



January - February 2011

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Prez Sez

Are you coming to the FFDC Presidents' Weekend? If so, read this column, even if you normally don't. And if you normally don't, I'm so hurt. OK – moving on – if you haven't signed up for camp and at the last minute have decided to come, come anyway! Worst case scenario, you'll have to get your own room and meals, but there's plenty of room to dance! Call John, as there could be a best case scenario. Details of registration are on the registration form on the website. Link to it from the first page of the website. So – here's the last official skinny before we meet.

Date: February 18-21, 2011

Teachers: Kyriakos Moisisdis (Greek) and Rico Balazs (Hungarian)

Venue: Holiday Inn Main Gate East, 5711 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy (US 192), Kissimmee, FL, 800-672-9601 (should you get lost or want to tell your family).

Directions: From I-4, take Exit 64, (Hwy 192). Take 192 East. The Hotel is one mile on the left across from Old Town Amusement Park in Celebration. If coming from the south, there are several ways, consult a map! Or call Pat Henderson – the Direction Maven.

Hotel website:

www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/kissimmee/mcoib/hoteldetail

Here's a quote: "Sleep peacefully in our beautifully renovated guest rooms, each with a color television, coffeemaker, table and chair, and free high-speed Internet."

More: Frig and microwave available for an extra charge (your call). Yes – a wood floor! Yes – a hot tub, available late hours, liquor in your room, ok. No smoking.

Hotel check-in and FFDC registration: Your room will be under your name and will be available at 4 PM. Check in at the front desk. Registration for the weekend will start at 6 PM. Look for the room that says "Crete and Corsica" and a table with a Registration sign. There will be signage at the front entrance of the hotel.

When you register, you will receive a packet containing your name "button", the weekend schedule, your T-shirt (if you ordered one), bylaws revision (see [Revision of the Bylaws](#)), and a list of the names of the dances to be taught.

Friday Schedule: We are not serving Friday night dinner. There are three restaurants in the hotel and there are many places to eat on the way. Bon appetit! Dancing will start at 7:30 PM on Friday.

Parties, etc.: At the Friday night party, the teachers will each teach one dance in order for us all to get acquainted.

Saturday will be Greek day/night - so the culture corner will be Greek and evening snacks will be Greek. Wear a costume that night – Greek if you have it, if not, one you like. Costumes are optional, but make the evening more festive and it's such a good excuse to wear them.

Sunday is Hungarian - substitute the word Hungarian where I have Greek above.

Monday morning is the review of everything we learned, and the weekend DVD will be made then. There will be no lunch. The DVD will be mailed to you later.

The party started with a pot luck dinner at David and Dorothy's home with about 50 people attending. Entertainment was provided by a musician friend playing a steel drum, and followed by David blowing out the birthday cake candles. There were not 80!

When the fabulous dinner finished, the Thursday night international dance group met at their regular location a few minutes from the party. David's celebration recruited dancers that had stopped coming in recent years; the total number of dancers was around 30. Dorothy used all of David's dance t-shirts (including a lot of FFDC camp shirts) to cover the back of the metal chairs around the room, giving the place an ethnic feel. The dances were pre-programmed by Mary Turlington and included familiar ones from FFDC camps.

The following night Bobby and Pat joined David and Dorothy at a Turkish restaurant, which was fantastic. It was interesting that the names of the dishes were similar to Greek names, but the dishes were prepared differently.



David Digby, Pat Henderson, Kathy Dudek, and Bobby Quibodeaux

David Digby and T-Shirts

Photo by Kathy Dudek



After dinner, we went to big contra dance with around 300 dancers. Bobby and Pat had never been to such a large contra event. The event has a theme every year; for 2010, it was West Side Contra and some dancers wore outfits reminiscent of West Side Story. The band was Perpetual e-Motion from New England with caller Diane Silver. Their music was the most energetic and inspiring contra music that we have ever heard.

The same band/caller combination will be in Cocoa Beach on February 5 – see information at www.cocoabeachcontra.org.

