



Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

March 2005

FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

My dear Fellow Dancers –

It is hard to believe that the two years have gone by so quickly - thank you so much for allowing me to share with you. And I can't believe that two wonderful camps, full of exciting and interesting experiences are now in the past! I have so many for whom to be grateful at camp - the great teachers and the ones who take care of the masterful music department to the ones who volunteer to wipe the tables or offer to help in anyway. Not that I want to point out anyone in particular - but I am. I am eternally grateful to Marie Millet and Nancy Wilusz for their loyalty and hard work, and to Terry Abrahams, among other things, for her famous "bathtub chopped liver", and to Jean Murray for her kind words.

Now on to a little last minute business or some of the interesting observations of others. Meant to announce one thing at the annual meeting, but I forgot - about the syllabus. First of all, it was more expensive to make this year because of the color copied front page which cost \$1.24 for each one, but felt this year should be extra special because it was our 25th of camp! But to even make things more expensive, despite the fact that I proofread over and over and thinking things were perfect, printed 60 copies right away with parts of the syllabus I had available. And lo and behold - I then noticed that there were "double camps" - how many noticed?? "Florida Folk Dance Camp Council Camp!" Well, I corrected it and then printed 60 more paying for half of them myself - I felt it was my boo boo... But couldn't destroy them all and kept 30, so for those who registered later, they got the boo boo ones. But hang onto them - they may be a rare collector's item one day; like you know when the

post office makes a mistake printing stamps...

So many asked me about the numbers by their names on the attendees list. I was not "coupling off people" or rating them on a scale of 1 to 10, but I did my registration sheets by hand the old fashioned way and added people as they registered and had no way to press a button - and woof - they are in alphabetical order. So the 1-2-or 3 just meant the sheet on which you were to expedite check-in - and then with something creeping into my being - I forgot where I wrote the numbers.

Enough about the failings of myself - it is getting depressing so let's just say that I am happy to announce we are now 83 people strong in membership! Below is a list of names (and woof - they are in alphabetical order by last name) of which I have record of their renewing or becoming a new member of FFDC, Inc. Remember - if you registered FULL time for camp (on or off campus), you were automatically a member whether you wanted to be or not. But if you only registered part-time, and/or did not pay your dues (15.00 single or 20.00 families) then as of March 1st you are no longer a member and eligible to receive our glorious Newsletter. Also, if you registered singly for camp and did not pay 5.00 for your "family" partner, you will owe us 5.00 for him/her. We don't want to lose anyone - so if your name is not below, please hurry and send your check to our new treasurer, Pat Henderson (her address is on the masthead). In the April issue of our Newsletter, a full membership list with addresses, etc., for your convenience in reaching any one of us, will go out. For those who receive via email, you will still get your list by snail mail because it was voted on at the last meeting that people did NOT want their vital statistics to go out over the web:

1. Terry Abrahams	22. Elinor Hall	42. Naomi Miller	63. Juanita Schockey
2. Dorothy Archer	23. Pat Henderson	43. Marie Millet	64. Ruth Schwartz
3. Faye Babker	24. Joy Herndon	44. Manuel Mora-Valls	65. Edwina Scinta
4. Ernesto Baizan	25. Julius Horvath	45. Palmira Mora-Valls	66. Jack Seltzer
5. Judith Baizan	26. Kevin Johnson	46. Jean Murray	67. Linda Seltzer
6. Teresa Borker	27. Thekla Kahn	47. Bonnie Olson	68. George Senyk
7. Vonnie Brown	28. Andi Kapplin	48. James Osborn	69. Tim Sneed
8. Nadia Calvo	29. Ann Kessler	49. Sara Osborn	70. Stephen Spinder
9. Sandy Cowan	30. Altyn	50. Irene Padovic	71. Eva Stunkel
10. John Daly	Kuanishbaeva	51. Suzanne Papp	72. Claudia Terrence
11. Willa Davidson	31. Dan Lampert	52. Arlene Pearlman	73. Ursula Tison
12. Kay Demos	32. Gary Lanker	53. Pat Pieratte	74. Margaret Tolbert
13. David Digby	33. Caroline Lanker	54. Andy Pollock	75. D.A. Tyler
14. Kelly Fagan	34. Jan Lathi	55. Bobby Quibodeaux	76. John Ward
15. Ruth Ann Fay	35. Everett Lunsford	56. Claire Rasso	77. Larry Wartell
16. Eva Gabor	36. Dolores Lustig	57. Ann Robinson	78. Joan Washington
17. Catie Geist	37. Virginia Marszal	58. Raluca Rosca	79. Wally Washington
18. Jim Gold	38. Carol McGinn	59. Bernice Roth	80. Cubby Whitehead
19. Sylvia Gruber	39. Joy Mershimer	60. Pearl Roth	81. Nancy Wilusz
20. Esther Gunning	40. Eva Meyer	61. Fannie Salerno	82. Doris Wolman
21. Bob Gutin	41. Fred Miller	62. Daniel Sandu	83. Donna Young

