



August 2007

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Dancing at the Lankers - Manuel Mora, Pat Henderson and Caroline Lanker

Photo by Gary Lanker

President's Letter

Reaction to the possibility of moving our Florida Camp from Camp Crystal Lake to the Kenilworth Lodge has been mixed. A number of people have thought it would be good to try the hotel venue for a couple years. Many others would prefer the camp environment, sometimes very strongly. I thank those who have written to give me their views, and especially those who would prefer the camp but have nonetheless said they will support whatever decision we make. I'm glad we have such a good group of people.

I have decided to go with the Kenilworth Lodge for 2008 and possibly 2009. Next month I'll discuss more of the reasons pro and con. For us it seemed that it would be a lot less work and a lot more comfort, at the expense of a slightly higher fee.

Kenilworth Lodge is an historic hotel in Sebring, Florida. The hotel has two nice, wooden dance floors. They are used to hosting dance events, and I have every confidence that the staff will work with us to make the transition as easy as possible. I'll have more detail in coming months.

On to Fall Fling. Once again Fall Fling will be on the wooden floor at the Community House in Melbourne Village. The date will be October 20th. I didn't think I'd get that date, but it came available and I grabbed it. Hopefully this date will allow some of our members who spend their summers elsewhere to join us. The format will be the usual, request dancing from 11:00 until whenever, pot luck lunch and leftovers for dinner. I've reserved the room for Sunday morning, as well, for those who want to stay over, have breakfast, get in a little dancing, and help to clean up.

I spent a wonderful week at Nordic Fiddles and Feet in Capon Bridge, WV. The weather was beautiful, and the dancing was superb. As usual there was a mix of Swedish and Norwegian dances. These are people who put an enormous amount of work into bringing off a dance workshop. All music is live. About half the participants are primarily dancers, the other half primarily musicians. Many enjoy dancing and making music. So there's a lot of shifting around as people get on stage to play, then back to the dance floor for some dancing. I'm envious of the ease with which the musicians can listen to a tune for a few bars and then slide right into playing it.

- John Daly



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Orlando International Folk Dance Club

by Pat Henderson

We are more than half way through our two month summer hiatus. There were a couple of events in June that I failed to report. The first was my trip to Panama City, Florida for my 40th high school reunion. It had been ten years since I last attended one, so it was great to see what everyone looks like when we are pushing 60. Also in June, Eva Gaber lost her mother rather quickly to cancer. Eva had two trips to Detroit, for her mother's services and again two weeks later to be with her father. Ellie Hall spent the month of July in Michigan visiting family, including ten days in a cottage on Walloon Lake. She saw four of her five children there. During July, Juanita Schockey traveled to West Virginia to visit family.

Since we're not dancing at home, we have gone visiting other dance groups in Florida. On July 21, five of us traveled to Frostproof to dance with Gary and Caroline Lanker's group. We were happy to see Andy, Terry and Ursula from Tampa there also.

On July 28, Bobby and I visited south Florida and Ira Weisburd's group in Margate. We were glad to see Doris Wolman and Jack and Frances Glasner there. Virginia and Jean Marszal drove up from Miami to dance with us and we later had dinner with them and Ira.

On August 3, nine of us traveled to Melbourne to create the first "summer fling." (See article – [Summer Fling](#).) As of this writing, Orlando is still scheduled to begin dancing on Wednesday, September 5 at our house. We have been investigating a senior center option (dancing on Thursday), but that is not working out at the moment.

Reflections on Camp

by Pat Henderson

While completing the conversion project of our camp tapes to DVDs, I relived all those years of sheer joy of going to camp. As we approach a new era with a new location for camp, a lot of discussion has surfaced about the location and whether to have two teachers. The alternative being discussed is to hire one professional teacher plus have some of the teachers in our own groups teach dances, as well. I saw a lot of dances on the videos that I would like to try again if they are still alive in other groups or can be revived. So, I see having one teacher as a plausible scenario.

There was some discussion that some people might not come to camp with one teacher, if they did not care for either the nationality of the dances or the teacher. On the other hand, our old routine of having one couple dance teacher and one line dance teacher is not practical any more, since we have lost so many of our men.

