



# Florida Folk Dancer

*A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.*

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FEBRUARY 2006

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## ARE YOU COMING TO CAMP???

PREZ SEZ by Terry Abrahams

As you could tell, I did the last newsletter, and because I sent the pictures wrong to Dan, you e-mailers didn't get to see the pictures. The snail mailers did. Oh well. I hope you read it anyway, got what you needed, and are still on your way to camp, or have decided to come now that it is coming closer. If you haven't registered yet, the deadline for food is Feb 6 – so now is the time!

Yep, Camp is just around the corner – and I don't mean a contra-corner! All is going well, many of you are signed up (55 to date), menus are in place (I spent many hours researching Polish and Serbian recipes to be used for our "regular" meals – let's hope this is a great eating year!), teachers are rev-ving up, snacks are decided, decorations are coming. The only sales this year will be our own. I have not invited Opec, as the room is not available where we would be available to look at what is available. We can think about it again for next year. Many duties have been designated to you all, and I know you will be doing a good job! For those of you who are interested in the syllabi, and chose not to "buy" already printed, look for the **syllabi** along with this issue in the same place you found the newsletter (on the website). Of course you may print these and bring them to camp for your note-taking pleasure. Or not.

**Registration** Friday will be outside of the dining hall, a stone's throw from the parking lot that you pull into, there will be signage. – if you come while we're dancing, come in and dance, and find Pat at the break for your schedule, map of the camp, button, etc

Some left-overs:

1. I would really appreciate it if someone would offer to bring bedding and towels for our teachers. I can do it, but I got a lotta stuff in my car already! Please???? Sheets, blankets, pillow, towels, wash cloth.
2. Could use someone who lives near the old camp in Ocala to pick up our easel that we left there last year. There should also be a pad of paper, but they can't find it. Ask anyway. Do I have an offer?
3. Would someone like to volunteer to do warm-ups in the morning before instruction begins?
4. Can anyone bring a big cooler?

It would appear we will need a new editor next year. Dan will continue to be the historian, and would also help the new editor send it appropriately through our computers (as he has so wonderfully done to date), but we need someone with the time to actually make the newsletter in a computer -- collect the articles and make it printing ready. That person would also do the snail mailing, which is a very short task. Is it you???

If you missed directions or any other directions, we are reprinting them in this issue. Use these instead of the ones from an earlier issue. If you need a registration form, look at our website, Dan has it there. [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)

## REFLECTIONS ON DANCE

by Dan Lampert, 1-22-2006

In my search to answer the question "why dancing", I've stumbled on a list that was published by a small group of ballroom dancers in Melbourne, Florida. They listed these benefits (and these all apply to folk dancing, too!):

*Develop a sense of timing and rhythm*  
*Fix those two left feet*  
*Gain social teaching ability*  
*Increase your confidence*  
*Become more popular*  
*Learn something new*  
*Lose weight*  
*Get exercise*  
*Relax*  
*Have fun*  
*Develop a sense of accomplishment*  
*Meet new people*  
*Have more grace and poise*

I believe I've identified all of these points in the past, except the last one. Something about "grace and poise" got me thinking. We are put here on Earth for a lot of reasons. We could argue about the exact "purpose" in life, but one thing is obvious. We learn in layers. We start out crawling, then walking, running, driving, and perhaps flying. We *live* in layers. We start with infancy, then childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. We even *think* in layers. Our cognitive skills start with physical interactions as an infant, then language skills in childhood, and then logic and abstract concepts as an adult\*. In fact, everything about life has layers. And with each new thing learned, we build upon the previous layer. The mention of "grace and poise" caused me to realize that dancing is a conduit. Dancing helps us to add more layers to our lives. Dancing helps us reach fulfillment in life, regardless of our ethnic and religious backgrounds. In short, dancing helps us "become."

So, next time you're out dancing, remember what we've discovered here today. Life is layers\*\* and dancing helps us move through life. And don't just picture the layers of life like those of an onion -- growing out in all directions. Imagine the layers in your life forming underneath you, pushing you upwards -- helping you to reach upward. That, my friends, is why we have the popular expression: "something to live up to".

#### Footnotes:

\* The four layers of cognitive skills were identified by the famous psychologist, Jean Piaget, although he called them stages. You can read more about Piaget's work by searching the net for his name, or start here:

<http://chiron.valdosta.edu/whuitt/col/cogsys/piaget.html>

\*\* The quote "Life is layers" is the result of a year of research by Dan Lampert in 2003.

