

Florida Folk Dancer

July, 2001

PRESIDENT COLUMN

By: Pat Henderson

How long is 30 years? Thirty years ago, Richard Nixon was president and it had only been two years since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. In 1971, the Orlando International Folk Dance Club was formed in the spring and the Florida Folk Dance Council was formed in the fall. David Digby was instrumental with both groups. He was the founding father of OIFDC by getting a few people who worked at Martin Marietta together to dance. The original group danced at the Unitarian Church in Orlando for several years. David remembers renting and flying a plane to Pinellas County and meeting with Judith Baizan and other group leaders and teachers and formed the Florida Folk Dance Council. They agreed to have workshops but the Folk Dance Camp did not start until many years later. OIFDC is celebrating its 30 years by having a dance party on July 14. See elsewhere in the newsletter for more information. We hosted a 25th anniversary party, and we had about 60 dancers come from all over the state. We hope to see you there!

BOBBY'S RECOVERY

FROM HEART ATTACK AND SURGERY

Bobby had 5-way by-pass surgery in the last week of June after suffering chest pains while in transit by plane from California. During the flight he took plenty of aspirin which probably helped keep the blood flowing through his heart until medical help could be provided. Pat took him from the

plane directly to Orlando Regional Medical Center. As of this printing (July 6) he is

doing well at home with staples removed and the mending process well underway Bobby's home phone: 407-275-6247; address: 9859 Berry Dease Rd., Orlando, FL 32825. The July 14th party is still on – Pat says that Bobby will “walk the first dance”!

BABIAK DANCE ENSEMBLE IN SARASOTA

From Shirley & Dmitri Babiak

Our dancing season this year came to a close with THE FIRST ANNUAL SARASOTA FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE FESTIVAL organized by International Productions and The Babiak Dance Ensemble. They are very talented musicians and dancers and great fun to work with. Then Dmitri and I attended the Diamond Dance Circle Balkan Bash held in College Park, Maryland on Memorial Weekend. Phyllis Diamond and her son, Brandon, had brought dance teachers from Crete--Lefteris Kornarekis, and Romania--Theodore Vasilescu, plus Yves Moreau from Canada and Jerry Helt, contra caller, from Cincinnati. For us the most remarkable part was seeing the Diamonds in action and realizing how much their energy & talent & money have contributed to folk dancing. The Bacchanalia held on Saturday night was incredible: dancers playing their version of ancient Greeks with togas, gold chain belts, torches, hanging grape clusters, wine, hairy legs... Brandon set up a God and Goddess ID Contest that was so inspiring that I find myself checking out the library book BY JOVE which was his source. I have a photo album of pictures I'll bring to the Orlando Celebration.

(This will be a summer of trips. I'm going to the Catskills in New York for a week and a
(Continued on page 3)

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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Deadline: 15th of the month prior to publication

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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

state, please let Jan know so we can find out why.
Thanks.

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 so we plan to go ahead with the inclusion. Also, if any of you receive your newsletter in a damaged

Mark Your Calendar:

Orlando Int. Folk Dance Club 30th Anniversary Party, July 14, 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.

Fall Fling, Nov. 10th, Melbourne.



Send your items for ethnic and dance happenings by sending to the editor by the 15th of the month deadline for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

family wedding; we are both going to Tulsa , OK, for a sister's 80th birthday, then Dmitri goes to Eastern Europe doing research on his autobiography.) Many thanks to our editor for keeping us informed. I had a friend send two photos about the Saturnalia held at the Memorial Weekend Saturnalia of the Diamond Circle to John Daly to be put on the folkdance website. Please check it out!

*J A M P A I S R A E L I
D A N C E R S O N T H E
M O V E !*

By Andi Kapplin
Beginning August 14th Israeli dance sessions will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 13009 Community Campus Drive. We will continue to meet on Tuesday nights but with new hours (7:15 to 10:00). Directions from Veteran's Express-way: take Gunn Hwy Exit. Turn right at bottom of ramp and take the 1st street to the left. From I-275 take Busch Blvd. west (will eventually become Gunn Hwy). Community Campus Dr. is 1 1/2 miles west of Lynn/Anderson Rd. For more information, call Andi at 813-985-5611 or Terry at 813-234-1231.

