



President's Message by Gary Berke

Dear dancers,

Gainesville's wonderful fling made the summer. All of you who couldn't attend missed a great experience, beautiful park setting, big room with a good floor, a great big kitchen to support any food aspirations, and Julietta's already set up next year's fling at the same place. Our fling tradition rolls on, always the high points of my year. Next is the Fall Fling on October 24, 11am at the Melbourne Village Hall, another great venue.

Carla and I are making the final arrangements for the winter weekend on February 5-8, 2027. The hotel's food prices have increased, but with some finagling by Carla, we have come up with a menu which is only about ten dollars higher than last year. They actually raised the prices last year, just not for us. Room rates will be the same. We are also renting a sound system from the hotel for the first time, a minimal bump up in the cost since I secured a major cut rate. I may need a volunteer to check it, who will have to make arrangements with the hotel before the end of the year.

At the weekend, there will be a little schedule change this year, because Efie Derksen will show her film, *"My Borrowed Heritage,"* for her culture corner presentation, and it will take a bit over an hour. By popular acclaim, Tom Pixton, funded by angels, will also be with us at two parties.

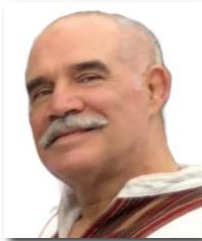
IMPORTANT: At the annual meeting on Saturday, February 6th, we will discuss hiring only one teacher per weekend from next year on. Don't worry, we have two fine teachers this year, but many people have told me it is too much. Please give this some serious thought, and don't miss the meeting.

A group in Costa Rica has been inquiring about the weekend, so I'm hoping for some new blood, but not enough people to crowd us. Tom Pixton might also draw some people. We really do have room.

Finally, Carla and I are definitely retiring. I'm sick of taking care of myself, so I plan to spend as much time as possible in floating old age homes, aka cruise ships. We have great relationships with the hotel and the floor people for camp, so the new president and VP will just have to maintain.

To Life!

Gary



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FFDC HELP STILL 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) FFDC still **really** 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.



Note: Next Newsletter Submissions!

Message From The Editor...

All articles for the November-December 2026 issue must be submitted by Tuesday, October 27.

Please send articles for insertion to newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org email address.

Many thanks to those of you who submitted your articles early for this issue!

Passings

The Last Dance - Mickey Cross



Mickey Cross passed away on August 12 in Tallahassee at the age of 97. She had lived with her daughter, Cathy Davis, and her husband Rich since 2014. Mickey and her husband, Frank, were avid folk dancers after meeting and dancing in Buffalo. They came to Orlando in 1974 and Frank started his environmental engineering company. They danced and performed with the Orlando international group. Bobby and I became close friends with them and even visited them at their A-frame cabin overlooking the Nantahala Gorge in North Carolina. They never missed a camp and in 1981, Mickey was elected President of the Florida Folk Dance Council. She planned the next year's camp which had David Henry teaching Greek dances. They eventually sold their home on a lake in Conway and moved to Orange City when Frank retired. In 1999, Frank had a stroke on the dance floor at a polka party in Samsula and never talked or walked again. He lived in a nursing home until he passed away in 2003. Mickey moved to Tallahassee in 2016 and did a

lot of traveling with Cathy and Rich. For the obituary, here is the link: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tallahassee-fl/margaret-cross-13003575>



Mickey next to Pat Henderson and Frank in front of her in Oktoberfest photo in 1983.

On a lake in 1985 at Palm Coast: Mickey next to Pat Henderson in white Mexican dress.



Events

Summer Fling 2026 Recap by Joyce Story and Peter Harrell

Observations from Joyce:

This year's Spring Fling, hosted by the Gainesville group, was a great success. Reaching the new venue, the Lodge at the Cuscowilla Nature and Retreat Center, was easy since the Center is just off US Highway 441, and once there, everyone was impressed with the natural beauty of its North Florida woodlands. The large lodge offered all the room and more needed for dancing, and the well-furnished kitchen made our pot luck lunch and snacks a trouble-free undertaking. Moreover, the ample parking space was a welcome change. Many thanks to Julieta Brambila for discovering and promoting this venue.

Five hours of "tripping the light fantastic" with Florida friends and folk dancers—what a delight!

Observations from Peter:

Saturday August 8th, International Folk Dancers gathered at the Cuscowilla Nature and Retreat Center not far south of Gainesville. This was, of course, a time for dancing and connecting with old friends and perhaps getting to know some new ones.

The day featured a wide variety of dances led by a number of very capable dancers. The dances included Klezmer and some rather fluid, circular couple's dances (meet your next partner), as well as dances from various other places around the world. At one point I heard the music for a dance I hadn't heard in a very long time which was a welcome memory.

There was of course plenty of food to eat and arms enough to put away chairs and tables. All in all we had a very good time.



Thirty-four people attended Summer Fling 2026 hosted by GIFFD. The GIFFD contingency was comprised of Cheri, Chris, Donna, Eleanor, Felipe, Gary D., Gary S., Kelly, Jean, Jenneine, Joyce S., Julieta, Jon, Lana, Lynda, Peter and Tery.

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Summer Fling took place at Cuscowilla Nature and Retreat Center, a facility run by Alachua County, Florida, located 0.7 miles north of the main entrance of Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park.



Lana and Julieta placed signs on US Highway 441 to guide everyone to the entrance of Cuscowilla.



Lynda and Eva's birthdays were celebrated!

And dancing was enjoyed by all!



GIFD looks forward to hosting Summer Fling at Cuscowilla again. Please add it to your 2027 calendar for Saturday, August 7 at 11 am. Bring friends!

July 5th Folk Dance Party Recap by Pat Henderson



The Annual July 5th Folk Dance Party was held at Ruth Ann's in DeLand.

