

FOLKDANCEFEST - *The Best Things in Life are Free*

ARLEEN KAUFMANN

"FREE International Dances, Saturday Nite, February 1, at 8 P.M." read the marquee in front of the aging Falk Theater on Kennedy Street in Tampa. The evening was a grand happening--an all-Florida Folk Festival, with ten groups and one hundred people participating, from Miami to Pensacola.

When the theater darkened promptly at 8, the audience was drawn into the spirit of the evening by the lone piper leading the Scottish dancers down the aisles to the two stages. The St. John's River was portrayed by women in flowing white gowns and scarves, and men in kilts. When the dance was completed, Leslie Marsden, the piper, led the group back through the audience, thus setting the tone for what was to be an evening filled with good fellowship, love, and the stuff that dreams are made of.

Eckerd College continued the program with a Greek Sirtaki, encouraged by enthusiastic hisses and sounds of "hoba" from the dancers in the balcony. This group later performed Mexican dances with exuberance and grace, including the swashbuckling splendor of Los Machetes.

The third group of the evening was The Folksdancing from Sarasota, which presented us with a German pub complete with fair maidens and trays of beer steins. The dirndls and lederhosen looked fantastic and the dancers had as much fun as the audience did watching the light-hearted exhibition. Dick Bredenberg's accordion accompaniment added to the enjoyment. In the second part of the evening, The Folksdancing did a medley of American dances, with Cubby Whitehead expertly calling the sets.

The talented Tampa group presented dances from five different areas during the evening, starting with two Lithuanian dances in lovely costumes, the women in long striped dresses and lace hats. They also presented Haroa Haktana from Israel and four complicated dances from Scandinavia, two from Norway and two from Sweden. Daemon and Hansen Baizán stopped the show with their virtuoso performance of Adana from Macedonia.

Julius and Susan Horvath pleased us with two Hungarian czardas done with beautiful style, ending with Julius enthusiastically sweeping his lady off her feet and carrying her from the stage.

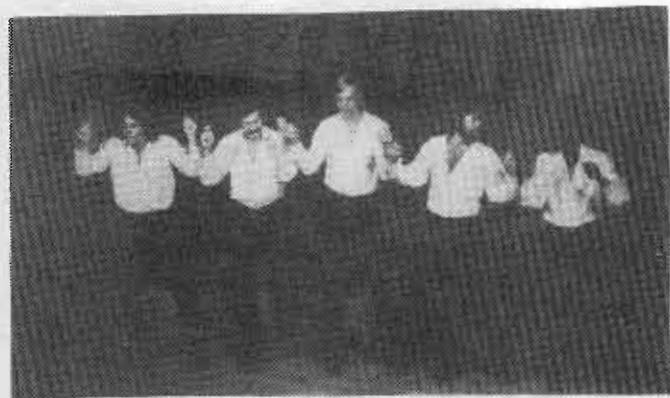
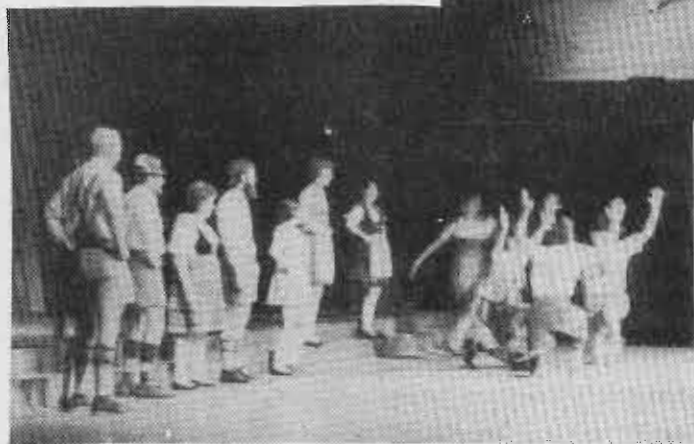
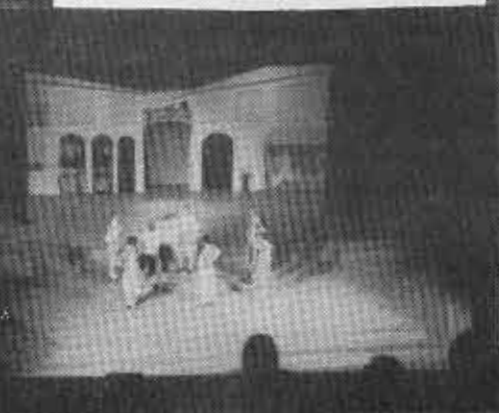
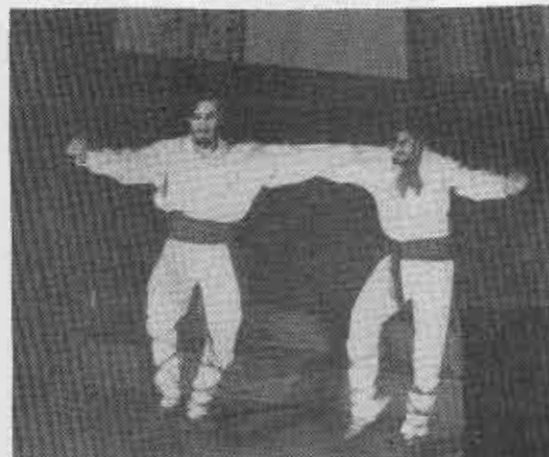
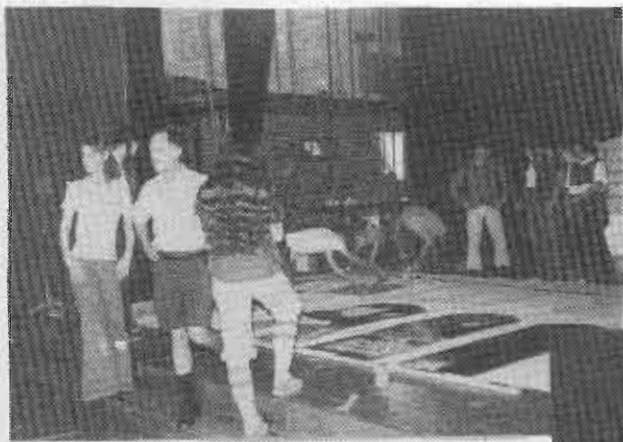
Tallahassee showed its versatility with two colorful Italian tarantellas, followed later by the intricate Dobrudjanska Reka and Bučimis.

