

Florida FolkDancer

July/August, 2002

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Pat Henderson

The Florida Folk Festival was absolutely fantastic this year. Bobby and I have attended many times but this one was my favorite. I coordinated a performance made up of folk dancers from around the state. We danced around noon on Saturday so we had that commitment finished early on. Many of us enjoyed dancing with the Turkish Dance Group from Gainesville and also to some music by Greek musicians. It helped that the temperature was about ten degrees lower than normal. On Saturday evening, a Kleysmer band from Gainesville played on the dance stage and we had about 200 people dancing with our own Terry Abrahams as the leader! It was a very exhilarating experience to see so many people of all ages enjoying themselves dancing. On Sunday, the Gainesville group had an excellent performance with a Balkan theme with an added feature of a tango. There was an international dance workshop after their performance where David Digby, Terry Abrahams and I taught some dances. Jenneine Lambert taught the second half of the workshop that was attended by 60 people. If you did not attend this year, put it on your calendar for Memorial Weekend next year!

Bobby and I attended the Midsummer's Night Ball in Melbourne on June 22. The dancing was fun and the food was fabulous. John Daly and his group did an extraordinary amount of work to host such a great dance party. English Country Dance seems to be the next wave of popular dancing. This may be a way to draw some dancers into international folk dancing. The ball featured the band, Jubilee, and was complete with dance cards. We hope that there is a second annual Midsummer's Night Ball! See more details elsewhere in the newsletter.

The next newsletter will have a complete report on the Folkdance on the Water cruise to Alaska. We heard that there are 50 folkdancers on the

cruise. The cruise is the main reason why there is a double issue of the newsletter for July/August since some principles of the council are cruising.

ORLANDO IFDC

By: Pat Henderson

A few of our group members along with two dancers from the Cultural Dance Society of Valencia Community College performed for a local chapter of AARP on June 25. The students had a great time and did well at their first performance. Ellie Hall and Annette Brand were aboard Mel Mann's Dance on the Water cruise to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in June. They had a great time and returned safely. Ann Robinson attended her annual ceramics camp in North Carolina. We had a 4th of July dance party on July 3 with a covered dish dinner before dance. Although we celebrated being Americans, we had many ethnic dishes including Greek, Philippine, and Middle Eastern. We had over 30 people attend including Carol McGinn and Sheila Balsdon from Melbourne and Claudia Terrence and her husband from Deland. It was a great occasion to end our season of dance. The group will be on hiatus until the first Wednesday of September. We hope that everyone has a safe and joyous summer!

From Arleen Kaufmann (6/28/02):

To Palm Coast from Gainesville: Thanks to all my new friends folk dancing in Flagler and Palm Coast for making me feel so welcome. I have enjoyed dancing with your Tuesday and Thursday groups for the past several weeks.

Happy summer – Happy dancing.
Cheers, Arleen Kaufmann

TAMPA

By Terry Abrahams

Hello from Tampa. We are dead this summer. . . first they kicked us out, presumably to tear down our building; and even though that didn't happen, the new place wasn't ready, so we had nowhere to dance. I haven't been by in awhile, so don't know if the building is down or not, but we finally decided, after one meager try at my (Terry) house, to disband for the summer. We are so small that if anyone is gone, we're goners! And gone are: Andi spending the summer in Vancouver, Caroline and Gary working on their new house, Ursula with a bad ouchy; Judith and Ernesto in and out; Kathy Aagard has been here and there with Merriweather, including NEFFA, which she says is more than phenomenal - we all must try to get there some year; and, finally me - leaving Tuesday for Spain and Portugal. I am also just back from a week at Nationals in South Carolina, where I placed second in Women Veteran's Foil. I am very excited! Now that qualifies me for sure for the World Championships where I will represent the U.S. with 3 other women. As I've mentioned before, the Championships are to be held right here in Tampa over Labor Day weekend. That means I can't go to the Labor Day Dance Camp, which makes me sad; but even though I try to do everything, I can't. I did see some folk dancers on the 4th - I attended a picnic in Clemson, S.C. with Ruthy Slann, and knew lots of her group from the L.D. camp.

I should mention that prior to the building closing, our Israeli group moved to the J.C.C. and so far it has been a good move. We have both a beginners group and advanced now, and on one evening had 19 dancers! Too cool!

And so I close, because I haven't seen anyone to get more news! Hope you are all having a great summer - see you when I get back (August 8). I'll be anxious to hear how the Orlando gang did on the dance cruise.

CONTRA & ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION 2002

By Onie Senyk

The Florida 48th state square and round dance convention was held in Lakeland, FL on Memorial

weekend, May 24th, 25th and 26th. There was great interest in contra dancing and a large hall was supplied for dancing during all the hours for the three days. Attendance was excellent and special features were workshops for square dancers to learn contra and English Country Dance workshops by the Senyks. The convention was attended by 1200 dancers.

