

FLORIDA FOLKDANCER

JULY 1996

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ON HAVING FUN *Andy Pollock*

She lay there, a few feet from me, in her French-cut bikini, one of the most gorgeous creatures I had ever laid eyes on (no, you are all guessing wrong), complaining about her ankles being too fat. As she spoke, I thought, not for the first time, that our happiness doesn't depend on what we have, but on our attitude. I have seen unhappy people with wonderful dance floors, and the best teachers, and others dancing on carpet or stone floors to tinny portable tape players, with teachers who barely know how to dance*, sometimes with only 4 or 5 in the room, having a wonderful time. Having a positive attitude is a life-skill, for some it comes naturally, most of us have to work at it.

If dancing is getting stale for you, 1) try to revive some of your favorite dances, 2) talk to someone you usually don't (I bet there are people right in your own club with interesting experiences you don't know about). Lastly, those of us trying to sustain dance groups are presently swimming against the tide. I think we all need to read at least one positive thinking book per month to keep our spirits up. I know many of us read them years ago,

**No one in this state!*

EDITOR'S NOTES

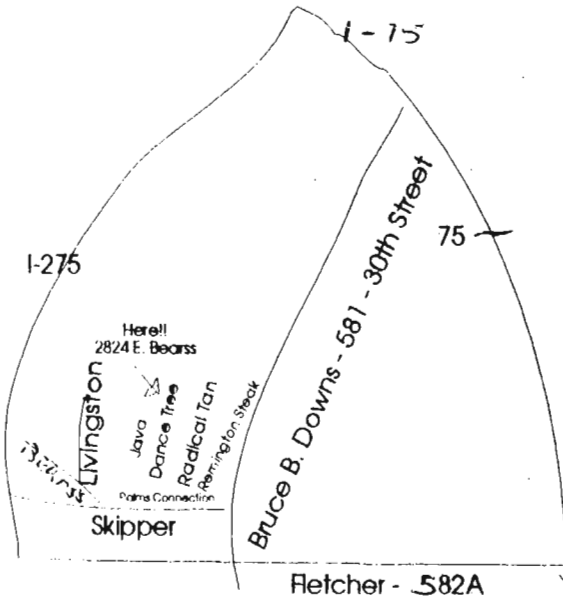
Now I'm trying a Microsoft program. I've spent hours again, trying to figure things out, and this is it for this month. But it's getting better! Maybe by the end of my term as editor, I will have developed something that is easy and makes my life easier. So far, I have been completely unsuccessful...Oh well. Thanks for your patience anyway.

At least I have managed to clear up what I think is most of the membership problems, and do want to thank all of you who have renewed (because of my little personal note to you) your memberships. Since it is a little costly to send these newsletters, it does help to have your \$10. Of course the boo-boo last month, is that I was so busy cramming all the information in that I received, that I eliminated everyone's address but mine. Prior to that issue, I felt that it was wasted space to have Andy's and Jenneine's addresses in every month. I did pass Andy his messages, thank you for your responses; and those that sent your money to me - that was the correct thing to do. I alert Jenneine, but then can get your newsletter to you immediately. It is \$10.00 a year - from Jan to Jan. Those have sent now were receiving issues anyway, so you still have to renew AGAIN - next January. Unless there is

OTHER DANCING AND OTHER EVENTS

TAMPA HAS AFTERNOON DANCE ON JULY 20

We're not dancing this summer, but to make up for it, we're having a special dance on July 20 from 1:30 to 5:00. \$5.00 (to cover costs of renting the place - however, wonderful dance studio with wood floors.) Bring **SOFT SOLED SHOES** (non marking). Everyone is invited! - Plan on eating dinner together afterwards. Looking forward to seeing you all.