Two very pleasant surprises were, first, Anne Lippe's inspired rendition of the Ibn Saud poem "The Meeting," combining the spoken words of the poem with dance movements to the rhythms of live musicians, and second, the flamenco dances of Marilyn Olmo, accompanied by guitarist Michael Sullivan and cheered on from the balcony by Ernesto Baizán with words of encouragement in Spanish.

Tzigany, from Pensacola, impressed us with couple dances from Poland and dances from the Ukraine, with smashingly difficult steps performed by Laine and Drew Harris in fur hats, fitted coats, and boots.

Orlando brought us several favorites from Serbia and Croatia, showing off the intricate steps of those regions.

The twelve Gainesville dancers performed three dances from the Oltenian region of Romania, the men in the costume of the traditional Calusari dancers, and the ladies' dresses individually created. The music of the jew's harp echoed through the auditorium as background for the intricate footwork of Floricica Olteneasca.



Miami thrilled the audience with three Turkish dances done by five ladies in gorgeous striped jackets and harem pants. Calls from the audience spurred them on as they flew through Dokuzlu and Keçiko.

The grand finale was the Czechoslovakian Doudlebska Polka, in which nearly all of the performers participated. Turks danced with Greeks and Russians danced with Americans in a spirit of brotherhood and love.

Some Laurels to the Deserving

- To Bob Weinstein, who said, "Hey, how about an all-Florida Folk Fest," and started the work that was necessary to make it happen.
- To Judith Baizán for her love, enthusiasm, and ability to put the show together and make it come out in style.
- To our Tampa hosts for their hospitality.
- To the caterers, the stage manager, and all the people who worked on the sound, lighting, art, publicity, and the village scene that formed the backdrop.
- To all the donors in the Tampa area and to the Fine Arts Council of Florida.
- To the individuals in the dance groups who put together their own costumes, some at great expense.
- To the group leaders and teachers who unselfishly share their knowledge and experience.
- To next year--we hope we can do it all again with new dances, new costumes, and even more dancers.

CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done! I thoroughly enjoyed the FOLKDANCEFEST in Tampa and was impressed by the excellence of the performances, the speedy, professional way of conducting the program and correcting sound problems which were present at rehearsal time. Many people must have done a lot of hard planning and much physical work to bring the project to such a satisfactory end.

