



Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

October - November 2003

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ann Kessler

My dear Companions in Dance -

As you can see by the enclosed registration forms, etc., that FFDC Camp is upon us. We are so excited about this years program and hope you will join us for this fun filled weekend. Jim Gold will delight us with his dancing besides giving a brief concert in classical guitar plus very original, creative, humorous folk music. His biography is enclosed, and our other exciting teacher, Lee Otterholt's biography will be in next months Newsletter. Jim is also famous for his great spontaneous, ingenious, exhuberant, on-the-spot band formations. Instead of playing his guitar, he might use his gaida (if by chance you do not know what this instrument is - come and find out - or read Jim's bio. He might even give hilarious instructions on how to make one).

Anyway, rehearsed or not, we might have our own FFDC band play a short session of a few of our popular dances for us to dance to. I say the session will be short because they may accomplish only one dance. But all you accomplished musicians, or wannabe musicians, don't be shy. Contact John Daly at email: Jdaly@palmnet.net - or - call: (321) 951-9623 and he will happily enroll you in this great band. It can only be fun!

And while we are on the subject of Camp, I have not heard from any of our dance leaders as to scholarship students. One can even enroll his or her own self without being elected by any particular teacher! If for whatever reason - your funds are mighty low / you have not experienced a dance camp before and want to try it out first / whatever - just write a brief letter to me either via email or snail mail (my addresses are on the masthead of this newsletter) - by January 1st - and give your reasons why you want to be a scholarship student. If you would like your reasons to

remain private - they WILL be. For a totally free full registration to the Florida Folk Dance, Inc. February Camp, all that will be expected of you is to make sure all the tables are clean after each meal (everyone carries his/her own dishes to the proper place so you will not have to do that, but just make sure things are in order and clean). And also lightly dust mop (probably about twice during the week-end) the dance area, and - if possible - go around the cabins after check-out with the president, or whoever, to make sure all is in order there. I know we allow at least two scholarship students and possibly even more, so please let me hear from you. We need you and want to extend this opportunity to you. You will hear from me by January 15th as to the results of your request.

It mentions on the registration form that the design for the camp t-shirt will be in the newsletter or on the website. Within the next month it will be. And we are still working on that "soft" floor. Will keep you informed. And remember that dues will be due by the first of the year (again see the registration form). Your valued membership is only \$15.00 a year for single, and \$20.00 a year for family registration (two adults living at the same address - that means that if you get your newsletter by snail mail, only one will be sent to that one address and not two). Send membership checks to our treasurer, JP Miller (whose address is also on the masthead. Be talking with you soon, and - See you on the dance floor - and hopefully at Fall Fling and/or FFDC Camp

- Ann Kessler

**MORE INSIDE WITH
LOTS OF PICTURES!**

Orlando International Folk Dance Club Sept. - October Wrapup

By: Pat Henderson

The club had its annual Oktoberfest on September 24. We ate some German food and drank German wine to celebrate. Several ladies wore their dirndls but we could not get any of the men to wear their lederhosen!

Travels since the last newsletter include Joy Herndon to California and Juanita Schockey to West Virginia, both to see family. In October, we were very glad to see Joan and Wally Washington return after their summer months in Michigan. Manuel and Palmira Mora-Valls attended the St. Augustine Greek Festival on October 11. The band played very short segments and few people danced so they do not recommend it. At the moment, our group is planning to go to the Lecanto Greek Festival on October 25 which will be history by the time you read this. It is our group's favorite Greek Festival.

Sarasota

from Nancy Wilusz

Like many vice-presidents, I remained silent and absent all Summer, only to be found in the great woods of Northern Minnesota. The weather was perfect this year for activities on and in the many lakes. Since several of our friends are avid fishermen and women, Ed and I were fortunate recipients of wonderful Walleye and Crappie fish dinners. These activities, plus remodeling an 80 year old house and keeping up with family, kept us busy and active all Summer.

The down side of the Summer was no dancing. Fortunately, the Duquesne Tamburitzans give their first show in our area during August. They have been in existence for 67 years and have come to Minnesota for all of those years. If one can't dance, the next best thing is watching the "Tammys".

At the concert I bought a disc which has a wonderful rendition of Ajde Jano. We will be trying it out in Sarasota tonight. For the

traditionalists, dance to the old version and enjoy the exciting rhythmic music of the new!

