

# Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

JULY-AUGUST 2015

## Special Points of Interest:

- *A Special "Fling" Edition—see Pages 3-11*
- *Sarasota Herald-Tribute visits the Grapeviners—see Page 12*
- *The Loss of a Beloved Friend—see Page 14*
- *Lots of Club News—check out Pages 16-21*

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY PAT HENDERSON

We have had two Flings since the last issue was published. Thank you, Terry and the Tampa dancers, for hosting a fun day on April 25. Thank you to Betty Nehemias and Jan Lathi for another wonderful Flagler Fling on May 30-31. It amazes me that all the groups see the same dances at the February workshop and then we all seem to keep the same dances. Yves and Lee taught 20 dances between them and it seems like the same 6-8 are kept by most of the groups. I see this happen year after year and I am still surprised when we get together. Of course, the number kept this year is higher than most.

I sent out an announcement that Ed Austin will be our second teacher next year. He will be joining Roberto Bagnoli and it will definitely be an international weekend. To cover all the cultures, the Board has agreed that "Dance Around the World" will be theme for 2016.

Ed is a new name among our teachers. I first met Ed when Bobby and I attended the 2007 National Folk Organization (NFO) annual conference in Salt Lake City. Yves Moreau was going to be teaching so that is what got us to Utah. As part of the conference, we danced with the BYU dancers after the banquet on Saturday night. Ed was the director of the BYU

Ensemble at the time and the evening was enhanced by some of his students donning appropriate costumes and performing several suites. My incredible experience with NFO that year led to my involvement with NFO ever since. Ed is the current President of NFO and many of you met him at this year's "camp." Here is a little more about him:

Edwin G. "Ed" Austin, Jr., Associate Professor of Dance at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, served as Artistic Director of the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble (1985-2011). He directs, choreographs, adjudicates, and is a Master Teacher of international dance forms. His creative works have been featured on television, and in concert and festival performances in more than 35 countries. Ed was one of the instructors at KDI (Kentucky Dance Institute) in 2014 and will return this

year. Ed now accepts requests for teaching recreational folk dance groups. His recreational dance focus is international in scope. Appalachian clogging and Welsh folk dance have been areas of concentrated interest and research, and he is well-versed in



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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

western, central and eastern European dance styles.

He is presently serving his second term as president of the *National Folk Organization of the United States* (NFO). Ed lived in the Polynesian Islands of Samoa (1973-74), where he was first introduced to *Siva Samoa* Samoan Dance. His love for

this culture has led him to his current research of the *Taualuga*, an ancient dance ritual still practiced in the islands and among diaspora communities in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Ed is a past board member of Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d'Arts Traditionnels (CIOFF), American Sec-

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## EDITOR'S NOTES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

In keeping with my last two issues, where I focused on one specific idea, this issue will focus on all of the special happenings in our FFDC world – the Spring Fling, the Flagler Fling, the World Dance Day, the Israeli Workshop, the history of FFDC Flings. I asked Judith to give us a lead-in article on the history of Flings, and she did more than I every thought possible—a really bang-up job (see Page 3). Our second 'dance bio' will focus on Andi Kapplin, who has danced forever; lots of group articles (I think every single

group is here this issue); and a continuation of Tiffany Teardrop—enjoy! Unfortunately, our hearts were saddened by the loss of Marie Millett (see Page 14). Losing a member of our folk dance family always hurts.

BTW, If you weren't at camp, don't forget to renew your membership (see form on Page 24). Some of you have—and I'm proud of you! Next issue—your summer trips!



*Editor's Correction: Pat Henderson provided the following correction to the "Onstage!" article in the May-June 2015 Newsletter: "In the article about dancers on stage, under Phyllis Dammer, Joy Herndon, not Joy Mershimer, was the folk dancer who also tap danced in the shows."*

*Thank you, Pat!*

*Marie, we will  
miss you...*





## A LOOK BACK AT OUR FLING HISTORY BY JUDITH BAIZAN



It all started with the discovery that our newly built shopping mall, Tampa Bay Center, had a Community Meeting Room that could be rented all day for just \$20. Our first event "All Day Dancing, 9 am to midnight" on September 17, 1977 was well supported by our then 30-40 local dancers plus out of towners. It was such a resounding success we scheduled another for November 19, just two months later. Again, dancers came from all over and danced for hours, in spite of the hard floor and only some coffee and tea makings. For meals, we brown bagged it or dashed out for snacks in the mall. In the beginning, we posted welcome signs meant to attract some new joiners from the mall traffic. Once, some teenage couples dressed to the hilt joined us for a while and made our bunch look downright scruffy.

Three Tampa All Day Dances were held in 1978 -- on January 7, July 15 and December 2. Then in 1979, on March 3, something different happened. All Day Dancing was held at the studio where Hansen, our son, had ballet, (the

Community Room must have been unavailable) and rehearsals for Hoiney Viter were scheduled at 11-12 am and 5-6 pm. Because many of us Floridians had recently learned the Ukrainian women's solo dance, I had encouraged dancers from elsewhere to make the costume and join Tampa in performing it in the upcoming Folkdancefest! Directions were sent out for replicating the Tampa costume (made by seamstress Terry Abrahams wearing one of her many hats). All Day Dancing was the perfect rehearsal opportunity. It



was a stunning moment when these three deep lines of dancers in brilliant red emerged dancing from out of the wings on either side of the stage, and one that should have been preserved on video. Except that no one warned the videographer, and his take shows us already onstage.

The three remaining All Day Dancing events on July 21 and Oct 27 of 1979 and May 10 of 1980 were back in the Community Room. In October, we started with a 10 am group breakfast at the mall, then an 11 to 4 "Greek Carnival" when we danced every single Greek dance anyone could remember (with a break in the middle for a brief Arkan rehearsal). In May, the Community Room rent went up to \$25, and we were told it was our last time, as it was to be turned into commercial space.

There were many three-day dance workshops around Florida in the mid-to-late 70s and 80s, as well as Folkdancefest!s and FFDC camps most of the years. But no all-day dances until Julius Horvath in Ormond Beach came up with his Spring Fling idea for July 9, 1983. He said he did it because it looked like Tampa wasn't having them anymore and the tradition had to continue. And continue it he did! Julius said it was his party, and for many years to come, our host Julius provided venues (six different ones!), drinks, and crockpots full of delicious stews, with everything always free to all comers!

I am missing only six actual dates of other Flings. Ernesto and I traveled a lot in those years, and most likely a few Spring Flings took place when we were away. I have Florida Folkdancer and/or my own notes at the time to confirm



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## A LOOK BACK AT OUR FLING HISTORY (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 3)

the dates I do have that Julius organized in the Ormond Beach area. For those interested in specifics, read and enjoy: July 28, 1984; July 13, 1985; July 5, 1986; July 18, 1987; June 10, 1989; June 2, 1990; May 2, 1992; May 22, 1993; April 27, 1996; April 5, 1997; May 8, 1999; April 29, 2000; March 31, 2001; March 23, 2002; March 23, 2003; May 1, 2004; April 30, 2005; and on March 25, 2006, Julius's final bow as Spring Fling host.

Meanwhile another tradition had a tentative start. In October 1991, a three-day "Halloween Fling," organized by the Orlando-based FFDC leadership as a practice run, introduced Florida dancers to the Silver Springs Christian Conference Center, our future camp venue.

In the meantime, the concept of the Fall Fling was getting a start in Brevard (see John's story to the right). In the following several years, Fall Fling, sponsored by the "South Brevard International Dancers" was held at the Women's Club in Deland because of its wooden floor. Some specific dates were November 11, 1995; October 26, 1996; November 22, 1997; and November 14, 1998. In the year 1996, admission was \$3.00, 50 attended, and, in an impromptu concert at lunch time, a visitor from Canada, Marie Armstrong, blew everyone away with her vocal and guitar rendition of "Didn't I Dance In My Day!"