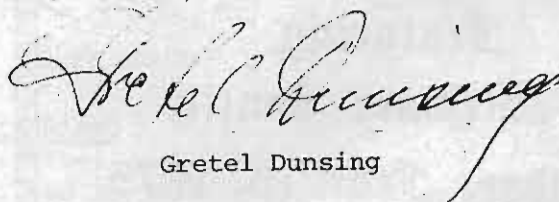
It was good to see oldtimers among the dancers and heartwarming and reassuring to witness the skill and discipline of the younger ones. Communication between partners in the couple dances warmed my heart, as did the expressions of joy and happiness. Perhaps most groups could have paid a little more attention to their audience, acknowledging the generous applause--even if only briefly.

I would like to add a word of praise for those who made the stage decorations and the ones who arranged for the supper and created such a lovely atmosphere in the dining room.

For me it was a great experience to sit back and enjoy the festivities without having to be "in the midst of it." How wonderful it is to see an activity continued in such a nice manner which had made Paul's and my life so rich and enjoyable and which has given us such rare and lasting friendships.

MORE POWER TO YOU! KEEP IT UP!

Best wishes,



Gretel Dunsing

COMING EVENTS

1975

- Feb. 16. Workshop in Scottish Country Dance, featuring C. Stewart Smith, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, LA. For information, contact Vonnie R. Brown, 4431 Blecker Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70809.
- Mar. 12. A Workshop in Turkish Dance featuring Bora Özkök. Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, LA. For information contact Vonnie R. Brown, 4431 Blecker Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809.
- Mar. 15-21. 2nd Annual Balkan Music & Dance Workshop, Reitz Union, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Sam Chianis, Dick Crum, Atanas Kolarovski, Yves Moreau, Bora Özkök. For information, contact Helen Hyams, 120 N.W. 10 St., Gainesville 32601, (904) 377-7255.
- April 4, 5, 6. 3rd Annual Louisiana Folk & Ethnic Dance Festival, "Bratstvo Balkana," featuring Dick Crum, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge LA. For information, contact Vonnie R. Brown, 4431 Blecker Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70809.

MIHAI'S LEESBURG WORKSHOP

HELEN HYAMS

On January 17-19, Mihai David returned to Florida to teach us more of his wonderful Romanian dances. The seven new dances he taught were just as exciting as the ones he taught at the last workshop; all over Florida this month request boards at dance groups have nothing but Romanian dances on them.

The workshop was beautifully organized by the Leesburg group; Tom and Helen Sears and the others who assisted them seem to have thought of everything to keep the workshop running smoothly and to make the visitors feel as comfortable as possible.

A dance session Friday night and one Saturday morning was followed by lunch on the lawn outside the Armory (a very good building to dance in, with showers, a kitchen, and a good wood floor). After the afternoon session, supper was served in the Armory. Helen Sears decided to use only the "Roman" in "Romanian" and therefore cooked Italian food, which was delicious. See the recipes for the Spaghetti al Pesto and Ratatouille in this issue. The evening party was followed by an after-party at Carol Sheridan's wonderful house, where Mihai accompanied a line of dancers, who kept circling the kitchen table, on the cimpoi, or bagpipes.

At Sunday morning's review session we found that in spite of getting so little sleep, the dances had been taught so well that we actually remembered them. To celebrate, many of the dancers went back to Carol's house for an outdoor barbecue. Mihai revealed still another talent by directing a score of willing helpers, who followed his recipe to make hundreds of Romanian Kebab Chi Chi (recipe in this issue), which still could not be cooked on the outdoor grill fast enough to keep up with the demand.

Our thanks go to the hospitable Leesburg people, and our gratitude to Mihai, who came at great inconvenience to himself after a mixup in the arrangements, in order not to disappoint the people who had signed up for the workshop, and then not only taught all weekend but helped in every way he could to make the weekend enjoyable for those who went.

Note: Mihai is considerate enough of folk dancers' slim budgets to have taught all his dances from one record. This may be the only record in existence on which we know fourteen dances. If anyone did not get a copy of the record when Mihai was here, its name is "Gypsy Camp presents Jocuri Populare Rominesti", GC 5201, and is available from Mihai David's Gypsy Camp, 5201 W. Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, California 90027.

Romanian Workshop Recipes

HELEN SEARS

RATATOUILLE (Vegetable Stew) (pronounced rat-uh-too-ee)

This tastes better made even a day or more ahead, and is just as good cold or reheated.

