

Florida Folk Dancer

June, 2001

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

Hi - I'm Terry the Treasurer, born in Milwaukee, moved to Colorado as a baby, to Illinois by 4th grade, daughter of a college professor dad (also a professional violinist), and a secretary mom who was crafty with her hands, clever with her words, and a math whiz. I have one younger very smart sister (a cult expert, and married to a famous Rabbi), Our evenings when young were spent playing string trios, mom and me on the piano, Marcia, cello, dad the violin.

I attended a very special Univ. high school which gave me a good leg up in both academics and interesting activities - synchronized swimming, Gilbert and Sullivan, modern dance, sports - especially fencing. Have continued fencing, minus 2 ten year hiatus, topped by representing the U.S. in Switzerland a couple of years ago at the World Champion-ships.

I also have written, directed, choreo-graphed, costumed etc ad nauseum 10 musical comedies for my synagogue, which I consider my most creative side.

My dancing includes Israeli (I co-lead a group with Andi Kapplin), our Fri nite Int'l, contra dancing, some swing, some ballroom, used to take jazz lessons, tap - anything that I can move to the music with! My better jobs have been in the non-profit community - JCC's, YWCA, MOSI.

I try to be content now with being a legal secretary and have improved that by being only a temp so that I can do my latest passion - travel. This year I'm on my way to Turkey (July 2).

I was married 36 years before my divorce, true mid-westerners - Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Ohio before Tampa (now over 25 years) have 4 grown daughters, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild - and I am definitely not old enough for that! Have been the editor of FFDC I think 5 years, so applaud Jan for her work. Was

pres. 3 years, too - so now I'm taking my turn at Treasurer. Send all checks to me!

"You don't stop dancing from growing old, you grow old from stopping to dance." Author unknown

SARAJOVA GRAPES AND JARS

By Thekla Kahn

What a nice and busy season we had. Dancers from literally all over came and shared the dance floor with us at our Recreation Center. Several dancers also went to Camp and came back with great reports and new dances.

Marie Millett, our guiding spirit forever, decided that she would like to try some new endeavors, handed over the "gavel" to Nancy Wilusz who, with her boundless spirit and love of dance, will continue in Marie's footsteps. Ann Kessler is still our "mentor" every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Come and see us!

Some of our dancers traveled a bit and love to share their experiences. Eva Stunkel spent a day at the 57th Annual New England Folk Festival in Natick, Mass, and reports she was overwhelmed. There were 12 different venues (halls, rooms, stages), with simultaneously occurring activities, dance, music, crafts, lectures, performances, and participatory dancing, some with leaders or teachers from beginners to experienced levels. There were dance sessions for English & Scottish country contra, Balkan, French, Scandinavian, Polish, Gypsy influenced folk, Irish, Square, Bulgarian, Jewish, Waltz & mixed International, most of which had live music. She estimates there must have been a few thousand folk arts enthusiasts in attendance, all having a wonderful time.

Last Sept Marion Hoercher spent the month traveling around China and Tibet with a Square Dance group from Hawaii. Here's her

report: We were entertained in Beijing by a very enthusiastic local square dance club, all dressed in their crinoline petticoats under full skirts and blouses that matched their partners' shirts. The caller used English with a very pronounced Chinese accent!! 'Left' and 'right' were a bit difficult to understand, especially since I hadn't done much square dancing since high school!!! It was great fun and they were all so very friendly and helpful. The next day the group visited the Great Wall and did the planned square dance, which Bob Todd (from Honolulu) called and we supplied the music as we danced. The song was "Show Me The Way to Go Home". We saw many folk groups dancing, some very staged, but in the southeast part of China we were drawn into a folk dance circle at an ethnic park. There were dancers from several mountain villages along with their musicians. In Tibet, besides many scarf dances by the women, the men did some very masculine type dance and ended with 4 men dressed as 2 Yaks doing a dance!!

