



President's Message by Gary Berke

Dear dancers,

As the summer winds down, we experience record rains, or some of us do, because it's block to block in our fair state. Not much has happened this summer except for the wonderful Summer Fling in Gainesville. I always love Flings, but Julieta and Joyce make it extra special. It was wonderful to see everyone, but perhaps more poignant to remember those who we will never see again.

On July 19th, Melbourne held a celebration of life for Willa Davidsohn, one of the trio who made Flings wonderful in Melbourne in past years. You might also remember Bernice Roth and Fanny Salerno.

Many of our groups are restarting for the season, except Sarasota, which is taking September off and returning October 8th for Andi Kapplin's return to Florida. That means she'll be in Tampa the next day, maybe earlier, I hope.

I have been corresponding with someone who wants to start another group somewhere not too far from the Villages, where they allow no outsiders who aren't house guests. But I've cautioned her to find interested people first before looking for a venue. These days it takes some major charisma to get people interested.

On November 1st, the Fall Fling will be at the Community House, 6100 Hall Road, Melbourne Village, FL. We will also commemorate Bobby's 80th birthday. He likes to keep himself in the background, but he has been a major heart of FFDC.

And don't forget, Fall Fling will be high time to register for camp, January 30-February 2, 2026, which will feature Sonia Dion and Cristian Floriescu as teachers. Again, it will be held at the Holiday Inn in Kissimmee, and with luck, should not be much more expensive than last year.

Happy dancing,

Gary



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President's Message (Continued)



FFDC HELP WANTED!

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the membership to run the FFDC. This section, "Help Wanted," will include one-off tasks that someone could step up and assist the Board with them. Some could be one-time, others associated just with Camp (for example, someone could have assisted Gary in finding a dance floor for future years - a one and done action), and others could be on a more regular basis. Monthly, bi-monthly, or as needed.

Please contact Gary if you are interested in helping the team.

- (1) Every year at Camp, Doris Wolman does a fabulous job of organizing the Silent Auction, an integral part of our fundraising. We need one or two people who can sign-on to this task for future Camps, starting in 2026. Give time to learn the process from Doris and give her a hand.

Need is only during Camp.

- (2) FFDC still needs a Historian. Responsibilities would be "digitizing" old copies of the newsletter, Camp historical records (e.g. dances taught), and other key documents donated to FFDC. The goal is to have them electronically stored. So someone with a printer who can scan the documents is needed. The electronic versions will then be stored on the website by John.

Need is on-going, but there is not set schedule as this is a continuous activity.

Message From The Editor...

All articles for the November-December 2025 issue must be submitted by Monday, October 27.
Please send articles for insertion to newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org email address. Thank you

Club Reports In

Heard It From The Grapeviners by Carol Spangler



I know it has been a while since you “heard it from the Grapeviners”, but we are alive and well. Although keeping things going through the summer is a challenge. Many of our members are snow birds, including Andi Kapplin, so making a circle can be difficult. However, we are blessed with Yifat Drucker who picks up the reins and keeps the group moving along. Our schedule is altered for the summer. We met the last two weeks of June, July, and August which makes it a little easier on Yifat. Everyone pitches in with requests and some leading, but most of the responsibility for keeping the sessions going falls on Yifat. So, special thanks go to Yifat for organizing the sessions and practicing all the dances in advance, in case we need help.

Although, some days we were down to three or four dancers, as you can see by the photo below, we had a nice group Wednesday, 8/20. We also had a couple of “drop-ins.” Since we have been meeting at the Senior Center, we have been hoping to catch some new members, so it’s always a happy day when we have catch something in our “folk dance net.”



First Row: Yifat Drucker, Ranita Gomez, Delores Lustig, Ruth Messinger, Carol Spangler

Second Row: Eska Palmer (drop in), Barbara Zigras, Claire Hatch

In the past few articles, I have been highlighting Grapeviners who take on some extra responsibilities by joining our Board of Directors. Last, but not least, Susan Barach agreed to share her folk dance saga. She is the president and coordinator and all around “the buck stops here” person.

