

Florida Folk Dancer

July 2003

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ann Kessler

Dear Fellow Folkdancers –

Have not much news right now, and summer is upon us and am sure you all have varied exciting plans. So thought I would just trip lightly into summer fun and repeat a "Folkdance" story I wrote and entered into the Newsletter quite a few years ago. Forgive me if you are bored with it again, but see how many dances you recognize?

THE UNIVERSAL TRIANGLE (As Only Folkdancers Would Understand)

Al Sedenu and Sara Jevka were a devoted couple and were planning a Maries Wedding like they used to have in the Good Old Days when halls were flowered in Edelweiss and Irissim and the placed flowed with Gypsy Wine with a plentiful supply of Hot Pretzels. The guest list was impressive with such personages as Popa Vicanka and Bahama Mama (who was going to play her Harmonica to accompany David's Kinor). Other invited illustrious guests were Eleno Mome, Rona, Ken Youdoo, Al Kanfe Hakesef, and Ali Pasha (that Dashing White Sergeant). They even requested the presence of Eliyahu Hanavi to Drag-on-over but he declined because he was afraid his Rustemule wouldn't get him there in time.

At the wedding they planned to sing many a Song of Joy while much frelaching would go on as well as all that Dancing in the Streets. They originally planned a honeymoon in N.Y., N.Y. but then realized they could not afford any more than a Hole

in the Wall, so thoughts turned to a hiking trip down the Road to the Isles where beautiful bridges spanned St. John's River.

But then things went Biserka! Along came Tino Mari (that Girl With the Black Eyes and Hot Lips) who flirted with Al Sedenu by Pushing her Tush. She Hora'd and Tarantella'd around him making sure she kept her ugly Lerikos veins out of sight that she had so desparately tried to treat with Guhneg and Mayim. And finally, Al Sedenu succumbed to that La Bruja!

That Sweet Girl, Sara Jevka, about the affair Heard it Through the Grapevine on a gloomy and Rainy Night. At first she was Miserlou'd and Garoon'd and wanted to Chiotikos that Tino Mari and give her Arap in those Hot Lips. But finally she pulled herself together and said, "I Will Survive!" So what if I am not a Likrat Kalah! So as time went on, she thought Lesi and Lesi of Al Sedenu, and that wise old Solomon Levi began to look Ivanica better.

Yours in fun - See you on the dance floor - Ann Kessler

REFLECTIONS ON DANCE

by Dan Lampert

I still enjoy looking through my pictures from Rang Tang 2003 in Atlanta, my second folk dance camp. And sometimes I marvel at how amazing dance is... it's a great social activity, we meet distance friends, it's good exercise and yet serves as a vacation, it's safe compared to other sports, and -- most important -- it's fun! How can one activity combine all these things?



Rang Tang 2003 with Boris "Kete" Ilievski teaching Macedonian dances. April 25-27, 2003, Atlanta, Georgia.

How does dance combine so many good "human" things? Well, I haven't found the complete answer, but I have discovered some clues. First of all, it's the **social connection**. We humans are social creatures, but in this age, we're fearful of strangers and strange places. However, dance events give us a clear purpose. Furthermore, the place is familiar and we know everyone's intent!

Another clue I've found is **natural patterns**. Our world is full of wonderful patterns and designs -- from the spiral in a conch seashell to the spirals of our galaxy. Consider the patterns we make while dancing!?!? When someone breaks the circle and spirals inward, we are imitating the patterns all around us!



Another photo from Rang Tang 2003, taken from the gymnasium balcony above the dancers. Photo by Dan Lampert.

If you have some other pieces to help me solve this puzzle of "what dance is", then please send them over.

- Dan Lampert, dan@webuniv.com

TWO SCANDINAVIAN DANCE WEEKS

Scandia Camp Mendocino is held in mid-June every year in the Mendocino Woodlands, about five hours by car north of San Francisco. The camp consists of a main building with dining, kitchen, and lounge areas, a dance hall, and scattered rustic cabins, all linked by trails that wind among the towering redwoods. The dense forest makes negotiating these paths at night impossible without a flashlight.

