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Florida Folkdancer

FFDC NEWS LETTER

JUNE, 1996

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Andy Pollock

This month I am turning this space over to Robert Shapiro (no, not that Robert Shapiro). This is a reprint of an article that was printed in Opa!, a newsletter of the San Francisco Mandala group.

GREEK DANCING AND JOE GRAZIOSI

I used to hate Greek dancing. I found it boring and immediately sat down whenever a dance was placed. But an amazing thing happened when I attended the Santa Barbara Folk Dance Symposium. I ran into Joe Graziosi, perhaps the best Greek folk dance instructor of our time. After the first day I found myself actually enjoying the dances he was teaching. From the very simple Dhivaratikos, a 3/4 time Syrto), to the more complicated (Zonaradhikos, a Greek Pravo), he made the dances interesting and fun. I'm not sure how he did it, but it seemed to be a combination of his

knowledge, teaching style and personality. Whatever it was, he made a convert out of me.

Elaine and I were talking to him one day, and he mentioned that he was going to be in the Bay area. We immediately asked him about doing a workshop at the Mandala, and the upshot is that he will be teaching on Thursday, October 11. You definitely should reserve that date and plan to come folk dancing that night. Even if you don't like Greek dancing now, you will by the time Joe is finished teaching. [End of article]

The reason that we reprinted that article about Joe Graziosi is that he will be one of our two teachers this February. And the other - (hold on to your hat) - Sandor Timar, director of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble (this is the real thing, not some knock-off group with a similar name.) He will be accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth. They will teach a mix of couple and non-couple so no one will be left out.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CON'T)

Thanks to all the White Springs performers for their patience rehearsing in the heat, and flexibility on which steps are right (it's hard, especially for teachers who've taught a dance one way for 20 years or more). Thanks for a great performance.

SURVEY: Would you pay an additional \$10____, \$15____, \$20____ Not even \$10____ (check all that apply) for live Greek music at camp. Return to Andy (see back page for address).

EDITORIAL

Jerry

I had only one response to the Folk Dance Barbie contest - and that was from our venerable president:

Left arm is longer than Right from leading a recalcitrant, shorter *legged* line. Under Right arm is a book on "How to Teach Your Ken to Hambo or Trade Him For One Who Can", by her Swedish Cousin Kristen.

I guess that makes Andy the winner. And I guess I won't have that contest again! Next month I may be able to make my new Microsoft print a list of all members. If you send your dues in, you may be on the list. Thanks to all who responded last month.

ORLANDO NEWS (OIFDC)

Pat Henderson

The flight of the snowbirds occurred this month as we said farewell to Wally and Joan Washington who left for Michigan for the summer. Larry Wartell decided to return to Yellowstone National Park to work for the summer. Since we had such miserable attendance last summer and we now pay a lot more for rent, we will not be dancing on Thursdays the months of June, July and August. On May 16, we had an end of the season party since the next two Thursdays a lot of dancers would be gone. We may suffer withdrawal symptoms and throw a dance party at someone's house! The dancers who attended Spring Fling had a great time especially since the music never stopped. Thank you, Julius, for all your effort and generosity. The food was great and the dancing even better.

EDITORIAL CONTINUED

My show went great and so I thought I would have lots of time to work on the newsletter, but I didn't... and I still haven't managed to get it looking good, but read on anyway...

EVERY NIGHT IS YEMENITE

FLORIDA DANCE FESTIVAL

The Florida Dance Festival will take place between June 15 and 28, and will have events all over the City of Tampa. On June 16, the Street Fair in Ybor City will be a one-day extravaganza with dance, music, food, arts & crafts, market place, free dance classes **AND the Babiak Dance ensemble and the Tampa Festival Folk Dancers will be performing.** On other days there will be Isadore Duncan, Jane Goldberg, Flamenco dance, David Dorfman & Dan Froot, Roko Kawai and Houlihan & Dancers West Palm Beach will have action as well as Miami, New Smyrna Beach, Pensacola, Sarasota and Orlando. For further info call 1-800-252-0808 before June 12.

MINUTES OF FFDC MEETING HELD AT CAMP, FEB. 18, 1996

[It was voted at the Spring Fling that members still wanted the minutes printed, even though they are late.]

Terry volunteered to be editor, but would drop vice-presidency.

Treasurer: many last minute registrations and cancellations, therefore impossible to give report, but we made money. Report to be in forthcoming newsletter.