### **DEBBIE'S ISRAELI DANCING-MAITLAND**

We are having a mini-workshop on Monday, February 13 with Dany Benshalom. It will be at the regular dance session, although we are starting at 7PM. Come at 6:30 if you want to bring your dinner (dairy or veggie only, please) and schmooze. We'll be in the auditorium. The charge is \$10 and we will be meeting from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM for our workshop and dancing. We can't stay later since the JCC closes at 10.

The previous weekend Dany will be in Gainesville, so try to attend that one as well. [See next article] Please let me know if you are coming and if you need a place to stay on Monday night.

ALSO, we are having our annual weekend workshop on April 1 and 2, with our special guest teacher, Ruth Goodman. Mark your calendars. The flyers will be mailed out at the beginning of February.

Hope to see you at both workshops!!  
Best wishes, Debbie (Meiten)

### **A NOTE FROM RUTHY SLANN**

Hello my dancing friends,  
Our spring weekend workshop in Gainesville, FL is a bit early this year. Dany and I will be there on Feb. 11-12 and would love for all of you to come dance with us. I know Tony has sent the flyer to most of you, but just in case, I will attach it to this note. As usual, Dany will bring some new dances, and some "classic" that proved to be "keepers".

Looking forward to dancing with you soon,  
Love and shalom, Ruthy

## FROM JACK & CO. (Gainesville)

Hey ya'll out there in folkdance land.....This here Gainesville International Dance group which meets every Friday from 8 - 11....is rocking to some fine tunes and hot times.....

Ron Tomocik was our energy this weekend (Jan 20, 21) as we danced to some great live sounds from his accordion.....A Russian dance called "Sasha" and a Greek one called "Larikos" were introduced to our group.....Ron sure does know how to belt out a folk tune...!!!!

Our teachers for the month have been: John with "Matura de la Felnac", "Donne Donke Lesnoto", "Atlantic Mixer", "Sulaam Yaakov," "D'Hammerschmeidgeselln", "In Gradina", "St. Bernard's Waltz", and a bunch of others which I can't think of right now....Linda with "Lepa Maca", "Zaplanski Cacak", "Paidusko", "Lum Lum Ley", "Tsamikos", "12th St. Rag"(with me), "Allunelul".....Margaret with "Cucuk", "Rustemul de la Intoarsa", "Ya Abud", "Vulpuita", and others.....Julietta with "Muresanca", "Paraliakos", Hora de la Tulnici", "Bracno oro", " Oj Devojce",..... Joyce before her toe injury did a few....."Godecki Cacak", & "Krecavi Ketus".....hey Joyce....we sure do miss you.....hurry up back.....And by the way, I did a few...."Tropanka"(Yves), "Ekizlijsko Horo", "Evev Ba", and "Yalel" .....

And guess what....?.....we've recruited a new teacher from our folk.....Stefan Craciun.....a student at UF who is our new whiz kid of folk dancing...!!!!.....He gave us his great interpretation of "Hora de la Gorg".....he has given our group a great impetus of energy...!!!!.....and feelings too.....

Anyway, we're having a blast up here in G'ville.....don't forget to stop by on your way north any Friday night.....just contact us beforehand and we'll try our best to accommodate you.....

Good luck FFDC officers with your last minute preparations for camp in a few weeks.....we're ready.....and able.....

## BABIAK ENSEMBLE PERFORMS

The Babiak Dance Ensemble performed on the International Stage for Sarasota Arts Day on January 15, 2006. It was a spectacular show with 12 dancers in elaborate Slavic costumes. The newspaper said that 30,000 people attended the downtown event.

Rich and Linda Nicoli, experts in Czech and Slovak dances have been performing with a dance group in Minneapolis and now live in Sarasota and are teaching the local ensemble some elegant dances, like Vrtielka.



Other experts in the troupe include Mary Finegold, Tahja, Juan de la Sierra, Dr. Cristina Babiak, Mariano Vo and Andrea Sturgess.

In 2005, the Ensemble performed at the Ringling Museum's Italian Festival and their Oktoberfest. They also presented German dances at the county fairgrounds. As usual, they entertained at nursing homes, private parties and mobile home parks, but in 05 they began teaching folk dancing to public school children, sponsored by the Sarasota Arts Council and special grants.

The Ensemble rehearses weekly on the Babiak's wooden porch. At this time they are under the direction of Andrea Sturgess, the Babiak's granddaughter. The dancers love to rehearse.

Watching the ancient Dmitri with his two titanium knees swing his granddaughter around with great joy on their faces as they display the old Latino dances taught by Nelda Drury in San Antonio many years ago...is a wonder.

Six of these dancers plan to attend the Florida Folkdance Camp at Crystal Lake this February.