Note: Bearss is labelled Skipper on some city maps. studio is near corner of Bearss and 30th St. Studio phone if you are lost: 813-975-9676

Mary Lea Bailey has moved back to Ohio, and teaches fd in Delaware. Sends lots of info on stuff happening there, including the Columbus Folk Dancers Newsletter from which I will at least steal a picture, a flyer from their February camp (the week after ours) and included a flyer on **Oglebay Institute** which runs both Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Labor Day teachers will be

Steve Kotansky and Stew Shaklette, I have flyers if you want copies of anything. Mary Lea continues her membership with us, nice to stay in touch.

Julius jumped the gun last month. Debbie has not gotten a group started in the Daytona Beach area - location, time, scheduling, 2 kids - all add up to nothing for the moment. Let us know if anything develops Deb. In the meantime, apologies to you who called and were disappointed. 2 kids - boy, does time fly - she used to be such a cute teenager...

Miami area is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Fall Fling. Deland, October 26. **Ahmet** is doing a Bulgaria, Turkey tour in August, call 617-625-4905.

From Rusty Maynard (comes to our camp) in N.C.: **11th Annual Mountain Playshop** will be August 16, 17, 18, teachers Meg Mabbs and Steve Salemsen, back to basics of Balkan music and rhythm. I have flyers, or call Rusty 704-298-4828. Cool weather!

FolkMoot is July 18-28. Call 704-452-2997 for schedule etc.

Dany Benschalom will be in Cleveland, GA at Camp Coleman Labor Day weekend, call Ruthy Slann, 864-654-3511, Email kibbutz@clemsun.campus.mci.net, fax: 864-656-0690. There are plans in the workings for him to come to FL also.

TOURS Slovakia, July 4-19, call 703-527-8998. Greece July 20-Aug 3, call 210-530-0694.

CAMPS. Stockton Camp-July 28-Aug 3, call 916-488-7637, Kentucky Dance Institute, July 28-Aug 4, call 502-422-2421, **Contra Week Camp**, Aug 3-9, call 515-621-6273. **Montreal Camp**, 514-481-3867. **New Mexico Camp**, 505-275-1944.



ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB CELEBRATES ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY

WHEN: AUGUST 24, 1996 2:00-10:00 pm

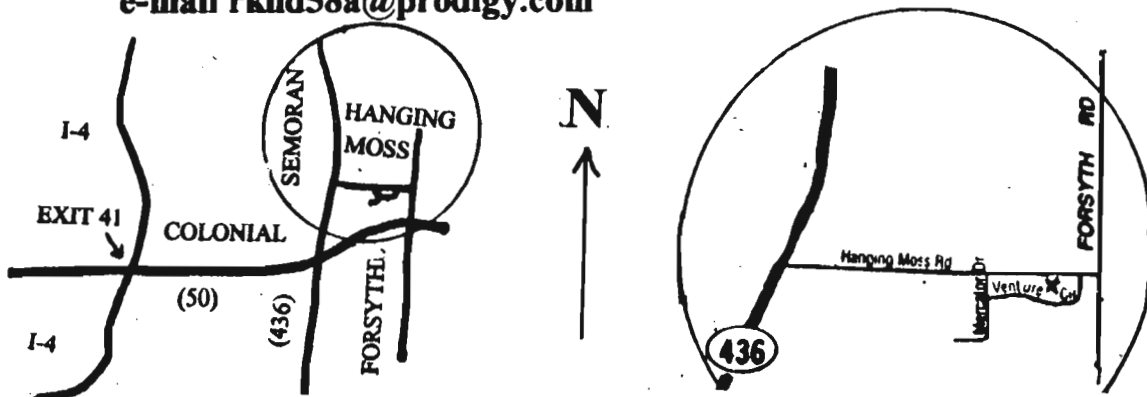
**WHERE: WHIRL & TWIRL SQUARE DANCE CLUB
6949 Venture Circle, Orlando**

WHAT TO BRING: DISH FOR POT LUCK DINNER

\$3.00 ADMISSION FOR HALL RENT

The air-conditioned hall has a gorgeous, cushioned wood floor. David Digby, founder of OIFDC will be our special guest. Accommodations will be available in dancer's homes on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For further information, contact Bobby Quibodeaux at 407-275-6247
9859 Berry Dease Road, Orlando, FL 32825
e-mail rkhd58a@prodigy.com



I-4 To Hwy. 50 East, Left on 436 (N. Semoran), rt. on Hanging Moss, rt. on Venture

Don't miss the fun!

