



MARCH-APRIL 2014

**Special Points of Interest:**

- *2014 Camp and Spring Fling Big Successes*
- *Thoughts on Folk Dancing from New and Experienced Dancers*
- *Announcements for 2015 Camp*
- *Tamburitzans in Lake City*

**PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY JACK SELTZER**

Wow. What a camp! I don't know who to thank first; those who did all the pre-planning or those who stay involved 110% during the weekend.

Of course we begin with the two great teachers: Steve Kotansky and Mihai David. Let's see, was it the miracle that they both arrived happy-go-lucky from their cross country flights or that we were able to learn so much Balkan and Romanian dance and culture from both of them all weekend? It just seemed that Steve had given us the gauntlet when all of a sudden he's teaching another regional dance and now it was a dance from Turkey called Temir Agal! He had us lifting our legs all around the place, going left, right, turning once, twice. His counting was phenomenal, and he had such great technique and styling! Thank you Steve!

Mihai is another fine story. In his dances we leapt through the air, swung arms with our neighbors, lifted sticks and shouted! It was also fun to laugh



Steve Kotansky, Jack Seltzer and Mihai David (photo by Margaret Tolbert)

with him and all his funny jokes. We all just had a fun time with two great teachers. We all appreciate their consistently professional efforts.



Let's continue our thanks with our great newsletters produced throughout the year. Thank you Pat Pieratte, Vicki Kulifay, Pat Henderson, Judy Merkt and John Daly for compiling, editing, distributing and connecting us to a lot of relevant information in the newsletters. Each issue is packed with easy to read news from all the Florida groups. It certainly is time consuming coordinating with FFDC members and each other for each issue every two months. Don't forget by the way, to submit to Pat P any of your group activities; past, present and future. It can include pictures with captions and/or short descriptions of the event. It's always fun to see what fellow folk dancers are able to get involved in during the year.

A huge thank you goes out to John Daly for doing a fine job with updates and creative additions to the website. We hope that during the year you will refer to it for interesting additions. Also take notice of all the calendar events that Pat Henderson monitors. She takes pride in giving the calendar a national and international thoroughness. John also does an extraordinary job with registration and bookkeeping

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

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for at least the 6 months prior to camp and 2 months after. It's a huge job!

Thanks go to the three groups supplying snacks for the evening parties. Melbourne, Orlando and Gainesville folks kept us going during our quick breaks. It always takes a leader's creative hand to organize the table with all the healthy and sweet treats.

This year Doris Wolman with help from Carole Rubin took charge of the Olga Princi memorial auction which funds scholarships for worthy individuals to come to future camps. We're proud of their organizational efforts and elated with all the donated items for the annual silent auction. This year we collected about \$164, which will fund about half a scholarship for a young dancer. Don't forget to begin putting aside all your seldom-used ethnic stuff for next year's camp. It's amazing how much we can collect in our closets over the years!

One of Lynda Fagan's Vanguard High School students, Olivia Bacallao, was our Olga Princi scholarship student this year, and had a fine time. See her appreciative note in this newsletter. All that happens over the weekend is a great eye opener for an appreciating recipient. It certainly can become a lifelong experience for someone and at least is a first big step into the new world of international folk dance.

Five more ladies need to be mentioned next:

- ◇ Terry is always doing her creative thing with the buttons. It's really neat how she incorporates a piece of the t-shirt design into each of the camp name buttons, and her folk dance buttons are always a kick.
- ◇ This year, we all welcomed Margaret Tolbert into the fold. Her artistic design of the t-shirt with the relaxed feeling of the dancing couple was superb. Now we get to wear a free flowing spirited t-shirt whenever we want!

- ◇ Thanks to Andi Kapplin for leading the warm-ups on Monday morning. I don't know about you, but I can always use a good stretch and relaxed mood enhancer first thing every morning.
- ◇ Then there's Pat Henderson who is tirelessly involved in helping with the hotel contracts, room assignments, meal choices and newsletter editing, just plain making camp more fun and less hassle. As I run through my 2nd year as President, I'll see ten more things she is constantly doing (last week it was coordinating a Russian dance performance in Orlando).
- ◇ And of course, Linda, my wife is surely there keeping me straight on so many levels. Thank you dear lady for being there and more!

Let me mention four men also:

- ◇ How about the tireless energy from our videographer, Steve Turner? Steve's collection of so many action pictures on the website and his two-DVD camp video were both fantastic. Clicking on the menus was real quick and easy for me.
- ◇ Thanks to the YouTube digger of dance descriptions, John Ward. I heard from John's wife, Becky that he spent three consecutive days compiling and describing many of the dance requests (see the website). Remember that many videos on the Internet are not exactly the same way we learned them, but they can be good reference points for someone coming to camp next year if the dances are still being requested.
- ◇ Bobby Quibodeaux is always working behind the scenes, either helping Pat with her endless lists or John Daly whenever tech help is requested of him.



Linda and Jack Seltzer (Photo by Melinda Koken)

*(Continued on page 3)*

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

- ◇ Andy Pollock worked the sound equipment during all the workshops, which was a great help.

I know I probably have forgotten someone specifically but I thank all the 2014 campers who are now members of FFDC. We're a growing family with folks coming from all over the country. Thanks a lot for just bringing your smiling face and happy-go-lucky spirit.

