

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

April 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ann Kessler

My Dear Fellow Folk Dancers -

From a lot of recent verbal and email communications, I know that everyone enjoyed the FFDC Camp this year. So happy to hear that.

Now to continue on from the annual membership meeting to inform you all of some new and exciting changes (most are in the minutes that appear in this Newsletter, but one thing was omitted).

1. As has been done in the past and again part of our future: All those who register FULL-TIME for our Camp in February will automatically be members (starting in 2005, so if you have not paid your membership fees for this year, please do so. **ALSO PLEASE NOTE:** Send all checks or other info to me, addresses on the masthead until we can get another treasurer) All membership fees will be paid for full-time registration, except if only "1/2" of a family membership registers for camp, that person will have to pay \$5.00 to cover the family membership. (And fees for camp next year will be just slightly higher to cover the extra cost for food. We cannot complain about this, because the cost of food has remained the same for 2 years).

2. And there is nothing like preparing early! We just finished one camp and time now to start thinking of the next one. At least for this aspect of it - we are going to have a contest so attention all you artists and creative people.

Next year will be the 25th anniversary of FFDC Camp (more on that date down below *) and we want a unique design for the cover of our syllabus; our t-shirt and our name buttons.

Please don't take pictures from costume books - I am an excellent cut and paster myself but absolutely no artist - and also remember

copyright restrictions. I would love something stating either 25 years / or, our 25th year / or, 25th anniversary, etc. - and then put some dancing feet on the letters (stick figures are great), and maybe some hats on the tops of the letters/numbers. Whatever - you are the artists. Try to stick with just 3 colors, please (outside of the black lettering of the main message - if that is what the lettering will be). To incorporate a little silver would be good, too, for our silver anniversary. And then the actual color of the t-shirts can be determined later, or according to the colors you use for the feet, etc. Entries must be submitted to me by January 1st, 2005 (and you can submit more than one entry if desired, or submit something done by someone else - doesn't matter). The winner of this contest will have 1/2 of his/her camp fees paid, plus Receiving two free t-shirts. The Board and Terry Abrahams (who always does the t-shirts and buttons for us) will decide the winner.

Also enclosed with this Newsletter is the Revised Bylaws of February, 2004. This will be the only copy sent to you, and if there are any changes or additions you would like, you **MUST** notify me by December 1, 2004 so that this can be prepared as part of our annual meeting. No new discussions or changes in **BYLAWS** will be taken from the floor.

* Ah, yes - to that 25th year. Are you ready for confusion? I have in my possession from the president's files, a copy of our Articles of Incorporation that was not signed by our "mothers" - Judith Baizan, Andi Kapplin, and Terry Abrahams, nor was it dated except the typewritten date of 1980 (which would make our Camp, under incorporation, 25 years old. Now that I am in possession of the treasurer's files, of which I am only too happy to relinquish, but ever grateful for finding valuable information for which I have made copies for the president's files. That exact information is that incor-

poration was applied for on December 8, 1980 (and signed by our mothers), but was not filed until January 15, 1981 (at 11:35 AM to be exact) so that would really only make us 24 years old. I understand there were some camps before that time but the only information I have on the TEACHERS at camp, dates back to 1981 (George Tomov from Yugoslavia). That would have been the first camp under incorporation. I also have an old syllabus, found also in the files, that says: "Florida Folk Dance Council - 25th Anniversary - CAMP OCALA!?!?!? No wonder one woman said at the meeting (sorry - forget who said it) when we announced our up and coming 25th anniversary, she said: "What - again?" Fred and I only came to Florida the end of 1990 so am not aware of previous activities. But anyway, the last two syllabi of our FFDC, INC. Camp has said the 23rd and 24th year, so let 2005 be our 25th year. Let us not spoil all the fun and excitement with mathematics!

