

FFDC Newsletter

APRIL, 1988

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THE EDITORS PAGE

Every princess in the neighborhood is still being very careful not to kiss any frogs, and I can't report any wild, exciting escapades. Vernal's Equinox All Night Dance came close enough, however, to inspire careless disregard for lost sleep and the days of aches and pains to come. Friday, the night before, was also wonderfully crazy. Having volunteered to help run the program, I found myself so distracted that I had trouble keeping track of which dances I had promised to dance with which partner! (But I think they have all forgiven me for that.)

The job situation is still up in the air, also, with my collection of "very polite" rejection letters growing almost daily. On the other hand, I HAVE managed to lighten the load a bit. I took a full van load of "stuff" to an Orlando swap meet, trading a bunch of "big ones" for some much more useful "little ones", (plus some cash.) I'm also compacting the remaining storage space, and - wonder of wonders - the junk car in my side yard is gone! (Anyone want to suggest flowers to replace the patch of dead grass? I think I have some lantana seeds.)



I did find some extra time to organize things a little better, including the shuffling of the mailing list into alphabetical order. Bonnie and I were both going crazy trying to find addresses that needed updating, etc. If you think we have become more efficient lately, that is one important way we did it. (Of course, if you think we are LESS efficient, then I suppose you could say it's because we waste all our time in useless tasks like sorting mailing lists.)

At least I now have a wonderful excuse for the appearance of my work room. After all, if it was perfectly orderly, you wouldn't believe it was the editorial offices of the FFDC newsletter and the Single Angle of Tampa Bay Sounding, the mailing label department of the Tampa Friends of Olde Tyme Dance and the Digby Resume Service, and DAWIND Scientific Laboratories, as well!

--- David Digby

(P.S. - There was no news from "The Oval Office" this month)

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* EVERY WEEK IN FOLK DANCING *
*
* (INTERNATIONAL unless otherwise noted) *
*
* Please add the following groups to those listed last month: *
*
* Every Monday: *
* Nokomis, evening, couple dances, wooden floor, no charge - *
* call: (813)484-5707 *
*
* Every Wednesday: *
* Miami, 8-10:30 PM, 1st Unitarian Church, 7701 SW 76th Ave, *
* Phyllis Winnick, (305)221-0483 *
* Ormond Beach, where are you - still the same time & place? *
*
* Every Friday: *
* Tallahassee, Lafayette Community Center, 7:30 - 10 PM, Bob *
* Weinstein, (904)878-7006 or Pat Pieratte, 878-1560 *
* Pensacola, East Pensacola Heights Community Center: *
* 7-8:30 - Traditional Cajun, taught by Diana Polizo *
* 8:30-10:30 - International, D. P. & Larry Lou Foster *
*
* Every Sunday: (changed from Mondays) *
* SPIFFS, 2-4 PM, 2201 First Ave N, St Petersburg, FL 33713 *
* David Leone (813) 327-7999 *
*

PROMOTIONAL COPIES TO GROUPS

Your group should be on our promotional mailing list if it meets every week, and you have a contact person who is a member of FFDC. This currently means that we send three extra copies of this newsletter, so that you can provide "instant gratification" to new members when you sign them up. Tampa has greatly increased it's share of total membership with the help of this trick, but not too many others appear to be doing that well.

If you can think of other ways to promote membership in FFDC, please pass them along. This one is fairly expensive - and counterproductive when some groups just give away copies without signing up members!

We are also trying to get a handle on our present policy by sending the extra copies to the actual contact person. In a few cases we are not too certain just who that person is, so we may need your help in making this work. --- Happy recruiting!

*** LOST and FOUND ***

The Tampa Israeli Group lost two tapes, #48 & #49, at camp. Please return to Andi Kapplin, 11711 Moffat Ave, Tampa, FL 33617

In case YOU lost anything at camp, David Digby still has the "found" box (but Andi's tapes were not in it).

SPECIAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Performances, as well as workshops & general participation!)

- April 1-9, Spring Music & Dance, John C. Cambell Folk School,
Brasstown, NC 28902 'phone (704)837-2775
- April 9, Buckwheat Zydeco & File - Cajun Cafe (outside patio),
Ybor City. Dancing. \$12 (benefit for public radio WMNF)
- April 15 - DEADLINE - Both IRS and Newsletter!
- April 15 & 16 - Old Time Music Championship - Pioneer Florida
Museum, Dade City. \$5.50 Ernie Williams: (904)567-8513.
- April 23, Gumbo Limbo (see full page ad)
- April 22-24, Georgia Rang Tang - Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi (Greek)
Music by Kaba Vence - Decatur Rec Center \$30 until April 11,
\$35 after. Check to AIFD, send to Liz Nunan, 1237 N. Valley
Brook Rd, Decatur GA 30033. Info call (404) Liz: 292-7176,
Norma: 876-3296 or Bill: 284-0106. How about a car pool?
- May 6-8, John Lulias workshop - Tarpon Springs (see 2 page ad)
- May 27-30, Buffalo Gap Camp - Yves Moreau, Jerry Helt & Marilyn
Wathen, with music by Zlatne Uste. \$190 til 5/14, then \$200.
Mel Diamond, 2414 East Gate Dr, Silver Springs MD 20906
'phone (301)871-8788
- May 27-30, Oglebay Folkdance Camp - Info c/o Stifer Center, 1330
National Rd, Wheeling, WV 26003
- June 10-17, Blue Star (Israeli) Folk Dance Workshop - NC - \$295.
Write 3595 Sheridan St, Suite 107, Hollywood, FL 33021-3608
- June 19-26, Caribbean Folk Dance Cruise -
- June 29 - July 18, Dance Tour of Yugoslavia - (see March ad)
- August 7 - 13, Blue Ridge Mountain Dance Roundup -
- August 19 - 22, Polish Family Camp - Buffalo Gap -
- Sept 2-5 Oglebay Folkdance Camp - (see May listing)
- September 15-19, Cajun Music & Dance Tour - \$275 - Diana Polizo,
2400 Sunnydale Lane, Cantonment, FL 32533. (904)968-2628

November ???

!!! FOLK FEST 1988 !!!

Aiming for early to mid November. (Larry Wartell doesn't like it, but next Spring is so FAR away!) Andy Pollock is in charge, and would like to hear from everyone even remotely in the mood to participate. Write or call him with your thoughts: 6104 N. Webb #1102, Tampa, FL 33615. 'phone (813) 882-4472.

"DUES NEWS" - HAVE YOU BROUGHT YOURS UP TO DATE?

A great many of you sent checks in response to Bonnie's note last month. Thanks to all of you!. A few were not exactly the amount expected, most typically paying the correct amount for only one of two members in the family, but one or two paid MORE than enough. (In which cases we have fudged the expiration dates to show credit for the excess.) Then there are those who have not yet brought their dues up to the new schedule. Bonnie has very carefully gone through the entire membership list and calculated the amount that will bring you up to date (1/89 in most cases). We have printed the results on your mailing label just above your name. (These are corrected with the latest figures from Rita, but a few very recent payments may not be included.) An asterisk (*) above your name means you are 99% up to date by our records. (Nothing involving the US mail is ever 100%) If you disagree with the \$\$ or the date, WRITE US!

Everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask about FFDC . . .

The Articles of Incorporation for Florida Folk Dance Council state that the purpose of our council is to:

- 1) publish a monthly newsletter,
- 2) coordinate international folkdance and related activities in Florida,
- 3) hold an instructional and cultural exchange yearly (Feb. Camp), and
- 4) perform publically (Folkfest).

