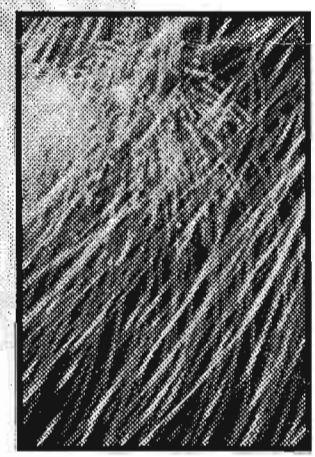
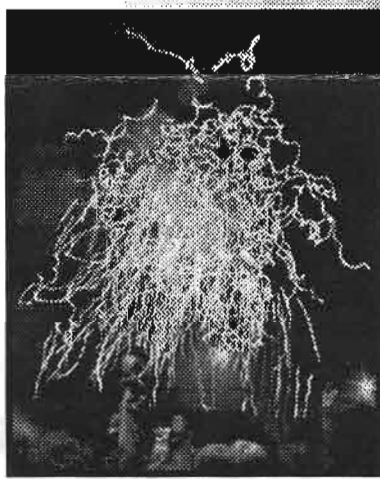
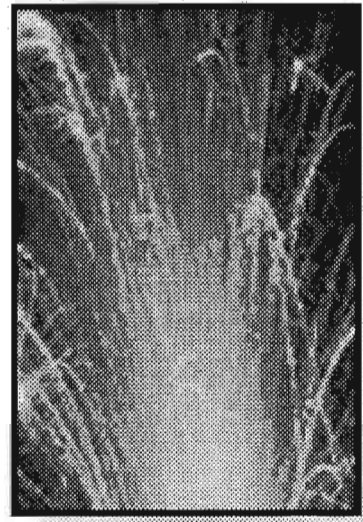


Happy
New Year!



FLORIDA FOLK DANCER



January 1998



Upcoming Events

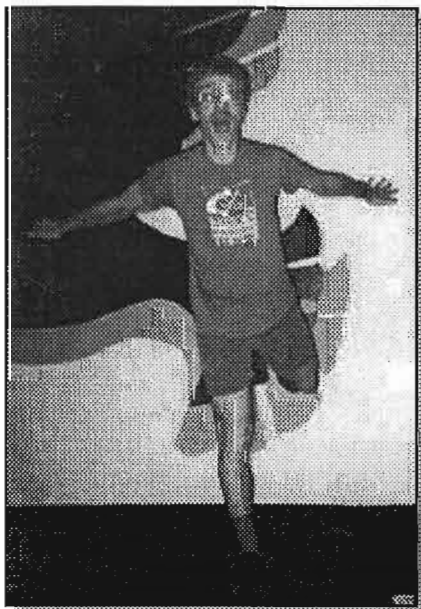
January 4: Tamburitzans of Duquesne University. Miller Intermediate School Auditorium, Crescent City. Adults \$10, Student/Child \$5.00, 3 pm.

January 18: Sahnobar Dance Ensemble appearing in an evening of classical Middle Eastern Dance, Thomas Center, Gainesville. Advance tickets \$6 at Book Gallery West (352) 371-1234 and Omni Books (352) 375-3755, \$8 at the door, 8 pm. For more info sahnobar@aol.com or <http://members.aol.com/sahnobar/>

January 30: Irish Ceili with live music, Friends of Reily. Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 2850 75th St., W. Bradenton. 7pm-9pm, \$5 or \$15 per family. (941) 747-3275 or JPowers974@aol.com

February 7-8: Sahnobar Dance Ensemble performs at the Hogtown Medieval Fair, Gainesville.

February 13-16: President's Day Weekend Dance Camp. SIGN UP NOW! Flier enclosed. See you there!!!!!!



David Skidmore at SPIFFS Center posing in the Italian statue position that was part of one of the dances he taught us.

From the Hoppity, Hop, Skiing President

Dear Fellow FFDC Members:

Happy New Year 1998! I refuse to waller in last years should of's, could of's and what if's. I do NOT live on "someday isle (I'll)". I fell way short of anyone's (especially my own) expectations of me, I always do and I always will. As I reflect on last year I, instead, think of all the fun, new people, rich & renewed relationships I experienced, it was GREAT!!! I eagerly look forward to all that the new year has to bring. I plan on, again, enriching my life by enjoying as much international dance as I can. Life is too short not to. I'll do my best this year to make international dance as available and enjoyable for as many others as I can.

