



Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

July-August 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ann Kessler

My dear fellow folk dancers -

Hope you are all in the midst of happy vacations. I usually take off from teaching in Sarasota the months of August and September, but this year forced me to take July also. Have just so many obligations in my handwriting world... But dancing goes on through the summer with other great teachers, including Marie, and they would LOVE the pleasure of your company, but do give a call to be assured that there will be a class to Marie at (941) 351-6281 or to Tecky at (941) 378-3728. For my own travels, I have a court case in Freeport, Bahamas (poor me), and if Fred goes with me, we will extend it for 3 or 4 extra days, and then in September to L.I. for Jewish Holidays, and hopefully to dance with my old group, "Annie's Coop."

I have had some beautiful artwork from Fannie Christoph Salerno for the cover of our Camp syllabus and t-shirt. Thank you so much, Fannie, but ONLY Fannie everyone? You have until December 1, 2004 (I changed the date from Jan. 1st to allow for more time for board members to decide) to submit your own personal artwork (or someone else's with his/her permission). Looking forward to seeing all the creativity of some of our members, and remember - the winner gets half of his/her registration fee for Camp paid for, plus 2 free T-shirts. You may use up to 3 colors in your design, keeping in mind to include - 25 years or 25th anniversary or however you want to state it.

It is not too early to think about elections in 2005. Dan Lampert has already agreed to be our editor again (lucky for us), and Nancy Wilucz (lucky again) to be our president. We will need a treasurer and vice-president, and

our past treasurer, J.P. Miller really laid a great foundation for the treasurer's duties, which will make it very easy for the new treasurer. Right now I am holding both positions - president and treasurer and will continue to do so until elections next year in February (but anyone who wishes to be treasurer now, just call me). For any desiring to fill the above positions, please notify our nominating chairperson, Terry Abrahams (phone number and/or email on the masthead). If you don't volunteer, you maybe getting some cheery calls from Terry, so make her life a little easier... You can nominate someone else (with his/her permission only) or nominate yourself for ANY position on the board, in which case, if two for the same position, there would be a voting process. We must have all ballots by NOVEMBER 1, 2004 to have time to announce the candidates in the December Newsletter.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and happy dancing wherever you are - Ann Kessler

REFLECTIONS ON DANCE: *Connections*

by Dan Lampert <dan@webuniv.com>

This last week, I was mowing my lawn, and I watched a woman about 30 walk by my property. Unlike most neighbors who smile or wave, she kept her eyes on the sidewalk and never said hello and never even looked at me. It was a reminder that apathy is still a problem facing our world. And what of the future? Will the day come when most of us don't care to look at each other, don't bother to understand each other, and no longer care for each other?

Furthermore, technology makes it easy to avoid people today... we can use caller ID to avoid phone calls, and we can ignore email messages by simply deleting them.

I thought about these things, and my mind went back to George Fogg teaching English country dances in February of 2003. It was my first FFDC dance camp in Ocala... a very exciting time for me! However, I remember more than excitement. I remember learning the wisdom of dance. George Fogg taught us more than mere footwork -- he taught us "good frame," which is healthy for the body, and he instructed the men (I distinctly remember this) to look into the eyes of that "beautiful creature" as she passes you. *The eyes. The connection.* Think about that. If I were Paul Harvey, I would say "and now you know the rest of the story". You see, George Fogg and other enthusiastic folk dancers are helping people look at each other, understand each other, and care for each other in this world. Is there anything more important? Remember this whenever you dance with others: be courteous, use good frame, and look into their eyes. Let's keep these dance traditions alive!

DANCE ON THE WATER CRUISE

Eastern Europe

By: Pat Henderson

Mel Mann's 20th anniversary of the Dance on the Water Cruises took us through the countries of Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania from July 2-11. The boat actually left from Vienna and some travelers opted to visit Vienna early. Bobby and I decided to stay in Bucharest, Romania on the end of the cruise since we had the opportunity to stay in the home of Theodor and Lia Vasilescu, the dance instructors. It was Bobby's first trip to Europe and it is truly an eye opening experience. The folk dance group consisted of 69 of the 109 passengers on the River Countess run by Uniworld. Along with Bobby and me dancers from Florida were Ann and Danny Robinson and Annette Brand (frequent visitor to Orlando). Since Bobby and I had been on the Alaskan cruise two years ago, we knew almost 20 of the dancers. We also met some new dancers and extended our folk dance contacts to many new

cities and countries. Lee Otterholt taught a new Albanian dance that Bobby and I will be teaching as soon we can. The rich history of Europe and the struggles of the people were explained to us in each port city by the tour guides on our buses. We danced with Hungarians, Serbians, Bulgarians and Romanians while we explored the incredible European history. For the next newsletter, I will share some of my insights into what we saw in Europe.