In past years, either Swedish or Norwegian dance & music was featured, but this year we lucked out, or perhaps the policy has changed, because we had both. Tommy and Eva Englund, long time favorite master teachers and competition judges from Sweden, taught Swedish dances, and a Norwegian couple taught the springar from Valdres. Several levels of Norwegian hardanger fiddle, Swedish fiddle, and singing were taught by Norwegian, Swedish, and American experts.

Each morning in the dance hall we had Swedish and Norwegian dance classes for 90 minutes each, followed by a 45 minute culture session on selected topics. Meanwhile the small music classes met in various other locales. In the afternoons came singing and craft classes, and an additional hour of either Swedish or Norwegian dance. After that, "happy half-hour," supper, music entertainment, and dance party until the last couple was danced out. Musicians often continued jamming in the lounge.

This year the camp totaled some 125 individuals, a record number. Sometimes we would split into two alternating groups during dance classes in order to have enough room to maneuver. The camp

policy of gender balance is carefully maintained, so everyone usually can find a partner. Of course, the gender balancing is hard on single women. Most register very early in January, are placed on a waiting list by lottery, and are accepted one by one as single male registrations come in to balance them.

But when you get in finally, the week is well worth such hassles, including the jet lag, the long drive, and the primitive accommodations.

The best partners are there, and you can dance all the dances you wanted to do all year, all to wonderful live music.

The Nordic Fiddles and Feet week begins on the Saturday before July 4, at Buffalo Gap Community Camp in the rolling hills of West Virginia, a couple of hours drive west from Dulles International Airport. It always has offered dance and music teaching in two traditions, usually Swedish and Norwegian, with the all-important addition of Roo Lester's Basics class in the choice first time slot of the day. Any one new to Scandinavian dancing is urged to make her class a priority, but many experienced dancers make it a priority as well, not only to help those who are learning, but also to brush up on teaching techniques.

Attendance this year was unusually small, right at about 100. Norwegian dancers and musicians presented the Springleik from Vaga, and the Swedish contingent gave us the Slangpolska from Smaland, a class in each every morning. Besides Band and other music classes, afternoons included singing, occasional crafts, and an hour of dance instruction that varied from day to day. "Happy Half-Hour" at 5:30 pm, was followed every evening by supper, music concert, and dance party.

Dance classes, concerts, and parties are in the large open air Pavillion just up the hill from the kitchen and dining hall. Cabins are near by, and tenting is permitted. There is a well used sauna, a

small lake for swimming, and a beach house that's perfect for after-party dancing of Norwegian springars into the wee hours.

Another important feature of the week is the Gammaldans Band under the leadership of Andrea Hoag. Whatever your instrument is, from banjo to zither, you are welcome to join the Band for practices and its 30-minute contribution to the evening party. Occasionally the musicians will outnumber the dancers.

Contact: Kate Jackson Center, 821 S. Rome, Tampa. Phone 813 259-1704 or visit their web site www.hfaa.org

SARASOTA

by Marie Millett

The Grapeviners continue to enjoy dancing every Wednesday and having visitors like Deloris, Phyllis, and Don from Chicago. Ann Kessler will be taking off August and September, but we will continue to dance EXCEPT for August 6, 2003. Do come dance with us.

PALM COAST

by <amarjan@bestnetpc.com>

Betty Nehemias celebrated her 80th birthday on May 15th. After our regular dance session on that Thursday afternoon, friends of Betty's organized a surprise pot luck party for folk dancers, Dancers of Universal Peace, family, church members, and other friends. It was quite a celebration of life doing what Betty loves best - dancing. The foods people prepared were wonderful and the dancing was great, but the best thing was Betty's radiant smile throughout the celebration and just being with her on this special occasion. Happy Birthday, Betty!

