

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

October 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ann Kessler

My dear Fellow Folkdancers -

It is getting very close to that very special time of year for all those devoted to folkdance. Please circle your calendar for the weekend after President's Day Weekend - February 25, 2005 through February 28th. It will be even extra "gala", if that is possible, because we will be celebrating our 25th year together as FFDC Inc. (the Florida Folk Dance Council). As you can see by the enclosed biography of Daniel Sandu, we are in for a special treat, welcoming him as one of our guest teachers, especially since he is entirely new to the folk dance world in the United States and we have the privilege of participating in his debut. And although Daniel is presently residing in the Netherlands, he will be sharing with us Romanian and Hungarian Gypsy dance (and MAYBE a little tap dancing if we can work it in). But I will let his biography speak for itself. In next month's issue will be the bio of Jim Gold (with whom we were so delighted last year) along with the registration form for camp.

The deadline for submission of artwork for this year's t-shirts, name buttons, and syllabus has been changed. Originally it was December 1st, but to allow for more time to make decisions and for preparations, it has been changed to NOVEMBER 15th. All artwork has to be RECEIVED by November 15th. So far, only Fannie Christoph and her sister, Willa Davidson have submitted beautiful, apropos pictures, and we thank them. Remember - the winner gets half off from full registration for camp plus two free t-shirts. So hurry - don't miss this great opportunity!

At camp in 2005 it will be time also to elect the new officers for FFDC. The slate of officers

is as follows: President: Nancy Wiluscz, Treasurer: Ann Kessler, Editor: Dan Lampert. The vice-president/secretary position is vacant - why not volunteer now so we won't have to send Terry Abrahams out after you? There is REALLY - HONEST - nothing for the VP to do except take the minutes at the annual FFDC meeting at camp. Of course, if for any reason the president cannot fulfill her/his duties, then you would be expected to step in and take over duties, but you certainly would get as much help as possible. Call Terry (number on the masthead) if you would like to volunteer for this. Again, if anyone would like to run for ANY position, you are most welcome to do so, but Terry must be informed of this no later than November 1, 2004 - after that time all ballots will be closed. Also, any requests for changes in the Bylaws for FFDC; notification for this must be received by NOVEMBER 1st so that there is time to publish them for review before voting at the annual meeting at camp.

Looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor - Ann Kessler

REFLECTIONS ON DANCE

by Dan Lampert

In the month of September, 2004, I attended and photographed two great dance events. Once was the Israeli dance before Rosh Hashanah at the JCC in Maitland, FL, and the other was the Oktoberfest party at Bobby and Pat's place in Orlando, FL.

Rosh Hashanah

In the month of Jewish High Holidays, starting with Rosh Hashanah and ending with Simchat Torah, each holiday emphasizes something different. The mind, the body, the heart, and in the case of Simchat Torah, it is our

feet. And here is where the tradition of dancing is intertwined with the Jewish faith. J. Goldman wrote of the Simchat Torah: "We simply dance and dance and dance with the Torah until our feet cannot dance anymore... Reality is such that we cannot sustain this close relationship to G-d. We must leave the comfort of G-d's intimacy to seek our fortune in the world. That is the importance of Simchat Torah. We must know that even with the lowest aspect of our being, our feet, we can be connected with G-d."



Both pictures from Israeli folk dancing on 9-13-2004, just before Rosh Hashanah. Location: The JCC in Maitland.

German Oktoberfest

I found an interesting web page (created by Ruth Reichmann) on the history of Oktoberfest. She wrote "Oktoberfest originated in 1810 in Munich. It all started out as a wedding reception which included horse races in a Wiese (meadow). King Maximillian of Bavaria gave a reception to celebrate the wedding of his son, Prince Ludwig, and Princess Therese of Sachsen-Hildburghausen... Because the celebration was so successful, King Maximillian

decided to hold one every year in the meadow. The meadow was then named Theresienwiese after Ludwig's bride, Therese. The Theresienwiese is still an open field in the city of Munich, about 5 American football fields long."

