



June 2006

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PREZ SEZ

by Terry Abrahams

Is life flying by or what? Can't believe a month has passed. But we're all dancing somewhere – the theme for this article. I'm sorry to have missed the Mayfair Ball, I didn't get any information on it – having been invited at the last minute didn't work for me. But I think their committee has learned their lesson and will announce the next one in OUR newsletter! I hope to make the Colin Hume workshop and see some of you there. English Country is not my favorite, but he is supposed to be amazing, and I think supporting different kinds of dance is important.

I went to a Hafla last month. One of our Israeli dancers is also a belly dancer, and it was quite fun. The afternoon before the party, I took a drumming lesson and loved it! I think I should be drumming instead of accordion-ing. Not that I've practiced since. But I loved the moment. Now I'm on my way to the Florida Folk Festival where I will teach Chassidic "stuff" for the Kleyzmer band that plays there every year.

Part of the joy of dancing is seeing good friends in other places, and again I will be meeting Pat and Bobby there, who helped me last year and will again this year. If you've never gone, think about it for next year. The FFDC used to perform there, but some way or another we are no longer invited. Their administration has changed as have their rules for entering. This year I also was asked to be a judge for a new concept they had – a Performance Project they called it. I'm anxious to see the group that won. I was the "dance specialist" – first time I've ever been invited to do something like that. We had to read and listen to 6 different entrants who had to combine different aspects of performing. Gonna catch a contra dance party first, then head up in the evening – certainly don't want to miss any dance things!

The contra June Bug Bash is coming up at the end of June, with Seth Tepfer calling and he is always great! Week before Labor Day will find me in GA dancing Israeli with Ruthy and Dany. So – I'm doing my bit to be everywhere, dancing everything, and hope you are doing the same! Dance happens!

DANIEL SANDU WORKSHOP

The Gainesville group was Johnny-on-the-Spot, bringing Daniel Sandu back to Florida for a workshop on May 2. The workshop was well received, with 20+ dancers from north Florida. Dances were easy to intermediate with an accent on Romanian Gypsy styling. Margaret Tolbert relates, "I got Daniel to the airport fine, with lots of interesting discussions about dance, teaching, gypsies, expression, and the importance of not dancing like a machine. He was very happy that the group seemed to like the dances." Jack Seltzer reports, "We all had a blast, DID like the dances and were extremely lucky to have this fine talent stop here for a one-night workshop. Thank you FFDC for introducing him to us at camp in 2005. We promise to try and share some of what he brought us on the 2nd.

These photos from Margaret Tolbert's friend, Jim, show some of the action.



At the regular Gainesville dance night May 12, Margaret taught two Daniel dances - Hora Bucurestenilor with easy flow back and forth steps and stamps and Hora Rudarilor with its gypsy heels and hips.

Way to go, Gainesville!

FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL 2006

by Pat Henderson

The 54th annual Florida Folk Festival was held over Memorial Weekend in White Springs at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park. This year's festival theme was Florida Agriculture, since one-third of the state's land is devoted to cultivation, providing 80 percent of the nation's winter vegetables. Rosanne Cash was the big name draw and she performed Saturday evening on the Amphitheater Stage. There was a dance stage and a folk-life stage that had various dance programs and workshops over the weekend.

This year, Bobby and I enjoyed a Mexican band that played northern Mexican music. The band consisted of two stringed instruments and an accordion. We learned a few Mexican-style steps. At times, I felt like I was listening to a German or Polish band with polka-sounding music. However, the steps were in 1-2 to match the guitar and not in 1-2-3 to match the accordion. We also enjoyed listening to Cajun music of Gumbo Limbo, a Florida Cajun band. Basic Cajun dances were taught.

The 24th Street Klezmer Band from Gainesville performed again this year and once again Terry Abrahams led the audience in dance. It is amazing to see her choreograph on the fly!