We are so sad to hear that Ruth Roth, from St. Augustine, who has danced with us so regularly these past few years, will

be moving NORTH (Why?). We will truly miss her enthusiasm for dancing. However, she may come back for camp in the future. She leaves in September.

Arleen Kaufmann, from Gainesville, will be summering in Flagler Beach again and we look forward to sharing dance experiences with her.

Amar and Jan Lathi spent a few days in Destin, Florida, with their son and family. The Blessing of the Fleet took place on Thursday, May 29th in that city, and since their son is a charter boat fishing captain, they got to ride in the boat parade with the whole family.

We hope that dancers from 'round Florida will come join us from time to time whenever you can. We dance from 2 to 4:30 Thursday afternoons.

ORLANDO INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

By: Pat Henderson

Our group is winding down for the summer. Attendance has been less during the month of May with travel, relatives visiting for graduations, etc. A few of us performed at a local middle school on May 21. We danced for the entire 7th grade and they seemed to enjoy the show. Bobby and I were the only ones from our group who attended the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs on May 24. The weather was great, the coolest ever. The international dance workshop went well with the entire floor full of dancers. We enjoyed listening to and dancing to a band who played Eastern European and Scandinavian music. Our group will dance every Wednesday through June. Then, we take our annual hiatus in July and August. Contact me at: henderp@bellsouth.net or 407-275-6247.

CRUISES FOR FOLK DANCERS

Here's a listing of Mel Mann's *Dance on the Water Cruises*:

Dec. 8-22, 2003 Hawaii FROM \$1698
Departing from LA or San Diego 14 days
aboard the Olympia Explorer Dancing led
by Sandy Starkman.

Jan. 18-23, 2004 Mississippi River \$865
Departing from New Orleans 6 days
aboard the American Queen Dancing led
by Marianne Taylor.

July 2-10, 2004 Lower Danube Bucharest
to Budapest Ports in Romania, Bulgaria,
Serbia and Hungary 8 days aboard the
River Countess \$2848 includes airfare
from NY, excursions and one night in
Bucharest at the Intercontinental Hotel
Dancing led by Lee Otterholt .

Flyers were mailed to many group leaders.
Also, more information is available at:
www.folkdanceonthewater.org or email:
meldancing@aol.com

Jan. 30 - Feb. 8, 2004 -- Hawaii -- Jan and
Amar Lathi have booked the following
cruise and invite other dancers to do the
same. Jan Lathi and Pat Henderson have
booklets about the cruise that you can
request from them.

Includes a 2 night stay at the Sheraton
Princess Kaiulani Hotel with a city view
room and a 5 hour city sight seeing tour;
airport portorage & baggage transfers,
round trip airport transfers, Hotel
portorage, in & out. Hotel to ship transfer
and all applicable taxes, including room
tax. Itinerary: Day 1 & 2 - Overnight
Honolulu; Day 3 - Cruise departs with
ports of call in Hilo; Fanning Island;
Kahului, Maui; Nawiliwili, Kauai. Outside
Cabin: \$1330.53; Inside Cabin: \$1050.53
Cruise only packages available from \$858.
Contact David Stokes (Sunday-Thursday)

at 1-800-683-7447 ext. 77471 407-898-5353 ext. 77471 (Orlando area) or email him at david.stokes@cruisesonly.com Mention that you are a folk dancer.

AFRICAN DANCE WORKSHOP

- Joyce Dewsbury

The May 30 African dance workshop with our guest teacher Noni Ojouba was very exciting. She started us out with an exercise sequence. She had us work our outer limbs first and then the spinal and neck areas. She stressed that it was important to warm up working from outer to inner. After the exercise session which lasted about 15 or more minutes I found that I was already tired. But there was even more energetic work to follow. Somehow we all kept up and our muscles really got a workout. The dance Noni taught was called "Lambon" and it required the involvement of ones entire body. It was a unique learning experience for those of us who had never before tried this type of dancing. Noni was an excellent teacher and a wonderful dancer. She had such fluidity of movement.