*M E E T Y O U R
O F F I C E R S*

Jan Lathi is new to Florida, but certainly not to folk dancing. Born in Syracuse, New York, Jan's first dance experience was three years of ballet as a child until a broken ankle interfered. Her next exposure to dance was at the State University of New York at Cortland, where she had to take a quarter semester of "Teaching Folk Dance in the Elementary School". The first dance she learned was *Miserlou*.

During her early years of teaching first grade during the 60s, Jan involved herself

in the Syracuse International Folk Dancers, where she met her husband,

Amar. Her first grade class benefited from learning some of the international dances she had experienced. She shared in teaching dances to the dance group.

Life took the Lathis and their three children to Bridgewater, NJ in 1975 where they danced in several groups: International, Israeli, Contra, and English Country. Jan became the creator and editor of the MFD Grapevine, newsletter for the Morristown Folk Dancers in NJ. She was involved in teaching beginner dances weekly and in presenting intermediate dances from time to time. Their oldest of five granddaughters, Rachael, enjoyed going folk dancing with Grandma Jan in NJ.

The Lathis moved to Florida in July of 1999. Folk dance friend Bob Monahan said "Be sure to look up Szuzi Horvath in Palm Coast", and Herb & Millie Jacobs said "Be sure to get in touch with Hal and Anita Schmetterling in Palm Coast". They did. Is that networking or what?

An only child, Jan has always filled the time with projects such as quilting, sewing, crocheting, knitting, gardening, furniture refinishing, reading, collecting stamps, playing the piano, and of course, dancing. (Save your interesting foreign and domestic stamps for her if you would. Bring them to the next gathering of FL Dancers.) While in NJ, she earned a degree in computer programming during the 80s – it is all obsolete now – that's the way the computer business goes!

She is the current editor of the Florida FolkDancer and is the enthusiastic leader of two folk dance groups: The Palm Coast International Dancers and the Grand Haven Dance Club. Jan is also on the staff of the Grand Haven Newsletter, takes yoga, swims laps with her husband, belongs to a Garden Exchange, takes a hand quilting class, and is a member of the Hi-Fi Investment Club.

*"The rhythms of the dance parallel the rhythms of the heart.
The movements of the group in a circle recreate the sacred unity
of all people." Unknown, submitted by Betty Nehemias*

TOOTLING AND SHARPES GROUPS

By George & Onie Senyk

Contra dancing in Florida is alive, well and kicking report George and Onie Senyk, chairpersons of the contra program at the 47th Florida State Square and round dance convention, held in Lakeland, FL over the memorial weekend. In addition to three evening balls, the days were full of work-shops for introduction to contras for square dancers as well as for more experienced contra dancers. There were also two sessions for the grandpappy of contra dancing, English Country Dancing.

It was a pleasure to see so many dancers on the floor for all the sessions. Contra dancing was also featured by a demonstration by the Sharpes Assembly Contra Group, aided by several dancers from other areas, during the Sunday evening entertainment leading to the change over to next year's convention committee from the Northeast area of Florida. Callers for this event were Onie Senyk and Dennis Ricker. Other contra callers were Jack Taylor, Ed Swan, Fred Minster, Eric Harris, Bob Parkhurst and George Senyk.

Jack and Zonie Taylor were elected to the Florida Square Dance Hall of Fame for their many years of devoted and excellent service to the movement.

TOOTLING IN TAMPA

By Terry Abrahams

I could just alliterate forever...I chose tootling this time to indicate that I just spent a couple of weeks in the NY area,

and one of my many many activities was to attend an Irish Festival, where I bought an Irish flute! I intend to start tootling at any moment, and if nothing else, it isn't nearly as heavy as my accordian! I had two main reasons for being in NY - one was to attend my cousin's graduation from Trinity College in Hartford; the other to attend Horati - the 50th anniversary of Israeli Dance in the U.S. It was awesome! Many old friends from Blue Star attended; Old teachers from the old days, both from Israel and the states were there, (such as Moshiko), all did a lot of teaching; and other workshops included some interesting symposiums - one on Middle Eastern drumming (guess what I'm going to buy on my Turkey trip next month), one amazing Felix Fibrich - the grand old man (age 84) of Jewish Dance, (not Israeli Folk) - worth the entire trip; culminating in performances by many groups (a mini-Carmiel) at the annual Israeli Dance Festival - one group of teens from Mexico that I think even surpassed the Tami's for costumes, choreography and technique. Hoffstra University was a lovely venue, and obviously I'm glad I went - I almost didn't.