Either way, I hope that most of you are in my camp in that I treasure the time at camp to see all of you and to dance with more than 10-15 people. If I happen to be inspired by a dance or music, then I pursue it. A lot of us have been dancing together for decades and the time that we have left to dance together is relatively short. I was reminded of this as I saw many dancers in the videos who are in dancing heaven now. I saw others whom I have not seen in years. I have no idea where they are and I wonder if they are still dancing. We all made a choice to make folk dance our lifestyle and camp gives us that chance once a year to almost reach dance nirvana. So it does not matter if we are at Camp Crystal Lake or Kenilworth Lodge or if we have one or two teachers; what is most important to me is that we are together!

Sasha and Ira's July 4th Workshop

by Robin Brigaerts

Every July 4th, Florida's Ira Weisburd and New York's Sasha Gottlieb hold a wonderful folk dance workshop in the Catskills. This year, several folk dancers from South Florida had the good fortune to attend.

The workshop took place at Kutsher's Country Club, which holds special memories for many of us who grew up in the New York area. We spent mornings, afternoons, and evenings doing the kinds of dances that have made Ira famous in the folk dance world. And when we weren't dancing, we were treated to the kind of food that has made Kutsher's famous.

Ira formally introduced his new folk dances, Borat and Go Fatile Mome. Borat, a lively dance done to music from the movie of the same name, has quickly become an international hit. But I must admit that it's Go Fatile Mome that has captured my heart.

Those who missed the opportunity to attend the workshop can get a taste of what we learned from Ira's new CD and instructional DVD. In addition to Borat and Go Fatile Mome, the CD and DVD include several other popular folk dances and a number of Ira's own line dances. For more information, please contact Ira Weisburd at dancewithira@comcast.net.

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Hardanger Fiddle Association of America Meeting

by Judith Baizan

This was the 7th year that Ernesto and I attended the annual midsummer Hardanger Fiddle Association of America meeting, held July 19-22, at Folklore Village in southern Wisconsin. We flew into Milwaukee and had a two-hour drive from there to our destination. There are many good reasons for attending this annual event, but the one that is never mentioned is the opportunity to enjoy the sight of the rolling Wisconsin farmland in bounteous production. Under a great vault of blue sky, the various hues of green and gold of ripening crops extend in precisely edged patterns, gently curving over the hills and stretching to the horizon. Here and there are clusters of the red painted barns, silos, and out buildings that make up the industrial complex of a modern farm.

Folklore Village consists of the original family home of the founder, a bunkhouse, a barn that's really a dance hall, a small schoolhouse that used to be the dance hall, and a tiny church now in a new location and incarnation as a classroom/concert hall. All of these areas were put to use for the various activities of the HFAA weekend: instruction in Norwegian singing, mouth harp, willow flute, three levels of hardanger fiddle and several musical traditions, and, finally, the dances associated with the music tradition being highlighted this year.

The focus this year was on Setesdal, with noted fiddler Monika Atun, and father and daughter dance duo Torliev and Marit Loyland imported from Norway. However, equal time was given to an intensive review of last year's highlighted dance, Valdresspringar, in the capable hands of long time springar dancer Bruce Emery, partnered by Mary Hegge, who taught the dance in many workshops alongside her late husband Olav Hegge.

The stately Setesdalgangar is nearly always danced as a mixer. Men or women enter the ring as couples or singly. Partners come together, each executes a turn, the man may perform some athletic show-off steps, there is an ending turn, and each is then free to invite and accept the attentions of a new partner. As well as in the grace of his movements, a man's expertise in the dance is judged on how appropriately he fits his actions to the music.

Inspired by the success of a similar organization in

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Norway, the HFAA was organized in 1983 to revive, support and nurture the tradition of hardanger fiddle music in America. At that time there were only a handful of active hardanger fiddle players in the country. Nowadays, in the proudest moment of the four day event, upwards of 30 instructor and student fiddlers join together for the traditional Hardanger Fiddle Grand March into the Saturday night concert!

For further information about HFAA and news of other Norwegian music and dance events, please visit the website: www.hfaa.org.