Serbian dance troop in Belgrade

DANCING IN TRANSYLVANIA (!)

From: JSosb2@aol.com

The Southeast was represented at Theodor and Lia Vasilescu's second Romanian tour which ended just in time for some of the participants to go on Mel Mann's river cruise.

Last year we traveled mainly in the Transylvania region and this year we concentrated on the Moldavia area and a different part of Transylvania. The scenery in both these areas of Romania is beautiful and dancing in several small villages and learning the dances from each was the highlight. Cities such as: Bicaz, Bacau, Gura Humorului, Bistrita, villages of Partestii de Jos, Salva, Cosbuc, Sieut and Sieu and more. (Try to find those on your Romanian map!)

In each village we were greeted by the mayor, and each mayor was more long-winded than the previous one. Also, the traditional greeting of bread and salt and the local dance

groups performing in their "culture halls" or out of doors. It was loads of fun and we learned many new dances, for not only did we dance with the villagers, but we would have dance classes in the mornings or, if sight seeing, in the evenings. Lia was along this year and she is so well organized that she kept the trip running smoothly, even with 40 participants, from the U.S. and Canada.

If you want to see Romania, we recommend this tour, at least if the Vasilescus do it again.

Reported by Sara and Jim Osborn and Adele Northrup, Atlanta Folk Dancers.

FLAGLER BEACH

We danced last week on Thursday (June 24th) after a few weeks' hiatus. It was good to be back on our feet again! Betty Nehemias has returned from a few weeks "up North" where she had a chance to dance at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, D.C. It seems that a group of Swiss dancers meets regularly there and one of Betty's friends is part of that group. Betty also visited Ontario where she has relatives. It is good to have her back. Jan has finished the 6 prescribed chemotherapy sessions and now awaits results of tests to be run on July 12th to see if the cancer is gone. If not, there will be 2 more chemo courses (one day each) to extend the treatment. The memorial service for Amar on June 12th was well attended, in particular by folk dancers. Amar would have been pleased to see so many of you there. Thank you for coming to pay your respects.

My CEO
Jan Lathi

In 1962 when we merged our two small businesses into one, I thought I was joining a club. I wanted my partner to be a playmate, but he wanted only to work. I wanted to enjoy games and he was all business. I wanted to meander through the fields and dance among the flowers but he followed the straight path. I

missed the child I was and still wanted to be. And my partner sought adulthood with its tremendous responsibilities.

*So, my CEO and his veep
Built a business which is strong and debt free
Produced three subsidiaries
Oversaw those off-shoots try at success in
their own endeavors
Abided by the law
Wasted little
And Prepared for cloudy days*

My CEO knew that the struggle brings rewards. He steered us toward firm goals. He monitored his progress all along the way. He compared output to input. He paid his debts. He reported his earnings. He ran a tight ship through many storms. It wasn't time yet to have a vacation.

And now, our complete retirement is close ... the golden parachute has been prepared.

My CEO has gone on a business trip to prepare our play area in Forever. He is landscaping the yards where we will relax and enjoy the sun. He is setting the table for our picnic. He is cleaning the pool for our swim. He is making the bed for our loving. He is sweeping the floor for our dance. He is stocking up on favorite foods. And he is rounding up hundreds of good friends and relatives for us to frolic with.

His retirement is complete and he waits now for his veep and coworkers and acquaintances to join him in Forever swimming the race, singing the ballad, dancing the waltz, and frolicking. The work is done – it is time for him to play.

Jan Lathi amarjan@bestnetpc.com

GREEK KEFI HELLENIC DANCERS

From: ClaudiaTerrence@aol.com

The Greek Kefi Hellenic Dancers performed at Greek Landing Day in St. Augustine on Saturday, June 26th. We danced in a courtyard

across from the Greek Shrine on St. George Street, doing seven dances from various parts of Greece. Everyone had a great time in spite of the heat.