In Feb. 11 dancers from the Sarasota Scottish Country Dance Group traveled to Honolulu for a workshop weekend and ball. Jack Raines, was the teacher. Jack lived in St Pete a few years ago and used to join us in dance, so we enjoyed seeing him again,. We all enjoyed the beauty of Hawaii, and the wonderful hospitality of our host group. There were 10/11 people from Japan (who Jack had taught several years ago) who also traveled to Hawaii for the weekend. Since we were all picked up from our hotels by the same bus, we quickly made friends with all the Japanese. Jim Chisolm from our group remembered some Japanese that he had learned many years ago while stationed in Japan and made great use of it. The dinner and ball were very elegant and most enjoyable. The next night we were all invited to a Cheildh at someone's home up in the mts outside of Honolulu. What fun!! Besides each group doing some sort of entertainment, we also had a true Hawaiian meal - poi - and all. Plus the view from up there was fantastic.

PWORLD JN JN *TAMPA*

(I kinda like this name) By Terry Abrahams
Wasn't Jan's last issue great! As Martha Stewart would say, this is a good thing.

As for Tampa, Judith and Ernesto are once again the wandering Jews - oops - that's Andi and I. J and E however, were in Atlanta visiting their son and were in Washington, D.C., at Loretta Kelly's (well-known hardinger fiddler) Over 50 birthday party, attended by lots and lots of people, taking place on two full floors with different bands every 30 minutes. Quite spectacular. They are going to Spain at the end of the month for a wedding and will stop in France for 3 days. They do know how to get around! Sometimes they even visit us!!!

Andi is preparing for a couple of things, including an Alaskan cruise and a few weeks in Vancouver this summer. Andi's daughter is getting married June 30th! She has been visiting Sarasota on Wednesdays, and they reciprocated by coming to our Israeli group recently, which was terrific!

I am going to Hartford to my second cousin's college graduation, will loll around NY ten days, and then go to the big NY Israeli Dance 50 years in the US celebration. It should be exciting with many of the very first choreographers in attendance, performances, dancing. The brochure looks great - if it's half as good as it looks, it should be a good time. Following that I hit Turkey (see my bio) for 3 weeks in July. Then the excitement ends.

Ursula is also getting ready to travel to ?. I'm always confused where we all are - maybe each of us should write our own travelogues. How about it Tampa? Why am I the only one to send in "stuff?"

Kathie Aagaard had knee surgery on the 1st of May and is doing ok as of this writing, (one week later) and in fact, is playing a concert this weekend. Many of us attend the symphony here, and are always proud to know both Kathie and Ken (Kwo) on an

intimate (no, not that intimate) basis. Kathie and her group, Merriweather, continue to grow more popular - last month they toured Georgia, N.C. and Tennessee (I think).

When we're not all gadding about, we each have our little specialties - Andy Pollock is becoming an amazing swing dancer, he's taking a break from Irish at the moment; Bill Schwarz does swing and country; Maria Pasetti's still into her Spanish dancing; Andi Kapplin, clogging since her retirement, many of us contra, of course. We have a tiny performance coming up, and some are going to White Springs.

Well, what I thought was going to be a short article has lengthened - as we all know, I never stop talking. But here goes. Gula gula (bye in Turkish - yes, once again I'm listening to tapes in the car!)

JACKSONVILLE

By Pearl Roth

Yes there is folk dancing in Jacksonville, but you have to look for it.

On Mondays from about 7 – 9, advanced Israeli Dancing and some Beginning is taught at the JCA Center.

On Wednesday my International Folk Dance Study group meets, 7:30-9 pm, for International and Jewish Dances, beginner and walking wounded level. The topics for May and June are of course Wedding and Greek dances. I can be reached at 904-387-5736 or pearldances@juno.com so feel free to call or e-mail me if you ever come to Jacksonville.

Here is my report on the GREEK FESTIVAL, MAY 10-12, 2001.

We had a wonderful time! The \$3 admission fee was good for everyday so we kept our tickets from Thursday's dinner and returned on Saturday night at no extra charge.