*Editor's Note: John Daly also provided the following information on the Fall Flings:*

Fall Fling started in the mid-to-late 1980's as a fall welcome party for South Brevard snowbirds returning from up north. Joan and Wally Washington had always made their annual return to Florida in October, and by the late 1980's, Harry and Flora Jones were spending summers in North Georgia and also returned in October. At first John Daly would just casually spread the word through Pat and Bobby. By 1990, Joan and Wally were helping with the organization and Fall Fling was being advertised in the newsletter. In 1990, Fall Fling was held on November 10 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall in West Melbourne. In 1991, it was December 14 again at the same location. In 1992, it was on October 6th. In those first years following Julius's example with Spring Fling, we didn't charge.

It's interesting to note that flyers from that period say "Bring your feet, bring your records, bring your potluck." We were still dancing from records and later cassettes and each group would bring their collection so we could do their favorite dances.

In 1993, we were unable to use the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall and this threw our plans into disarray. Joan and Wally Washington arranged for us to use the Women's Club in DeLand, but we couldn't get a date until January 22, 1994. Our flyer that year says "It's supposed to be South Brevard's Fall Fling--but it's not Fall and it's not South Brevard, so we'll call it a Fun Fling." This was a more expensive facility and we charged \$3 that year. We got back to the Fall Fling schedule in 1994, this time at the Melbourne Beach Community Center.



By the November 10, 2001 event, Fall Fling included a 9 to 11 am "Couples Fling" on the Sunday following, all at the Melbourne Village Hall. That same format reappeared for November 23-24, 2002, and November 8-9, 2003. In October 23-24, 2004, Fall Fling moved to its present venue, the Historic Community House, with events on September 24-25, 2005, September 30-31, 2006, October 20-21, 2007, October 11-12, 2008, and October 24-25, 2009. In 2008, 40 attended, and in 2009, 35 came and danced over 100 dances using John Daly's pre-planned program with slots for requests. 2009 was the first time FFDC offered those registering for

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## A LOOK BACK AT OUR FLING HISTORY (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 4)*

camp at Fall Fling the choice of a free dance review DVD or a camp T shirt. At least 18 signed up then and there. Later we learned this had spoiled Julius Horvath's record of being the first every year to register. He had been away, unable to make it to Fall Fling.

In 2010, Caroline Lanker came up with the idea of celebrating her 50 years of international folk dancing by using everyone's "first favorite" dances to build, with South Brevard's approval, of course, the 2010 Fall Fling dance program. The October 30-31 event was a smashing success, with many "oldies" enthusiastically remembered. On October 29, 2011, Halloween costumes were welcome, but only one showed up in the photos. Cost was, as usual, \$5, and 40 dancers came.

In 2012, the Melbourne Fall Fling morphed into a \$75 full weekend workshop on November 2-4, with Andor Czompo lured out of retirement to bring us some of his early dances, assisted as partner by the indefatigable Andy Taylor-Blenis. Another three-day workshop, this time with Christos Papakostas on October 25-27 for \$65, replaced the traditional Fall Fling in 2013. In 2014, Fall Fling on November 1 was a return to the single day format, and it remains to be seen what Melbourne has in store for us in 2015.

Back in 2009, on Thursday, August 27, Flagler Beach and Palm Coast dancers added a potluck supper to their usual evening dance. Folks from Tampa and Orlando joined them, upping the attendance to 20-some. Many stayed



over, enjoying the beach and dipping in Jan Lathi's pool on Friday. And so was born another tradition: the Flagler Fling! The switch to a Saturday-Sunday combination in 2010 (July 10-11) and integrating Sunday brunch at Maggie's European Cafe as officially part of the event, set the format for the coming years. Repeats since were in June 25-26, 2011, June 30-July 1, 2012, June 8-9, 2013, June 14-15, 2014, and May 30-31, 2015. About 40 dancers have been coming to recent Flagler Flings, and in 2014 there were a record 23 staying over for Sunday brunch.

When Julius retired as Spring Fling host, Tampa stepped back into the role with an event at Kate Jackson Recreation Center on May 5, 2007. The charge was \$5.00 and 38 dancers came, even a few from Atlanta and Miami. By the following year, City rental policy had changed, making Kate Jackson unaffordable, so Spring Fling 2008 moved to the Pinellas Park Auditorium on May 10.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## A LOOK BACK AT OUR FLING HISTORY (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 5)*

With the costs of driving increasing relentlessly, a more central location was called for. In 2009, Spring Fling moved to the Whirl and Twirl Square Dance Hall, under Orlando sponsorship, and the addition of Pat Henderson's innovation, a late afternoon break for "high tea" became the new format. Over 40 came on April 4, 2009, and the 50 attending on April 3, 2010 managed to do 90 plus dances before the 7 pm close. The Orlando International Folk Dance Club celebrated its 40th anniversary at the Spring Fling of 2011 on April 2. Pat planned a special dance program

to represent each of the 40 years, starting with choices from the first dance tape they used in the 1970s, and included various ones from performances and camp favorites over the years. Nearly 60 came, among them, Club founder David Digby, down from Atlanta for the occasion. With music master and favorite line leader, Bobby Quibodeaux nimbly alternating between duties, a total of 98 selections were played and danced. The following year, at the March 31, 2012 Spring Fling, the first "annual book exchange" to benefit the Olga Princi Memorial Scholarship Fund was announced, and \$25 raised. (So far, so good. But we are still waiting for the second annual one.) There was heavy rainfall for a short while that afternoon, so loud that dancing stopped because we couldn't hear the music.



To give Orlando a break, Spring Fling in 2013 became Tampa's responsibility. The Pinellas Park Auditorium was rented from 11:30 to 6:30 on April 27, but arriving folks discovered the place locked up tight and no one home! Consternation reigned for several minutes...until Terry drove up in a rental car and opened the doors for us. Her car, loaded with accordion, buttons, shoes, potluck paraphernalia, and food had broken down on the way. Within the disaster a stroke of luck, as both an auto repair garage and car rental agency happened to be right nearby. The deals were struck, papers signed, unloading/reloading with the help of passenger Pat from Tallahassee, and on their way they went! I think by noon we were dancing. Or eating. Or both! Terry came down with something right after this event, but that's another story.

Spring Fling started alternating between Orlando and Tampa, and it was Orlando's turn in 2014. With the Twirl and Whirl facility no longer available, our April 12 event was held in the Geneva Rural Cultural Center. In this renovated 1939s era four-room elementary schoolhouse, we enjoyed the novel convenience of separate rooms for dining and dancing. The day was otherwise notable because our Olga Princi Memorial Scholarship recipient at February's FFDC weekend, Olivia Bacallao, demonstrated almost total recall of the dances taught, and even led some of the lines.



The April 25, 2015 Tampa's Spring Fling (in Pinellas Park) may have lacked the drama of the previous time, but folks came from near and far, danced everyone's requests (over 90), and went home happy.



## WING-DING OF A SPRING FLING BY TERRY ABRAHAMS AND ANDY POLLOCK



*(Editor's Note: Are you aware that on our website [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org) we have all the dances that have been taught at our camps, with the country, teacher, and the year the dance was taught, as well as other dances we know? I'll ask John to incorporate Andy's into that list. For more information, see John's note by the Melbourne Musings article.)*

Forty dancers came to the Spring Fling held on April 25th in the Pinellas Park Auditorium in Pinellas Park. The building has been newly renovated and it was a pleasure to dance on a new floor, with new bathrooms, kitchen, chairs, etc. We were able to use their sound system as well, and Andy P DJ'd us through a wonderful day of dancing. We started at 11 am, broke to eat at 12:30 pm, and were up and at'em again within the hour, nibbling on leftovers for the rest of the day. Marvelous salads, both veggie and fruit, coupled with a little cheese and sausages. Delicious jambalaya and one round of chocolate cake and brownies made for a very healthy and delicious lunch. Camp dances were reviewed, very helpful to many of us, and a special dance was done in honor of Pat and Bobby's 39th anniversary. They did Dodi Li at their wedding, and it was repeated here with great joy. Dancers came from our usual clubs, but Vicki's friends from Oregon were also there to join in. A few dancers from the Tampa area that normally don't dance anymore were also there,

and we're hoping they'll start to come again. Dylan brought his girlfriend, who attended the Door County Festival in Wisconsin and so knew a bit about what we were doing and seemed interested! I certainly hope so! Everyone helped to make coffee, tea, setup and tear down, which made for a very nice day. Thanks to all who helped! Thanks to all who danced!