Thank you again, and good luck to the very capable new board -

Will still be seeing you on the dance floor -
Ann Kessler, Immediate Past President & Treasurer

NEW PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

- Terry Abrahams

They say "What goes around comes around", and I've come around again as your next president! Whether that's good or bad, we'll see next year. But I'm excited to be following in Ann's good footsteps. She did a terrific job with our 25th and I know we all thank her. Here are some random thoughts about this camp...

- Ann answered an email, took a chance, and voila! **Daniel Santu**, who did his first Romanian workshop in the U.S. making us oh so, the lucky ones. He was multi-talented, with such a nice personality, good teaching skills, and very cool dances that were at least intermediate

level and kept us all on our toes (literally and mentally). We also tap danced with him and he and his Danielettes thrilled our audience on Sunday night with our little "number". He presented an interesting culture corner, having been born in Romania, recently moving to the Netherlands to become a dance instructor, following his retirement from professional dancing. "Stay Low," "Don't Panic", "Piece Of Cake", "Relax" - all words which will invoke good memories.

- **Jim Gold** was back, and we enjoyed him every bit as much as we did last year. His choice of music cannot be beat, and the dances that accompanied them weren't bad either! Lots taught, lots of keepers. He entertained us with his guitar and his humor on his performance night, and his extremely likable personality was entertaining throughout the weekend. (Personal note here - I'm going to Koprivshitsa with him and enjoy him some more - you're welcome to join

us). It was good seeing Bernice (his wife) again as well.

- Special guest **Stephen Spinder**, who is in the US promoting his photography book on Hungary where he has lived the past ten years, also taught a very difficult Hungarian dance, as well as keeping us laughing during Jim's (Jim gave him his spot) culture corner. Quite a character!
- Sunday's performance by Daniel was spectacular – he did a Gypsy number beyond belief, followed by a terrific tap number, and still had the energy to lead the **Danielettes** through our number. There was also belly dancing by our two favorite belly dancers, **Ann Robinson** and **Kelly Faigen**, **Altyn**, the scholarship gal [a gorgeous young woman living in G'ville] from Kazikstan (or was it Uzbekistan) did a super duper belly dance of her own - her big smile was a joy all weekend.
- The Syllabus, T-shirts, buttons and decorations were special for our 25th; John and I (the dueling accordionists) played 3 dances that we felt could be tolerated; Andi and I did our annual song (in print somewhere in this newsletter); the Olga Princi fund was enhanced by our auction; Nancy took good care of us with continuous snacks and next year I'll double the amount of chopped liver; the weather was awful, the food ran a close second. But we were all there, had a great time, danced, danced and then danced some more, with the help of Bobby, John and Jean at the "system."
- Dave Digby kept busy taking pictures of everything with my brand new camera, and put the pictures on my brand new little laptop; if I figure out how to do it, they will be available to you through the wonderfulness of the internet. Hopefully by the time you are reading this I will know how to do it. Thanks also to Kay for all her suggestions (she in involved with the Maine dance camp and is very knowledgeable)

