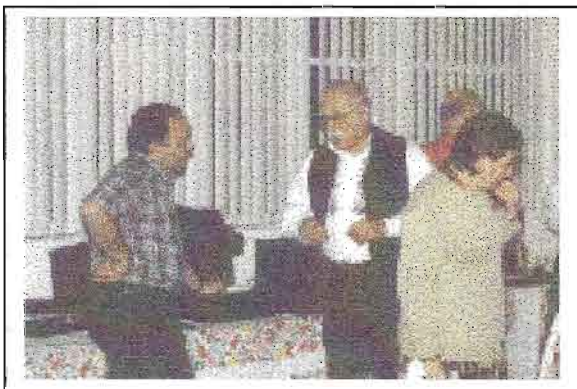
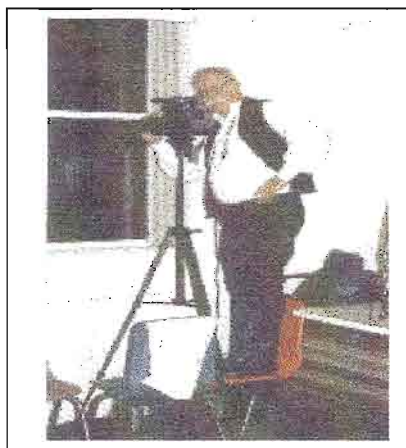


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Florida Folk Dancer

May 1999

Scenes from Camp 99



Spring Fling

About 50 dancers gathered for Spring Fling on Saturday May 8 in Port Orange Florida.

Officers

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The Grapeviners of Sarasota

"This is Bogdana calling. We'd like to thank you for inviting us to the concert. We enjoyed it immensely."

This message was on my answering machine several days after the New College Slavic Vocal Ensemble performed at my house on Saturday evening, February 6th. Bogdana and her sister Ivanka are Bulgarian and dance with the Grapeviners. They felt right at home in our village because 9 of the 16 selections at the concert were Bulgarian. The others were Macedonian, Bosnian, and Russian.

Continued on next page



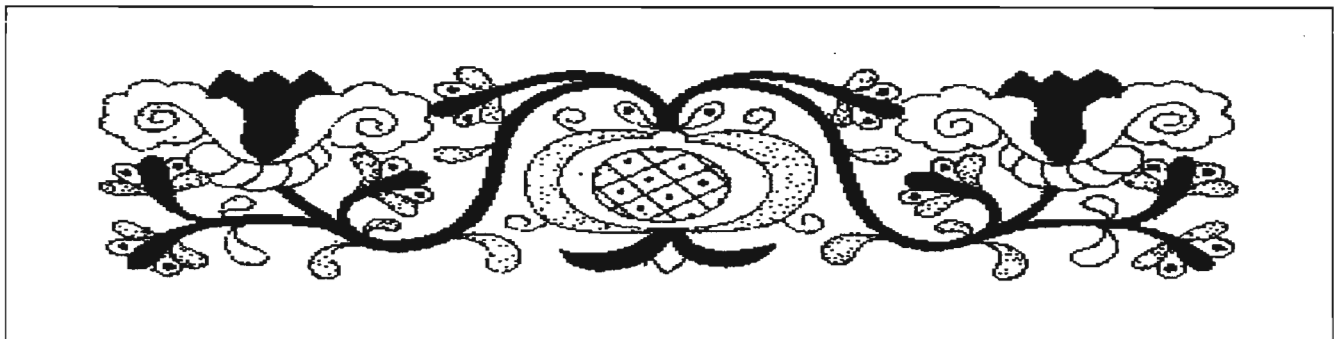
Grapeviners continued

The ensemble was formed in 1993 by a visiting New College Russian professor, Laura Olsen. It is now directed by Erica Quin-Easter. Most of the chorus members do not have a slavic background. They just love the music. Much of their repertoire is unarranged folk music from village and city traditions ranging from lively dance songs to ritual songs for weddings, harvests, etc. Former chorus members, through a grant from New College and supportive members of the Sarasota community, traveled to Bulgaria to make records of the native Bulgarian music. They stayed in the homes of Bulgarian "grandmothers", women who learned to sing about the traditions of their village from their grandmothers, who were ever so eager to pass on their knowledge. The funds from this concert will be used for the ensemble to travel to Bulgaria. The students were happy to have met Bogdana and Ivanka, who will share their knowledge of Bulgaria and its culture with them.

