

# FFDC NEWSLETTER MARCH\*APRIL 1985



FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Julius Horvath, 1018 Berkshire Road, Daytona Beach, FL 32017

(904) 252-5738

TREASURER: Eileen Jacobs, 2221 Lynn Court, Palm Harbor, FL 33563

FFDC NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Raynette Diane Kibbee, 11428 B Wagon Road, Orlando, FL 32826 (305) 273-9128

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## EXY-PREXY SAYS NEXY

I was even going to say Sexy-exy but that was too much. But as the ex-pres, I do want to thank everyone for their support during the last three years as the president, and the two before that as the Editor. Looking back, I enjoyed the whole thing, but my energy doesn't seem to be as high lately, and quite frankly, I'm glad to give myself a break. In fact, I have literally gotten out of a sick bed to do this note, as my typewriter at home is impossible. I wrote this article once--four long hand-written pages, and it turns out I didn't have Raynette's correct address and it never got there. Maybe it's to your advantage, it's for sure this one will not be as long. So....

CAMP: a success. For the most part. Certainly in terms of people. We had 105 different people there, counting a couple of husbands that dropped in to say hello. There was plenty of food--but NEXT YEAR- we must let them know how many are coming- we really lucked out with them having next week's group's food there, and they used that for us. I told them 65 people. So you decided at the last minute to come- we loved having you, but next year decide the week before! We also will have to have at least four to a side of a cabin, so couple - try to find one you can tolerate and be a foursome. There was also concern about meeting the needs of all levels of dancers at this camp. After discussing this with a number of other people, this is the basic feeling: basically this camp is open to everyone of course. But it is also felt that when we pay two people quite a bit of money for their expertise, that they should be teaching at a level that helps those people that have some experience. Basic teaching of basic steps should be done at the local level, as all of our teachers are very good at imparting this knowledge. The teachers generally warm up with one or two quick easy numbers and then move on to dances for intermediates or advanced students. This is one weekend (just as at Buffalo Gap, etc.) that is dedicated to those students who want more involved dances, more ethnic background, perhaps even performance level dances. After all, where else are we going to get this instruction, if not direct from the best in the field. So as far as I know, this what to expect next year again, but in the meantime, some "beginner" weekends will be planned for those who want to get better at that level. Thank you for your discussion of the matter. I apologize for not discussing it at the meeting. Apparently I adjourned without asking for new business. Julius will do better next meeting, I promise... By the way, this was a moneymaker this year - I'll let you know the exact amount soon.

The Folkdancefest is coming along. Groups participating include Tallahassee, Tampa, Daytona Beach, Orlando and Gainesville. There will also be a couple of special groups, a possible Greek group from Daytona Beach as well as a near eastern dancer. LEADERS, if I haven't called you by now, please send a copy of your dances to both Julius and myself so that we can do a program.

Well I promised some brevity. I love not having to be responsible for this column anymore, but I pledge to be helpful wherever to anyone who feels a need for my nurturing - in the meantime, see you at D.B. and Tampa.

Terry

**PREZ SEZ** Many thanks to you all for your vote of confidence in electing me president of your council. As mentioned earlier, with each new administration comes fresh ideas and new energy. We need your comments and suggestions to help build our programs and membership. I intend to visit each club to discuss how the council can best help and become more useful to the unique needs of that club...BUT don't wait for my visit--call or write if you need help or have a problem. You are not alone out there!

The Biggie coming up is Folkdancefest '85 in Daytona Beach and Tampa on April 13 and 14. We urgently need your support for this program. If each club would prepare just one or two short segments...or even one dance, it will help make the program an outstanding success. We presently desperately need more participation since only five clubs have responded so far. Please call me at (904) 252-5738 or Terry at (813) 253-2090 as soon as possible. Please help!!!!

We need: club name, participants' names (add even if there is a question), country, dance name and a brief description (if available) of the dance or occasion when danced. There will be an after party and an after-after party following the Daytona Beach performance. We look forward to your participation.


See you in Daytona--Happy Dancing!

Julius

## EDITORS NOTES

Greetings from Orlando from whence cometh your new editor! First of all, I'd like to thank all those who had confidence enough in my as yet unproven abilities to elect me to this office. Secondly, I'd like to apologize, especially to

those who were so great to send me their info, for the tardiness of this newsletter. I hope everyone will be patient with me. It will take a while to get into the swing of things.

Please note my mailing address at the top of this page. Send me news, ideas, recipes, questions, poetry and anything else you run across that you think might even remotely be of interest to the Folkdancers in Florida. GROUP LEADERS: Please send me the correct address, time and contact person of your groups for the updated Florida Folk Dance Directory (for May Issue). Thanks. 