- Ann will tie everything up with a treasurer's report, many people gave me suggestions for teachers for next year, and other suggestions for improvement as well. Should you have time to email me them again, it wouldn't hurt! I did ask Brad for a salad bar next year, and he promised to work on it. Thank God we aren't there for the food, although I managed to eat my way through more than one helping a meal.
- Ann had all the past presidents come up during the meeting. Jenneine couldn't come until Sunday evening so she missed, but otherwise it was a goodly amount of us, and Ann's little gift to us was a special treat! New officers besides myself include **John Daly** as VP, **Pat Henderson** as Treasurer, and **Jean Murray** as Secretary. We look forward to providing you with another excellent camp next year. Again - Thanks Ann – for a terrific weekend!

Song composed and sung by Terry and Andi:
Tune: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Stay low, stay very low
When you do Romanian
We know, He told us so
Daniel's the authoritarian.

Stay high, Stay very high
When you do the Russian stuff
Say I – I am the guy
Jim told us to look real tough.

We came to Ocala, and what did we see
Everybody having such fun
Good thing we danced inside
Cause there really wasn't much sun

And so, it's almost time to go
Time to rest our weary feet
Thanks to all, for a great weekend
Spring Fling's the next place to meet!



Reflections on Dance

by Dan Lampert, Editor

At camp this year, everyone was impressed with Altyn, the foreign exchange student from Kazakhstan. She is 17, loves to dance, and always shows her enthusiasm with a broad smile. On Sunday evening at camp, she performed a belly dance that was very impressive. She also was the choreographer and the tailor for this dance! Some pictures are included in this issue.

For a change of pace, I thought I'd use my column this month to interview Altyn. So, I met her at an Olive Garden restaurant recently and, despite being exhausted from a singing recital, she answered all my questions!

Q: Where do you come from (what city)? A: I live in Astana, which is the capital of Kazakhstan. Before that, I lived in Almaty for 8 years, and I was born in Kzyl-Orda (rhymes with "sizzle-orca"). Her home town of Kzyl-Orda lies near the desert.

Q: How did you learn folk dancing? A: I learned dance from TV and dance festivals. Then, I played music at home and listen to it over again. I play the music very loud at home and I can feel how the music moves me.

Q: What other talents do you have? A: Singing. I just came from a singing recital, and it was very difficult. I wanted to sing the best for everyone. I am also studying accounting, because I want to be practical and to know business. I am taking a class in accounting now. (Asking more about her class, I discovered it's just a single semester; she won't have time to finish a degree because she's returning to her country in 3 months.)

Q: What job do you have in your country? A: I was a commander in ROTC. (She smiles and bows her head, like it's hard to admit this, but I step in and say that I know many military people who enjoy dancing. It's the structure of the mind that appeals to both sides.)

Q: What languages do you know? A: Kazakh is my native language, and I also know English and Russian.

Q: Tell me about your belly dance teachers and when you started doing choreography. A: My belly dance teacher was Indian movies, where belly dancers are featured. (She has had no personal instruction in this dance! She learned by watching movies!) I have been creating dances since 5 years old, and I remember dancing in Kindergarten around a Christmas Tree. (She is also a straight "A" student.)

Q: Why do you like to dance? A: I don't do it to show people and make them say "wow". I just love to dance. All kinds of dance. I choreographed a dance for the local group of belly dancers, called Mosaic. They meet at the Whirl and Twirl in Orlando every week. (She added that she loves Spanish music the most, with its rhythms.)

Q: What do you like to cook? A: I like to make salads, cook beef and chicken, and in my country sometimes we cook sheep and horse. (She blushed when she said this, knowing that the last part sounds unusual in America.) She does not cook with pork and lamb.

Q: What are your goals in life? A: I want to be successful, to make money for my (future) children to come to America to learn here. And I want to return to America (in the future) to learn Spanish. Before I die, I want to know five languages.

For More Info

- Read a brief history on Kazakhstan, where Altyn comes from:

<http://wrc.lingnet.org/kazakhis.htm>

- Read a brief history on belly dance with terminology:

http://www.venusbellydance.com/abt_bdance.htm

- Another belly dance web page with interesting points:

<http://www.bellydance.org/aboutus.php>

- Also, more pictures of Altyn's belly dance, plus pictures of our other two famous belly dancers, will be in the "camp diary" (an online photo album, coming soon!).



