

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

August - September 2006

OIFDC 35th Anniversary Party

The Orlando International Folk Dance Club welcomed about 50 dancers from Tampa, Miami, Deland, Palm Coast, Gainesville, Frostproof and Melbourne, FL and San Antonio, TX in addition to OIFDC founding father, David Digby, of Atlanta, and his wife, Dorothy Archer. to its 35th Anniversary Party on August 6 at the Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Hall in Orlando. The celebrants danced all afternoon, shared an evening pot luck meal and then danced a while afterwards.



The Orlando club has black t-shirts with gold lettering available for \$10 to commemorate the event. Terry Abrahams helped with the design and the company that does our camp t-shirts made them.

David Digby and Teresa Borker are modeling the t-shirts in the picture at top right, along with Larry Wartell in the OIFDC 30th Anniversary T-shirt. Those three were original members of OIFDC. Six early members of OIFDC who attended are shown in the picture at lower right, from left to right: Larry Wartell, David Digby, Sheila and Morris Rashy, Pat Henderson and Bobby Quibodeaux.



At left are two of the youngest dancers attending - Felissa Gaber (upper) and Lila Gaber (lower),



David Digby and Teresa Borker are modeling the t-shirts in the picture at top right, along with Larry Wartell in the OIFDC 30th Anniversary T-shirt. Those three were original members of OIFDC. Six early members of OIFDC who attended are shown in the picture at lower right, from left to right: Larry Wartell, David Digby, Sheila and Morris Rashy, Pat Henderson and Bobby Quibodeaux.



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Mensa World Gathering 2006

by Pat Henderson

On August 10, fifteen members of FFDC danced for the Mensa World Gathering at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. Those dancing were (l to r in photo at right) Bobby Quibodeaux, Ann Robinson, Joe Birkemeier, Dorothy Archer, Dan Lampert, Judith & Ernesto Baizan, Pearl & Jerry Roth and Pat Henderson and (not in picture) David Digby, Terry Abrahams, Virginia Marszal, Caroline Lanker, and Larry Wartell.

Mensa chose Orlando for the site of its six day celebration of its diamond anniversary (60th). The conference was attended by 2300 people from all over the world. Most were Mensans and some were family members of Mensans.

David Digby and I coordinated the folk dance program which was an hour in the morning and a thirty minute show during the evening entertainment after the international buffet.

After our morning demonstration, our entire audience participated in our teaching session. They were very enthusiastic and some of our dancers said that they were the best audience and participants that they had ever seen.

I heard so many positive responses even into Friday and Saturday. We must have made a good impression since two or three of my folk dance directories disappeared at the morning program.

The time between the folk dancing found some of our dancers taking part in a Scottish dance workshop by a dancer from Scotland, of course! The dancers could go to any of the meetings scheduled or schmooze in the large hospitality room with food, beer and wine and lots of Mensans. Some of us went



to the gigantic pool with a Mexican pyramid replica complete with a slide. Yes, Terry and I went down the slide! Over all, a great day was had by all!

Photos at lower left are: Terry et al in Hole in the Wall at the evening performance and the Baizans, in Norwegian costume, performing the Norwegian Telespringar.

From The Editor

The dog days of August certainly were a hot time for dancing in Orlando - between the OIFDC 35th anniversary party on August 6 and two Mensa performances on August 10 (with a rehearsal on the 9th at Bobby and Pat's house). Both events brought out dancers from all over Florida and beyond.

Dancing for Mensa was really fun and interesting. The audiences were appreciative and people didn't have to be coaxed to get up and dance with us. Pat had picked some really good dances for audience participation and everyone seemed to catch on quickly. The evening show ended with David Digby leading a dancing line out into the audience.

I attended the Scottish dance class; those dances (although easy) were tough for beginners. It seemed even the highly intelligent Mensans couldn't all understand the figures --or maybe it was the Scottish accent of the teacher.

Another Mensa session I attended was a belly dancing lesson. It was a real workout for an hour. Later I had sore muscles where I didn't even know I had muscles! The lesson included a "folkloric" Egyptian dance. Now, that was something I could do.

