



# FLORIDA FOLKDANCER

JUNE 1997

## Spring Fling '97

Forty enthusiastic dancers gathered for **Spring Fling** in Port Orange on Saturday, April 5th. We danced everything from Ada's Kujawiak #1 to Zweifachen. Somewhere in between we reviewed the Greek and Hungarian dances from the President's Day Camp. George and Onie Senyk shared a couple of easy set dances. And of course, the traditional Mairi's Wedding and Arnold's Circle had to have a place on the program. As always there were refreshments galore. After the sun had gone down, dancers taking a comet break discovered that a pair of accordions had escaped and were playing together in the parking lot.



Ruth Ann Fay, in authentic costume, and John Daly dance the Hambo.



Julius Horvath, Pat Pieratte, and Bobby Quibodeaux step out.



The reel of 4 in Mairi's Wedding.



A dance circle at **Spring Fling**.



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## HOP-STEP-STEP FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This last month I've been swirling, twirling, swinging and swaying all over the roads, wires and the net. I started out with the Atlanta "Rang Tang". Liz Nunan always does such a great job. It is soooooo enchanting to have live music. Faruk played multiple instruments, his talent is wonderful. I got two of his CD's and heard one of his songs on the New Age music station this morning, what a treat. Fellow Floridians that joined there were Sal Turfecki from here in Gatorville, Beyhan Akeal from Orlando and Georgianna Presnell from Pensacola. I received some much needed pointers. I've just finished the Ceili (kay-lee) Irish Dance class held each Tuesday night in Ocala with Laura O'Sullivan. This next six weeks she is teaching Irish Step dance. I also twirled into a Scottish Dance group, 10 miles south of Ocala, in Belleview. They have an index card file with about 500 dances. The four I tried were all brainteasers.

I was fortunate enough to see the Tamburitians twice this year, in St. Augustine. I saw where they are scheduled to appear in Ocala in October - I'll keep you posted. I met a spirit sister there in line, she is from Jacksonville now but used to dance in the Tallahassee performance group back in the 70's. Nance Friedman, I have her address if anyone needs to reunite. Several other folk-dance addicts traveled far from Orlando, Winter Park and were there. We enjoyed an early dinner together at a Greek restaurant. Luckily we all ordered before the Tamburitians filled the place.

Then, last week I finally managed to return to my old stomping grounds - Pensacola. They are such a fun, lively group and meet once a month- the second Saturday. One couple travels 70 miles from Ft. Walton, to dance there - on carpet. After returning on Sunday I slipped in for the last hour of a triple birthday party held for Tanya, Jenna and Ellen, some of our UF students. We danced international, Cajun, and swing at a Restaurant. I think we started a tradition. **Jenneine Lambert**

### 1997 Calendar

Submit calendar entries to:

John Daly, FFDC Newsletter

If you have web access look for updates at  
<http://www5.palmnet.net/~jdaly/ffdc.html>

#### FFDC Events

**November 22: Fall Fling.** Sponsored by South Brevard, held at the Women's Club in Deland.

#### Other Sponsors

Based on fliers received, contact John Daly for more info (if available).

**June 7th:** Swing Dance \$5.00, Bolton Center, Gainesville, FL - Jerry Ford, 352/472-0018.

**July 7-13:** College of Wm. & Mary Recreational Folk Dance Conference. Fee \$150 plus accommodations & meals. Contact Sylvia Shirley, 757/221-2787.

**July 17-27:** Folkmoot. P.O. Box 658, Waynesville, NC 28786. 704/452-2997, folkmoot@pobox.com.

**August 15, 16, 17, 1997** 12th Annual Mountain Playshop International Dance Weekend, Swananoa, NC \$75.00 - Rusty Maynard 704/298-4824.

**All Summer:** Jim Gold International Folk Tours, various locations and instruction. Contact, Arlene Pearlman, 941/359-6657 or Jim Gold 201/836-0362.

### Advertising and Event Listings:

We are happy to list upcoming events for our members. However, if you are not a member and wish to have a full page flyer placed in the newsletter, there will be a separate charge to do so. This is to cover our production and mailing costs. We are going to determine a price for this in the near future. Below are advertising options per issue for everyone.

Business Card (2"x3.5")	\$ 5.00
Quarter Page (3.75"x5")	\$ 7.50
Half Page (3.75"x105" or 8"x5")	\$15.00
Full Page (8"x105")	\$30.00

These prices are for camera ready ads. There will be an additional charge for ads that are not camera ready.