How did she come into folk dancing? It is no surprise that she loved all kinds of dancing and did line dancing and country line dancing for many years before discovering international folk dancing over twenty years ago. She (along with husband Howard) moved to Sarasota in 2000 and went to the Jewish Community Center to see if there was any dancing. She joined an Israeli group with a teacher, Eva, some of whom also went to International on Wednesday nights. They asked her if she went to “International.” She explained that she had literally just moved to Sarasota and didn’t know about it. They said it was lots of fun, so she decided to try it the following Wednesday. She had never done International before and was completely lost. When she got home, Howie asked her how things went. She said it was lots of fun, but she could never do it, because it was too difficult. She said “she kept getting confused about which way to go.” How well we all know that feeling! However, the people were very nice and she loved the music. Happily, she continued to go and as she said, “The rest is history.”

So, from her initial confusion to becoming a board member, Susan’s story sounds familiar. When I asked her what she loves about folk dancing, she started with loving the music. The second draw is usually the people. She feels fortunate to have Andi Kapplin as a teacher and a dear friend. In the past couple of years, she has also worked closely with Yifat Drucker. In addition to finding a great problem solver, she has found another dear friend.

Heard It From The Grapeviners (Continued)

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It seems that there is a pattern to “Zen and the Art of Folk Dancing.” It starts with a love of dancing, falling in love with the music, and finding happiness when you join the circle with other others.



Susan during break at her appointed spot announcing important messages to the group.



Events

Summer Fling 2025 Recap by Vicki Kulifay

The Fling took place in Gainesville on August 9. There were about 40 dancers in attendance, so lots of energy and fun dancing.

While we couldn't have a potluck, there were desserts, fruits, and munchie items to share – along with a birthday cake celebrating Jonathan, Lynda, and Manuel.

Many thanks to Julieta, Joyce, and the rest of the Gainesville crew for putting together a great event.



Mountain Playshop 2025 Recap by Vicki Kulifay



Pre-Covid, I attended Mountain Playshop for several years. When the flyer for this year crossed my desk, I decided to give it a go again!

Playshop this year moved to the Montreat Conference Center outside Asheville. Hurricane Helene did some serious damage to the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly location, some of which will take years to rebuild. But the Montreat location, also nestled in the mountains, had it's charm.

The instructor this year was Catherine Rudin. I just copied her bio here - she has a very interesting background as a linguist in addition to all the other things in which she is involved.

Catherine has been dancing since the 1960's, first in Madison, Wisconsin from junior high school through college and, in recent decades, with the Omaha International Folk Dancers in Nebraska. She leads OIFD weekly in person and on Zoom and co-leads the Tuesday Zoom Friends group. In her non-dance life, she is a wife to her husband from Turkey, a mother, linguist, knitter, gardener, and very amateur mariachi violinist.

It was nice to catch up with some dancers I knew from when I was in Augusta, GA, and also those who had attended past Playshops.

Catherine taught a variety of dances - many French, some Turkish, and a few other nationalities tossed in there. All told, a nice variety.

Beth Zweigoron had also arranged for a "Balfolk" concert on Saturday night. For those of you, like me, who are clueless about Balfolk, here's a bit of background. And if I don't get this right, I'm sure someone will correct me!

Balfolk (from French: Bal Folk, meaning a folk ball) is a dance event for folk dance and folk music, primarily concentrating on French dances. There is a revival going on in France of folkdance, emphasizing easy and fun dances held to live music.

For the live music part, Beth arranged for a French fiddle player, Geraud Barralon, to supply the music. So it was called a concert, but we danced for an hour throughout every song he played. Always lovely to have live music!

So between the teaching, reviews, and general dancing, I did about 30,000 steps over the weekend.



