



Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

November 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ann Kessler

My Dear Fellow Folk Dancers -

Please forgive this lengthy and boring article, but sometimes one must get technical with all the necessary messages, so guess as Prez, it is I who has to be boring, so here goes...

As you find enclosed, the new registration form for Camp 2005 - yeah!!! How exciting -our 25th! And what great teachers are in store for us. And one thing to remember extra to bring this year - is your TAP SHOES! We will find a way to work in short little sessions with Daniel Sandu for those who are interested and perhaps he will teach us a little tap dance to perform on Sunday night with Daniel doing a solo at first, of course. So if you have had secret longings to be a "Danielette" - now is your chance! Any man who would also like to be a Danielette - well, we ladies will not be clannish!

A few other things about the registration form. This year, for FULL registration at camp, we offer free membership, but I had stated that any from a "family" membership (two adults living at the same address) where only ONE of that membership comes to camp, then you would owe an additional \$10.00. It is really only \$5.00, so that you will have the same privilege of \$15.00 off your registration fee. And also, it has been brought to my attention, that we have life-time members, so those who are lifers, PLEASE deduct that \$15.00 from your registration (again if you are registering full time) and PLEASE state on the registration form why the deduction. That goes for EVERYONE with deductions or scholarship students, or work scholarships, etc. so that the registrar will know (oh vey - that's me too)! And after camp, Dan is going to send a complete up-to-date

membership list in the following Newsletter. Please put all information - email/phones, etc. on your registration forms or when paying membership dues so that we have a complete record. If for any reason you do NOT want a tel/email number included on the mailing list, please say so, and we will respect that privacy, but the "board" would like to know in case we have to contact you for any reason.

And speaking of work and student scholarships... PLEASE - all teachers submit an application for anyone you think is deserving and let me know by January 1, 2005. Or you are certainly free to submit your own request - it is for anyone with the desire to dance and learn. Scholarship students pay nothing, except with their presence, and they can come full or part time. We can accept up to 3 student scholarships and they will be required to just help clear and clean tables after dining or any other little thing that is needed. We will accept 2 work scholarships - also all expenses paid, and required to do the same as above, but a work scholarship must come for at LEAST TWO FULL DAYS (or six meals). So please hurry and submit your requests - we need and welcome you!

Also, the t-shirt design contest closes NOV. 15th. I must have all entries by then! And any requests for board positions with one or more running for the same position also by NOV. 15th, so that there is time to print the slate in the December Newsletter. At present, instead of needing a vice-president for the next two years, we will need a president. Nancy Wilucz, who was eagerly looking forward to being president, has had to decline because of family commitments that will have to often take her back to her home state of Minnesota. But she has agreed to run again as vice-president and put in all the wonderful help that she did this year at camp. So the slate stands as:

President: Vacant, Vice-president: Nancy Wilucz, Treasurer: Ann Kessler, Editor: Dan Lampert. Please get in touch with Terry Abrahams for all those - or any - who would like a position. Please don't wait until camp. And Dan, as our editor for this past year and a half has also done some wonderful innovating things with the computer to make the officer's jobs a little easier. But I will let him explain it himself, as he is far more computer savvy than myself.

And, as you may have noticed, Camp is just a LITTLE more expensive this coming year as was mentioned at the general meeting this year. It has been quite some time since the conference center has raised its prices on meals, and they are still very reasonable. It is only \$8.00 more for full registration, and comes out to only \$3.00 more for daily registration. Enjoy!

And now the reason for the two sets of Bylaws. When I first became president of FFDC, Inc. I realized that bylaws had not been up-dated or revised since 1990. I went about revising them only to make them comply to the way things are done now, but only with the approval of the rest of the board, of course, and from valuable suggestions from our former president, Pat Henderson and very valuable input from our past treasurer, J.P. Miller. But the new bylaws have never been voted on by the membership, and since we cannot vote on something when we are unaware of the changes - hence - the two sets. I have put the reasoning for the changes on the sides of the old bylaws, and if there are any further questions on them, please feel free to call me (rather than email because that would be just too demanding for me at this time having to type up so many words...). I would prefer to vote on them as a whole, but if there is a particular interest in any item, it will be open to discussion. I must caution, however - that the main purpose of Folk Dance Camp is to dance. I don't think anyone would like a 4-hour meeting in lieu of being on the dance floor.