**ORMOND ODDS & ENDS** Since our weekly dances are free, we regularly conduct a few moneymaking projects to pay our rent, etc. We recently held a dinner/performance to a sell-out crowd at a local church. Blanche and her committee prepared a roast beef dinner and then we presented an hour show with audience participation...and it was great fun!!!!

The girls are busy sewing new costumes for Folkdancefest and rehearsing three and four nights a week. Everyone is eagerly looking forward to the program - and the after parties.

We extend best wishes to the new FFDC officers and offer our help and cooperation in all their programs. OBIFD

**TAMPA TRIVIA** In the "Best Surprise" category was a lightning visit by Marilyn Rath, former FFDC Newsletter Editor and ex-Miamian, who now lives in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. She absolutely loves it over there, and could hardly wait to get back. She said you can have a decent place to live, good food and drink, and travel around too on \$400 a month. Maybe we should all go over on the Orlando tour and check it out!

Tampans are also enjoying periodic visits from long-time folk dancers and former Miamians Hal and Helen Pelta, who are spending a year in Holmes Beach, Fl. Anyone who was in on the First Balkan Workshop will always remember the Peltas and their house full of teaching staff and attendees.

Attention all those who occasionally drop in to dance with us. Hunt Center will be closed on April 5 for Good Friday, and on April 26 because the Recreation Department has so decreed. Please come any other Friday!

Of course the big news last month for all of us was the FFDC Camp held annually on Presidents' Day Weekend. Those of us who were there had all the fun, and those of you who didn't make it, well, what can I say? You JUST MISSED IT, THAT'S ALL!

Ya'akov kept us all in stitches during his teaching sessions. Learning dances has never been more fun. Celest's material was refreshing in its authenticity. Some of the dances were deceptive: they looked simple, but turned out to be quite a challenge. As it turned out, these two teachers' material made for a nice balance. Congratulations to Ex Prez Terry for her excellent choice.

Georgine Watts was responsible for the tasty Israeli snack Saturday night. In case someone didn't hear, every single piece of pita bread - even the broken ones - were used in the end. But everyone present got one. Let this be a lesson to those folks who can't make up their minds ahead of time and show up at camp unannounced, and, of course, unregistered. Special foods that are brought from home can't always be stretched to accommodate such unexpected guests. Marian Kersting prepared the luscious Italian snack that we enjoyed on Sunday night. Thanks to you both, and to all of your helpers. Judith

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**MOUSE MUSINGS** We had great club participation at the George Washington's Birthday Camp. It was great to see our folk dance friends again. Volkstanz had two performances the week after camp: one Italian-American performance for a "Godfather Party" and a German performance for a German farm machinery convention. We are practicing hard for two full weekends of dance in April. We also had an Israeli performance in March in Deltona. We hope that all the folk dancers in Florida know about our club sponsored trip to Yugoslavia in July! Keep your eyes and ears open for more details.  
Pat Henderson

\*\*\*\*\*COMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*COMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*

The Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers invite you to their second annual Spring Fling and Day School in Titusville, FL Saturday, March 30, 1985 with George Mechan of Dundee, Scotland.

Workshops start at 10:00 am, evening dance party at 7:30 pm.

COST: \$5 for workshop and party.  
Contact George Senyk - (305) 636-2209 - for more information and directions.

Also from Bora Ozkok: different tours and workshops to Turkey and Yugoslavia. If you are interested contact them at:

Atanas-Bora Seminar Tours  
5555 Kerr Creek  
Bloomington, IN 47401

FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL

# Folk Dance Fest

8 PM SATURDAY APRIL 13, 1985  
DAYTONA BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE AUDITORIUM  
1200 VOLUNIA AVE, (SR-92) DAYTONA BEACH, FL

2 PM SUNDAY APRIL 14, 1985  
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
2808 HORATIO AVENUE, TAMPA, FL



CHAIRMAN: TERRY ABRAHAMS, 717 SOUTH EDISON, TAMPA FL 33606

NOTE: All group leaders are urged to call Terry PROMPLY at 813-253-2090 to inform her of your intent to participate, what countries you have selected, the lengths of your segments, and any special requirements you might have. Complete information: rehearsal times, maps, dinner and sleep arrangements, etc. will be mailed to all group leaders. PLEASE call or write Terry as soon as possible. Thanks!

FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL  
11428 B Wagon Road  
Orlando, FL 32826

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

It was a deep pleasure for us to be with you all for the weekend. I am writing to try and pin down some of my thoughts, in hopes of clarifying what I have in mind.