NFO and Lee Otterholt Coming to Orlando in 2008!

by Pat Henderson

The National Folk Organization (NFO) has announced that Orlando is the location for the annual conference to be held February 28 - March 2. Conference activities begin on Thursday evening and end around noon on Sunday, March 2. There will be a pre-conference activity of going to EPCOT during the day on Thursday, February 28.

Lee Otterholt will lead dance parties on Friday and Saturday nights and also have a workshop on Saturday. I am the local coordinator and I have recommended the Holiday Inn Select across the street from the University of Central Florida as the location for most of the conference. On Saturday, the dance activities will be held at the Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Hall about ten minutes from the hotel. We will have a workshop with Lee, then a banquet, followed by a dance party.

You can register for the whole conference, which will include a lunch on Friday and a banquet dinner on Saturday, with NFO members getting a discount on the registration fee. There will be separate admissions to the dance activities. This date is two weeks after our camp so mark your calendars now to attend and also to join NFO!

The Sarasota Grapeviners

by Marie Millett

The Grapeviners are dancing away this Summer, although we couldn't dance on the 4th of July or July 18th because our recreation center was closed. I'll be away August 7th but Eva Stunkel and Delores Lustig will make sure the dancing goes on.

A number of our dancers are looking forward to dancing at Sebring at the camp in February. We will welcome Andi back in September.

Events and Tours

2008

October

October 5-7 Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance Weekend

Place: Kenilworth Lodge, 836 SE Lakeview Drive, Sebring, FL 33870

Guest teacher and caller: Brad Foster from Amherst, MA, Executive and Artistic Director of the Country Dance and Song Society

Music by Full Circle

More information at <http://chagalo.org/ecd/>

Contact: Catie Geist, 321-427-3587, catiegeist@att.net or Willa Davidsohn, 321-254-7090, annona2@earthlink.net

October 20-21 Fall Fling

Place: the Community House, 6200 Hall Road, Melbourne Village

Time: 11 AM to ?? on Saturday plus Sunday morning, if anyone stays over.

See [President's Letter](#) for more information.

October 26-28 Swedish Dance and Music Weekend

Featuring music and dance from Dalarna Sweden
Place: Folklore Village, Dodgeville, Wisconsin (west of Madison)

More information: www.folklorevillage.org
Contact: Folklore Village (608) 924-4000, staff@folklorevillage.org

November

November 22-25 (Thanksgiving weekend) Texas International Folk Dance Camp

Features Romanian (taught by Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion) and Salsa (taught by Nathan Zamaniego and partner).

More information to be announced at www.tifd.org.

Please note: The Florida Folk Dancer prints information on folk dance tours and camps which may be of interest to our readers. This does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of any tour or camp.

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February 15-18 Florida Folk Dance Camp

Place: Kenilworth Lodge, Sebring, FL

More information will be available in future newsletters.

February 28 - March 2 National Folk Organization Conference in Orlando

See [NFO and Lee Otterholt Coming to Orlando in 2008](#), on page 5.

2008 Tour Schedules

It's not too early to start planning for a folk dance tour in 2008. Tour leaders are making their 2008 plans now. Here are the ones we have received information about so far.

Dancing In San Francisco: For Mind, Body and Spirit

Elderhostel Program #15597RJ, produced by Mel Mann

Dates: January 13 -18 and February 24 - 29
Includes classes of easy beginner dances, tours and events in San Francisco.

See the Elderhostel website, www.elderhostel.com, or contact Mel Mann at Meldancing@aol.com (510) 527-2177

Mel Mann's 24th Annual Dance on the Water to Russia

Dance instructor: Lee Otterholt

June 28th to July 9th, 2008 - Moscow to St. Petersburg on the Volga River. Optional 2 night extension in Moscow or St. Petersburg.

2007 prices are in effect for this tour until September 15; thereafter the price goes up.

Information: www.FolkDanceOnTheWater.org

Contact: Mel Mann, c/o Berkeley Travel Company, 1301 California St., Berkeley, CA 94703-1061, (510) 526-4033.

Jim Gold Tours

Jim sent a schedule of tours for 2008. They include Budapest and Prague, Norway, Serbia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, and Greece. But dates are not firm. FFD will publish the list, with dates, in a month or two. Contact: Jim Gold International. (201) 836-0362; jimgold@jimgold.com

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FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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FFDC Website: www.folkdance.org