In addition, the articles name our organization, define "a member" as a subscriber who pays the membership fee, lists our Registered Agent, and states that this corporation is to exist perpetually. In the unlikely event of dissolution of FFDC, residual assets of our organization will be turned over to one or more tax exempt organizations or to the government for exclusive public purpose if no international folkdance organization qualifies.

Our three officers (President, VicePresident/Editor, and Secretary/Treasurer) constitute the Board of Directors and are elected to office by the Executive Committee every second year. They manage FFDC with the president guided by the directives of the Executive Committee (composed of the Board of Directors and member representatives of the corporation as provided in the By-laws.)

Article IX states that the Executive Committee will make, alter, or rescind the By-laws by two-thirds majority vote of those balloting. Article X notes that amendments may be proposed by any member of the corporation and adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee in which all three officers participate and which is taken at least one month after publication of the proposed amendment in the Newsletter.

Lastly, we are limited to dealing in activities permitted by tax exempt corporations.

Now for the summary of the By-laws as promised several issues ago. Some items are repetitive of the amendments while others add to or more clearly state information previously listed.

FFDC's purpose is to facilitate communication among Florida international folk dance groups, to educate and inform individual international dancers and other interested persons, to organize internat'l folkdance seminars and undertake projects put forth by the Executive Committee to further the knowledge of, appreciation for, and participation in international folkdance and related cultural activities in Florida.

Members are either individuals or families who are entitled to receive a monthly copy of the FFDC newsletter during their period of membership. Organizations may pay the membership fee and be listed in the membership roster and receive corporation News but not be considered a member.

All officers must be FFDC members and will serve until new officers are elected approximately every two years. In the event of resignation of any officer, the President will appoint an interim officer who, subject to ratification by the Exec. Committee at the next meeting, will serve until the next regular election. (Elections are usually conducted at the Feb. Camp meetings.)

Presidential duties include managing the affairs of the corporation, while the VP/Editor publishes the Newsletter and provides counsel and assistance to the PREZ, and the Sec./Treasurer maintains the membership rolls, keeps records of receipts and disbursements, records minutes of all Exec. Committee meetings, and also provides counsel and assistance to the PREZ.

The Exec. Committee consists of the three officers and two representatives from each international folkdance group located in Fla. that holds regular meetings that are open to visiting dancers and new joiners. The Sec./Treasurer is considered as one representative if associated with a group, except when conducting meetings in the absence of the other two officers.

Areas in Fla. where no International group exists or where a currently inactive internat'l group exists may each have one representative--up to a maximum of five (state-wide). All representatives must be FFDC members.

Meetings are held in conjunction with events likely to attract FFDC members from various groups as needed by the PREZ. Meetings are legal if one officer and two representatives from at least three active groups are present. Legal voting by write-in is confirmed if the officers and 2 reps of each active group listed in the latest FFDC Directory participate. Others may attend meeting but will have no voice or vote.

By-laws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of those balloting in any legal meeting or write-in vote in which all 3 officers participate.



***** LODGING IN YUGOSLAVIA *****

DUBROVNIK - Private rooms - 10 minutes from the old town. Two apartments with kitchen and private bath. Write for reservations to Mr. and Mrs. Milan Novak, Mica Marinovica 2, Dubrovnik 50000, Yugoslavia. Telephone (050)25-126. 1987 prices: room with two beds - \$25.00 plus tax; apartment - \$40.00 (two beds).

OHRID - Mini-hotel - 5 rooms with a total of 12 beds, communal kitchen, 2 modern baths with hot water. Located in center of town. Dr. and Mrs. Tilevski, UL Petre Caule No. 39, Ohrid. Please write for reservations in July and August. \$8.00 per night per person. (1987 price) Telephone (096)22-441.

(This last address doesn't seem complete. If you have trouble, you might contact our source for these ads: Marilyn Rath, former Floridian, who lives in one of the apartments at the first address in Dubrovnik. Telephone (050)25-972. In all telephone numbers, there are international dialling and country codes preceding the city codes and individual numbers given.)

