

# Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

December 2003

## ABOUT LEE OTTERHOLT

by Ann Kessler

[ANNIE8@aol.com](mailto:ANNIE8@aol.com)

By very popular request, and the only time in the history of FFDC, Inc. Camp, Lee has graciously consented to be a teacher for the second time in a row. His many experiences and talents are too numerous to mention here (will be in the Camp brochure) but just a little for now:

Lee Otterholt was born in the USA of Norwegian-American parents and has lived and worked most of his life in Norway as a professional dancer, dance teacher and choreographer. In Norway, he founded and is still the leader of the Center for International Folk Dance in Oslo, Norway. He is professor of folkloristic dance at the Norwegian National College of Ballet and at the University College of Oslo. Also, Lee had been responsible for the establishment of four active folk dance clubs and three performing groups in Norway, and for the past ten years, he has been active on the international scene, teaching folk dance in Europe, the United States and East Asia, etc., etc. He was also one of the choreographers of the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway in 1994.

Lee has presently made a permanent home in California, USA.

## ABOUT AMAR LATHI

Jan Lathi, the wife of Amar, has been very kind to keep us informed on the health of one of our dear dancers, Amar. In November, she emailed us by saying that Amar had been diagnosed with a large tumor/lesion of the brain. He underwent very successful 5 hour surgery on November 24, 2003 in which most of the tumor was removed without damaging any of his brain functions. They are still up in the Boston area (where most of Amar's family is and where the surgery was performed). I understand he is already back home and

awaiting a pathology report which will determine the amount of radiation that will be needed with possibility of chemotherapy later. They are both hoping, that if chemotherapy is needed, and Amar is up to traveling, they will return to the warmth of Florida for this procedure.

We all know of Amar's fighting spirit and his great talents and achievements as a medal-winner swimmer, and both Jan's and Amar's great love for international folk dance. His spirits remain as positive now as before the surgery which will be a tremendous help towards his full recovery.

Jan and Amar already know of our own personal love, thoughts and the many prayers for Amar's full recovery. If you would like to extend your own individual thoughts, you can email Jan at: [amarjan@bestnetpc.com](mailto:amarjan@bestnetpc.com) (or presently at: [DCLahti@aol.com](mailto:DCLahti@aol.com)), or write to Jan Lathi, c/o Dr. SG Lathi, 31 Pine Street, Weston, Ma. 02493.

With the deepest of thoughts and concern -

Ann Kessler and the  
Membership of FFDC

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## BABIAC DANCE ENSEMBLE in Sarasota

by Shirley Babiak

<[shirleybabiak@comcast.net](mailto:shirleybabiak@comcast.net)>

The Babiaks look forward to Florida Folk Dance Camp next February. We miss seeing you all. Dmitri's knee replacement has proved a great success. He is very pleased and loves dancing.

This year has been different. The Sarasota Arts Council has sponsored folk dance classes for elementary school children. The students learned the patterns and loved performing them for other students and their parents. Every year, one of our dancers, Pam Witte, who teaches second grade, gets a sizeable grant to pay us to give weekly classes, provide simple costume parts, (sell students a CD of the music at cost),

and put on shows. We love watching how dance changes them. Holding hands and focusing on helping the whole line perform well produces a sense of community and they become "show folks".

We did an Italian show for the Ringling Museum and performed outdoors for and with students at Eckert College in St. Pete. The Suncoast Oktoberfest celebration really taxed our stamina--doing 4 shows each weekend at the Manatee County and then the Sarasota County Fairgrounds.

Our main production each year is the Sarasota Arts Day show on the third Sunday in January on Main Street. We provide Slavic costumes for about 20 dancers (which include some of our children and grandchildren.) At Dmitri's 80th Birthday Bash (November 1), everyone got up and folk danced--or bellydanced. Tahja and Juan de la Sierra presented exotic Polynesian dances and had our friends and relatives put on grass skirts and show off their...muscular versatility. Keeping this dance form alive and developing new young leaders --passing on this priceless heritage-- is an important mission.