And I also must say that officers - past, present, and am sure into the future continue to make changes for the betterment of us all and Camp keeps getting "betterer and betterer."The

dedication to dance and hard work and the devotion of our founders, and those who followed shortly afterwards - with most of them still with us and just as dedicated as always. The FFDC part is thriving, but the Inc. part is wanting. And as long as we have an Inc. part, it is the duty of the officers to see that it is maintained. J.P. Miller was our treasurer for only one short year, but we are indebted to her for "reinstating" us as a not-for-profit incorporated organization, which was an involved process for her to take care of. And the government does check up - I got a call just last week. And part of what is expected of us, according to Florida laws for non-profit organizations, is that we MUST have viable bylaws, and there must be at least 3 officers on the board. We can have as many as we like, or do away with the positions as we see appropriate, but there must always be at least three. But the two main things we must uphold, and what J.P., and now I, were questioned on is that the purpose of our organization remains the same (see Article II in both bylaws), which it has, and that no one, officers or members alike receive financial remuneration for what they do - strictly voluntary work - which it always has been. This does not mean, however, that services rendered beyond normal proceedings of the organization, or that teachers, etc. cannot be paid. And then, of course, the proper forms for both federal and state taxes must be filed each year, for which now we will make sure it is done.

My book is done. Am sure it will not make any bestseller list, but hope I didn't lose any of you along the way. Before I close the cover, however, I must comment on the wonderful Fall Fling that John Daly, and all his devoted helpers, put together. The place, wooden floor and organization were great, the food and drinks outstanding, and the unfailing fellowship of folk dancers - superb!

Thank you all - and - really eager to see you on the dance floor soon again -

Much love from your president (and now treasurer, too)

- Ann Kessler

REFLECTIONS ON DANCE

by Dan Lampert

"Take care of the legs" he said, looking me directly in the eye. I was sitting and resting after some Greek dancing, and Harry, who is 91 years young, was leaning a little on my shoulder and telling me how important it is to take care of your legs as you get older. "Take care of the legs," he said, and he added that he walks and/or dances every day. He wants to use his legs for a long time to come.

This year, Greek dancing at the festival in Lecanto, Florida, was special because we met Harry -- a perfect example of a dancer. He's upbeat, encourages others to dance, and enjoys dancing with all of his heart. When I first saw him that Saturday afternoon (Oct. 30, 2004), he looked like 65 or 70 to me, but Manuel told me he was 91. I did not believe it, but I confirmed it later when I spoke to Harry himself.

Dancing is ageless. That's the theme of my article this month. Dancing is enjoyed by people of all ages. Even some children (perhaps ages 5-7) were on the dance floor this year. Sure, they were merely walking around the dance floor, but the important thing is that they were imitating adults from the previous dance. The floor was bare at that moment, so they took charge and started the dance themselves!

Lecanto was wonderful this year, and I took many pictures. I hope you enjoy these... see you on the dance floor.

- Dan Lampert



Kelly leads a Syrtos, followed by Manuel, Pat, Claudia and Grace.



Bobby leads a Hasapikos, followed by Dean, Grace, an unknown performer, and Claudia. Harry is seen on the far right, at the tail of the circle.



Here, I'm leading a Syrtos and doing some spins and kneels, followed by Manuel, an unknown performer and Pat.



Dean and Kelly do a wonderful belly dance. Both improvised and the resulting dance was very creative and fun.



Harry dances a Zebekikos improvisational dance, as Dean kneels at the side of the dance floor. Harry was not frail, he danced all the types of dances!



Two children started dancing when the dance floor was bare -- they were not prompted by adults, so this was surprising to the audience.



This official performance at lunchtime included 5 performers in costume.



Bobby leads a Hasapikos, and "conducts" with his right hand, and following him are Kelly, Dean, Claudia and me.



Two unknown performers do a dance with much jumping and kicks in the air.



Harry is back on the dance floor, this time joined by Bobby in a Zebekikos.



My favorite picture of Lecanto this year. Three generations of dancers -- exhausted from dance but smiling. From left to right: Harry (91), Dan (40), and Bobby (59).

PRESIDENT NEEDED

by Terry Abrahams

Needed - one president - Hi everyone. Nancy has run across a snafu, and cannot run for President of FFDC for next year. We need someone to come forth and handle this position. Is it you?

Call 813-234-1231 or my email address: terry.abrahams@verizon.net

SARASOTA SMIDGENS

from Marie Millett gvduurn@earthlink.net

The Grapeviners had a good summer. We welcomed Ann back last week. Nancy Wilusz returns this week from Minnesota. She and the Iwen's were quite pleased with the Door County, Wisconsin folk dance workshop. Andi Kapplinis back with us from Vancouver, as is Ursula Tison after struggling with various hurricane assaults on her home. I enjoyed the Flamenco performances in Spain. Looking forward to a happy dancing year ahead beginning with a party this week to welcome everyone back and congratulate all the stalwarts who were here dancing all Summer. One sad note, Faye

Babker lost her daughter and our hearts go out to her.