Celebration of Life for Willa Davidsohn by John Daly



Forty-two of her friends, family, and fellow dancers gathered on July 19 at the Melbourne Village Hall to celebrate the life of our long-time friend Willa Davidsohn. It was a joy to see friends we had missed for years. For those who do not remember, Willa was one the trio who made a success of the Flings and the Camps that Melbourne ran. There were others over the years whose help was invaluable and much appreciated, but “the Girls” were the mainstay through the years.

The afternoon began with a simple lunch and then a sharing of memories. There was a slide show running at the front of the room showing images of

activities through the years, reminding us of past dances, flings, and workshops. Willa's two children, Rachel and Daniel, and her sister, Fannie Salerno, brought samples of Willa's artwork to display.

Willa was a member of the International, English, and Scottish dance communities and we enjoyed favorite dances from each. Catie Geist led English dances. I and other members of the International dance community taught and led International dances.

Although it was a somber occasion, it was brightened by so many friends. Thank you all for coming.

Fall Fling 2025

South Brevard International Dancers

Fall Fling **2025**

Community House
6100 Hall Road
Melbourne Village, FL

11 AM UNTIL 4 PM

Saturday
November 1

- *Pot Luck Lunch At Noon*
- *Bring Something To Share*
- *Sink, Microwave, and Refrigerator*

Are Available In The Hall

Florida Folk Dance Council

Footnotes

Understanding Folk Dance: 10 Styles of Folk Dance

Written by MasterClass June, 7, 2021

www.masterclass.com/articles/folk-dance-guide

Folk dance is a way for people to express, share, and connect with their own traditional culture. Various styles of folk dance have been performed all over the world for centuries, and are still performed by many cultures today.

What Is Folk Dance?

Folk dance celebrates the cultural roots of a particular group of people. Folk dance is typically performed as a form of ritualistic entertainment at social gatherings. Some kinds of folk dance tell a culture's foundational stories, while others may simply emphasize cultural pride. Today, you may see traditional folk dance performances—complete with traditional garb and music—at certain community and holiday events.

4 Common Attributes of Folk Dance

Although folk dancing varies greatly depending on the culture and traditions, there are several common attributes of folk dance, such as:

1. Performed by nonprofessionals: Traditionally, most folk dances are performed by people without professional dance training or experience. The dances themselves are passed down through generations, learned through observation and mirroring rather than being formally taught.
2. Performed to traditional music: Most folk dances are performed to the traditional folk music of the respective people. Many of these songs contain lyrical verses that tell a story, but some are strictly instrumental.
3. Performed in traditional dress: Folk dancers may wear their culture's traditional garb or attire for a performance. These clothes underscore the dancer's cultural identity while providing a sense

of uniformity with the rest of the folk dance group.

4. Performed during holidays or other celebrations: Folk dances are often performed at festivals, cultural gatherings, or agricultural events.

10 Types of Folk Dance

There are thousands of different folk dances, some with multiple variations and evolutions. Here are a few examples of traditional folk dances:

1. Fandango: Fandango is a traditional Spanish couples' dance accompanied by clapping, castanets, or guitars. In the eighteenth century, the Fandango was popular amongst the aristocracy.
2. Sirtaki: The Sirtaki is a traditional Greek line dance where the dancers perform with their hands over each others' shoulders to form a long human chain. The dance starts out slow, and gets progressively faster.
3. The Tarantella: The Tarantella is an Italian folk dance named for the town it originated in—Taranto, Italy. It is a light, upbeat dance characterized by quick steps, and performed in 6/8 time. It started as a couples' dance, but can also be danced with multiple couples.
4. The Tinikling: This national dance of the Philippines originated during the Spanish Colonial era, and is inspired by the movements of the tinikling bird. To perform the Tinikling, dancers pick up, rearrange, and maneuver between bamboo poles, much like this native bird does to obstacles in the wild.
5. The Hora: The Hora is often recognized as the Jewish wedding dance, but it is also danced in

