

Sound bites p. 3
youth dance !! 9

Florida Folkdancer

FFDC NEWSLETTER

MAY 1996

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SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS

Ann Paige

[Editor's Note: This article was sent last month and I typed it last month, I just failed to put it in - and I needed something for that last page! I'll learn..]

J.G. was just great. Former New Jerseyites who danced with Jim Gold's group, dancers who had been on his fun-filled trips and others, including Ann Kessler, who are fans of his, showered Jim with hugs, kisses, dinner invitations, etc. What a whopper of a welcome!

Jim taught Bielo Litza, Krieglo Litza (White face, round face), a Russian dance choreographed by Alexander Antchtine of the Moiseyev. He also taught Beljevina from Croatia. In order to prepare those going to Bulgaria with him, he taught a Pravo which the travelers will do as they get off the bus where the Petro Niva Festival takes place. This festival celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Thracian Bulgarian Society. For those who are fond of contra, Jim mentioned that it is very popular in Prague, which is included in his trip to Moravia and Slovakia. Lou Paige and Jim Gold demonstrated Daichovo Oro. They did 90% of the steps correctly, but were applauded for their efforts anyway. Andy Pollock invited Jim to teach at Tampa, but he couldn't fit it into his schedule. Maybe next year!

Fred Miller, who is recuperating from serious surgery has returned to us. Welcome back Fred. Delighted to have you dancing with us again. Fred is in such fine form that he will be performing some of the Dutch dances with Ann Kessler at SPIFFS, Can't keep a dancer down for long!

P.S. from Marie Millett:

Sarasota Grapeviners are moving to a wooden floor. Beginning April 24, we will start dancing at the Sarasota Adult Recreation Center, 801 N. Tamiami Trail. Price will increase to \$4.00 all evening \$3.00 partial evening. Shirley King (Blue Star dancer and friend of many) and husband from Witchita Kansas will dance in June 5.

EDITOR'S MIA CULPA

Our main reason for this newsletter is to disseminate information about upcoming events and my failure to re-print new about the Spring Fling was miserable. I tried to rectify in as many ways as I could, and hope as I am on my way there, that I will see lots of people, in spite of my huge boo-boo.

Also, this page is normally for the President's message. I didn't leave enough room for the heading, so switched this once. Sarasota, enjoy your front page spot! TA

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The Florida Folk Dance Council is a non-profit corporation which coordinates events, disseminates information and encourages education and appreciation of international folk dances and related cultural activities for group and individuals in Florida. Membership is \$10.00 per calendar year collected in January.

The editor reserves the right to edit material submitted to the newsletter. All material must be dated and signed.

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NOTE

I have about 140 labels in the program, and only about 95 of them are members. Last month I sent one to every one who was on a label. But if you haven't put your \$10.00 in the pot, we will quickly run out of money; if you didn't renew your membership at camp, (or at another time), please do so immediately. I may send this issue to you to let you know this problem, hopefully with a note that your membership has expired. Please take care of this matter. Leaders - please help!

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

Order of preference for article formats:

- 1.) To make life much easier, send articles via E-MAIL to tja2090@aol.com.
- 2.) Mail it to me via floppy disk (IBM compatible formatted disk). I use WP51 and I don't have Bobby's knowledge about importing. Use WP51 or else!
3. Send it to me by mail. I have to retype it into my word processor, but that's my job!

Mail information, articles, change of address and membership money to:

FFDC NEWSLETTER
TERRY ABRAHAMS
717 SOUTH EDISON
TAMPA FL 33606



IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NOTE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Andy**THE GAUNTLET OF SOUND**

I sat in with the sound person at the Showcase stage at SPIFFS. He had wonderful equipment, and was a master of his craft, yet he couldn't make over 1/2 the acts sound more than average. Why? People gave us bad tapes. Many of us decide to improve the sound quality at our dances; we go out, buy a new piece of equipment, plug it in, and find things aren't much better. I think sound systems are like running a gauntlet - to be successful you must dodge every blow, or eliminate every problem.

SOURCE: 1) Was the master made clean in the first place? 2) Is the record you are starting with clean (not scratchy)? 3) Are you using a good turntable and stylus?