Anyway, I've got three items of good news for next year, which should make for another great weekend camp:

The FFDC Board with Pat Henderson's special attention has signed on with the Renaissance at the airport for our 2015 Presidents' weekend camp. A special perk for folks flying into Orlando is that there will be a free shuttle between the airport and hotel, so no one should have to rent a car.

National Folk Organization will be held at the same hotel right before our workshop, and we are hoping that

many of the attendees will stay for our workshop.

We have already booked our teachers for next year, Lee Otterholt teaching International and Yves Moreau teaching Bulgarian.

Spring Fling in Geneva on April 12 was a lot of fun. Next on the calendar is the Flagler Fling on June 14-15. I hope to see you there!

I have one sad bit of news to report. John Daly resigned from the FFDC board on April 12th. Pat Henderson has agreed to be our acting FFDC Secretary and Terry Abrahams gladly moved into the acting FFDC Treasurer role. Thank you John for the many years of dedicated service to FFDC, keeping up the books and maintaining order in our secretarial communications. And thank you fearless ladies for your latest contributions to FFDC and its membership with your newest responsibilities!



Some of our out of state dancers, Vita Hollander and Ernie Clish from the D.C. area; (photo by Pat Pieratte)

## EDITOR'S NOTE BY PAT PIERATTE

What a fun camp we had this year! And I've been even busier than usual since then, with church meetings to prepare for and follow up on, getting my garden in, and closet and freezer emergencies, besides all my other activities! I finally started our taxes on Sunday night, April 13 when I got back from Spring Fling, and sent the return in about 1 am on April 15. Thank goodness for TurboTax!

I had a great time at the Spring Fling in Geneva in the Orlando area. I'm now looking forward to a long weekend in Boston the end of April, the Flagler Fling in early June, a week with my three sisters at Lake Tahoe later in June, and my Jim Gold trip to Ireland

with one of my sisters in late July and early August. We were going to go to Hungary until we found out we were the only ones registered, so I'm glad Jim was still able to get us on the Ireland trip. As one of my sisters says, how did we ever find time to work?

It just happened that I received articles from one of our youngest and one of our oldest folk dancers in Florida, in time for this issue. These articles show what a joy folk dancing can be throughout our lives, no matter what our ages. I've arranged them back to back so you can enjoy the similarities and contrasts for yourselves.



## THOUGHTS ON FOLK DANCING BY OLIVIA BACALLAO

There are many words that appear in my mind when I think of folk dance: cultural, graceful, inspirational, beautiful, fun, meaningful, unique, etc. But these words are empty and meaningless until you experience them for yourself. This year I discovered a new passion: I fell in love with international dance. Words are not enough to justify the extraordinary joy found in this art form. Not only is it a fun form of dance, but it is also a splendid way to exercise and clear your mind of worry and stress that you meet in a day's time.

I received the opportunity to attend folk dance camp this year and found it to be a sheer delight. I wasn't quite sure what to expect out of it, but when I ar-

rived it was as if I had entered a separate world. I met new people of all ages and sizes. I met unique, quirky, passionate personalities who expanded my knowledge and horizons. The teachers were sensational, and the participants were equally inspiring.

Dancing is my favorite thing to do; it does not grow old or boring, it only becomes more enjoyable each time the music flows from my ears to my feet. I encourage all to dance, young or old, female or male, and to explore its beauty as I have, and will continue to do throughout the duration of my life.



## DANCING AT 90 BY DMITRI BABIAK

I was born in a Ukrainian village in southwest Poland on November 1st, 1923. My parents having lived in the USA, I decided to return in 1930 after WWI, never to return to Poland.

I grew up in Spring Valley, N.Y and at age 18, enlisted in the Navy for the duration of WWII and became a Navy medic. I served in Texas and the Philippines. When the war ended, I was honorably discharged as PM1/C and a Physical Therapy Technician.

I then attended NYU on the G.I Bill for a Physical Therapy degree. Upon graduation, I worked at Willard-Parker Hospital, the famous Polio clinic in New York City. During my time at NYU, I married Shirley Miller, a graduate of Barnard College.

We went west and settled in Palo Alto, California, where I took a Physical Therapy position at a 1,000-bed neuro-

psychiatric V.A. hospital (reminiscent of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest). In Palo Alto we had two of our five children while Shirley attended Stanford University part time.

Three years later I accepted a chief Physical Therapy position at a new V.A. general, medical and surgical hospital in Louisville, KY. Shirley and I had three more children and settled in to stay in Louisville.

In 1976 Shirley and I started folk dancing in earnest when Louisville celebrated their Bicentennial. All the Louisville ethnic groups were asked to hold a three-day weekend extravaganza with ethnic food, entertainment and display of their arts and crafts.



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## DANCING AT 90 (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 4)*

The Ukrainians were first to hold their yearly events. After the Ukrainian performances, the other ethnic groups asked our group to dance for them also. The last three years in Louisville, we organized a Ukrainian performance group of 20 dancers (10 couples).



Dmitri and Shirley Babiak (photo by Terry Abrahams)

When we moved to Sarasota we found out there was no folk dancing, so we promptly started a weekly folk dance group as well as a performing group.