Understanding Folk Dance: 10 Styles of Folk Dancen Ode to the Northwoods (Continued)

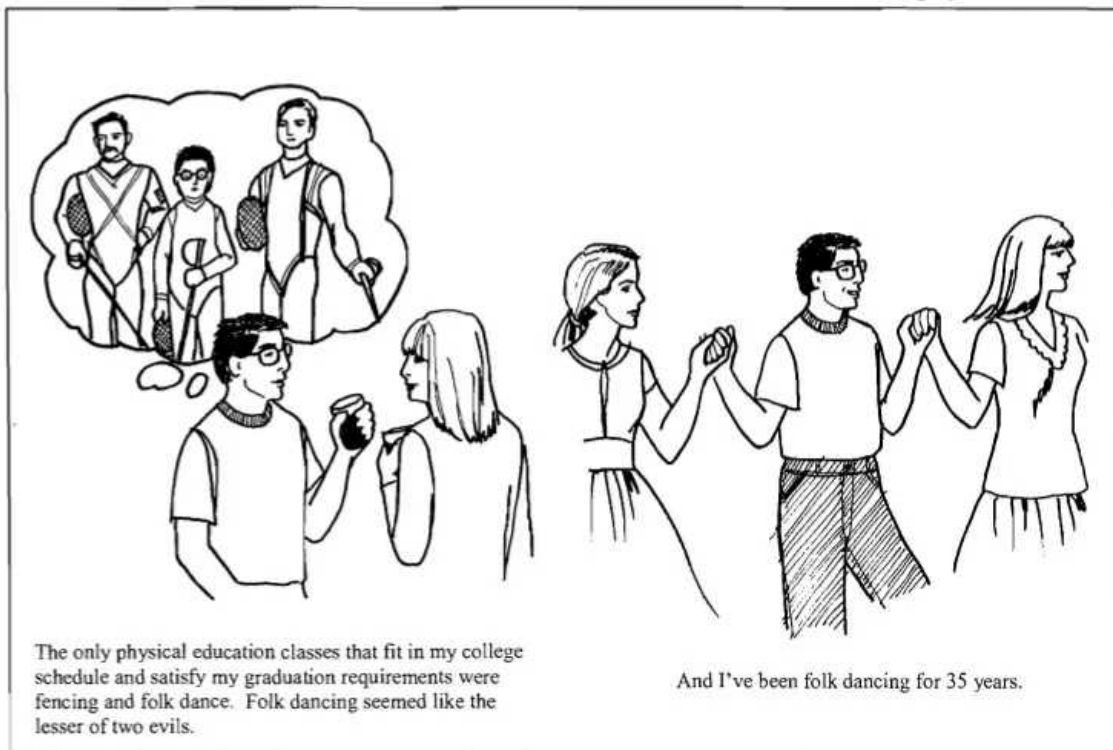
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- Romania, Bulgaria, Israel, and other countries. The dancers join hands and move in a circle around the bride and groom, who are sometimes seated in chairs and hoisted up into the air as the patrons continue dancing around them.
6. Kolo: South Slavic folk dancers from countries like Serbia, Slovenia, and Croatia, do a dance called the 'Kolo,' where dancers hold hands and move in a circle as they do an intricate step dance.
 7. Ceili: The Ceili dance is a traditional Irish dance that involves fast, precise footwork, while the torso remains still. This dance originated in the 1500s, and is typically performed to traditional Irish music, often incorporating the fiddle.
 8. Polka dance: Originated in the Czech Republic, this popular folk dance form is performed all over the world. The Polka is a fast-paced routine usually danced by a couple, who rotate in a circle in the same direction, smoothing out any rough bounces in their quick steps.
 9. Square dance: Originating in England, this traditional American dance involves four pairs of dancers arranged in a square, and is typically accompanied by country music. Each couple stands on each side facing the square's center, performing specific moves in a set order. Early forms of square dancing include the Cotillion, the French Quadrille, as well as a number of English country dances.
 10. Weapon dances: Sometimes referred to as sword dances, this genre of folk dance contains the use of a sword or weapon in the routine. Weapon dances often reenact battles or express particular cultural themes, and are a part of many folk dances around the world, in places including China, Vietnam, Scotland, and India.