*Andy Pollock continues:* It was great to see so many familiar faces and a few new ones. I wish we'd had another four hours to get in the rest of the requests. Here are the dance that were taught:

- Topcijska Reka (or Ruka) Andi – line src Jaap Leegwater
- Swartzerdner (Black Earth Circle) Andy – Sicilian Circle – Walter Kohler, Gretel Dunsing
- Patrunino Andy – line src Greek communities, Joe Graziosi
- Family Contra Andi – contra

I am including syllabi that I wrote for Patrunino (video ref included) and Topcijska Reka. Hopefully they can be posted on the FFDC web site or

included here. The original notes from Jaap are slightly different than how we taught this at fling but the two versions are completely compatible (you could dance next to someone dancing it the other way with no issues). Jaap's notes are available from the Stockton site:

<http://www.folkdancecamp.org/oldsyllabi.html>

Swartzerdner is also available from Stockton. It was taught by Walter Kohler and Gretel Dunsing. Keeping your partner to waltz at the end of the changes instead of circling like at the beginning is a more recent development.



Spring Fling Group Shot

## WHY I WASN'T AT SPRING FLING...

*Editor's Note: You must have had a good reason not to attend our annual Spring Fling. Here's a few good excuses!!!*

**Joyce Story:** I wasn't able to come this year--I was in Arizona. (*Editor's Note: what kind of an excuse is that?*)

**Lee Beery:** I had rehearsals from 12:30-2 on Saturday for a show May 17th (Man of La Mancha), and there was an event the evening of the 25th here in The Villages my husband wanted to go to, so I couldn't. (*Editor's Note: I get the rehearsal, but the husband thing??*)

**Donna Young:** I missed attending Spring Fling because I attended my nephew Brian Young's wedding. The wedding date had been set a year and a half ago and I did not want to miss his momentous occasion. The wedding took place in Charlotte, North Carolina on the 25th of April, with a rehearsal dinner the night before, where my brother Mitchell presented a marvelous video he made with photos of Brian and Amanda from birth to their dating stages- all set to music as well. The 24th was also my sister-in-law's 60th birthday, so it was a double celebration, cake and all!

The evening wedding in the church was absolutely beautiful in pink, with two ministers presiding. There were seven bridesmaids! The reception was held in the Mint Art Museum in Uptown—very cool! Lots of food, lots of dancing even in a circle at one point with people doing solos in the middle. The pink and white motif continued and was outstandingly beautiful. A lovely breakfast the next day with lots of talking ended the great weekend. (*Editor's Note: Fling vs. Nephew's Wedding—hmmm..OK—the wedding*)

**Annie Kessler:** Fred and I had every intention to be there on Saturday and were looking so forward to seeing everyone again and to thank you personally for the great t-shirt! But alas—Fred broke his foot last Saturday and they could only put on a soft dressing until the swelling went down. Took him to the hospital Friday and ex-rays showed that he needs major surgery on the foot/ankle. Take him Monday for that and I am a little worn out doing things for him that he so independently always did for himself—and me—in the past. And he will be another six weeks with a wheel chair (no such thing as a walking cast any more). (*Editor's Note: That's going pretty far just for an excuse not to come to the Spring Fling!*)

**Key Demos:** Imagine being the oldest dancer in a group of 20 and 30 somethings! Yep, that was me when I attended the 6th Annual Anoixi Greek Folk Dance Conference in Charlotte, NC, along with 99 other participants. It also didn't (read DID) hurt that I was favoring a bum right knee that should have been replaced two years ago, and that I have had a left knee replacement and a right hip replacement. Anyway, you get the picture.

Jordan Elrod presented dances from the island of Kerkyra and the Tsabounista, a regional dance of the island of Kalymnos. He accompanied his teaching by beating out the rhythm on the tsabouna, a big bass drum that is used all over Greece. We actually sang the words as an accompaniment to the dancing. These dances were quite rigorous and challenging for little old me (literally).

Kyriakos Moisidis (*Editor's Note: remember him from our dance camp*) presented dances from Pieria and Chalkidiki in Northern Greece. His dances were more sedate and melodic, hence more enjoyable for me to dance. I have had the pleasure of dancing with Kyriakos at least three times at summer workshops that he offers in Greece. The seminar participants learn the local dances of the region, and then attend the evening panegyria (gatherings) that are held in the town squares, to actually dance with the locals. (*Editor's Note: OK, you're excused.*)

**Judy Merkt:** My excuse for not attending Spring Fling this year is that I was a participant at the "Miami Vibe" Dancesport Competition at the Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach. My dance instructor is the "Pro" of our "Pro-Am" couple—obviously, I am the "Am." I have been taking private lessons for about 9 months now and am having the time of my life. Didn't think I would ever get involved in competitions (I'm not a willing performer), but just shows you that one should never say never. We competed in both smooth dances (Waltz, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz, and Tango) and rhythm dances (Cha-Cha-Cha, Bolero, Salsa, Swing, Hustle, Rumba, and Merengue) and actually took a couple of awards, doing 100 "heats" on Friday and another 100 on Saturday. We are not competing in championship events, but competing with other couples at my level of dance. Anyway, my instructor is a fabulous young dancer & teacher who has been dancing since he was 4 and obtained his degree in dance & choreography in Lithuania, his home country. How bad can this be, right?! We also competed in Sarasota in March and will be competing in Tampa, Orlando and Sarasota again this summer—preparation is keeping me quite busy at the studio most days after work. I keep telling my friends and relatives that I couldn't make this story up. I don't know how long a story it will be, but I've jumped on the train and hope to be on it for quite a while. However, I am sorry I missed all of you at Spring Fling—truly—I still love International Folk Dance and have no intention of quitting. (*Editor's Note: you mean there's some other kind of dancing besides folk dancing?*)



# Spring Fling 2015



Pat and Bobby celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary.



The 2015-2016 Board of Directors



## FABULOUS FLAGLER FLING BY ARLEEN KAUFMANN

Once more about thirty folk dancers met at Ocean Marina Clubhouse on May 30-31 at Flagler Beach to welcome summer into our busy lives.

Flagler Beach for a quick photo and a walk to the pier and back. Terry is not in the picture as she started late,



picked the wrong direction to meet everyone and missed walking with the group! As is our tradition, about a dozen of us took a short drive to Maggie's European Restaurant for a fabulous brunch. A few of us met once again at Jan's for an afternoon swim and then headed home. Thanks again to Betty and Jan for hosting this wonderful week-end. Looking forward to many more Flings.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer. Summer vacation holds family visits, trips,

cruises, and more dancing for the groups that continue to meet.



Sunday Morning Walk

Thanks to Betty Nehemias, we were once again able to use their facilities free of charge to us, and what a wonderful facility it is —wood floor, comfortable furniture, good kitchen. We met at eleven, organized the tables for a pot luck set-up with food and drinks —some ethnic, but as always included a variety of everything—delicious as usual. Dancers drifted in during the day from Deland, Frostproof, Gainesville, Melbourne, Ocala, Orlando, Tampa, and of course, Flagler Beach-Palm Coast. While dancing, Jack taught Sitno Zborenka and Julieta taught High Green Mountain. We danced all afternoon and by evening (6:00) when the day trippers had gone home, about a dozen of us retired to Jan's for an evening of visiting, board games, snacks, and a swim. Several others spent a fun evening at Betty's.