*** PAID ADVERTIZING POLICY for FOLKDANCE EVENTS ***

\$15 full page, \$8 half page, \$5 quarter page, \$3 eighth page. (You send the camera-ready copy, plus your check to the editor. Other arrangements must be discussed individually.)

"ALLONS DANSER": THE CAJUN PEOPLE AND THEIR DANCING

The whole country is buzzing with the word "cajun". This article will attempt to clarify what that word might properly refer to. The cajun culture, although constantly evolving and adapting, will always remain true to its heritage -- love of God, family, hard work, music, and the French language.

COUNTRY

Cajun country, or Acadiana, is a triangular area of Louisiana containing 22 parishes. (Ed. note: a "parish" is the Louisiana equivalent of a "county".) It is bordered on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya River Basin, and on the north by the Marksville area. The western border is an angle down from Marksville to the Texas line just west of Lake Charles. Lafayette is the heart and unofficial capital of Acadiana. (see map, next page)

PEOPLE

The white French speaking people of Acadiana are Cajuns. The black French speaking people are Creoles. (not to be confused with the Creoles that originally settled New Orleans, the French or Spanish aristocracy).

(continued, next page)



LANGUAGE

According to Dr. Hosea Phillips, professor of French language, in his essay "The Spoken French of Louisiana" (The Cajuns: Essays on their History and Culture, USL Center for Louisiana Studies), there are three kinds of French spoken in Louisiana. Louisiana French is similar to the language spoken in metropolitan France. Acadian French, or Cajun French, is the most widely spoken. It resembles the language spoken in rural parts of northern and western France. Cajun French grammar has been simplified and it has taken words from other languages. The French spoken by the fewest number of people is Creole French. It has been even more simplified than Cajun French.

The three types of French are almost exclusively spoken languages. There has been much recent effort to preserve the language by publishing a Cajun French dictionary and lessons in books and on cassettes.

MUSIC

French music of Louisiana falls into three categories: cajun, creole, and zydeco. The traditional instruments of today's cajun music are the button accordion, fiddle, and triangle. Some bands have only these instruments while larger bands have added guitar, bass guitar, and drums. Most bands are amplified, but there are a handful that have remained acoustic. Cajun dance tunes are mostly two-steps, reels, and waltzes sung in French.

Creole music is essentially the same as cajun except for the singing style. The creoles sing with more of a "hollering" style. The instruments and tunes are the same. There are probably fewer than five creole bands left. Two creole musicians, Boi Sec Ardoin and Canray Fontenot, have played at the Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. in recent years.

Zydeco music is relatively new, only a few decades old. This is the music of the majority of creoles today. The instruments are different from cajun and creole. Zydeco is played on the piano accordion, electric guitar and bass, washboards, drums, and often brass instruments. The tunes are mostly two-steps with a bluesy flavor, one-steps or "belly rubbing music", and a sprinkling of waltzes. Zydeco is sung in English as well as French.

The most famous, most traveled cajun and zydeco bands are the ones that have branched away from traditional into more "popular" sounds. The majority of cajun bands stay in Louisiana. A small number are beginning to travel outside of Louisiana while keeping the traditional music.

DANCE

There are four main types of cajun dancing: the traditional two-step, zydeco two-step, New Orleans jitterbug (sometimes called Breaux Bridge shuffle depending on where you are doing it), and waltz. There are cajun contra dances but they are only seen in performances today.

The traditional two-step is done mainly in Acadiana. It is rarely observed in New Orleans. It is the dance of the "old timers".

The zydeco two-step is done by the creoles. Very few white know it.

The jitterbug (or shuffle) is only done in New Orleans and in a few places in the Breaux Bridge-Lafayette area. It is sometimes frowned upon in traditional dance halls. However, this is the dance that is being spread around the country.

The cajun waltz, as it is done by the majority of cajuns, is most similar to the country-western waltz.