PROCESSING: Did you 1) Make the recording on a good quality tape? 2) Line it in on both channels going from one good deck (or turntable) to another? 3) Did you set all the controls - Bias, Dolby, Auto-rec., mode right?

OUTPUT: 1) Are you playing it on a good tape player? 2) Are your controls-bias, Dolby, equalization, treble, bass, filters set right? 3) Are all connections tight (especially check for loose speaker connections) 4) do you have enough power (power specs. must

say r.m.s. any other type of rating isgarbage) 5) Are you properly grounded and shielded (often unnecessary) 6) good speakers properly located? Good sound requires \$ investment, self-education and effort.

A FEW MORE BASICS for beginners at making show tapes. Any tape labelled low noise is going to be high noise. The normal bias tapes you can buy at gas stations are not the same quality as the ones we buy in bulk from Cass-A-Tape (816-444-8123) or Polyline (847-390-7744). If it's really important, spend an extra # and get a chrome tape. Dubbing tape to tape will boost the bass. A good sound person can keep tapes for individual dances in the right order, but you will often get sound people who worked late the night before. Play it safe - put it all on one tape. Most important - saturate the tape properly - just up to the red line (or zero) on the meter. You can push a little further with Dolby or with chrome tape.

HOW TO LEARN: 1) A lot of valuable info comes with may good home tape decks. 2) library books. 3) **LISTEN** when you go to others' events. **LOOK** at how their set-up is and try to evaluate their results.

MONEY SAVING IDEAS: Set up your car tape recorder so you can use it for dancing, (you'll need a 12 volt that

President's message (continued)

power supply c. \$20), rear speakers.

RECOMMENDED BOOK: Connecting by Tom Myers (Harper & Row), for the beginner - explains why pos. goes to pos. but input goes to output; for the journeyman - what's a balun, why a stereo VCR and mono TV are better than vice-versa; for the truly insane how to connect every room in your house to your stereo, VCR, and more with complete remote control, how to tape one premium channel while playing another, etc. **DON'T GET ADDICTED.** Where he say unplug, switch off, turn down, I would reverse the order. **UNPLUGGING A TAPE RECORDER OR VCR WILL NOT DRAIN ALL THE POWER FROM THE CAPACITORS. NEVER REMOVE THE BACK - YOU COULD DIE.** (Those caution notices are not simply scare tactics to protect service peoples livelihoods. Happy taping!!!

A donation to the Olga Princi Scholarship fund was received from Larry Wartell on behalf of the Orlando International Folk Dance Ensemble.

ONE MORE CALENDAR EVENT...

Shmulik Gov Ari will be in Miami May 18-19. That's all I know, but call if you are interested.

DELAND INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS - Joan Washington

We had a good dance season with some unique experiences to add spice to our regular dances. We celebrated the group's two year anniversary by having cake and ice cream after the dance and listening to a tape from Romania with a version of Ciuleandra that sounds just like the one we have danced to for may years. I still haven't gotten a translation of "she forgot to bring the eggs", but I'm working on it. Our two Romanian immigrants have continued to dance with us and we have enjoed helping them practice their English and learn more about life in America. Since they have moved into their own appartment they have added words like "garage sale" and "flea market" to their vocabularies. And they have invited a young Chinese immigrant frm their English as a Second Language class to dance with us too. DeLand really is a melting pot of cultures.

We had two publicity events in March. On March 23rd Wally and I tajgut a folk dance workshop at the Spring Music and Dance Frolic in Barberville. It was a well planned festival and an enjoyable day of dancing. We participated in at least a little of each dance workshop - polka, two-step, contra, circles and squares - and then we taught the folk dance workshop with hlep from the members of the Deland

group. we even met a couple from Jacksonville, who used to folk dance before they moved to Florida and introduced them to the florida folk dance scene. I hope to see Cathy and Guy Bailey at the Spring Fling.

On March 30th, members of the group danced at the Athens of florida festival in Downtown DeLand. It was part of an art and culture extravaganza with some hot air balloons thrown in. We didn't get much audience participation - in fact there wasn't much audience. The weather was cloudy with intermittent sprinkles of rain until about 3:00 p.m. when the rain began in earnest.