And now a final plea - we need a treasurer! Won't someone please step forward to complete JP's term (she will be sadly missed - she not only kept our books in perfect order, but got our incorporation status reinstated. Thank you, JP, and safe and happy journeys in your motor home and new life). The coming year will find you with very little to do except keeping records of membership and conferring with our editor, Dan Lampert on this. At Camp time, I will receive all registration forms and monies and keep track of everything, including the membership that is part of full-time registration, and even personally calling anyone with errors in their registration forms. Of course, all this information will be passed on to you where you will keep your own financial records, which will be an excellent check on all figures. Again, please contact me directly. When an officer has not completed his/her term of office, the president appoints someone, with board approval, to complete that term. Please, please - won't you join our wonderful board? We really need you and it is lots of fun, too.

Besides all this Parliamentarian stuff - have fun on the dance floor -

Ann Kessler

REFLECTIONS ON DANCE

by Dan Lampert

For a couple months now, an odd group of folkdancers (including myself!) have been exchanging emails on the "philosophy of dancing". We cover topics from the history and origins of dance, to modern-day ideas and concepts.

In computer terms, this is called a "list server".

If anyone would like to participate, just send me an email and tell me so. I'll add your name to the list, and you'll automatically receive emails whenever anyone in the group sends one.

In turn, if you want to send an idea to everyone on the list, you just send an email to <phil@folkdance.org> Note: of course, we don't tolerate commercial solicitations, so don't do that.

Oh, and I forgot to say... membership in the "phil" mailing list is FREE! To become a member, send a request to dan@webuniv.com To contact the group, send a message to phil@folkdance.org

ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP

From Debbie Meitin <dmeitin@cfl.rr.com>

Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28 over 70 people enjoyed the excitement of the 17th Annual Israeli Dance Workshop sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando, with guest teacher extraordinaire Dany Benshalom. Dany had just arrived in the US on the previous Thursday and led a total of 8 workshops, in 7 different cities by the time he returned to Israel on April 2. I get tired just thinking about it!!





Accompanied by organizer par excellence Ruthy Slann, Dany led a wonderful workshop,

teaching us 10 dances on Saturday and Sunday. They were primarily some of the latest dances popular in Israel, and a couple older favorites.

Thanks to dancers from all around Florida who attended and participated with great enthusiasm. We will be reviewing the dances for a while, at least in Orlando. Please join us if you can on Mondays at 7:30PM at the JCC.

--Debbie Meitin



GAINESVILLE HAPPENINGS

From Raluca Ioana Rosca <rarosca@ufl.edu>

Nobody can beat Terry's alliterations but one can surely try (an alphabetization?)

Anyhow, March was full of folkdance happenings in Gainesville.

Due to Spring break, on March 5 and 12 we danced outside our regular gym and in a new place, the recreation room of Weaver Hall, the International House on UF campus. The place is large enough and is open to visitors of all ages and UF (non) affiliations, so we will try to keep it as an 'alternative' meeting place. Jack Seltzer volunteered to be responsible during the Summer with a Sunday dance in there, 7-10 pm, and hopefully we will get some of the international exchange students and the American students living in this dorm interested in folkdance and willing to join us in the gym as well.

Raluca is happy to report that the Weaver Hall space is secured for the summer and moreover the International Folkdance Club now has an office space on the ground floor of the International House! Stay tuned for the newest developments...

March 19 we were out of the gym again, this time in a PR/recruitment campaign during Gator Nights (a weekly event taking place on campus in Reitz Union, and involving free food and movies, serious competition for Friday folkdancing in the gym). Our resident Bhangra teachers, Josan and Aman, had a visitor from Wisconsin, Davindra, a fellow Bhangra aficionado who used to dance w. the national Bhangra team in Punjabi.. So the three of them enlisted the help of Yang Mu and Margaret, put on some glorious costumes and all 5 of them performed and taught Bhangra for almost 3 hours.

The audience grew steadily, and by the end of the event more than 50 students have danced or watched them. Even nicer, we had the chance to do some dance cross-pollination: some people came for the Bhangra, left w. fliers for tango and promised to show up on Fridays as well to do some Greek dance! We'll see...

