



Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

MAY 2006

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PREZ SEZ

by Terry Abrahams

The months are flying by. I would have sworn we just sent you an issue, and here it is – time again. This month I'm just giving dribs and drabs of thoughts. First, I can't say it enough times - Caroline is doing a fabulous job as our new editor, and I hope you are sending her personal kudos (as well as articles and pictures). I'm still helping with the snail mail, and along with Pat, we are trying hard to get everyone paid up as a member. In theory the "or elses" won't be getting notification of this issue, so they won't know they're missing it, unless they realize it's the first of the month, and they haven't heard from us.

I'm hoping a lot of you go to G'ville for Daniel Sandu – it's our Israeli night, so I can't, but it should be fun seeing him again and doing his very different dances! Saw a lot of you at Debbie's Meitin's workshop with Ruth Goodman. We all keep busy!

I received my 14th annual Folk Dance Phone Book and Group Directory for 2006 last week. If you are not a member of the Society of Folk Dance Historians, you should consider it. Just your support alone is important, but they also send good information – it's useful for traveling, teachers, data, etc. Ron Houston in Texas does the whole thing. If you're interested, write fdhist@yahoo.com or SOFDH, 2100 Rio Grande St., Austin, TX 78705-5578. The membership includes a little newsletter called Report to Members. This latest has a lovely picture of Morry Gelman and Dick Crum.

Kay Demos had a knee replacement and the knee is doing well, but there seem to be other little problems, get well wishes might make her feel better. Well, this is enough dribs and drabs – more next month – and....a Mayim is a terrible thing to waste!

NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

Did you know we have two life-time members? Julius Horvath and Cubby/Jeanie Whitehead. The Board feels there should be one more person added to this tiny club – Judith Baizan. Did you know that Judith was instrumental in starting FFDC, ran the first camp, wrote the by-laws? Without her, we are not! So Judith (and Ernesto), we offer you a life-time membership for your life time of giving to folk dancing! Thank you for all you have done for us. - Terry



Julius Horvath



Cubby Whitehead



Judith and Ernesto Baizan

Early history of FFDC is chronicled in a special edition newsletter June 2004, which can be viewed in the archives on the website, www.folkdance.org. Judith, Cubby and Julius are mentioned in it a lot. Among other things, it relates that the first official FFDC event, in September 1972, was a workshop in Tampa, at which two of the teachers were Judith and Cubby.

Judith and Ernesto have done so much for folk dancing over the years! Judith is usually the doer, with tremendous support from Ernesto. They started doing International Folk Dancing in Houston, Texas in 1965 – that's when I met them. They were regulars at the Houston club, sometimes with one or more of their five children. The picture at right is Judith at a folk dance party in Houston, probably about 1968.

The Baizans moved to Tampa in 1971, where they continued their interest in folk dancing and have been active in the Tampa International Folk Dancers ever since, Judith having been president for a time. Julius' note on the history of Spring Fling [April 2006 newsletter] mentions that Judith and Ernesto organized "special annual spring dances", which became the Spring Fling.

Several years ago they became interested in Scandinavian dance and started attending workshops all over the country. In order to have a place to dance those dances regularly, Judith started teaching classes.

Her weekly Scandi class and semi-regular monthly workshops are a great way to learn that challenging dance genre.

Judith and Ernesto have been supportive as Gary and I try to start dancing out here in the Frostproof area. They have made the trek out here to dance with us a few times and wowed our beginning dancers with their tango!

Thank you so much for everything, Judith and Ernesto. We hope you keep dancing forever. –
Caroline



Judith Baizan c. 1968



Band at Rang Tang

Rang Tang

David Digby e-mailed:

I have attached [a picture] of the Armenian (and more) band, and another taken when some of us went to dinner at our favorite Turkish restaurant. You might not consider this as a Rang Tang picture, but some of the faces should be familiar to FFDC camp attendees.

We liked most of the dances, have done some of them, and expect to do more of them once we get the video (expected this coming week).

MY OPINION

by Arleen Kaufmann

Thank you Atlanta, for Rang Tang. I had a blast. Liz Nunan and company had another successful event this year, though she said it was atypical. Couldn't say – I haven't been to it in about 15 years. But, the evening parties had live music and thanks for that. It was marvelous.

Seven Floridians attended along with many from all over the Southeast. Shawn Donaldson worked on theme and a bunch of variations rather than fifteen different Bulgarian dances. I liked the approach. The Armenian segments were dances they would do at a night club rather



At Turkish Restaurant

than the Tom Bozian type dances. (He was asked to do this.) Frankly, I would have preferred the Bozian dances, but I have to remember nobody consulted me.

I would like to ask two things of workshop organizers. For those of us who live in smaller cities with fewer advanced dancers, it is very nice to do more complex dances that we can only do on rare occasions. Flagler has twelve women, no men, in the group, so we don't do many couple dances, either.

