

Florida FolkDancer

September, 2002

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Pat Henderson

Now that the summer is over, it is time to think about our future folk dance events. Some of our members attended folk dance camps such as Mainewoods and KDI or Mel Mann's Dance on the Water. When we get together for Fall Fling, perhaps some of the best dances can be shared with dancers from all over the state. Believe or not, camp is right around the corner! I plan to be about a month ahead of last year regarding camp. Next month, I will announce the teachers and the registration form will be with the November's newsletter. The T-shirt design and color will be included on the form and we will do a paper mailing to all members that month. Please mark your new calendars for February 21-24, 2003 for camp. Many people who stayed at motels this year said that they would get a cabin at the next camp since the cabins are so nice now. We may actually fill every cabin 6 people maximum) next year. Until Fall Fling when we all get together again, happy dancing!

TAMPA

By Terry Abrahams

Ola everyone! Once again, this article is all about Terry - why is that? Terry is who writes it!!! So....

1. I am back from Portugal and Spain. We took a side trip up to the Basque area, hit a very big festival in Bayonne, which had a great performance by a very young group of Basque dancers. It was worth the travels. We also saw a couple of Flamenco dance performances, one good, one not so good, and a folk presentation at a Disney-like Little Spain. Couldn't find any Portuguese performing, but found some Fado bars as well as a musical about a famous Fado singer that died in '99 - which was great. (Fado is sort of

the Portuguese blues). We bought all kinds of "stuff" about dancing instead! We saw every cathedral, every palace/castle and every museum, including the Guggenheim, Prado and Picasso. We went to a bullfight (check that off my list - never again) and I got pick pocketed in Madrid. So I think we did the entire cultural thing. Spain is lovely, clean, energy aware, they didn't like my Spanish, but they didn't speak English - so we tried hard! I'll bring my scrapbook to camp and bore you all!

2. I fence this Saturday at the World Championships. It finally is happening. As you know I went to CA, NE and SC to qualify, and in SC took 2nd at Nationals. This secured me a place on the US team; my new sweats (I'll wear them to camp, too) are here, I'm on the committee (I told you this is actually taking place in Tampa), so working hard on some details, and hopefully ready to make a good showing. There will be 200 fencers from 12 countries - quite exciting.

3. Two of our new Israeli dancers took a leap and sponsored a workshop last weekend. All of you received publicity about it I think. At any rate, it was very well attended, the teacher was nice (he's coming to my group tonight) and I got to see my FFDC friends from here and there, including dinner with Bobby and Pat. Sounds like we should all take the next trip together!

4. We are not meeting this summer, so I don't know any more about anyone else in my group than I said in the last newsletter. So this will be the end, as I am also hosting a party for the US team on Friday night, and I'm still cleaning my house! Adios! Terry

FOLK DANCE ON THE WATER ALASKAN INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE

By: Pat Henderson

Several folk dancers from Florida just returned from the two week Alaskan Dance on the Water cruise. Those Florida dancers included Jan and Amar Lathi, Joe and Lucy Birkemeier, Donna Young, Bobby and me.

After receiving Mel Mann's flyers for years and yearning to go on a folk dance cruise, it was finally the right time for Bobby and me. We left Vancouver on July 23 and traveled the Inside Passage to several Alaskan ports including Wrangell, Sitka, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Valdez, Seward, and Victoria BC along with two days in Glacier Bay and Yakutat Bay to see incredible tidewater glaciers. It was aboard the SS Universe Explorer which is the floating university for the University of Pittsburgh during the academic year. I was impressed by their lovely and large library!

We had five university professors on board who gave lectures as we had cruising time. It was great for me to be standing next to the astronomer as we were watching the Northern Lights one night. We were very fortunate to see the lights since usually the skies are too cloudy. We had great weather for Alaska--no rain and warm (60-70 degrees) daytime temperatures.

There were 53 folk dancers from the U.S., Canada and New Zealand on the cruise. Whenever there was a spare moment, we were dancing from one to three times a day! Sometimes we danced all night after walking six or more miles in our port during the day. We had daylight until 11pm so we were able to see the Alaskan scenery pass as we danced in our lounge which overlooked the back deck of the ship. Such a feeling of contentment consumed my soul as we danced on the water.

Lee Otterholt from Norway taught us European ethnic minority dances such as Albanian dances done in Kosovo. He was a fantastic teacher and we loved his music. He choreographed a show that most of our dance group performed in for the passengers of the ship.

We toured glaciers, museums and saw many totem poles. Every city was unique and had its own rich culture. Valdez was especially interesting since it was totally moved after the 1964 earthquake and ensuing tsunami. Victoria was very British in flavor since it is the capital of

British Columbia. The Butchart Gardens there were so beautiful with a sunken garden, a Japanese garden, a Rose garden, and Italian garden along with waterfalls and fountains. I would recommend this trip to everyone at least once in your life! Some of us were able to see Andi Kapplin in Vancouver where she and her husband have a condo on the campus of the University of British Columbia. They are avoiding the Florida heat during the summer months by living up there. If I have whetted anyone's appetite about going, I will bring my scrapbook to camp for your examination. Next year, Mel is offering the cruise to Alaska again and also another one to China. Look for more information about these later.