It is nice to enjoy the festival as a spectator but I still remember all the years when we performed. When Bobby and I went to our first festival, we were guest performers with the Tallahassee International Group. The Gainesville group has also been very active over the years but they did not perform this year. If we have enough interested, perhaps we can put together a group from around the state for next year. It would add a great dimension to the festival.

(Obviously, Bobby and Pat enjoyed the food and drink at the festival, too – Ed)

TAMPA TRIBUNAL

By Terry Abrahams

This month Judith and Ernesto have the happiest news. Their granddaughter, Cassandra, just got married in Utah, followed by a party in Tampa for the whole *mishpocha* (that means family in Yiddish – yes, I'm still teaching you). Congratulations to the whole family – and yes, we are getting old!

Ursula is still traveling, so we haven't heard from her. Andi is enjoying the Vancouver weather and dance scene and gathering yet more fabulous dances to bring back to us. Ken is on his way to his music camp, Charlene did accept a job as a minister to a small congregation near Baton Rouge – boy will we miss her.

I'm working madly on my Chinese for my trip in July – I'm amazed at what (I think) I can say. I tried to start a meetup.com group and our first meet was last night, and no one came. Two are interested and we are going to try again. I was very disappointed, but will continue with my CDs. I always try to learn the language of the country I'm going to and don't do too badly, but sadly, within a week of returning, it all disappears.

Our Israeli group did a really good (well, if I don't love myself, who will) performance at the Israel Independence Day Festival May 7, we have a DVD to prove it – one of the husbands did it for us. My choreography worked pretty well! Except that we danced in the sun at 12:20 and almost had sun stroke, it was a good day all around and we even have a new member from it, and hoping for a couple of more. Dan from Orlando was there and did a few dances with us later in the day – so nice to see him. Ni Hao means hello in Chinese – but now it's time to say good bye – so Zai Jian 'til next month. TA

NEWS FROM NAPLES

The following note came by e-mail from Jenneine Lambert <dancingarrow@ ...>. Her full e-mail address will be in the FFDC membership list which is being mailed to members.

Hello,

I live! finally on an e-connection.

DancingArrow is my Indian name given to me in 1974 when I was already dancing international for two years and found The Creek Indian tribe and danced with them. I hosted a Summer solstice primitive camp one year (on Pensacola Beach National Park) where I was given my name and the "Seven Arrows" award for bringing people together. All I did was model the folk dance idea with the Indians and others who wanted to learn from them.

One little tidbit I can pass on to you is when they dance in a circle together it is a prayer – a meditation in unison on a pre-chosen topic (or random if stated). Also, the dance step: they hover the foot over the ground and then step down, almost as if asking permission before stepping and giving thanks for this earth we walk all at the same time.

I found the dance troop here, met them at the Greek festival. They meet on Thursdays 1-3 lead by Helen Marks. Of course I work, so I can't go except I had one Thursday off and attended their LAST dance. I was so glad I caught them; they have some great dancers, mostly 70 and older but GREAT. Most of them have danced in Ohio, Minnesota and New York, pre-retirement. They take off during "Off season" and start back in November. I'm looking for a recreation club to start a group. I'll get our schedule posted for those that might get down this way. I would LOVE some company. Temperatures are already in the 90's, but the ocean breezes are GREAT.

Love you all, jenneine

BABIAK DANCE ENSEMBLE OF SARASOTA

by Demetrius Babiak

Our troupe members who attended the FFDC Camp had a great time, including Linda and Rick Nicoli, who are Slovak dancers from Minneapolis and have now joined us, and our granddaughter Andrea Sturgess, who is now our dance director. Andrea is planning to marry Christopher Velat here in Sarasota on the First of July.

Our 2005-6 dance season was lots of fun: weekly rehearsals and performances -- Oktoberfests, Italian shows, Slavic and Latino, and two Irish shows for St. Patrick's day. Our major event is Sarasota Arts Day, the third Sunday in January (picture on next page). This year we had 14 dancers in various Slavic costumes. Our daughter, Dr. Cristina Babiak, joined us for this show.