No dancing May through September - see you in October!

SOUTH BREVARD INTERN'L FOLK DANCERS - Joan Washington

Get out your social calendars - the Fall Fling will be saturday, October 26th at the Deland Woman's Club. John Daly has been putting lots of thought and effort into improving the sound quality. Again we'll do our best to make it a fun day of dancing and socializing for everyone.

Some of our dancers are busy making costumes and preparing for an Armenian performance in early May celebrating the 3000th anniversary of Jerusalem

It's not easy to find examples of Armenian costumes, but we're putting our creative talents to work. Some of the group will also be joining the Israeli dancers for their part of the show.

Our regular Friday evening dances have been well attended and we have some enthusiastic new members. John has been keeping us busy learning a variety of dances and Carol McGinn has taught the Charleston and the Swing to increase our dance versatility. You never know what you'll hear coming out of our speaker! Dancing will continue through at least part of the summer depending on whether we get enough people to cover the rent. Join us!

TAMPA

Traveling seems to be our forté in our little group. Byron and Linda Albert are spending three weeks in Turkey in May, touring with Rick Steve's Europe thru the Back Door group. You may have seen some of Rick's films on the Travel Channel or PBS. They have never been on a tour with his group before and are looking forward to it.

Maria Pasetti was in Argentina for Tango lessons! Now that's commitment to dance!!! Judith and Ernesto back from Spain, on their way to Georgia for family matters.

CALENDAR EVENTS

STOCKTON FOLK DANCE CAMP
 July 28-August 3 & August 4-10

Iwao Tamaoki - Japan
 Hennie Konings - Russia
 Nora dinzelbacher - Argentina Tangos
 Desa Djordjevic - Serbia
 Tinecke van Geel - Armenia
 Barry Glass - Balkans
 Jeff O'Connor - Country Western
 Jerry Helt - Square
 Bicoastal Band

Call: 916-488-3897

BUFFALO DANCE CIRCLE
 Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27)

Jeljko Jergan - Croatia
 Jorge Pererya - Argenty
 Andor Czompo - Hungarian
 Jerry Helt - Squares, Contrás
 Live Music:
 Jerry Grcevich Tammy Orchestra
 Treo Tango Argentinos
 Geroge Batyi Group-Hungarian, Gypsy
 Ellen Jacobs & Larry Robinson, Scan
 Call 301-871-8788

MAINEWOODS DANCE CAMP
 Six Weeks continuously from July 20
 through Sept 2,

Editor has much more information on
 each of these - write for copies if you
 can't reach these people by phone.

Different specialist each week, including
 International, Eastern European, Balkan,
 Israeli, Tex-Mex, Country western,
 Scottish and English country, contrás,
 squares, Scandanavian, novelty couple
 dances. Staff includes: Mihai David,
 Jimmy Drury, Ya'akov Eden, Mark
 Finlay, George Fogg, Ayalah Goren,
 Teme Kernerman, the Kotanskys, Jacek
 Marek, the Nemovichers, Sherry
 Palencia, Olga Sandolowish, Stew
 Shacklette, Sandy Starkman, Marianne
 Tayolor, David Vinski, Joe Wallin.

Call 516-621-6273

MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL
 August 4 through August 9

Nissim Ben-Ami - Israel
 Zeljko Jergan - Croatia
 Jaap Leegwater - Bulgaria
 Ahmet Luleci - Turkey
 Theodor Vasilescu - Romania
 Call 514-481-3867

KENTUCKY DANCE INSTITUTE
 July 28-August 3

Stew and Anna Shacklette-Squares,
 Quadrilles, Contrás
 Bea Montross - Mexican, Spanish
 Sandy Starkman - International
 George Fogg - English Country
 Scott McKee - Clogging
 Danny Pollock - Israeli
 Call 502-422-2421

CONTEST!!!

Linda Albert found the following in her E-mail. Read and you will know immediately what the contest is...

New in the marketplace -

Sister Mary Barbie: This spiritual Barbie comes with jointed knees and neck for genuflecting and praying, mini-rosary beads, a mini-bible, and a black veined nun's habit (after all, she's still Barbie). Pull the string on her back and she says nothing because she's taken a vow of silence.