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| 2 large onions, sliced | 1 red pepper, seeded and cut in chunks |
| 2 large cloves garlic, minced | 1 can garbanzo beans |
| 1/2 c. olive oil | 1 pkg. Oscar Mayer smokie links |
| 1 med. eggplant, cubed, with skin on | 2 t. salt |
| 6 med. zucchini (or crookneck squash,
or green beans) | 1 t. basil |
| 1 green pepper, seeded and cut in chunks | 1 large can peeled tomatoes |

Sauté onions and garlic in oil until soft but not brown. Add all ingredients except tomatoes (add oil as needed to keep from sticking). Cover pan and cook 30 minutes. Stir occasionally to help vegetables preserve their shape. Do not let the mixture become soupy. Remove the cover and add tomatoes; simmer 15 minutes to 1/2 hour. There should be a little free liquid, but ratatouille should be of spoon-and-serve consistency. Serves 8-10

SPAGHETTI AL PESTO
(green sauce made with mortar and pestle)

2 c. <u>fresh</u> spinach leaves or basil	1/2 c. grated parmesan cheese
1 1/2 c. parsley sprigs	Spaghetti
1 1/2 oz. blanched almonds	1 T. butter
1/2 c. olive oil	

Liquify first 3 ingredients in electric blender. Add oil and parmesan cheese to taste. Toss cold onto hot, drained spaghetti with the butter. Spaghetti will be green-flecked. Keep any extra sauce refrigerated. It can be added to soups, 1 T. per bowl.

ROMANIAN KEBAB CHI CHI

As instructed by Mihai David at the January 17-19 Leesburg Workshop. Make ahead and refrigerate 24 hours before cooking.

7 1/2 lbs. chopped beef	Salt
1/2 large can savory	Pepper
2-3 T. paprika	1/2 t. baking soda
Garlic salt	3-4 envelopes Lipton beef broth, diluted slightly in hot water

Place meat in a bowl and add seasonings and baking soda. Knead broth into meat a little at a time until the mixture is of a paste consistency. Keep a bowl of water nearby and dip hands into it frequently. Knead meat mixture well and form into 3- to 4-inch sausages with flat ends. Broil, or charcoal broil.

Summer Tours

It's beginning to seem as though Yugoslavia is right next door, judging by the opportunities to visit it over the summer. First, GEORGE TOMOV's tour last summer (reported on by Marilyn Rath and Božie Bledsoe) was so successful that this year he is offering three tours: May 19 to June 3; June 30 to July 15; and July 20 to August 5. The tours will include visits to folklore festivals, dance performances, dance instruction, and of course, trips to museums, shops, historic and artistic points of interest, and the beautiful Yugoslavian countryside. For further information and a brochure, write: George Tomov, 43-16 Judge Street, Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373; or phone (212) 651-9881 or 593-1640.

In addition to the above tours, a Folk Dance Institute is being held in Yugoslavia this summer, sponsored by IVO LOLA RIBAR, the Folk Ensemble of Beograd, and the Yugoslav-American Sport Club. There will be two one-week sessions, August 17-24 and August 24-31. The sessions are held at a resort, with food and lodging included; a syllabus and records will be available. A certificate of accomplishment may be received by examination to be applied toward academic requirements, and tours of Yugoslavia before or after the workshop are available. For further information, contact the Yugoslav-American Club, 807 Creed Ave., Oakland, California 94610; phone (415) 836-2298. Reservations close April 1.

The Folk Dance Scene

You all should know that one of the most interesting folk dance publications around is the work of one of our FFDC members, Vonnie Brown, who teaches folk dance in Baton Rouge. The Folk Dance Scene in Baton Rouge takes a different area each month and covers it in depth, with articles on the dances, customs, costumes, music, and even recipes of the area, and with interviews with authorities on the dances. (The Gainesville group used her Romanian issue as a reference for authenticity in styling and costumes for the Tampa performance.) In addition, each issue has a calendar of coming events (note the ads in this Newsletter for two of Baton Rouge's upcoming workshops), and background notes on many of the dances we all do. The cost of The Folk Dance Scene is \$7 a year for issues that are mailed, and it is well worth the price. For information, contact Vonnie R. Brown, 4431 Blecker Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

SWISS DANCE WORKSHOP

The Eckerd College Folk Dancers and The Folksdancing are sponsoring a workshop in Swiss folk dances on Saturday, February 22, at Fox Hall, Eckerd College. The workshop will be conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Singer from Zurich, who are guests of Gretel Dunsing. There will be a morning session starting at 10 a.m., followed by an afternoon session, a swimming pool break, and an evening party. The college cafeteria will be open for all meals, and grounds are available for picnicking. The fee for the workshop is \$3; \$2 for students.