We're still meeting on Thursdays throughout the summer at the Castaways in Daytona Beach Shores. Contact Steve Photiades at (386) 788-2749 for directions. Sessions are occasionally cancelled, so please call before driving any distance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MORE JIM GOLD ON TOUR

From: Jim Gold jimgold@jimgold.com

1. Budapest & Prague! March 18-28, 2005

Led by Adam Molnar and Jim Gold
Budapest, Spring Festival,

Prague pre-extension: March 14-19.

2. Norway! May 14-24, 2005

Led by Lee Otterholt and Jim Gold
Oslo, Bergen. Hovin, (Telemark), Voss,
Folk Festival in Aal!

Copenhagen extension: May 24-27

3. French Canada! July 1-10, 2005

Led by Yves Moreau and Jim Gold
Quebec, Montreal

Drummondville Folk Festival!

4. Bulgaria! August 4-15, 2005

Led by Jim Gold
Sofia, Plovdiv, Veliko Turnovo, Sandanski,
Bansko

Koprivshitsa Folk Festival!

Jim Gold International
497 Cumberland Avenue
Teaneck, NJ 07666 USA
Phone: 201-836-0362 Fax: 201-836-8307

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

August 28th

We are having an English Country Dancing workshop and Ball in Melbourne Village at the Village Hall on Saturday, August 28th, and we would like to invite all of you to attend. There will be workshops from 1-4:30PM (taught by John Daly, Catie Geist, and Onie and George

Senyk) and then a break for dinner on your own at any of the local restaurants (maps and brochures will be provided). The Ball will be held from 7-11PM and we will have live music by Southern Jubilee (www.folkfiddle.com). Delectable goodies will be served during the Interval at the Ball. Fans and finery are encouraged. Brunch will be served on Sunday morning at 9AM with more dancing until 11AM.

The cost is \$20 per person and checks can be sent to Catie Geist, 960 Sunswept Road NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905. If you have any questions, you can call Catie at 321-727-7752 (home) or 321-427-3587 (cell).

Won't you join us for a weekend of English Country Dancing? Be well, Catie
catiegeist@att.net

ETHNIC DANCE EXPRESSIONS

From: Marjorie Malerk sallamahede@juno.com
School of Belly Dancing Gainesville, Florida

Announces their: 2nd Annual "Veils & Visions"
Belly Dance & Zambra Mora Show

When: Sunday, July 25 3:00-5:00 pm

Where: Heyman's Martial Arts Academy
4000 Newberry Road in Plaza West

Cost: Adults: \$10.00; Children under 10: \$5.00

This event celebrates EDE Studio's 5th anniversary & Sallamah Chimera's 25th Year in Belly Dancing.

For more information contact: Sallamah Chimera 352-384-9200
or e-mail: sallamah@bellsouth.net

Fall English Country Dance Ball

Melbourne, Florida
August 28 - 29, 2004

Fall Fling

Historic Community House
Melbourne Village, Florida
October 23 - 24, 2004

The 19th ANNUAL MOUNTAIN PLAYSHOP

--A get together for International Folkdance
Time: August 6,7,8 2004

Place: Swannanoa 4H Camp is at exit 59 on Interstate 40 just east of Asheville NC

Featured Teachers: Erik Bendix (Cincinnati) and Mary Garvin (Minneapolis)
Teaching: Armenian, Bulgarian, Indian, Klezmer and other dances
Cost: Playshop 2004 is \$95 preregistered postmarked by July 20 (\$100 thereafter). Register early. And there's also the Palingenesis discount (\$10) and you are down to \$85. And also the "Other Roof" Discount which is \$15 per person for two birds of different feather: the tent campers and the motelers who are residing off camp. Students come at half fare \$45

Registration form:

<http://main.nc.us/ifaa/register.html>

For more information:

<http://main.nc.us/ifaa/flyer04.html>

SOUTH BREVARD INT'L DANCERS

from John Daly

There are now two offshoots of the South Brevard International Dancers. Fridays we do our regular international dances, concentrating mainly on line dances. Some years ago we started a separate English Country Dance on Tuesday nights because it gave the English enthusiasts more opportunity to dance. And now there is a growing group doing couple dances on Sunday afternoons. How, I ask myself, did all this come about.