Shirley and I often traveled to Europe and South America to attend seminars, learn dances, and absorb the culture of other countries. We attended Maine Camp and Kentucky Dance Institute with one or two grandchildren, as well as dance camps in Canada, Mexico and many more in the USA. We taught folk dancing

in Louisville, Charleston and Costa Rica as well as in Sarasota.

On November 1st 2013, I celebrated my 90th birthday with my entire family: three children (we lost two as grown-

ups), nine grandchildren and their spouses, twelve great grandchildren and four other relatives.

Shirley and I have been teaching second graders folk dancing for a number of years. We have taught five to eight classes at one school for the past eight years, plus additional classes at another school for four years. We have a DVD teaching second graders which was shown on Educational Channel 20 for a full month. We also have numerous DVDs of our international performances throughout our 32 years in Sarasota.

My exercise regimen consisted of: swimming, tennis, SCUBA diving, tent camping, dancing and more. For the past fifteen years we have exercised three days a week in a gym with stretching, balancing and weights, plus swimming laps twice weekly during the summer.

My M.D daughter and Physical Therapist son keep telling me, "Pap", keep dancing! I do plan to continue dancing and performing for many more years to come!

## GREEK FESTIVAL IN WINTER HAVEN BY TERRY ABRAHAMS



Children dancing at Winter Haven Greek Festival (photo by Terry Abrahams)

A group of Florida folk dancers attended the Winter Haven Greek Festival on February 22: Pat, Bobby, Manuel, Palmira and new dancer Gary, and my daughters Debbie and Susan and I. The festival was held for the most part in a tent. A little action was in the church, but that's not where the dancing was. The weather was perfect, so all was well. There were the usual sales (minimal), the usual good (and very inexpensive!)

food, adorable kids performing, a good band with a cement, but available, floor, and us! In actuality, we were the only ones dancing, except for three others who had folk danced in other locations and were told about the groups in Orlando and Tampa. Pat met a couple whose son had been a Tammie! What would these festivals do without us? A good time was had by all!



## CAMP HUGE SUCCESS BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

New President, Jack, hit the Big Bingo when hiring Steve Kotansky and Mihai David for our “camp” this February. There were some scary moments, when Steve couldn’t get out of his house for all the snow, but since he made his arrangements for a day ahead, it gave him time to make other arrangements, which eventually



Gary and Sharon Docktor, and Katie Warner (photo by Julieta Brambila)

brought him to Tampa instead of Orlando. It also gave Andy P and me special time with him, so we didn’t mind at all! Mihai missed a

plane, (his wasn’t snow – after all, he lives in California) but made it in time for camp by driving in from Palm Beach, and for that we were grateful as well.

Both instructors taught really nice dances, and all of us are at work remembering what we can. Thanks to Steve Turner and Pat H’s fast turnaround, we have wonderful DVDs to work with. Remember the old days,

when we had only the syllabi to work with? Steve “I teach too many dances” Kotansky gave us a plethora from which to choose, which should have satisfied each group, no matter what their tastes. Mihai came up with some clever Romanian dances including one that involved riding a horse!



As per usual the food was excellent, our rooms just fine. Snacks, done by Orlando, Gainesville and Melbourne were beyond excellent, as per usual. The T-shirt, designed by Margaret Tolbert from Gainesville, was a big hit, and the name buttons matched! Jack’s list of dances for the evenings were appreciated by most. The auction went well, thanks to Doris. Due to our popularity, (we had dancers from Oregon, California, North Carolina, Texas and a few other states), we have decided to move to a bigger venue next year. Pat H did a great deal of research and came up with the Renaissance, near the airport, for next year. Not only will the dance floor be bigger, and more room for eating, but it will also be close enough to the airport that people won’t need to take taxis or rent cars. Next year should be another gangbuster camp!



Lynda Fagan, Mihai David, Olivia Bacallao (photo by Steve Turner)



Ann Robinson, Nicki Wise, Palmira Mora-Valls, Kelly Fagan (photo by Steve Turner)



2014 Camp attendees (Photo by Steve Turner)

## CAMP SONG BY TERRY ABRAHAMS AND PAT PIERATTE

*(Sung to the tune of Camelot)*

We came here to Kissimmee for our dance camp  
Dancing with our friends just hit the spot  
The lessons and the parties were terrific  
We danced a lot

The weather caused the teachers consternation  
Would they get here, yes or maybe not  
But both guys made it here and made it safely  
Who would have thought?