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### News from the Atlanta International Dance Community

by David Digby [ddigby@mindspring.com](mailto:ddigby@mindspring.com)



The most exciting event this fall was not actually here in town, but in Nashville, in October. Quite a number of Atlanta dancers went to the Autumn Leaves workshop for Turkish dancing with Ahmet Luleci. We were also delighted to see that Florida was

represented by Jenneine Lambert. We had terrific live music (imagine a band that hangs around to play along and learn new songs while we danced to recorded music!). Here are a couple of pictures of Ahmet, one of the band's 'culture hour', and one where part of our Atlanta delegation stopped for lunch on the way home.



When it came time for David's birthday (yeah, it happens to all of us), Dorothy arranged for a small dinner party at our favorite Turkish restaurant. (Turkish again? OK, there's something in the air.) They had a flier saying there would be live music on Tuesday evenings, so she called around and rounded up a dozen diners. The owner is one of Dorothy's former bank customers and has always 'put on the dog' for our dance group when we eat there, including some of the Rang Tang crowd a couple of times.



He said he would normally not be there on Tuesday night, but would come that night to get everybody dancing. Boy, did he ever! There was a three-piece band (photo is almost TOO close up), along with an excellent belly dancer

the flier didn't mention. (Her technique was WAY beyond the typical belly dancer who really NEEDS a fancy costume. You can see from the 2nd photo that she did NOT take "no" for an answer!)



The owner (in cake photo and 2nd in dance line) dragged almost all of us, and a few other customers, up to dance with him and his dancing waiters. We took a birthday cake for our group, and the restaurant provided plates and forks. (OK, there aren't enough candles. The actual number is a prime that follows an extremely composite one.) Our guys agreed it was one of the best parties we've had.



All three local international groups are meeting regularly, and doing a number of dances from Florida Camp, Rang Tang and Autumn Leaves. We have also had an English country dance weekend and a contra dance weekend here in town this fall, both attended by quite a few international dancers. (There was to have been a waltz weekend, too, but the promoter 'chickened out' when there weren't enough advance registrations) We are looking

forward to Florida Camp again this February. Keep up the good work!

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### Orlando International Folk Dance Club

By: Pat Henderson

Several dancers from our group attended the Lecanto Greek Festival on October 25. It was a great festival but not quite as good in the past. They hired the Grecian Strings, a Florida band that did not measure up to the band New York of last year. We had our annual Halloween party on October 29. Most dancers came in either Halloween or international costumes. We had good food and we enjoyed our night of dance. Travels this fall include Ann and Danny Robinson to Branson, Missouri with a group of Orlando square dancers. They saw several shows a day. Juanita and Fred Schockey took a cruise around Hawaii.

At the time of this writing, we are waiting to see her for the first time after the trip. Joan and Wally Washington also took a cruise to and around Hawaii after taking a train across country. We heard that it was raining a lot there this month. By the time you read this, my retirement from Valencia Community College for 30 1/2 years will be imminent (January 5, 2004). The sale of our property is not going well at the moment so we are here for awhile longer. We still have hopes of relocating to the Tallahassee area next year.

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### ISRAELI DANCE

Debbie Meitin <[dmeitin@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dmeitin@cfl.rr.com)>

The room schedule for Israeli Dance for December & January:

- 12/29 - Aud. A
- 1/5 - Youth Meeting Room
- 1/12 - Youth Meeting Room
- 1/19 - Youth Meeting Room
- 1/26 - Youth Meeting Room

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### Hello Everybody!

**Scandinavian dance workshops** will be at Kate Jackson Ctr in Tampa, 1 to 4:30 pm, \$5.00, on the following Saturdays:

Future workshops MAY be scheduled for Apr 24 and May 1, and for May 29 and June 5 in 2004. Wednesday evening class will continue January 7, 2004. HAPPY DANCING & HAPPY HOLIDAYS too! Judith and Ernesto  
**SCANDINAVIAN TURNING DANCE WORKSHOP SERIES**

**SIMPLY SWEDISH**

JANUARY 31 2004  
1:00 TO 4:30 PM \$5.00  
KATE JACKSON RECREATION CENTER  
821 SOUTH ROME, TAMPA FL  
Phone: 813 259-1704  
Register by email: [judithbaizan@juno.com](mailto:judithbaizan@juno.com) or by phone 813 254-03359