My basic belief is that a camp of this nature should be slanted towards more than one level of ability. I feel that this would help immeasurably in building the FFDC and integrating more dancers into the movement.

1) I am not against having any advanced dances at the camp. I am in favor of broadening the camp program so that all abilities would have the advantage and fun of camp and its fellowship. In my mind today, there seems to be two approaches to be considered:

a) Have only one main source teacher for a speciality as we have now, who would devote the first session to easy dances for everyone to enjoy, and then let loose at whatever level of difficult dances that could be handled by the advanced dancers - that is their right and privilege. The other sessions would be taught by our Florida teachers, say four of them, chosen by the executive, who would each teach a different ethnic program. The difficulty of the program would be set by each of these teachers, according to the abilities of those who attended their sessions instead of going to the main source program of difficult dances. Our Florida teachers have the ability to adapt the program to the needs of the attendees. We do have the space for side-by-side programs at our present camp. In addition this would save a lot of money by not having to import two teachers, and thus build up our treasury.

b) If this can't be done, then have two camps each year, one for the advanced dancers as seems to be the mode now, and the other for the easy and intermediate dancers. We could import one teacher for this or use our own Florida resources. I believe that not all groups in the state do all the varied ethnic areas of dance and this would allow the dancers to experience a broader program, either under (a) or (b).

2) I feel that the evening programs should be more organized with a director for each evening, with more thought towards what is put on. It is apparent to me that at the last three camps we went to, more than 50% of the dances had more than 50% of the people sitting down. We need strong leadership for the evening. From what I hear the present approach has always been done and is considered good enough - the first signs of stagnation and favoritism.

Everyone from our group did enjoy much of the weekend, especially Ya'akov and his great leadership, but feel that there is room for a great deal of improvement. This letter is sent with hopes for that.


  
George Senyk

Editor's Aside:

I have included George's letter for a couple of reasons. First of all, because of the obvious intensity with which he feels and reacts to these issues. And secondly, because I believe they are issues to be spoken to, especially the encouragement of our novice folk dancers.

Although I do not agree with changing the teaching format of our existing camp, I am in favor of the "beginners" weekends that Terry spoke of in her note.

If there are other opinions or suggestions somewhere out there in the state, I think we would all be interested in hearing them. Send me a note. Who Knows? Perhaps you, too, will see your name in print.

Thanks. 

## Arnold's Circle

(England)

This mixer dance was choreographed by the late Pat Shaw in honor of a friend of his, Arnold Bökel, of Germany. It was presented at the 1980 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp by Stephen Kotansky.

RECORD: Festival · F-801 Side A/1 2/4 meter.

FORMATION: Any number of cpls in a double circle, ptrs facing, M back to ctr.

STEPS and Walk\*, buzz-step\*, balance: (R): step fwd on R (ct 1), step on L beside R (ct &), step on R beside L (ct 2), hold (ct &). Balance step may also beg L and may be done in any direction.

STYLING: Dance is done with a light, springy step. Hand-hold is light finger grasp, not a full palm grasp. Joined hands about chest level. Free hands hang at sides.

\*Described in Steps and Styling, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1275 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, California 94541.

### MUSIC 2/4

### PATTERN

#### Measures

2 notes

#### INTRODUCTION

#### I. CHANGE PLACES

1-2 Ptrs join R hands. With 4 steps beg R, change places with ptr (CW).

3-4 Join L hands. With 4 steps beg R, change places with ptr (CCW). Do not drop hands. Join R hands with next person to R in opp circle. Circle is now complete; alternating M,W,M,W. M back to ctr, W face ctr.

5 Balance fwd, beg R (cts 1, &, 2).

6 Balance bkwd, beg L (cts 1, &, 2).

7-8 Release L hands. Change places with person holding R hand with 4 steps beg R: M walk fwd as W turns CCW under joined R hands. End with M on outside of circle, W back to ctr.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with this same person from this new position. End with orig ptr in orig place.

#### II. MEN PROGRESS RLOD; W PROGRESS LOD

1-4 W stand in place. M beg R, go behind ptr (pass R shldr), curve to inside of circle, pass in front of next W, go to 3rd W (count ptr as 1st W).

5-8 In closed pos M swings this new ptr 8 buzz steps. Leave W on outside of circle, ptrs facing.

9-12 M stand in place. W beg R, go behind ptr (pass R shldr), curve to outside of circle, pass in front of next M, go to 3rd M (count ptr as 1st M).

13-16 In closed pos W swings with this new ptr, 8 buzz steps. Leave W on outside of circle, ptrs facing.

NOTE: Both M and W progression is to own R.

Repeat dance from beg with this new ptr.