Join the growing community of
Israeli Dancers all over South Florida.

Meet nice people and enjoy an exciting atmosphere
of song and dance.

HERE IS WHERE AND WHEN YOU CAN DANCE:

SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY	Peggy Byer 305-891-1819 Dance until 11:30 p.m.	Michael Ann Russell JCC Gymnasium 18900 N.E. 25th Ave. North Miami Beach, FL 305-932-4200	Instruction: 7:30-8:00 PM Beginners 8:00-8:30 PM Intermediate 8:30-11:30 PM Dancing \$3. members \$4. non-members
MONDAY	Nissim Ben-Ami 305-370-4739	Adolph & Rose Levis JCC 9801 Donna Klein Blvd. Boca Raton, FL 407-852-3200	7:30-8:30 PM Beginners 8:30-11:00 PM Intermediate \$5. Non-members \$3. members
TUESDAY	Nissim Ben-Ami 305-370-4739	Soref JCC Pearlman 6501 West Sunrise Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL	7:30-8:30 PM Beginners 8:30-11:30 PM Intermediate \$5. non-members \$4. members
WEDNESDAY	Connie Goldstein 305-652-9738	McDonald Center Corner 171st & 19th Ave North Miami Beach	7:30-8:00 PM Beginners Instruction 8:00-10:45 PM Dancing \$3. Everyone
THURSDAY	Sarah Medina 305-931-5951	Dave & Mary Alper JCC 11155 S.W. 112 Ave. Miami, FL 305-271-9000 x265	7:30-8:00 PM Beginners 8:00-10:00 PM All Levels \$5. non-members \$4. members
THURSDAY	Silvio Berlfein 305-932-9288 Ages: 18-35	Michael Ann Russell JCC Katz Auditorium 305-932-4200	7:30-8:30 PM Beginners 8:30-10:00 PM Intermediate \$4. everyone
THURSDAY	Nissim Ben-Ami 305-370-4739	David Posnack JCC 5850 S. Pine Island Rd. Davie, FL	7:30-8:30 PM Beginners 8:30-11:00 PM Intermediate \$5. non-members \$4. members
FRIDAY	Yusi Yanich 305-685-1783	Senior Center 610 Espanola Way Miami Beach	1:30 - 2:30 PM Free

SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Ann Paige

We had our first bash in our new place and it was a great success. We thanked Ann Kessler and Fred Miller and wished them a great summer. However, they won't be having a summer siesta but rather a summer fiesta, since they'll be doing lots of dancing up north. Tampa was well represented at the party by Terry, Andi, and Ursula. The Millett's friends, Shirley and Robert King from Wichita, KS also joined us. Marie and John had danced with them in Wichita for about 6 yrs., Shirley now teaches Israeli dancing there. Ann Kessler, who wore a lovely Bulgarian costume, shared a Bulgarian custom with us. At the break, before we approached the table laden with goodies, Ann served each of us pieces of bread which we dipped in spices. I must mention that Cynthia Young's homemade stuffed grape leaves were a big hit. Andi and Terry joined us again the following week. Every time I see Ike Steinberg, who has taught us many favorites, he says "Wasn't it wonderful having Terry and Andi dancing with us". Yes, Ike, and lucky for us, they'll be joining us often for their weekly "fix" since their group is not meeting this summer. Natalie, his wife, chimed in. "They add measurably to the festivities of the night with their experience and graceful dancing." [Thanks, Ann! We love dancing with your group!]