The food was wonderful mouth watering Greek food, like Chicken Shish-Kebab, Greek salad, Greek rice, Spanakopita, Baklava, Moussaka, Gyros, stuffed grape leaves, etc... Of course we had to buy the Baklava - they were selling it 2 boxes for the

price of one. Who could turn down such a sweet bargain? Not I.

Both days we enjoyed watching the Parea Greek Dance Group perform and clapped and cried, "Hopa!" I thought they did a beautiful job and each performance was unique and entertaining. They meet here in Jacksonville - practice is held on Tuesdays at St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church Hall. The young dancers practice from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The adult group is hibernating for now, but hopefully will be back in the near future! Anyone who would like to join is invited to attend. I did get the phone number of one of the adult teachers; she is Serbian and has a small Serbian group as well. When more information is available I will let you know.

Before and after the performers they had a disc jockey Yanni Stathakis and a Greek band "Orpheus" so there was continuous Greek music and dancing. The best included the old man who danced with a glass on his head, haunting melodies of the Greek sponge divers' dance and some of the trick steps of the men showing off. One difference I noted, compared to Chicago where I attended Greek Festivals in my youth: There was a much greater variety of dances being done here in Jacksonville than I had ever seen anywhere else. When I danced I found myself learning new steps beyond the ones that I already knew.

Between the Dolmades, Souvlakia, the dancing, the music and the Baklava, we came home very happy folk dancers.

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

By: Pat Henderson

The survey votes are in and I compiled a separate report of the raw data elsewhere in this newsletter. It is a very difficult decision since the votes were not decisive on the weekend of camp.

Out of the 26 respondents, there were two more votes to keep camp the weekend after President's Day. With over 100 members, the voice of only a few (25%) is being heard.

I have to go with my own instinct and side with the majority votes and plan camp the weekend after President's Day.

John Daly reported fewer overall complaints this year than last year. With the race in Daytona becoming bigger and bigger every year, I believe that we are forced to change weekends as long as we have camp in Silver Springs. Motels have more availability and traffic is lighter than on the holiday weekend. We will also have greater availability of instructors since some may have commitments elsewhere on the holiday weekend. I apologize for the inconvenience of the few people who preferred the holiday weekend. I am a working person and I have to take vacation on Monday either weekend.

I received several letters with recommendations in addition to those for teachers/countries. One strong concern was to think about not having an instructor for couple dancing. The number of men coming to camp seems less and less every year. This was the first camp in a long time that the number of people attending the sessions was constant. I have ideas to choose instructors that teach both couple and non-couple dances and maybe have 1 session out of 4 each day devoted to couple dances. We could also have an instructor like George Fogg that might attract some of the large contra crowd and thus increase the men in attendance (with the proper advertising, of course!).

I really appreciate all the suggestions for teachers/countries. There was really a wide range. I reported the countries mentioned more than once. As the summer progresses, I will start to contact some of these instructors. If anyone goes to a workshop over the summer and wants to recommend a particular instructor, please let me know. I am completely open at this time. I may go with the countries/teachers in the report or I may go with something else. That's the benefit and the solemn duty of being PRESIDENT! Until next month--happy dancing!

FAD&R&P&J&N
CAMP 2001 SURVEY

By: Pat Henderson

1. No. of respondents: 26 (23 came to camp and three did not)
2. No. who prefer camp on Pres.'s Weekend: 6
3. No. who prefer camp the weekend after President's Weekend: 8
4. No. who'd come either weekend: 12
5. Dance teacher/country preference: There were 37 preferences listed either by country or teacher. Those that received more than one vote are: George Fogg (English country), Theodor Vasilescu (Romanian), Steve Kotansky (Balkan), Greek (1 for Joe Graziosi), Turkey (1 for Ahmet), Israeli, Spain, Sandy Starkman (International), Serbian (1 for Bata), and Nickolaas Hilferink.
6. Other comments include:
 - a. have check-in earlier
 - b. have less Israeli and partner dances in evening programs
 - c. keep culture corner in the afternoon
 - d. have vendors come to camp
 - e. continue dancing while snacks are available
 - f. have healthier food--more chicken and use Romaine lettuce
 - g. improve drinks
 - h. consider having one teacher instead of two, possibly eliminating a teacher for partner dances