At the evening program the belly dancer performed a pretty spectacular show that included dancing with swords on her head. She had some audience participation, too - the same Egyptian dance she had taught in the afternoon.

- Caroline Lanker



Prez Sez

I don't know whether to talk about China and Tibet in my prez sez or Tampa sez, but I had an absolutely terrific time! We were a total of 5, quite compatible, although we eventually turned into a couple and a 3-some – Jodi and I with adorable guy who had a wife at home (boo), but he was great fun to be with and an even better shopper than Jodi and I – which is nigh impossible! We flew to Beijing directly over the North Pole, which was beautiful, and saved many hours – we got there in 12, home again (from Hong Kong) in 14. We did the usual – the Great Wall, the Terracotta Soldiers, the Summer Palace, the Potapala Palace, a cave, many monasteries (and monks) which were incredible, boat rides, raft rides, plane rides, train rides; pictures of ourselves on camels, in front of palaces, at Victoria Peak. We saw fabulous shows - a Chinese opera, an acrobatic show, a Kung Fu show that knocked our socks off – more beautiful than a ballet, a Vegas type folk show, a real folk show (with some audience participation), a sound and light show that was so amazing



Tibetan Folk Ensemble

I bought the DVD. If it's nearly as good as the real thing, I'll bring it to camp. I bought a Tibetan shirt, waist piece, hat, but couldn't fit into the shoes, but will wear something when I come to camp. Also a fabulous hat from China that I'm having sent home and hope to bring to camp as well. Also got some good music. Had two massages. Ran across a local festival and saw a play while there – quite lovely – we were the only white folk there – and they looked at us as much as we looked at them! And we took a Tai Chi lesson, which got me interested, so I bought a DVD of that too. We did a hot air balloon ride, my first (and last – it cost a lot). Needless to say we shopped 'til we dropped, ate ourselves silly (Chinese food is much better there than in the US,

and we had Yak meat in Tibet), walked forever (I lost 10 pounds) and had a magnificent time. And Beijing is the next Olympic site, so I got some fencing pins, which was quite exciting. I'm sending some pictures to Caroline, we'll see which one(s) she uses.

A gang of us performed at the Mensa World Gather-



Terry Gone Native

ing at Disney and had a really good time as well. I actually was awake, in spite of not finding the right time for my body. We all attended other Mensa activities and garnered friends and knowledge, both. Dan really big-bingoes in his computer area. After our evening performance, there was a salsa band, I had 4 different partners (including Dan, who is really good!) and life couldn't have been better! One was a local contra dancer that I hope to dance with again in the future!

Well, since I was gone 22 days, I have nothing else to talk about, but did I tell you I had an amazing time in China and Tibet??? Now I leave for Ruthy's camp on the 24th, and directly from there to fence in Bath, England, followed by another trip – it's too much, but somebody's got to do it! See ya! TA



Tibetan Folk Ensemble

News from Gainesville

Well hello from North Florida's wildwood country of gators in rivers & lakes, trees & shrubs in our backyards and of course many happy go-lucky folk dance feet at 308 W University!!!!

Now that we've settled into our spacious wooden floor dance home for over a year, we've started to attract more of the community with our constant advertising and word of mouth.

The week before last brought in a Methodist church group of 25-30 middle-high school age students. What a night of laughter and silliness!!! Anything seriously said went down the drain. What....?..... students stand and listen and learn? Who ever heard of that?

This past week, 7-8 of them returned, brought some more of their friends and a little more seriously figured out which steps were better to take in the dances. But as they did the week before, they laughed just as loudly and had a blast speaking up whenever they felt like it...

This past week also was a reunion affair with our last University of Florida Folk Dance leader, Raluca, coming back from Romania for a visit with her fiance who was graduating from UF the following day. She hasn't missed a beat and I'm sure will always keep the beat wherever she goes in her future.