In the traditional dance halls in Acadiana the dancers move counter-clockwise around the dance floor as in country-western dance halls. In the more modern and New Orleans dance places the dancers don't travel in a pattern. Each little area of Acadiana has it's own variation, but knowing these four basics is enough to get by anywhere cajun music is played. In the dance halls, bars restaurants, and at the festivals throughout Acadiana several generations dance together keeping alive a vital tradition.

WITH MANY THANKS TO MY SOURCES

This knowledge of cajun culture was gained through much on-going research, sometimes called "passing a good time", in Louisiana. I wish to gratefully acknowledge Bruce Daigrepoint, Faren Serette, and Felix and Sterling Richard for sharing their knowledge of cajun music so willingly and warmly.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diana Polizo is one of our newest members of FFDC. She has been a folkdancer for seventeen years and has been teaching it for the past three years. After travelling in Louisiana and picking up the regional dance steps, she began teaching a class in Cajun dance about a year ago. Besides organizing tours of Acadiana, she has given workshops and demonstrations. (We hope to have her do one in Tampa sometime in the near future.)

TALES FROM TALLAHASSEE

To whom it may concern: The Tallahassee Folkdance Group is alive and well. Our Problem has been less a lack of dancers or enthusiasm than a lack of a correspondant. I hope to remedy that lack on at least a semiregular basis.

Let me first congratulate the FFDC George Washington Workshop committee on a fine and entirely successful endeavor. Only Pat Pieratte and I attended from Tallahassee and I think I speak for both of us when I say it was the high point of our folkdance year. I highly recommend it to one and all.

Our folkdance group is keeping busy this spring. In addition to our regular group meetings we have a number of performances scheduled, including Springtime Tallahassee, Folk Fest at White Springs and a festival in Tifton, GA. It should keep our toes tingling for awhile. --- Patti McDonald

UPDATE ON DANCING IN PENSACOLA

Gwen Roland, executive director of the Heritage Foundation, recently coordinated the first Old Time Dance Day which brought Scottish dancers and Pipers, Cajun dancers, and folk musicians together. Diana Polizo and Michael Seider taught cajun dances and Larry Lou Foster taught International party dances. Also, Diana recently became co-chairman of the special events committee of the Heritage Foundation. The publicity from the Old Time Dance Day has generated renewed interest in Folk Dancing, and one of the local malls has donated space for an additional night of dancing. The first night will feature scotswoman Sally Hall teaching dancing and Jack Dasinger on Pipes. Diana and Larry Lou will also be teaching 2 daytime classes at yet another community center (for pay!!). Cajun dancing has become very popular, averaging 12 couples per session, and we are trying hard to bring a traditional cajun band to Pensacola. --- Diana Polizo

MOUSE MUSINGS

If those were camp dances we were just doing, does that make us "camp followers"? --- Eleanor Hall

(For those that have been wondering, Eleanor is the "scholarship person" for the Orlando group.)

(LATE ARRIVALS)

The Florida Lottery Commission has informed us that a three story "Center for the Folk Arts" will be constructed on a parcel of land adjoining Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando. The centrally located building will be used, among other things, for dance workshops and performances in the 900 seat auditorium (parking space is limited to 600 cars). The third floor will house music studios, storage, dormitory room accommodations for up to 200 people, and a kitchen/dining area adjacent to the sun deck. Further details may be available next April 1.

Meanwhile, what ever happened to the "Peoples Folk Dance Directory"? Or does that belong in the paragraph above?