The Oktoberfest today is 16 days of drinking, eating, singing and dancing. There are parades and contests, too. Millions of people from all over the world go to Munich, Germany, to celebrate. When the music starts, people start swaying back and forth at the tables. It's also obvious to me, that over time, the music and the beer caused people to lose their inhibitions about dancing -- and they have created many folk dances! These dances are made more wonderful by the traditional costumes -- Lederhosen for the men and colorful Dirndl (flowery dresses) for the women.



Everyone's moving in different directions, taking alternating left and right hands. It's either complex motion or just plain fun!



Men in a mixer dance, circling in the middle. Both pictures from Orlando International Folk Dancing Group on 9-29-2004. Location: the barn behind Bobby and Pat's house on Berry Dease Road in Orlando, FL.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From George Fogg, georgedance@earthlink.net

Hello Dan -- Well, my friend, I was some surprised to read 'bout myself in the July-August 2004 issue FFD. I was indeed thrilled that my few simple words had made an impression. And I was even more surprised that anyone listened.

It is unfortunately true that everyone seems to be too involved with themselves to be aware of others around them.

I have just returned from KDI, Murray, KY where we had a bit of a walk between the Dorm and the dance hall. It was a lovely walk on a bridge, which spanned a main street. The sides before reaching the bridge were planted with ornamental grasses and flowering trees. During the walk I would pass a number of folks of their way to wherever. It was interesting to see how many acknowledge that I was passing and how many continued along without so much as a nod. However, if I greeted first then there was generally a response and sometimes with a look of surprise.

Here in the city of Boston I greet folks along my short street but once I hit the main streets, I stop my actions. But once I am in the PO where I am generally headed, I become a chatterbox & chat up the clerks. They have become use to me and have been chatting back to me - even before I sometimes have a chance.

Now when dancing -- it is a social occasion, but with some you'd think it was not such. I am continuously saying, "It is a social activity!" After all we are social creatures so why do we have to be educated to be so? It is the fear we may have to give of ourselves. But how shallow we become if we can't give a smile, a nod, or best a hug. These actions are not one-way streets because if you give a hug you get one back.

ATLANTEANS VISIT ROMANIA

- By Sara and Jim Osborn and Adele Northrup, Atlanta Folk Dancers (submitted in July, just before summer break, but still interesting now in October!!)



The Southeast was represented at Theodor and Lia Vasilescu's second Romanian tour that ended just in time for some of the participants to go on Mel Mann's river cruises. Last year we traveled mainly in the Transylvania region and this year we concentrated on the Moldavia area and a different part of Transylvania. The scenery in both these areas of Romania is beautiful; and dancing in several small villages and learning the dances from each was the highlight. Cities such as: Bicz, Bacau, Gura Humorului, Bistrita, villages of Partestii de Jos, Salva, Cosbuc, Sieut and Sieu and more. (Try to find those on your Romanian map!) In each village we were greeted by the mayor, and each mayor was more long-winded than the previous one. Also, in each village we experienced the traditional greeting of bread and salt and the local dance groups performing in their "culture halls" or out of doors.



It was loads of fun and we learned many new dances, for not only did we dance with the villagers, but we would have dance classes in the mornings or, if sight seeing, in the evenings.

Lia was along this year and she is so well organized that she kept the trip running smoothly, even with 40 participants, from the U.S. and Canada. If you want to see Romania, we recommend this tour, at least if the Vasilescus do it again.

and Bhangra (with Josan showing up in his red bhangra costume, his dance got quite a following). Seeing all of them joining in dance was quite a sight! And it gave me hope that one of these days, the number of young folk dancers we'll be growing again.

Until then, see you all dancing,
Raluca

GREETINGS FROM GAINESVILLE

From Raluca <rarosca@ufl.edu>

Just thought to keep you'all updated on all the dance we do inside and outside our premises (that's outside Weaver Hall rec room, where everyone is welcome regardless of their age, shape, social status or dance ability; see <http://grove.ufl.edu/%7Efolkstep/FDSched.htm#Weaver> for instructions on how to get there if you are in town and willing to dance).