#### Send your ads and check to:

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## Pensacola News

Dancer Theresa Finkbeiner suggested our new location when increased costs forced us to move. Contact Georgeanna Presnell has been our source of new dances recently. She attended Florida Folk Dance Council President's Weekend and Rang Tang in Atlanta. She brought us "Drumul Draacului", a Romanian dance taught by Steve Kotansky; "Kelekvan", a Turkish dance taught by Ahmat Luleci and "Lohias", a Greek Island dance taught by Joe Graziosi. We had as guest this month FFDC President, Jenneine Lambert of Gainesville. Jenneine danced in Pensacola in times past with group founders, Jim Marsh and Larry Lou Foster.

Members Lorenz Porsiz, Martha Porter and Connie Walker (with husband Richard) joined Alabama International Folk Dancers Martina Booth, Betty Eastman, and Patti McDonald and a set of Scottish Country Dancers in Mobile at their International Festival on April 15th in the Civic Center. Over 20 nations were represented by cultural displays, cuisine at the Food Court and/or demo teams in performance.

Scottish Country Dance teacher, Sally Hall (with husband Jim) became U.S. citizens in the fall of 1996. This winter saw Snowbird dancers from Michigan and St. Johns', Newfoundland, Canada (thanks Linda and Frank). Bill Newman and Shirley Stride have relocated from Kentucky to Destin, FL and dance in both Ft. Walton and Pensacola. Various members traveled in March to Grace Presbyterian Church in Panama City for their Scottish Festival; to New Orleans in April for their Scottish Country Dance workshop and dance with Eileen Yates; to Pace Presbyterian Church in Pace, FL for their Scottish Festival on May 3rd; and to Ft. Walton Beach on May 10th for their Scottish Festival. A highlight for our Pace, FL Festival was our evening ceilidh with entertainment by singer/guitarist Eric Duncan, highland dancing by Carla Price's Highland Dancers, and Scottish Country Dancing from across the Gulf Coast. Approximately 16 Irish Dancers from New Orleans joined us as we shared our Irish and Scottish Country dances. Following the ceilidh, we adjourned to McGuire's Irish Pub for an "afters party".

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### SPIFFS

Everyone has been asking about Polk Fair and how it went. Well, this year we were outdoors for the first time in 22 years. In my opinion, everything went very smoothly. The biggest plus was being on grass instead of cement. Everyone commented how their legs were not sore after a week of standing. Being on the grass also allowed children to run and play, if something spilled, no problem. The performances this year were wonderful, from our own groups to guest groups. The quality was good and there was always something going on on stage. As usual, I was on stand-by the whole weekend to either perform or teach folk dances to audience volunteers when other performers did not show up or were late. I had the most fun on the two school days when I got children up on stage to learn folk dances. They lined up in droves.

The International Singers and Dancers had a great Spring Concert on April 12th. The show this year was very dynamic. We have three new men now and a couple of new women. Our newest member, Victor, is only 15. He is from Puerto Rico and gheez can he dance. You show him the dance **ONCE** and he is ready to perform it. He joined us three weeks before Folk Fair. He also performed with the Italians and the Mexicans. He only rehearsed twice with the other groups and 3-4 times with us. He is so excited about dancing that I almost have to keep a lid on him. Soon we are hoping to start a recreational group at SPIFFS on Thursday evenings. I will keep you posted on this.

As this goes to press the Sahnobar Dance Ensemble, along with our band is performing at the Florida Folk Festival. We are all very excited about it. We plan to add to the cacophony of sounds at the campground from our Bedouin tent.

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### Valencia Cultural Dance Club and OIFDC

On April 25, three students joined Deane Jordan and myself at the elementary school my children attend. It was their Fine Arts Day. The teachers signed their classes up to come to location of our dance exhibition which was one of the classrooms. The children were very attentive and appreciative of our performance. On the dancing at Valencia for the summer question, we decided to dance the month of June but not July and August. If your group is shut down for the summer, consider joining us on Wednesdays. If you need lodging, give me a call at (407)299-5000 or e-mail at hender@hotmail.com.

by: Pat Henderson



## SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS

The Grapeviners have a new place for business meetings and merriment. Circe Davenport and D.A. Taylor have offered their lovely spacious home to us. Besides having our Wednesday evenings at the Adult Recreation Center, their place is open to us for discussions and dance. It has a huge 30' x 30' room, uncluttered by furniture. A 20' x 20' wood composition dance floor is in the center and two doorways offer a delightful breeze. Folksy items are draped here and there.