On Sunday morning, the sleep-over group met at ten at the Topaz at



Flagler Fling Group Shot



## WONDERFUL WORLD DANCE NIGHT BY JILL LUBINER



Thirty five pairs of Grapeviners' feet celebrated World Dance Day on April 29, 2015 (in Sarasota)! As in past years, the program was an all request extravaganza with everyone guaranteed at least one of their favorite dances. Dancers came from near (Sarasota area) and far (Tampa and Frostproof). We also had the pleasure of sharing our World Dance Day celebration with Carrie Seidman, Dance Critic and Arts Writer from the

sulted in a wonderful article and terrific pictures in the 5/5/15 edition of the Herald Tribune. (See article)

Making the evening even more memorable was a heartfelt tribute to Judy Merkt, a Grapeviner's co-coordinator for many years. Judy will continue to dance but has transferred her co-coordinator activities to other board members. We celebrated Judy and her innumerable contributions with an original song, a dance and several dance related take-home mementos.

World Dance Day also marked Andi Kapplin's last day with the Grapeviners until the fall of 2015. We were all surprised when she mentioned that we learned 17 new dances this season as well as reviewing over 17 dances that had been previously taught. It really was a busy dance season! Dancing, celebrating Judy, eating yummy snacks and dancing some more--- what a great way to spend World Dance Day!



Dancing at World Dance Night

Herald Tribune. Carrie and her photographer Nick chatted with Susan Barrach, Judy Merkt, Delores Lustig, Andi Kapplin, and other Grapeviners during the evening. Carrie and Nick's visit re-

### SONG SANG TO JUDY

*Sung to the tune from "We Love You Conrad" from the musical "Bye Bye Birdie"*

*Lyrics written by Faith Kibler*

We thank you Judy, oh yes we do  
 You've been devoted and that is true  
 Summer programs were such a breeze  
 You handled all of them with great ease.  
 Lists are your specialty for every need  
 That's how you kept us up to speed  
 You schlepped the stuff each and every week.  
 It gave your biceps a special tweak.  
 We thank you Judy, oh yes we do  
 You've been devoted and that is true.



The Grapeviners fete Judy at World Dance Night.

## ARTICLE FROM HERALD-TRIBUNE GRAPEVINERS SPREAD LOVE OF FOLK DANCE

By Carrie Seidman, Herald-Tribune

Monday, May 4, 2015

### SARASOTA

Susan Barach had never taken a dance class in her life when, one week after arriving in Sarasota, she showed up for a regular session of the Sarasota Grapeviners International Folk Dance group.

She didn't know a soul. The music and the steps — from Israel, Croatia, Bulgaria and other places just as far-flung — were completely foreign to her. And her husband, who has since offered to be first in line if anyone ever develops a "rhythm transplant," refused to go along.

After her first visit, Barach recalled thinking "I'll never get these steps." But, drawn more by the encouragement she received than a belief in her ability, she returned the following week. And again the week after that. And so on.

Fifteen years later, you can still find Barach on the center's smooth wood dance floor every Wednesday night. But now she wears high-arched, split-soled dance sneakers and sports a button that reads "Susan, Dancing Fool!" She has come to love the dancing, of course, but maybe just slightly less than the camaraderie.

"People say we're a real friendly bunch," she says. "And it's true. We have a good time."



Andi Kapplin leads the Sarasota Grapeviners Folk Dance group as they celebrate World Dance Day at the John Chidsey Bayfront Community Center on April 29. The music and dances were hand picked by the members and featured selections from Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Serbia, Israel, Croatia, and Turkey. The group meets every Wednesday until August. (Staff photo by Nick Adams)

Judy Merkt, who until a recent diversion into ballroom dancing never missed a Wednesday night either, agrees.

"It's the largest, most welcoming and well-run folk dance group in Florida," she says, pausing slightly before adding — "at least in our humble opinion."

Merkt showed up eight years ago, looking for something to get her out of the house after her husband's death. She'd never had a dance lesson either, but she "took to it right away."

Delores Lustig, on the other hand, started dancing in Chicago 28 years ago, after her youngest child graduated from high school, but when she moved to Sarasota in 2003 as a recent widow, there was another reason she was lured to the floor.

"The best part is, you don't need a partner," says Lustig, who also dances Scottish, contra, English Country Folk and line dances and has been known to be on one dance floor or another five nights a week.

Grapeviners' sessions start at 7 p.m., with an hour of instruction to introduce new dances that are repeated for three weeks, giving beginners a chance to acclimate. That's followed by a 60- to 90-minute planned playlist created from members' requests and referred to by those in the know as "ethnic aerobics." Everybody



The Sarasota Grapeviners Folk Dance group celebrates World Dance Day at the John Chidsey Bayfront Community Center on April 29. The music and dances were hand picked by the members and featured selections from Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Serbia, Israel, Croatia, and Turkey. The group meets every Wednesday. (Staff photo by Nick Adams)

(Continued on page 13)



## ARTICLE FROM HERALD-TRIBUNE GRAPEVINERS SPREAD LOVE OF FOLK DANCE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 12)

gets a break during the month of September, as they await the return of the seasonal snowbirds.

Yes, the regulars all admit, the age range of the group skews "older." But not because they're exclusionary. For the mere \$6 price of admission, younger participants are not only invited but are guaranteed an especially enthusiastic welcome.

"I guess in a way you could say it's a dying art," says Andi Kapplin, the fifth teacher the group has had since it began 25 years ago. "When we get a 50-year-old, we say, 'Oh my gosh, a young one!'"

Kapplin, a Jacksonville native who has danced since she was 8, drives down from Tampa to teach each week, except during the summer months, which she spends in British Columbia. Though a polished performer and former competitive dancer herself, she says

her class is not about perfecting an art but preserving good health and a vibrant tradition.

"This addresses the physical, the mental the social and the emotional," says Kapplin. "It addresses everything."

As for Barach, whose two goals in retirement were "to exercise and to volunteer," the group has become a catalyst for both. Not only is she now the Grapeviner's coordinator and treasurer, she also line dances, does Jazzercise three times a week and has five volunteer positions, from driving cancer patients to appointments to cuddling the babies of teen mothers.

### INTERESTED?

The Sarasota Grapeviners International Folk Dance group meets every Wednesday (except September) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the John Chidsey Bayfront Community Center, 803 N. Tamiami Trail. \$6. For more information, call 923-3302 or go to [ifdsarasota.webs.com](http://ifdsarasota.webs.com)

## FENOMINAL FALL FLING BY JOHN DALY

Melbourne dancers decided to go back to the "normal" Fall Fling, which was held on November 1 at our usual wonderful venue, the Historic Melbourne Village Community House, as opposed to the fancy workshops in the

three previous years. About 35 people came from Orlando, Gainesville, Tampa, and Deland, and all enjoyed the day as always. The 'girls' did their usual good job of setting up for lunch, and members brought their usual wonderful food. Dancing lasted until 9ish (late for some of the flings, which have been ending around 6), whereupon we cleaned up and went to our respective hostesses homes. Sunday morning, a handful retuned for breakfast, a little dancing and a final cleanup around noon. Nothing exciting – but we were happy to be dancing together, and some young folk came and made us happier that folk dancing is still alive!



