514-323-7166 or jocelynev@videotron.ca

GREETINGS FROM BOSTON

(Follows our dance camp in Ocala, FL)
by George Fogg

Greetings to all my wonderful new dance friends and to many of those I have had the good fortune to acquire over the years from various dance camps. It was a neat reunion. The warmth, friendship and kindnesses were much appreciated, enjoyed and welcomed, because I know that English Country Dancing is not on top

of the international folk dancers' hit parade. Naturally, I find this hard to understand, but then I am a cross over dancer enjoying all folk dancing. My love of English country dance arrives from two major objects: 1) the beautiful music aka tunes; 2) the breathing space in the figure movements; the flowing of figures one from another and then again into another figure and finally the interrelationships with my partner and all the others within a given set. Obviously, number two applies to Scottish, Irish, quadrilles, cotillions, squares, contras, to mention a few such configurations and countries.

In my mind English Country Dancing is divided into two parts: Playford and traditional. The Playford style dances were choreographed for the elite and those who could afford dancing school and wished to climb socially. Many of these early dances were designed to current and popular tunes of the day. An example is the lovely haunting tune used for *Hole in the Wall* penned by Henry Purcell. The refrain was used in the play *Abelelazer, or The Moor's Revenge, 1695*. The dance quickly appears in *The Dancing Master* of ca. 1698, (Vol. I, Part II, 2nd Edition.) As it is in 3/2 meter, it would have been danced by the proper folks of that day with the minuet step. However, we, today, use what I call, the "20th century country dance walk." The country dance walk-step is by means of flexible knees and ankles without a lot of dipping and bowing. The other part of English dancing is, what we now a-days term, as "traditional" or really "folk dances." Many of these "folk dances" were collected in the English village setting. Frequently, these traditional dances employ a step referred to as the "rant" or "polka". When English instructors say, "polka," they don't mean a Polish polka but the "rant" step.

My land, whatever got me onto this dissertation? But, now, at least you have some idea of how I feel about our wonder social activity "folk dancing." Mainewoods

Dance Camp is held every August down Maine. As the camp name is long it is becoming simply known as Mainewoods. It was begun, lo, those many years ago by Michael and Mary Ann Herman as Maine Folk Dance Camp. This legacy has been continued by the organization Mainewoods Dance Camp, Inc., now in its ninth year. The camp is located in Bridgton, Maine – that’s the correct spelling no “e” between the “g” and the “t”. Bridgton is situated in western Maine and is right beside beautiful Woods Pond. It is named ‘Pond’ but is really lake size. I invite those of you who have computers to check out the web site:

www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org

There you will find all the information needed to acquaint you with our staff leaders, scholarships, fees and other items of interest. Should you not have web access then a postal to me will bring a brochure by return mail.

One of the joys at camp is the Pond-side weekly picnic because that is when lobsters are ordered in and served with field-fresh corn on the cob. Oh, Yum! What a pleasure it is to sit by the water under the tree’s dappled shade with complete freedom to slop and mess up all you desire. I extend you my personal invitation to “Come On UP!

Thank you everyone for the enjoyment of sharing in Florida Folk Dance Camp 2003. The FFDC is to be congratulated on managing such an excellent opportunity to share our love of dancing. Continue to enjoy the dance and each other. Bless you! Peace! Keep Dancing!

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB

by Pat Henderson

Bobby and I spent the first part of March preparing the records of FFDC to be passed on to the new officers. There is a lot of work to pass on the bank account,

membership, and how to plan a camp information. That is why it is very good that we have the same officers for two years. As soon as we finished the FFDC work, it was Spring Break and we took off for a road trip to West Virginia to ski at Snowshoe with our two kids who are now young adults, ages 20 and 21. At least they are old enough to drive! The snow was pretty good for being so late in the season but we encountered a lot of rain on the road. Then Operation Iraqi Freedom began while we were gone which is highly coincidental since the four of us flew to Utah for a ski vacation the day that Desert Storm started.

Those were the days when we were not afraid to fly in our own country! This sounds like we go skiing a lot but there are 2-4 years between our trips. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our regular dance night while we were gone. We returned just in time for Spring Fling. We had about 11 members of our group attend the Fling in the new location which was very nice. Thanks once again to Julius for providing the facility and the food. Annette Brand is visiting us from Canada and attended the Israeli workshop on March 29-30. She stayed in the area for two weeks and made all the International and Israeli events. Kelly Fagan spent the month starring in the play, *Into the Woods* which ran in Eustis for three weekends. I am coordinating the workshop for the Florida Folk Festival so let me know if you want to go the festival for free. You just need to show up for the workshop. If anyone wants to teach a dance, that would be great too.

REMEMBERING ANDY

by Jan Lathi

I received news of the death of Susan Horvath’s father, Andy. Andy Horvath died on St. Patrick’s Day while under Hospice care in a nursing home. Andy danced and

performed in Palm Coast, Orlando, and elsewhere, especially Hungarian dances. He was from Allentown, PA, and lived in Palm Coast since 1980. He was a wood cabinet maker and a master of all trades (Susan calls him "Handy Andy"). There will be no service.