GAINESVILLE

By: Raluca Ioana Rosca raRosca@ufl.edu

Performance at the 24th Annual Greek Dance The UF International folk dancers were the featured act at the 24th Annual Greek Dance held at the Gainesville Woman's Club on Friday 10/3 and gave a truly outstanding performance.



*Opening dance, Tai-Tai.
All of us (see article for names)*

With Margaret choreographing a tight, snappy, visually and musically varied and interesting set of dances, the large ensemble gave a professional tour of twelve Greek dances. The dancers (Margaret, Raluca, Kim, Yang, Sasha, John, Max, Diane, Jenneine, Josan, Aman, Gary, Sharon, Jacek, Joyce) received a hearty and warm applause from the very large gathering.



*Menousis -mixed line- Margaret, John, Raluca, Gary,
Yang Mu, Max, Kim.*

Also during the evening, John Lullias, an acclaimed Greek dance choreographer and instructor from Tarpon Springs received an

award for his years of work teaching Greek dances. A number of folk dancers attended the event including a special visit from one of our alumni, Carolyn Drazinic, visiting from New Haven, CT.



Partalos -men's line- Jacek, Gary, John, Max.



Milisimou -mixed line and exit dance- all of us!



Last picture is "after dance" -- all of us dancers + the 2 Camellias + Sasha's daughter, Alla (a dancer herself!)

PICTURE CREDITS: All pictures from Greek Dance Night, Oct. 3, 2003, Gainesville, by Margaret Tolbert.

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On Sat Oct 11, the UF International Folkdancers (UFIFD) were the invited group at the monthly meeting of American Association of University Women (AAUW), meeting that

took place in the wooden floored atrium of the retirement home The Atrium, a particularly welcoming space with great acoustic. The meeting started promptly at 10 30, with AAUW related announcements by June Littler. After that, Raluca (Rosca) introduced the UFIFD then passed the microphone to registered nurse and fellow folkdancer Jenneine (Lambert) to speak about the health benefits of dance at all ages. After more quick words from Raluca it was time to dance and Toshi Nishida joined Raluca and Jenneine in performing Bavno Oro, a slow --turns-- quick Macedonian dance, Sepastia Bar, a flowing Armenian dance, Rustemul, a fast Romanian Dance and Kritiko Syrtos & Syrto Silivrianos, two Greek dances. By the time the performance was over, many residents of the Atrium came from their rooms to enjoy the event.

Then it was time for more dance! Everyone willing and able to dance joined the folkdancers in learning Pata-Pata, a South African dance on the music of Myriam Makeba, then Zemer Atik, a low impact Israeli Dance, followed by D'Hammerschmiedgesseln (sp?), a German dance with plenty of handworks (inspired, as its title says, by the work of a blacksmith), and closing with Trgnala Rumjana, a slow, hand holding Bulgarian dance.

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The week-end of November 14-16 was full of dance in Gainesville, with most events being associated with the Downtown Arts Festival. On November 14, Karen 'Sun Ray' Coletti (n. Boon von Ochssée) was in Gainesville, visiting from St. Petersburg. Karen taught a dance routine that she choreographed for a very popular Egiptian tune 'I'm in fire', routine that uses many basic belly-dance steps and postures. The piece had different styling for the women and men's parts; John and Toshi got to swing some pretty impressive canes in the air. Karen was kind to bring us not only the music for the piece, but also 15 canes that can be used by all interested parties. She also let 'the rest of us' to use the hip scarves she brought, and we surely moved them; our usual meeting place (the Aerobics Rm #1 in Student Rec and

Fitness center) went full of jingle. A joyous time was had by all and we managed to finish dancing and get out of the gym just in time to avoid being locked in for the night!

On Saturday the folkdancers danced their Greek routine in front of the Hippodrome theater as guests of the Greek booth at the Downtown Arts Festival. The arrangement proved to be a logistical nightmare (as street entertainers are not allocated sound systems and the boombox we brought was not strong enough for the space) but friends of friends helped and we ended up having our music played on the Hippodrome sound system quite successfully. The performance went very well, and we got plenty of positive comments and interested questions after it was all over. Bravo one and all: Diane, Gary, Jacek, Jenneine, Josan, Joyce, Kim, Margaret, Max, Raluca, Shelley, Yang. As one audience member put it: seeing people of different ages and ethnic origins dancing together made it 'so cool'. Go, go folkdancers!