Admin Barbie: Works twenty hour days for little pay (80% of Admin Ken's salary), and is the lowest on the totem pole despite being the one that actually runs the group. Comes with mini-laptop. Pull the string on her back and she'll Schedule + a meeting with your other dolls, replace the toner cartridge in the laser printer, coordinate a re-org and a move, and order airline tickets for Director Ken.

Temp Barbie: This smartly dressed, intelligent, hard-working and enthusiastic Barbie is ready to go right out of the box, but usually goes untouched for at least a day while everyone tries to figure out why they bought her. Pull the string on her back and she'll stuff envelopes indefinitely, all the while wondering why she got a liberal arts degree. Comes with mini-resume, and mini-filing cabinet filled with the past five-years worth of US Tax Code revisions which need to be collated.

Twelve-Step Barbie: Pull the string on her back and she says, "Hi, I'm Barbie and I'm an alcoholic." Comes with a "One Day At A Time" bumper sticker, a 30-day chip, and a pack of smokes.

Ripped-Off-in-The-Divorce-Settlement Barbie: Pull the string on her back and she unloads a torrent of insults and death threats for her ex's new wife. Comes with a hatred for all men, and a Malibu Barbie tan (except for a white band on her left hand ring finger).

Birkenstock Barbie: Finally, a Barbie doll with horizontal feet and comfortable sandals. Made from recycled materials.

Bisexual Barbie: Comes in a package with Skipper and Ken.

Bite-The-Bullet Barbie: An anthropologist Barbie with pith helmet, camera, detachable limbs, fake blood, and the ability to perform surgery on herself in the Outback.

Blue Collar Barbie: Comes with overalls, protective goggles, lunch pail, UAW membership, pamphlet on union-organizing and pay scales for women as compared to men. Waitressing outfits and cashier's aprons may be purchased separately for Barbies who are holding down second jobs in order to make ends meet.

Our Barbies Ourselves: Anatomically correct Barbie, both inside and out, comes with spreadable legs, her own speculum, magnifying glass, and detailed diagrams of female anatomy so that little girls can learn about their bodies in a friendly, non-threatening way. Also included: tiny Kotex, booklets on sexual responsibility. Accessories such as contraceptives, sex toys, expanding uterus with fetus at various stages of development, and breastpump are all optional, underlining that each young woman has the right to choose what she does with her own Barbie.

Rebbe Barbie: So why not? Women rabbis are on the cutting edge in Judaism. Rebbe Barbie comes with tiny minn yarmulke, prayer shawl, tefillin, silver kiddish cup, Torah scrolls. Optional: tiny mezzuzah for doorway of Barbie Townhouse.

Homegirl Barbie: Truly fly Barbie in midriff-bearing shirt and baggy jeans. Comes with gold jewelry, hip-hop accessories, and plenty of attitude. Pull cord and she says things like "I don't think so," "Dang, get outta my face," and "You go, girl." Teaches girls not to take shit from men and condescending White people.

Transgender Barbie: Formerly known as G.I. Joe.

Robotic Barbie: Hey, kids, experiment with an autonomous two-legged walking machine! After falling over, she says "Control theory is hard. Damn these spike heels anyway!"

Dinner Roll Barbie: A Barbie with multiple love handles, double chin, a real curvy belly, generous tits and ass, and voluminous thighs to show girls that voluptuousness is also beautiful. Comes with a miniature basket of dinner rolls, Bucket o' Fried Chicken, tiny Ertenmann's walnut ring, a brick of Sealtest ice cream, three packs of potato chips, a t-shirt reading "Only the Weak Don't Eat," and, of course, an appetite.

The recent announcement that Mattel and the producers of "Baywatch" have joined forces to create Baywatch Barbie came as no surprise. After all, both companies have made millions off airheads with flawless skin, Malibu tans and synthetic breasts.

O.K. Get going! Let's see your FOLK DANCE BARBIE!

I'll print everything - and the prize will be????? Thanks to Linda for this idea!



CONTEST!