### **GRAPEVINE INT'L FOLK DANCERS OF SARASOTA** by Marie Millet

I had a wonderful time at my 80th birthday party last Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist Church. I was so pleased to have Terry, Bill Schwarz, Andi and Ursula from the Tampa Bay area. I can't imagine a more wonderful way to celebrate than to be dancing with my folk dance and Unitarian friends accompanied by live music from a great band that played music from my era.

See you at camp.

### **PENSACOLA GROUP DONATION**

The following card and check was received from Becky Garcia of the Pensacola group:

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$100.00. This is a gift to the Olga Princi Fund given by the Pensacola International Folkdancers. This gift is made in memory of Mrs. Judy Marsh, who met her husband through folkdancing. Mrs. Marsh passed away in December after a lengthy battle with cancer. Sincerely, Becky Garcia [*ed. Note – we thank you so much!*]

### **ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB**

By: Pat Henderson

Juanita Schockey made great strides in recovering from her hip replacement surgery. She returned to dance less than a month after

the surgery and did three dances. The next week she did many more. After just five weeks after surgery, she got rid of her cane. It shows how dancing affects the recovery from surgery and also how dancing conditions a person before surgery. By camp, you will probably not even know that she had surgery.

On January 5, Bobby and I traveled to Tarpon Springs for the Greek Epiphany Celebration and stayed with Kay Demos in the home she bought a year ago. Terry Abrahams, Ruthy Slann and a Canadian Israeli dancer [*Livia*] also were there. There was a Greek dance workshop going on the entire weekend so Kay bought tickets for us all to go the dance party that evening. There were three bands: two from the U.S. and one from one of the Greek islands. One of the bands played a lot of Macedonian dances that we knew. Then on Friday, we watched the processional to the lake and the diving for the cross. It was a special celebration since it was the 100th Anniversary of the Epiphany in Tarpon Springs and the Patriarch from Constantinople was there. There was very high security with snipers on rooftops. It was very cold and windy that day so after having a Greek lunch and dancing to a Greek band for awhile, we all left to dance international in Tampa. It was our first Epiphany and we enjoyed it.

On January 18th, we were glad to see former member, Bob Monaghan from the NY/NJ area. He is at Embry Riddle for 10 days working on some re-certification for pilots which means he is still flying. We enjoyed doing *Ramot* with him since he is the one who taught it to us. We look forward to seeing everyone at camp. If you cannot come for at least a day, come for a night party. Where else can you folk dance with 60-80 other dancers?

### **TAMPA TALES**

Bobby, Pat, Ruthy Slann and Livia and I all joined Kay Demos for the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Epiphany celebration in Tarpon Springs. We went to the party/dance the night before with a couple of good bands, John Lulius organizing

his usual good evening of food and dance, spent the night at Kay's new home, walked the next day to the Procession, diving for the cross and the performances, food and buying stuff for the afternoon. Ruthy, Livia and I got home in time to dance with our Friday night International group, before they left the next morning, we were joined by Jeana (Israeli) from St. Pete for breakfast. Very cool weekend! Bobbie Ward and I also trekked to Tarpon the day before for the Tammies – always terrific – saw Kay there too! Bobbie and I spent New Year's Day kayaking – my first time – and I loved it! New Year's Eve contra dancing was so-so, but good to be out I guess.

Andi, Bill, Ursula and I went to Marie Millet's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party and it couldn't have been better! Folk dancers danced Marie's favorite dancers, a band played for our ballroom dancing pleasure, there was wine, punch, cheese and crackers, salutations, tons of people, one of the nicest parties ever! And for such a happy occasion!!! Judith had a Scandinavian workshop last Saturday. She has these every now and then – such a devoted gal! She, Ernesto, Susan, Kathie, Jim and I are going to the Snowball (Tampa big contra weekend) – actually will have been by the time this issue comes out – of course we'll have a good time. Ursula's on the mend, Charlene is recovering from a very bad car accident and finally back dancing, Andy is helping put on various swing activities. We're small, but we're busy!

#### **DIRECTIONS TO CAMP CRYSTAL LAKE (NOTE: Directions Are From N OR S)**

The camp is located at 6724 Camp Crystal Road about 5 miles north of Keystone Heights. Since this is the first time for most of you to find this camp, we highly recommend that you come in daylight hours. As a reference, it is probably 45 minutes further from the south than our previous camp.

#### **From the North**

##### **If you are on I-95:**

Just north of Jacksonville, exit onto A1A & US 301 S and go to Starke. Go through Starke on US 301 and then look for a sign for the Keystone Heights Airport on your left. (If you get to Keystone Heights, you missed the turn.) Turn left on Keystone Airport Road. Go one mile and turn right on Camp Crystal Road. Follow the signs into camp.