Terry expressed dismay at lack of participation in Olga Princi scholarship auction. Committee to come up with plan - Judith, Larry Wartell and Julius Horvath.

Much talk re: acquire CD equipment and make CD's Andy said we have to watch copy-write laws. Committee to look into this: John Daly, Bobby Q., Pat H., Dave Digby.

Membership down, so newsletter not being disseminated. We should all push membership, and perhaps incorporate m'ship into camp fees like we used to, but appointed person to pass info to all in group.

Pat suggested an Internet Home Page. Andy will ask Julius to look into it.

Announced Olga scholarships: Eva Gaber, DA Tyler. There were also work scholarships.

Camp facility fees will go up next year, so we will have to charge more. Cheap camp anyway compared to around the country.

Discussion on dances played at camp parties, teachers.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Baizan, acting sec'y
[Condensed by Editor]

**DAVID DIGBY
DEFENDS DISSERTATION**

Howdy y'all! The biggest hurdle is passed, and I guess you can call me "doctor" now, but don't call me if you're sick. I passed the oral defense of my dissertation on May 15, and am still editing the actual document to satisfy various comments and complaints before getting my committee to sign off on it. Then I have to print fancy copies for the graduate school and library and turn it in. This should all be downhill from here, and I hope to be finished before going out to visit my kids and grandkids in Oregon -- maybe by the beginning of July. That was to have been sooner, but we have an equipment problem here in the lab that may require some attention while my professor is away for three weeks in June.

I see no problem getting away in late August and/or early September for a 25th anniversary celebration and snorkeling trip to the Keys. Let me know what the latest plans are. The stiffest scheduling problem is Dorothy's vacation time, as I told Pat and Bob earlier. See you later, David (and for Dorothy) [Editor: What are we celebrating? Can I come to the Keys too?]

**SOUTH BREVARD
INTERNATIONAL DANCERS -
John Daly**

Hi, Terry,

It just occurred to me that with Joan and Wally gone to Michigan, I'm the newsletter person for the South Brevard International Dancers. So if you've been looking for that last bit of late filler for the newsletter, here it is. If you've put it to bed, then I'm early for the next issue. [Thanks John - I needed that]

Those of us who went to Spring Fling had a great time. Thanks to Julius for another wonderful event. Good food, good friends, good grief, let's dance!

Unfortunately, that Saturday was also the last event of the season at the Senyk's. So almost the entire South Brevard contingent left early to say goodbye to George and Onie and wish them well on their summer travels. Isn't it a shame to have weeks and months go by with little happening and then a weekend comes along and we have to slight one event to go to another? It was a great day.

Which brings to mind the Fall Fling, which will be in Deland again this year on October 26th. Good dance

SOUTH BREVARD (Con't)
floors are getting hard to find, but this is a nice one.

Our final bit of news is that we will dance through most of the summer. We counted noses and there were enough people, including several beginners, to justify continuing. So we have been spending more time reviewing some of the old favorites to share with the new people.



HOGTOWN HYPERBOLES

Joyce Dewsbury
(Gainesville)

On May 4 we had our second dance hosted by our folk dance group. This one was called "Spring Celebration and International Dance". Tom Whitmore was the one who organized the last one and he was the one with the vision this time also. However, this time around more of us helped out so that most of the burden did not fall on him. Tom and Toni did much of the coordinating and organizing for the event. Those who helped were Pam (decorations), Jenna (who managed to find bushels of flowers for free), Diane (refreshments), Toshi (he bought new

equipment for his own use and lent it - the cordless microphone was a boon), Yung, Rob, Jenneine, Linda, Jack, and Simon Seltzer, Sal, Tanya, Mike J., Gary and Sharon, and me. The evening was a big success and we had many new folks show up to dance. The dance was held in the Thelma Boltin Recreational Center downtown. The decorations were very attractive with the flowered pastel tablecloths, flowers, and candles on each table and the small white lights strung around the room. And the food was delicious. We taught very easy dances which were easily learned by the many folks who had never folk danced (or even danced). Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.

We have been rehearsing for the White Springs Festival and all seems to be going well. Again I have to thank the dedicated people in the performing group. Some of our group will be dancing with Andy's group at White Springs. Fortunately both their group and ours are scheduled in back to back time slots and will be dancing on the same stage too. Logistically this will work out very well.