When David was recognized during the event as someone who had been dancing for 60 years, we pointed David out to the dancers close to us. They could not believe that he was 80! May we all live long and prosper because of dance. – Pat

For me, international folk dancing is where my heart is, though I'm rarely able to dance with a group. David will always be a part of that love of dancing. Many thanks go out to David, for his contribution to folk dancing in Florida and the southeast. His love of dancing has helped to inspire many people to dance, and to keep folks dancing. – Kathy

Greek Epiphany Celebration

by Kelly Fagan

Deane Jordan and I had the absolute pleasure of being guests of Kay Demos in Tarpon Springs over the Epiphany holiday. We arrived on the eve of Epiphany to attend a lovely semi-formal dinner-dance benefit with his holiness the Archbishop of America as the honored guest. On January 6, Kay led me through the three-hour high liturgy in the beautiful Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Nikolas, while Deane explored historic downtown Tarpon and then reserved our spot on the Spring Bayou.

If you've never had an opportunity to behold "diving for the cross" by the 16-18 year old boys, it is quite an event. Approximately 20-30 boys swim out to a semi-circle of little white and blue row boats tethered bow to stern, clamber into or onto them, where they wait for the archbishop, in the midst of chanting and prayer, to toss a beautiful white cross into the bayou. At that moment, the young men leap like lemmings into the oh, so cold waters. The young man who rises victorious from the waters, cross in hand, will be bestowed with great blessings. And then there is the glendhi, which I am pleased to report has been moved indoors to the church hall, a humongous space with an equally generous permanent wooden dance floor: Yes! We danced to satiation and returned to Kay's to view a documentary on Greek American immigrants. Excellent. The entire minication was salve to my soul.

World Songs and Dances and Ethnic New Year Greetings

The following website contains New Years greetings in 14 languages plus videos of songs and dances from 16 countries. Videos by Florida dance instructor Ira Weisburd are included in the Greek and Macedonian categories. – Contributed by Bill Schwarz

www.suite101.com/content/nifty-ethnic-world-songs--dances--14-ethnic-new-year-greetings-a320358

Orlando International Folk Dance Club

by Pat Henderson

Happy new year everyone! Orlando had a busy December with two parties. The first party was December 8 when we celebrated Kelly Fagan's 50th birthday. It started with a pot luck dinner with most dancers wearing international costumes. Terry came over from Tampa with two songs composed for Kelly. Terry said she did two songs because the first one turned out to be a little mean (but funny), so she softened the blow with the second song. Terry and Jan Arcari sang the songs to the group. See the lyrics on the right.

We had our holiday party the following week with holiday wear and finger foods. We were pleased to have Annette Brand from Canada and Ellen Spielvogel from Honolulu visit and dance with us. They both have family in Orlando and come for the holidays. Folk dancing was alive and well in Orlando for 2010!

In other news, Fred and Juanita Schockey took a Christmas eastern Caribbean cruise. Larry Wartell moved into a new condo. On January 12th, we had an unannounced triple birthday party for Ellen Spielvogel, Analise, visiting from the Netherlands, and me. It was Ellen's last night before returning to Hawaii. Analise is retired and now lives three months in Orlando at Fairways where Phyllis, Fred and Juanita live.

Kelly Fagan is appearing in Annie at the Wayne Densch Theater in Sanford on February 11-13 and 18-20. Our Orlando folkdance club will attend on Sunday, Feb. 13 and have lunch at the Willow Tree before the show. Let me know if you are interested in going with the group.

With the New Year comes the realization that "camp" is just around the corner. Since the location is close to Orlando, most of our dancers are attending. We look forward to seeing all of you there!



**Jan Arcari,
Kelly Fagan,
and Terry
Abrahams at
Kelly's 50th
Birthday Party**

*Photo by Pat
Henderson*

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Kelly's 50th Birthday Song #1

by Terry Abrahams

(The mean song)

To the tune of "Oklahoma"

Half a cen-tur-y is what you're just about to be
Hate to tell you this, but it ain't bliss,
On this subject, we old folks agree.

Fif-ty years is possibly the midway, the first half.
On the other hand, you understand,
Mother Nature could begin to laugh.

We know that right now you are well,
But your body could soon go to Hell.

And when I say – hey – you're getting old, you can
join double A RP

Oh good God you say, you better pray
That you still can dance and still can see.

