

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

APRIL 2006

PREZ SEZ by Terry Abrahams

I'm just back from Spring Fling, and even though we were few – we were mighty! Once again it was great to be dancing with my “dancing family” – reviewing camp dances (was it great doing the Polonez again with all of us, or what?); reviving up oldie moldies; learning a few new ones from Julius and Andi; playing the dueling accordions with John; meeting new people; watching our favorite belly dancers dance, then taking a belly dancing lesson from Ann (now THAT was fun!); eating Julius and friends' wonderful food (I always gain a pound though I try hard as I can to dance fast enough to not let that happen – my favorites are those awful chocolate covered donuts); a short (ok – not so short) meeting with my board to make next year's camp even more perfect. Is it possible to be “more” perfect, or is perfect already the final word? Well, I said it anyway, and it's true – we're already thinking ahead and know we'll please you again.

Thanks to those who are renewing your memberships. Those of you who have not – this is your last issue – so....and speaking of issues – Caroline is doing a fantastic job, she's serious about this, and improving everything by the minute – please cooperate by sending your news as she suggests in her email to you. Those of you without email – think about it! You're missing out here and there – colored pictures, all the camp pictures, special news bulletins – you oughta!

I think I won't go on and on this month. I did so much last month you deserve a break. So – Serbian is Superb and Polish is Phenomenal – and I'm outa here!



In Step at Spring Fling

SPRING FLING by John Daly

It was the good time, it was the best time, it seemed a short time, but such a good time. What a great description for Spring Fling. We enjoyed a full day of great requests. With a cooperative effort from all the groups we were able to enjoy all the dances from Camp.

At the peak of the afternoon the sound of exotic rhythms and the tinkle of finger cymbals lured us to watch Ann and Kelly perform Middle Eastern dances.

Then back to more request dancing until the end of the show with only four dancers left on the floor. All in all, we did at least 100 dances during the course of the day.

Pictures are on the web page. Go to www.folkdance.org and then click on "Spring Fling Photos."

Julius Horvath has been hosting this event for something like 30 years, including arranging the hall, setting up the sound system, lugging all manner of tapes and supplies, and providing generous helpings of all sorts of good food. He's saying this year is his last. Those of us who have hosted events know all the

work that Julius has put into Spring Fling, in particular, and folk dance in general.

These events could not happen without dedicated leaders and enthusiastic dancers. So thanks to all who made it happen.

A Short History

The following is from a note from Julius Horvath before the Fling – ed

Spring Fling was not my invention. When Judith and Ernesto gave up their special annual spring dances, I took over and moved it to Ormond Beach (early 1700's, I believe). We started out at the old Ormond Beach Senior Center on Granada, moved

to the American Legion Hall, the new Ormond senior Center (with wood floor) the Seabreeze Center, the Port Orange Senior Center, and now to the Port Orange Adult Activities Center.

It started back when we averaged 70 to 80 dancers on a regular Wednesday night. Tampa and Orlando had almost as many regular dancers. FFDC membership was around 200 and folk dancing very popular. Our performance group put on about 60 performances a year. It was a great time to be in folk dancing. Then came TV, computers, and a zillion other social activities. What happened to folk dancing???

This year, if we only have 20 fanatical dancers, I'm OK with that. They are most welcome!
-julius

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue initiates a new feature – **Culture Corner** – with an article on the Passover Seder. The seder is part of the culture of many of our members and occurs in April this year.

I hope to make Culture Corner a semi-regular feature of the newsletter, with articles submitted by readers. Some of you have interesting cultural backgrounds and I hope you will share something about them with your dancing friends.

If you want to contribute a Culture Corner article, please contact me in advance. I may also solicit articles. Pieces with a personal slant are preferred. If possible, articles of a seasonal nature will be run at the appropriate time of year.

Most of the pictures in this newsletter, like the ones on this page of Ann and Kelly performing, are from Spring Fling – except the ones with the Gainesville news on page 3.

- Caroline Lanker



Notes to the Editor

I don't know if anyone else has made this comment but I would like to thank Julius publicly for the great CD he made of the dances. It was the best one ever. I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way. - Sylvia Gruber

GRAPEVINE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS OF SARASOTA by Marie Millett

It's great to be enjoying the dances from camp. Andi has done an excellent job of teaching them.