On June 25, Kim drove Yang and Raluca to Hampton, 18 miles Northeast of Gainesville to the Peace Camp organized by the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, where the three of them performed Dansul Fetelor de la Crihalma (Romania), Keciko (Turkey) and Rustemul (Romania), and taught Port Said (Syria), An Dro Retourne (French/Brittany), Alunelul (Romania) and Yolanda (novelty S American). The audience totally enjoyed it, and everyone but the dog participated in the dances.

We already held 3 meetings in Weaver hall, and while the number of participants varies with the week, the level of energy is mostly high. Don't hesitate to join us on Fridays 8:15 - 11! The room has some quiet corners perfect for sleeping babies or cardboard castle players, so when we are in there we get to see more of our dancing parents and their future dancers(Eilia, Talia, Alex, Alla and Nika, Tina's boys)

Talking about future dancers, on July 23 we did another children performance, this time for a summer camp at the Hippodrome. Randy, Josan and Raluca were able to take a longer lunch break on Friday, and they came downtown to dance & teach inside the Hippodrome movie theater. Well, out of the 75 kids in the camp, age 8-16, more than half joined in dancing An Dro Retourne, Port Said

Here is the list of events with brief info:

Sun, Oct. 3, Polish Festival, Titusville, Fox Lake Park, 11am-6pm

Sat, Oct. 9, German-American Society Oktoberfest, Casselberry (Orlando area), 381 Orange Lane, 3pm-Midnight

Sat-Sun, Oct. 8-9, Greek Festival, St. Augustine, 904-829-0504

Fri-Sun, Oct. 15-17, Greek Festival, Maitland (Orlando area), 407-331-4687

Sat-Sun, Oct. 23-24, Fall Fling, Melbourne Village

Fri-Sat, Oct. 22-23, Greek Festival, Tallahassee, 850-877-0747

Fri-Sun, Oct. 29-31, Greek Festival, Lecanto, 352-527-0766

Fri-Sun, Nov. 12-14, Greek Festival, Melbourne, 321-254-1045

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Free Folk Dancing on a great wooden dance floor! Classes are in Ocala on Friday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. and ALL are welcome at no charge. Please call Jo Ann Terkowski at (352) 873-2312 before coming for directions to the place, or for possible date changes.

Fall Fling 2004

Saturday Oct 23, 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sunday Oct 24, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Join the South Brevard International Dancers for an all day dance party. Potluck at noon.

Bring a dish to share. Carry-in (plus leftovers) at supper. Toss in \$4.00 for Hall rent Saturday. On the wooden floor of the Historic Community House in Melbourne Village, Florida
Call John or Barbara Daly 321-951-9623 for more info.

Fall Fling is a full day of fun dancing. This year we are trying an experiment. We are announcing a program of dances which we'll do from 1:00 to about 4:00 pm. Generally the all request program has worked well, but I thought that if people have an idea of what is coming, they may be able to review some of the dances beforehand. Of course the idea was to get the list out six to eight weeks ahead of time so people would really have some time to prepare, but events seemed to overcome us.

We've left room on the program for plenty of request dances, and the evening program is all request as usual. Fall Fling has always been about doing what people want, so please let me know how it goes.

Dancers at all levels are welcome. Not surprisingly the program is geared to the more experienced dancer, but we've tried to include some that will be accessible to relatively new dancers. There will be little teaching, although we will briefly walk through dances that require interaction among all the dancers so that everyone can enjoy the dance together.

Other than the program, the format on Saturday will be similar to previous years. We'll set up and start dancing by 11 in the morning. Around noon, we'll set up tables and have a potluck lunch. Then, back to dancing. We'll break again at suppertime. A smoked turkey, roast pork, or something similar may appear courtesy of John and Barbara to help supplement the leftovers from lunch. And we can bring in more food if we need it. Following supper, we'll dance again until everybody is worn out or 11:00 pm, whichever comes first. We do have to pay for use of the hall, so there will be an offering basket. If everyone puts in \$4.00 we should come out about right. We've also rented the Hall for Sunday and plan an informal morning for those who may not have gotten enough on Saturday. Sunday may tend

to be more couple dances. We can adjust plans to suit people's interest but the present plan is to start at 9:00 and break up around lunchtime.