50, 50, 50, 50, 50, 50, 50

We want you to have many more,
But we're telling you what is in store.

So when we say yip I yip iyipee aay,
We're only sayin',
You're getting old Kelly Fagan,
But we love you this way!

Kelly's 50th Birthdays Song #2

by Terry Abrahams

(The nice song)

To the tune of "All That Jazz"

Kelly Fagan's hit the 50 mark,
But with Pizzazz.
She has got that marvelous inner spark,
That's what she has.

See her dancing all around the room.
She looks so good it makes our little hearts go boom
And her smile takes away all thoughts of gloom –
What razz-ma-taz!

50 dances – she's still lookin' good
She's got Pizzazz!
Look like her is what I wish I could
I want that snazz!

Trav-e-ling she also loves to do
Off she goes with a toodle-oo
Next year she's goin' to Timbuktu
Boy, does she have clazz!

Ohhh, her singing is the best there is around
Ohhh, her belly dancing is the best we've found

She may have hit the very big 5 – 0,
But she's the best 50s gal that one could know.
We wish her happy birthday and many mo'
With razzle – dazz!

From the Editor

It looks as if we all came through the holiday season with flying colors and lots of dancing. Gary and I have been dancing as often as we can and in as many places as we can, including Melbourne, Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota, and St. Cloud (for English Country). We managed to get to three club parties over the holidays.

On December 12, we hosted a dance party at our house. It's hard to schedule a date when many of our dancing friends can make the long drive to Frostproof. But we're always happy to have whoever can come. This time, Andi Kapplin and Bobbie Ward came from the Tampa area and Willa Davidsohn and Fannie Salerno from the Melbourne area, along with three of our local dancers – David, May and Priya Thoresen. I think many of you met the Thoresens at our Fall Fling.

Lord willing and the creek don't rise, we will host more dance parties at our house in 2011 and hope that more dancing friends can join us.

Recently, Gary and I have taken up square dancing again. We square danced regularly for a few of the first years that we lived in Florida, but that was 15 to 20 years ago. We got interested in it again after square dancing at Stockton Folk Dance Camp last year. Most of the square dance clubs in this area only meet in the "season" and we started attending when they started up late last fall. We knew, in general, how to square dance, but had forgotten most of the calls. So, we've been taking classes to get up to speed again. We're having fun at it, but international folk dancing is still our first love.

I hope everyone is getting ready for our own Presidents' Weekend workshop in February. If you have registered, we'll see you there. If you haven't registered, please find a way to come for at least part of the time. You won't regret it! Although the deadline for registering for a room and meals has passed, you can do al la carte registration for the lessons and parties at any time. And the Culture Corner talks by our instructors on Saturday and Sunday are always worthwhile (and don't cost extra).

The workshop is a membership event; all attendees are expected to register as members of FFDC for 2011 and invited to attend the annual meeting of the FFDC Corporation, which is held Saturday or Sunday afternoon of the workshop. This year, the annual meeting will include elections of officers and consideration of proposed changes to the bylaws. (See [Revision of the Bylaws](#).) – CL

Flagler Beach

by Pat Henderson

The Flagler Beach dancers, led by Jan Lathi, hosted their holiday party on Saturday, December 18. They usually dance on Thursdays, but changed the day that week to allow more dancers to attend. And attend, we did! Bobby and I have been going almost every year since I retired and this year's party was fantastic. Dancers came from Frostproof, Orlando, Deland and Ocala to join many locals from Palm Coast and Flagler Beach. The party started in the afternoon, as dancers brought finger food to share. We danced and ate all afternoon and into the evening. It is such a gorgeous place to dance, with the scenery of the lagoon out the window of the clubhouse.

The party was fitting close to the dancing year for Jan, who had knee replacement surgery at Mayo Hospital in Jacksonville on January 7. She came through with no complications and reported that the worst part was going by car from the hospital to rehab.

On January 25, Jan wrote, "Hi, all! I graduate from physical therapy today - Yaaay! This morning I was walking alone (no walker or cane) for several feet, multiple times! What a difference from two weeks ago. I'm ready to meet the challenges of living at home. It'll be good to be back!" We're looking forward to seeing her at our FFDC Presidents' Weekend in February!