Talking about folkdancers, we were happy to see a good number of them in the audience (it seemed that everyone who didn't make it at the GRreek night came to see us on Saturday: Julieta, Karen, Mark G., Michael J, Randy, Tina, Tom and Melanie, as well as other friends-- plenty of people we knew cheered for us).

See you all dancing, Raluca

SHARPES ASSEMBLY FESTIVAL 2003

The 6TH Annual Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance and Contra Festival was held the first weekend in October 2003. This year's event saw an attendance of 76 people, including the 14 teachers and leaders. Most of the dancers are members of one or more of the following organizations – CDSS, Contralab, The Lloyd Shaw Foundation or Florida Folk Dance Council. Dancers came from, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia, as well as Florida.

The festival was held at the venerable Kenilworth Lodge (circa 1915) in Sebring, Florida. The lodge boasts 2 ballrooms with

wooden floors. The program included daytime workshops for basic through very experienced dancers, directed by George and Onie Senyk, and evening dances, including 2 balls featuring the Turnbridge Trio Band. Contracts have been signed for the 7TH annual festival, October 1 – 3, 2004

Duquesne University TAMBURITZANS

Florida 2003-2004 Season
Schedule of Performances in Florida

Included in the 2003-2004 program:

Svatovac: a lively Croatian epic relating the story of a village wedding celebration.

Dances of Backa: a brand new choreography showcasing the traditions of Bunjevci.

Stara Vlajna: an exuberant set of dances from Serbia.

Scenes from Armenia: dance motifs from Armenia, including a delicate woman's segment and a fiery man's dances featuring a daring sword scene.

A first tale from Slovakia: a Robin Hood-esque character "Janosik" and his band of Brigands travel the countryside deftly wielding their axes.

East Slovakia: a set of girl's dances.

Nowy Sacz sketch: a Polish character sketch.

Szatmár Tancok: a suite of dances from Hungary's Szatmár region.

Dances of Bukovina: dances representing the traditions of the Ukraine.

Northern Bulgaria: a vibrant new choreography depicting a grand village grape harvest.

Music and Songs: also featured are music and songs from Greece, Macedonia, Russia, Romania, and Slovenia.

January 2004

02 Fri 8:00 PM Winter Haven- Polk
Community College Fine Arts Center
863-297-1050

03 Sat 7:00 PM Tarpon Springs Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center
727-942-5605

04 Sun 3:00PM Tarpon Springs Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center
727-942-5605

06 Tue 8:00 PM Melbourne Maxwell C. King Center, Brevard CC
321-242-2219

07 Wed 7:30 PM Fort Pierce St. Lucie County Civic Center
561-462-1538

09 Fri 7:30 PM Lake Worth Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach Community College
877-826-6437

10 Sat 7:30 PM Lake Worth Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach Community College
877-826-6437

March 2004

06 Sat 7:30 PM Niceville OWCC Arts Center
850-682-7329

11 Thu 7:00 PM North Port North Port High School
941-475-2429

13 Sat 7:00 PM Crescent City George C. Miller Middle School
386-698-2342

JOY ON THE ROAD

From: joy077@webtv.net

I JUST LOVE MAKING TRIPS TO CALIFORNIA TO VISIT MY SISTER AND BROTHER..LEFT AUGUST 22..HAD TO CHANGE PLANE IN PHOENIX..THE OFF TO SACRAMENTO..JUST LOVE TO FLY..BUT ONE THING I REALLY DON'T LIKE IS (NO FOOD) BUT THEY DO GIVE YOU PEANUTS, DRINKS, CHIPS, COOKIES....AND THE HARD STUFF FOR \$\$\$\$...

ONLY HAD 4 DAYS TO VISIT....AND DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MONEY TO REALLY GO ANY PLACE EXCITING... BUT TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR....MY BROTHER HAD BY-PASS SURGERY (6) AND HE REALLY PUT THE WEIGHT ON...I THINK WITH ME BEING THERE HELPED HIM WANTING TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT....WENT TO ADKINS DIET AND ALREADY LOST 11 POUNDS..SO HAPPY...CAUSE I WENT BACK TO WEIGHT WATCHERS NOT LONG BEFORE THE TRIP...SO I WAS BEING VERY CAREFUL...

NOT MUCH TO SAY...VISIT A LOT WENT TO FLEA MARKET..OUT TO EAT SEVERAL PLACES....BUT A NICE VISIT...

I CAME FROM A FAMILY OF 9...LOST MY FATHER, MOTHER, & 3 SISTER..SO WE TRY TO KEEP UP WITH VISITS..I DO RECOMMEND VISITING WITH FAMILY WHILE THEY'RE STILL HERE.