There were about 18 or more folks who came to the workshop and at least half of the dancers were new folks. It looked like we all enjoyed the evening.

FROM GAINESVILLE

By Raluca Ioana Rosca

The Gainesville group is happy to announce the marriage of Beth Ramey and Satchi Venkataraman. Beth and Satchi met about 7 years ago while folkdancing; they are not dancing regularly with the group anymore, but they are still dear friends of ours and an inspiration at many levels. From August they would be living in San Diego, CA.

The other piece of news is less pleasant: Pam Cole, a member of our group for 11 years, died at the beginning of July. On July 11 we had a remembrance meeting for her in which we did dances that Pam loved to teach, request or perform.

Apart from that, dancing was relatively uneventful during the summer. Various work and pleasure travels diminished our numbers, but we also saw a number of new faces. Josan Manohardeep, a graduate student at UF joined our group and he started to teach us bhangra, a traditional dance form of his native Punjab (N. India). Mark on your calendars Friday September 5th as we'll have a special evening dedicated only to bhangra. We plan to sponsor during the year a series of 'special focus' nights; please contact folkstep@grove.ufl.edu if you can suggest any teachers. We can pay up to \$200 for decent teaching on a Friday visit + a copy of the music; paperwork weary need not to apply.

See you all dancing,
Raluca Ioana Rosca
rarosca@ufl.edu

NEWS FROM ROMANIA

Sara and Jim Osborn

We just returned from Romania and the June FFDancer was awaiting. Love getting it on line, and hearing about dancing activities from our Florida friends.

We were on Theodor Vasilescu's 2003 Romanian Tour. Twenty three of us traveled and danced with him for twelve days, going to the cities of Ploiesti, Sfantu Gheorghe, Brasov, Fagaras, Sibiu, and of course, Bucharest, where we stayed overnight with Theo and Lia in their home. Such a gracious couple! Theo and his assistant, Marine, had arranged visits in several villages and we were welcomed by the villagers in all their finery, and shared food and dancing with them. Each

day we learned the dances from the area in which we were visiting and we all got a CD of all 25 dances taught. A video, made along the way, will be arriving soon.

It was a fabulous trip and should Theodor do it again, we recommend you all go! Sandy Starkman, who you will remember taught with Theo at the 2002 camp, was a participant. She was to have been the FD teacher on Mel Mann's trip to China, but when that was cancelled due to the SARS scare, she was free to go to Romania. She spoke glowingly of her weekend in Florida!

From your FD friends in Georgia,
Sara and Jim Osborn, Atlanta

TAMPA's TRIPPIN'

terry.abrahams@verizon.net

I went to meet everyone at White Springs, and wanted to report back. I took my daughter Mickey; Kathie has a concert so will miss this year, Andi is in Canada for the summer, Judith and Ernesto are staying home while Ernesto continues to look better than ever after his surgery although they're going to visit their children in Atlanta soon. Ursula left for somewhere in Mexico, and I'm attending a few dance camps --- KDI with her granddaughter, and Maine Dance Camp.

Andy Pollock is swinging his way around to many workshops. Caroline and Gary Lanker have just built a house in Frostproof and are getting ready to receive us all at a dance party/housewarming, which we are all looking forward to. Maria, Bobbi and Barbara have been starting to come back to our Friday nights, which has given us a real boost - we're so teeny weeny right now. Could use some snowbirds!

Our Israeli group is also a little slow for the summer, but we moved back to Kate Jackson with a wood floor and our bodies are lovin' it! Judith's Scan group keeps on turnin'. Those of us that play instruments

get together monthly at a new restaurant for our Irish night (the restaurant is Mexican - go figure!).

