

# FLORIDA FOLKDANCER

November, 1996

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Panda Andy Pollock

Someone said we couldn't possibly duplicate the excitement of last year's President's Day Camp. I took that as a personal challenge. I am very excited to have Sandor Timar, Director of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble and the very excellent Joe Graziosi as this year's teachers. The registration form is enclosed...

We were forced to raise the full time tuition fees to \$135. Please note that this includes your FFDC membership for 1997, so it's really only a \$15 increase, and you can still save \$10 if you pay by January 15. All of the increase was necessitated by increases to us from the conference center. People staying off grounds note the 1 time \$10 fee is now \$3 per night.

If you need help to come to camp, apply for a work scholarship (\$30 camp cost), or an Olga Princi scholarship (\$0 camp cost). Requirements for both - be an FFDC member (if not, send \$10 with your application), work scholarship - be available to help out, either when we open camp, or when we close it. There will also be some work required during camp, but it will NOT interfere with workshop attendance. Olga Princi scholarships are awarded to young dancers on the basis of ability and leadership potential. Send all scholarship requests to Andrew Pollock, P.O. Box 261503, Tampa, FL 33685. **As soon as possible.** (Don't be last in line) Include information such as special talents, (e.g. run AV equipment, decorating, etc.)

for camp setup Friday p.m. or camp cleanup, Monday p.m., restrictions on lifting, etc. If you are not known to at least one of the officers, include a letter of recommendation. (all other camp registration forms should go to Jenneine.)

### SKIDMORE WORKSHOP WRAP-UP.

If you want the tape from the David Skidmore workshop, send \$5.00 to me. Dave told me that he hadn't danced that hard recently, and was slightly stiff and sore afterwards. He said that if he danced that hard 3 days in a row, he wouldn't feel any paid the fourth. Neither would I. I of course would be paralyzed...

Deland was lots of fun. Hope to see you at the Mihai workshop in Gainesville, Nov. 9. By the way, he will also be at the regular Friday night dancing to teach a couple of dances, if you want to go in the night before. See you there!

## EDITOR'S NOTES

What a busy dance season we are having! The Fall Fling was really great - well attended, good food and new and better sound equipment which made it very nice. The Halloween theme was very nicely done and my "Boo-cimis" buttons were well received. We really DANCED!! Congrats to the organizers! We seem to keep hitting someone's birthday - this time it was Hal S's. Halloween is continuing at Orlando on Thursday (should you get this by then) - with costumes etc. Sorry it didn't occur to me to get the newsletter out in time to hand it to you in Deland. That's twice I haven't been smart. Well, whoever said I had that capability? I'm happy to get it done at all! Who is taking over in February? Bye! TA

# Romanian Folkdance Workshop



taught by world  
renowned instructor  
**Mihai David**

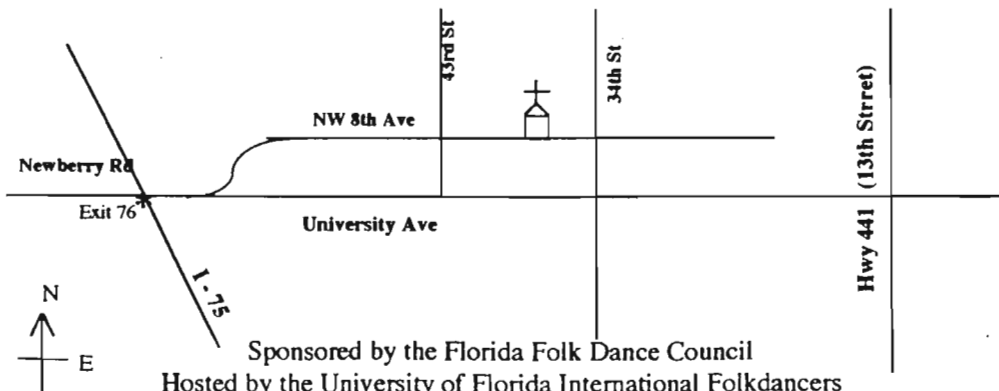
Gainesville, Florida  
Sat. November 9th

Price: \$15 (\$5 per session) Registration at door

Time: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee  
10:00 - 12:30 p.m. Workshop (session 1)  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Workshop (session 2)  
8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Dance Party

Location: Trinity Methodist Church  
3536 NW 8th Ave.