(Note: If you are in Jacksonville, take I-10 W to US 301 S and continue as above.)

##### **If you are on I-75:**

Exit at Lake City onto US 90 E; go through Lake City and then turn right onto SR 100 East ( You will actually be going southeast). Go through Starke and then look for a sign for the Keystone Heights Airport on your left. (If you get to Keystone Heights, you missed the turn.) Turn left on Keystone Airport Road. Go one mile and turn right on Camp Crystal Road. Follow the signs into camp.

#### **From the South**

##### **If you are on I-95:**

Exit at Flagler Beach on SR 100 W; continue through Keystone Heights on SR 100 W; go 5 miles; turn right at Keystone Airport road. Go one mile and turn right on Camp Crystal Road. Follow the signs into camp.

##### **If you are on I-75:**

Exit just north of Ocala on SR 326; go a short distance and turn left on US 301N (along with US 441 and others); go about 5 miles and stay on US 301 N when it forks right from US 441N (Do NOT go to Gainesville); continue on US 301 through Waldo; about 5 miles from Waldo, look for a sign to Hampton and turn right on Hwy 18 to Hampton; go about 4 miles and you will dead end at FL 100; turn right onto SR 100 E; go 1 mile; turn left at Keystone Airport road. Go one mile and turn right on Camp Crystal Road. Follow the signs into camp.

(Note: If you miss Hwy 18, go to Starke and then take SR100 E to the camp.)

**If you are lucky enough to be coming from Gainesville:**

Take Waldo Road (Hwy 24) or take 39<sup>th</sup> Ave east to Waldo Road (Hwy 24) to Waldo; turn left onto US 301N in Waldo; about 5 miles from Waldo, look for a sign to Hampton and turn right on Hwy 18 to Hampton; go about 4 miles and you will dead end at FL 100; turn right onto SR 100 E; go 1 mile; turn left at Keystone Airport road. Go one mile and turn right on Camp Crystal Road. Follow the signs into camp.

(Note: If you miss Hwy 18, go to Starke and then take SR100 E to the camp.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**February 2006**

3,4, Friday, Saturday: Greek Festival, Ocala

17-20, Friday-Monday: FFDC Florida Camp, Camp Crystal Lake, Keystone Heights, FL

**March 2006**

25, Saturday, Spring Fling in Port Orange, FL

**April 2006**

1,2, Saturday, Sunday: 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Israeli Workshop at JCC of Greater Orlando

Guest Teacher: Ruth Goodman

7-9, Rang Tang, Shawn Donaldson, Armenian and Bulgarian, music by Bulgarian and Armenian Bands, shopping at Opet. Contact: Liz Nunan 1237 N. Valley Brook Rd. Decatur, GA 30033 or 1-404-292-7176 or [maryturl@juno.com](mailto:maryturl@juno.com) or [liznunan@hotmail.com](mailto:liznunan@hotmail.com)

11-12 – Gainesville – Dany Benshalom  
13 – Orlando – Dany Benshalom (see article)

- [Czech Pleasure in the Heart of Europe](#)  
July 25 - August 16

**DICK CRUM**

Date: Tue, 13 Dec 2005 06:14:21 -0800

Subject: [BBMDE] Dick Crum-

We Have Lost a Precious Treasure  
Good Morning friends. It is just before 8:00

a.m. in Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota, in the USA. I just got the word from a local folkdancer who is close to his family that Dick Crum has died. We don't yet know what caused his death, but according to the folkdancer, who heard from Dick's sister in St. Paul this morning, Dick has been quite ill the past week or so, but had not been to a doctor. Friends and family became worried when they hadn't heard from him and couldn't reach him by phone. I'm sure more news will become available. His body will be cremated and ashes brought back home to St. Paul. There will be a memorial service here in the Twin Cities (his birthplace and home) at some point. I or someone here will keep you posted as we get information to share. There are so many wonderful, personable, creative, and talented dance teachers, researchers, and dancer in the world, but Dick Crum was THE most precious treasure of them all. May his soul rest in peace, knowing how much he was loved and appreciated all over the world.