Anyway, some folks have been on the move since June...Margaret just got back from Sweden, Julieta from the Netherlands, and Linda & I spent a great 10 days in Chicago dancing with Paul Collins in Millennium Park and Dit Olshan in Skokie. Boy!!! Did we eat well the whole 10 days.... Our favorite place was a Swedish breakfast place called Svea, which is in the Andersonville neighborhood. The Swedish pancakes and sausage were delicious and unusual. Great ambiance. Another place we met some friends at had over 250 Belgian beers. I didn't get a chance to try more than the one I had (I'll have to go back).

Anyway, Gary & Peg are off and running again. They headed north to Montreal and Pennsylvania for family visits first. Then they'll head to Europe and rent an apartment in Paris for 3 months. We should be getting some stories and maybe photos from them. Lucky them.

Well, no new workshops to tell about. Margaret and Stefan keep teaching the great ones from Daniel's workshop in May, John & Linda do the Polish and

Serbian dances from camp and we're always ready for someone like Joyce, Julieta, Arlene Abargad, and maybe myself to go back into our collective workshop memories to dig out an oldie but goodie.

Happy trails to all of you. May you not have too many bumps in your road.

Later. Jack Seltzer



Margaret and Arlene, giving our Gainesville-group a lot of joy through the dances they have taught us.

Photo by Julieta Brambila_

Grapevine International Folk Dancers of Sarasota

by Marie Millett

Where has the Summer gone? One good thing about its speedy exit is that means Andi will be back in four weeks (September 13). Eva Stunkel and Delores Lustig did such a good job while I was in New Mexico that they will take over August 23 when I go up to New Jersey. Last week it was great to have Barbara and Sergio (guests of the Paiges) dancing with us. We're looking forward to their move to our area. Jeff Smith from St. Pete has danced with us a couple of times lately. He had been to The Door County Folk Dance Festival in Wisconsin and met Nancy Wilusz who thoroughly enjoyed being there again.

On the illness list we've missed Lin Schlossman and now Ann Paige because of foot surgery.

I have enjoyed being back with the Scottish dancers here on Thursday nights this last month. Thanks to Caroline for keeping us up to date on all the dance activities.

Whatta Summer!!

by Judith Baizan

It started June 8th with a couple of days in the San Francisco Bay area with friends, and then Scandia Camp Mendocino, the premier week long West Coast Scandinavian dance event. Forget the coast with its sun and crashing waves. We gather to dance and make music in the depths of a dank redwood forest where the cabins have no electricity and our towels never dry. But wonderful partners abound, and that says it all. Olaf Sem was there, and the Swedish teachers Bengt Mard and usual partner Britt-Marie brought their hometown fiddler Stefan with them.

A bare two weeks later and I was at the not-to-be-missed eastern US Nordic Fiddles and Feet Scandinavian dance event, a couple of hours west of Washington DC. Five or six of us laughed about having been cold together at Mendocino, and now here we are together again sweating on each other at Buffalo Gap. Stefan is here too, but not fiddling. He has met up with his woman friend and they are dancing.

Another ten days, and we show up for the Hardangar Fiddle Association of America weekend in Folklore Village, Wisconsin. Now everything is Norwegian. The same five or six of us are here too, Stefan and friend included. We joke about it, but Stefan is really getting good at Norwegian! For a Swedish fiddler, anyway.

Most of the five or six of us have run our course after this weekend. But not Stefan and friend. To top off the summer they are on their way to the 8-day **BALKAN MUSIC & DANCE WORKSHOP**. Now does that sound like a great way to live or what!!



Scandi Dancing in Tampa

Scandi dancing is also alive and well in Tampa - with Judith teaching. She always brings back new dances or nuances to familiar ones from all the workshops she and Ernesto attend.

Gary and I made the regular Wednesday night Scandi class last week and then attended the afternoon workshop held on Saturday, August 19. Judith really put us through our paces, as usual. The workshop was well attended, with ten people - evenly divided between men and women, for a change. In the recent past there have usually been more men than women at these workshops!

Judith generally schedules workshops about once a month. Possible upcoming dates are September 16, October 21, and November 18. If you like couple dances, this is for you! Contact Judith (see FFDC directory) or your editor for more information.