Ursula cooperated by wearing her beautiful Polish costume while being Andi's partner when she taught the Polenez.

We hope Yvette Levy will be back for a few dances before she goes back north. She has been having therapy for injuries from a fall.

Some of our Northern friends are slipping away and we miss them. Andi's last night with us before leaving for her Vancouver Summer will be May 3. Come join us for a party (wake).

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB by Pat Henderson

On February 28, we gathered to comfort Ann Robinson at the funeral for her husband, Danny. The large church was completely full with standing room only. After a short service at the cemetery, we shared a meal at the Whirl & Twirl Square and Round Dance Hall. A slide show of pictures of Danny and Ann through the years was projected while we were eating.

On March 15, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with the obligatory wearing of green and party finger food. We danced a few Irish dances including Above the Rainbow, Sweets of May, and a line dance to Italian music.

Juanita Schockey, Joy Herndon and Phyllis Dammer performed in shows at their Fairways

community on March 24-26. Unfortunately, they had to miss Spring Fling because of the shows. Joy and Phyllis tap danced in several numbers and all three of them performed a dance choreographed by Joy to the song, Day-O. Several of our club members saw the show and Bobby and I along with Joe and Lucy Birkemeier, Ann Robinson and Fred Schockey did an impromptu polka when an accordionist played some polka music.

Those of us who attended Spring Fling on March 25 enjoyed the last fling in Port Orange. Julius has done so much for all of us over the years by sponsoring and paying for the space and the food. We all thank you for many years of dancing fun, Julius.



Gainesville Dancers ...

TAMPA TALKS by Terry Abrahams

Three of us came from Tampa to the Spring Fling - Andi, Bill and I. Andy (male) was still recovering from whatever it was that kept him from attending camp; Ursula was recovering from a very successful cornea operation; Charlene was interviewing in N.C. (?? - well, somewhere...), Judith felt the need to be at contra instead, Ernesto doesn't like to drive far anymore, Susan nor Bobbi nor Barbara wanted to come - and there you have it. But we three had a terrific time, even though our feet were hurting and we couldn't last past 7 PM. A gazillion thanks to Julius for having us again. Certainly the host with the most! 30 years now, he's been doing this! And we've appreciated every one of them.

We've had a couple of guests here and there - always enjoyable - thank heavens for conventions held in the area, and the people who go to the trouble to look us up. The Israeli gang is getting ready for Israel Independence Day, and a couple of us have been doing teaching when requested. Teen conventions, Bar Mitzvahs, 5th grade

community days, etc. Always fun, sometimes even some payment. Yeah!

Next week is the Israeli Dance weekend in Orlando - looking forward to seeing other friends there (Ruthy Slann is coming in.) Plans for summer are in the making. People come, people go. Not true, no one comes, only go. We get slimmer and slimmer - but - there's still the music and we still dance! Without dancing, life wouldn't be as good.... Ciao - until next month!



... at the Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival

GREETINGS FROM GAINESVILLE

Dancing as usual, as most of us meet every week for our usual dose of 3 hours of dancing 30 dances. It seems as if we have to be the busiest bunch of folk as every time I turn around someone is somewhere else.....now it's Margaret down in the



Klapok

Dominican Republic for 10 days or so.... Don't forget, by the way, she's been busy organizing a workshop for Daniel Sandu on May 2 (see Events and Tours for May).

Last week it was Stefan in Romania for friends, family and fun. He says he lost 5 - 6 pounds depriving himself of

some American cooking. He & Margaret are performing as a Romanian group at the O'Connell Center for the Vista organization on April 8th.

Sunday, March 23rd about 9 of us had a blast performing at the Kanapaha Gardens Spring

Festival. (Pictures on page 3.) Gary & Peg Kirkpatrick, Arlene Bargad, Melissa Ferguson, Joyce Dewsberry, Max & Diane Forkel and Linda & myself. This was our first performance since the Katrina Benefit we did back in the fall with the GDMA organization of Gainesville musicians & dancers. Julieta Brambi, by the way, attended the performance, flying back from somewhere for the event. We just seem to always going & going around here.....and coming back, thank goodness.