Our Flings are always sort of impromptu happenings. Come and help us work it all out.

Driving Directions:

Choose your own best way of getting to Melbourne. If you've come to previous Fall Flings, this will not be much different. All roads seem to lead to I-95, so from the intersection of I-95 and New Haven Ave (U. S. 192) go east on New Haven Ave. The first traffic signal should be John Rodes Blvd. The next should be Wickham Rd, followed by Minton Rd., and then Dayton Blvd. There is a Home Depot on the right; you want to make a left at this light onto Dayton Blvd. On Dayton, go almost to the end, just before the bridge there will be a wooden sign on the right saying "Historic Site -- Community House." This is Hall Rd. Turn right, yes it's a dirt road, and follow it to the building, which looks like an old barracks painted white. That's exactly what it is. Park in front of the building or around to the back, but please don't block access to the town garage and impound yard or the swimming pool. We'll work out parking depending on how many cars show up. There's plenty of room but there's no designated places so we just have to use common sense.

THE MOUNTAIN PLAYSHOP

Autumn Leaves is featuring Nicolaas Hilferink and Romanian Dances this year, October 22-24, 2004. If you send in your registration, postmarked October 6th 2004, the total fee for the workshop is \$75, if you add \$5 for the Saturday lunch by the lake, total cost is \$80; postmarked after the 6th, the cost is \$80 for and \$85 for fee and Sat lunch. You can save 5 to 10 buckeroos with early registration.

For more information, call Kate Croy at 615-889-2010; or e-mail Janet Epstein, Depst98336@aol.com

Send registration to:

Kate Croy
PO Box 148784
Nashville TN 37214

Checks should be payable to "Nashville International Folk Dancers," and sent along with your name and contact information (snail-mail, phone and/or e-mail)

Schedule (Times below are Central Daylight Time)

Friday, October 22nd

7:00pm - 8:30pm Registration
8:30pm - 10:00 Session 1: Teaching (\$15 if you are a walk-in)

Saturday, October 23rd

8:00am - 9:00am Continental Breakfast (\$5 if you are a walk-in)
9:00am - 11:30am Session II: Teaching (\$25 if you are a walk-in)
11:30am - 1:30pm LUNCH BREAK (On your own)
1:30pm - 4:00pm Session III: Teaching (\$25 if you are a walk-in)
4:00pm - 7:00pm DINNER BREAK (On your own)
7:30pm - 11:00pm Dance Party (\$10 if you are a walk-in)

Sunday, October 24th

8:30am - 9:30am Continental Breakfast (\$5 if you are a walk-in)
9:30am - 12:00pm Session IV: Review (\$25 if you are a walk-in)

NOTE:

Nicolaas will be selling professionally made CDs of his dances at the workshop (cash only); videos of the review session will also be made available (checks accepted). Nic's wife will accompany him to Nashville and assist in the dance teaching.

You can visit our website at www.nifddance.com and click on the Autumn Leaves XXI icon for more info about Nicolaas, whom most of you know, and other information.

If you pre-register and are interested in sleeping space (limited), indicate how many and we'll try to accommodate you. Alternatively, if you would like motel suggestions e-mailed to you, let us know. Camping at the YMCA site is also permitted. (There are still a few cabin spaces available as well.)

Take Care You!

Hope to see you at Autumn Leaves. We are getting excited! This will be our fourth season at the lodge hall by the lake at Camp Widjiwagan, a YMCA campsite.

Butch Durst,
Former NIFD Prez and now normal member.



Oh my Bobby, Oh my Bobby
On my God - you're 59!
Only one more 'til you're 60
And yet - you're doing fine!