We ate a lot, danced a lot  
The t-shirts were a great big hit  
Talked a lot and danced a lot  
Hardly time to sit

Steve and Mihai taught us excellent dances  
Dances that should never be forgot  
We had a real good time  
The weekend was sublime  
So never fear, see you next year  
When we will dance a lot



Arlene Bargad, Mihai David,  
Linda Seltzer and Jualene Lewis  
(photo by Jack Seltzer)



Kelly Fagan, Ann Robinson, Linda Seltzer, Vicki Kulifay, Lynda Fagan  
(photo by Melinda Koken)



Kelly Fagan and Pat Pieratte in their Romanian costumes (photo from Pat Pieratte)

## DANCES TAUGHT AT CAMP BY ANDY POLLOCK

Below is a list of the dances taught at camp, in the order they were taught:

### By Mihai David:

1. Hora Mare din Moldova
2. Ca la Mahala
3. Sirba Dracilor
4. Hora Ploii
5. Sirba Calusari
6. Hot Cheese
7. Joc de la Tiganesc de Doi.
8. Hora Banateana

### By Steve Kotansky:

01. Tamir Agha Bar
02. Enino Horo
03. Nevestinsko Romsko Oro
04. Sulejman Aga
05. Selsko Oro
06. Vallja "Hajde Merre Furken"
07. Vallja e Rrajces
08. Demir Oro
09. Kosovsko Gilansko Tikno
10. Hasapiko from Parso
11. Serbes Donka
12. Selsko Sopsko Horo
13. Ispaiche Horo
14. Temir Aga Halay



2014 Camp attendees in their party finery (photo by Steve Turner)

## GAINESVILLE GOINGS-ON BY JACK SELTZER

We had a big contingent of our Gainesvillians attend camp this year, and it sure was an eye opener for all of them. In one way or another, we all had a blast. People were able to renew old friendships with or get to know the teachers and other dancers, and meet folk dancers with similar other interests. Personally I was overjoyed to see all the energy I had put into setting up the three nights of dances work so perfectly (with little tweaks for next year).

John hasn't slowed down yet, but I know he'll be more involved with all the dance requests and be even higher on his toes next year. Jualene was perfect for working the front registration table as she is one of the best greeters we have in all of FFDC land. Diane F and Julieta had fun setting up the snack table with Linda on Sunday night. Arlene got to practice her "Bucimis" styling when it played on Saturday night. Seguidillas de Gran Canaria was on Julieta & Diane's request list for Friday night. And Juanita couldn't stop smiling all weekend with all the dancing and interacting she was doing! We just all

had a great weekend, that's for sure! And don't forget Joyce Story who had to fly in on a red eye to do her special requests such as Dzumbus and Dedo Mile Dedo.

Since we've been back, we've been working on a bunch of the new camp dances, and it looks like John is going to bring us some of the requested dances. We haven't gone through all the camp dances like Sarasota, but so far we've worked on Mihai's Ca la Mahala, Hora Ploii, Sirba Calusari, and Joc de la Taganesc de Doi. Of Steve's, we've done Nevestinsko Romsko Oro, Serbes Donka, and Selsko Shopsko Horo. We've got a lot of work to do, but it's a fun assignment!



Gainesville dancers at Bo Diddley Community Place (photo from Jack Seltzer)

## TAMPA TRIVIA BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

We're still small but mighty, but it gets scary here. Andy has moved to St. Pete and has to travel some to get to Friday nights, so he stays on my couch until the buses run again on Saturday, and we really appreciate his doing this. Andi heads for Chicago to see the adorable granddaughter on various weekends, and coming up is her trek to Vancouver, where they stay for their annual 5 months. I know they enjoy it, but boy, do we miss her when she's gone. Ernesto had his eyes "done" and is now seeing better, for which we are all (but especially him) grateful. Bill Schwarz just had some work done to his eye too, is in recovery and will be back dancing soon. He only goes to Israeli, since he does swing or line dancing on Friday nights, so that's another reason we're so tiny.

It was wonderful seeing everyone at camp, and we are keeping all the dances so far, thanks to Andi's cards, Andy's memory and the DVD. Thanks to Steve for doing such a great job on the DVD, and to Pat for getting them sent out so soon.

We also had a great time at Spring Fling. About the same time, I was involved in writing our ninth musical comedy Seder. This year the theme was Magical Matzah Tour, a Psychedelic Seder. We had gained a great reputation and last year had to turn people away, so this year we used a larger venue to accommodate everyone. Sound familiar? See you at the Flagler Fling!"



## ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB BY PAT HENDERSON



MaryJean Linn, Kelly Fagan and Terry Abrahams at Russian performance (photo by Bill Byars)

Our club has been doing well this winter with nearly 20 dancers every week. Several of us attended the Presidents' Weekend Workshop and enjoyed dancing with Mihai and Steve Kotansky again. For many of us, Mihai was our first workshop in Leesburg in January, 1975. It was fun to dance with him again, especially when we did Florica. One treat that I had was taking him to the airport to get his luggage on Saturday morning. It was almost the "camp that wasn't" with both instructors missing their flights. Hats off to Jack for all his work on the night programs! I have never danced so much in one night as I did on Friday night.

ments and really liked our dancing. This was the second time that we danced there and we have been invited back in October.

Traveling since the last newsletter was Phyllis Dammer with her husband, Ed on a Caribbean cruise. Also, Phyllis tap danced in a variety show on March 22 and 23 at Fairways where she lives. Bobby and I along with Joan and Wally Washington spent two nights at the Cape Coral Westin, a trip I had won in a radio contest. We had a two-bedroom unit with granite counters and three rooms opening to a balcony with a water view in all directions. We toured the locks for the Okeechobee Waterway while we were there. Then Bobby and I went north and danced with the Gainesville group and went to Lake City to see the Tammies. (See article on Tammies)



Orlando group and friends at Russian performance (photo by Bill Byars)

Two weeks after camp, on March 2, our group performed Russian dances for the Albin Polasek Museum in Winter Park. They had a special Russian icon exhibit and were celebrating the time of year before lent similar to Mardi Gras. We had nine performers, three men and six women, with Terry coming over from Tampa. At the end, we had one audience participation dance. The audience gave us great compli-

Kelly Fagan was busy preparing for Les Miserables which ran for four weeks in April at the Athens Theater in Deland. We also had a great time at Spring Fling in Geneva (Orlando area) on April 12, at the Rural Heritage Center.