The second request is that the men not dance with the same woman twice (even if you are married). That would give some of us a chance to learn the couple dances as a female, and not do the man's part so often. How about it, guys?

ISRAELI WORKSHOP SUCCESSFUL

by Terry Abrahams



Ruthie, Debbie and Jen

Debbie Meitin, Israeli dance teacher in Orlando at the Maitland JCC, once again successfully put on their annual Israeli dance workshop on April 19th. Debbie hasn't failed us yet! The teacher was Ruth Goodman from NY, who has taught two other times and once again, she didn't disappoint us! She is one of the best teachers, picks excellent dances, keeps us up to date with what's going on in Israel, reminds us of oldies but goodies and is fun besides! We started Saturday night (after the Sabbath); she taught 6 dances – we were pooped!

The next morning, after a wonderful spread of bagels, juice, etc., she carefully reviewed all of those dances and taught more. We broke for

lunch, many of us finding one fabulous really truly Jewish deli in the area, and upon return, Ruth taught more dances, for a total of 7 on Sunday. The local group provided a wonderful covered dish dinner for us and dancing continued afterwards until about 7:30. Not only was the dancing wonderful, but we Tampans saw people from G'velle, Atlanta, the Space Coast, Ocala, Jacksonville, South Florida, Ruthy Slann, now in Macon, and even Philadelphia. As they say in the dance – Hineh ma tov u ma nayim, shevet achim gam yachad - how good it is to be here together.

HIGH FIVES FOR BOULDER!

by Judith Baizan

If Boulder Colorado is not already the nation's top dance community, it is pushing its way up there fast. The latest triumph is Avalon, an ex warehouse/office building now reborn as a dance venue with a 64' by 64' sprung wood floor which can accommodate a good 300 contra dancers in 4 contra lines. In the works are a mid size floor, and a studio size one, more suitable for small groups. Additional amenities already fully operational are a spacious kitchen and lunch room, and probably the best restroom facilities of any dance hall in the nation. A large outside sculpture marking the front entry and a variety of smaller works artfully displayed in the vestibule establish from the outset that this place is first class all the way.

The amazing part is that members of the Boulder dance community got together and, with some dedicated leadership, friendly investors, and a lot of good hard work, managed to pull this off. There is still much work to be done, but enthusiasm is high, the one finished floor is marvelous for dancing, and all member groups can use the building at a reasonable cost.

The recent Boulder Spring Scandinavian Dance Workshop with Swedes Anneli and Stefan Wiklund was one of the first events to be held at Avalon, and those of us who were there are still raving about the hall. For once, we could polska around our circle without a thought for other flying elbows or errant heels. They introduced us to a raft of good dances, from the unpretentious little Schottis fran Loos to the soaring Nigpolska. And, oh, the dancing was wonderful on that gorgeous floor!

FROM THE EDITOR

The newsletter has a new look! This month, it's designed primarily for our web viewers. Previous newsletters were formatted for printing, and the web page (HTML) version was an afterthought. The formatting of the March newsletter didn't translate into HTML easily and the April newsletter was not translatable at all, so there is not an HTML version of April. One reader complained, pointing out that the PDF version (which looks great in print) is hard to scroll through on line. We agree.

Since a small number of you now get the printed version mailed to you and most of the rest read the newsletter on line, doesn't it make sense to design the newsletter primarily for on-line viewing? We thought so.

So, you will notice a few differences, e.g. a contents menu at the top with links to the articles and sections. If you're viewing on line, just click and jump to the article you want. In the HTML version, return points are provided at about one page intervals, as well. The newsletter already had hypertext links to web addresses, so you can click and bring up the referenced web page.

We'll continue to create a PDF version for printing, both for members who receive a paper copy by mail and for those of you who want to print your own copy (in color) from the web. But the printed version may not have all the bells and whistles we put into the web version. Let us know how you like the new format. We may not have all the kinks worked out in this edition. - *Caroline Lanker*

GRAPEVINE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS OF SARASOTA

by Marie Millett

Andi has been away 2 Wednesdays gallivanting to Chicago to see her daughter and with her husband to a meeting. Even without her we danced away on April 12 with thirteen stalwart souls. This week Nancy Wilusz and Delores Lustig had a great time leading the dancing. Nancy leaves us for Minnesota the first week in May. She will be teaching Serbian dances at a Serbian church there this summer. I'm off to New Jersey this week but will return in time to bid farewell to Andi for the summer on May 3. We will dance all summer with several of us doing the teaching etc. Do join us. I offer overnight hospitality and Sarasota has other good things besides folk dancing. Call ahead of time 941-351-6281.

I'm sorry to report that Eva Stunkel was involved in a car accident that resulted in an injury to her sternum. We hope she heals fast for we miss her.