Why did you start folk dancing?

Art by Susan Gregory

Dialog by Loui Tucker



Calendar and Tours

Look for more information on events, tours,
and cruises on the FFDC website calendar:
www.floridafolkdancer.org

Event Calendar

- 2025-09-12 - **Enon Valley Folk Dance Camp**, Enon Valley, PA, www.folkdancepittsburgh.com
- 2025-09-12 - **Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers Annual Fling**, Cocoa Beach, FL, No web information
- 2025-09-19 - **Fandango Dance Weekend**, Decatur, GA, www.ecdatlanta.org, English Country Dance Atlanta
- 2025-09-25 - **Tamburitza Extravaganza**, St. Louis, MO, www.tamburitza.org, Tamburitza Association of America
- 2025-09-25 - **Texas Camp**, Bruceville, TX, www.tifd.org, Texas International Folk Dancers
- 2025-09-25 - **World Camp**, Rock Hill, NY, www.worldcamp.us, World Music & Dance Institute
- 2025-09-26 - **Ellen Golann Folk Dance Weekend**, Hopewell Junction, New York, www.tinyurl.com/Golannweekend
- 2025-10-09 - **Fall Dance Weekend**, Brasstown, NC, www.folkschool.org, John C. Campbell Folk School
- 2025-10-10 - **Oktoberfest International Dance and Music Weekend**, Marlboro, VT, www.facone.org/oktoberfest/oktoberfest.html, Folk Art Center of New England
- 2025-10-10 - **Serb-Fest (Orlando)**, Longwood, FL, www.serb-fest.com
- 2025-10-10 - **Pink Party**, Omaha, NB, www.nfo-usa.org/event/pink-party-2025-2, Omaha International Folk Dances
- 2025-10-11 - **Greek Festival**, St. Augustine, Florida, <http://www.floridashistoriccoast.com>, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-10-17 - **Fall Swedish Music and Dance Weekend**, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org
- 2025-10-17 - **Greek Festival**, Lecanto, FL, www.archangelmichaelgoc.org/festival.html, Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-10-23 - **Pourparler**, Jefferson, MD, www.nfo-usa.org/pourparler, NFO
- 2025-10-24 - **Clearwater Greek Fest**, Clearwater, FL, <http://www.clearwatergreekfest.com>
- 2025-10-24 - **Greek Festival**, Tallahassee, FL, www.tallahassee-greek-food-fest.com, Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-10-31 - **Fall Camp**, Brandeis, CA, www.fallcamp.org, Folk Dance Federation of California, South
- 2025-11-01 - **Fall Fling**, Melbourne Village, Florida, No web information, South Brevard International Dancers
- 2025-11-01 - **Workshop with Zeljko Jergan**, Dayton, OH, <http://www.miamivalleyfolk dancers.org>, Miami Valley International Folk Dancers
- 2025-11-07 - **Autumn Leaves**, Nashville, TN, www.nifddance.com, Nashville International Folk Dancers
- 2025-11-07 - **Tamburitza Festival**, Atlantic City, NJ, www.cfu.org/event/38th-cfu-adult-tamburitza-festival, CFUA
- 2025-11-07 - **Greek Festival**, Tampa, FL, <http://www.tampagreekfestival.com>, St. John Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-11-07 - **Greek Festival**, Maitland, FL, www.orlandogreekfest.com, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-11-07 - **Greek Festival**, N. Miami, FL, www.annunciationmiami.org, Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation
- 2025-11-07 - **SerbFest** - St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL, www.stsavafl.org
- 2025-11-14 - **Greek Festival**, Daytona Beach, FL, www.stdemetriosdaytona.org/event/festival, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
- 2025-11-14 - **Greek Festival**, Jacksonville, FL, www.jaxgreekfest.com
- 2025-11-14 - **Tapestry International Dance Workshop**, Minneapolis, MN, www.festivalofnations.com, Tapestry Folkdance
- 2025-11-27 - **Bannerman Folk Camp**, Black Mountain, NC, www.bannermanfolkcamp.com
- 2025-11-28 - **Kolo Festival**, San Francisco, CA, www.kolofestival.org
- 2025-11-29 - **Orlando Multicultural Festival**, Orlando, FL, www.fusionfest.org
- 2025-12-27 - **Winter Dance Week**, Brasstown, North Carolina, www.folkschool.org, John C. Campbell Folk School
- 2025-12-27 - **Machol Miami Lite**, Miami, FL, www.facebook.com/macholmiami
- 2025-12-28 - **Folklore Village Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions**, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org
- 2026-01-23 - **Folk Ball Festival**, Madison, WI, www.facebook.com/people/Madison-Folk-Ball/100080154913514, Madison Folk Dance Club