The concert was followed by a slavic sing-along, which included Ajde Jano, Jovano Jovanke, and Vranjanka. Afterwards the students taught the Grapeviners "Mome Malka Mome." In turn Ann Kessler, all decked out in her native Bulgarian costume, and Marie Millet led the students in Bulgarian dances in the repertoire of the Grapeviners. Whoops, I mustn't forget the Tampa connection represented by Terry Abrahams and Andy Pollack. They really added greatly to the festivities of this Balkan Blast. So glad you were able to join us!

Thanks to everyone who brought such delicious munchies. Bogdana and Ivanka made scrumptious authentic Bulgarian Banizas (turnovers) filled with feta, cottage cheese and egg whites. Thanks, Ann Kessler for the lovely photos of this event. Besides the chorus members, many Grapeviners wore lovely costumes. Even Lou Page took his Bulgarian costume out of moth balls and managed to squeeze into it. It seems to have "shrunk" since he bought it off the back of Atanas Kolarovsky 30 years ago. We all enjoyed the evening immensely and should do this more often.

Ann Paige



Camelot and International Folk Dancing

What does international folk dancing have to do with Camelot? Recently, my daughter was in the high school orchestra for Camelot. At the end, when Camelot is crumbling, King Arthur comes across a young boy who is looking for the Knights of the Round Table. He has heard of the greatness of Camelot and wants to be a part of it. The king breaks into the theme song of Camelot to inspire the boy to pursue his dream. I was reminded of Camelot when a boy from Romania talked to us about our dancing at the Greek Festival. He was so excited to find out that we knew Romanian dances! He took one of our club cards and then came back for a second one. We hope to see him and his friends/family at our group. This is our mission if we want to see international folk dancing survive into the 21st century--reach the young any way that you can! Our dancing will be the "Camelot" of the future.

Pat Henderson

Florida FolkDancer

The Florida FolkDancer is a monthly publication of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc, a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to further knowledge, performance, and recreational enjoyment of International Folk Dance.

President: John Daly
779 Acacia Ave.
Melbourne Village, FL
32904
407-951-9623

Vice-President: Bernice Roth
Treasurer: Willa Davidsohn
Secretary: Bernice Roth

Please send all submissions to:
Editor: Barbara Daly
e-mail in plain text is very helpful:
jdaly@palmnet.net

Written material:
779 Acacia Ave.
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

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Sarasota

Mother Nature smiled on the 6th Annual Sarasota Games and Heritage Festival on February 26th held at the Sarasota Fairgrounds. The Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers with Cubby Whitehead demonstrated under the tent and enjoyed enthusiastic audience participation. In one time interval the Irish Step Dancers used our platform for their performance. This gave us "ringside" seats for their spirited specialized dancing. Our Scottish tapes served well when lack of a power source made it impossible to use their musical equipment.

Our group has expanded these months with our "snowbird dancers." We are also happy to welcome five beginning dancers to our group. At this time, we are awaiting the return of Carol and Jim Chisholm. This winter they have substituted their usual winter stay at Rouatan Island off of Honduras. They have been busy helping their daughter, son-in-law and grandchild get settled in their new home there. A number of our dancers attended the Dunedin mini-weekend February 19th and 20th. There was a Friday Welcome Dance, Saturday Workshop and a Saturday night Ball. A fun weekend!