## DELAND DOINGS BY KELLY FAGAN



BIG day for DeLand Folk Dance on April 22: Lucky 13! (photo from Kelly Fagan)

I was privileged to join an ensemble a cast of truly exceptional talent in The Athens production of Les Miserables. It was an extraordinary epic theatrical experience. We opened April 4th and ran for four weeks. A number of folk dancers attended BOGO night on Thursday, April 10.

DeLand International Folk Dance is alive and well, growing happily. Ruth Ann and Kelly pair up to lead our mighty troupe, with at

least monthly guest teaching appearances by the Great Bobboo and his fair maiden, Patricia. We meet beforehand for a Greek or Italian supper, then dance on a lovely wooden floor from 7:00-9:00 pm. Quite a celebration erupted with the homecoming of our muchly missed Claudia, with a record crowd of visitors and experienced dancers. On April 22 we had a new record of 13 dancers (see photo). Please come join our happy humble frolickers should you find yourself near DeLand on a first or third Tuesday. OPA!

## NFO CONFERENCE AND THE SAN ANTONIO FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL BY PAT HENDERSON



This year Bobby and I attended our first San Antonio Folk Dance Festival since NFO was meeting there beforehand. We left Orlando on Thursday, March 13, and stayed with Edwina Scinta who used to live and dance in Orlando. She took us to Nelda Drury's home that night for Nelda's traditional dinner for out of towners. Little did we know that this would be a folk dance "who's who" with four of our FFDC teachers there—Nelda, Sandy Starkman, Bata Marcetic and Andy Taylor-Blenis. We also met Nelda's son and daughter, Jimmy and Liz, who are also active in the folk dance world. Bernice Roth attended as she usually goes to San Antonio to visit her son at this time every year. The most touching moment came when Bobby and I reconnected with Brenda Benton who was the one who took me to folk dancing in Orlando 40 years ago! Brenda lives in Austin and is one of the organizers of the festival. We had not seen her in over 35 years.

On Friday, Bobby and I attended the NFO meetings, programs and luncheon that were held on the campus of Our Lady of the Lake University. At the membership meeting, NFO voted unanimously to hold their conference before our "camp" next year. At the Heritage Awards luncheon, three people received the award: Nelda Drury, Dick Oakes and Stew Shacklette.

After the luncheon, the programs included Judy and Val Bush's slide show and talk about their adventure living in the South Pacific. Dick Oakes, of Phantom Ranch fame, presented the history of international folk dance by starting with photos of people as we tried to identify each one. Jonathon Wood, who works with the BYU Dancers, talked about marketing folk dancing. Then Ed Austin, NFO President, reminded us to check the CIOFF and IOV sites for international festivals.

NFO then had an outdoor reception in a courtyard and we danced, had

snacks and waited for the San Antonio Festival to start in the International Folk Cultural Center on campus. It is a building that has a large dance hall downstairs and a smaller upstairs room, both with wooden floors. Three teachers featured this year were: Bata Marcetic, Serbian; Sanna Longden, international; and Renee Park, Hawaiian. Each teacher had some introductory dances on Friday night and taught during the day on Saturday.

Saturday evening started with a stage show similar to the Tamburitians with performing groups from all over Texas. This was the 56th annual show. Nelda started doing these shows when she was working for San Antonio College in the PE Department and had an international performing group featuring Mexican dances. They wanted to go to the National Folk Festival in St. Louis and Nelda used the show to raise funds for the students to travel. In later years, the weekend of folk dance workshops was added to the performances.

This year the show opened with Ballet Folklorico of South Texas College with a pre-Columbian war dance and ended with a Ukrainian group from Dallas. In between were Bulgarian, Scottish, Hungarian and Indian groups, among others. After the show, all the participants were invited to dance with us and many of them did.

On Sunday, Bata and Sanna did their review and then we were treated to a Hawaiian luau lunch. After lunch, Renee taught more Hawaiian dances and then had her review. In the evening, around 30 people gathered at Demo's Greek Restaurant for dinner. We moved tables around and created a big dance floor in the middle of the restaurant and danced until they closed at 9 pm. Jimmy Drury brought his sound system and music. Nelda was there watching us dance as a wonderful weekend came to a close.

## AN ENCHANTING EVENING WITH THE DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY TAMBURITZANS BY PAT HENDERSON, PAT PIERATTE AND MIREILLE P.