## OBITUARY OF MARIE MILLETT (JANUARY 17, 1926— JUNE 23, 2015) BY JUDY MERKT AND SUSAN BARACH



Marie Millett, beloved leader and member of the Sarasota Grapeviners, passed away from colon and breast cancer. Marie, originally from Kansas, became a full-time Floridian in 1986 when she retired happily at age 60. During her working life, Marie enjoyed a nursing career spanning 40 years where she worked in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado. Her favorite assignment was caring for premature babies. Besides visiting and travelling with family members, Marie's activities included her association with the Democratic Club in Sarasota as well as her long-time membership in the League of Women Voters. She described herself as a "political animal" and was very interested in the workings of government. Marie was also active in her church and sang in the choir.

When asked how she got into folk dancing, Marie answered that she always loved to dance and discovered International Folk Dancing in Oklahoma where she attended a Summer Institute of the Unitarian Universalist Church as the camp nurse. They did International Folk Dancing in the evenings.

Marie did not folk dance on a regular basis until 1975 when she married John. They were married on June 1st and then in July attended a folk dance camp in Golden, Colorado. Marie says the camp was "way over their heads", but it so inspired both of them that when they got home, they started a group in Wichita. They ordered a bunch of 45 RPMs and a syllabus and they were off !!! For their first workshop, they hired Moshiko, a professional dancer and award-winning choreographer from Israel.

Her folk dance history in Florida started in 1980, when Sydelle Singer started the group known as "Singer's Dancers." When the group expanded to in-

clude summer dancing, Marie and her husband John became the summer teachers. At that time, the dance location was changed to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Sarasota and the group name was changed to the Grapeviners of Sarasota. In 1992, Ann Kessler became the permanent teacher while Marie continued to coordinate the group's activities. In 1995, the group moved its sessions to the Bayfront Community Center where the sessions continue to this day. Marie retired as coordinator in 2010. Besides the actual dancing activity, Marie was a member of the NFO, the Folk Society of Dance Historians, and the FFDC. She also taught line dancing at Bay Village, where she lived.

While reflecting on her folk dancing career, Marie said that the main reason she continued to folk dance all those years since 1975 was because "it brings me such joy". One last folk dance thought that Marie wanted to pass on to us is that she hoped with all her heart that folk dance -and our folk dance group especially - continues to thrive. She also hoped that all of us would enjoy folk dancing as much as she did. Someone added the quote below online following the article on the Grapeviners in the Herald Tribune and it sums up Marie perfectly:

"The reason this folkdance group is so welcoming and loving in its culture is because of the nature of the woman who founded it. Marie Millett is the most open, nonjudgmental, and soulful person I've ever known and I've known her 36 years. Proves to me once again that it is the leader that matters most to the success of any organization."

*The address for Marie's son  
and daughter-in law:*

*Robert and Starr Baum*

*7 Adams Place*

*Glen Ridge, NJ 07028-2018*

*Arrangements are under the  
direction of Wiegand Brothers  
Funeral Home, Sarasota, FL.*



Andi and Marie



*The when, where,  
and why of my folk dancing  
history*

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN BY ANDI KAPPLIN



I started folk dancing when I joined Young Judaea at the age of 8. As a teenager I led the local YJ dancers and we competed against groups from other cities at the YJ conventions throughout the Southern region. I attended Camp Tel Yehudah in Barryville, NY two summers and did a lot of Israeli dancing there. One of the YJ conventions that I attended was in Camp Blue Star in Hendersonville, NC. As part of the convention we were taught Israeli folk dances by someone named Fred Berk. In college I spent several summers as a counselor at Camp Judaea in Hendersonville. We took the campers over to Camp Blue Star to watch a demonstration of Israeli Folk Dancing by some people attending a folk dance workshop. A few years later I found out that workshop was open to anyone (I had thought it was by invitation only) and so I went. When I attended for the first time, I learned that Fred was the grandfather of Israeli Dance in the USA. Fred was unique; he'd been injured from surgery that went wrong and was no longer able to dance (he'd been a professional dancer). That did not stop him from teaching. He sat on a stool with his small drum and taught, while someone demonstrated what the dancers were supposed to do.

In those days there weren't that many Israeli folk dances and so International

dances were allowed during the evening programs. I fell in love with Jovano Jovanke which inspired me to join the Atlanta International group when I went home. I was an active member until 1973, appearing in their performing group and teaching as part of their rotation. During the late 1960s I also led the Israeli dance group in Atlanta. Over the years Fred Berk and I became good friends and I brought him to Atlanta to give a workshop where I was the demonstrator.

Desperate for dancing in 1973, after moving to Springfield, IL, I started an International group at the YMCA. At the end of 1974 we moved to Tampa where I joined the Tampa International Folk Dancers. In the late 80s, Terry started an Israeli dance group and I began participating the second year, eventually becoming co-teachers with her. In the summers when I wasn't working, I would occasionally drop in to dance with the Sarasota Grapeviners. Since retirement in 2000, I became an active member of that group. In 2005 I became the group's instructor, no longer following Ann Kessler's feet but instead following in her footsteps. In 2001 Steve and I started spending our summers in Vancouver, BC and I've gotten very involved with folk dancing there, both Israeli and International groups. For 10 weeks every summer, weather permitting, there is folk dancing in Stanley Park, where we try to interest new people in International dance. I've been a part of their teaching team for a number of years.

Before retirement, between work, husband and daughter, there wasn't a lot of free time. I've always been an avid reader and that's still one of my hobbies. Nowadays I also enjoy Jazzercise classes, volunteering for a friend at Pizzo Elementary one morning a week, keeping up with family and friends via SKYPE, FACE TIME and email, and I also usually manage to find time for some computer games.



Check out Andi in the Lyrids Folk Dance Festival 2014 Montage Festival video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhqUCMLUohg>

## Club News (In Almost Alphabetical Order)

### BALKAN BY THE BEACH RUNS THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS BY ROBIN BRIGAERTS



While many folk dance groups close up shop once the snowbirds leave, Balkan by the Beach is continuing to provide a home for international dancing in South Florida during the summer months. We're a small, friendly group of dancers, many with decades of experience and others just starting out or returning to folk dancing after a long absence. We focus on the old favorites but have also added several dances from the recent Presidents' Day workshop to our repertoire. During the summer months, Robin Brigaerts will be running the session. In season, once Janet Higgs returns from Indiana, she and Robin plan to share leadership responsibilities for the group.

Balkan by the Beach currently meets Fridays from 1 to 3:30 at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st Street, Delray Beach. It's a lovely setting with views of the Intracoastal and within walking distance of downtown Delray Beach with its exciting mix of restaurants and shops. With the cost of a session only \$5 for Delray residents and \$6 for non-residents, you can afford to come for the dancing and then make a day of it!

We are planning to switch our sessions to Monday afternoons sometime in the future, so it's best to check before coming for the first time. You can contact the park by calling 561-243-7350. You can also send email to [rfbri-gaerts@gmail.com](mailto:rfbri-gaerts@gmail.com) requesting that your name be added to the Balkan by the Beach email list.

Back in Indiana, snowbird Janet Higgs continues her whirlwind of folk dance activities.

She recently organized a Hoosier Xopo workshop featuring Romanian dancers Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu. The workshop was well attended by both locals and out-of-owners, including South Florida's own Carol Vega Hause, who called it one of the best she's ever been to. After the workshop, Janet and Carol headed to St Louis for what they called "dancing like we remember it."

Janet will also be teaching at two upcoming folk dance camps in Wisconsin. This will be her second year representing the Midwest at Door County, which is known for its many regional folk dance teachers. She will also be teaching at June Camp's Dance Exchange, a unique feature that allows attendees to propose which classic dances will be reviewed at camp. What a great way to make sure that we remember the old favorites on which many of us cut our dancing teeth!

As if all that is not enough, lucky Janet and her daughter Anne get to spend three weeks this summer roaming around Romania and Bulgaria. Let's hope we can convince her to write an article sharing some of her memories of the trip. (*Editor's Note: Don't hope —DO!*)



## DELIGHTFOOTED DELAND BY KELLY FAGAN AND RUTH ANN FAY

Our hardy little party of prancers closed shop for the summer end of May, with a delicious pre-dance feast at Santorini's and an evening warmed by Orlando friends and the ides of summer. And we are on the move.