Also, I suggest keeping FolkdanceFest in the Spring - otherwise there is too much conflict with Oktoberfest activities and exhaustion. --- Larry Wartell

**TAMPA FESTIVAL FOLK DANCERS
PRESENT**

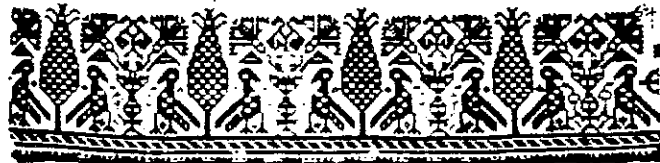
JOHN LULIAS
TEACHING FOLKDANCES FROM GREECE
(PONTOS, THRACE AND THE ISLANDS)

MAY 6-8, 1988

WHO: Many of you will know John from the Levendia Winter Dance Conferences. He organized and has taught Levendia, the Greek performing troupe from Tarpon Springs, for nine years, and for five years danced with the Terpsichoreans in Philadelphia. He has traveled to Greece several times, studying dance and culture during those travels. John has taught workshops with Ted Petrides, Mary Youres and Mary Coros, in addition to teaching workshops to Greek folkdance troupes throughout the U.S. From personal experience we know that John is a delightful teacher!

WHAT: This workshop will focus on intermediate and advanced level dances. John currently plans to teach 3-4 Pontian dances (definitely Tik and Serranitsa), a Thracian suite including Ellinohori and Xylagani, and several island dances, most likely from Kalymnos and Samos. We will be dancing Sat. & Sun. at St. Nicholas Youth Hall, Tarpon Springs, which has a fine wooden floor, and (usually) airconditioning. Following Murphy's Law, be prepared for dancing in May in Florida without airconditioning, just in case.

HOW: Complete the registration form below and mail it with your check to TFFD. Enrollment is limited to the first 50 paid applicants. If you have called an early reservation, I must receive your check before May 1, or you will lose your spot. There is no partial registration fee. Do not call to make your reservation--I am very difficult to reach. You will be sent a confirmation packet with any additional information. I will keep a waiting list! You are responsible for lodging and meals, except sleeping bag space Friday night (sign up below or call Terry Abrahms, 813-253-2090) and breakfast Sunday. Tarpon Springs is primarily a Greek community and there are many incredible restaurants, beaches and tourist activities for everyone to enjoy.



Lulias Dance Workshop Registration Form: Make check payable to TFFD and mail to Wanda Conway, 6201A Jamesville Dr., Tampa, FL 33617.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____ Sleeping Bag Space Friday? ____

Enclose \$12.00 per person (\$15.00 if mailed after April 30th) for the workshop.

Remember, you are responsible for lodging and meals, except Sunday's continental breakfast.

Send a list of 5-10 favorite dances on the back of this form for the international party. You may video and tape record sessions for personal (not commercial) use. Bring notebooks for dance notes, bring costumes, bring tapes, bring your swimsuit (bring ouzo!) **OPAI**

Ideas for accomodations in Tarpon Springs area: Spring Bayou Inn Bed & Breakfast (813) 938-9333; Tarpon Shores Inn (813) 938-2483; Days Inn/Lodge (813) 934-0859; Gulf Manor Motel (813) 937-4207; Best Western Tahitian Resort (813) 937-4121; Scottish Inns on Spring Bayou (813) 937-6121; Tarpon Turtle Inn (813) 934-3696, or call travel agent.



Susan Rudder--Contras Bob Stone--Contras
 Andy Pollock--Cajun

Saturday, April 23, 1988

(Yes, the 23rd, not the 30th)

7-11 p.m. \$5.00 Donation

Hunt Recreation Center

4017 N. Hesperides, Tampa, FL

Tampa Friends of OldeTyme Dance

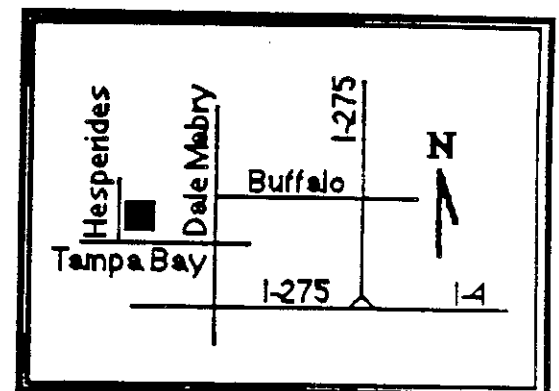
Contact 813-839-3649 or 882-4472

Gumbo Limbo features the exciting sound of traditional Cajun singing, accordion, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and triangle. Rest up--you won't be able to stop dancing to this band!