What one could see w.o. glasses was the increase in the number of (enthusiastic!) participants to the 'Sunday w. Andrei' tango classes. If the first session had 6 participants, the second one had almost 26 dancers + a visiting photograph in the person of Debra Anderson, the coordinator of International Student Services -- she gets extra points for dancing Bhangra as well!). The merit for this increase is equally divided between the excellent teaching of Andrei and the effective advertising organized by Yang Mu.

If Sunday ended with tango, it started with a Budget Hearing in front of Student Government (starting July 1st, we'll be one of the almost 700 student organizations as opposed to one of the 35 Student Clubs; it depends on us to make this change a happy and a prosperous one).

Anyhow, Shelley, Yang and myself wake up early, got together to talk about the club, and show pictures and fliers and to even demonstrate a sing-along 'Alunelul!' It all went very well, but we'll have to do a repeat this Sunday, just before the performance for Dance Marathon, the 36 hours dance event that takes place at O Connell Center.

And of course, at the next budget hearing we'll have yet another activity to report: the Hawaiian dance workshop taught by Karen. The Tuesday night spot was not very popular, but a great time was had by all dancers and passers-by (including Tanya, visiting from Miami!). Karen introduced first the basic footwork, and then added the arms and hand movement. If you never done a hula, that would have been a great first try.

Well, that's all for now. Come join us on Friday, and you'll get to see them all: the dance about the grass shack mixed with some ant-stomping Tropankas, the Argentine tango and the English country dance, the Bhangra and the Macedonian man dances and, of course, 'the newest sensation in old dances', the dances from the camp!

See you all dancing,
Raluca

JIM GOLD sent some fliers about his tours in 2004:

Greece - May 11-21, 2004
Slovenia & Croatia - July 31-Aug. 10, 2004
Hungary - Aug. 9-19, 2004

If you have an interest in any of these events, visit www.jimgold.com or call him at 201-836-0362. His email address is jimgold@jimgold.com

INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND WITH COLIN HUME

From Charlie Dyer <chdyer@aya.yale.edu>

Colin Hume, of Hertfordshire, England, the choreographer of "Elizabeth" and several other fine English country dances, is coming to North Florida this Independence Day weekend.

He will call an all day English country dance on Saturday July 3rd in Jacksonville at the Good Shepherd Church.

Then on Sunday July 4th, he will call the regular 1st Sunday Gainesville, FL contra dance.

Registration is now open. Details of the weekend and a simplified registration form can be found at:

<http://chdyer.tripod.com/colinhume.html>

This page can also be reached from the main page- www.DanceFlorida.com

Hope to see you all there.

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NEWS FROM JAN LATHI

<amarjan@bestnetpc.com>

Hi, friends,

It has been awhile since I caught y'all up on what is happening with us.

Amar is still in rehab and has actually been doing quite well with physical therapy. He is walking unattended all over the place, even

though he is supposed to be assisted when he leaves his bed/chair. His cognitive skills are being addressed but progress here is unbelievably slow. The short term memory is just not there but he can remember minute details from his childhood. It occurs to me that dancing would be the perfect practice for redeveloping memory skills. I'll work on that. His next (4th) course of chemotherapy begins on March 29th for 5 days. His brain scan from 3 weeks ago showed no appreciable tumor activity which is good news. Blood work has revealed a change in his red blood cell production so he is taking some kind of "booster" to increase production. This is a side effect of the chemo. He takes Coumadin for his lung and leg clots. His legs are still somewhat swollen from phlebitis and inactivity. He looks the picture of health - good color, glistening skin, his usual smile. He is receiving lots of visitors at the rehab center and I "kidnap" him occasionally on weekend afternoons when there are no physical therapy sessions for a visit to our home.

I have had one session of chemo and am due for my next one on March 29th. For this I must be driven to Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville for a 7-hour intravenous course of several chemicals.

The only side effect was unbelievable exhaustion, which occurred 4 days after treatment and lasted for about 3 days. My hair does not seem to be anchored as strongly to this old head and is beginning to thin out. That will be my status symbol! I still dance in Flagler Beach on Thursday afternoons and we welcome any visitors to join us.

