

# *Florida Folk Dancer*

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

October 2006

## **Prez Sez**

by Terry Abrahams

So! Following trips to Atlanta for fencing Nationals, China and Tibet for fun, Dalonagha for dance camp, Bath for the fencing World Championships and Ireland and Scotland for fun again and the amazing Fall Fling, I'm back, ready to start camp business! Since I have articles all over this newsletter, I'll stick to camp and Fall Fling in this one.

As of now, we have two teachers and an accordionist. Daniela Ivanova, from Sofia, Bulgaria, comes highly recommended as well as her accompanist, Angel Nazlamov. She has taught at Stockton, will include Croatian and Macedonian if we want her to, and apparently her culture corner is fascinating. She is working on her dissertation in Bulgarian folklore. She is "touring" the states, we are getting a "deal" because we don't have to pay transportation from Bulgaria!

For our second teacher, I'm taking a bit of a chance on a new Hungarian teacher who presently lives in New Jersey. His name is Aron Szekely, he's only 22, but according to Kalman Magyar (some of you

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**Fall Fling Group Picture**

After lunch, we gathered for a group picture. Those pictured are, kneeling, left to right: Bobby Quibodeaux, Minerva Berkowitz, Terry Abrahams, Caroline Lanker; standing, left to right in order of heads: Jean Murray, John Daly, Judith Baizan, Pat Henderson, Donna Young, Ruth Ann Fay, Virginia Marszal, Joy Herndon, Bill Schwarz, Bernice Roth, Cal Buck, Andi Kapplin, Julius Horvath (behind Andi), Ellie Hall, Jan Lathi, Emilie Brozek, Gary Lanker, Catie Geist, Willa Davidsohn, Fannie Salerno, Sylvia Gruber, Bonnie Olson, and Arleen Kaufmann. A few people who came later are not shown .

## Fall Fling 2006

by Jean Murray and John Daly

And a good time was had by all... Thirty-five enthusiastic dancers gathered on the beautiful wooden floor at the historic Community House in Melbourne Village for Fall Fling 2006 (aka: Andi Kapplin's Birthday Party).

John and Jean presented a well-balanced program with many familiar old favorites, some recent camp dances, and a new Israeli dance taught by Bobby.

Because it was Andi Kapplin's birthday, we all wore "Happy Birthday Andi" buttons and sang one of Terry's famous songs in Andi's honor.

It was wonderful to have the hall filled with dancers, and the sense of community when we all get together. By the end of the day we had set a record of 100 dances, did a few more just to be sure, and by that point most everybody was ready to call it an evening. The dance program was compiled from lists of dances requested over the last 7-10 years, with a few new favorites. We are looking forward to adding more favorites from camp 2007!

Sunday was, as usual, a bit more relaxed with only a handful of dancers. We enjoyed a leisurely breakfast and danced until 11 AM.

We were trying to remember how long South Brevard has been doing Fall Fling. The earliest John has a note of is 1990, but Fall Fling started before that as a welcome back party for "snow birds" like Joan and Wally Washington and Harry and Flora Jones. So we're approaching 20 years.

Most of the Melbourne group will be dancing fools this month! Fall Fling first, then Sebring Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance weekend, followed by the Greece cruise with Lee Otterholt and Jim Gold (although not everyone is going on the cruise, just the important people!).

The Melbourne group thanks all for coming and helping to make it another very special day with good food, help when work was needed, and a lot of fun dancing. Most important are the friends from all over who make it all worthwhile...

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might remember him), he's a good teacher, good personality and will do a mean performance for us at camp. I have looked at his website, and I think we're in for a treat. I'll post their websites next issue. President's day weekend 2007 – put it on your calendar! FFDC CAMP!

As mentioned at the Fall Fling – I need someone to research recipes for me, and think I got a yes from Melbourne! I'm going to assume that, unless I hear from you gals. We want to keep that wonderful part of last year's camp. I hear via the grapevine that the road to the rec center will be much improved, and that will help us a lot.

I want to thank John and his Bevy of Beauties for the wonderful Fall Fling. We had fun celebrating Andi's birthday, did not recognize the fact that Julius had his 77th birthday on September 4, Ellie's 80th coming in November, Bernice did the same in May, Bobby next week. As someone said – a lot of celebration going on around New Year's Eve to bear so many of us Sept/Oct babies. My 70th (Sept. 23), party is to be next Friday, conflicting with the English Country Weekend. Good luck

with that Melbourne (again) – are you guys busy enough?