Tamburitzans' Thracian dance  
(Photo by Pat Pieratte)

In their 77th season, the Duquesne University Tamburitzans (aka Tammies) came to Florida on their spring break. It was not a break at all for these students as they had about ten shows in Florida during the week. We saw the show on March 8 in Lake City at the Levy Performing Arts Center, on the campus of the former Lake City Community College (Now Florida Gateway College). All total, there was a group of nineteen Florida folk dancers in attendance: nine from Gainesville, four from Tallahassee (Pat and three former folk dancers) and six from Ocala (Lynda Fagan and five of her students including Olivia, who was our Olga Princi scholarship recipient at camp). Although Lake City may seem like an unlikely place for the Tamburitzans to perform, it was an ideal location which enabled more folk dancers to attend. This is the closest the Tammies have ever come to Tallahassee, so it was an opportunity not to be missed!

Parts of the group met for dinner at two different restaurants before the show. We arrived at the theater about thirty minutes before the show started and took up most of the third row. The seats turned out to be great, since very few people sat in the first two rows.

When the Tammies danced, we almost felt like we were there with them. It was a feast for the eyes and ears!

As usual, the show opened with Croatian music and dancing. This time not every performer had an instrument in their hands when the curtain opened. About half sang and eventually danced. The first suite of dances had about four songs that we recognized. They took us to Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria which is typical of their shows. This year they had a couple performing an energetic Czech dance and also a Hungarian suite from Somogy with bottle dancers and spirited shepherds. This suite made us think of Julius and how much he would have enjoyed it.

In the second half, they had dances from the Ukraine and Russia in two separate suites. In the Russian suite, they did some dancing while they were jumping rope! This year they had some

*(Continued on page 12)*



Tamburitzans' Hungarian Bottle Dance (Photo by Pat Pieratte)

## AN ENCHANTING EVENING WITH THE DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY TAMBURITZANS (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 11)*

of the musical interludes introduce the dance segment that was coming up next. It seemed to work real well for the continuity of the show. Other musical interludes were from Slovenia and Greece, and music of the Szatmar Jews. They ended the show with music and dance of the Eastern European gypsies.

We could tell watching the smiling faces of the dancers twirling in colorful costumes, their love of folk dancing. Each dance was introduced with a description of the region/country and pertinent facts about different cultures. Dance after dance we were delighted with the energetic steps and the variety of the show. The orchestra of talented musicians and the singing that accompanied the dances contributed to a most pleasurable evening.



Tamburitzans' gypsy dance (Photo by Pat Pieratte)

Everyone left smiling, inspired and energized. The exuberant show delighted everyone attending the performance. This continues to be the show to see every spring break!



Some of the Florida folk dancers who attended the Tamburitzans' Lake City performance [with a Tamburitzan] (photo from Pat Pieratte)



Lynda Fagan (third from left) and five of her folk dance students who attended the Tamburitzans' performance (photo by Pat Pieratte)

## SPRING FLING BY PAT PIERATTE



Olivia Bacallao and Betty Nehemias (Photo by Jack Seltzer)



Andi Kapplin, Tina Fagan and Kelly Fagan (photo by Julieta Brambila )

The Orlando group hosted Spring Fling this year, but in a new location, the Rural Cultural Center in Geneva, near Orlando. It is a cute, former four-room schoolhouse with photos of classes going back to the 1930's and many historic artifacts. It has a kitchen/ gathering place where the food was set up and lunch and snacks were enjoyed, and the wood-floored school room which was ideal for dancing. Pat and Bobby were great hosts, as usual, and kept the dancing going from after lunch (starting about 12:45 pm) until almost 8:00 pm., with only a brief "coffee break" about 4:00 pm. Bobby kept the music going non-stop, even going out to check my car's battery after starting one dance and getting back just in time to start the next dance!

Many camp dances were included in the requests, so it was a fun way to review them. Those in attendance were of various ages and from many parts of the

state. Olivia, our Olga Princi scholarship recipient at camp, was there dancing almost every dance and leading many dances! She has quickly become an excellent dancer, and several times I watched her when I didn't know the dances. She said she is saving her money so she can come to camp again next year, and will hopefully bring some of her dancing friends with her.

I always enjoy dancing with other folk dancers from around the state, and the Spring Fling was no exception. What a great, fun day!



Betty Nehemias leading Spring Fling line (photo by Jack Seltzer)



Spring Fling Dancers (Photo by Jack Seltzer)

## FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL, INC. TREASURER'S REPORT

### Opening Balance Sheet - 3/15/2013

Assets:	Bank of America Checking	\$6,214.65
	Bank of America CD	5,092.26
	PayPal	152.94
	Total Assets	11,459.85
Net Assets:	General Funds	\$8,918.85
	Olga Princi Scholarship	2,541.00
Liabilities:	None	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets:</b>		<b><u>\$11,459.85</u></b>

### Income and Expenses

Income	Registrations*	\$28,080.00
	Membership	875.00
	Scholarship	537.00
	Fees for Surface mail	70.00
	Other income	10.00
	CD Interest	3.83
	Total Income	\$29,575.83
Expenses	Refunds	\$1,575.00
	Paid from Scholarship fund	320.00
	Instructors	3,212.53
	Floor 2013 Balance	1,318.50
	Rooms	17,809.30
	Snacks	335.95
	Buttons	52.50
	Miscellaneous Expenses	623.81
	T-Shirts	517.80
	DVD	401.76
	Fees: Corporation	61.25
	FolkDancer Mailing	259.00
	NFO Membership	50.00
	PayPal Service Charge	313.77
	Bank Service Charge	0.00
	Website	270.62
	Total Expenses	\$27,121.79