We are now learning some of the more intricate dances that are part of the Friday night Welcome Dance and The Saturday night Ball at the Spring Fling in Titusville. This is sponsored by the Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers. We look forward to this special weekend for great dancing and fine fellowship. The "frosting on the cake" is the sumptuous brunch hosted by the Drs. Swan at their charming home on the river. Beginning the first of April, we are sad to say "good-bye" to many of our winter visitors who start to leave as the winter season ends. Gladys Wiedorn-
Secretary Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers

Orlando Israeli Folk Dancers - JCC of Greater Orlando

During the weekend of April 17 and 18, we hosted our 12th annual Israeli Dance Workshop. Our guest teacher this year was Danny Uziel, a well-known and well-loved dance expert, who lives in New York. Danny taught us some of the more popular dances on the scene today. We were also very lucky to have Ruth Goodman as a surprise guest as well. Ruth and Danny lead the very popular Wednesday night Israeli Dance session at the 92nd Street YMHA in Manhattan.

In addition to a great turnout from our Orlando dancers, it was wonderful to see our fellow dancers from Jacksonville, Melbourne, South Florida, Sarasota, Tampa, Clearwater and Largo (sorry if I missed any cities). We also welcomed Ruthy Slann from Clemson, SC, Susan Pease from Atlanta and three dancers who happened to be in Orlando for business meetings that weekend - from California, Detroit and Chicago. It was also great to see Annette Brand, here from Ottawa. She plans her trips to Orlando around the local dance events!

Thanks to the Orlando dancers for preparing a great potluck dinner on Sunday and for housing out-of-towners. We will be dancing all summer at 7:15 PM on Mondays at the JCC of Greater Orlando. Please join us!!!
Debbie Dorsky Meitin

Orlando International Folk Dance Club

It has been awhile since I have reported on our group. We are dancing through May and June at Valencia Community College, East Campus, on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. Call us at 407-275-6247 if you need directions or even a place to stay overnight! I heard that a lot of groups have gone on hiatus for the summer, so come join us.

The club news: Bobby and I and our two teenagers spent Spring Break skiing Winter Park, Colorado. It was nice to get away for awhile. Fred and Juanita Schockey went on a Caribbean Cruise and then stopped by the Melbourne Greek Festival on their way home. Orlando had a small contingency there which I believe is the best Greek Festival in the state! Bobby and I, Joy Herndon, Ellie Hall and Juanita Schockey attended the Camp Review hosted by our new Council President! It was a great idea and solidified several of the dances. Our Israeli dance group hosted a workshop on April 17-18 with Danny Uziel along with Ruth Goodman. We learned some great dances which you will see at Spring Fling! On April 23, Joe and Lucy Burkemeier, Ann Robinson, Palmira Mora-Valls, and I entertained for Fine Arts Day at the elementary school that my children attended (many years ago!). The students were very impressed with our dancing and our spirit. On May 1, over 10 of us enjoyed the local Greek Festival. The band played a medley of Syrtos which lasted at least 30 minutes! We enjoyed a day of temperatures less than 70 (record low!). We look forward to seeing everyone at Spring Fling!

Pat Henderson

Survey Results

The results of the survey on Camp are coming in. I want to thank all those who have taken the time to share their thoughts. And of course there's still time to add your two cents if you haven't already.

I'll do a more complete summary next month after everybody who wants to respond has had a chance. The first returns were heavily in favor of Balkan, non couple dances. A few later arrivals have been more receptive to some mix of couple dances.

There have been mixed results on the subject of live music vs recorded music. A safe consensus is that both are desirable in their place. One of the pleasures of live music which I enjoy most is the freedom of the band to play as long as they want and to improvise some with the arrangement. But it was these two aspects which seemed to draw the most criticism. Many people like the familiar tune and choreography of a dance, and don't want it to go on too long.

Perhaps the best conclusion to draw from this right now is that International Dancers are a very co-operative group of people. With so many diverse interests, we still manage to come together and support one another. Although I have a feeling that woe would betide the dance organizer who didn't manage to provide a good programming balance.

More next month.

John Daly

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