OKTOBERFEST

at the German American Society 10-09-2004

I arrived late around 9PM, and the festivities had been going on since 3PM that afternoon. The parking lot was packed and streets for 1/2 mile around were lined with cars. (Their marketing effort was successful on this one)

I asked for permission to take pictures and an official-looking man in lederhosen led me to the president, I passed the outdoor dancing area and a band was playing on a raised stage with people dancing there, and then we passed many tables, all full, with people seated and eating and drinking, then we went inside the building to a cafeteria room, hundreds of additional people were seated, and food was being served continually, and the man asked me to wait beside the dance floor here while he found the president, two men at a table nearby were building a tower of drinking cups and mugs, to see how high it could go, with every cup they added, people would scream and yell, I felt like I had left the USA and visited another country, I turned slowly and surveyed the atmosphere of drinking and singing and dancing -- it was a very animated atmosphere, I remembered a line from a movie "why are these people acting this way? It's something in the water", of course, I knew the water had nothing to do with it! It was beer!! Anyway, after a bit the man returned with a woman about 5' tall with a colorful dress on, she introduced herself "I'm Inga, the President and the Cook!" and she gave me permission to photograph the dancers - Dan Lampert

CHECKLIST FOR DANCE FESTIVALS

Sometimes, in order to learn something, you have to fail the first time around. Here's a list of things I wished I had brought to a recent dance festival. I'll be better prepared next time!

- A jug of water and paper cups - if anyone hassles you about bringing this in, tell 'em you're with the "dance troupe"
- Extra shirts - helpful if you need to change before going to dinner after
- Flaps and oriental fans - to stay cool, fan yourself for one song and you'll be ready for the next song!
- A handkerchief - men sweat and ladies perspire, but everyone needs a handkerchief, except dance maniacs who need a towel
- In case of cuts and abrasions - bring handy wipes (the kind with alcohol) and some band-aids
- Paper and pencils - in case you want to write notes (like your editor does)
- CDs with your favorite dance music - in case the DJ / band can't fill your requests and is open to playing your music

Special Supplement for Greek Dance Festivals

Bring a scarf (necessary for Syrtos and other circle dances and learn these essential Greek toasts:

- "yiasoo" (pronounce yah-SOO) for those familiar with you
- "yiasas" (pronounce yah-SAZ) for strangers, superiors, respected people, and elders
- "yiamas" (pronounce yah-MAHZ) for a group of people
- In all cases, the I is silent

And remember, to sound like an experienced Greek dancer, never look at the lunch menu and say "I want a G-EYE-ROW". It's spelled Gyro, but you pronounce is "yee-row". For more on Greek lingo, see this neat little web page:

<http://www.greekfestnola.com/speakgreek.html>

The 61st NEW ENGLAND FOLK FESTIVAL

is a week earlier this year April 8-10, 2005 at Natick High School. Natick, Mass.

If a web person, check <http://www.neffa.org>. For a brochure, email me at: georgedance@earthlink.net & I'll post one.

Cheers! Happy Holidays! Happy dancing!
George

ANN KESSLER'S TOP 10 LIST

On Lies Folk Dance Teachers Tell You

10. If you can walk - you can dance!
 9. You have a natural rhythm (even if it's not the one we're doing)!
 8. This dance guaranteed to make you lose 5 pounds!
 7. All you have to know is how to count to 8 (if it's a waltz - I think you're in trouble)!
 6. You're so light on my feet!
 5. If you make a mistake, no one will notice!
 4. The other right foot!
 3. You're so creative!
 2. It's so easy - anyone can do it!
- And the big No. 1. The music will tell you!

THE SHARPES ASSEMBLY

The Sharpes Assembly of Florida held the 7th Annual English Country Dance and Contra Festival in early October at Sebring, Florida. 80 dancers and musicians were led by a dozen Florida dance leaders including Marie Armstrong of North Carolina.

The Kenilworth Lodge, a venerable hostelry circa 1915, was the site with its two wooden floored ballrooms. The program included open dancing, workshops for various levels of dance accomplishment and live music by the Turnbridge Trio for the Saturday evening balls, where many of the dancers wore period costumes. Music was also provided for some of the other sessions in the English Hall by member musicians sitting in under the direction of John Daly. Plans are underway for 2005 on the first full weekend of October at the same hotel, Sebring, Florida. The weekend is directed by George and Onie Senyk. 321-636-2209

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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

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Please circle your calendar for our camp's weekend ... February 25-28th, 2005

FIRST CLASS