It really is so unique to dance in the dirt; kicking up the dirt in La Bastringue whenever we come in to the middle. We did about 12 dances for 45 minutes and had people in the audience up and into it for the last 3 dances. Everyone had a fantastic time as

the sound system was loud and the trees were awesome; with branches leaning to the ground all over the place.
- Jack Seltzer



Spring Fling

Culture Corner

The Passover Seder by Andi Kapplin

Passover begins on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nissan, which this year falls on April 12. The holiday commemorates the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt after generations of slavery, as told in the book of Exodus. In Israel, Passover is celebrated for seven days but everywhere else in the world it lasts eight days.

During Passover, religious Jews will not eat any leavened grain products, such as bread, cake, cookies, or pasta – anything whose dough has been mixed with a leavening agent or which has been left to rise more than 18-22 minutes. Any item that could be used to make bread is forbidden. This reminds us that when the Jews left Egypt, they were in such a hurry they did not have time to let their bread rise.

Matzo is eaten in place of bread throughout Passover. Matzo is made from dough of flour and water only, which has not been allowed to rise for more than 18-22 minutes.

A tradition of Passover is the seder, the special family meal filled with rituals and special foods that remind everyone of the significance of the holiday. In Israel, the seder is held only on the first night. Elsewhere traditional Jews hold the seder on the first two nights.

In my family my grandfather always led the seder, reading from the Haggadah (the traditional book used for the seder service), and retelling the story

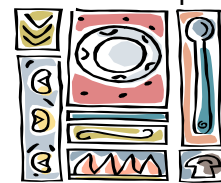
of the Jews escaping from Egypt. He passed away 31 years ago but at certain times during the seder service, I can still hear his voice.

The seder plate (used as a centerpiece) consists of the following:

1. Charoset, a mixture of apples, nuts, wine and spices, symbolizes the mortar the Jewish slaves made in building for the Egyptians.
2. A roasted shank bone symbolizes the Paschal lamb.
3. A hard boiled egg symbolizes the festival sacrifice of olden days.
4. Karpas, usually parsley, is dipped in salt water to represent tears.
5. Maror, bitter herbs (usually horseradish), represents the bitter life during the time of enslavement.

Singing is part of the seder service and there are traditional songs in the Haggadah. One of the songs is Chad Gadya, which tells a story about a goat.

Dancing is not usually a part of the seder service, but "Das Tighele", a Romanian folk dance, tells another story of Passover and a goat. The animal is being raised for the seder meal, and the children of the family let it escape but "have no idea of what happened to it!" It's sung in a Romanian dialect of Yiddish and is danced in an open circle.



REMINISCING by Terry Abrahams

I had a new floor laid in my office recently and had to move everything out of the room. In order to move my 4-drawer antique wood filing cabinet, I had to empty it first. Then I had to put everything back in – groan! So I decided it was a good time to re-organize and purge, and in looking through every single file, I found one that concerned the Florida Folk Fest held on April 24, 1982 – the last time I was President. (I could have sworn I've been there other times too, but faulty memory I guess). At any rate, what a time we had! What organization it took!

How many of you remember when this was also an activity the FFDC did annually? We got together in a different city every year, each club worked hard on costumes and performances, and we had one large performance open to the public.

This particular folkfest was held in Orlando, and was commandeered by Pat Henderson (quel surprise). In her usual fabulous way, she hand wrote up a summary of the event, suggestions for next year, a financial report, etc. She typed a Proposed Checklist for Future Folkdancefests as well. I have a long and excellent (handwritten in pencil) critique with very positive suggestions from Juan Dominguez in Tallahassee – remember him? Great dancer, great guy, great choreographer - I think he's in Colorado now. There is also a letter from Mickey Cross with comments from the audience (what audience there was). I have a couple of copies of the program and let me tell you - we were Gangbusters! There were 11 dancers in the Drava (Tally) group, 13 from Orlando Int'l, 7 from the Orlando Israelis, 14 from Ormond Beach, 13 from Tampa. We also had guest groups – the Dixie Land Cloggers (10 dancers) and the Banga Lithuanian Dancers (21 dancers). There were dancers that are no longer with us, some grown, some moved, some married, some passed away. The program included dance suites from Germany, Romania, Mexico, Ireland, Israel, Croatia, Lithuania, USA, Serbia, Hungary, Spain, Sweden, and Poland. Do you remember who did what? Once I saw the program I did remember! And I remember making our costumes



Who says we have no young dancers?