Sometimes Kathie has a gang over, and of course we'll play at the Fla Folk Festival. Also, I am working on a wooden dance floor, as we've discussed at many camps - this time I'm really doing it - so cross your fingers that we are successful. Annie has really got the board going strong, this was a good idea of ours - to elect her! White Springs/Florida Folk Festival was as good as ever - lots of folk dancers there, lots of contra dancers there, lots of music, food, good weather, tents, campfires, how could one not have a good time?! Lots of people got up to dance during our International session - I even had someone ask about dancing in Tampa - she lives in Holiday though, so I'm not holding my breath... If you've never tried this weekend, try it next year I'll be in Austin, TX from June 30 to July 3, fencing at Nationals, hoping to retain my second place standing in the US at the Women's Veterans Foil (or maybe capture first again, can't beat the other gal, hard as I try), and the 5th I leave for Peru, Equador and the Gallapagos Islands with travel buddy Jodi.

Once again I'm practicing my Spanish, some of which is returning (that I learned for my Spain trip last year) and I even used it the other day at dog grooming school to speak with a client! Did I tell you all I am in grooming school? I love it! Needed a change from law, and this is "claro" (clearly in Spanish) a change!

So, now I'm off to shop in S.A., upon my return will attend a fencing camp in Atlanta, and then attend Playshop in N.C. from there. I'll be home sometime in mid-August. Don't you love it? In the meantime if you get to Tampa and want to dance, call Andy first, as we may not be dancing this summer. There are only a couple of us altogether now anyway. OK - gotta - pack! Adios!

See ya! -- Terry

HUMOR

Somebody entered this in a weekly humor contest in the Washington Post. The contestants were told to rewrite something using the style of a different writer. This person rewrote "The Hokey Pokey" in the style of William Shakespeare. I thought it was pretty clever.

*O proud left foot, that ventures quick
within*

Then soon upon a backward journey lithe.

Anon, once more the gesture, then begin:

Command sinistral pedestal to writhe.

*Commence thou then the fervid Hokey-
Poke,*

A mad gyration, hips in wanton swirl.

*To spin! A wilde release from Heaven's
yoke.*

Blessed dervish! Surely canst go, girl.

*The Hoke, the poke -- banish now thy
doubt*

Verily, I say, 'tis what it's all about.

by William Shakespeare

SISTER CITIES

by Jenneine Lambert
dancnaro@atlantic.net

St. Petersburg -- Florida's fourth largest city with a population of a quarter million inhabitants -- was incorporated as a city by the Florida State Legislature on June 6, 1903. During 2003, St. Petersburg celebrates its 100th anniversary, and shares this celebration with St.

Petersburg, Russia, which is observing its tricentennial.

In the Sunshine City, a year-long calendar of activities will commemorate the 100th anniversary, including events that highlight business, commerce, technology, education, international relations and trade, recreation, sports, the environment, tourism, arts, culture and the community as a whole. Official delegations from each city will exchange visits, while the two St. Petersburgs share their similarities and embrace their unique contrasts.

St. Petersburg, Florida, enjoys a rich hundred-year history . It was founded in 1888 when the Orange Belt Railway chugged into the Gulf coast settlement for the first time on June 8th. Peter Demens, an aristocrat from St. Petersburg, Russia, was the entrepreneur who built the railroad and is credited with naming the Florida city.

To find out more, see these web sites

www.stpetemuseumofhistory.org

www.stpete.org

AUTUMN LEAVES

by Sue Williard

Definitely consider Autumn Leaves in Nashville this October 17-19 with Ahmet Luleci (wonderful Turkish dancer/teacher) and hopefully live music as well... Here's the web address for information on the dance/music listings for the Bay Area -- there are often one or two per day, so be prepared for a deluge of info if you sign on with them.

Information:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BBMDE>

To subscribe:

BBMDE.subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To contact the moderator,

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FIRST CLASS

**Mark your calendar!!
FFDC Camp is 2/20-2/23 in 2004.**

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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