For info: Jenneine Lambert, (352) 376 7473  
For housing: Jack & Linda Seltzer, (352) 373 1876





## HOGTOWN HYPERBOLES

### GAINESVILLE

Things have been going well with our group. The student officers are very organized and Sachi and Jenna in particular have been doing a lot to publicize the group, schedule meetings, and plan activities. September was our official "Introduction to Folk Dancing and Welcome Back" month. A flyer was designed complete with two photos and copies of these were posted and handed out. Each Friday night the dances of a different country or region were featured. Sachi also designed and made a very attractive large poster for the group for a student organization fair.

The attendance at folk dancing has been good in general. This past Friday night (October 11) was Gator Growl so there were fewer there. And about two weeks ago we had about 20 new people show up. Unfortunately none of them returned in subsequent weeks.

On September 7 and 8 there was a swing dance workshop with the Rhythm Hot Shots. Margaret knows the teachers and she was one of those who organized the weekend. Members of our group and the contra group also assisted. We got a brief but very exciting demonstration at folk dancing Friday night (September 6) of the type of dancing which was to be taught at the workshop. The couple who would teach did the demo. The weekend was a great success from all accounts and Tom has had one or two review sessions. And Jerry (Ford) has scheduled a swing dance night which will take place every first Saturday of each month at the Thelma Boltin Recreational Center (the same place where the contra dances are held).

There appears to be much interest in swing dancing as well as zydeco. I checked the internet recently and found quite a lot of information of the latter. In case anyone is interested I went through the Yahoo system to access it.

### GAINESVILLE, con't

Jack is now coordinating the teaching and teachers and has been doing a good job. He has some new ideas which should be helpful.

Some of us are planning to attend the Fall Fling. Those of us who went last year had a great time and I expect it will be equally wonderful this year.

Joyce Dewsbury



## How To Fill Out The Camp Application

In case it isn't as fool proof as Andy and I think we made it:

1. Fill out in pen, print so Jenneine can read it and I can make your name tag from it, fill one out for each person coming (you too can go to Kinko's and have copies made).
2. Note you can either: a) take a package deal (1st half) or go a la carte and take what fits your schedule and sleeping arrangements.
3. Also note you can order your T-shirt ahead (take a chance and order - it will be a good one - and there will be only a few extras if you decide at camp - I know you like to see what they will be like but it hasn't been designed yet.) By the way, if anyone has a brilliant design, we would consider it.
4. After you pick your peck of pickled peppers, put the appropriate numbers in the farthest righthand column. Then total them at the bottom, remembering that if you send yours in time for the discount to give yourself that price. Note if you are in the package deals, your membership is paid for automatically.
5. Maps, directions, clothing hints, bedding suggestions and rules will be printed later.
6. Questions?? Call Andy or Jenneine

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 \* **DELAND INT'L** \*  
 \* **FOLK DANCERS** \*  
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**SPIFFS**  
**International Singers**  
**and Dancers**

*[Joan sent me this article last month - I misplaced it and didn't include it. So if it seems slightly untimely - blame me, not her. TAJ.]*

These summers seem to go by faster, so my summary of the summer will be fast too. There's a new folk dance in the Detroit area that has been a very nice addition to our summer dancing. The group only meets once a month - and they don't meet at all in July or August - so we have attended 3 dances. The dancers are a mixture of the people we used to dance with at Wayne State University, people from "the other Friday night dance group", and brand new dancers. It's a comfortable setting that also reminds me of the gym we used to dance in at WSU - a big old gym with a wooden floor, a running track suspended above it, and radiators along the walls. We were surprised to see Hal Schmetterling from Palm Coast at one dance. You meet the nicest people at folk dancing!

Besides folk dancing 3 times, we went Israeli dancing twice and square dancing 4 times. In between dances we filled in our time with things like plumbing and carpentry work around our house, working on the motorhome, gardening, canning, bringing a new utility trailer up to our standards, a trip to a Hamfest in Indianapolis, a trip to a stereo photo convention in Rochester, NY, etc. As always, we've been very busy.