There was dancing from 11 am to 5 pm. And the traditional potluck lunch was enjoyed by all of us.



Janel & David missed the group photo, but we had to show you their color-appropriate outfits!

2027 Fall Fling - Save The Date



2027 Winter Workshop - Save The Date



Calendar and Tours

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

Event Calendar

- 2026-09-04 - **Balkanalia**, Corbett, OR, www.balkanalia.org, Balkan Festival Northwest
2026-09-04 - **Karmiel USA** - Israeli Folk Dance Weekend, Charlotte, NC, www.karmielusa.com
2026-09-04 - **Labor Day Weekend at Pinewoods**, Plymouth, MA, www.facone.org/labor-day-weekend/labor-day-weekend.html
2026-09-10 - **Tamburitza Extravaganza**, St. Louis, MO, www.tamburitza.org, Tamburitza Association of America
2026-09-11 - **Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers Annual Fling**, Melbourne, FL, No web information
2026-09-18 - **Enon Valley Folk Dance Camp**, Enon Valley, PA, www.folkdancepittsburgh.com
2026-09-18 - **Fandango Dance Weekend**, Decatur, GA, www.ecdatlanta.org, English Country Dance Atlanta
2026-09-24 - **World Camp**, Rock Hill, NY, www.worldcamp.us, World Music & Dance Institute
2026-09-25 - **Mountain Playshop**, Montreat, NC, www.mountainplayshop.org
2026-10-02 - **Ellen Golann Folk Dance Weekend**, Hopewell Junction, NY, www.tinyurl.com/Golannweekend
2026-10-02 - **Pink Party**, Omaha, NB, www.facebook.com/groups/107112059365207, Omaha International Folk Dances
2026-10-08 - **Fall Dance Weekend**, Brasstown, NC, www.folkschool.org, John C. Campbell Folk School
2026-10-09 - **Serb-Fest (Orlando)**, Longwood, FL, www.serb-fest.com
2026-10-09 - **Texas Camp**, Bruceville, TX, www.tifd.org, Texas International Folk Dancers
2026-10-09 - **Oktoberfest International Dance and Music Weekend**, Marlboro, VT, www.facone.org/oktoberfest/oktoberfest.html, Folk Art Center of New England
2026-10-10 - **Greek Festival**, St. Augustine, FL, www.holytrinitystaugustine.org/events, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
2026-10-22 - **Pourparler**, Jefferson, MD, www.nfo-usa.org/pourparler, NFO
2026-10-23 - **Clearwater Greek Fest**, Clearwater, FL, www.clearwatergreekfest.com
2026-10-23 - **Fall Swedish Music and Dance Weekend**, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org
2026-10-23 - **Greek Festival**, Tallahassee, FL, www.tallahasseeegreekfoodfest.com, Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church
2026-10-30 - **Fall Camp**, Brandeis, CA, www.fallcamp.org, Folk Dance Federation of California, South
2026-11-06 - **Autumn Leaves**, Nashville, TN, www.nifddance.com, Nashville International Folk Dancers
2026-11-06 - **Greek Festival**, Maitland, FL, www.orlandogreekfest.com, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
2026-11-12 - **Greek Festival**, Daytona Beach, FL, www.greekfestivaldaytonabeach.com, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
2026-11-13 - **International Dance Workshop**, Minneapolis, MN, www.tapestryfolkdance.org, Tapestry Folkdance
2026-11-13 - **Jax Greek Fest**, Jacksonville, FL, www.jaxgreekfest.com
2026-10-24 - **Bulgarian Festival**, Altamonte Springs, FL, www.facebook.com/StGeorgeBOC
2026-10-24 - **Fall Fling**, Melbourne Village, FL, www.floridafolkdancer.org/Flings/FallFling2026, South Brevard Dancers
2026-11-06 - **Old Country Weekend**, Kingston, OK, www.okcifd.org, Oklahoma City International Folk Dancers
2026-11-06 - **Greek Festival**, N. Miami, FL, www.northmiamigreekfestival.com, Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation
2026-11-06 - **SerbFest St. Petersburg**, St. Petersburg, FL, www.stsavafl.org
2026-11-26 - **Bannerman Folk Camp**, Black Mountain, NC, www.bannermanfolkcamp.com
2026-11-27 - **Kolo Festival**, San Francisco, CA, www.kolofestival.org
2026-12-26 - **Machol Miami Lite**, Miami, FL, www.facebook.com/macholmiami
2026-12-27 - **Winter Dance Week**, Brasstown, NC, www.folkschool.org, John C. Campbell Folk School
2026-11-28 - **Orlando Multicultural Festival**, Orlando, FL, www.fusionfest.org

Event Calendar (Continued)

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2026-12-28 - **Folklore Village Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions**, Dodgeville, WI,
www.folklorevillage.org

2027-01-22 - **Florida Snow Ball**, Boca Ciega, FL, www.floridasnowball.com, Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance

2027-02-05 - **Super Greek Festival**, St. Petersburg, FL, www.ststefanos.org/events/super-greek-fest

2027-02-05 - **Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Workshop**, Kissimmee, FL, www.floridafolkdancer.org, FFDC

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.

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2026 FFDC Officers

President: Gary Berke
ghberke47@gmail.com

Vice-President: Carla Powers
vicepres@folkdance.org

Corresponding Secretary: Pat Henderson
secretary@folkdance.org

Treasurer: Cathy Holleman
treasurer@folkdance.org

Historian: Vacant
historian@floridafolkdancer.org

Newsletter Editor and Publisher: Vicki Kulifay
newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org

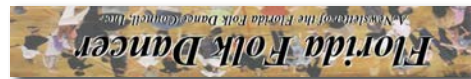
Immediate Past President: Terry Abrahams

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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408 Glencairn Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698