GAINESVILLE (CON'T)

Rob set up our folk dance home page and we have had some interesting comments and inquiries from other groups. Recently a member of a dance group in Chicago sent a message to congratulate us on our nice home page. Also, Tom set up the folkdance listserv and our local group has made a lot of use of that, especially when the dance party was being planned. Many thanks to the expertise of both Rob and Tom. The address of the homepage is: <<http://grove.ufl.edu/~folks tep>> Take a look sometime.

In the meantime, happy dancing.

SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS

Ann Paige

"29, 30, 31" counts John Millett, our "numbers man". 31 dancers and it's April 24th, our first night at our new place, the Adult Recreation Center. (We had 29 dancers on each of the succeeding Wednesdays). The bathrooms are in the building. We have a water fountain, soda machines, access to the kitchen in the same building and best of all we're dancing on a beautiful oak floor!!!

Andy Pollock joined us for our opening night. He taught us Bicak, popular in the villages around the

town of Petric in SWest Bulgaria. It was well received by the group and Ann Kessler has been reviewing one step each week.

A couple of Grapeviners (the Steinbergs) and I attended the 3rd Annual spring Concert of the New College Slavic Vocal Ensemble. The group sang songs from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Bosnia and Croatia. They did a beautiful job sans instruments. Only one song had guitar accompaniment and a few had drum help. Some of the tunes were so familiar and there I was dancing in my seat as I usually do when I go to concerts with a Balkan beat. The concert ended with audience participation in a Rumanian dance "Rumelai". Translated, the refrain says "Hey Rumanian girl, come and dance with me." The proceeds from the performance will be used to support the participation of Ensemble members in the Balkan Music and Dance Seminar to be held this summer in Ramblewood, MD. We thought, wouldn't it be great to have some of the members of this group dance with us on Wed? And wouldn't you know it - we were fresh out of flyers. I scrambled around for some addresses and sent flyers to some of them - hope we see some of them on Wed.

JACKSONVILLE STARTS NEW INTERNATIONAL GROUP

(As related by Julius in the sunny far east - Daytona Beach)

I just received a call from a new potential member to the FFDC. She told me that she just moved to Jacksonville, joined an Israeli group there, and is starting an international group - SO - add this to last month's list.

Jacksonville - International Contact: Pearl and Terry Roth 2731 Lake Shore Drive, Jacksonville 32210 904-387-5736 Wednesdays 8:15 PM, JCA, 8505 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville NOTE: SECURED BUILDING -- YOU MUST CALL AHEAD ONE DAY IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND.. IF YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST THEY WILL NOT ADMIT YOU..NO DROP-INS.

And while we're at it - there's an Israeli group in Jacksonville: Mondays at 7:30 JCA building - Not the same as above but on the same street, San Jose Blvd, about 3 miles down the road. Leader: Joan Levin 904-733-1407 (Joan just left for vacation so her class will run itself in her absence)

[Ed. note: Joan is a Blue Star friend of all of us that have Israeli dancing groups]

I have no additional information on Debbie's new group in Daytona Beach. [Debbie - please send more info]

Have a great summer! Julius...

STAMPA TAMPA TRAMPAS

We're small, but we get around! We all had a great time at the Spring Fling - a huge round of applause to Julius, who seemed to do it all by himself. Food, tapes, decorations, etc. And he did it so well - thanks again, Julius - we all love you and hope you weren't discouraged by the little bit smaller group.

Some of us also performed at White Springs - that is some festival - ongoing dancing, (clogging, many ethnics, contra) singing, stringing, plucking, crafting, eating, all stages active all the time - so much to do, so little time...our performance went well under the auspices of Andy (one rehearsal for the whole state of FL - not bad!) This year we were on a different stage and the audience was shaded and therefore there were more

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

FFDC Newsletter
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Editor: Terry Abrahams
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(TAMPA Con't)

there to watch us. We loved seeing so many folk dance and contra friends, watching the Gainesvillians perform, watching Cubbie & Jeannie's Scottish group.... We are also preparing for another performance in Ybor City, which Maria Pasetti is organizing.

And with all that enthusiasm, we have to announce that we are not going to meet this summer. So many are traveling, etc, we're going to give ourselves a little break. However, we're working toward one big blowout during the summer and will alert you to same when we know more. In the meantime, maybe we'll drop in on you!!!!

P.S. LOST - ONE QUILTED VEST - HAND MADE BY MY DAUGHTER THAT I WORE TO SOMETHING - PEACHES AND GREENS - PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE IT, LET ME KNOW. THANKS - TERRY

ROU-MANIAC!!

