

Florida Folk Dancer

June 2003

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ann Kessler

Dear Fellow Folk Dancers -

Hope your summer is going well so far in spite of this heavy rain. It was extremely rare for me to miss a night of teaching in Sarasota because of weather but finally decided this time, since Palm Harbor is 1-1/2 hours away from Sarasota, that I would take a "wash-out" night. Was so disappointed not dancing with my dear friends, but understand, however, that seven brave souls, including Marie, had ventured out and they had a relaxed fun-filled night.

You will find enclosed in this newsletter, the Revised By-laws of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc. I, with help from the Board, have worked hard on bringing them up to date to meet our needs at the present time. Please keep them because as members of FFDC, Inc. you should have a copy of our By-laws. They will be printed only once a year, either in the June or July issue of the newsletter. Also as members, you have the right to question or amend any by-law (with a 2/3 majority vote), but certain procedures must be followed. Please refer to the by-laws for complete details. The reason why there is a deadline at getting in requests is so the agenda can be planned for the annual meeting at FFDC Camp 2004 in that time can be used wisely so that we can get back on the dance floor, which, of course, is the main purpose of FFDC. One thing I do ask of you, however, is please do not get carried away and question semantics which is so irrelevant, for instance: "There will be one membership meeting a year..." versus: "There will be one meeting of the general

membership every year..." Please feel free to get in touch with me at anytime, however, about any concerns you may have for our organization. Always love to hear from you.

There is even an increasing fulfilled hope of easing our feet, knees and hips this year at Camp in the form of a wooden floor. Terry Abrahams has been working so hard (as she always does in so many capacities) in getting details, etc., so that this dream can become a reality. And there is certainly a lot to consider. I have been in touch with the Christian Center and we are all busy at working out details. Will explain more about this as more things develop.

In the meantime -- See you on the dance floor, and woodn't it be nice if they were all wooden --

Ann Kessler

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

by Dan Lampert

Since publishing the last newsletter in various formats, I've received positive and negative comments from our readers. I wanted to share some of them with you.

Someone wrote "The PDF version is great! Before I always had to spend a lot of time reformatting the document so it would print decently. Also, the web site is so much easier than downloading the file. Thanks so much for the progress. I can't wait to read it!"

Another person wrote "Sorry, but I'm unable to download the newsletter -- Are other WebTV people able to download?" Well, I fixed that by offering an HTML-only version of the newsletter.

HTML doesn't require any special software, so it'll work fine on WebTV.

Another reader pointed out that the HTML version is easiest to read online, because you don't have to scroll up and down to go to the next column. However, the PDF file format is best for printing out and reading.

Finally, a Mac user wrote "your April/May Newsletter... is the best for me... Looks super."

Keep the feedback coming in. I want to make the archive of newsletters accessible and easy to use by everyone. I'm also working on publishing the newsletter in a timely fashion, so by the next issue, things should return to normal.

2003 FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

by Connie Walker

About a dozen Pensacola International Folk dancers performed in the Seville Square Gazebo for the 2003 Festival of Nations. The Collins' from Ocean Springs were our live music for a few numbers - a lot of fun.



We did the following dances: Ali Pasa - Turkey; Tsadik Katimar - Israel; Tino Mori - Macedonia; Belasicko Oro - Macedonia; Sestorka - Serbia; Le'or Chiyuchech - Israel; Das Tighele - Romania; Ceta - Serbia; Port Said - Egypt.



Pictures by Connie Walker

GREETINGS FROM VANCOUVER

by Andi Kapplin, Tampa, FL

We arrived May 8th after 6 nights on the road. One highlight of the trip was having dinner and a visit with Carol McGinn in Albuquerque, although Ray was not able to join us. I've been to International and Israeli sessions and also attended an Israeli workshop. I'm hoping to be able to share some of the camp dances with the International group. Happy dancing to you all and have a great summer. My email address is: andi@kapplin.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Contributed by Various People

Four Scandinavian Turning Dance Workshops in Tampa on consecutive fourth Saturday afternoons, 1:00 to 4:30 PM, will be offered on Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct 25, and Nov 22, at \$5.00 per person each. The workshops will be taught by Judith Baizan and focus on Schottis, Hambo, and Polska, with some different material presented each time. Singles or

couples are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring shoes with leather soles for easier turning. Pre-registration will be appreciated, but not required. Email to judithbaizan@juno.com. (Note these are the Saturdays of the Tampa contra dance.) -- Judith Baizan

Mountain Playshop, NC - A camp based weekend on August 8,9,10 in western North Carolina. This is the 18th year for this international folk dance. It is held at a rustic 4H camp with 6 great meals provided by separate caterers. The dancing includes a featured teacher, a large team of review/recovery teachers, and some live music. It's all described in the online flyer which also describes the various discounts on registration.

<http://main.nc.us/ifa/flyer03.html>

At this web address, you'll find links to directions, maps, other info and more dance request:

<http://main.nc.us/ifa/dancelead03.html>

- Thanks, Rusty Maynard

Autumn Leaves (XX) - To be held in Nashville, Tennessee, the YMCA Lodge on October 17,18,19. Ahmet Luleci will teach Turkish dance. Price: \$75.00, includes breakfasts, does NOT include other meals and lodging. Lodging may be available. Contact: Kate Croy, PO Box 148784, Nashville TN 37214. Their phone number is 615 889-2010 or e-mail Janet Epstein at Depst98336@aol.com The directions are on this web page:

http://www.nifddance.com/NIFD_AL%20page/YMCA-maps3.gif

Here's an item sent in by Pat Henderson

MAVROMATA

A Greek dance, learned from Dick van der Zwan (well-known Greek dance specialist living in the Netherlands) who learned it from Greek Thracians living in Germany. "Mavromata" means "dark-eyed girl."