Marie Millett ran our first business meeting of the year which was attended by 30 members including Ann Kessler and Fred Miller. The merriment following the meeting included all-request dancing led by Ann Kessler and a salad supper. The salad makers were very creative and the dishes were very colorful and aesthetically arranged. I must say that the gracious proprietors of Davenport and Tyler run a very classy establishment. Ever giving Ann announced that her last teaching session before the summer would be a freebee!

Six Grapeviners attended the Israeli Workshop in Maitland. They found Ruth Goodman the teacher, to be outstanding. Those who attended were very appreciative. I guess we could call the Maitland Group the Maitland Mavens (experts) when it comes to running a workshop.

Ann Paige

## DANCING AROUND THE MAY POLE



You know Spring is here when you see dancing around the plaited May Pole.

**South Brevard International Dancers**  
by John Daly

South Brevard International Dancers are starting to include English and Early American dances in our programs. Maypole dances have a long tradition and for our first session in May we danced one. Catie Geist brought a pole and ribbons, John Daly brought a big Christmas tree stand, Carol McGinn brought bags of sand to hold it down, Carol and Catie brought descriptions of May dances, and almost everyone brought memories of Maypole festivities. At the end of the dancing we stood holding our ribbons as people around the circle shared childhood experiences. It was one of those warm treasured moments of community among folk dancers.

## ANDOR CZOMPO HONORED

Andor Czompo is the recipient of the 1997 San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival Award, presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the international folk dance community. Professor Czompo introduced many favorite Hungarian dances to the recreational Folk Dance community, among them Tuberosza Csardas, Somogy Karikazo, Kapuvari Verbunk, Michael's Csardas and Tubarosza Csardas.

Professor Czompo came to this country after participating in the unsuccessful Hungarian revolt in 1956. In 1961 while director of the Hungarian Ethnic Dance Group of New York City he met Michael and Mary Ann Herman, pioneer international folk dance leaders, who persuaded him to begin teaching in the international folk dance community. He gave Hungarian folk dance to the U.S. dance community, the dance community gave him his lovely wife, Ann Reed, whom he met at the Maine Folk Dance Camp.

Professor Czompo was an honored participant at this year's President's Day Camp. Newcomers may not have realized that the distinguished interpreter for Sandor Timar was familiar to many as a favorite teacher from past camps throughout the country.

The award was presented by Vonnie Brown who kindly supplied the text of her presentation on which this article was based.



Vonne Brown presents the San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival Award to Ando Czompo.





SUBMISSIONS TO FLORIDA FOLKDANCER

Send all materials to:

John Daly  
Florida Folk Dancer  
779 Acacia Ave.  
Melbourne, FL 32904

*Deadline is the 15th  
of the month!!!!*

407/951-9623 or e-mail to: [jdaly@palmnet.net](mailto:jdaly@palmnet.net)

Include reference to source for any material by other author's. Law, good practice and common decency require us to recognize the work of others.

OFFICERS

President: Jennie Lambert, 5310 N.W. 24th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606, (352)376-7473.

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The Florida Folk Dancer is a monthly newsletter from the Florida Folk Dance Council. A non-profit organization. Our purpose is to facilitate communication among Florida international folk dance groups, to educate and inform individual international folk dancers and other interested persons, to organize international folk dance seminars, and to undertake from time to time such projects as may be put forth by the Executive Committee to further knowledge of, appreciation for, and participation in international folk dance and related cultural activities in Florida.

SUPPORT THE FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL

Support the Florida Folk Dance Council and International Folk Dance in Florida. Annual memberships are \$10.00.