Joseph D. Terrence

Deland dancer Claudia Terrence announces that her husband, Joseph D. Terrence died unexpectedly on Sunday, December 5, 2010. He was 64. They have a son, Peter, who lives with his wife in Bloomington, Illinois. Peter and his wife are expecting a baby. Claudia spent Christmas with them and plans to move to Bloomington when she can sell the house in DeLand. Joe formerly had a store in St. Augustine that sold figurines, mainly animals. Claudia would like to sell the remaining stock. She will miss her Florida dancing friends when she moves.

[We offer Claudia our heartfelt condolences for her sudden loss. Although Joe was not a dancer, he accompanied Claudia to many dance events. We have great sympathy for her shock and grief and wish her well in the future. We will certainly miss her when she moves to Illinois. – Ed.]

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February 25 – 27 Irish Set Dancing

John C. Campbell Folk School,
One Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC

Contact: 828-837-2775

Information: www.folkschool.org

February 26 and 27 Duquesne University Tamburitzans

Place: Paul P Williams Auditorium, Lake Sumter
Community College, 9501 U.S. Highway 441,
Leesburg, FL

Times: 2 pm and 7:30 pm, each day

Contact: Erin O'Steen, 352-365-3506

Information for all Tamburitzans shows:

www.duq.edu/tamburitzans

February 28 Duquesne University Tamburitzans

Place: Kings Point, 1904 Clubhouse Drive, Sun City
Center, FL

Time: 7:30 pm

Contact: Rick Cobb 813-634-9229

March

March 1 Duquesne University Tamburitzans

Place: The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, Performing
Arts Center, 7333 Scotland Way, Sarasota, FL

Time: 7 pm

Contact: 941-552-5325

March 2 Duquesne University Tamburitzans

Place: Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 101
South Pinellas Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL

Times: 2 pm and 8 pm

Contact: Box Office, 727-937-0686

March 3 Duquesne University Tamburitzans

Place: Watson B. Duncan Theatre, 4200 Congress
Ave., Palm Beach Community College,
Lake Worth, FL

Time: 2 pm

Contact: 877-826-6437

March 5 Duquesne University Tamburitzans

Place: Mainland High School, Daytona Beach, FL

Time: 4:00 PM

Contact: 386-760-9623

March 18 – 20 San Antonio Folk Dance Festival

Teachers: Lee Otterholt, Sandy Starkman, George
Fogg

Place: Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU), 411
SW 24th St., San Antonio, Texas

Concerts in Thiry Auditorium; dancing in the
International Folk Culture Center

Contact: info@safdf.org

Information: safdf.org

March 18 – 20 Waltz Clog Weekend

John C. Campbell Folk School,
One Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC

Contact: 828-837-2775

Information: www.folkschool.org

April

April 2 FFDC Spring Fling and Orlando International Folk Dance Club 40th Anniversary

Time: 11:30 AM – 7 PM

Place: Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Hall, Orlando, FL

Contact: Pat Henderson, 407-275-6247,

henderp@bellsouth.net

Information: www.folkdance.org, Calendar of Events

International Folk Dance Tours

*Selected tours are listed in each newsletter. A more extensive
list of tours can be found in the calendar on the FFDC
website.*

September

September 10 – 17 Folk Dance Cruise

With Yves and France Moreau, Cristian Florescu
and Sonia Dion and Ahmet Lüleci. Cristian, Sonia
and Ahmet will be celebrating their 50th birthdays!

The cruise, on Holland America's MS Maasdam,
begins in Boston and ends in Montreal, with stops in
several ports in New England and Canada.

Contact: 450-659-9271, info@bourque-moreau.com

Information: www.folkdancecruise.com

There are limited places and this cruise is expected
to sell out. Some of our Orlando dancers have
already signed up.

*Please note: The Florida Folk Dancer prints information on folk
dance tours, camps and other events that may be of interest to our
readers. This does not imply an endorsement or recommendation
of any tour or camp (except our own FFDC events!).*

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FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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FFDC Website: www.folkdance.org