We would like to encourage other dancers to arrange to teach folk dancing at the public schools. For the past 3 years the Sarasota Arts Council has arranged with several elementary schools for us to teach classes. The schedules vary. For example, this year we taught seven second grade classes at Taylor Ranch Elementary - over 140 students in all. We met with individual classes and their teachers between 9 and 11 a.m. once a week and taught each class a different dance. The teachers learned the dances and had their student



rehearse, and we noticed the improvement the next time we met with them. One "advanced" class with an exceptional teacher learned *The Virginia Reel*.

Each day we come dressed in a national costume and use a large map or globe to locate the country we are representing. They learn to say Hello and Good-by and a few polite phrases in the language of the country. After four meetings, we put on a show for the parents, who were amazed to see their children ... conforming to a set pattern, speaking some words in German and Spanish and actually holding hands with each other! (How to Hold Hands is lesson #1.)

FLAGLER BEACH INTERNATIONAL DANCERS

by Jan Lathi

Our Betty is off to England with two of her daughters so, for three weeks, our dancers are meeting at the Lathi home. It's a bit difficult dancing around the island in the kitchen and moving from carpeting to tiled floors, but where there is a will...! We usually dance at Ocean Marina, where Betty lives, on a suspended wood floor, but someone from Ocean Marina must be present. Mary Anne, one of our dancers and a resident of the community, has gone North for six months so we have no resident present for three weeks. One nice advantage of meeting at Jan's home is that the group could view Julius' wonderful camp DVD. We saw all of the Polish section and will move on to the Serbian next Thursday.

Several of our dancers are traveling or visiting relatives in the North over the summer so our numbers have been clipped a bit but there were six of us last Thursday. Maureen is off to England, Minnie is in New York City, June has returned to the North for the summer, Anita will be visiting family in the North for a few weeks, and Jan will visit her son in Destin in July. I hope all of you mothers out there had a pleasant Mother's Day. I know I did - my Destin son came to work in my garden pulling trees and weeds and replanting and mulching the front bed. What a nice Mother's Day gift! My dog, Sami, is wonderful company in the home, on walks, and on short trips around Palm Coast. We've become good buddies (or budettes).

UF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS (GAINESVILLE)

by Jack Seltzer, et al.

Arlene has been off visiting with her son in Vienna - wow, Mozart festival and everything. Stefan, our talented, home-grown, raving Romanian folk dance teacher has been teaching us Sciopia – a great dance.

Toshi is still recovering from an injury to his Achilles tendon and resulting surgery on Feb. 1. The doctor said his leg will take six months to a year to heal. Joyce Dewsbury reports, "He is no longer using crutches but wears a boot-like device on the injured leg. Toshi said that he might try to come folk dancing soon. He will mainly watch but may join in on slow walking-type dances as Kortanc. I know we will all be delighted if he can visit."

On June 2nd, we will celebrate our first year of dancing at 308 W University. Yes, June 1st of 2005 was our first night dancing on that floor. So we all decided to whoop it up extra that night.

(This report was compiled from material on the UFIFD web site, <http://grove.ufl.edu/~folkstep/>. Visit it to see how they are promoting folk dancing in Gainesville. –Ed)

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB

by Pat Henderson



The club started our May meetings with a Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 3. Pearl and Jerry Roth were visiting us that night since they were staying in town at their timeshare for Jerry's birthday on May 4. Here we are in our sombreros.

Remember that our group dances every Wednesday through June and then we are on hiatus until September 6. However, we had to cancel two Wednesdays last June since we had 20 inches of rain that month. Call or e-mail to make sure we are dancing if you want to visit.

FROM THE EDITOR

A great big "Thank You!" to all our reporters this month. What with FFDC Camp and Spring Fling being in the past, and some groups winding down for the summer, I thought it would be hard to drum up material for the June Newsletter. Not so. I sent out the request for articles and the material came in.