WHEN KITTY CAME TO DANCE

By Jan Lathi

Last Thursday, Kitty came to dance with her Mom at the Flagler Beach dance group. We are always happy to welcome new dancers. And Kitty was special.

When I arrived at the hall where we hold our dance sessions, Betty Nehamias told me that she had had a call from Kitty's mother asking if they might come to see what we were about and explaining that Kitty had MS and also Downs' Syndrome. Her mom said that this young woman might enjoy moving to our music. (Mom's seem to always have their children's best interests at heart!)

We had another new person that night, another Betty, who some of us met at the St. Augustine English Country Dance the previous week.

I am used to tossing out a planned program of new or harder dances in order not to scare off new-to-folk-dance attendees. So toss I did. Kitty's mom joined our basic dances and gave it her all, with Kitty cueing her from the sidelines not to forget the hand motions to a particular dance. (Loving children have their moms' best interests at heart!)

Presently, her mom asked if there was a dance that Kitty might be able to join in on. I racked my brain and came up with Joc de Leagane as a possibility. But Kitty's specialness and need for two crutches to assist her in motion were a challenge. So, instead of trying to get Kitty to dance with us our dance, we all opted to get

ourselves to dance with Kitty her dance. And . . . surrounded by mom, two crutches, and us, Kitty danced. We did nothing more than hold hands and sway back and forth as many of us do at the beginning of Joc de Leagane. And Kitty swayed. And when Kitty slowed a bit and swayed left when we swayed right, as one we all adjusted our "dance" to meet Kitty's. Kitty's eyes glowed, her face was alit with the pleasure of moving to music with a group of fellow movers, and her mom seemed ecstatic with her daughter's pleasure.

After that, our applause lengthened Kitty's pleasure, but the two were obliged to leave soon, since the walk to and from the car would take quite a bit of time.

Kitty wanted to dance and thought she would not be able to. Don't we all know first-timers who feel the same? Did we not feel that way once? But Kitty's specialness included a fierce desire and a willingness to try something new and something challenging. And Kitty danced.

I guess we all need to "get back to basics" once in a while. We fancy foot-steppers who can execute such a variety of complicated dances would do ourselves a favor if we danced "Kitty's Dance" from time to time. The smile of pleasure, the twinkling eyes that boasted, "I can do it too", and Mom's pride in her daughter's accomplishment, were all worth the experience of sharing the movement to music when Kitty came to dance.

JACKSONVILLE CONTRA

From Charlie Dyer
Habijax, Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc., an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, is hosting a contra dance for its volunteers and we need some experienced dancers to help out. Here are the details:

Date- Thursday, September 5, 2002

Time 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Place- the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church (our usual contra dance location),
1100 Stockton St., Jacksonville

Band- The Briar Pickers

Caller- Charlie Dyer

Cost- FREE; if you can, bring a dessert or beverage to share.

Please show your support for Habijax and come dance with us. Plan to bring a smile and a helping hand!

Call Charlie Dyer at 731-7058 or contact Sasha Kutsy at sashakutsy@hotmail.com for more information.

Visit the Habijax website at:

<http://www.habijax.com/main.html>

From Carol McGinn:

After the July 3rd party in Orlando, I asked Manuel to contact Sarik, the Armenian physicist who was visiting, to translate two songs to dances we did that evening. . . Here is the result:

(From Manuel Mora-Valls July 22, 2002)

As you certainly know, songs tend to be poetic rhymes in the language they were written. And frequently try to convey a short message expressing some kind of feeling. For this reason translating them into another language is always difficult, and sometimes it loses the meaning completely.

Garoon Spring

My love believed in bad speakers
And filled her eyes with tears
I would like to go far away
Go far away and forget about you.

You are like spring and so beautiful
Your black eyes keep calling my attention
Making me turn back.

Ambee Dagets

Under The Clouds

(This song is the beginning of the Opera "Anush", which is a drama kind of equivalent to "Romeo and Juliet".)

Water is coming down from clouds
Comes making a stream
Whose love is sitting there and crying
Very loudly crying on that mountain ?

They are clear waters, cold waters
When you come from the mountains,
You're coming and passing gardens
And my love drank with passion this water.

The other song: Oee Nazee could not be translated. Armenia has two languages. One in the East and the other one in the western region. These languages are so different from each other that knowing one does not guarantee that one will

understand the other. This is what happens to Sarik here.

