

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

September-October 2009

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Prez Sez

Well, changing venues is not easy. The “camp” venue I told you all about last newsletter is no longer. They failed to put in the dance floor they had promised, and since that’s the most important point, I started over. So! Here’s the newest place – still in Kissimmee, but actually easier to get to for many travelers. It is the Clarion Resort, 2261 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway (better known as U.S. 192). It’s east of Orlando instead of west, and is right off Florida’s Turnpike. Pat and I did a detailed perusal of the place and for you with children or grandchildren – it includes a whole waterpark! See www.clarionwaterpark.com for pictures. Pat, John and I have worked the numbers – so far, so good. I’m sorry to confuse you – this has been quite an experience. I had forgotten how hard it is to change. I know I did it the last time I was president, but had forgotten (much like delivering a baby). And I know some of you didn’t want to change, but it is what it is! Registration forms will be available at the Fall Fling. If you register there, you will be eligible for either a free t-shirt, or DVD – double reason to come to the Fling! That will be the first time you see a registration form, and the only chance to get free goodies.

Now to the second teacher(s). We are introducing a very popular couple in California, who have agreed to come to Florida (they usually don’t travel) and will do something very different! They are Ned and Marian Gault, and they are going to have a heavy concentration on trio dances, from wherever. See [Ned and Marian Gault](#). I have had a number of conversations with them, and think they will fit our group very nicely. Pat heard of them at NFO meetings and thought trios was a good idea for our group, which, as we all know, is sorely lacking in men!



Ned and Marian Gault

Photo by Kathy De La Torre, courtesy of the Campbell Reporter

As you know, we always used to have someone who taught couple dances, so this is sort of a compromise. They are also closer to our age, and will know just how much our bodies can take! So we’ll have the tough stuff with Zeljko and the more relaxing with Ned and Marian. They’re all excited about coming, and I’m excited about their being with us.

As for anything else, what else is there? Fall is officially here, the Jewish New Year is here, school has started, we’re all dancing again. That’s as good as it gets! So – see you at the Fall Fling!

– Terry

Fall Fling

Come to the FFDC Fall Fling , Saturday, October 24, 2009, at the Melbourne Village Community House. See [Events](#) and the FFDC website calendar for details.

Karmiel USA 2009

by Terry Abrahams and Pat Henderson

If you can't go to Israel to the Karmiel Festival, go to Ruthy Slann and Dany Benshalom's Karmiel USA camp! That's what we did September 10-13 and of course had a great time. Other dancers from Central Florida were Pat's husband Bobby Quibodeaux, Andi Kapplin, Donna Young, Veronica Lane, Lisa Harris, and Sara Anderson. Charlene – yes, Charlene Heaton for those of you who remember her from Tampa Israeli dancing – came in from Louisiana. There were several dancers from the Gainesville, FL Israeli group who brought their infants and toddlers. It is nice to see Israeli dance pass down to another generation.

Ruthy tried running the camp from Thursday to Sunday in hopes of more people coming, but they didn't, so next year she is having the camp over Labor Day Weekend, and there will be a new venue. They are moving to Highlands, N.C. Ruthy will write details when the time comes.

In the meantime, this camp, held just outside of Dahlonega, GA, had all we needed – ambience, good food, nice lodges, a hot tub, good friends and of course – Dany! He taught dances that are doing well in Israel, a couple of new ones from the real Karmiel, and brought back some oldies but goodies that we should all have in our repertoire. It would be difficult to decide which ones not to teach – a really good choice of dances!



Roommates Charlene Heaton, Terry Abrahams, and Andi Kapplin

We started with an International hour on Thursday afternoon, and during the evening parties a few International dances were added to the evening for

those of us that do both International and Israeli. And – Dany had Andi teach one of Yves' dances (Drjanovska Racenica) during teaching time, as he (Dany) had such a good time at our February camp! Other guest teachers were Joseph Simpkins from Gainesville, FL and Meliss Bachar from Atlanta and, of course, Ruthy also always gives us two good ones.

We wore white on Friday (Sabbath) and lit Sabbath candles, and started the party with an hour of dances that had to do with the Sabbath. On Saturday, we started the evening with a small Havdalah service (the end of Sabbath, beginning of the new week) which included some singing, which is always enjoyable. The theme for the evening was Yemenite – and many people had Yemenite costuming which made the evening more fun. Dany also picked a few of us to perform an old Yemenite dance, and the audience loved us! (Of course). Maggie (you don't know her), Andi and Terry wrote a song for the occasion (see [The Yemenite Song](#)) and, of course, once again – a hit! What can I say? During the evening party, the resort staff brought in two young goats and we had fun with them for a while.



Left: Andi Kapplin in (male) Yemenite costume; right: special guest with Ruthy Slann (in black).

Photos by Terry Abrahams

The great thing about going to Karmiel USA is the night parties when Dany puts on a lot of the old Israeli dances and requests. We spend so much time learning new dances that we do not have time to keep the old ones. This could also be true for international groups.

If you like Israeli dancing, and haven't attended this camp, you're missing something.

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Return Address:
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1963 S. Lake Reedy Blvd.
Frostproof, FL 33843
USA
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FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

Florida Folk Dancer is published six to eight times a year by 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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Subscriptions for printed and mailed copies are \$15 per year per person (\$20 per family) and include membership in the Florida Folk Dance Council. Membership without printed newsletters is \$10 per person or \$15 per family. The membership year runs from one annual Florida Folk Dance Camp (usually February) to the next. The newsletter is posted on the FFDC website and members with e-mail addresses are notified of its availability.

FFDC Website: www.folkdance.org