ENGLISH DANCED HERE! Bye!

### Andi's Birthday Song

by Terry Abrahams

(to the tune of "Thank Heaven for Little Girls")

Thank Heaven for Andi K,  
For she's the one rememb'ring every dance.

Thank Heaven for Andi K,  
She only has to give her card a glance.

It is not just her mem'ry that's beguiling -  
We love her, too, because she's always smiling.

Thank Heaven for Andi K.  
We're wishing her a happy day and happy dancing too!

Without her what would all of us do?



**Andi Kapplin, Terry Abrahams and Bill Schwarz**

## Dancing with Ruthy and Dany

by Terry Abrahams

Pat, Bobby and I all converged at David Digby and Dorothy Archer's (what great hosts) on Thursday (Aug 24) and, following a dinner with them and other friends, attended the Atlanta Thursday night International group. Next day, we three went on to Karmiel USA Camp sans Dave and Dorothy.

This was the 12th annual dance camp with Dany Benshalom and Ruthy Slann, a camp that has done a good job of making us miss Blue Star a little less, has always been in Georgia, and was in Dalonagha for the second time. This new spot is terrific - we enjoy very nice digs that include a hot tub, but we're still in a camp with the nice rustic feel. We all stay in lodges which have a wonderful common room and kitchen; each room is a little suite, with real beds, dressers and bathrooms en suite (I learned this term in England - it means you have your own bathroom in your own bedroom - a lovely treat). If the word "camp" keeps you from coming, please change your mind - it was wonderful. Food got better as the weekend went along, and the staff was very nice to us. The dance hall has a wood floor, albeit a little tight, but a nice lounge area when you aren't dancing, Ruthy keeps us stuffed with wonderful snacks at all times, even the decorations are lovely; both Ruthy and Dany and assistant Livia are the best of the best in terms of hosting, friendliness, teaching.

The dances ran the gamut - Dany chose a very appropriate theme this year of "peace", so many old dances on that subject were done and new ones added. Pat and Bobby taught a neat very simple dance we learned at the Fall Fling, and there are many more to follow (not simple - just neat.) Dany taught many dances, Ruthy taught one, and then they had some of the Gainesville group, who went through the teaching week with them in Israel, teach a couple, and Melissa was there to present a goodie as well. For those of you who know Melissa, she is now a college graduate, married and pregnant! (Yes, we're getting old). So all in all, a great weekend, highly recommended by me - the Rick Steves of dance camps!



Willa Davidsohn and John Daly

## A Note from Catie

Dear Dancers,

I had a busy summer filled with English Country Dance trips.

I drove up to Minneapolis, MN, for an English Country Dance (ECD) weekend taught and called by Michael Barraclough from Swindon, England. He taught ECD workshops, called the Saturday night contra dance, and called the Sunday evening English Country Dance. He is a marvelous teacher who does historical research.

I attended the Colin Hume workshop and dance in Saint Cloud, FL, on June 10th and I really enjoyed learning dances from him again. Colin Hume is from Hertfordshire, England.

In July, Bernice Roth and I attended an electric contra dance in Gainesville. The next morning we went to the ECD tea dance and had a delightful time.

In August, Colette Moore (from New Port Richey) and I drove to Greenville, SC, for an ECD weekend taught and called by Frederick Park. We had a great time!

And in September, Colette Moore and I drove to the ECD weekend in Atlanta which started with a contra dance on Friday night and we danced ECD the rest of the weekend. The ECD was taught and called by Robin Hayden from Amherst, MA.

So, that's what I did on my summer vacations!

We do English Country Dance in Melbourne Village at the Community House on Tuesday evenings (6:30-9:00 PM) all year round. Come dance with us anytime!

All the best, Catie Condran Geist

### There's a Word for What we Have:

tarantism

(TAR-uhn-tiz-uhm) noun

An uncontrollable urge to dance.

## **Gainesville News**

News from the northern folk dance frontiers of Gainesville...

Dancing in September has gone well, with our incredible core of great teachers; Joyce Dewsberry, John Ward, Margaret Tolbert, Stefan Craciuns, Arlene Abargad, Julieta Brambila, and Jack & Linda Seltzer giving their constant attention to the finer details of all the dances.