Ruth Ann has visited Canada and family twice, and just

returned from her col-

lege reunion with Pat Pierratte at Grinnell College. And the sultry sexy six from Florida Folk Dance were Romania bound shortly thereafter. Our handsome harem of Nicki Wise, Ann Robinson, Ruth Ann Fay, Claudia Terence, Julieta Brambila and I joined Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion in Transylvania for an Ethnographic International Dance Adventure! La Revedere! Deland has wings!!!



The Travelers on their way to Romania!

## DELRAY BEACH—ANOTHER NEW GROUP STARTING!

There is International Folk Dancing on most Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am at Anshei Shalom Synagogue in Delray Beach. The dancing, led by Ricki Soltan, is at a beginner/interme-

diate level. A small donation to Anshei Shalom is appreciated as there is no charge for this session. For additional info, call Ricki at 561-499-8490. (Editor's Note: Woo-hoo)

## ALSO IN DELRAY BEACH BY ESTHER MAZOR

*Editor's Note: Esther has been at our camps, but never added stuff to the newsletter. Here's a start from her—let's hear more from you Esther. Delray Beach—three groups now—a real hot spot in Florida!!!!*

From November to May, there is International Folk Dancing every Tuesday 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Weisman Delray Community Center, 7091 W. Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33446.

I get between 20 to 32 dancers depending on the calendar (snow birds). For more information contact me at 954-773-9888 or [esthermazor@aol.com](mailto:esthermazor@aol.com).



## GRACEFUL GAINESVILLE BY JULIETA BRAMBILA

The Gainesville group performed twice downtown during May's ArtWalk, which took place on Friday, May 29. We called it "flash mob dance" because we showed up unannounced. The first one in the evening was at an outdoor stage at the Sun Plaza behind the Hippodrome State Theatre. It went smoothly and people got closer to see the dances, and even clapped. The participants were June, Melinda, Arlene, Mireille, and Nancy. The second performance was outside the Sweetwater Print Co-op, per invitation by Joyce Dewsbury, who had a reception for her beautiful fabric art show titled "From the sublime to the bizarre." She joined us in the dance on the sidewalk where many people were passing by and stopping. We only did four pieces; they were Zemer Atik, Miserlou, High Green Mountain and Savila Se Bela Loza. This was not our first dance downtown. We tried it first on May 1st, also behind the Hippodrome, with June and I dancing with two children who joined us and with Gary, Diane, Max and Diane our cheerful and primary audience. It was not ArtWalk, so there were fewer people around, but we enjoyed it just as

much. We couldn't have done this without Max, who burned our performance CD; or Melinda and Mireille, who invited us to their homes for practice; or Arlene who led in the selection of pieces; or Joyce for encouraging us to participate in ArtWalk; or June for pushing this forward with unrelentless cheerfulness and bravery.



Gainesville Folkdancers at the ArtWalk.

## KOL SIMCHA ISRAELI SPRING DANCE WORKSHOP IN GAINESVILLE BY TONY ARROYO

The workshop, on April 25, and 26, though not well attended went very well. Ian Arroyo was able to teach twelve dances — all relatively brand new (late 2013 —early 2015). We have a DVD available for \$20 which includes shipping (such a deal). Please be reminded that all proceeds from DVD sales are used to subsidize our young people's attendance to the Karmiel USA and the Machol Miami dance camps.

The DVD content list is shown to the right.

[aaarroyo@aol.com](mailto:aaarroyo@aol.com)



*Im Yertze Hashem Yuval Ma'ayan 2014*  
*Be'Mazal, Eli Segal, 2014*  
*Perach Bamidbar, Gadi Biton, 2014*  
*La'uf, Shmulik Gov Ari, 2015*  
*Birkat Haderech Gadi Biton 2014*  
*Bracha, Dudu Barzilai, 2014*  
*Jerusalem Ha'Shalom Ve'Ha'Yofi, Ayelet Bukaei, 2014*  
*She'Hechyanu Ve'Kiymanu, Avi Levy, 2014*  
*Sim Shalom, Yaron Alfasi, 2014*  
*Va'Tikach Miriyam, Azran Sagye, 2014*  
*Shabbat, Shmulik Gov Ari, 2014*  
*Birkat Ha'Kohanim, Shmulik Gov Ari, 2013*

## GREETINGS FROM THE GRAPEVINERS BY JILL LUBINER



The Grapeviners have been joined by many new faces for summertime dancing! Several of the new dancers have said that their attendance was a result of the terrific article by Carrie Seidman (Herald Tribune, 5/5/15) which highlighted World Dance Day. Thanks again, Carrie!! Summer dances are being taught by several members of the group and weekly dancing will continue all summer from 7-9 pm at the Bayfront Community Center, 803 N. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. Please call Delores Lustig (941-923-2431) with any questions about summertime dancing. Happy summer!!

### *Special note from Susan Barach:*

I am bidding farewell to the Sarasota Grapeviners for the summer. My husband, Howie, and I will be heading to Marblehead, Maine on May 17. Marblehead is a beautiful, seaside town about 17 miles north of Boston. Marblehead Harbor houses about 2,000 boats, mostly sail, but many power boats also. We have a 32' J sailboat, named "Fair Susan," which we sail on every nice day between the beginning of June and the middle of September (about 60 days). Before we moved to Sarasota, we lived in Marblehead for

about 40 years--that is where our son, David, was born. Besides sailing in the summer--often with friends, I take Zumba lessons once a week, do Israeli dancing two nights, and also take a line dancing class. When I'm not doing those things, Howie and I are meeting David once a week for dinner (he lives about 1/2 hour away), visiting and eating out with friends, traveling into Boston on a regular basis (it is a 20 minute train ride), and just generally having lots of fun!!!!. During the summer, I miss my Sarasota friends and the Grapeviners, so when the beginning of October rolls around, I am very anxious and excited about returning to Sarasota.



Judy Merkt and Susan Barach



## MARGATE—IRA'S GROUP BY DORIS WOLMAN

Hi all, Valle Shqiptare and Gras Kalo are being done regularly at Ira's class and our new Balkan by the Beach group. We all love the dances. Attached is a video from Ira's group after the first teach. We are much better now after about four weeks of practice. Can't wait for next year. Doris  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4qPMqgVILZM>

As long as I have your attention, take a look at this video from Ira's Margate class. It was done earlier this season. The leader of the line is Betty Yoelson at the ripe young age of 99. Inspiring, yes?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMqD4pYcF4o>





## MELBOURNE MUSINGS BY JOHN DALY



Flagler Fling was a lot of fun. Thanks to Jan and Betty and all the others who worked hard to make it a success. Terry and I got to make music on the porch for a bit. Of course the focus of the day is really dance, and music is part of dance, so we have a good time. It's not an exclusive party. More people could bring instruments and join the jam. Melbourne was poorly represented for a variety of reasons, but at least John was there. All send their regards. The good news is that everyone seems to be recovering from their various issues. Bernice is doing well with her chemo, which is always good news.

Another old friend that we hadn't heard from in a while is Carol McGinn, who sends this note.

"In a few weeks I'm returning to South Carolina (where I lived the first 16 years of my life) and will attend the 50th High School Reunion there, even though I actually graduated High School in Rockledge. I probably won't

even recognize many people I knew during those 10 years at that very small county school in S.C. Our class was the "Baby Boomers" and had about 36 in our class of 1965. Most of the other classes had 25 or less. The teachers hated to see our class come to them! Keep up the good work. Dancing with you folks in Florida was a great time in my life. What a wonderful bunch, and I was glad to renew friendships this past year."

Speaking of Flings, Fall Fling is going to be October 3-4 this year at the Melbourne Village Community House. No workshop, just a Saturday full of dancing and maybe breakfast and clean up on Sunday morning.