The full name is "Mavromata ke Xanthi," or "fair-haired, dark-eyed girl." Possibly a variation on a 3- (or 6-count "Sta tria" or Zonaradikos-type dance, although the 5- (or 10-) count pattern makes this seem unlikely. Possible relationship to other 5- (or 10-) count dances from the area.

Formation: open circle

Handhold: front basket (right arm under, left over)

Dance description:

<u>counts</u>	<u>steps</u>
1, 2	Facing slightly and moving to the right: step on right foot (1), step on left foot (2).
3, 4 &	Facing center (or slightly left): step on right foot to right, leaving ball of left foot on floor (3) bring left foot behind right ankle (lower calf) and bounce lightly twice on right foot (4 &).
5, 6 &	Repeat 3, 4 & with opposite footwork (5, 6 &).
7, 8 &	Facing center (or slightly left): step on right foot to right, leaving ball of left foot on floor (7) bring left foot behind left ankle and bounce once on right foot (8), cross and take weight on ball of left foot behind right (&).
9 & 10 &	Step on ball of right foot to right (9), cross left in front (&). Repeat (10 &).

I REMEMBER FRANK

by Pat Henderson

The Florida folk dance community lost one of its members on April 23 when Frank Cross died in his sleep. We really "lost" Frank in October 1999 when he had a massive stroke and never talked or walked again. He had the stroke while polka dancing, his passion. Since the stroke, he had been a resident in a nursing home in Orange City where Mickey went to see him and take care of him every day. Frank and Mickey met at folk dancing in Buffalo in 1950. They moved to Orlando in 1975 and quickly became our best friends after I married Bobby in 1976. They gave their time to help Bobby and I build our house so that we would have time to dance when we were done. They gave us a folk dance couples baby shower when we were expecting our first child. Bobby helped Frank build a deck for their cabin in the North Carolina mountains. We enjoyed many visits up there over the years. When Julie (our first born) left for college in Gainesville in August 1999 (and Frank was a big GATOR fan), Frank and Mickey were part of a "family" dinner party for her. Now Frank is happily dancing somewhere and I hope to polka with him again in another world. GO GATOR!

ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP

by Debbie Meitin

On Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29, the Orlando Israeli dancers hosted a workshop with Dany Benshalom, a well-known master teacher directly from Israel. It was all made possible through the wonderful organizational skills of Ruthy Slann, formerly of Clemson, now living in Pennsylvania. We were able to bring Dany to the US for about a week. We had about 65 people from all over Florida in attendance. Dany taught some great dances, highlighting some of the

more popular new dances in Israel. As always, his charm and excellent teaching allowed everyone to learn the dances and experience the excitement of a room full of people having fun.

Thanks to all of you who attended and helped to make this 16th annual workshop a great success. And a special thanks to the Orlando dancers who worked hard to organize the food (always an important part of any workshop).

Please join us next year for the 17th annual workshop!

SARASOTA

by Marie Millett

Nancy Wilusz, Susan Barach and I tramped up to Tampa to dance with "the Tampans" a recent Tuesday night. It was a good evening dancing on that beautiful new floor with those fun people.

We are bidding goodbye to a number of our Winter dancers. We will miss Andi Kapplin and Ursula Tison this Summer. We will continue to dance every Wednesday through the Summer. Come on down.

GREETINGS FROM GAINESVILLE

by Raluca Ioana Rosca

Time seems to be flying really quick nowadays -- After I got back with Jenneine from Rang Tang in Atlanta, then it was inter-session dance hiatus, and after that a short week of summer dancing and then Florida Folk Festival and in another week it was time for the first African Dance event!

In Atlanta we've enjoyed the gracious hosting of David and Dorothy Digby, meeting Jasper the fluffiest tomcat, dancing again with Dan as well as learning some rhythm-challenging Macedonian dances from Pete Iliovski and dancing to settle down the boureki around the tables

of Cafe Istanbul. Both food and owner-dancer are highly recommended.

For summer, we'll be dancing in the same location (Aerobics Room #1, Student Rec. Center, UF campus in Gainesville) but earlier (Fr 6:45-9 pm and Sun 5-7 pm). As always, everybody is welcome to dance with us when in the area.

Pat and Bobby can testify on dancing in the new location, as they've visited us on the Friday of Florida Folk Festival. They exchanged impressions with Max on the advantages of MP3 format/players (our group just got an MP3 player), they taught the Mexican mixer La Charrita, the Arumanian line dance In Vitui and a novelty Irish line dance. It was great fun, as was the next day workshop at Florida Folk Festival, even if it ran late due to the persistent fiddle players. Talking about the festival, a first time there and really something to look forward to was a workshop on East European and Norwegian wedding music hosted by two former Tamburitzans musicians-turned-Epcott-employees. We've got to do an impromptu Ramo-Ramo on their excellent playing/singing!

As for the African dance workshop-- I'm heading for it soon! Impressions in the next edition of this newsletter. See you all dancing, -- Raluca

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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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 our web site for further information on folk dancing in Florida: www.folkdance.org

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