I jammed in a bunch of other stuff in between the two activities - the Maury Povitch show (there - I've done it and don't have to do it again); a Jackie Kennedy show at the Art Museum - excellent; The Vagina Monologues at the theatre - more excellent; Israeli dancing at the 92nd St. YMHA; China Town to shop, Little Italy to eat, Brooklyn to see my niece's new apt., Katonah to see my other niece and grandniece; the Catskills - caves, hikes, horseback, Indian and Irish Festivals; Philadelphia to see my aunt - 2 quick bridge games and the horse races (I won 5 bucks!). Now I'm home to rest up for my trip to Turkey.

Others in our group are also very busy; but it seems I'm the only one that writes the articles, so mostly you get my details - like it or not...but: Kathy's knee is coming along, her group, Merriweather is on the

road again - fast being recognized as great; Andi is revving up for her daughter's wedding at the end of the month (Mazelto!) to be followed by a cruise to Alaska and a 3 week stay in Vancouver - perhaps she'll send some details for the next newsletter (!); Ken Kwo is going to teach English in Dolores Hidalgo, Mexico this summer with Global Volunteers as well as or instead of music camp (?); Bill Schwarz took 2nd in a regional bridge tournament (the big guns) last month, and in Orlando he beat 3 pro-teams. (yes, he's good!); Andi, Ursula and I attended a mini-Greek workshop in Sarasota taught by the Sarasota Greek dancers, a nice teacher and lovely teenagers; our performance went well last month - we're so tiny, we don't accept them very often; Judith and Ernesto are in Spain (and 3 days in France) as we speak; Bert and Roseann were in S. Africa; Ursula will go to China, Japan and ??? in September. The summer contra bash is next weekend. And...I think that's it...

I just got my membership list from the National Folk organization - very few Floridians are members. It's a nice magazine they put out and a good group to belong to. I recommend it if you are a joiner. If you need further information, let me know. Maybe Jan will put something in our newsletter about it.

Remember I am the Florida Folk Dance Council treasurer now - send your checks to me!

My latest button will say "If this is the last dance, let's do it backwards!" OK - see you on line!

PALM COAST

By Jan Lathi

The Palm Coast International Dancers and the Grand Haven Dance club are attracting new members all the time, in spite of the fact that many of our "Snow Birds" have flown the coop for awhile.

Recently, GH Dance Club held a "Mixer Session" and did nothing but mixer-type

dances including *Tante Hesse, Croatian Waltz, Patch Tanz, Jiffy Mixer, Elvira, and Tennessee Wig Walk.*

PCIDancers don't get enough footwork on Thursday nights so have been increasing the attendance at GH Dance Club sessions on Wednesday afternoons. That brings the group up to approximately 20 or so on any given Wednesday.

Muriel and Milton Freifeld have recently returned from a visit to Wilkes Barre, PA to see family.

Hal and Anita Schmetterling took a 3 week hiatus for a trip north to Long Island, NY and Michigan where they intended to catch up with some folk dance friends and family there.

Congratulations to Bill and Elaine Holland on taking possession of their new home in Grand Haven on May 31st. The boxes piled high in their garage have not kept them from dancing with us on Wednesdays.

Betty Lake is a fairly new but very consistent member of the GH club and shines brightly as one of our most enthusiastic dancers.

Szuzi Horvath and Minnie Berkowitz have become stars for their almost perfect attendance at both dance groups every week. Way to go, ladies! Runners up for this award include Betty Nehemias, Penny Mazzie, and Rhona Prescott.

Amar Lathi recently won 4 firsts at the Dixie Zone Regional Swim Championship in Sarasota on June 23rd-24th. The first day's events of the meet were canceled due to rain but we were hosted by Eva Stunkel for a guided tour of Sarasota in the rain with a wonderful visit to the Ringling Museum's Baroque display instead.

Trivia Corner

* **Can you name two dances we do which are named after mountains?** *Belasicko Oro* is named after a mountain in Macedonia; *Shar Planina* names the mountain on which an avalanche took three shepherds lives – one of Olga's camp dances, also from Macedonia

* **Which one of our FFDC members was born in Alaska?** That's our president, of course, Pat Henderson

GATORVILLE

By Jenneine Lambert

Hi from Gatorville,

We've been dancing hot and heavy this year. 35 dancers at closing last Friday in good old Norman Gym. Free Sauna included.