We even got a cool e-mail from Jenneine (see [NEWS FROM NAPLES](#)), who had been out of touch (at least not on the Internet) for a while.

I'd love to hear from more of you. Don't know what to write? What do you like to read about? Letters to the editor are welcome, too.

I concur with Terry (in [PREZ SEZ](#)), "We're all dancing somewhere". Many international folk dancers do other types of dancing, as well, with more specialized groups. Where are *you* dancing and what kind of dancing are *you* doing?

- Caroline Lanker

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT FY 2006

INCOME

DUES	1,275.00
CAMP	12,066.50
BANK CD	2,028.09

TOTAL INCOME 15,369.59

EXPENSES

NEWSLETTER	492.90
FL DEPT STATE	61.25
OFFICE	88.88
GAINESVILLE MUSIC & DANCE ASSOC	40.00
BANK CD	2,000.00
CAMP 2005 (Video charge)	100.00

CAMP 2006

SYLLABUS	97.31
FOOD	4,524.83
INSTRUCTORS	1,969.93
DECORATIONS	26.13
SNACKS	200.46
FACILITIES, INS., B&B	4,810.00
T-SHIRTS/BUTTONS	283.34
REFUNDS	962.00
DVD	176.34

TOTAL EXPENSES 15,833.37

PROFIT/LOSS 2006 -463.78

TREASURER'S REPORT 2006

The bank balance on May 1, 2005 was **\$5,483.98**. The following report lists all the expenses and income since that time. The ending balance on May 1, 2006 was **\$5,020.20**. After Camp 2005, we opened up a six month CD and the interest made was \$28.09. This may look like the Council had a loss during the previous year. That is not the case since we made a \$600 deposit for next year's camp, so the **net income** for the year is **\$136.22**.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Henderson, Treasurer, FFDC

FINAL CAMP REPORT 2006

Respectfully submitted, Pat Henderson, Treasurer, FFDC

CAMP 2006 INCOME

CAMP FEES	10,749.00
OLGA PRINCI DONATIONS	738.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	900.00

TOTAL INCOME 12,387.00

CAMP 2006 EXPENSES

SYLLABUS	97.31
FOOD	4,720.62
INSTRUCTORS	1,969.93
MISC:DECOR., TIKI LAMPS	23.65
SNACKS	248.70
FACILITIES, INSURANCE., B&B	4,210.00
T-SHIRTS & BUTTONS	304.59
DVDs	176.34

TOTAL EXPENSES 11,751.14

PROFIT/LOSS 2006 +635.86

EVENTS AND TOURS

JUNE

Saturday, June 10, 2006 Colin Hume – English Dance

Time: Dance sessions 1-5:15 PM and 8-10:30 PM

Place: St. Cloud Senior Center, St. Cloud, FL (SE side of Orlando)

Cost: \$25 if post-marked on or before May 30th.

Live music- with Full Circle: http://home.earthlink.net/~full_circle_band/

Colin is a fantastic English dance choreographer and teacher; he will be in the States for only a limited time so don't miss this event. Registration is now open - registration form may be found at a link on: <http://www.danceflorida.com/>

PS Although all dances will be taught and called as needed, knowledge of the basic patterns, steps and formations of English dance will be assumed.

June 17th - June 29th Vasilescu 2006 Romanian Tour

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

Place: Begins June 17th at Timisoara Int'l Airport and ends June 29th at Otopeni Airport, Bucharest.

Cost: \$1500 per person, not including airfare to/from Romania. Flights to and from Romania are not included in the tour.

Highlights: 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.

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

JULY - AUGUST

July 15 – 16 Raks Adunya! Global Dance Fest 2006

Oriental Dance Workshop and Performance

Place: Indian Cultural and Education Center, 1115 S W 13th Street, Gainesville, Florida

Events: Saturday, July 15 – morning and afternoon workshops

8 pm performance: **Raks Adunya! Global Dance Fest 2006**

starring Raffa with Shari

Sunday, July 16 – morning and afternoon workshops

Price (register by July 1):

\$145 for the whole weekend

\$12 to attend the evening performance (\$15 at the door)

Performers must prepay registration by 7/1/06.