On the 5th day of October
Back in 1945
In the town of Crawley, LA
Little Bobby did arrive

Went to grade school, high school, college
Was a cad cam engineer.
He still uses all his talents
To make the music that we hear

Started dancing in the 70's
Where he met his lovely wife
Built their house and had 2 children
Became a farmer, what a life!

Though his heart did give a flutter
He goes skiing, takes a trip
Built a dance hall, we all love it
When he teaches us to skip

I'm not talking about moving
We don't want to have that be

Just have all your birthdays right here
In Orlando - don't you see?

Happy Birthday Bobby dearest
Hope that you have many more
Now it's time to do some dancing
Let's get back out on that floor!

Oh my Bobby, Oh my Bobby
On my God - you're 59!
Only one more 'til you're 60
And yet - you're doing fine!

-by Terry Abrahams 10/08/04

out our Jewish roots, including Auswitz/Birkenau, and of course, it was beyond description. Following Hungary we went to Prague, and included a side trip to Terezin, a children's concentration camp, which was even more intense. I then went on to another tour in Croatia and Slovenia, my favorite city being Dubrovnik, but the entire area is not to be missed! I ended up in Krems, Austria for the world fencing championships and did nada. Oh well! In between all of this were many big and little awfulnesses, none of which I will describe here. Details at camp....I assume Bobby and Pat will describe their trip, some of to the same places. Ursula in the meantime is back from the Ukraine.

October 2, two nice things happened. Maria Pasetti was honored at a luncheon for Italian-American Women for her cultural activities, a very nice affair, followed by Judith and Ernesto's 50th wedding anniversary party. Seeing their children and grandchildren was such a treat, and we all danced all day and into the night. Cory did a slide presentation (or a computer presentation - what do we call them these days?) after dinner and Hansen's dedication at the end had us all sniffing. What a wonderful time it was. They felt there wasn't room for the world (and there wasn't), so they only invited family and in-town dancers. Too bad, as you all would have loved it too!

That party will have to take the place of Fall Fling, as we have a special Israeli Dancer (Amy) getting married the same day, and we have to be here to dance at her wedding. So, we'll see you at camp. Can you believe it's coming nearer? Before that happens, however, I'm going to Hagigah next week - an Israeli dance camp in Wisconsin. Since I missed Ruthy's camp in N.C. and will miss Machol Miami (I'm going to Mexico with Ginger - do you all remember her?) this will make up for my need for an Israeli camp! Debbie Meiten from Orlando is going too. We have a new couple from Israel in our Tuesday group, but we lost Barbara, our other new person to Washington, DC. And that's the news from Lake Woebegon, where we are still recovering from all the weather.

THE BIG "T" RETURNS

Hi Everyone!

I'm not sure this will make it - my computer is giving me fits, but I'll try. I'm just back from seeing the Orlando group - went over to help Bobby celebrate his birthday. Did a song, and have been requested to include it, so, if Dan has room, he can print it if he wants. Bobby and Pat's tree damage was awful! Andi and Ursula went to Sarasota - we are everywhere! Andi's back from Canada after a 4-month stay - I am SO glad she's back!

But what I'm really back from is E. Europe. I went with Jim Gold to Hungary for the big festival in Pecs and it was truly big! And fun, and exciting. 42 countries participating. 4 venues around the town all day, and in the evening big gala events on big stages. Our hotel was very near to everything and we came and went as we wanted and it was terrific. Some audience participation, which was fun too. Finished by touring more of Hungary as well as Budapest with Jim's great guide, Adam, who also arranged and was with us, the entire trip. There were only 9 of us (which I LOVED - a few had to back out at the last minute, but for me - small is good). I can now personally, truly, recommend Jim's trips (go to his website for his trips for the coming year, including Koprivstitsa, and Norway with Lee Otterholt). Jodi and I first spent a week in Poland, checking

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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For more info: www.folkdance.org

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Return Address

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**Please circle your calendar for our camp's
weekend ... February 25-28th, 2005**

FIRST CLASS