We were so thrilled to be able to dance at White Springs 49th Florida Folk Festival on Memorial day weekend. Friday, with the help of 4 impromptu assistants (Julieta, Maria, Mary and Ellen) we taught about 30 kids on center stage, *Trgnala Rumjana*, *Port Said* and *Yaylariar* and of course, the kids love *Zemer Atik*. Special thanks to Mary (St. Petersburg International Children Ensemble = SPICE) for encouraging her SPICE kids to help me out. It eliminated the fear of being out there alone and encouraged other children to come and try dancing. SPICE had just completed their very impressive performance complete with very energetic, physically demanding Cossack steps. They were great!

One woman was overwhelmed when she joined us on stage. She yanked her son alongside her in line for *Port Said* and exclaimed "this is OUR music!" She was so appreciative.

Saturday our whole performance group danced in full costumes for 20 minutes. Rosellen emceed for us, calling one by one: *Sabrali sa Sabrali*, *Delilo*, *Milisimou*, *Rustemul*, *Bavno Oro*, *Sepastia Bar*, *Florica*. It felt so good to yelp that final "HEY !" at the end of *Florica Olteneasca*. Sam is our newest student member and has performed a couple of demonstrations with

us, but he really put forth the effort to make this one...I can't imagine performing at the FL Folk Festival in my first year of dancing; salute. He, John and Toshi gave us THREE MEN. Margaret Tolbert stayed so positive coaching us along, with ever changing choreography. Raluca, Julietta, Kim, Pam and Dea also were so committed practicing all spring.

We saw Bill from Tampa, several from Sarasota, even Nancy & Manny from New Jersey were there. A girl from Winter Haven, Vicki, came up to us after and wants to "learn those dances". I sent her to Pat & Bobby. She was so enthused by the music, very exciting to see.

One festival highlight was seeing and dancing with the Serbian dancers from the Serbian Orthodox Church in Orlando. Their feet flew (being 16-20 surely helped)! We have a great Serbian choreographer right in our own state. Imagine, camp instructors with no airline expenses!

Other highlights were the Flamenco dancers and Martha Horvath's Hungarian embroidery. She had several fantastic costumes.

Camping was also great! Three nights, four days free! We had 5 tents. Next year I'll hang flags for our own little "World Village". It was SO much fun. I woke up Saturday am and was asked, first thing, "want some blueberry pancakes?" Then Rosellen surprised us with steaks and baked potatoes. Next year I'll bring "sommores." Please be thinking NOW, about next year. Maybe your group could submit your own performance (Dmitri!) and / or JOIN US FOR THE 50th!

DOES ANYONE HAVE THE MUSIC TO RAMO RAMO - IT'S WONDERFUL!
Does anyone have the interpretation????

And from Raluca:

If you've missed seeing us, look for 'Florida Folk Festival' in

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~folkstep/workshops.htm>

We have links to pictures and videofiles there.

Isn't it funny how dancing international dance phenomenally creates a "family".

Just the simple act of holding hands, united in rhythm, time, and movement creates such a great bond. It all culminates to make me love life and feel loved by others. Thanks for all your kind thoughts and support following the "passing" of my mother.

In addition, my closest folk dance family here in G'ville gave me a great gift and send off party as I head to Ukraine to provide "Day camp" at an orphanage. T H A N K S for all the love and fun!

Note: The editor, council officers and members all join to wish Raluca the very best in her future endeavors after leaving Gainesville. We appreciate her consistent input for the Florida FolkDancer and her enthusiasm for International Dance activities.

NOTICE FROM

'HOLLANDA'

By David Digby

By popular proclamation, Rang Tang 2001 was "The Loudest Rang Tang Ever". Dancing to Zlatne Uste's music from a CD is one thing, but it's quite another thing to be dancing around Michael Ginsburg's 12-piece brass band and have the horn players turn around and "blow it in your ear". That's really live music! And the dancing was good, too. Ask Jenneine or Juliette (Gainesville) if you want to hear more about it.

I was pleasantly surprised to see Kathy Aagard here in Atlanta recently, and we had a few minutes to catch up on old times back in Tampa. She was playing with the terrific Merriweather contradance band, and played a hambo for us during the break. Mark Polster also drops by to dance with the Monday night group once in a while, as he did recently. Kathy Dudek is still in North Carolina, moved to Brasstown last year for the dancing at John C. Campbell Folk School, and is now (mid June) visiting and performing with her dance group in Merry Olde England.