Ceil Wirth, Mpls

There were many things that made Dick one of the best teachers ever (not just best dance teachers). One was his ability to look at a crowd and see where they were having trouble with a step. Then he'd reach into his bag of analogies to help them out. If he didn't have what he needed he'd make up a new one on the spot. If that didn't work he'd try another and so on.

by [andy@atlantic.net](mailto:andy@atlantic.net)

**THIS JUST IN**

The Duquesne University Tamburitians will be performing at 7pm in Crescent City on Saturday, March 4. I have a contact in that area to get tickets in advance and save \$5 a ticket. The price this year is \$18 advance and \$23 at the door. Bobby and I saw the show in Melbourne on Jan. 15 and it is great as usual. We had to pay \$28.50 so the increase in the price of gas in reflected in the price of the tickets. Even though we already saw the show, I am ordering and getting advance tickets for you like I did last year. Please let me know how many tickets you want and pay me by Wednesday, February 8.

Pat

## NOTES FROM TENNESSEE (JULIETA)

*The following was written in Nashville, at the end of a meeting in early December, and is being sent to you from Ft. Lauderdale.*

Greetings from Nashville, the US capital of country music, and its many variations. Wherever I travel, I look for music and dance experiences, even if just as an observer. Line dancing was a memorable first for me. The Christmas Spectacular I attended included ballet, much of it of On Pointe. The Radio City Rockette dancers were fantastic in all their dances, the best dance being the Wooden Toy Soldiers, which required exquisite precision, balance and control. Most shocking of all the show was its end, with real sheep and camels coming on stage for a quiet, gentle Nativity skit. This latter included gorgeous Middle Eastern scenes with music.

But more important, this trip was a relative success, because I danced! I joined in line dancing at the Crazy Horse, which was unforgettable in part because I was so bad at it. So I stepped out and watched the dancing instead. If I am back in Nashville again, I will return to this strange place with full size horses running upside down in the ceiling, tasty fries, and local country bands such as 32 below. Do not cringe at the idea of line dancing with country music. The music was lively (with a steady standard 4/4 rock beat), the steps were familiar, and of all things, it is an authentic American tradition. We already do Cotton Eyed Joe. Best of all is line dancing with friends, with boots (any comfortable smooth-sole boots will do), and with fiddle in the background. With all the steps we know as folk dancers, we could show them some new choreography starting with more closely-spaced lines. We might as well try line dancing at least once every six months, I say! I know a prize-winning line-dancing entomologist that could teach us one day a few dances in a workshop at 308.

At the Grand Ole Opry show in the Ryman Hall, our claps (and whistles, yells, and stomps) were broadcasted live on local, web, and satellite radio. Most forgettable song was "Whisky Lullaby", funniest was "Leroy the Redneck Reindeer" with perfectly recognizable music (but with different instruments), and most enjoyable music was Kentucky Blue Grass fiddle, banjo and mandolin playing, in the style of Bill Monroe. Slide guitar and Dobro were also played. Slow fiddle music was wonderful in this famous Hall with the better

acoustics only found in Carnegie Hall. Other music to remember as a new live experience was what they called Honky Tonk, Christian Rock, Hee-Haw jokes, and the unnecessary plain truck-plus-dog songs. In the Opry we joined in clapping to the songs, directed by the show's MCs, who also read aloud 1930s and 40s style commercial announcements, the type that inspired Garrison Keillor's live music and radio theatre show on Saturday nights. They alternated famous seasoned singers (85 year olds included), ladies (to me rare in this very masculine environment), and up and coming young musicians and groups. All this was to tell you that the above and other trips downtown helped me balance with music and cheer a not-so-great trip away from Florida. I look forward to being back in Gainesville soon, ready to dance at 308. A post note: I completed this trip by watching the well-timed new movie about Johnnie Cash, "Walk the Line" while my car was being fixed near Royal Park Cinema. See you dancing. Julieta

## MENSA WORLD GATHERING 2006

By: Pat Henderson

In August of this year, Mensa will be hold its World Gathering (WG) in Orlando at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. This means that some of the smartest people in the world will be meeting for a week to share programs and camaraderie. You have a chance to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime event. David Digby and I have volunteered to organize two folk dancing events for the WG. The first event will be on Thursday, August 10 from 10:30-11:30 AM. We will have a dance show and then teach dances to volunteers from the audience. David and I have done this type of program before at our RGs (Regional Gatherings) and at AGs (Annual Gatherings held for US members). The second event is an international dance party in the evening after a comedy program. We will be playing the music for the party and leading many of the dances. If you are interested in participating, we plan on having a meeting to pick what dances to do for the morning show after lunch on Sunday at camp. If you do not come to camp and are interested, contact me at above email or at: 407-275-6247. What do you get for your participation? You get admittance to the days programs and activities including the hospitality suite with non-stop food and drink. If you need a place to stay in Orlando, let me know that also. For more info, go to: [wg06.us.mensa.org](http://wg06.us.mensa.org)

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

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