Use this form, or supply the information and send with your check to:

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WHERE TO DANCE IN FLORIDA

- Daytona Beach (Athenian Folk Dancers)  
Monday, 7:30 pm, Contact: Steve Photiades (904)788-2749
- Gainesville (University of Florida International Folk Dancers)  
Friday, 8:15pm, Contact: John Ward (352)376-0224
- Melbourne (South Brevard International Dancers)  
Fridays, 7:00 pm, Contact: John Daly (407)951-9623
- Melbourne (Contra Dance)  
Every Second Saturday, Contact: John Daly (407)951-9623
- Melbourne (Scottish Country Dance)  
Monday, 7:00 pm, Contact: Catie Condran Geist (407)727-7752
- Orlando/Maitland (Israeli Folk Dance)  
Mondays, 7 to 8 teaching, 8 to 10 requests. Contact: Debbie Meitin (407)788-7277
- Orlando (International Dance at Valencia Community College)  
Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Contact: Bobby Quibodeaux (407)275-6247 or [bobbyquibodeaux@worldnet.att.net](mailto:bobbyquibodeaux@worldnet.att.net)
- Pensacola (International Folk Dancing)  
Second Saturday, 7-10 pm, Contact: Georgeanna Presnell, (904) 492-3956
- Pensacola (Scottish Country Dancing)  
Tuesday, 7-9 pm, Contact: Richard Walker (904)477-7136
- Port Orange (Port Orange Folk Dancers)  
Second Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Contact: Julius Horvath (904)252-5738
- Sarasota (Grapevine International Folk Dancers)  
Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Contact: (942)351-6281
- Sarasota (Scottish Country Dancers)  
Thursday, 7:30 pm, Contact: Gladys Wiedorn (941)485-7488  
or Kay Callinan (941)924-0293
- St. Petersburg (SPIFFS International Singers & Dancers)  
Mondays, 6:00 pm, Contact: Karen Boon von Ochsse (813)323-8327  
or [sunray101@aol.com](mailto:sunray101@aol.com)
- Tallahassee (International)  
First and Third Fridays, Call before arriving, Contact: Pat Pieratte (904)878-1560
- Tampa (Scandinavian Dance)  
Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, call first. Contact: Kate Jackson (813)254-3359.  
Does not meet in summer, resume in September.
- Tampa (International)  
Friday, 8:00 pm, Contact: Andy Pollock (813)882-4472
- Tampa (Israeli)  
Tuesday, 7:45 pm, Call before arriving, Contact: Andi Kaplan (813)985-5611
- Titusville (Easy International)  
Thursday, 2:30 pm, Contact: George Senyk (407)636-2209
- Titusville (Scottish Country)  
Fridays, 7:00 pm, No contact. Does not meet on holidays or during the summer.



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**Culture Corner**  
**TAMBURITZA MUSIC AND THE**  
**TAMBURITZA FAMILY**

By: Karen White

Tamburitza music has come to the United States by way of Yugoslavia, where its principal instrument, the tambura, is looked upon as the national instrument of the Croatians (Croatia being a region within Yugoslavia). The tambura family comprises a large and diverse group of instruments, for which there are a variety of tuning systems.

The tambura has evolved from before the 19th century, when it was used as a solo instrument, to the present day, where in its many variations, it is played in large groups of from 3 to 40 players.

The instruments used for playing music in each tuning system are constructed differently. Farkas system instruments have two courses of double strings. Jankovic system instruments consist of three courses of double strings tuned in fifths, and Srijemski system instruments are made with two courses of double strings, and two single strings, all tuned in fourths. There exist variants of all of the above.

The parts played by the tamburitzas can be compared to those found in a modern orchestra. The Brac, Bisernica, and Kontrasica instruments are used for melody, counter-melody and harmony parts. The Bugarija is a chordal instrument used to keep rhythm for the group. The celovic, celo and berde correspond to the chello and bass in a modern orchestra.

How did tamburitza music come to be? This question is dealt with fully in History of the Tambura by Walter Kolar (who kindly provided us with information and assistance in preparing this article). In partial answer to the question, one version of the following story (taken from the book mentioned) is found.

"In the 591 A.D. the Byzantine King Mauricius was contesting the Roman Empire in Thrace. Here he captured three Slavs. To the astonishment of Mauricius, he found these slavs unarmed, carrying with them only a tambura. With surprise he asked these Slavs who they were and what was that in their hands? They replied, 'We are Slavs and we live along the Western Seas (Adriatic). We play Tambura because in our country there is no iron and we live in peace. We do not know the meaning of war bugles.'"

In the U.S. today, tamburitza music is alive and thriving. In fact, it is claimed by some to be the single most prevalent ethnic instrument transplanted to America from a foreign land. Visit <http://www.larkinam.com>



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 c/o John Daly  
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