**HAVE FUN WITH SCANDINAVIAN TURNING DANCES**

WEDNESDAYS 7:00 TO 10:00 PM \$ 3.00  
KATE JACKSON RECREATION CENTER  
821 SOUTH ROME, TAMPA  
PHONE 259-1704  
*7:00 - 8:00 pm Basics*  
*8:00 - 10:00 pm Program & Requests*  
Information: email: [judithbaizan@juno.com](mailto:judithbaizan@juno.com) or by phone 813-254-3359

**FOCUS ON NORWAY**

TWO WORKSHOPS  
*FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 6 2004*  
*1:00 TO 4:30 PM \$5.00 each*  
KATE JACKSON RECREATION CENTER  
821 SOUTH ROME TAMPA FL  
Phone: 813 259-1704.  
Register by email: [judithbaizan@juno.com](mailto:judithbaizan@juno.com) or by phone 813 254-3359

**The Grand Haven Bag Mystery**

By: Pat Henderson  
When Bobby and I were leaving Fall Fling in Melbourne, someone put a canvas bag in our hands and said "Give this to Eva." There were some baby diapers and a small shirt in the bag that has "Grand Haven Village Center" embroidered on it. Eva Gaber had brought her two little ones that day so of course, the bag belonged to Eva. The next Monday, we took the

bag to Israeli dance to Eva. We were very surprised when she said that it was not hers. So, if anyone is looking for the above bag, please let me know. Contact me at: 407-275-6247 or [henderp@bellsouth.net](mailto:henderp@bellsouth.net). Let's solve this mystery!

**A Note From Amar**

I'm so thankful to all of you for all of your good wishes, thoughts, moral support, and prayers.

I am recovering on a daily basis; however, my hearing and eyesight have been significantly affected due to surgery and the doctors have indicated that it could take a month or two to recover the hearing and up to three months or more to recover my eyesight. This is common among brain tumor folks; my eye prescription may totally change.

I start radiation in a week or two concurrently with chemo therapy and we'll definitely be here until the end of January. After that nobody knows - one day at a time!

I miss you all. I want to wish you the best for the holidays - Christmas and the New Year, and I hope to get back to gradual normalcy starting sometime in March.

Meanwhile, I really appreciate all the medical/technical expertise provided by my brothers and their wives. All the help and emotional support that I am getting from them and Janice cannot be matched.

Amar

**Thanks for a Great Fall Fling**

All of us in South Brevard want to thank everyone who came and made this year's Fall Fling another great event. About thirty-five people came to enjoy a day of request dancing. About fifteen stayed for breakfast and more dancing Sunday morning. It seems amazing that even with all the dances Bobby and I have available, there were still a couple of requests we couldn't fill. But only a couple, and I don't think anyone went away disappointed.

John Daly

## Scandinavian Dance Workshops in Tampa

A highlight of the fall season, at least for me, was the series of four Scandinavian dance workshops hosted by Judith Baizan in Tampa. Most International Dancers seem to think that Scandinavian dances begin and end with the Swedish Hambo. Some may include Schottisches and even Roros Pols. Judith was there to show us that there's a great deal more variety, even if one focuses only on the turning couple dances. Yes, fast turning dances are part of the excitement. But Judith showed us dances at a variety of tempos and dance forms.

If the program is offered again next year, I would urge anyone who enjoys dancing to come and join us. The workshops are held at the Kate Jackson Center, which is easy to reach from out of town. More to the point, the facility has fantastic wood floors. And for those who worry about there being too many women to hold couple dances, each of these workshops had more men than women. There is a wealth of fun to be had with dances from the Scandinavian countries. And they just get easier the more one learns about them. I'm pleased to say I learned a great deal, got a bit more style into my muscle memory, and just generally had a grand time.

John Daly

## Check your listing in Places to Dance

I've been updating the Places to Dance on the web page ([www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)), but there are many groups I haven't heard from in a long time, and I'm not even sure all are still meeting. And are there any groups meeting in North Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Juno or Jupiter? I got an inquiry about dancing in this area and had nothing to offer. So please get your information together and send it to me at [jdaly@palmnet.net](mailto:jdaly@palmnet.net) Please put FFDC in the subject as it helps me weed the information from the spam. Thanks,

John Daly

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SKANDIA FESTIVAL 2003

Judith F Baizan <[judithbaizan@juno.com](mailto:judithbaizan@juno.com)>

In this, its 17th year, it almost didn't happen! Cedar Glen Camp, on the outskirts of Julian, CA, long time venue for the event, was so threatened by last month's wildfires that the firefighters told the camp management there was no way they could save the buildings. Then that evening a heavy wet fog rolled in unexpectedly and kept the fire back! Was that a miracle or what!