– boy do I remember!!! We even had patrons listed in the program. This was quite an activity. I would love to do this again, but I think we are too small and too old to even consider it. But boy, them were the days!!!!

P.S. If you enjoyed this little reminiscence, I continued through my files and found other things that you might enjoy reading about (including a 1978 issue of Mixed Pickles!). With a little encouragement, I might write another article next month. And you know what? I'll bet other people have some stuff in their files they could reminisce about. Whatchoother think?

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

The regular annual meeting of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc. was called to order by President Terry Abrahams at 1:00 p.m. on February 18th, 2006.

Secretary's Report: A motion was duly made and accepted to accept the 2005 Meeting Minutes as printed in the 2005 Florida Folk Dancer.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report will be issued after camp after all receipts are tallied.

President's Report:

Thank you's were made to all people involved in the success of the camp. Directions were given for the Olga

Princi Scholarship silent auction.

The president announced that flyers regarding other activities were at the back of the dining hall, specifically mentioning Atlanta's Rang Tang and Spring Fling.

New Business:

A motion was duly made and seconded to contract with Camp Crystal Lake for the 2007 Florida Folk Dance Camp. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

A request for a newsletter editor was put forth. There were no immediate volunteers, but Caroline Lanker accepted the position later that weekend.

There were no motions to further amend the bylaws as printed after the February 2005 meeting.

Julius Horvath has hosted Spring Fling in the Daytona area for 30 years. He suggested that it was time for another group to take over the event. Since Fall Fling is held in Melbourne which is also on the East coast, he would like to see a group in central or west Florida host the event in the future. The FFDC encourages any interested group to contact Julius.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

CAMP LOST AND FOUND

- Did you happen to find a navy fleece jacket (zip style) at camp? I seem to have misplaced it and thought I might have left it at camp. – Jan Lathi
- Terry is still looking for the owner of a white fleece blanket which was left at camp.

CAMP RECIPES – UPDATE

For the stuffed cabbage rolls, a trick that works in Florida (and with the American cabbage) is to put the cabbage (in a plastic grocery bag) in the freezer and leave it there for 2-4 days. Wash the leaves after defreezing--they will peel easily from the cabbage head.

It might not be time or energy efficient, but it surely keeps the boiled cabbage smell out of the house.

- Raluca Rosca



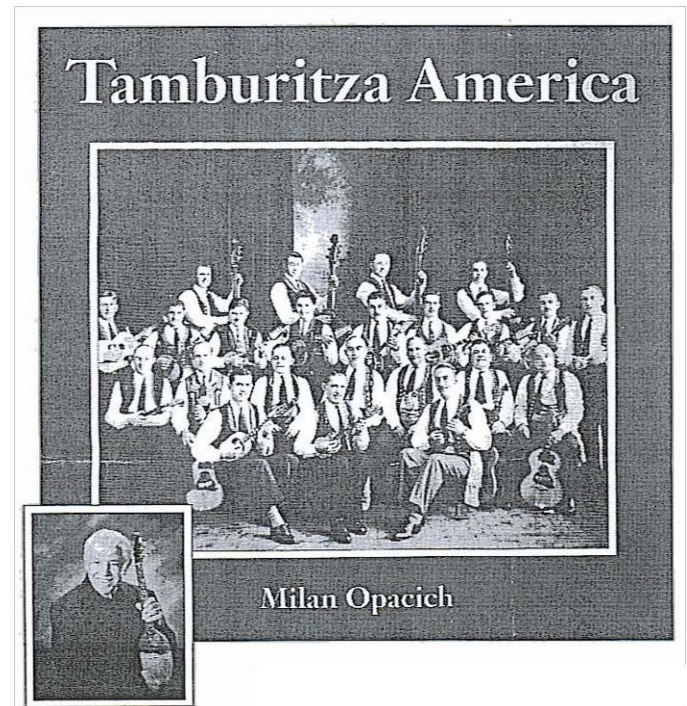
Someone's Having Fun at Spring Fling

CAMP DVDs

Extra copies of the 2006 FFDC Camp DVD are available. Julius created a beautiful DVD with a panorama of the camp at the beginning. You can also select scenes and go directly to each dance or section. Send check for \$15 made

out to FFDC. Mail to: Pat Henderson, 9859 Berry Dease Rd., Orlando, FL 32825.