PALM COAST

By Jan Lathi

Are you aware that Amar Lathi is preparing for the long course national swimming championships to be held in August in Seattle? Amar is a Masters swimmer, still competing with others all over the world in his age group (65-69). The recipient of multiple medals and rated among the top ten in the nation in many swimming events, he is currently preparing for the long course Dixie

Zone Regional championship meet to be held in Sarasota (June 23-24), a National Senior Olympics meet in Baton Rouge, LA, in July, and finally, the Long Course Championships in Seattle in August. He refines his strokes constantly, trying different techniques which may knock a second or two off his times, and builds up endurance by swimming thousands of yards regularly. No wonder he is often too tired to dance! Let's all wish him well in his upcoming races!

Pat & Al Lysin (California)

Thank you to these nice folks who attended our last camp session and took the time to write the following letter to the Soc. of Folk Dance Historians. The letter was included in the "Report To Members", March 31, 2001. Incidentally, the Society's Folk Dance Phone Book and Group Directory has been mailed to members. For those of you not familiar with this directory, ask your group leader to consider purchasing one to be shared – it is a great source for folk dance contacts when you are traveling abroad or at home and also includes some interesting folk dance demographics and observations. And, if you need instructions for a dance, Ron Houston will research the archives for information for society members. Email Ron for further information: sofdh@juno.com & sofdh@mindspring.com.

"The Florida Folk Dance Council held their Presidents' Day camp February 23 to 26, 2001. People were very friendly and surprised that anyone would come from as far as California to attend their camp! We pointed out that people come from all over the world for our Stockton, California summer folk dance camp.

The evening recreational dancing was fun, because most of the dances were familiar and several were our favorites. Folk Dancing is very unifying – like finding someone who speaks your native language.

We enjoyed the institute sessions presented by Dennis Boxell and Olga Sandolowich. We had attended some

workshops by Dennis in the past, but met Olga for the first time. Many steps and styles were familiar, but the dances they presented were mainly new (to us) material. Dennis presented dances from Serbia and North Greece, and Olga presented Macedonian dances."

ORLANDO NEWS

By: Pat Henderson

Our club passed a milestone in April--we danced to computer files for the first time. Bobby received a laptop as a 25th anniversary present from me and we have a few hundred Israeli dances in MP3 files on a CD. On April 25, we played the Israeli requests from the computer through our regular sound system. Now all we have to do is convert our minidisks to MP3 files and we will be in the 21st century.

On April 28, several members of our club were joined by three students, who are members of the Cultural Dance Society at Valencia Community College, for a performance for a local middle school. The middle school students were in a dance class so we did teach them a dance after our show. In If you are interested, the Cultural Dance Society now has a web page at: www.bose.valencia.cc.fl.us/cds/index.html.

Our world travelers, Deane Jordan and Kelly Fagan, returned from Greece on May 7. They had a wonderful time but had trouble finding enough Greek dancing to suit them. They will write an article with the highlights of their trip later.

OUR CLUB IS 30 AND WE'RE HAVING A PARTY--please see flyer elsewhere in the newsletter for the details. We hope that a lot of you can come!

GAINESVILLE

By Raluca Rosca

Please join the Gainesville group in expressing their sympathy to Jenneine Lambert for the loss of her mother. Mrs. Jeanne Lambert passed away on May 15, in Milton, FL. Jenneine started folkdancing with the Pensacola group, then moved to Gaines-

ville and has become a valued member of the UF group.

Shelley Roode, the student secretary of the Gainesville club, is one of the most enthusiastic new members of our club. I took the liberty to share her message with all the Florida Folk Dance Council readers: Hello Dancers!