FFDC balance before 1996 Camp

\$4,803.74

Camp Income

\$10,774

Registration	8,331
Membership w/ Reg.	700
Separate memberships	315
T-Shirts	330
Videos	510
Tapes	174
Late Registratoin	414

Camp Expenses 9,575

Lodging & Food	5,782
Instructors Airfare	648
Instructors Fees	1,028
T-shirts	290
Videos	429
Tapes	108
Gratuities	60
Reimbursements	675
Misc.	171
Syllabi	384
Olga Princi Fund	269
Camp Auction	144
Personal donations	13
(Camp Profit \$1,199)	

Current balance \$6,271.74

[Keep in mind this is only camp expenses, throughout the year there will be costs of the newsletter - printing and postage.]



The Scots at White Springs 1996

Arrren't it interesting how things (don't) come together nowadays? I can't tell you how many times the Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers thought they had a performing group together only to have members dissolve therefrom to vacations, weddings in England, graduations in New York, etc. At one time, less than a week prior to The Event, Cubby, Jeannie, Circe and I constituted the entire dancing forum, so you can imagine what hoppers our minds leaped through to build two main-stage performances from such an imbalance. In addition, though a beautiful dancer, Circe is new to the Scottish idiom, so we couldn't throw anything too complicated at her - and certainly not at her first EVENT!

We found ourselves scheduled for Saturday noonish and prime time Sunday at 8:00 pm - a bit spread out in time. We were also unaccustomed to dancing with live music and were paired up with two bands (Friends of Reilly and Wind That Shakes The Barley) who only plaid "our stuff" once a year: Two chords for a bow? (Yes, and not the same one, please); phrase 32 bars 4 times in addition to 8 bar prases?! What's a strathspey? - Lots of potential for disaster there. Eventually we only showed the strathspey Sun day because F. of R. were unfamiliar with that musical form.

Bob and Jack decided to come only for the Saturday performance, finding the time spread incompatible with their inclinations. So I called Ernie asking for help on Sunday, so we'd have at least three couples. Foot dragging. Only 5 days to performance, Ernie! Commit! He finally agreed. Then Marie decided not to come because John's health was going through an iffy stage. I called Ernie again: bring a woman dancer. Would try to find someone. Jeannie was also calling around for more troops. Then Jack and Bob decided what the heck! Why not go for the full experience! Ernie, would you reconsider and come for BOTH shows? Beg, plead, outright nag. Reluctant, but...his sense of Scottish proportion won through and yes, he'd be there for both performances. Yeah!

appearance only 30 hours away, we t last had the full complement of 4 dancing men and 4 nimble women. Whew!!

Meanwhile, Cubby and Jeannie were running through the dance books to find 20 minutes of dance for 1 1/2 couples. Then 2 couples. Then 3. Back to 2. They finally decided to think of something - anything - else until we were all trogether. Needless to say there were no rehearsals until 10 minutes

say there were no rehearsals until 10 minutes prior to performance on the roadway behind the stage when half of us were still lacing up our gillies. Saturday: Crossing the Minch (a reel of Cubby's devising), Flowers of Edinburgh and Wild Geese. Sunday: Minch, Edinburg, and Sean Trubhhis Whillikens (Strathspry). After a few bobbed notes we belatedly realized we supposed to be for our bows - and a fresh start - we found ourseves forced to fancy high-stepping footwork to avoid tripping on the brick stage. Jack overcame Circe's reluctance to be first couple by ignoring her pleas to retreat to the bottom of the set. The answer to my question to Bob during Flowers of Edinburgh, "What did you do to get on the wrong side of the set?" came to me several phrases later: I was on the wrong side of the set; he cleverly got out of my way. Ah, well! Such is perfection.

Actually, both performances went VERY well - far better than one would dare expect from our last minute, ragged assembling. Later, out of costume, several of us were approached by enthusiastic audience members who had never seen Scottish Country Dance before. They were literally enthralled; the dances struck such a different note from other events, they were other-worldly, gay, delightful, and even spiritual. They especially liked the strathspey, which was so courtly, graceful and flowing. They felt transported to another time and place and were disappointed our contriubtion was so short.