TAMPA TRIVIA

by Terry Abrahams

Seems a lot of us are always on the move. Andy P. went all the way to CA for an exciting swing convention, hopped up to G'ville to dance one evening; Andi K. went to Key West with her husband for a convention, was in Chicago to see her daughter and leaves us soon for Vancouver for her summer hiatus.



Charlene (center) and Friends

Charlene has been to an interview in Louisiana, outside of Baton Rouge and I'm afraid is going to leave us. She will be the new minister at a lovely little congregation. We wish her well, but boy will we miss her. We had an early going away party on April 26 so that Andi could be there. Charlene will probably start her new job June 1.

Ursula, who is recovering from a plethora of physical things, including successful eye surgery, is going to Sicily and Malta the first of May. Maria P. is going to Greece. Jennifer (now in Orlando, but visits us) is working on her future – possibly grad school. Bill Schwarz goes everywhere for dance workshops - Orlando, Miami, Lakeland, Tampa – he's mostly majoring in Country Western. I've been doing a few Israeli teaching gigs, which both bring in a few bucks and hopefully spread the word about dancing.

Coming up is Israel Independence Day on May 7, and I've been working hard on choreography, costumes and rehearsals for our group, and am being joined by a few of the Largo group too, which is tres cool. I'm also helping out in general on the committee, so have been to many more meetings than I care to go to, handing out flyers, trying to find raffle prizes, etc. etc.

I had my own 20 person Passover Seder and was on a committee to do a "fun" Seder for the second night – we wrote songs, re-arranged the Seder – brought it "up-to-date" and had a great time. It was held in a restaurant, and was very successful; we're already working on next year's.

Our dance groups are still alive, our Israeli group actually has two new people which is a *mechia* (that means blessing – pronounced like the wind Mariah, the ch is a guttural one.) That's your Yiddish lesson for this month. I'm actually working on my Chinese (getting ready for my trip this summer) and not doing too badly. OK – *genug* (enough – ok – that's 2 Yiddish words today). Bye...

NEWS FROM GAINESVILLE

by Jack Seltzer

And the dancing just keeps..... going and going and going.....up here in the town of Gainesville.....

Now-a-days, we're readying ourselves for a big night this Tuesday – the Daniel Sandu workshop. Margaret & Stefan have really spent some time and energy getting it all together for Daniel to be able to stop here on his way to California.

The Friday night dance scene at 308 is hunky-dory as we do almost 40-45 dances a night after teaching 1.5 hours at the start of the evening. Joyce is getting over her toe issues and teaching

again; John is always ready to rock and roll and does a great job of it; Margaret is consistently on her toes and heels (in Hutulca- one of Daniel's phenomenal dances from camp 2005); June, Gary & Peggy inspire us with their determination to keep up with it all, all of the time; Stefan squeezes us in between all his studies, soccer and other stuff. Julieta is just a trip – literally. She seems to always be somewhere or another and there she is on Friday night, as usual. Her position as an entomologist for the gov't keeps her happily active and on the move.

Some other new ladies who have consistently been coming are Arlene Abargad and Melissa Ferguson. We're hoping for Arlene to introduce us to some new Israeli dances this coming month. And Linda & I just keep a-truckin'. The teaching school scene goes well for us and with Simon moving to Orlando with 2 buddies next week. - oh well, the times-are-a-changin' here at the ole homestead.....

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB

by Pat Henderson

On March 30, we had a party for Ann Robinson's "big" birthday. That makes four members in the last nine months whose birthday was on our dance night. Three of them were "big" birthdays.

Bobby and I closed the sale on our front piece of property on April 6 and we completed the new road to our house shortly thereafter.



OIFDC at Ann's Birthday Party

Travel in April included: Eva Gaber and her daughters to the San Francisco area to be with family for Passover, Eva Meyer to England, Juanita Schockey to Arizona to visit family and friends, and Bobby and I to Longboat Key to celebrate our 30th anniversary. We stopped in Frostproof to dance with the Lankers' group on our way over there. After all, it was fitting that we danced since we met at folk dancing in Orlando.

Kelly Fagan performed in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in Eustis for three weekends in April. Many of our dancers attended and it was a very funny show. Remember that we dance every Wednesday during May and June and are on hiatus during July and August.

LETTERS

Greetings from Romania,

I cannot report too much on the state of Bucharest dance clubs, as I haven't danced much in the last 6 months -- no International folkdance club in town -- however I'm looking into joining the local Argentine Tango club and taking classes of Romanian folkdance. If all things are going well, I'll be visiting Chicago in June for a congress and Gainesville in August for my boyfriend's graduation. In the meantime, I'm happily working at Honeywell Garrett Romania.