FOLKDANCING IN TEXAS - as reported by *Shirley and Dmitri Babiak*

We were sorry to miss seeing you all at camp this year. We made a prior commitment to teach folk dancing at an Elderhostel without noting that the dates conflicted with FFDC. To make up for missing camp, we flew to San Antonio for their annual festival. For us it was a heart-warming reunion with dancers we knew from Maine, Louisville and Canada and from recent tours to Bulgaria and Slovakia.

This was the 37th SAC Festival. Nelda Drury originated this event in 1959, soon after she joined the faculty of San Antonio College, and she continues to run it even after retirement. We consider Nelda one of the founding Mothers of the recreational folk dance movement in the U.S. - along with Jane Farwell and Mary Ann Herman, those power-houses whose spirits and influence lives on in all who knew them.

Nelda assigned us to the home of Douglas Hall, a remarkable intellectual who learned to folk dance from Nelda when an undergrad at SAC. He now does most of the organizational work for Nelda and the SAC Festivals - besides teaching computer science courses and being in charge of the computer dept. at the college. He also has an 8-couple German folk dance performing group called "Deutsche Volkstanzverien",

which opened the program on Fri. eve.

Recreational folk dance in Texas is different than in Fla or Kentucky. Texas has a much longer tradition of teaching folklore in the schools. There are folk dance performing groups in most of the high schools, and they hold state-wide competitions for prizes. On Fri. night we saw some of the H.S. groups perform. It surprised us to see young people of Hispanic, Oriental and Black heritage doing German dances. We learned they are also studying the German language. It was news to us that in 1840 the German government encouraged the colonization of Texas, and boat loads of Germans arrived in Galveston, later establishing many towns with German names.

In Texas, there appears to be a greater emphasis on folk dance as a performing art. On both evenings of the festival workshop, various troupes performed in the college auditorium: VONNIE BROWN'S KARPATY drove all the way from Baton Rouge to attend the workshop and perform in costume on Sat. nite. The program was spectacular, some of the best dancing we have ever watched. The Sat. nite show in itself was worth the festival fee (\$35.)

A local Mexican group from the San Antonio Parks and Rec Dept. did dances we have in our repertory, but the vigor (con't on Page 9)

TEXAS - (Con't from page 8) of these young dancers was incredible: a machete dance done with low squats! Girls in costumes that looked antique were able to spin like tilted tops holding their voluminous skirts.

KOMENKA ENSEMBLE from New Orleans, who had received instruction from Jaro Shevchik, the Slovak choreographer that Vonnie brought to the U.S., also did a suite of Slovakian suite. The group from Austin, **CZARDAS** was outstanding.

Stew and Mary Lewis Schacklette and Sandy Starkman helped with the late evening folk dancing that followed the performances. Daytimes, Herbert Germain taught French dances; Dick Crum, a few of his Serbian, and Joe Wallin, Scottish dances.

At the last event, the dinner given by Nelda's church, the 20 member dance troupe that had come all the way from Nova Scotia, **THE AMETHISTS**, treated their hosts to a Scottish Dance program. When we left, the dance floor was filled with teenagers from Nova Scotia and San Antonio doing recreational folk dancing. It was good to see that the next generation is ready to take over and keep this priceless tradition alive. The Texans are doing a great job of involving young people. The best place I know of here in the East for involving young people in folk dance

is the Kentucky Dance Institute (see ad elsewhere), where one-third of the dancers are children and young adults. As parents and grandparents, we savor the sight of our children and grandchildren folk dancing.



EDITORIAL

Never have I been so angry with a computer. Bobby gave me a DBase program that had all addresses and other information in it. I immediately set out to add new people and change old addresses and phone numbers, etc. I then proceeded to print for last month. I discovered the program didn't "hold" any of my information. I then got better, added everyone's E-mail, made all changes again, and the damn thing didn't hold again (yes, I did change my M.O.); so Andy came over to help, and we did it all again, and that time I lost everyone's phone number and E-mail. So I decided I better just print out the labels that I did have before it all disappeared, and it came out two in a row instead of 3. I have at least 12 hours doing nothing. Then to top it off when I went to put the rest of the paper into the order I wanted, the columns are doing something funny. Needless to say if things don't get better, I'm going to write the next one by hand! I've been given a better program, but don't have room in my computer, but hope by next issue, I will have accomplished something - I better have!