NEW BOOK



Tamburitza America, by Milan Opacich, is the story of an Old-World music tradition, the *tamburitza* of the South Slavs, which came to America with the immigrants in the late 1800's and early 1900's. It has flourished through several American-born generations.

Tamburitza America celebrates the rich musical heritage of the South Slavs in America. Milan Opacich documents the history of the instrument, the *tambura*, and features the fine musicians and orchestras who made major contributions both to *tamburitza* and to American music.

Other traditional instruments - the flute or *frula*, the bagpipes or *gajde*, and the *gusle* - are spotlighted along with the violin, a relative newcomer to *tamburitza* but an integral part of many popular orchestras.

Tamburitza America is also a historic journey through America to the origins of the *tamburitza* tradition in the country's industrial towns. It recalls the vibrant communities where *tamburitza* music was heard, first in the boarding houses, pool halls, and saloons, and later in the taverns, church halls, night clubs, restaurants, and ballrooms.

The author, Milan Opacich, was born in 1928 in the heart of Gary, Indiana, the great steel city which

was home to one of America's largest Slavic communities. Today he lives just a few miles away, in Schererville. Throughout his life and musical career, he has collected and recorded the history of *tambura* in America, inspired by his love of the instrument, the music, and the people. This book is the result. Milan Opacich is a 2004 recipient of a National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Hardback book, cloth-bound, large 10 x 10 format, 300 pages, 200 photos, detailed index, dust jacket \$49.50 plus \$5.00 S&H. Order from: Black Mountain Publishers, P.O. Box 50742, Tucson, AZ 85703 (520)624-4887.



A FUNNY THING...

At your bidding, friends, here is the information re: my upcoming musical theatre gig! A comedy!

"A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" with Bay Street Players in Eustis, **opens Friday April 7, 2006.**

The show runs 3 weekends with a possible fourth. The original cast included Zero Mostel as Pseudolus, and was indeed his first claim to fame! Our cast is packed with talent and quite frankly keeps me on my toes. I'm playing Domina, the overbearing over-the-top dramatic wife of Senex and mother of Hero. It's a hoot.

Go to www.baystreetplayers.org for more info. And thanks for your interest!

- Kelly Fagan

WORLD DANCE DAY

On the **29th of April**, World Dance Day will be celebrated by the international community of

dancers and dance enthusiasts. It is promoted by The International Dance Council (Conseil International de la Danse - CID). World Dance Day was established in 1982 for the purpose of attracting the attention of the wider public to the art of dance.

On April 29, dance companies, dance schools, organizations and individuals are asked to organize an activity addressing an audience larger than their usual one. When possible, it is better for events to be organized jointly with a non-dance institution such as a government agency, public school, local cultural association or business.

Content: Organizers have full freedom to define the content of the event. Include general information on the art of dance, its history, its importance to society, its universal character. By adding this dimension you make the event different from dance activities taking place any other day.

Coordination: Inform the media about your event. Notify an organization holding a central position at regional or national level, which should publish a list of events planned for Dance Day. Entrance to events should preferably be free, or by invitation.

Invite persons who do not normally attend dance events.

Location: At best, events should take place in "new" places, such as streets, parks, squares, shops, factories, villages, discotheques, schools, stadiums etc. By setting the event in original surroundings you stress the fact that this is an event dedicated to the universal family of dancers.

Prof. Alkis Raftis, President of the CID
president@cid-unesco.org

About CID: The International Dance Council (Conseil International de la Danse - CID) is the official worldwide umbrella organization for all forms of dance. It is a non-governmental non-profit organization (NGO) founded in 1973 within the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, where it is based.

Its purpose is to act as a worldwide forum bringing together international, national and local organizations and individuals active in dance. It represents the interests of the dance world at large and consults with governments and international agencies.