The spirit has been incredible with all the varieties of the dances we do every Friday night keeping us going every which way all night long. We're working on the Polonaise, Circle Polka, Kujawiak from last winter's camp. Joyce and John bring back the oldies with Makezice Bela Rada and Silvenska Racenica. Linda & I have been bringing back some dances from Pece Atanasovski's great camps in Oteshovo, Macedonia back in the '80s, like Maskoto Oro and Buvcansko. I'd like to finally do his great Topansko Oro which is like floating through your feet when you get the correct feel of the dance. Also I'd like to bring back another great one, Sborinka, which Steve Kotansky gave us a few years back. It has lots of stamps, chugs, squats and great styling techniques which are all so much fun to attempt each week.

Arlene has given us Hora Habika, Tzadik Katamar, Gvanim, and some other Israeli oldies which I enjoy for all their grapevines and Yemenites. Margaret and Stefan have been doing their Romanian Gypsy stuff, which is slowly but steadily seeping in our brains, spirit and eventually our feet. Tough body action. Dumbala Dumba has been the latest one of Daniel's that we're doing. Hora de la Ursari is another one she and Stefan do so well.

Our group numbers fluctuate each week. One week we had over 50 with the numbers being swelled by 25 freshman high school students and a small contingent of 5-6 UF troupers. Our regulars have been Charles, June, Annette & Randy, Toshi, Jenna & Talia, Every week brings in 4 or 5 newcomers. It's made every week's dancing pretty unique for all of us.

Hope you all had fun at Fall Fling. Wish we could have all just packed up and come down for the event.

Take care. Jack Seltzer

## **Orlando International Folk Dance Club**

by Pat Henderson

We resumed dancing on September 6 after our summer hiatus of two months. Much to our surprise, we danced every Wednesday in September and did not have to cancel because of the ground being flooded on our property where we dance. It has been a very unusual year for hurricanes but after the past two years, it was very nice to have a break.

Kelly Fagan had the honor of singing the national anthem at the opening of the national conference of the American Physical Therapy Association which was held in Orlando. She also moved from Winter Park to Deland at the end of July.

Ann Robinson reported that the Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Club, (where we held the OIFDC 35th anniversary party) dedicated its building to Danny Robinson.

Bobby and I traveled to Atlanta in late August and danced there on our way to Karmiel USA Israeli workshop in Dahlonaga, GA. We taught one of the dances we learned at the Fall Fling. We are also sharing the dances with our local Israeli group.

Others who traveled recently were Ann Robinson to north Georgia for a crafts festival, Kelly Fagan to Boone, NC, and Phyllis Dammer to South Carolina. Joe and Lucy Birkemeier had a trip to West Virginia and New York and then another to Illinois and Indiana. Many of our members are traveling to Greece with Jim Gold in October.

OIFDC Dates:

Oct. 4: Oktoberfest along with Bobby's birthday celebration - look for pictures in the next newsletter.

October 18th and 25th: no dancing

November 1: Halloween Party 7:30 pm.

## **Grapeviner International Folkdancers of Sarasota**

by Marie Millett

Andi is back! We welcomed her back last Wednesday, September 13th, in spite of the downpour of rain at dance time. Fifteen dedicated dancers floated in to dance and enjoy Edith Iwens' "Welcome back Andi" cake.

We have bid farewell to Olga Guzy who has been a long time Sarasota dancer. She has moved to Tampa's Brighton Gardens.

## More Fall Fling Pictures



Upper row: Jean Murray, Emilie Brozek, Donna Young, Ellie Hall, Bobby Quibodeaux.  
Middle row: Catie Geist, Sylvia Gruber, Felissa Gaber, Lila Gaber, Virginia Marszal.  
Lower row: Terry Abrahams, Julieta Brambila, Julius Horvath, Apryl Cornell.

## From the Editor

This summer has certainly been eventful for many of our dancers. This issue features a bunch of travel tales as well as our own Fall Fling. Catie Geist is a new newsletter contributor since I've been editing. I'd love to hear from some more of you who haven't told your tale in the newsletter in a while (or ever).