This is Shelley writing from home in Coral Springs. On May 15, I had a wonderful experience dancing. There is a group that does Israeli folk dancing every Tuesday in Plantation, and I had a blast last night. There must have been 60-70 people in that gym (their circle stretched from wall to wall). One of the ladies asked me if this was my first time dancing, and I told her I do international folk dancing up at UF. Her reaction was, "They still dance there?! I danced with them 25 years ago!" The next dance started before I could ask her name, but I'm sure I'll see her another time.

The man who teaches the dances, Nissim Ben-Ami, is really great. I had taken a couple classes with him once when I was younger and I remembered him. When I was sitting off to the side once the dances became advanced, Nissim came over to me and asked if this was my first time coming. I told him yes, but I dance with a group at UF. He said he (could) tell I have good rhythm. And he got very excited because his son will be coming to UF next year!

This could be very nice for us because maybe Nissim could come and teach us some dances if he comes to visit his son. He gave me his email address and told me to email him about our group.

In a couple of weeks I'll be leaving to study in Israel for a month. After that I'll be back in Coral Springs, and I can continue learning dances.

I hope you're having a good summer.
Shelley

Trivia Corner

* Can you name two dances we do which are named after mountains?

* Which one of our FFDC members was born in Alaska?

(Answers next issue. Readers, please send in your offerings for this section)

BOOT MAKER DONATING EQUIPMENT

Julius Horvath sends this along:

I received a phone call from Mr. Imre Fazekas, a Hungarian dance boot and shoe maker living near Montreal and active for many years serving the dance community. He had taken over the business from Mr. Biro (Elite Shoes) active in the 60's and 70's. Mr. Fazekas is now retiring and because of ill health has decided to close his business. He would be more than happy to give away his equipment and supplies (along with counselling and advice) to anyone willing to continue this traditional trade. Please pass on this information. Should nobody express interest in the coming weeks, Mr. & Mrs. Fazekas will throw away these supplies! They can be reached by phone at: (450) 452-4931. Thank you.

Yves Moreau

I don't usually pass on sad news like this, but sometimes we need to pause and remember what life is all about. There was a great loss recently in the entertainment world. Larry La Prise, the Detroit native who wrote the song "Hokey Pokey" died last week at 83. It was especially difficult for the family to keep him in the casket. They'd put his left leg in and.....well, you know the rest.

Match of Mixer Dances to country of origin:

Bare Necessities	England
Elvira	USA
Tennessee Wig Walk	USA
Apat Apat	Philippines
Atlantic Mixer	Germany
Das Fenster	Germany
Tant Hesse	South Africa
Jiffy Mixer	USA
Croatian Waltz	Croatia (Yugoslavia)
Patch Tanz	Jewish wedding dance from before the nation of Israel was established, thus no country of origin

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.

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Subscriptions are \$12 per year and includes membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council. The membership year runs from one Annual Camp (usually February) to the next. New members will get membership for \$10 if they opt to receive the newsletter electronically.

Check the following website for further information on folk dancing in Florida: www.folkdance.org

Please note: We plan to include the names, addresses, phone numbers, & email addresses of all Council members this summer. We have received no objections to this inclusion so we plan to go ahead with the inclusion. Also, if any of you receive your newsletter in a damaged state, please let Jan know so we can find out why. Thanks.

Mark Your Calendar:

Greece in the Rockies Folk Dance Conference:
June 21-24, 2001, Calgary, Canada. Info:
<http://uweb.ucsb.edu/~panagako>

Classic Greek Isle Cruise (Dance on the Water with Mel Mann): June 29 - July 6. \$975+.
(510) 526-4033.

Carmiel F. D. Tour of Israel, July 4-19. Contact Ruthy Slann, 864-654-3511.

Orlando Int. Folk Dance Club 30th Anniversary Party, 2-10 PM. See enclosed flyer.

Folkmoot 2001: July 16 – 29, Folkmoot USA,
PO Box 658, Waynesville, NC 28786

Alaska Inside Passage Cruise (Dance on the Water with Mel Mann): July 17-31. \$1796.
(Cruise only). (510) 526-4033.