Altyn, the foreign exchange student from Kazakhstan, performs a belly dance that she choreographed. She tailored the dress also!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- > **March 25**, Vernalis Contra Dance Weekend, Keystone Heights.
- > **April 2-3**, Israeli Dance Workshop, Maitland, Israel Yakovee. Michele @ 407-645-5933
- > April 15-17, Rang Tang, Atlanta. Liz Nunan. 404-292-7176 or liznunan@hotmail.com
- > **April 15-16**, Israeli Folk Dancing in Melbourne, Dany Ben Shalom, Israeli Folk Dance teacher from Israel, will be teaching on Friday night and Saturday morning. For more info, write John Daly at jbdaly@compuserve.com
- > **April 16-17**, Israeli Folk Dancing in Gainesville, Dany Ben Shalom, Israeli Folk Dance teacher from Israel, will be teaching on Saturday night and Sunday morning. For more info, write Ruthy Slann at kibbutz@slann.com
- > **April 23**, Barberville Spring Music and Dance Festival, 1:00 - 10:00pm

- > **April 30**, Spring Fling, 11am-11pm. Port Orange Adult Activities Center, 4790 South Ridgewood Ave., Port Orange.
- > **May 14-24**, Norway Tour with Lee Otterholt and Jim Gold. www.jimgold.com
- > **June 10-19**, Dance on the Water Croatia /Adriatic Sea Cruise. www.folkdanceonthewater.org
- > **July 2-9**, Norwegian and Swedish Music and Dance at Buffalo Gap Camp. www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org
- > **July 4-13**, French Canada with Yves Moreau and Jim Gold. www.jimgold.com
- > **August 1-13**, Bulgaria – Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival. www.jimgold.com
- > August 13-September 5, Mainwoods Dance Camp.
- > **September 9-12**, Israeli Dance Camp, Dany Ben Shalom, Ruthy Slann

A NATURAL HIGH

by Doris Wolman, wolman@rpb.net

Each time I return home from the FFDC dance camp I am on a high for the entire week. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the officers, committee members and fellow dancers at camp for helping to provide me with this most exhilarating experience.

Poslushaite Patrioti was an instant hit at one of my dance groups and I intend to share it with another class as well. I am in the process of working out the complexities of three of Daniel's dances (oh, my aching ankles) so I can present them to the dance groups I attend. Some of Jim's other dances will be shared as well (a much easier job).

I can't wait to see the newsletter and the camp video. I know there will be wonderful pictures. Every time I looked around I would see Dan or Julius snapping away with their cameras. And that doesn't count the pics taken by our fellow dancers.

Until next year, love to all-----Doris Wolman

**ORLANDO ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP -
APRIL 2 AND 3, 2005**

Please join us in Orlando at the Jewish Community Center for our 18th annual Israel Dance Workshop featuring Israel Yakovee as our guest teacher and choreographer. Israel lives in California and is the creator of many wonderful Israeli dances. He is of Yemenite heritage and brings the Yemenite flavor into his dances. Some of his dances are Shoofni, Yemenite Rap, Achot Lanu K'tana, Agadelcha and Shavnu. He will spend part of the workshop on Yemenite styling, as only he can do.

The workshop begins Saturday, April 2 from 7:30M to 11:30PM, with a dance party and teaching. On Sunday, April 3, there will be teaching from 9AM to 12:30PM and 2PM to 5PM (including review). The price for the entire workshop is \$50. Saturday only is \$20 and Sunday only is \$40. All prices are \$5 more at the door. Call Debbie Meitin at 407/788-7277 or 407/257-9147 or e-mail at dmeitin@cfl.rr.com for more information.

We'd love to have you join us for this great event!!