HOGTOWN HYPERBOLES
(Gainesville)

Joyce Dewsbury

We performed at the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival (March 30) and how fortunate we were. Five minutes prior to our scheduled time slot to dance it stopped raining. And it did not rain during our half hour program. About an hour later the rain started again and did not let up much for the rest of Saturday or Sunday. It was the first year that they did not have beautiful sunny weather for the festival.

Our performance went very well. Karen had come up that weekend to dance with the Sanabahr Dance Ensemble and she videotaped both our rehearsal at Toshi's where we danced in his backyard to become accustomed to dancing on the grass and the actual performance. Karen did a fine job videotaping and all of us were pleased with the taping and the way the performance looked overall.

Rather than try to change anything due to the short interval of time between the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival and the Spring Arts Festival performances I decided to just carry the entire performance over

intact. We performed on April 13 at 10:30 at the Spring Arts Festival. When we first began the dancing only some of the folk dancers and some friends were there in the audience. But by the start of the second dance every chair was occupied and people were standing in the back. We had a large and enthusiastic audience. Those who performed included: Toshi Nishida, Max and Diane Forkel, Tanya Beatty (a new member who learns dances very quickly and who has done Irish step dancing), John Ward, Mike Jamieson, Arlene Fradkin (who also did the announcing), Darlene Whitley, and me. As performance chair it has been great to work with these friends and fellow dancers who are willing to put so much time and effort into putting together a polished performance.

Last Saturday an organizational folk dance meeting was held at Toshi's home. One of the matters to be discussed was teaching and none of us teachers were able to attend for one reason or another. Nevertheless, the meeting was very productive and a tremendous amount was accomplished in terms of organization. I was most (con.p. _)

(Gainesville, con't) impressed. I believe that they even came up with a "Mission Statement". It had to do with the purpose of the group which in part is to preserve dances from the Eastern European area. As one who works in the University Archives in the library I can well appreciate the importance of historical repositories. And for those of you who attended Dick Crum's sessions at the recent FFDC workshop you will know what he said about American international folk dance groups preserving Serbian dances.

Our group is funded through Student Government at the University of Florida and we have some money which was targeted for guest teachers. Karen was our first guest teacher and she taught this past Friday evening. She did a wonderful job and in addition we had a very large group in attendance. Our ending circle dance had over 25 in it.

This has been a great month. May more follow.



ORLANDO NEWS (OIFDC)

Pat Henderson [Ed. note: Pat also wrote last month's article - I screwed up]

The news this month is travel news. First, Juanita and Fred Schockey traveled to Arizona to visit family. Then Bobby, the kids and I took a spring break vacation to Utah where we skiied 4 days, hiked 8 miles in Arches National Park, and still found time to dance three times. Our last night we found a wonderful Greek restaurant in Salt Lake City called the Grecian Gardens. They have live music every night!

Our club is now officially 25 years old! We are planning a silver anniversay party in August with our founding father, David Digby, attending. David is finishing his PhD at Emory University. That means we can address him Dr. David the next time we see him! We will be inviting all Florida/Georgia dancers to come to the party which will resemble a spring/fall fling. Stay tuned for further developments.

I
DANCE
THEREFORE
I AM

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

FFDC Newsletter May '96
(Hm 813-253-2090, E-mail TJA2090@aol.com)
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Tampa, Florida 33606

ATTENTION !!!!!!!!! TAKE NOTE OF NEW PERSONNEL

- President** Andy Pollock P.O. Box 261503, Tampa FL-33615 813-882-4472
(send him comments, complaints, suggestions, questions)
- V Prez** (we have a sudden vacancy)
- Treasurer** Jenneine Lambert 5310 NW 24th Place, G'ville FL-32606 904-376-7473
(send her all checks, moneys, receipts, etc., **EXCEPT** for membership)
- Secretary** (Still looking for a volunteer)
- Editor** Terry Abrahams 717 South Edison, Tampa FL-33606 813-253-2090
(send her all club news, advertising, change of address &
membership checks only)