Someday, O Dream! wouldn't it be GREAT to dance six or seven full dancey (not our abbreviated versions) to a piper or two! The patterns can be seen well from the sloping lawn and a hint of their infinite variety could be shared with an eager audience. Meanwhile, all were glad they had made the effort to come and "do" the entire event. D.A. Tyler

*Evening
Performance*



DANCING IN ISRAEL

by Jack Glasner

We took a 40 day trip to Israel and as folk dancers, we explored the Israeli folk dance scene. Here are my impressions of the session we attended.

Israeli Folk dancing is in, international dancing is out. Matter of fact, until 3 years ago, there were a number of leaders teaching international, but that is passe. Now the name of the game is Israeli. 98% of the Israeli dances were unknown to me and not easy to follow. During a dance session, an International dance may creep in, but that is rare. At one, the DJ played Florica, 3 people danced, (I was #3) nobdly held hands, we just danced next to each other with a respectful distance between us.

We found 150 to 200 dancers on Saturday from noon to 3:30 on the promenade below the Ramada Hotel on the Tel Aviv beach. The sun is at it's highest, the floor concrete, the beat fast and furious. The DJ is the same lady I met there 3 years ago, impersonal, not overly friendly and not overpolite. The music fades out abruptly, and swings into another dance. The DJ sings along when the mood grabs her...dancers do not hold hands. This is true in all the places I have been (Univ. of Beer Sheba, Ramat Aviv, Bikkurei Haitim, etc.) There is no camaraderie between dancers. Dancing is a "free fall". I came. I danced. I left, and you go back to your own isolation.

There is an inner circle of the 'show offs'. Their interpretation of folk dancing is expressed by vigorous jumping, exaggerated kicking, and speed/ The dance is transformed into an aerobic exercise with extraneous movements and has nothing to do with the dance per se. They do 3 types of dances: Line, kolo, couple. The line dances are all exaggerated with high kicking. The Kolos are danced in a quasi circle, but no one holds hands. Most of the dances are fast with a lot of turning. The emphasis is on fast debka beats. Slow sensuous circle dances are graceful figures and sophisticated transfers from one figure to another. (There is no

teaching on the beach.) The teachers I watched teaching, were de facto showing the dance instead of teaching, this is true in all the places I have been.

Some of the Kibbutzim (settlements) hold dance sessions; however, getting information from them as to where, when, and what is an exercise in futility and may not be accurate. Israel churns out an abundance of new dances, there is a lot of turning and changing of direction. The music is exciting and contagious.

Dancing parphanalina, as well as discs can be purchased at a store in Tel Aviv. They have a large assortment of music and equipment. The owner of this store is not very accomodating. Discs are NS 90 (aprox. \$28). The music comes through clear and sharp, however some dances fade out too abruptly. There also is a dance newsletter giving where and when information. Summa sumarium. A disappointing experience in dancing.

[Editor's note: How sad. Is there anyone who would like to counteract this article?]

President's Column (cont)

and they didn't make us rich and famous (I guess you have to re-read them every day and take action based on your plan each day), but it couldn't hurt to reread them. A few to get you started: *The Power of Positive Thinking, How to Have Confidence and Power In Dealing with People, think and Grow Rich, Nothing Down, Psycho-Pictography.* Now, who's ready to call Tony Robbins and go on *The Firewalk?*

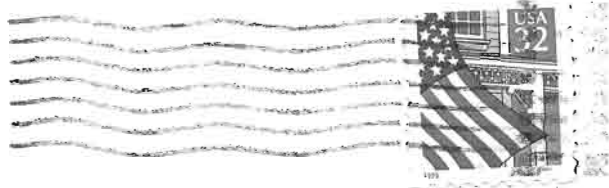
Till next month - Be Happy! Andy

Editor's Notes (cont)

we decided to try something else. This is certainly the easiest. If you have changes in your name stuff or additions (I'm missing lots of phone numbers), send them to me and I'll add to next issue.

Terry

next issue E-mail addresses. Send, in case I don't have yours.



FFDC NEWSLETTER - JULY, 1996

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