Among other Tampa dancers who moved to Atlanta, Ginger Haas comes to international dancing now and then, Boni Westover comes to contradance a bit more often than that. Roger

Carrol, who also moved here shortly after I did, got married, bought a house, sold it to buy a boat, he and Joan moved back to Florida, but are now here in Atlanta for a while. (I get vague reports on what they're doing from secret agents that live here.) Damien Baizan, on the other hand, has been seen in a dance hall only when Judith and Ernesto were visiting and coerced him into playing chauffeur after contradancing. (That didn't happen when they were here recently.)

The Atlanta international folk dance community has an updated flyer featuring all three international dance groups. It has (cross your fingers) actual correct information about how to find each one, plus a map on the back. We have only been using the first version a few months when the choice of Saturday nights was changed. Then the Monday night group, which had been dancing at the same place for at least the eleven years since I moved here, got booted out of their hall for remodeling. Just when Christin Whittington had finished listing and mapping these changes, we found the current place. She was so kind as to make one more correction. This is a nicer room, better located and much cheaper than the temporary place, so we hope to stay there a long time. The only unusual stipulation is that at least 50% of our 'members' have to be over 50 – it's a senior citizens center. After taking stock, we decided that's no problem. We'd have to be really inundated with young people to fail the test.

On the other hand, maybe everybody will retire and move away? When Betsy Kroeck's husband retired several years ago, they sold their house and moved to Boulder, CO. (That's when our democratic gang took over her Thursday night group. Sadly, neither she nor Corkie Sharpe, who previously moved to Nashville, TE, have been dancing with the groups in those places, although they visit us here sometimes.) Jenina Kosma has more or less moved to Saratota – we seldom see her here anymore. Gene Minor and his wife have retired and have plans to build a house in Camas, WA, across the Columbia River from Portland, OR. (Her family lives out there, and Dorothy and I hope to schedule some dancing with them whenever we go out there to visit my children and grand-kids.) They already

have a lot and have designed the house. Some other local dancers are planning to retire, or already have, but continue to hang out around Atlanta, at least between sightseeing trips. That includes Jim and Sarah Osborn, who have often spent time in Sarasota when they weren't gallivanting and dancing in exotic foreign places.

As for myself, I am well into my fifth year as a postdoc, and continue to look for a "real job" in molecular genetics, computational biology, computer architecture or some combination thereof. One has to keep tabs on what's available everywhere, but I'd certainly prefer to stick to the Southeast or Northwest. (Most of the jobs are in the other two corners of the country, of course.) There are hundreds of applicants for most open positions, however, and age discrimination is NOT a thing of the past, so I may still be writing "C" programs at Clark Atlanta when Dorothy is ready to retire from the bank! Well, the dancing is good here (3-4 nights a week), her family is here, and we keep busy with the house, so why not? We are going to Greece for two weeks this summer, but don't expect to do much dancing, although our leader is a dancer with a Greek husband.

*TAMMPESTO
PERFORM IN
FLORIDA IN
JANUARY*

The Duquesne University Tamburitzans are scheduled to perform on January 4, 2002 at 7:30 at the Duncan Theater in Lake Worth, Florida. Save the date on your calendar! From their last year's advertisement, "the Tamburitzans is the longest-running live stage show in the United

States. The ensemble was founded in 1937 at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, one of America's brightest cultural spots. Company members come from all corners of the US, Canada, and Eastern Europe, bringing a lifetime of performing experience to the stage. Chosen on the basis of outstanding talent as well as academic achievement, all Tamburitzans are full-time Duquesne University students who perform from August through May, presenting their special brand of entertainment across the country. "

Match the dance to the country:

Alunelul	England
Karapyet	Armenia
Kasapsko	Hungary
Paidushko	Israel
Pata Pata	Serbia
Somogyi Karikazo	Romania
5 Figure Cacak	England
Bare Necessities	Russia
Daronee	Bulgaria
Sapari	So. Africa

(Answers next issue)

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

MAP: Go to Yahoo Maps at --

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

To stay overnight in a dancer's home, call 407-275-6247

Closest motel: Holiday Inn Express 407-282-3900

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Address Service Requested

First Class

Florida Folk Dancer
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: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you want to receive your newsletter by email? _____ If so send only \$10.00 for Membership. Otherwise, send \$12.00 to receive your Florida FolkDancer by regular mail.

Mail to: Florida Folk Dance Council, c/o Henderson, 9859 Berry Dease Road, Orlando, FL 32825