Kentucky Dance Institute. Stew Shacklette, Sandy Starkman, George Fogg and others. July 22-July 28. \$320 by April 1 (\$10 more per month).

Idaho International Folk Dance Festival Tour:
July 25-Aug. 6 \$1,199. See enclosed flyer.
Contact Ira Weisburd. (561) 393-9193.

Mainewoods Dance Camp 2001: Weekly sessions Aug. 4-Sept. 3, \$460 week, \$260 for Labor Day Weekend. www.erols.com/mainewds
(908) 647-2936.

Labor Day Israeli F. D. Weekend, Aug. 31 – Sept. 3. Ruthy Slann, (864) 654-3511.

Camp Notes Amendments

By Carol McGinn

The following are corrections to the May issue's "Comments from Camp"

DENNIS BOXELL:

1. Do it "the comfortable way."
5. a. "I'm the King - the Alexander the Great type."
- b. "Life is tough, but I can conquer it."
- c. "Follow me, I'm the leader."
- f. "I'm resting."
6. Omit "Arrogance is Balkan."
14. You must be able to HOP to do this dance, etc.
15. Add: Hands up at the end when using 'Pogonisos' music.

Syllabus *ERRATA Camp 2001*
From Carol McGinn

Dennis

1. TIK - Measure 2, Count 2 - is Left foot (not R - right foot)
2. TIK clarification - Measure 5, tempo given as "slow, quick." Steps taken in this measure feel like "slow, slow" tempo, but Dennis explains that 9/16, 5/15, or 7/16 do not divide in half, creating two equal counts. The tempo of 7/16 would yield counts of 4/16 for count 1 and 3/16 for count 2; therefore the "slow, quick" designation is accurate.
3. Sfarlis - Measure 4, Count 5 - "5" should obviously be a "4"
4. Vasil'arhontissa - tempo is "Slow quick Slow" (not Slow quick quick).
5. Vasil'arhontissa - Meas. 2, count 3. Step sideward Right and slightly back onto the Right foot
6. Vasil'arhontissa - tempo at the end of the dance (immediately after the vocal) is "Slow quick quick." The same steps are danced in "W" or "V" hand position.

Olga - clarification

1. Devetorka - Meas. 1, Ct. 4 - Hop on R, step onto L moving Line of Dance/LOD (to the right) [RLOD does not mean Reverse Line of Dance here, though Dennis uses RLOD as "Line of Dance, to the Right" and LLOD as "Line of Dance, to the Left." Perhaps Olga uses RLOD the same way.

*SARASOTA
SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCERS*

By Gladys Weidorn

On the evening of April 8th the Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers had a special dance party to honor Culbreath Whitehead, their former teacher who has temporarily retired. Former dancers and other friends attended this special affair. A plaque was designed and framed featuring the dance Cubby wrote "Crossing the Minch" and a tribute to him in Appreciation of his years of service and toil towards the advancement of folk arts in Florida and especially in Sarasota, the Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers have devised this fancy, heartfelt tribute to Culbreath Whitehead aka "Cubby" with their thanks for keeping Scottish Country Dance alive and well for their enjoyment for so many years 1975-2000. Now that the snowbirds have left and the group is smaller, until October first, we will hold our dances at the home of D. A. and Circe on Jamaica Street.



Dance as if no one is watching. Sing as if no one is listening. Love as if you have never been hurt. - Unknown

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL
FOLK DANCE CLUB

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND ITS

30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2001

2:00PM – 10:00PM

LOCATION: WHIRL & TWIRL CLUB
6949 VENTURE CIRCLE
ORLANDO, FL

Admission: \$3.00

Please bring: Pot luck for dinner
(Microwave available for heating)

Drinks will be furnished by OIFDC

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<http://maps.yahoo.com/>

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First Class



Florida FolkDancer

Membership Form

Florida Folk Dance Council

Membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council keeps you current with regard to dance events and ethnic activities in the state and around the country. If you would like to join the Council for the year (February Camp to the next February Camp), complete the form below for each family:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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