Thanks to various email lists, I'm still in touch with dancing news in Florida. Also, through a dancing list, I've received an interesting questionnaire about the connection between dance and physics (and other computational sciences). This is part of the dissertation of Jatila van der Veen-Davis, a Physics educator at UCSB. A Balkan dancer and a belly dancer herself, she wanted to get more data behind the connection dance-pattern recognition). Anyhow, I am attaching the questionnaire to this email.

See you all dancing,

Raluca Rosca

[If you want to see the original e-mail and questionnaire, e-mail the [editor](#) or Raluca at [rarosca @ ufl.edu](mailto:rarosca@ufl.edu). – Ed]

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION IN TARPON SPRINGS – PICTURES

Dancers from Tampa and Orlando attended the 100th Epiphany celebration in Tarpon Springs in January and wrote about it in the February 2006 Florida Folk Dancer. Here are some pictures of the event, which included a parade, diving for the cross and Greek dancing.



Future Greek Dancers



John Lulius in Parade



Ready to Dive for the Cross



Terry with Budweiser Horses

CAMP STATISTICS

Treasurer Pat Henderson provided the following statistics for FFDC Camp 2006.

87 People registered or walked in
4 Cancellations
2 Olga Princi scholarships
1 1/2 Work scholarships
2 Children - the Gabers

EVENTS AND TOURS

MAY

May 26 – 28 Florida Folk Festival

Place: Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, on U.S. 41 in White Springs – a few miles north of intersection of I-75 and I-10.

Cost (adults, in advance): \$15 for one day, \$35 for three days

Enjoy performances by musicians, singers, dancers and storytellers; check out the many booths of arts and crafts exhibitors and many varieties of food; and visit the Seminole Indian Camp and Visitor Center.

Get more information at www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest/; purchase advance tickets at 1-877-6FL-FOLK (1-877-635-3655) or Nature & Heritage Tourism Center, P.O. Box 849, White Springs, FL 32096

JUNE

Saturday, June 10, 2006 Colin Hume – English Dance

Time: Dance sessions 1-5:15 PM and 8-10:30 PM

Place: St. Cloud Senior Center, St. Cloud, FL (SE side of Orlando)

Cost: \$25 if post-marked on or before May 30th.

Live music- with Full Circle: http://home.earthlink.net/~full_circle_band/

Colin is a fantastic English dance choreographer and teacher; he will be in the States for only a limited time so don't miss this event. Registration is now open - registration form may be found at a link on: <http://www.danceflorida.com/>

PS Although all dances will be taught and called as needed, knowledge of the basic patterns, steps and formations of English dance will be assumed.

June 17th - June 29th Vasilescu 2006 Romanian Tour

"We have been on three similar tours, and they are very good." -Jim Osborn.

Place: Begins June 17th at Timisoara Int'l Airport and ends June 29th at Otopeni Airport, Bucharest.

Cost: \$1500 per person, not including airfare to/from Romania. Flights to and from Romania are not included in the tour.

Highlights: Stay two days each in four towns; attend dance performances, go sightseeing, learn regional dances and visit local villages. Meet, dance and dine with rural villagers. Last three days in Bucharest.

Contact: Ping Chun, 49 Junard Drive, Morristown, NJ 07960; ping.chun@att.net; 973-539-7020

JULY - AUGUST

July 25 - August 16 Czech Pleasure in the Heart of Europe

(<http://www.dvorana.cz/dance/folk2006/00.html>)

Highlights: Choose parts you want from: a tour of the Czech Republic; 3 days in Prague; a dance seminar in Prague; a bagpipe festival and sightseeing in the Chodsko region.

August 11-13 Mountain Playshop 2006

"It's a very cool camp - I've been there!" – Terry Abrahams

Place: 4-H Camp, Swannanoa, NC

This camp is a casual weekend party/workshop just outside of Asheville at an 'outdoorsy' 4-H camp with nice wooden floors, a refreshing pool, big wide porch and mountain breezes. Local teachers will present Scandinavian, Israeli, and Balkan dances and Balkan singing. Several sets of live music at evening parties.

More information and registration form on web site: www.mountainplayshop.org. The final registration form will be there toward the end of May. New campers get a discount - contact Beth Zweigorron at zcat@ix.netcom.com.

August 11-19: Folklore and Heritage Tour in Slovakia and Hungary

Slovak dance classes, meetings with village groups, museums, historical sites. Organizers: 3ART, Inc., Pavol Pitonak, Slovakia. Information and registration form: www.folkloretrip.com E-mail: 3art@folkloretrip.com. U.S.A. contact: Vonnie R. Brown, 1717 Applewood Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225 / 766-8750 vrbfolk@cox.net

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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Submissions: Send all newsletter submissions to the Editor during the last week of the month, to be published the first week of the next month. Electronic submissions are preferred.

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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. The newsletter is posted on the FFDC website and members with e-mail addresses are notified of its availability. Subscribers/members can also request printed copies to be mailed to them.

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FIRST CLASS