ORLANDO INT'L FOLK DANCE CLUB

By: Pat Henderson <henderp@bellsouth.net>

We had a couple of special nights at our Wednesday night dances. Would you believe that two weeks in a row we had two different guest dancers from Honolulu? The second night, we had five folk dancers from all over the U.S. and Honolulu who were here for a medical conference. On the same night, we had a preview of the Middle Eastern dances that Ann Robinson and Altyn Kuanishbaeva performed at camp. We have really enjoyed the addition of Altyn to our group; she is an exchange student from Kazakhstan. Beck Hutchinson, who is the mother of the host family for Altyn, joined the dances with Ann. The evening was so great that we kept dancing until 10:30pm!

On the last Saturday in January, a few of us

traveled to Ocala for their Greek Festival with the Grecian Odyssey Band. Bobby and I liked their music so much that we bought their CD. This is the new time of year for their festival and I must admit that the temperature was much better than in September. The facility that they had used in the past could not cool adequately for the crowd. Bobby and I were the only attendees from our group for John Daly's Scandinavian workshop weekend. We really enjoyed seeing Roo Lester and Larry Harding again as we tried to improve our Scandinavian dance skills. Then the weekend before camp, a few of us traveled to Winter Haven for their Greek Festival. The band, Grecian Strings, did not measure up to the Grecian Odyssey.

Our group was well represented at camp. We enjoyed seeing Jim Gold again and seeing Daniel Sandu in his first U.S. teaching tour. We are working on several dances from camp. Then, the weekend after camp was the Melbourne Greek Festival. Again, a few of us attended and were joined by others from the Melbourne group. I guess you can tell that our group has a fanaticism for Greek Festivals! We will look forward to dancing with a lot of you at Spring Fling on April 30.

UF INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB

by Raluca <rarosca@ufl.edu>

Last Friday, March 11, 2005, under the title 'And the Goddess danced' the UF International Folkdance club hosted from 8-11 p.m. a WOMEN'S (mostly) DANCE workshop.

Margaret Tolbert (MT) was the mind behind the concept and suggested most of the dances on the schedule, with Raluca (RR) doing the footwork for permitting, music and advertising, and Joyce Dewsbury (JD), Sharon Dokter (SD) and Yang Mu (YM) being essential in teaching and performing. Special thanks to Julieta who over-rode her physician's prescription and jumped in to lead Militsa. We've missed the teaching and performing of Linda and Sasha, home with a backache and a bad case of flu, respectively.

The schedule was quite varied, and I'm adding the source of dances for future reference.

Country // Demo--Who(song number) //Teach--who (song number)

Armenia //Sepastia Bar--JD et al
(Freq.Danced CD1, #4)//Papuri--JD(6311)
Bulgaria //Dobrujanska Reka--JD, MT, SD (Bulg CD,9) //Neda Voda...-MT(7033)
Macedonia//Zensko Camce --MT, JD, SD (9008)//Bufcansko--MT(7200)
Hungary/Poland //Kuyawiak Nebieski--SD et al (5230)//Somogyi Karikazo--JD (CD7#26)
Greece//Militisa--Julietta!+ SD, JD, MT(Greek perf#3) Tai Tai--SD (Greek perf #1)
Romania //Dansul.. de la Crihalma--RR,MT,JD, SD Hora fetelor -MT (Rom Dance CD)
Turkey//Turkmen Kizi--MT (Turkish 21)
Kemane--MT (Turkish 11)
Hawaiian//Gypsy My little grass shack --YM, RR (tape) Ketri ketri--RR (9026)
Mac/Bul Topansko Horo (Lee Otterholt 1st CD, #4) Sabrali se...--RR(Workshops CD #8)

We finished triumphantly with Trgnala Rumjana, accompanied by the singing of Joyce and of Bruce Sagan (known to some of you from playing fiddle at FFDC camp 98; he happened to be in town for a Math conference, and tracked us down and joined into

dancing//join if you can on March 18 for more dancing with him!)

This event was part of the Women's History Month (see the message from the WHM committee below). Thanks again to all who came (double cheer for John W. and Gary D) and made the event a success.