It all began several months ago when Judith Baizon offered a series of Scandinavian Dance workshops on Saturday afternoons in Tampa. I have always loved these fast turning dances, but have had little opportunity to do them in our own group because we have so few men. So I persuaded Barbara that we should go over. After a few sessions we persuaded Jean and Mike Murray to join us. There followed months of long Saturday drives to Tampa with the weeds in the yard getting taller and taller while we danced more and more. For John and Jean these dances quickly became a passion. For others in the South Brevard group, including our long-suffering spouses, the enthusiasm was not quite so deep.

"How," Jean and I asked each other, "are we going to retain all these wonderful dances?" We knew we would have to find a way to interest others. But the skills for these dances are not trivial. As our spouses watched in amazement and dismay, Jean and I decided we would have to form a program to teach basic turning dance skills to others. Were we really going to add another dance group? The rides to Tampa now evolved into work sessions as Jean and I sat in the back seat reviewing the dances we had learned and searching through various collections of dance write-ups selecting couple dances that we could use to introduce people to the wonders of waltzes, pivots, polketts, schottishes, and polskas.

At about the same time, Jean suggested that I needed to put the same thought into organizing a class for beginners to English dance. All too often the teaching technique is to say "cast up," and when a beginner goes the wrong way say something helpful like "CAST UP" expecting that louder will be better. Over the last few years a number of beginners in the English group had asked for some better descriptions and I already had a lot of notes which I had been working on. Jean began urging me to put them together into a more workable form. Fannie and Willa contributed drawings, Catie helped proofread, and the whole group offered suggestions. We now have an approximately eight week syllabus with descriptions and diagrams of figures and in general a structured introduction to guide someone new to English Country dance. Many hours have gone into this introduction, and it still needs a lot of work. But it has been through an initial sequence with mostly experienced dancers. The sequence started with puzzled looks as people walked in to find us marking X's on the floor to guide people around the set. It is now close to ready for a real group of beginners starting hopefully in September. The next edition will have more illustrations from our local artists, and the result will represent the efforts of the whole group to introduce English dance to new people..

The culmination of the Scandinavian workshops in Tampa was a suggestion from

Judith that I attend the week-long Scandinavian dance week at Buffalo Gap West Virginia. I'm at a loss to describe it. This was a magical week. The very first night we gathered at the pavilion, musicians from all over the country tuned up and led a procession to the dining hall. How could they all be in tune, how could they all be in the same key, how could they even be on the same tune, how was the bass player carrying his bass much less the rhythm? But there we all were walking down the hill in the twilight. And then there were the waning hours of the night as the lights dimmed and the musicians came out on the floor to play for the remaining dancers as the mists rolled in from the mountains. And at the beginning of the day the early dawn with the geese grazing over the hillside as the camp came to life.

None of this would have been possible without all the effort put in by Judith and Ernesto in their workshops. Hours of patient step work, sometimes on each other's feet rather than our own. But Judith and Ernesto kept us at it and after a few months of sore muscles, stubbed toes, and hours in the car, we could do a decent polska step, not to mention a decent bakmes. And at the end we had the utterly magic joy of riding waves of music around the floor. If the chance presents itself again do attend Judith's workshops.

Speaking of the end of October, Fall Fling will be October 23-24 at the Historic Community House in Melbourne Village. I'm considering some new things which I'll talk about next month. Expect some Scandinavian dances on Sunday (those of us going to Wisconsin want to warm up, after all), but certainly not enough to spoil the usual fun for everybody else.

South Brevard is dancing through the summer. It's always a good idea to call before coming any distance, but we are at the Henegar Center on Fridays, and the Community House Tuesday from 6:30 to 9:00 and some Sundays 2:00 to 4:00 (but definitely call before coming on Sunday). 321-951-9623

One might think that seven days of nothing but Swedish and Norwegian dances would be enough. Not a chance. We've already made reservations for a Scandinavian weekend at

Folklore Village in Wisconsin at the end of October...

SARASOTA SMIDGENS

from Marie Millett gvduurn@earthlink.net

The Grapeviners are dancing away this Summer. Same place, same time. Ann said "goodbye" until October at our session last week. She will be missed and some of us will have to brush up on our teaching and fill the gap until she returns. I'll be in Spain the first two weeks of August, but Eva Stunkel and Dolores Lustig will hold forth for those two Wednesdays.