KEEP DANCING...LOVE JOY

=== ALSO ===

Here's a very interesting web site with costumes online!

<http://members.aol.com/nebula5/tcpinfo3.html>

TRIP TO GREECE!

by "Jenneine" <dancnaro@atlantic.net>

Greece was great! (dah, of course) John Lulias and Joe Graziosi led us through the folk museum, acropolis and the folk instrument museum of Athens for two days. They knew just where to eat in Plaka there, with live music.

With a GREAT bus driver we traversed through Corinth to a ferry over to Cephalonia – where "Captain Corelli's Mandoline" was filmed. Avoiding the initial panic saved me when swept out to sea by the under current.(I wasn't ready to visit the Italian coast yet!)

We trained at a local dance studio and then danced again at dinner that night with local musicians. The same itinerary was repeated in Corfu, over the glorious Pendus mountains to

Metsovo, Florina, Kotsari, Krokus, and Thessolonia and Alexandra. Walking and eating and dancing and eating and museums and eating and sight seeing and more dancing and eating for 17 wonderful days. torturous bliss, great fun. I traveled with Micky from New York along with 23 other new friends.

A special event took place in Krokus, where the crocus flowers are cultivated for their stamens = saffron. The Mayor met us and we were honored guest at the "Lulias Culture Center". There we feasted on the best roasted lamb! They danced and sang, we danced, it was SO nice. The center is named in honor of John's great uncle/cousin who was, in that town, shot by Nazi Germans in 1943. A priest at age ~32, his uncle was killed for promoting/maintaining the Greek culture, despite the oppression.

John put together one incredible experience. As he said, "We saw more of Greece than most Greeks, and danced more dances than most Greeks"

Appropriately awarded, the Greek Student Association at the University of Florida honored John Lulias for his work "promoting the Greek culture" through his dance history, teaching, and judging as well as his many projects, dance workshops and tours of Greece. He's one great Greek gator!

- jenneine oh-so-grateful lambert

Israeli Dance Workshop Reminder

by "Deborah Meitin" dmeitin@cfl.rr.com

Hold the date for the 17th annual Israeli Dance Workshop in Orlando.... Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28, 2004

TAMPA TALKS

by "Terry Abrahams"

<terry.abrahams@verizon.net>

TAMPA TALKS (I never get tired of trying to think of new titles)...

This is hard to believe, but this month came and went with nothing that exciting...first - congrats to the Lathi's on their new grandchild – nothing is better than that!

I combined my fencing and dancing life this month. I went to G'ville for a tournament in the morning, ended at 2:00 and went directly to the all-day contra dance (11 to 11) sponsored by the G'ville dance group. My daughter Mickey went with me, and that was double the fun, which was already doubled, does that mean I had quadruple the fun? Needless to say, my legs had quite a workout and I was glad to do nothing the next day. Then the following week I went fencing in Melbourne, we (3 other fencers) started from Tampa at 5:00 a.m., started fencing at 8:30 a.m. (how ungodly) and didn't finish until 5:00. I fenced about 30 bouts, which is a LOT, (fenced in 3 different "tournaments" – D and under, Women's and Veterans). The good news is that I took FIRST in Women's Foil - (haven't done that in a while) and the bad news is that both of my hands still hurt, my knees are cracking and my bruises are still visible. It was quite a fencing day and I'm not in that kind of shape!

But what the hey! Speaking of Hey - if you are Snowball people, don't forget to sign up, it's a big weekend and fills up almost immediately.

International dancing should be as popular - but of course it can't - it's much more difficult and interesting! I have a fencing button that says, "If fencing were easy, everyone would do it." I think I'll make a similar one for International dancing. But we know and love it, and that's the most important thing.... This month I'm off to my 50th H.S. reunion (I know that cannot be as I am only 37 yrs old to begin with) and the following weekend to Hagigah, an Israeli dance camp in Wisconsin. Back in the traveling saddle again!

By the way, I never got to Carolyn and Gary's party, but Judith tells me it was well attended and lots of fun. It was too long a trek from G'ville to their home, but I'm trying for their next party. Well, not having anything to say this month only took one loonnnggg paragraph!

- Terry

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

Florida Folk Dancer 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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Send articles & submissions by the 15th of the month.
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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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Mark your calendars

- FFDC Camp is Feb. 20-23, 2004.

FIRST CLASS