Those of us in California and around the country who had registered for the camp and had been anxiously watching headlines and TV screens hoping for news, were simply given an "all clear," and we only learned how close the camp had come to disaster once we were there.

Otherwise, everything was more or less as in other years: excellent dance instructors from Sweden speaking perfect English, three wonderful Swedish fiddlers taking turns teaching and playing for dancing, and one expert homegrown fiddler for evening Norwegian springars. The dance floor is superb, cabins are comfortable, meals are tasty, and partners are accomplished. At snack time we are presented with veggies accompanied by a basket of selected gourmet cookies lovingly baked by California dancers.

Campers check in late on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, and usually there is some spontaneous fiddling and dancing for a couple of hours. Officially the event begins on Friday with all day classes, the same on Saturday, and dance parties both evenings. After Sunday morning review the weekend officially ends with lunch. For information about next year's event contact Ted Martin at [tedmart@juno.com](mailto:tedmart@juno.com); 714 893-8888.

Judith Baizan

## Whose Job Is It?

Submitted by George A. Fogg

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's

job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

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**YOU ARE INVITED  
TO A RETIREMENT/BIRTHDAY PARTY  
FOR PAT HENDERSON**



Celebrating 55 years of life and 30 ½ years as a librarian for Valencia Community College

**When:** January 24, 2004, Saturday

2pm Dancing, 6pm Dinner,

7:30pm Dancing & Partying

**Where:** 9859 Berry Dease Road, Orlando

Please: No presents - only your presence desired

**RSVP** by January 21, 2004, to 407-275-6247 or [henderp@bellsouth.net](mailto:henderp@bellsouth.net)

\*Accommodations available overnight if needed

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**TANTALIZING TAMPA**

That's so bad, maybe I should just pick a title like the rest of you and keep the same one every month. We are hardly tantalizing! So! Thought Dan forgot us there for awhile on the last issue - but glad he's back! Random thoughts: We've canceled Fri nites a couple of times, the contra group keeps having something we feel we **MUST** be at on Friday nights, and sure enough, Kathy Anderson will be here this Friday, so there we go again. But when we dance, we dance! Our Israeli group met at my house one night when the rec center was closed, my new room worked pretty well. Loved seeing everyone at the Fall Fling. Thank heaven we have these activities to keep in touch with

friends as well as a nice sized group to dance with.

This month I'm hoping to get to Orlando's holiday party. Andi K and Ursula continue to go to Sarasota every Wednesday to dance with their group, so they keep up with that group. Andy P continues to become a swing maven, hitting many workshops here and there and everywhere. Bill S also goes to a lot of them. Maria Pasetti had her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and is still dancing! Congratulations to her on her really really big one! Her kids helped her celebrate. There was a very nice article about her in the newspaper. I'm performing with the St. Pete Israeli dancers this weekend and also maybe on New Year's Eve - for the First Night. Guess I don't lead much of a life if I'm available for that! Well, it should be fun! A couple of us are going to Miami for Machol Miami, some full, some part time, so I will have had my share of Israeli workshops this year. Did I write last month that Hagigah in Wisconsin was great! As was my High School reunion in Illinois. A couple of old friends that I loved seeing, a couple of new dances that I loved learning! Judith is in CA doing some more Scan. She had a big workshop two weekends ago when the contra weekend called Appetiser (pre T-giving) was on, and she had 20 people! It was a very nice workshop - Melbourne and Jax were even present! Looking forward to our camp now. By the way, I think the floor idea has died. I tried and tried, but it became less and less feasible. We'll discuss it at camp....bye for now. Also, on your registration form, note the T-shirt colors are **NOT** the same as last year (blue, purple, olive), we forgot to change that item. If you already chose one of last year's, change it to charcoal, bright pink or bright yellow; let J.P. know. Those of you who let me know, I sent on to her. Thanks everyone for your continued patience! An interesting design this year - one hand reaching for another - looks good - Annie's idea! Continued prayers to Amar and Jan.

Happy Holidays. Terry

## 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](http://www.folkdance.org)

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## FIRST CLASS