Raffa will teach three choreographies, which will be performed as part of his "Egyptian Suite" of dances in the show. He has studied a variety of dance techniques Latin American folkloric dance and Oriental dance as well as dance teaching technique, choreography and musical theater. He currently teaches belly dance at the "Aziz School of Danse Orientale" in Salt Lake City, Utah. He also teaches Latin dance. Go to www.globaldancearts.com for more information and on-line registration. Event sponsored by Zarifa Sa'id, 6916 SE 183 Place, Micanopy, FL 32667, phone: 352-466-4651.

July 25 - August 16 Czech Pleasure in the Heart of Europe

Highlights: 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. More information at: (<http://www.dvorana.cz/dance/folk2006/00.html>)

August 10 Dancing for Mensa World Gathering

Place: Disney's Colorado Springs Resort, Orlando

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 AM, Thursday August 10

David Digby and Pat Henderson are organizing a folk dancing event for the World Gathering. They have been recruiting participants. If you are interested, it isn't too late to sign up.

The event will include a short dance performance and then teaching dances to volunteers from the audience. 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.

A list of possible dances and more information were published in the April 2006 Florida Folk Dancer, available in the archives on the website, www.folkdance.org. Contact Pat at henderp@bellsouth.net for current information.

August 11-13 Mountain Playshop 2006

"It's a very cool camp - I've been there!" – Terry Abrahams

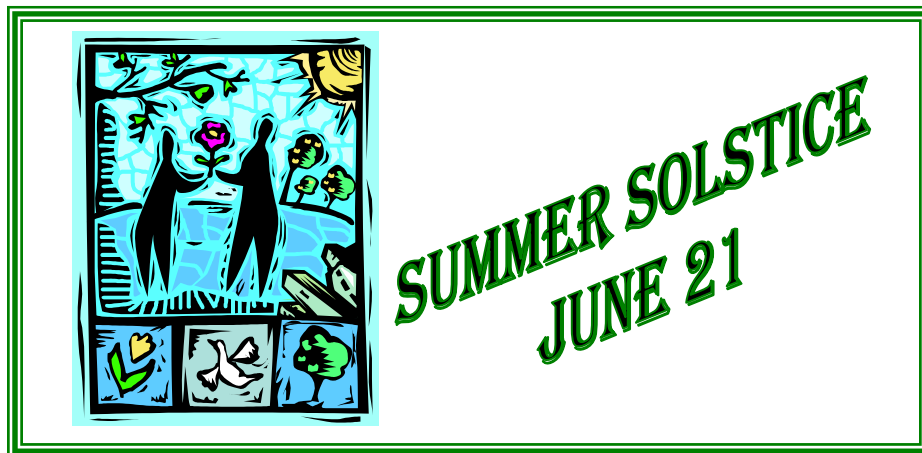
Place: 4-H Camp, Swannanoa, NC

This camp is a casual weekend party/workshop just outside of Asheville at an 'outdoorsy' 4-H camp with nice wooden floors, a refreshing pool, big wide porch and mountain breezes. Local teachers will present Scandinavian, Israeli, and Balkan dances and Balkan singing. Several sets of live music at evening parties.

More information and registration form on web site: www.mountainplayshop.org. The final registration form will be there toward the end of May. New campers get a discount - contact Beth Zweigorn at zcat@ix.netcom.com.

August 11-19: Folklore and Heritage Tour in Slovakia and Hungary

Slovak dance classes, meetings with village groups, museums, historical sites. Organizers: 3ART, Inc., Pavol Pitonak, Slovakia. Information and registration form: www.folkloretrip.com E-mail: 3art@folkloretrip.com. U.S.A. contact: Vonnie R. Brown, 1717 Applewood Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 225 / 766-8750 vrbfolk@cox.net



FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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