We're happy to be back in Deland and starting our fall season off to a good start with the Fall Fling. Thanks to everyone for coming and making it a wonderful success. **Joan and Wally**

The David Skidmore workshop was fantastic!!! He taught some wonderful dances and was a real delight to be around. I hope we can have him return sometime in the future. Luckily there is a workshop just around the corner in Gainesville. on November 9 with Mihai David. All the years that I have been folk dancing I have heard his name: "Mihai, this...Mihai, that" I am looking forward to finally seeing him.

At SPIFFS, I am working on an entirely new repertoire for my dancers. I am also always on the look out for folk songs for the singers. If anyone has music (in four parts, if possible) and words for the dances we do (those that have singing) or just folk songs in general, please let me know. We have also implemented a new strategy to the everlasting recruiting problem. The Italian group at SPIFFS asked the International Dancers to do an exchange. They want us to dance with them to increase their numbers at performances and they would do the same for us.

The Sahnobar Dance Ensemble has had great success in the last few weeks. We performed five shows for the Florida International Museum's, Alexander the Great opening here in St. Petersburg and were well received. We had people asking us to perform all over the place. The weekend of October 11-13 we performed eleven times in Orlando. This included the Festival of the Nile, EPCOT, Tu Tu Tangos and Universal Studios. Each place had it's own unique flavor. We had a lot of fun. We even were asked for our autographs and an encore! We are looking forward to our live performance with our band on October 26 at the Theatre of Memory in High Springs. We will be debuting new costumes and new choreography. Unfortunately, this means that I will not be able to attend the Fall Fling. Our next St. Petersburg appearance will be at SPIFFS International Ball on November 2.

Happy Dancing.

**karen sun ray**

## SARASOTA SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

Sarasota was mightily represented at the Sept. 20-22 Sebring Scottish Country Dance weekend sponsored by Orlando Scots. Cubby and Jeanne, Fred & Gladys, Jim & Ann, Louis & Ann, June & Harry, Doris, Kay & Ernie (from Tampa, but we consider him one of our own, even though we don't see him much nowadays [*who is this Tampa who never dances in Tampa?*]) cheerily greeted Circe Davenort and me as, trembling with fatigue, we wearily entered the ballroom just before the last dance Friday night.

For the past week Circe & I had been moving across town, even into the wee wee hours. We'd also been working full time throughout and were too fagged to see straight. Weak hellos & to bed.

We sampled the first Sat. workshop, but when instructions were incomprehensible to us because words seemed like little shapes flying through the air, we pulled ourselves upstairs for another sleep. Exhausted after being up an hour for lunch, we sank back into bed yet again for the afternoon. Reports drifted through our haze of the nifty dances with unusual formations taught by James Kutzner, Muriel Owens, & George and One Senyk in the workshops. By suppertime we could descend the stairs without leaning heavily for support on the railings, & we perked up considerably at the excellent meal served at Takis' Restaurant on the old Kenilworth Lodge grounds.

There a new and deplorable development was revealed: ladies are abandoning the wearing of white dresses with plaid scarves at balls! Whereas the beauty of the plaids is set off by the shining white and all look festive & a certain ceremonial air prevails, prints & colored dresses do nothing of the sort, no matter how pretty they might be in themselves. The occasion as a whole loses a GREAT deal in this

reversion to everyday dress, long or short. And WHY? For heaven's sake! A white dress isn't that difficult to come by (mine cost \$3.00 in a thrift shop) - or to hang in a closet! One might even wear it elsewhere as readily as a purple print - which looks terrible with the men's crisp kilts. Come one and all! Re-examine this unaesthetic trend and forbear to desecrate custom more than we already do!

Four sets danced Saturday's program. Circe & I acquitted ourselves well until the last two dances, during which our minds, on whim, took flight to rest, leaving our bodies puzzled as to the next movement. I was surprised how few of my partners - men or women - actually made eye contact during the dances. So many seemed to be running mazes in their own little worlds. A sad commentary on present day life! Come out of your shells and bring yourselves to the dance! This is also an invitation to International dancers to extend their Scottish repertory beyond "Mari's Wedding" and join us Thursday evenings at 7:30.

## ORLANDO NEWS (OIFDO)

We resumed dancing on Thursdays in September but so far, our participants are not up to the level of May when our summer hiatus began. Now that Larry Wartell and Betsy Elliott have returned from Wyoming and we expect Joan and Wally Washington soon, we should be able to pay our rent! Bobby and I traveled to Pinellas Park on October 5 which is what he wanted to do on his birthday. Katy Warner was the other dancer from Orlando there. David Skidmore was a delightful teacher as he taught his favorite all-time dances.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Fall Fling!