See you all dancing,
--Raluca

LOST AT CAMP

Lost - Scarf about 12 inches wide and 4 feet long, multi-colored. I wore it Sunday night at the party with Andi Kaplin's gorgeous long black vest/tabard. It was my Mother's. Contact Carol McGinn at < jraybaker@earthlink.net >

FLAGLER BEACH

From Jan Lathi

Hi, all! It was grand to see so many of you at camp. March reminds me of St. Patrick's Day which reminds me of Limericks. I often feel guilty that in the past, when FFDC had a Limerick contest, we had two winners (Eva Stunkel and David Digby) who should have received a prize for their winning entries. Unfortunately, that year we barely covered expenses of camp so there was no money to get the prizes. So, I am including them here for you to remember and I am adding several more commemorating the folks who dance in our Flagler Beach Group. Enjoy! Jan

If people would dance from
their birth
With love, and with joy, and
with mirth
We would all agree
It's easy to see
There'd be much greater
peace on the earth.
Eva Stunkel

There's a tale that a dancer
named Alice

Often tangoed with partners
from Dallas.
If they stepped on her toe
She struck them a blow,
That dispatched them with
anger and malice.
David Digby

Our Betty performed in ballet
In dancing she does know
her way
Her toes often fly

Way up to the sky
We'd say she was more than
O.K.!

Eva is really intense
Learning dances that make
little sense
She studies each step
And becomes quite adept
She certainly could not be
called dense.

A beautiful lass is Maureen
Her hair has a wonderful
sheen
While learning to dance
There's always a chance
A smile on her face can be
seen.

A sweet quiet lady is June
She likes to learn a new tune
To which she can glide
With joy and with pride
Her dance list will hit a
hundred soon.

Cold weather is just not for
Minnie
Could that be because she's
so skinny?
She really gets hot
When she does a lot
Of dances where she can do
shimmies!

Szuzi is a teacher of dance
When you watch her, if by
chance,
Her footwork's so swell
You really can tell

She's practiced her steps
and her stance.
Penny's consistently here
Each Thursday we give a
good cheer
When she enters the door
There are "Hi's" galore
For Penny is really held
dear.

Anita likes to dance spritely
She suffers slow steps
politely
But put on *U Sest*
It brings out her best
A grin will appear rather
brightly

Selma has come a long way
Polio got in her way
She was confined to a chair
But with will and a prayer
She joins us to swing and to
sway.

Mary Ann was new to our
gang
At first she experienced a
pang

To dance with our troupe
And laugh with our group
But soon her confidence
rang.

Hal is energetic and tall
He seems to be having a ball
He adds stamps to our
dance
We can tell at a glance
That he's ready for Carnegie
Hall

Mary joins us whenever she
can
Of dance she's really a fan
She picks up each step
With zeal and with pep
She executes dance with
élan.

Arlene, we miss you so
Back to Gainesville you did
go
You added so much
To dancing and such
Come back so our faces will
glow.

TAMPA - TERRIFIC TIME

by Terry Abrahams

Well, camp is over and we're sorry! It was a really good one and we all had a really good time. Thanks to Ann for everything! We were sorry Ursula's body couldn't make it, and it was most kind of all her friends to send greetings and regrets. We also have a Susan who teaches voice on the weekend, so can't come, but I'm including a poem I didn't have time to read this year that she wrote, in actuality for the Snowball, but it works pretty well for us too, so enjoy. Thanks to John Ward for doing couple dances with me. My roomies Fannie and Willa left early to finish packing for Israel – hope they had a terrific time. Loved both Jim and Daniel, we can dance a long time and not remember

them all! But you know, even if we didn't learn a thing – it is SO good to see friends, catch up, gossip, etc. etc. Love it!

I can't remember what I wrote in my last article, and since my computer died, I can't look back. So if I'm repeating, sorry. Judith, Ernesto and Andy went to John's birthday party and had a terrific time. Susan, Andy and I went to a gala in Tarpon Springs for the Greek dancers and enjoyed a great band. Judith is on her way to a Scan weekend in Denver. I'll be there the following weekend for a fencing tournament.

Looking forward to Spring Fling – dancing really is good for the soul! (or soles, as my button says). (This could be my shortest article ever!!!! That's because my president's message was sooooo long....)

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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