- Caroline Lanker

More Pictures from the Mensa Performance



These photos show some of the colorful costumes worn by the dancers who performed at the Mensa World Congress. Top, left to right, are: Ann Robinson, David Digby, Dorothy Archer, and Joe Birkemeier. At left are Caroline Lanker, dancers in performance led by David Digby, and Virginia Marszal.

Photos in this issue were provided by Terry Abrahams (TA), Caroline Lanker (CL) and Julieta Brambila, as noted.

Tampa

by Terry Abrahams

Well, I spilled all the beans in my Prez Sez. We're expecting dancers back soon. Looking forward to larger Israeli and International groups. We may change locations on International – if so, look for information somewhere in this newsletter.

Ursula has finally been well enough to join us again, and it's a pleasure to have her back. She's still considering other surgery, but we don't know yet – it's complicated!

I bought a great stringed instrument for myself in China. It will hang on a wall! Also bought a violin-ish thing for Kathy, who might even try to play it! She's doing a lot of contra dances right now (playing), and the symphony starts up again soon – she finished her vacation up north just in time, finding lots of interesting stuff – like new material for quilting!

Colleen is paying me a visit this Friday on the way to her condo down south, and will come dancing with us – with her new Argentinean dance partner – she vacationed in Argentina just to dance! Folk dancers are an interesting group of people. We also see Wanda sometimes and it's always good to visit with her. I'm making this one short – I always say that and never do, but this time I am!

Orlando International Folk Dance Club

by Pat Henderson

Even though we're in our summer hiatus, I have plenty of news to report. First, I must brag about Kelly Fagan who raced in the Danskin Disney Triathlon on Mother's Day. She was part of the "Harmonies" team as the swimmer. She ranked 63rd of the 1156 swimmers, with only one month of training. She was both stunned and amazed at her performance and wants to race again in all three parts of the triathlon.

Second, in July and August, Juanita Schockey traveled to West Virginia and then home for one day before traveling to Anchorage, Alaska, to see her daughter and family. That one day home was our club's 35th anniversary celebration on August 6 and she managed to come to the party between the unpacking and packing. (See OIFDC 35th Anniversary Party on page 1.)

We'll find out what others have been up to when our group resumes dancing on September 6.



More Pictures from OIFDC Party



Events and Tours

September

September 30 - October 1 Fall Fling

(New Dates)

Times: Saturday Sept 30: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sunday Oct 1: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Place: the Community House in Melbourne Village

Cost, Saturday: \$4.00

Hosted by: the South Brevard International Dancers

Meals: Saturday noon potluck - bring a dish to share. Supper - carry-in plus leftovers.

This is a fun opportunity for Florida folk dancers to get together, share what and how they are dancing and dance old favorites that aren't done regularly in local groups.

More details and a map are available on the web site, www.folkdance.org. or contact John Daly 321-693-2006 or Jean Murray 321-952-7025.

October

October 6-8 Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance Weekend

Place: Kenilworth Lodge, Sebring, Florida

Price: \$105 to \$195 including lodging

Features workshops with Bruce Hamilton, president of Country Dance and Song Society, balls on Friday and Saturday evenings; music by Full Circle; and a wooden dance floor.

For more information and registration see the FFDC website, www.folkdance.org, or contact: John Daly, jdaly@palmnet.net, 321-693-2006 or Catie Geist, catiegeist@att.net, 321-427-3587.



(Graphic by Fannie Christoph Salerno)

October 14-27 GREECE! and the Greek Islands

Folklore, Culture, History, Art, Music, Folk Dance, Adventure!

with Jim Gold & Lee Otterholt

Santorini extension: October 26-29

Depart from JFK Airport in NYC on Saturday, October 14; October 15-16 explore Athens; October 17-22 Classical Greek tour, October 23-27, Greek Island Cruise and dancing with local folk groups. Return October 27 or optional Santorini extension: October 26-28 stay in Santorini, October 29 return.

For more information and a registration form, visit Jim's website, www.jimgold.com or write Jim Gold International, Inc., 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A. (201) 836-0362, e-mail: jimgold@jimgold.com.

[Some of our FFDC dancers are planning to go on this trip - we expect a full report, with pictures of dancing when they return! - Ed]

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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USA

FIRST CLASS