The contra hall was staffed by Dennis Ricker – chairman of the contra program, Eric Harris who will be the contra chairman for next year's convention, Bill Donahue, Fred Minster, Ed Swan, Bob Parkhurst, George Senyk, Onie Senyk, and Art Pataky. All the staff are members of contralab and/or the Lloyd Shaw Foundation or CDSS. The growth of contra and English Country Dancing in the State of Florida is noteworthy and many groups function year round on a regular basis.

FLORIDA ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENT

By George and Onie Senyk

The first annual Midsummer's Night Ball was held by the South Brevard English Country Dancers on Saturday, June 22nd and Sunday, June 23rd at the Melbourne Village Hall, Florida. The ball was preceded by an afternoon workshop taught by the five country dance teachers in our group who presented some of the evening ball dances in addition to some very interesting dances. After a break to facilitate changing clothes and preparing for the evening program, a gourmet dinner was served to 64 people. The dinner, catered by two of our members, was one of the highlights of the evening. With the hall decorated with masses of foliage, linen cloths and candles on the tables, with wine and water served by women in period attire, it was a scene from another century.

John Daly, leader of the South Brevard Dancers, opened the ball Saturday evening. Dancers mingled enthusiastically filling out old fashioned ribboned dance cards. Most of the dancers were in costume creating a wondrously sumptuous scene on the dance floor led by our group's teachers and two visiting teachers. The music was by the Jubilee Band from Orange City, Florida. On Sunday morning dancers met for breakfast and a morning workshop which ended at 11:30 A.M.

JACKSONVILLE

By Pearl & Jerry Roth

We had a wonderful time at the Greek Festival which was from June 6 to June 8. I went on Thursday for an early dinner and had a good time looking at the exhibits and dancing to the music. At 4:30 pm, dinner was served and for a very reasonable price, I had a lot of choices of delicious smelling Greek food to chose from. Saturday night, Jerry and I both went and enjoyed the music, dancing and food. I'm still amazed at the variety of Greek dances and steps that the Greek people here in Jacksonville do and perform. They are passing on their knowledge to the next generation and the young people here are very knowledgeable. This is very beautiful to see.

The Parea Greek Dance Group, 3850 Atlantic Blvd, Jacksonville, Fl. 32225, 904-646-3742
Email: assimenios@hotmail.com their web site: www.pareadancers.org if anyone wishes to contact them, this is the most current info I have. I understand that they have lessons for all ages but they do emphasize teaching the young.

My group, the International & Israeli Folkdancers of Jacksonville are currently still meeting in my home on Sun. 7:30 to 9 pm and Wed. 7:30 to 9 pm.

I am doing some more research on dancing here in Jacksonville, FL and I will let you know the details of what I find out about other groups around town.

From Julius Horvath:

I just received my latest catalog from:
Greek Music and Video
25-50 31st Street PO Box 2009
Astoria, New York 11102-0001
1-800-473-3522 www.greekmusic.com

In particular, on page 44 there is offered:
26 Greek Dances and How to do them on 7 videos. price: \$15.98 for 1, three for \$39.98 or all seven for \$89.98. They are:
Roumeli, Morias: kalamantianos, tsamikos, tsakonikos, galamaki.

GVD-101E

Epiros, Thessalia: sirtos sta dio, (pogonisos), koftos, karagouna

GVD-102E

Macedonia, Thrace: Gaida (boys and girls) kori eleni, zonaradiko

GVD-103E

Crete, Pontos: Sousta, pentozalis, tik. kotsaris

GVD-104E

Mikra Asia (Asia Minor): Hassapiko, hassaposerviko, aptalikos, karsilamas

GVD-105E

Aegean, Ionian: Sirtos, ballos, tsirigotikos, roditikos, kerkiraikos

GVD-106E

Laiko Tragoudi (popular): Siraki, zeibekiko, tsifiteli

GVD-107E

Also available: A double CD that will teach you how to dance any major Greek Dance. Included is a 20 page booklet with detailed instructions.

Price \$24.98

Greek Dances and How to do Them. instrumental double CD

GMVCD-107/8

Shipping:

Orders over \$250 receive free shipping

Shipping charges are: \$3.95 plus \$0.99 for each CD and each video.

Example: Shipping for all the above \$3.95 + (9 X \$0.99) = \$12.86

If you wish the videos in the Greek language, change the "E" to "G".

I suggest you request a copy of their catalog...It contains 50 pages of great Greek music and videos. julhorvath@aol.com

From Vonnie Brown:

NFO HONORS DICK CRUM

On May 17, the National Folk Organization of the U.S.A. honored Balkan dance master, Dick Crum, for his lifetime contributions to folk dance. The following poem, written by Vonnie Brown, NFO President, was part of the presentation.

A TRIBUTE TO DICK CRUM

By Vonnie R. Brown

Dick, you scaled the mountain without a stop,
you stuck to your dream and reached the top.
You cast your spell and made your mark,
you are the master and our patriarch!

Your ethics are impeccable, you have what it takes to stay.

You never hustle workshops or annoy in any way.

You have the uncanny ability “to plant and harvest the crops.”

You write and speak with brilliance, your dance notes are always tops.

You never had an ego, cuz you always knew so much.

Humility came natural and was another special touch.

The ultimate professional, a master of your trade, you were always so deserving of much more than you were paid.