\*includes \$320 from Scholarship

Olga Princi Scholarship	Opening Balance	\$2,541.00
	Income:	
	Contributions and sales	537.00
	Expenses	
	Scholarships Paid	320.00
	Closing Balance	\$2,758.00

### Closing Balance Sheet - 3/14/2014

Assets:	Bank of America Checking	\$7,330.95
	Bank of America CD	\$5,096.09
	PayPal	\$1,486.85
	Total Assets	\$13,913.89
Net Assets:	General Funds	\$11,155.89
	Olga Princi Scholarship	\$2,758.00
Liabilities:	None	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets:</b>		<b><u>\$13,913.89</u></b>

Note: This report is based on an accounting period from 3/15/2013 to 3/14/2014. This helps in planning for next year's activities. However, the Corporation tax accounting is done on a calendar year basis.

## [ Note from John Daly ]



I have resigned as Secretary, Treasurer and Director of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc. I will continue to maintain the FFDC website and database. The Board has appointed Pat Henderson to complete the term as Secretary, and Terry Abrahams to complete the term as Treasurer.

I will miss receiving all the correspondence and registrations from my friends and fellow dancers, and I send my best wishes to all.

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL, INC.

Saturday, February 15, 2014  
Holiday Inn, Main Gate East  
Kissimmee, Florida

**Call to Order.** The meeting was called to Order at 12:55 pm by President Jack Seltzer.

**Introduction of Officers** by Jack Seltzer.

**Introduction of Olivia Bacallao**, the recipient of the 2104 Olga Princi Scholarship

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived on motion duly made and carried.

**Treasurer's Report** by Treasurer John Daly. Mr. Daly presented interim projections which indicated that the workshop was on track to about break even. A final report will be filed with these minutes when the accounts for the workshop have been settled.

**Editor's Report.** There was a request from the floor to reduce the amount of white space. The response from the Editor was that white space is essential for readability. The sense of the meeting was that the layout is beautiful but that the cost of printing is substantially higher as a result. There was a suggestion from John Daly that we could do a wholly online newsletter, but there was no interest.

**Spring Fling.** Spring Fling will be held April 12 in Geneva, Florida.

**Annual Camp:** There was a discussion on changing the location. It has been suggested that we need a bigger dance floor. At max today we had 66 people, and there was a feeling that it was crowded. Pat Henderson is looking around Orlando for a suitable new location. The hotel at the airport would cost more. Two amounts were mentioned; \$10 and \$30. If cost were \$340, how many would be willing to attend. Large majority of hands were raised.

The National Folk Organization (NFO) might be meeting in Florida before our workshop, and Pat Henderson hopes they will join us. There will be no additional cost for parking, as parking will either be free or validated. Rooms will have a microwave and refrigerator, so dancers could possibly get breakfast on their own. There was a comment that the choice of instructors would influence who might come. Jack Seltzer states that he wants this to be a "fun" camp so teachers will not be so important. Kathy Dimitrievski states that she applauds the choice of a hotel near the airport and offers to help write a grant proposal for professional development.

**Flagler Fling.** Tentatively scheduled for June. Please advise Jan Lathi if there are any conflicts.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

## EVENTS

**May 10, Tea Dance** (1-4 pm) and **Mayfair Ball** (7-10 pm)

Sponsored by: South Brevard English Dancers

Place: Saint Cloud Community Center, 3101 17th Street, Saint Cloud

Information: <http://dancefl.us/ecd/StCloudECD.php> or Catie Geist at [catiegeist@att.net](mailto:catiegeist@att.net) or 321-427-3587

**May 23-25, Florida Folk Festival**

Sponsored by: Florida State Parks

Place: Stephen Foster State Park, 11016 Lillian Saunders Drive, White Springs

Information: [www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest](http://www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest) or 877-635-3655

**June 14-15, Flagler Fling**

Sponsored by: Flagler International Folk Dance Group

Place: Ocean Marina Clubhouse, 600 Ocean Marina Drive, Flagler Beach

Information: Jan Lathi, [amarjan1@bellsouth.net](mailto:amarjan1@bellsouth.net) or 386-447-8396

**June 14-21, Scandia Camp Mendocino**

Place: Mendocino Woodlands, CA

Information: [www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org](http://www.ScandiaCampMendocino.org) or [roo@scandiacamp.org](mailto:roo@scandiacamp.org)

**September 12-14, Mountain Playshop** with Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Place: YMCA Blue Ridge, 84 Blue Ridge Circle, Black Mountain, NC

Information: [www.mountainplayshop.org](http://www.mountainplayshop.org)

**September 26-28, Fandango Dance Weekend**

Sponsored by: English Country Dance Atlanta

Place: Morningside Baptist Church, 1700 Piedmont Ave NE, Clarkston, GA

Information: caller: Joanna Reiner; band: Bare Necessities. See <https://sites.google.com/site/englishcountrydanceatlanta/>, or contact [chrstnmckay@comcast.net](mailto:chrstnmckay@comcast.net) or 404-275-0419

**October 10-12, St. Augustine Greek Festival**

Sponsored by: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Place: Francis Field, U.S. Route 1 (Ponce de Leon Blvd.), St. Augustine