Enjoy each new day, friend and dance as a celebrated blessing. I'll see ya on the dance floor.

jenneine

Cultural Dance Club of VCC and Orlando International FDC

We had an exciting December. We started out the month with a joint venture of dancers from the two groups performing in Country Holiday Jambouree at Valencia Community College on December 5,6,& 7. Annette Brand, who was visiting from Canada, Palmira Mora-Valls, Joe and Lucy Birkemeir, MaryElla Collins, two male students and I performed Cotton-Eyed Joe. The show featured talented students, our dancing group, and the Black Mountain Cloggers from Auburndale. The cloggers were great including a little one about 3 years old!

On December 17, there was a potluck and holiday party at our house. We had nearly 30 people attend. We had so many people that I wish we ad made the dance hall larger. It is still under construction but we danced in there anyway. Plans call for a deck extended out from the large opening and front door. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. We hope to see everyone at camp.

Pat Henderson

SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS

I've been delinquent regarding our activities and have some catching up to do. A small group of us did an Octoberfest demonstration at the Senior Friendship Center. Jim Latch of the Tampa group and Bob Rumsey from the Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers gave us a hand (and some feet too) for this performance. All decked out in their lederhosen they danced Kreuz Koenig, Zillertaler Laender, etc. to a very receptive audience in the dining room at the Center. My what a multi-talented group!

The Grapeviners had a heart-warming time at Arlene Pearlman's house warming fete. She realized that most of us only know each other as folk dancers. We hardly know anything about each other, because we're constantly dancing. Some of us hardly miss a dance on Wednesday nights except for me (yak, yak!) She asked us to break up into small groups. Our assignment was to find out three new things about each one of us that we never knew before. Then report back to the whole group. This was oftentimes hilarious. By the way we must commend Arlene regarding her job as publicity chairwoman. She's spreading the word regarding our group in quite a number of publications. Thanks for doing such a great job.

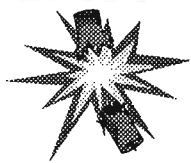
Forty revelers were at our holiday party including Andy Pollock from Tampa. Those who are balmy about Balkan told me they especially enjoyed his leading of Bicak and other Balkan numbers. I was also told that Ann Kessler had a well-balanced program and as usual had a flair for making the evening very festive. Sorry I had to miss such a swell soiree!

Ann Paige

South Brevard International Dancers

We observed the holidays with several parties. First a Christmas Party the Friday before Christmas, then a "Leftovers Party" on the Friday after. On the day after New Years, we'll be content with just a dance party. Melbourne Village, a small homesteading community on the outskirts of Melbourne, has an annual Christmas Dinner for the community. Since one of our members lives in the Village, we were asked to do a brief performance after the Dinner. We chose a program of English Country dances which was surprisingly well received.

John Daly



NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

by Karen Boon von Ochssée

CULTURE
CORNER

It seems that since our earliest beginnings, humans have celebrated a new beginning on an annual basis. In our ancient history the new year used to begin at the end of Winter and start in Spring.

In Tibet, the first day of the month of either February or March begins celebrations all over the country. Places of worship such as monasteries and home chapels are visited at dawn where special offerings are made to the dieties. Folk dances and songs are danced by the monks. These dances are full of color, joy and simplicity. In these dances like the Gar and 'cham the monks reenact the behavior, attitudes and gestures of the dieties.

The Chinese New Year takes place sometime between January and February 20. The celebration does not occur on the same day each year because it is based on their lunar calendar. The new moon marks the beginning of the month. Each year is named after an animal; 1998 is the year of the Tiger. The celebrations continue for fourteen days. The most popular of the fun is the lion dance, full of energy and movement. During the dance there is lots of noise from fire crackers, drums and cymbals. All this noise frightens away evil.

Ancient Hawaiian culture celebrated, and still does, Makahiki. This celebration begins in October and lasts for three to four months. The Hawaiians knew this time was near when the skies grew dark and the constellation, Makali'i was on the horizon. This was a time of rest and peace, no work or warring was allowed to go on. A procession travels around the island clockwise and stops at designated places. At these stops there would be games, wrestling and boxing. On the twenty-fifth day other activities occurred, such as: hula sledding, rolling the maika stone, running races, sliding javelins, many other games and of course hula dancing.



WHERE TO DANCE IN FLORIDA

Bellview

(Scottish Dancing Lessons) Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 pm, free, men's kilts not required, Rick Swinn (352) 347-2873.

Clearwater

(International) Every other Monday @ Clearwater Rec. Center. 7:15-9pm, \$3.50, Dances for all levels. Ann Kessler (813) 446-8479. (Meets October through May).