Gary and I made a second trip to the San Diego area at the end of August and beginning of September. Again, we danced – first another Scandi dance party with the same group I told you about in the July newsletter, with Kevin Johnson and Suzanne Papp. All live music, with three fiddlers. This time I had the presence of mind to take my camera. Pictures below show Kevin and Suzanne dancing, one of the fiddlers and that gorgeous dance floor.



Two days later, we were at a contra dance, again with Kevin and Suzanne. We also took my niece and her eight-year-old daughter, who live in San Diego. They had never tried contra dancing before, but did fine and enjoyed it.

Now, our clubs are swinging into high gear for fall and the return of snowbird dancers. Terry's birthday party and the English Country Dance in Sebring will happen before this newsletter is available and we'll hear all about those events in the next newsletter.

Dancing goes on here in Frostproof at odd intervals, whenever Gary and I can schedule it.

As ever, keep dancing!

- Caroline Lanker

## Tampa Talk

We're gaining a little! Kevin and Nilufer – dancers from years ago, have "grewed" their kids and are back dancing with us again. We are very excited. They are also attending Judith's Scandi group. Andi's back from Vancouver, Ken's back from camp and all is well with the world.

Ursula had a successful hip replacement surgery, but is in a lot of pain. She's at home and I'm sure would love your cards. [Her address is in the mailing list that was mailed to all members - Ed]

Bill, Judith, Andi and I had a wonderful time at the Fall Fling – good seeing all of you as per usual, and with the wonderful, exciting, gorgeous, dances like we did, the likelihood of ever stopping seems impossible. What a high! We're looking forward to seeing a lot of you again in November at Miroslav's performance in St. Pete (see Events and Tours, next page). We may also run into you at various Greek events.

See ya! Terry



## Traveling with Terry

by Terry Abrahams

Well, if I were paid to travel, I'd be rich by now! I have returned again...from first, Ruthy and Dany's Israeli dance camp, Directly from Atlanta I went to the World Championships in Bath England, and fenced as well as I expected. My goal was not to come in last, and I was 18th out of 26, so I wasn't last. But actually I was only 3 points away from being in the top 8, so that was a little disappointing. Great socializing though – hung with some Bulgarians, re-met a friend I made last year from Holland, traded a T-shirt with France, and saw all my USA friends.

Bath is very beautiful, very historical. The opening cocktail party was actually held at the Roman Baths, and the final dinner dance was at the Assembly Hall, where Jane Austin placed her dances in *Pride and Prejudice*. Sweet! Then, a day trip to Stonehenge etc.. and on to London. I went Israeli Folk dancing the first night in London, but the directions were poor, I was late, it was expensive, no one was friendly, I left early.

After London, I did a day trip to Hampstead; and on to Ireland via train and ferry for a six-day tour with backpackers in a group called Paddy's Wagon – cute eh? I did the must dos, drank Guinness, kissed the Blarney Stone, heard a couple of good bands, and saw Riverdance. On to Scotland for a 3 day tour, and a 4th day on my own in Edinburgh. In Scotland I was only in the Highlands, but I climbed a few mountains, swam in the Loch Ness, saw the Hairy Coos (Highland cows) and ate Haggis. Ireland was pretty and Scotland was beautiful.

After Scotland, back to London for a full day tour on and off the big red bus and home the 20th. The weather was phenomenal at all times, much to the surprise of my tour guide/bus drivers, who were particularly nice to me and had wonderful wee tales to tell about everything we were seeing, including the faeries, the leprechauns, and the brownies (pronounced broonies). I would rather never stay in a hostel again (3 weeks) – that was a lot of crowded rooms, with the john down the hall. And yet - it's a cheap way to travel!!!

Good luck to all the gang going to Greece with Jim. If you haven't been on one of his trips, you are in for a treat! I almost decided to go, but came to just in time! Happy traveling! Terry (alias Rick Steves)

### Events and Tours

## November

### Friday, November 3rd: Bata Marcetic Folk Dance Ensemble presents a Florida Gala Concert

Place: the Palladium Theatre at 253 5th North Avenue, St. Petersburg

Time: 7:30 pm

Price: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call the Palladium at 727-822-3590.

In case any of you don't already know - Miroslav "Bata" Marcetic taught Serbian dances at the FFDC Camp, February 2006. Find out more about him at [www.marcetic.com](http://www.marcetic.com).

## FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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