Information: \$3.00 admission. See [www.staugreekfest.com](http://www.staugreekfest.com), [holy3goc@gmail.com](mailto:holy3goc@gmail.com) or (904) 829-0504

**October 10-12, Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance**

Sponsored by: South Brevard English Dancers

Place: Kenilworth Lodge, 1610 SE Lakeview Drive, Sebring

Information: Caller: Sharon Green; see [home.earthlink.net/~full\\_circle\\_band/id19.html](http://home.earthlink.net/~full_circle_band/id19.html) or contact [catiegeist@att.net](mailto:catiegeist@att.net), 321-427-3587

**October 10-12, Serb-Fest 2013** (Orlando)

Place: St. Petka Orthodox Church, 1990 Lake Emma Rd, Longwood

Information: [http://gobop.com/events/Serb\\_Fest/34864.htm](http://gobop.com/events/Serb_Fest/34864.htm) (also [www.serb-fest.com](http://www.serb-fest.com) for last year's festival), 407-831-7372

**October 17-19, Greek Festival, Lecanto**

Sponsored by: Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 4705 W. Gulf to Lake Highway, Lecanto

Information: [www.stmichaelgoc.org/festival.html](http://www.stmichaelgoc.org/festival.html) or 352-527-0766

**October 24-25, Greek Festival, Tallahassee**

Sponsored by: Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 1645 Phillips Road, Tallahassee

Information: <http://hmog.org/festival> or (850) 878-0747

**November 1, Fall Fling** (11 am to 9:00 pm)

Sponsored by: South Brevard International Dancers

Place: Community House, 6300 Hall Road, Melbourne Village

Information: \$5.00 admission. Dance on the hardwood floor of the Historic Community House for a fun day of all request dancing, plus potluck lunch and supper. Contact John Daly at:

[john@dalypreservation.com](mailto:john@dalypreservation.com) or 321-482-6818

*Look for more event, tour and cruise notices on the calendar of the FFDC website [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)*

## EVENTS (CONTINUED)

### November 6-9, Greek Festival, Daytona Beach

Sponsored by: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 129 N. Halifax Avenue, Daytona Beach

Information: <http://stdemetriosdaytona.org/greek-fesitval/> or (386) 252-6012

### November 7-9, Greek Festival, Maitland

Sponsored by: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 1217 Trinity Woods Lane, Maitland

Information: watch <http://www.yasas.com/greek-orthodox-details.asp?cid=514> for more details, or see [www.orlandogreekfest.com](http://www.orlandogreekfest.com) for last year's festival

2015

### February 11-16, NFO Annual Conference

Sponsored by: National Folk Organization (NFO)

Place: Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando

Information: This will be held in conjunction with the Florida Presidents Weekend Folk Dance Workshop with Lee Otterholt and Yves Moreau teaching. See [www.nfo-usa.org](http://www.nfo-usa.org)

### February 13-16, FFDC Presidents' Weekend

Sponsored by: Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

Place: Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando

Information: Teachers: Lee Otterholt, International and Yves Moreau, Bulgarian. See [www.floridafolkdancer.org/Camp2015/index.html](http://www.floridafolkdancer.org/Camp2015/index.html), or contact Jack Seltzer at [seltzerj1@gmail.com](mailto:seltzerj1@gmail.com) or 352-359-2903

## FOLK DANCE TOURS

For **Tours and Cruises with Yves Moreau**, see [www.folkdancecruise.com](http://www.folkdancecruise.com) or contact [info@bourquemoreau.com](mailto:info@bourquemoreau.com) or 450-659-9271. The remaining choice for 2014 is a New Zealand/Australia cruise in November.

For **Dance on the Water Folk Tours**, see <http://folkdanceonthewater.org/> or contact David and Marija Hillis at [folkdanceon-thewater@gmail.com](mailto:folkdanceon-thewater@gmail.com) or 510-459-0092. Choices include the Adriatic Coast including Croatia and Slovenia in June and July, and Madrid, Moorish Spain, and Portugal in October.

For **Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisisdis** in June and July, see <http://www.moisisdis-dance.gr/en/> or contact [moisisdiskyriakos@gmail.com](mailto:moisisdiskyriakos@gmail.com)

For the **Tour of Romania with Sonia and Cristian** in July, see [www.soniacristian.net](http://www.soniacristian.net) or contact Sonia at [sonia\\_dion@hotmail.com](mailto:sonia_dion@hotmail.com).

For **Jim Gold Folk Tours**, see <http://www.jimgold.com/folkTours.htm> or contact Jim Gold at [jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com) or 201-836-0362. Choices for 2014 include: Armenia in May, Poland in June, Norway in June, Greece and its islands in June and July, Ireland in July and August, French Canada in September and Balkan Splendor and Dubrovnik extension in October. Choices so far for 2015 include Albania in May, Poland in June, and Bulgaria and the big Koprivshtitsa Festival in August.

*Please note: The Florida Folk Dancer prints information on folk dance tours, camps and other events that may be of interest to our readers. This does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of any tour or camp (except our own FFDC events!)*

## FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

Florida Folk Dancer is published six times a year by 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 event notices for the calendar or the newsletter to Pat Henderson. Send all other newsletter submissions to the Editor.

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FFDC Website: [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)



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