International Dance Council - CID - Conseil International de la Danse, UNESCO, Paris, France
www.cid-unesco.org

MENSA WORLD GATHERING 2006

by Pat Henderson

In August of this year, Mensa will 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 short dance performance 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.

What do you get for your participation? You get admittance to the day's 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.

At a meeting at camp, potential dances were discussed. Here is the list so far:

Performing:

Israel – El Elohay Shamayim, Harmonica or Klaysmer

Greece – Syrtos (as an entrance)

Croatia – Moja Diridika

German – Kreuz Koenig

Romania – Rustemul

Bulgaria – Bucimis

Scotland – Mauri's Wedding (or elopement)

(What about Polonez?)

Teaching:

Das Tighele

Lerikos

Mayim or Zemertik or Ve David

Above the Rainbow

Posloushaite Patrioti

Hole in the Wall

Povoz

You do not have to know all the dances to participate. I will set up an email group to update everyone on the progress of the event. Once we start this group communicating, we could refine the dance choices. That way those who are dancing can work on the dances with their home group. We will need one rehearsal, either just before the first event on August 10 or the night before at the dance studio behind our house.

EVENTS AND TOURS

APRIL

April 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 or liznunan@hotmail.com

April 21-23 New England Folk Festival. Natick, Mass. Dancing - contra, square, folk. Folk music concerts and workshops, family stories, songs, dance and crafts, international food, jam sessions, ethnic dance performances, crafts and folk bazaar. For more info: www.neffa.org or (781) 662-6710

MAY

May 2 Daniel Sandu teaches Romanian and Gypsy Dances. Pofahl School of Dance, 1325 NW 2nd Street, Gainesville, FL 32601. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$15.00/general public. Party following, place TBA.

Daniel taught Romanian dances at FFDC Camp 2005. A fulltime resident of the Netherlands, he is currently on staff at the folk dance house, TerpsichorŽ, in Amsterdam, where his course "Rhythm, Romania, Rroma" (3R) ranks among their most popular offerings. His goal is to get each dancer to find his or her own rhythm.

See more information about Daniel Sandu at http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/teachers/sandu_d.htm.

This event is sponsored by the Gainesville folk dancers. Jack Seltzer writes, "Come on up or over for the night and we can try and find some

accommodations, probably. Just give me a note as soon as you know what your plans are." Contact Jack at 352-359-2903 or mseltzerj@hotmail.com.

Pat Henderson

June 17 - June 29 Vasilescu 2006 Romanian Tour - June

We have been on three similar tours, and they are very good -Jim Osborn.

Begins June 17th at Timisoara Int'l Airport and ends June 29th at Otopeni Airport, Bucharest. Flights to and from Romania are not included in the tour.

Stay two days each in four towns; attend dance performances, go sightseeing, learn regional dances and visit local villages. Meet, dance and dine with rural villagers. Last three days in Bucharest.

\$1500 per person, not including airfare to/from Romania.

Contact: Ping Chun, 49 Junard Drive, Morristown, NJ 07960; ping.chun@att.net; 973-539-7020

July 25 - August 16 Czech Pleasure in the Heart of Europe www.dvorana.cz/dance/folk2006/00.html

Choose parts you want from: a tour of the Czech Republic; 3 days in Prague; a dance seminar in Prague; a bagpipe festival and sightseeing in the Chodsko region.

CORRECTIONS

We're still working on a complete, corrected version of the camp syllabi. They'll be on the web site later.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

This is your last issue unless you have renewed your membership by May 1. Please send form below to Pat Henderson, Treasurer, to renew.

Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Last Name: _____ First Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Do you want to receive your newsletter by e-mail? Yes _____ No, I want a printed copy _____

(Note: You will receive an announcement that the newsletter has been posted on the Web page before it is mailed. Pictures in the newsletter will be in color on the Web page, in black and white in the printed copy.)

FFDC Membership (Per household) 15.00 _____

Make check payable to: FFDC

Send To:
Pat Henderson
9859 Berry Dease Rd
Orlando, FL 32825

Any questions?

Call: Pat at 407-275-6247
email: henderp@bellsouth.net
Web page: www.folkdance.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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