Susan Rudder A great teacher, caller and dancer, Susan has taught and called sublime dances regularly in Gainesville, and throughout Florida.

Bob Stone A man of diverse talents, Bob switches from his role as musician with Gumbo Limbo, to caller to bring you some indigenous "South Florida" contras.

Andy Pollock Now a native of Tampa, Andy comes to us from Rhode Island, where he learned Cajun dances (2-step, waltz & jitterbug) at the well-known Cajun and Bluegrass festival in Escoheag, RI, inspired by the music of Al Fontenot, Dewey Balfa and Beausoleil.



LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER--LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL



VASILOPETA TIS SMYRNI (Greek Shortbread)

1 pound butter 1 cup confectioner's sugar
 1 cup orange juice 2 tablespoons brandy
 7-8 cups white flour 1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water

Cream butter and sugar until light. Stir in orange juice and brandy. Stir and work in flour to make a stiff cooky dough which can be rolled out. Roll out on lightly floured board into a large round from 1/2 to 3/4 inch thick to fit a 10-inch layer cake pan. Or roll into thick individual cookies. With a wooden cookie press, stamp the cookie(s) with the Byzantine eagle. Brush with beaten egg and bake in a preheated 350 degree Fahrenheit oven; large cookie for 1 hour; individual cookies for 20 minutes.

KOURAMBIEDES (Greek Clove Cookies)

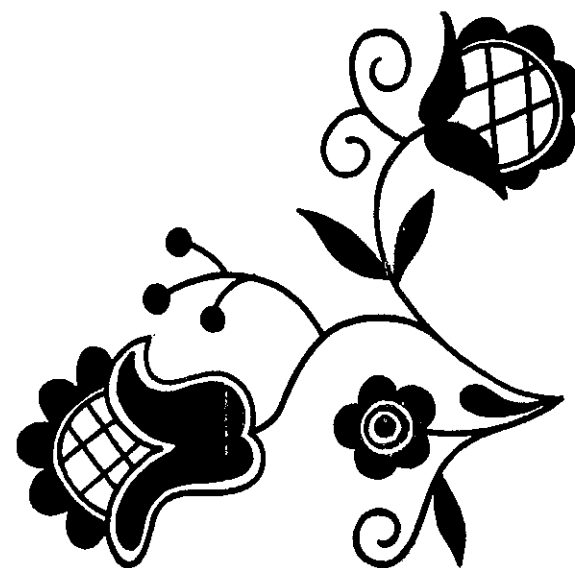
1/2 pound sweet butter, soft 1/2 cup confectioners sugar
 1/2 yolk of egg 1 1/2 TBLS brandy or whiskey
 2 1/2 cups white flour Whole cloves
 Extra powdered sugar for coating

Beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy: use an electric mixer if you have it. Add egg yolk and brandy and beat at medium speed until very pale. Add flour, using low speed and wooden spoon. Chill the dough 20 minutes or so. Shape into 1 1/2 in crescents or halfmoons or small balls. Stud each cookie with one whole clove. Bake on ungreased cookie sheets at 325 degrees Fahrenheit for 25-30, until light brown. Toss warm cookies in powdered sugar, or sift over the top of them while warm. Cool on wire racks. Makes 65-70 small cookies.

FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL

3303 PRICE AVENUE

TAMPA, FL. 33611



The Best of Near Eastern Cookery. Ann Serame and Eileen Gaden. Doubleday: NY. 1964.

Rica, Spice and Bitter Oranges: Mediterranean Feasts and Festivals. Lila Perl. The World Publishing Co.: NY 1967