Your shoes we call magic and the old floppy hat are visions we have of the man who has “that.”

The way that you move, your body and mind all make you quite sexy and one of a kind.

Dick is known for Balkan, but he does much more. His talents are many and go beyond the dance floor.

He’s fluent in twelve languages plus Minnesotan, he dances the tapitio and even the jota.

His vocabulary is incredible; his IQ is off the charts,

his wit and humor delight us and makes for healthy hearts.

A little known fact, but it is very much the truth, Dick studied Arthur Murray when he was just a youth.

His parents decided he needed some polish and graces

so they enrolled him in class to meet some new faces.

He became proficient in ballroom and does a mean swing,

he cortes and twinkles and does all of those things.

Dick taught us great dances, two hundred or more. He taught us the steps and also the lore.

He taught us the difference between fakelore and folklore

and we came to the conclusion the fake is a bore.

Dick taught us such classics and taught them so well,

we mastered the dances we thought were from hell.

He taught us odd rhythms and wild, weird beats,

He taught us to listen and to have sneaky feet.

He taught us the • uk• e, drmeš, and twizzle, the kerplop, mixed pickles and a whole lot of sizzle.

He taught us the oro, the hora, and pravo, the horo, the kolo and all with much bravo.

Dick’s “Crumisms” are amazing and very funny too,

his methods are so effective as are his clever cues. The characters he created are infamous and fun, we feel like we’re related when all is said and done.

Harold Underfoot, the annoying nerdy one, comes armed with pad and pencil and questions by the ton.

Now Doris Ding Dong is the rather dizzy lass; seems Doris is always in line but never in class.

Harold and Doris are legends indeed, they are basically harmless but cause great fatigue. These icons Dick created are so alive and real that any close encounter is really no big deal.

Dick is the mentor we all wish we could be, and although we try to copy him, we seem to lack the key.

He has the right ingredients, that very special knack, to gather all us folks around and then ably lead the pack.

Dick weaves his magic and spins his tales, he captivates and enlightens and never fails.

He teaches our head as well as our feet, and riveted we sit on the edge of our seat.

A book would be better but this tells you in part, how all of us feel deep in our hearts.

So from Harold and Doris and all of us fans, tonight we say thank you to a really great man.

No tribute is adequate, no honor too great, no words can express the love for this mate. With respect and gratitude we salute and toast the master, a legend, the best coast to coast.

Ira Weisburd has Video Cassettes

for sale. His flyer with prices has gone to snail mail recipients and will be posted on our website after a week or two. Check with folks in your group who get hard copy versions of the Florida FolkDancer or on the website if you are interested.

Israel Chai, 2002; Israeli Folk Dance

Workshop taught by Yaron Meishar; Saturday and Sunday August 24th and 25th. Hotel Ramada Airport Inn, 5303 Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 289-1950 or toll free 1-877-823-9458. Three sessions each day; Sat. 9-Noon : beginners and advanced learn teaching techniques; 2-5 Intermediate and advanced; 7-9pm Intermediate and advanced. Sun. 9-Noon Family Session; 2-5 Intermediate and advanced; 7-9pm.

Cost: \$50 before Aug. 12th (\$75 after). or \$20 per session. Children under 12: 50% off. Send check payable to: Shivat Tzion 3910 W. Corona St., Tampa, FL 33629

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Subscriptions are \$15 per year and include membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council. The membership year runs from one Annual Camp (usually February) to the next. Members can receive the newsletter electronically if desired.

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

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Israeli Folk Dance Weekend, camp Coleman, Cleveland, GA. Aug. 30-Sept. 2nd, 2002. Info: Ruthy, 864-654-3511, email: kibbutz@slann.com

Sharpes Assembly, Oct. 4-6, 5th annual contra and English Country Dance Festival, Sebring, FL. Info: George Senyk, 321-636-2209.

Sharpes Assembly 5th Annual Contra/Eng. Country Dance Festival, Oct. 4-6, 2002, Sebring, FL. Info: George or Onie Senyk, 321-636-2209.

Autumn Leaves XIX Folk Dance Workshop, Oct. 25-27. Yves Moreau, Bulgarian. Email Tim Murphy, timkmurp@earthlink.net or Janet Epstein, Depst98336@aol.com for info.

From Carol McGinn:

Pat and Bobby had a great party July 3. The food was fantastic and there must have been at least 30 people dancing. Who would guess so many cars could park in their yard?

An Armenian physicist was at the party and had a comment about an Armenian dance or two that we did. "Armenians don't dance with little fingers." That's Turkish. He is not a professional dancer. He is a native Armenian who speaks Armenian, Russian, French, Italian and English, and has worked in France, Italy and the US. Tom Bozigian was born in the US of an Armenian father who died when Tom was very young, as I recall, and learned Armenian dance from Armenians living in California. The physicist also said the men and women don't dance together, but in separate lines. The dances are done with hands down at sides, shoulders nestled into neighbor's shoulder, as in Guzelleme. I wish I could remember the dance we were doing when he began to translate the words of the song. It was about boys, girls and love. . . .