We are hoping that Amar will return home in a few weeks if I do not show any worse effects from chemo. He will continue therapy in the home.

We both continue to count the blessings we do find in each day - the marvelous support of friends, family, and neighbors.

Keep the cards and wishes coming for Amar. He is at Grand Oaks Health and Rehab Center, Room 406, 3001 Palm Coast Parkway SE, Palm Coast, FL, 32137. He can receive visitors - it is actually good for him to stimulate his

social side and tickle his memory system. If you do visit, avoid 11 am and 1 pm when therapy is scheduled. If he is sleeping, wake him up! I think he sleeps from boredom. He goes to sleep at night by 7 pm.

Thank you all for just being there.

Jan

**GOODBYE, SHELLEY --
and other end-of-semester stories**

By Raluca Ioana Rosca rarosca@ufl.edu

I trust that Jenneine, Yang or Julieta will write some more about their trip to Atlanta for Rang Tang, in the mean time I'll write about what I've witnessed: an eventful end of semester!

Last Friday, we celebrated Shelley's graduation with balloons and a big card in the rec room and a sweet break at Maude's Cafe after dance (improved by Tanya's out-of-town visit). Of course we had dance, we even had a quick review of all the Israeli dances that Shelley introduced to the group: Hatishma (the Peter-Paul and Mary sounding one), Neshikat Turkit (The Turkish Kiss), the Klezmer - sounding Nigun, a revived Hora Medura---a list longer than my spelling abilities. Thanks are due to Jack for the gathering idea, to Yang for buying the graduation props and to Max for producing a CD for Shelley.

We didn't have too much respiro time, as on Saturday we danced downtown for Earth Day festival. With input from Shelley and Yang as choreographers and costume-designer, we devised an alternative dance program: performing Dansul Fetelor de la Crihalma (Romania), Papuri(Armenia), Nehikat Turkit (Israeli) and the Little Grass Shack (Hawaiian, learnt from Karen Sun-Ray) as well as teaching An Dro Retourne (French/Brittany) and Nigun (Israeli). Kudos go also to Kim who did a great job in announcing the group, to Joyce who expertly led Papuri, and to the 'enthusiastic audience members' : Diane, Max, Michele and Tanya, who helped with the teaching. Overall, it ended up being a nicely balanced performance, and we even had a change a costume midway

through, when yasmas become hip scarves and Hawaiian flowers appeared from nowhere.

In contrast, this week seems more hectic: on Friday May 30 there is no dance in the gym, but a convocation ceremony on Reitz Union North Lawn (completed with a projection of the video we helped made in the 'closure night' in Norman Gym) competes with the opening of John Ward's show at the University Gallery in the Fine Arts Building. Of course both of them are scheduled for 7-9! I'll have to report back in May on how we managed to be in two places at once! In the meantime, stay tuned for the summer A schedule, to be determined this week as well (if we get some more input about who wants to dance when-hint, hint...) See you all dancing,

Raluca

SARASOTA GRAPEVINE DANCERS

by Marie Millett

We are enjoying the dances from camp thanks to the teaching of Ann Kessler, Andi Kapplin, and Nancy Wilusz. We have missed Ann the last two weeks but will welcome her back April 14. We have enjoyed a number of visiting dancers this year and hope they will return next year. Have missed Judy Koral this year as her back has been giving her a bad time.

Phyllis and Don from Chicago were a great addition to our group this year but have returned to Chicago now. Many of you met them at the camp.

Dolores Lustig has joined us from Chicago and we're delighted she is here.

Andi Kapplin and Ursula Tison will be away from us for the Summer and we will miss them, but we will be dancing all Summer. Do come dance with us. Give me a call 941-351-6281 or e-mail gvduurn@earthlink.net to make sure we haven't decided to take off for Spain or other exotic places.

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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Secretary /
Treasurer: We are now seeking a
new secretary/treasurer.

Committees: Advisors to the Board:
Pat Henderson
Terry Abrahams
John Daly

Nominating Committee:
Terry Abrahams

Send all submissions to the Editor by the **15th of the month** prior to publication.

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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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