Susan can be reached at 1338 N. Daytona, Ave, Flagler Beach, FL, 32136-3105, or call her at 386-439-2242.

TERRY ON SPRING FLING

by Terry Abrahams

Time flies when your articles are due! But we've had so much fun in between issues. Spring Fling has sprung, and even though we were smaller this year, we had a GREAT time and want to thank Julius for his usual gracious hosting. I tried to help clean up, but he doesn't even allow that. When the evening was growing nigh, he did a couple of oldie moldies that we made him promise to bring forth at the Fall fling. In the meantime, I think we need to spread these things out a little. This Spring Fling happened on the same weekend as the Scottish weekend, on Vernal's (contra) and a lot of us were missing. I know Julius gets the center when he can, but maybe we can all try to undo these conflicts for next year. I also think it's too soon after camp – I just had the pleasure of seeing you all, and now it will be a long time in between again – I know it's good for camp review, but I'd still rather spread the times I get to see everyone more evenly throughout the year. Any comments?

Ernesto is doing fine. Bobby and Barbara (the twins that used to dance with us) came to dance last night, and Barbara, who also had bi-pass surgery, was there to commiserate with Judith. Bobby Q has also been in touch, so the best that can be is being done. I went to visit the other

day, and he's ready to dance – well almost!

The Terry news this month is that instead of going to massage therapy school, I'm going to go to Pet grooming school. I start Tuesday, it goes for 4 months, and at the end I will be able to help my daughter in her newly acquired Grooming shop – named Happy Tails! (We didn't name it, she bought it that way). She had her 8th knee surgery and is not going to be able to keep on reading electric meters for much longer, so this is the new plan. My daughter Mick is going to school with me, and it should be great fun – we both love animals.

I am going to stop writing here to hold this space for when I return from the Israeli workshop in Orlando with Dany. OK – I'm back – and seeing Dany Ben Shalom and Ruthy Slann was just as great as we expected. The dances were cool, although taught at the speed of lightening and we all once again had a great time seeing each other. However, one more weekend in a row and my knees are going to fall off!

See you next month!

TERRY THE TREASURER'S BOOBOO

Four people sent me checks for membership **after** camp. I received them however, I can't find the checks. There is a vague possibility I deposited them in the bank, but I don't remember doing that. Please see if your check has been cashed. If not, please send another to J.P. If I find them, I will alert you personally and we'll discuss what has happened and I can tear the check up if you have already written another. Sorry! And so glad I'm not treasurer anymore. Thanks - Terry

DEAR DEVOTED FOLK DANCERS,

by Ann Kessler

Well the results are in - 8 all POSITIVE votes via email or postcard to have Lee Otterholt next year as one of the teachers for the FFDC week-end. There were three other verbal approvals and one abstention (whatever that means). More about the two exciting teachers as the time approaches.

I heard Spring Fling was WONDERFUL! So sorry I could not be there this year as I vowed to be even before being elected president, but I had booked a cruise on that "fancy ferry" that leaves from the Port of Tampa to Mexico in January to make sure it would cover the time of Fred's birthday (which is March 25th). Actually the return docking was the morning of the 25th, but we had a wonderful celebration the night before aboard ship. It was a short but wonderful trip, by the way, for any one who is interested. Excellent, superb entertainment, good food, etc. But, back to Spring Fling, as someone said once, "Wait until next year" (and, of course, there is still Fall Fling).

Thank you for suggestions about a wood floor for camp. Terry, if you hear from that other man you mentioned, have him call me, and Joy, I tried answering you again but your email address bounced back to me. So far, the most excellent choice would have been with Keith Ansenault, and even if he were available at that time (which he is not), the price for the size of our dance room would have been \$3500.00, so one can easily see that is slightly cost prohibitive. Will continue to check, however.

A zissen Pesach or blessed Easter to all, and remember: You can live without dancing - but not as well. See you on the dance floor.

COMING: ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

by Pam & Curtis, (407) 935-0305

English Country Dance on June 14th in Saint Cloud... Well, it looks like we have the making of an English Dance Club in our area. We will give it a go and see what happens. At this point, we will make a request to the board at the Senior Citizens Center to become a club with the following information:

The club will be called "Central Florida English Dancers" (CFED). The officers for the startup will be: President: Pam Russo, Vice President: Collette Moore, Secretary: Catie Geist Treasurer: Curtis Stulting. We thank these and others who volunteered to have their names used for this purpose.

We will hold our meetings (dances) on the second Saturday of each month from 5-8PM. Our first monthly meeting will be June 14, 2003. Cost: \$1. Members are invited to bring a finger food or drink to share so we can have a light supper at the break.

We will use the built in CD player system at the hall for music to start with. The president will plan a tentative program of dances and will be prepared to teach them. However, all members who wish to lead dances are encouraged to do so. If possible, let us know by email ahead of time what you wish to call and bring the CD. But we can change the program at the last minute if necessary. Dances will held at the St Cloud Senior Citizen Center, 3101 17th St., St. Cloud, FL. We are not sure yet what room we will be assigned, but all rooms have beautiful floating wood floors that are perfect for dancing!