SARASOTA INTERNATIONAL GRAPEVINERS

By Thekla Khan

Summer is a lazy time in the South - but the Grapeviners have been busy dancing each Wednesday evening at the BayFront Center. You know, we would love to see all of you here in our 'circle'!

The dancing has continued even though our Ann Kessler is taking a couple of months' vacation. Marie Millett has done an outstanding job preparing the programs and leading the dances with the able assist at times from both Eva Stunkel and D.A.Tyler. On 9/21 we all celebrated Eva's up-coming birthday with a beautiful cake baked by our 'in-house' baker, Edith Iwens!

We hear from Nancy Wilusz that her broken arm is healing nicely. She is still vacationing in Minnesota and we really do miss her cheerful presence.

From Ruth Ann Fay, Deland:

Just to let you know I'm still here with functioning email. We spent a week in New Hampshire in July. We'll be in Portugal the first full week of October, but since the first Tuesday is the first, maybe I'll make it to the Deland group.

Here's a joke for you.

THE FLORIDIAN'S PRAYER:

BLESS THIS HOUSE, OH LORD, WE CRY,
PLEASE KEEP IT COOL IN MID-JULY,
BLESS THE WALLS WHERE TERMITES DINE,
WHILE ANTS AND ROACHES MARCH IN TIME.
BLESS OUR YARD WHERE SPIDERS PASS
FIRE ANT CASTLES IN THE GRASS.
BLESS THE GARAGE, A HOME TO PLEASE
CARPENTER BEETLES, TICKS AND FLEAS.
BLESS THE LOVE BUGS TWO BY TWO
THE GNATS AND MOSQUITOES THAT FEED ON
YOU.
MILLIONS OF CREATURES THAT FLY OR
CRAWL,
IN FLORIDA, LORD, YOU'VE PUT THEM ALL!
BUT THIS IS HOME AND HERE WE'LL STAY,

SO THANK YOU LORD FOR INSECT SPRAY.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS OF COLLIER COUNTY

By Helen Marks

Our group offers free folk dance instruction and request dancing the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., starting November 7th, at East Naples Community Center. Learn popular ethnic dances and enjoy fun and fellowship. All ages and beginners are welcome. Partners not needed. Information: 239-793-4414.

In February each year, the Greek Orthodox Church has a good 3-day festival. It is attended by more than 1,000 people. There is a live band, dancing on black top in a huge tent, and great food. Our dance group gathers around a large table and spends the day dancing with the dancers. We do not perform. The church has a group of high school and middle school students who perform authentic Greek dances in authentic Greek costumes from various areas of Greece. The performance lasts ½ hour and is repeated 2 or 3 times a day.

PALM COAST

By Jan Lathi

The Grand Haven Dance Club will resume its activities on Tuesday, September 10th at 4 to 5:30 p.m. All are welcome – call Jan at 386-447-8396 to arrange to come.

The Palm Coast International Dancers have been going strong on Thursday evenings, 7-9:30 p.m. and have enjoyed Arleen Kaufmann's company for the past few months. We hate to see her leave to go back to Gainesville but she promises to come back for a visit. She will be missed.

Rose and Carlo Cadet, just returned from a cruise to Alaska which they enjoyed tremendously.

Amar took 3 firsts and a second in swimming at our local Grand Haven 2002 Olympics and Jan took a 3rd in Shuffleboard. Our village, Fairways Edge, won for the most points of any village at Grand Haven.

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 \$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:

Orlando Group begins dancing again on September 4th. Contact Pat or Bobby, 407-275-6247.

Free Contra, Jacksonville, Sep. 5, 2002. (See elsewhere in this issue).

Grand Haven Group begins dancing again on September 10th, 4-5:30 pm. Info: 386-447-8396.

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.

Atlanta, GA English weekend starting Friday September 13th, Caller is Gene Murrow from New York and the band is 2/3's or so of the Boston based Bare Necessities. Gene is an excellent caller and the band is terrific.

Visit the website at:

<http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~dwoolf/weekend.html>

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.

All day English Country Dance and Andrew and Rachel Jackson Ball, Saturday, November 2, 2002, Dance- 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM; 2:00 PM to 4:15 PM; Ball- 8:00 to 11:00.

Location- Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal, 1100 Stockton St., Jacksonville, FL
Musicians- Carole Wetzel; Beverly Chapman and Veronica and Ted Lane. Callers- Charlie Dyer and guests Visit the web site at:
<http://chdyer.tripod.com>

Fall Fling, Nov. 23-24, 2002, Melbourne.

February Camp, Feb, 21-24, 2003.

Jan Lathi is seeking dance instructions for: Ephraim (Israeli line dance?), Nola (U.S. line dance), Ajsino (I think Armenian wedding dance but may be another "A" country). Do you have any of these instructions? Would you share them with me? Thanks!

Florida Folk Dance Council
c/o Lathi
38 St. Andrews Court
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First Class

FALL FLING: NOV.
23-24, 2002
MELBOURNE