We helped Fran Schneider celebrate her 90th birthday a few weeks ago with an Edith Iwens cake. The Iwens' will be off to the Door County, Wisconsin folk dance workshop this month and Nancy Wilusz will come in from her Summer sojourn in Minnesota to join them.

Do come and dance with us. Overnight accommodations are available at the Millett Hilton. Before coming, check with Tecky Kahn 941-378-3728 thekla@comcast.net or Marie Millett 941-351-6281 gvduurn@earthlink.net

ORLANDO INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

By Pat Henderson

Our club finished our season of dancing with an early 4th of July party on Wednesday, June 30. We enjoyed food and wine while we danced. Most people were decked out in red, white and blue. The party doubled as a Bon Voyage for Ann Robinson, Bobby and me since we were leaving for Europe the next day. We welcomed Terry Abrahams, Ruth Ann Fay and Claudia Terrence as out of towners. We missed seeing Phyllis Dammer whose mother passed away in June. Many members have travel plans during the summer, which will be reported later. The club does not dance again until the first Wednesday in September. Hopefully, some of us will visit other clubs during the hiatus.

NEWS FROM ATLANTA

By David Digby <ddigby@mindspring.com>

Big Shocker! Bill Ribarsky has accepted a prestigious faculty position at UNC in Charlotte, NC, starting in September. He and Barbara will be moving there pretty soon. They have been a solid chunk of our Monday dance group here for many decades, and will be sorely missed. We will also need a new treasurer. I hear that the Charlotte dance group is even smaller than ours, so I'm sure they will be welcomed there.

In small compensation for the above, another long time (and long ago) local dancer may be coming back. Now that her son is eight, Nicole says she may have time for dancing once in a while.

And a couple from the 'north-land' has moved here and inquired about our group. They live pretty far out, but hope to come dancing "once in a while".

-- David Digby

GREETINGS FROM VANCOUVER

I was so sorry to hear about Amar and regret not being able to attend the memorial service. Jan, my thoughts and prayers are with you.

I've been dancing twice a week with both International and Israeli sessions. However, with International closing the end of June, I'll add a second night of Israeli.

There was an Israeli workshop in May. I learned some great dances which I'll bring to the Tampa group when we return. One exciting event was the first annual FESTIVAL HA'RIKUD, a celebration of Israeli dances. Nine groups, ranging in age from children to adults, performed to a sold out auditorium. The festival was sponsored by the Vancouver Jewish Community Center.

Hope everyone has a great summer.

HAPPY DANCING! --Andi Kapplin

TAMPA TRIBUNAL

From: Terry Abrahams
terry.abrahams@verizon.net

I think I have to start repeating my titles - there are only so many T's I can use! First, I attended the memorial services for Amar last month, and it was truly a celebration of life. It was terribly sad, but very uplifting and Jan and her family were terrific. Under unhappy circumstances many of us gathered, both at the ceremony and at Jan's house afterwards as we shared happy moments we remembered of our times with Amar. Jan, who even in sorrow, planned a wonderful moment for us all, looked good, and Jan, we're hoping you are still improving medically.

I leave Monday for Nationals, where I hope to make the US team, so that the ending of my trip in August is truly to fence in the World Championships. If not, I still have the great trip planned. I attended the Sunshine State Games in Tallahassee a couple of weeks ago, taking along a couple of my students and we had dinner with Pat Pieratte and her husband, who enthralled my kids with old war stories. They're still talking about him! I'm giving thought to going to Orlando tonight to their final of the year and 4th of July party.

Judith did a scan camp in CA, had a great time. Sharing her joy with her own workshops. Most of us attended the June Bug Bash, a good contra weekend last week. Ursula and I are both traveling in August. She is going to the Ukraine via a Niepa River Tour, going thru Cossack villages, small ethnic villages where there will be dancing, etc. I'm sure her stories will be as great as the Danube River tour that the others are taking. Mine now includes another tour through Croatia, which will add to Poland and Hungary and Prague.

The best part of writing this article is looking forward to reading all the others! Bye for now.

--Terry Abrahams

P.S. I went to Orlando's group and had a GREAT time! So many people, so many dances, so much food, such good friends - yeah!

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

Florida Folk Dancer 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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FIRST CLASS

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Send all submissions to the Editor when requested by email reminders.

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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.

For more info: www.folkdance.org