Next month I'll have a few notes about the trip to Amsterdam and historic preservation in the Netherlands.

*From John Daly:*

### **DANCE CATALOG**

*For those who haven't noticed, there's a start of a searchable Dance catalog on the web page ([www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)).*

*I'm trying to capture the dances that we do along with a note of when we learned them from and when. In the long run, I'd like to tie them to the dance notes that John Ward has put together for the last two camps. If anyone wants to volunteer to help build this list, please get in touch with me at [john@dalypreservation.com](mailto:john@dalypreservation.com).*

## ORLANDO OFFERINGS BY PAT HENDERSON

Many members of our group enjoyed the great Spring Fling in St. Pete in April and the wonderful Flagler Fling in May. It was nice to have them about a month apart. We continue to enjoy several dances from this year's camp. Our

numbers are up to around twenty dancers every week so the group is thriving. We have added three new dancers



this spring which is always a wonder!

We had many members who traveled this spring. Juanita and Fred Schockey enjoyed a Caribbean cruise to celebrate their 36th anniversary. Lou and David Davia visited their son in Albuquerque, NM during David's birthday trip in April. Nicki Wise had trips to Savannah, Ohio and Ft.



NFO Members joining the OIFDC at a regular session back in February 2015.

*(Continued on page 21)*

## ORLANDO OFFERINGS (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 20)*

Lauderdale in early May. Betty Nehe-mias had a birthday trip in mid-May to Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, visiting Harper's Ferry. Phyllis Dammer went to the graduation of a twin grandson in Illinois. Ruth Ann Fay visited family in Victoria, BC and also attended English Dance Week at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. Ann Robinson went to Milwaukee for a granddaughter's graduation from

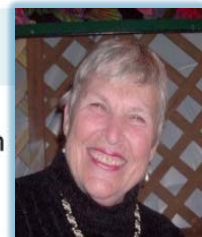
a design school. The graduate left two days later and married in Portland, Oregon.

We hope everyone has a fun summer. The folk dance trips have already started with Kelly, Nicki, Ann and Ruth Ann in Transylvania with Sonia and Cristian. Remember that our group takes a hiatus and does not dance in July and August. We usually dance in Melbourne one of the Fridays in August.

## TAMPA TIMES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

Short as this article is, small as our group is, we still dance, we will always dance, we love to dance! We continue to work on the camp dances, Andy continues to give us new dances he found from other camps that either were not taught, or have been forgotten and shouldn't have been. We miss Andi, Ursula has been having hip problems, so there's Judith, Ernesto, Andy and me (Terry) —BUT—we were all at the Spring Fling including some of our dancers that don't come anymore, and had a wonderful time, Andy and I were at the World Dance Day and had a wonderful time and we also went to the

Flagler Fling and had a wonderful time. John and I played a LOT of music, trading instruments for a while — wonderful! We stayed with our wonderful hostess Arleen Kaufman, and enjoyed being hosted by Jan at her wonderful house party afterwards, where we played games, swam and talked! As Ed Sullivan would say —wonderful wonderful! Happy Summer! PS If anyone remembers him, Bert had triple bypass surgery a few weeks ago and is doing well. Maria is settling in at her new retirement home.



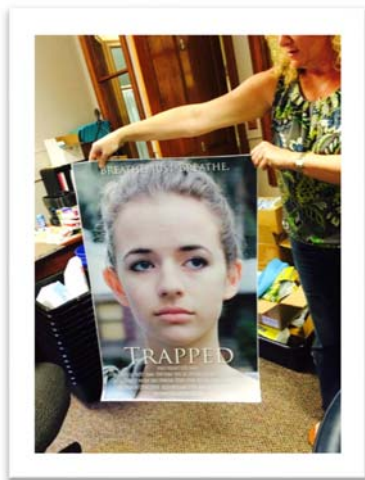
## VANGUARD HIGH SCHOOL BY LYNDA FAGAN

Because of graduating seniors, I have only three dancers left! 😞 (Gotta get some freshmen). We will not be performing at the IB orientation again this year, but hopefully will be allowed to put an advertising flyer in the Freshman IB Information Packet.

April Dotson will be attending Stetson in the Fall and will likely begin dancing with the Deland group. April was one of the 27 Valedictorians at Vanguard. They were on Fox news and the Today show!

I just did a 20 minute movie for the Women's Pregnancy Center. Movie poster came out just a little while ago. My name is on the poster! The film and gala was in April, with Mom (Trisha Fagan) attending with me.

School is out—see you next fall!





## VIVACIOUS VILLAGERS BY SARAH JANE ZIMMERMAN



We're continuing to dance here in The Villages. Sometimes we have a group of 20, sometimes a group of 10. We have seasonal folks who have danced in college, etc. They swell the ranks in the winter months, and are gone now, but happily we do have a core group of dancers every week no matter what. I've continued several of Yves' dances from the workshop. Our dancers' level was beginner, but after 2 years, it's amazing to see everyone get the vocabulary of Balkan dances, and now I'd say they are beginner/intermediate.

We have performed some dances for a couple of assisted living facilities here and have been asked to do the same at two more, so we're figuring out how we can present a "program" of set dances.

This is a work in progress, because of the circumstances of The Villages. We are considered a club, and we meet on Wednesdays at 3 pm and dance until about 4:30 pm. It isn't a traditional folk dance night, with lessons and requests. We have about six people who have folk danced before and then we have all the people who are new to it and have been coming faithfully and are learning the vocabulary of folk dance steps; and then we have new people who have never ever done it. Every week. It's a challenge, and I have to thank the seasoned folk dancers for hanging in there for Make-donska Devojce and all the basic dances being taught over and over. And over. We aren't at the place yet where we can divide the sessions into lessons and requests (most don't know

the names of the dances although I am trying to get that going too).

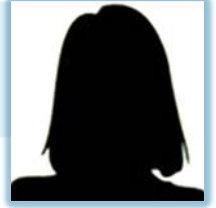
We are definitely growing a new folk dance community here -- many of the people in the group have never heard the music or seen the dances of the Balkans and are excited to learn it and embrace it.

I did start this group and my heart is with the Balkan dances. But we are an international group and Dolores Brooks brings us great dances from other countries, and Estelle Brauer is our Israeli dance teacher. And they also teach the Balkan dances. We've been successfully continuing on for two years now. You all watch for us to host a folk dance festival sometime soon. We're thinking about how it can be done!

Here in The Villages everyone is 50 and older, but it's really fun to see people getting enthusiastic about something they have never ever heard about or seen. My hope is that we can have the Orlando and Gainesville people come over here for a day of dancing in one of the many wonderful recreation centers with sound systems and good floors!! I don't think a workshop is a good idea yet because of the level of dancers we have but we're growing the base and it would be so great to have all of you here. We'll be talking about that with you all after the summer.

*(Editor's Note: she doesn't know what old is...)*

## AS THE OPANCI HOP-STEP-STEP BY TIFFANY TEARDROP



*Editor's Note: Kathie Agaard was cleaning out a drawer and found this! This continuing story was written in 1988 and the installments continued monthly in the newsletter. No one knew who wrote it, but it was lots of fun making guesses. Some of us finally found out, but I'm not telling now either. For those who remember and want to smile, and for those who missed it first time around, I'm retyping it (no computers in those days) and here is the second chapter:*

When last we left the Opaville Folk Dance Club, our heroine, Ethel Ann Arbuckle, was standing alone and in shock while the rest of the group danced merrily away, oblivious to her extreme dismay. The Absolutely Most Gorgeous Hunk she had ever seen had waltzed into her life and waltzed out of it in less than five minutes. Ethel Ann was used to fleeting relationships, but this was most certainly the most ephemeral she had ever experienced.