Event Calendar (Continued)

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- 2026-01-23 - **Florida Snow Ball**, Gulfport, FL, www.floridasnowball.com, Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance
- 2026-01-30 - **Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Workshop**, Kissimmee, FL, www.floridafolkdancer.org, FFDC
- 2026-01-30 - **Virtual Stockton Winter Folk Dance Camp**, Virtual, www.folkdancecamp.org
- 2026-02-13 - **Flurry Festival**, Saratoga Springs, NY, www.flurryfestival.org
- 2026-02-20 - **Greek Festival**, Sarasota, FL, www.stbarbarafestival.org, St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
- 2026-02-20 - **Greek Festival**, Melbourne, FL, www.saint-katherine.org/fest_info.html, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
- 2026-02-20 - **Snopa!**, Hudson, WI, www.tinyurl.com/snopaifd
- 2026-02-21 - **Lunar New Year Festival**, Cerritos, CA, www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm, Folk Dance Federation of California, South
- 2026-03-05 - **NFO Annual Conference**, Durham, North Carolina, www.nfo-usa.org, National Folk Organization (NFO)
- 2026-03-05 - **SPIFFS International Folk Fair**, Pinellas Park, FL, www.spiffs.org
- 2026-03-06 - **Laguna Folk Dance Festival**, Laguna Woods, CA, www.lagunainternationaldancers.com
- 2026-03-20 - **San Antonio Folklife and Dance Festival**, San Antonio, TX, www.safdf.org, SAFDF

Folk Dance Tour Contacts

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

For Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis, contact moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com.

For tours with Sonia and Cristian, see <http://www.soniacristian.net> or contact Sonia at sonia_dion@hotmail.com.

For Jim Gold Folk Tours, see <http://www.jimgold.com> or contact Jim Gold at jimgold@jimgold.com or 201-836-0362.

For tours with Zeljko Jergen, contact Fusae Senzaki Carroll at fusaec@aol.com or 916-798-4675

For tours with Tineke van Geel (sometimes assisted by Maurits), contact them at <http://www.tinekevangeel.nl>.

For the Macedonian and Bulgarian Folk Tour, please contact Vlasto at sunstagecompany@gmail.com or visit <https://sunstagecompany.wixsite.com/arts>

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!)

Process For Sending Group Email Blasts to FFDC Membership

Start by creating an email to be sent to:

reqmsg@floridafolkdancer.org

(reqmsg stands for "request message.")

Include in that email these three items:

1. A Subject Line for the email you are asking to be sent.
2. The body text of the email - what you want it to say. We won't be editing your text, so please make sure its clear and will make sense to the recipients.
3. A contact email or phone number - someone the recipient can contact if they want more information about the subject.

Allow at least a **one week processing time** on these distributions, though generally they go out much more quickly than that.

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 to Pat Henderson.

Send all other newsletter submissions to the newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org email address.

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