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (For Folk Dancers)

- I. If thou art but a newly won convert to the art of Terpsichore, break not into the midst of thy predecessors, but rather add thy number to the farthest end of the line.
- II. Nay, but when a dance is being taught, then art thou welcome at any place in the line and at any time.
- III. If thou knowest not the dance, the name of which hath been trumpeted to the four corners of the room, seek thou a place behind one of thy fellows who doth indeed know thereof, and follow thou him in his footsteps. Thus wilt thou, in good time learn as did all dancers before thee.
- IV. Thy leader speaketh from ancient wisdom. Therefore, when he shall say of a dance, lo this dance is difficult, attempt it not except thou dance behind the line, ask not to whom he speaketh, for his words are a message unto thee.
- V. If thou desirest not to dance, but would instead talk with thy friend, hesitate not to do as thou wilt, yet remember the privacy of thy conversation to raise not thy voice above the voice of thy leader, who struggleth to convey

instruction.

VI. To every beginning there is an end. If thou dost enter in upon a dance, banish from thy thought: I will drop out when the dance waxeth fast. Thus wilt thou add to the pleasure of thy comrades to thy right and to thy left.

VII. If thou are experienced and knoweth the dance, be yet gracious unto those who know it not. Wert thou not also once a newcomer!

VIII. When thy teacher leadeth a dance which thou knowest, but in a manner different from thy experience of yore, learn thou the new version and rebel not. Thus is thy stock increased.

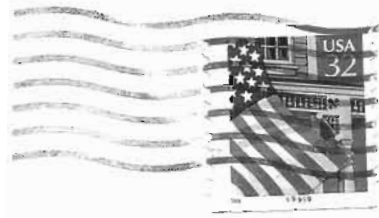
IX. Be not backward of thy requests, that thy leader may satisfy thy heart's desire. Thus dost thou help prepare a program for all.

X. Give thou honor to the Golden Rule in the observance thereof, but not in the breach thereof.

### SELAH

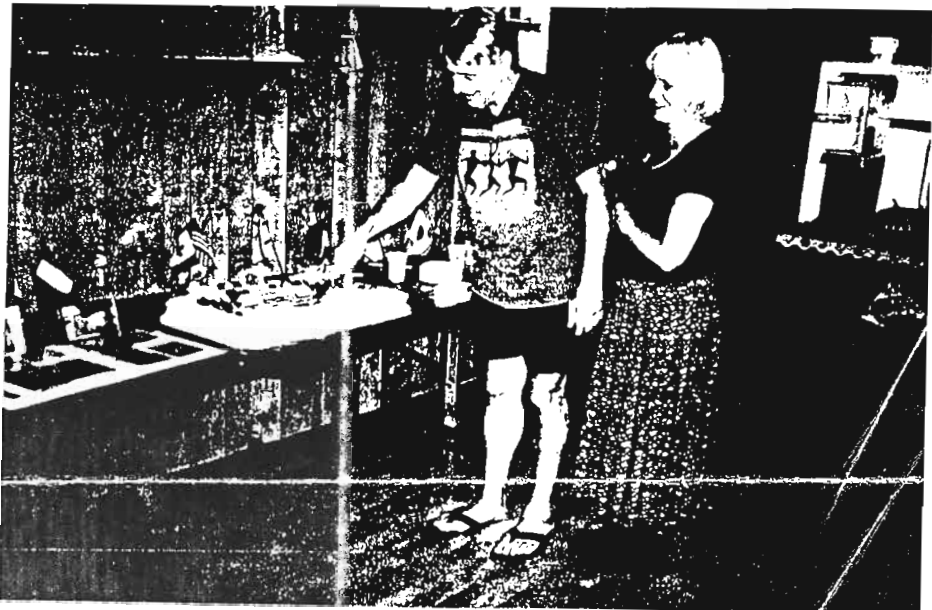
*[Sent to me by Shirley King; Sent to her by a folk dancer friend at NYC Univ., who got it from someone, who also got it from someone, etc., etc.]*

FFDC NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1996  
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David Digby & Dorothy Archer