Although she hadn't even learned the Hunk's name, there was electricity when they danced together. She was sure of it. She had felt it! But now it was all over. Kaput. Finit. Arrivaderci. Amore.

Two weeks had passed since that most disappointing evening. Ethel Ann had managed to pull herself together and get on with her life even though she was sure she would never meet another man as wonderful as the Hunk, especially at folk dancing. The Hunk hadn't even bothered to come back to the Opaville Club after that one

time, and to make matters worse, NEITHER HAD VIVIAN VLASKO. Ethel Ann was certain that they had run off somewhere together --- perhaps even to Bulgaria or Yugoslavia or some other exotic and distant land. "I suppose I should have expected it," Ethel Ann thought to herself, "Vivian attracts more men than a dung heap attracts flies. She's just so, --- so, --- well, so VIVACIOUS!"

Ethel Ann was a country girl from the backwoods of the Stokely Mountains and was used to pulling herself up by her bootstraps, so she was determined to put this unfortunate incident behind her and enjoy herself. As a matter of fact, she was busily involved in packing for the annual statewide 4th of July Folkdance Camp in the Neverblades.

The Neverblades was a HORRIBLE place to be dancing in the middle of the summer. The heat was insufferable, and the mosquitoes were infinite. However, the cost of renting the facility was EXTREMELY LOW. The Folk Dance Council had even gotten an off-season discount for renting the facility in July. So in spite of the inconveniences, the camp really was a good deal. In the past, camp had always proved to be exciting and enjoyable, and this year promised to uphold that tradition. The teachers were to be Jack Leapsalot, teaching Native American Ceremonial dances, and Ingrid Pivurnski, teaching

*(Continued on page 24)*

(From the FFDC Newsletter of August, 1988)

### SHERLOCK HOLMES RIDES AGAIN!

Welllll, I guess ONE installment doesn't make a mystery, but TWO? The moment the second one hit the streets I was besieged with amateur sleuths & psychologists, all trying to guess WHO IS TIFFANY TEARDROP? So, you want to know, I'll tell you. Tiffany Teardrop is ... well, Tiffany Teardrop, of course. She has friends among us who slip her little hints of scandal, no doubt, and she certainly has an accurate feeling for the real "Neverblades." But she enjoys her position of "editorial impartiality", shall we say, so she prefers to remain on the "anonymous" list for yet awhile longer. (I will take ALL the blame for the little cartoon last month, however, for poor Tiffany had no more notion it was going to appear than did you, yourself!!) —David

*(2015 Editor's Note: I didn't see the cartoons until now, won't send anyway, but I think this was David Digby, now residing in Atlanta—who used to live in Tampa, Orlando, etc. and still comes to camp with us.)*



## AS THE OPANCI HOP-STEP-STEP (CONTINUED)

the little-known dances of the Scandinavian minority of Poland. In addition to the dancing and great parties, there was to be an unusual event which had been initiated last year by the Council's president, Hy Rocky. At first everyone had balked at the idea of alligator wrestling, but a few had tried it and decided it was so much fun that they were going to make it another camp tradition. Ethel Ann was actually looking forward to wrestling one of the beasts herself.

Ethel Ann was deep in thought about the adventure that lay before her. She would go to camp; she would dance with her friends; she would wrestle an alligator; she would ... Ethel Ann was not allowed to finish this thought be-

cause all of a sudden ... THE PHONE RANG!

Well, folks, that's it for this installment. It makes you wonder, doesn't it? Who could be calling Ethel Ann? Will she really wrestle an ALLIGATOR? If so, will she win? And what about the Absolutely Most Gorgeous Hunk and Vivacious Vivian Vlasko? Did they really go off together to some exotic and distant land? Or are they just lost? Don't miss the next exciting episode of "As The Opanci Hop-Step-Step." Until then, remember, even if you don't like the person dancing next to you, don't dig your fingernails into his/her palm. It's not nice! I remain yours faithfully.

Tiffany Teardrop

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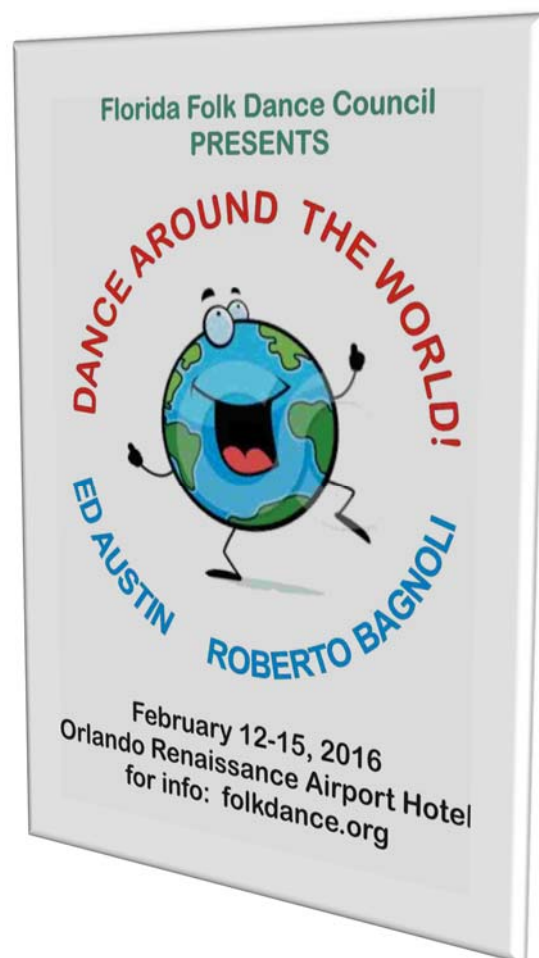
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404 Garden Club Dr.  
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## EVENTS

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

- July 4**—Mendocino Folklore Camp; Mendocino Woodlands, CA  
**July 8**—Door County Folk Festival; Sister Bay, Ephraim & Baileys Harbor, WI  
**July 16**—Hardanger Fiddle Music and Dance Festival; Dodgeville, WI  
**July 7**—Folk moot USA; several towns in Western NC  
**July 19-26**—Stockton Folk Dance Camp; Stockton, CA  
**July 26**—KDI Dance Camp; Murray, KY  
**July 30**—August Global Dance Camp; Socorro, NM  
**July 31**—Lark Camp; Woodlands, CA  
**August 8**—Balkan Music and Dance Workshop; Rock Hill, NY  
**August 16-23**—Mainewoods Dance Camp (Two Weeks); Fryeburg, ME  
**September 4-7**—Karmiel USA, Israeli Folk Dance Weekend; Highlands, NC  
**September 4-8**—Labor Day Weekend at Pinewoods; Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA  
**September 16**—World Congress on Dance Research; Hollywood, FL  
**September 18**—Mountain Playshop; Black Mountain, NC  
**September 24**—World Camp; Rockhill, NY  
**September 25**—Fandango Dance Weekend (English Country); Clarkston, GA  
**October 3-4**—Fall Fling; Melbourne Village Community House, FL  
**October 3-4**—Serbian Festival; St. Sava Orthodox Church, St. Petersburg, FL  
**October 23**—Fall Swedish Music and Dance Weekend; Dodgeville, WI  
**October 23**—Greek Festival; Lecanto, FL  
**October 29**—SPIFFS International Folk Fair; St. Petersburg, FL  
**November 11**—Pourparler; Atlanta, GA



## 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.

For **Dance on the Water Folk Tours**, see <http://folkdanceonthewater.org/> or contact David and Marija Hillis at [folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com](mailto:folkdanceonthewater@gmail.com) or 510-459-0092.

For **Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis** each summer, see <http://www.moisidis-dance.gr/en/> or contact [moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com](mailto:moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com).

For **Tours with Sonia and Cristian**, see [http://www.soniacristian.net/workshop\\_schedule.ws](http://www.soniacristian.net/workshop_schedule.ws) 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.

*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

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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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