Daytona Beach

(Athenian Folk Dancers) Mondays, 7:30pm, Steve Photiades (904) 788-2749.

Deland

(International) First and Second Tuesday, 6-8pm @ Deland Library, 130 E. Howry. Joan or Wally Washington (904) 738-4391. No charge. Does not meet in summer.

Gainesville

(University of Florida International Folk Dancers) Fridays, 8:15pm-11pm, John Ward (352) 376-0224.

Margate

(International/Israeli) Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1-3:30pm both days. Does not meet in summer. Wed. group starts after Nov., Sat. group starts after Labor Day. Ira Weisburd (561) 393-8895.

Melbourne

(South Brevard International Dancers) Fridays, 7-10 pm, John Daly (407) 951-9523, drop by and visit.

(Contra) Every second Saturday, contact same as above.

(Scottish Country) Mondays, 7pm, Cattie Condran Gelst (407) 727-7752.

Orlando/Maitland

(Israeli) Mondays, 7-8 teaching, 8-10 requests, Debbie Meitin (407) 788-7277.

(International) Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Valencia Comm. College. Not meeting July or August. Bobby Quibodeaux (407) 275-6247 or bobbyquibodeaux@worldnet.att.net.

Pembroke Pines

(International/Israeli) First Monday of month, 7:30-9:30pm, Nov. to April @ Fletcher Park Rec. Hall, 7850 Johnson St., East of the Univ. Elaine Hendricks (954) 435-0827.

Pensacola

(International) Second Saturday, 7-10pm, Georgeanna Presnell (904) 492-3956.

(Scottish Country) Tuesdays, 7-9pm, Richard Walker (904) 477-7136.

Port Orange

(Port Orange Folk Dancers) Second Wednesday, 7:30pm, Julius Horvath (904) 252-5738.

Sarasota

(Grapevine International Folk Dancers) Wednesdays, 7 pm, (941) 351-6281.

(Scottish Country Dancers) Thursdays, 7:30 pm, Gladys Weidorn (941) 485-7488 or Kay Callinan (941) 924-0293.

St. Petersburg

The following all take place at SPIFFS Center, 2201 1st Ave. No., (813) 327-7999.

(Irish Step) Wednesdays, 7 pm.

(Italian Folk) Mondays, 8 pm.

(Scottish Country) Wednesdays, 7pm.

(Scottish Highland) Tuesdays, 6 pm.

(SPICE, Children's Folk) Thursdays, 5:30 pm.

(SPIFFS International Folk Ensemble) Thursdays, 7-9 pm, Karen Boon von Ochssée (813) 864-3427 or sunray101@aol.com.

Tallahassee

(International) First and third Fridays, call before arriving, Pat Pieratte (904) 878-1560

Tampa

(Scandinavian) Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Kate Jackson Rec. Ctr. (813) 259-1608. Call Judith (813) 254-3359 or

(judithbalzan@juno.com). No summers, resumes September.

(International) Fridays, 8pm. Andy Pollock (813) 882-4472.

(Israeli) Tuesdays, 7:45pm, call before arriving, Andi Kapplin (813) 985-5611.

Titusville

(Easy International) Thursdays, 2:30pm, George Senyk (407) 636-2209.

(Scottish Country) Fridays, 7pm, no contact. Does not meet on holidays or the summer.

Florida Folk Dance Council
c/o John Daly
779 Acacia Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32904



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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.

Membership/Subscribing:

The subscription year runs from March 15 to March 14 of each year. Discounts are available for mid-year subscriptions. As a member/subscriber you are entitled to receive the monthly newsletter, workshop discounts and free flyer and listing placement in the newsletter. To become a member/subscriber:

Send \$6.00 for remainder of year to:

Jack Seltzer, Treasurer
Florida Folk Dancer
5805 S.W. 89th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32608

Please print your full name, address, state, zip code, phone number and e-mail address.

Submissions:

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. All reviews, articles, news, flyers, listings, etc. should be sent to:

John Daly, Co-Editor
Florida Folk Dancer
779 Acacia Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32904 or
E-Mail: jdaly@palmnet.net

Advertising and Event Listings:

We are happy to list upcoming events for our subscribers. 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 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" x 3.5")	\$ 5.00
Quarter Page (3.75" x 5")	\$ 7.50
Half Page (3.75" x 10.5 or 8" x 5")	\$15.00
Full Page (8" x 10.5")	\$30.00

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

Send your ad and check to:
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