Several motels are nearby; in addition, there is limited sleeping bag space available at Eckerd. For information on sleeping bag space, contact Robin Beléy, Box 86, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg 33733; phone (813) 867-9000. For general information, contact Cubby Whitehead, Rt. 3, Box 90, Sarasota 33580; phone (813) 755-6212.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sorrow that the New College Folk Dance Group announces the death of Fern Toby Newman. Fern, who was 19 years old, was shot and killed on November 30, 1974, in the parking lot of Sarasota Memorial Hospital, where she worked part-time as a physical therapist.

Fern, a member of the folk dance group since its inception, was a third-year student at New College, where she was scheduled to graduate in June. A dedicated and conscientious worker, Fern was involved in numerous causes, including mental health, anti-war activities, and the international peace movement.

A memorial service in New College's Music Room--appropriately enough, where the New College Folk Dance Group meets--was conducted by the Society of Friends, of which Fern was a member.

Her absence will be felt by all of her friends who were touched by her infectious enthusiasm and good nature.

Orlando

LARRY WARTELL

Orlando modestly added "TV stars" to their list of plaudits when the group was featured on "Intercom," the local educational channel's discussion program. Dave Digby, Rita Hussman, and Tom Lindsay were questioned on various aspects of the club's activities, and a film was shown of the performing group doing a few dances before lines were opened for viewer telephone calls. Evidently at least four people were watching.

On the Thursday and Friday just before the big Tampa show the group gave a performance each evening at the Winter Park Mall. The program was given in conjunction with a "Cruise" exhibition sponsored by local travel agencies; the dances from around the world were very well received and evoked some interest in the club and in folk dancing in general.

Miami

GINNY CORWIN

We started the year off in style--a "Potluck" supper--well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. We danced for hours, people were crawling away (could be cause it was New Year's and the day after!).

We want to welcome all of our friends whom we have grown to expect at this time of year --the Eirnbaums, Beyers, Sylvia Sussman, Jane Katzman and Marcia, Mike Machtay, who gave a "mini" workshop (great!), Bart Corwin, who, in addition to teaching Balkan dances, gave a lesson in clogging--exhausting stuff!

"Happy Dancing" to all.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR--PLEASE READ!

Now that the Newsletter is issued monthly again, please contribute to it. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month; issues will be mailed as close to the 1st of the month as possible (excluding months like this one, where an event on the 1st delays the issue). I will include anything sent to me after the 15th if possible, but the closer to the 1st an article reaches me, the more chance there is that the issue is at the printer.

To save space, the Directory will only be printed every two or three months. I will print changes in the Directory each month; please correct your copy of the Directory so that it will be up-to-date. Additional copies of the Directory are available; send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope and one will be mailed to you.

Please note the following corrections;

SARASOTA The Folksdancing, 2nd and 4th Wed. of month, 7:30 p.m., I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) Hall, 200 N. Washington Blvd., Sarasota. Contact Cubby or Jeanie Whitehead, Rt. 3, Box 90, Sarasota 33580, (813) 755-7005 or 755-6212.

LEESBURG Change phone numbers for Tom and Helen Sears to: (904) 787-5333 days; 787-0861 eves.

DAYTONA BEACH Add International Dancing, Mon. 8:30-10 p.m., same location as Sat. sessions.

The FFDC Newsletter is a publication of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Rt. 3, Box 90, Sarasota, FL 33580.

Officers of the Florida Folk Dance Council are:

President--Cubby Whitehead
Treasurer--Nolia Stephan
Secretary--Bea and Phil Statnick

Individual membership in the FFDC is \$3.00 per year. Family membership (including husband, wife, and any children under 18) is \$5.00 per year. Membership fees should be sent to Nolia Stephan, 3500 Bayou Louise Lane, Sarasota 33581.

The FFDC Newsletter is sent to all members. It is available to nonmembers at 50¢ per copy. Groups may be listed in the FFDC Directory free of charge. Contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to

HELEN HYAMS
120 N.W. 10 STREET
GAINESVILLE, FL 32601

ADVERTISING RATES

	<u>One Month</u>	<u>Six Months</u>	<u>One Year</u>
Full page	\$9.00	\$49.50	\$90.00
Half page	5.00	27.50	50.00
Quarter page	3.00	16.50	30.00
Eighth page	1.75	9.50	17.50

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