Directions: **From Melbourne** - Take RT. 192 west to St. Cloud and turn left onto Budinger Ave. (corner of St. Cloud Hospital). Go to 17th St. and turn right. Senior Center is on the left before the road curves. **From Kissimmee** - Take RT. 192 east to St. Cloud and turn right onto Kissimmee Park Rd. Turn left on Pine

Lake Drive. Turn right onto 17th St. Senior Center is on your right as you round the bend in the road. **From Florida Turnpike from north** - Take exit for RT. 192 and turn left after the toll booth and follow the directions from Kissimmee. **From Florida Turnpike from south** - Take exit for RT. 192 and turn right and follow the directions from Kissimmee. **From Bee Line** - Take exit for International Airport. Go through the airport to the South Exit. This turns into Boggy Creek Rd. Follow Boggy Creek Rd. to Kissimmee to the intersection of Boggy Creek and Simpson Rd. (Large intersection with Walgreens on the far right corner) Continue straight onto Simpson Rd. to RT 192. Turn left and follow the directions from Kissimmee. **From I-4 west** - Take exit 58 (Kissimmee). Turn right at the end of the ramp and go to RT.17/92. Turn left and go to RT. 192 in Kissimmee (This takes you through Intercession City and Campbell City, so it is a fairly long way). Turn right on RT. 192 and follow the directions from Kissimmee.

If you are coming from some other direction and need information, let us know.

We will prepare a flyer with the important information and send you each a copy by email. We will also distribute it to the dance communities that we attend over the next month or so. We will put a notice in the local Osceola County News regarding this dance as soon as we are approved as a club. The Senior Center will also publicize the dance on its events calendar. We will also contact local friends that may be interested in this type of dance.

Thank you all for your encouragement and support at this point.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

by Dan Lampert

I received an email on the *Dance Grand Prix "Italia" 2003*, which will be held

in Italy from June 19-24, 2003. Fax your request for a "Free Info Package" to <0039 3355118467> or send by mail to: Festival Tour .P. resp. C. Chiucchi C/O Casella Postale Ufficio Postale di Montiano 47020 FC Italy.

NEWS FROM MELBOURNE, FL

by Pat Henderson

Last month, on April 4, the Melbourne group had a going away party for Carol McGinn who will be moving to Albuquerque. Dancers brought international foods that pleased every pallet. Carol picked the program of her favorite dances and we danced the night away. Carol has been an integral component of the Melbourne group for many years as one of the teachers and leader of many dances. Other groups such as the Orlando group enjoyed Carol's visits as we cross pollinated dances between groups. Carol will be greatly missed by Melbourne and the entire Florida dance community. She has promised to come back for camp next year. Her email will remain the same: jraybaker@earthlink.net

GREETINGS FROM SARASOTA

by Marie Millett

Greetings from the Grapeviners in Sarasota. We're enjoying learning the dances from camp and anticipating next year's camp.

Ann Kessler's enthusiasm is contagious.

It was great to dance with my friend, Susan Beachey, recently when she was visiting from Kansas. We used to dance together every week in Wichita, Kansas. Not only do you have the joy of dancing, but you make so many good friends. Until next month....

INTERN IN NEED

by Dan Lampert

It's come to my attention that a pharmacy intern needs a room anywhere in Orlando from June 1 to August 17. She would like to dance. Reach the source at eningan@hotmail.com or call 352-682-8547. Name: Loveta Epie.

TRIBUTE TO ILAN RAMON

by our Israeli Friends

Someone has created an Internet web site to collect tributes to the first Israeli astronaut.

http://homepage.mac.com/israeli_folk_dancers/iMovieTheater125.html

Also note that Ilan's wife sent him words and a song while in orbit -- Debbie Meitin taught dance to the Orlando Israeli Dancers with the same song... and then Dany Benshalom taught it to the dancers attending the Israeli workshop.

GAINESVILLE REPORT

by Raluca Ioana Rosca

On March 23, for VISA International Assembly, UF International Folkdance performed at Reitz Union Collonades Dansul Fetelor de la Crihalma (Rom) -- Kim, Margaret, Nicole, Raluca on stage in Romanian-like costumes and Sevillanas (Spain) -- Margaret and Sasha on stage in flamenco costumes. The attendance was rather low for the quality of the show: not counting our numbers, there were 3 very interesting belly-dance numbers, 1 Bangladesh wedding dance, 1 Indian salsa(!) and one dance with the Venezulean Student Association plus a very impressive flag assembly number. The last sweet taste was provided by kataif (mmm, butter fried angel hair with honey and nuts) brought by a fellow

dancer from the Turkish Student Association.

A BELATED THANKS

by Pat Henderson

Willa Davidsohn's illustrations were used for the syllabus and the English CD at the FFDC camp. Thank you for such great work!

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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Check our web site for further information on folk dancing in Florida: www.folkdance.org

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