



December 2012 - January 2013

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## Prez Sez

This is the last issue of the newsletter before camp. And it's getting down to the nitty gritty. Here is what's important for you to consider:

**Snacks.** We have some volunteers to do snacks, but could use more. Snacks do not have to be extensive, do not even have to be ethnic, although ethnic would be nice. In this case, ethnic should be Turkish or Serbian. Serbian snacks would be Saturday night, Turkish on Sunday. Friday night can be anything your heart desires.

**Elections.** I have not heard from anyone considering an officer position. It wouldn't hurt to have some new blood running this organization, so give this some thought. Most importantly, Caroline is no longer going to be the editor of the newsletter. If you have any leanings in that direction and would like to give it a go – please contact me ahead of time, or even surprise us at the noon meeting on Saturday. (See [From the Editor](#) for more information or contact Caroline for more details about the job.)

Next most importantly – the position of Vice President, whose main duty is publicity will also be open, as Judy is unable to continue at this time. You could also offer to be President, Corresponding Secretary, or Treasurer.

**Olga Princi Scholarship.** We will have two Olga Princi scholars at camp this year. One is Shristi Thoresen, recommended by Caroline and Gary Lanker. Some of you have met her, along with other members of her family, at the Lankers' occasional dance parties or at Fall Fling in Melbourne, or perhaps at the English Country Dance Sharpes Assembly in Sebring in October. She is a student at Warner University in Lake Wales and has introduced other students to folk dancing at the Lankers.

Valerie Dorr was recommended by the Sarasota Grapeviners. Valerie started dancing as a child, but missed dance in her busy professional life in recent years, until she found the Grapeviners. Valerie has been a consistent attendee each Wednesday and is a full-time resident of Sarasota with involvement in the community.

Please give our two Olga Princi scholars a warm welcome at Presidents' Weekend Camp.

**Auction and Sales, Trades, and Giveaways.** We are not going to have the big live auction we had last year. This year we will revert back to our silent auction with a table for showing items, which will end Sunday after lunch. Bring your items with you. There will be tables set up for the Olga Princi Silent Auction and for private sales and giveaways. If auction items do not sell in the auction, they may be reclaimed, sold or given away by the owner. All items left over on the sales tables will be given to the Salvation Army.

BTW – I will bring the drawing Judith did of me from last year's live auction. I love it! Other items that were purchased at last year's auction will show up at camp in various ways. Look out for them!

**Help.** If you are coming in early and would like to help with registration, or set up of music and speakers etc. please do so. If you know ahead of time, let me know. You can also help with the silent auction, help play music for the teachers and anything else that comes up.

### Other Details.

- Times and places: see [Schedule for FFDC Presidents' Weekend Camp](#) and [Address and Directions to Camp](#).



## Folkdancers of Gainesville United!

by Jack Seltzer

When Gainesville folkdancers dance and party, they aren't kidding around. It's a wonderful experience. Closing out 2012, on December 7, we all began by dancing around the tables, chairs and people trying to digest their meal at the local Greek restaurant, Sandy's. Sitting down for some fresh made moussaka and pastitsio didn't put a damper on our enthusiasm – witness the photos below.



At table at Sandy's: around the table, left to right, are Linda, Mireille, Julieta, John, Juanita, Nancy, Arlene, and Jack.

Photo by Jualene. Other photos by Jack.



Dancing at Sandy's led by John and Jack

The local Greek group, Embros, led by the father and daughter team of Leo and Eleni Polopolus, gave us the great sounds of his clarinet and her soprano voice. I'm always amazed by the electronic violin of Anne, now joined by David on bouzouki. They have a very unique sound. Check them out online at [www.embrosorchestra.com/bios.html](http://www.embrosorchestra.com/bios.html).

Come join us next time. We go to Sandy's every three months or so, before our regular Friday night dance. Check the calendar on our website, [www.gjfd.org](http://www.gjfd.org), for dates.

Moving on to December 31, Jualene brought us over to her magnificent home for the all nighter (until 12:15 AM, actually) of food, fun, music, dancing, lots of chit-chat and some serious talk. We began the festivities fairly early and, with singing and toasting to Auld Lang Syne, at midnight we smilingly welcomed in the New Year. What more can you ask?



Dancing New Years Eve: John, Julieta, Joyce D, Leslie, June, Juanita, Mireille, Linda, and Arlene



Welcoming 2013 – standing: Juanita and her husband, Linda, Arlene, Diane and Max, Mireille, Nancy, Jan, June, and Margaret. On the floor: Jack, Jualene, Leslie, Barbara and Julieta. Others who were there but didn't quite make it to the midnight hour photo were John, Joyce D, Ruth, Joyce S and Grace.

Linda and hostess Jualene on New Year's Eve







## Sarasota Grapeviners

by Judy Merkt

Winter season dancing is in full swing here in Sarasota. Our attendance is almost at its highest, since most of our snowbirds have returned. Our dance circle sometimes ends up as one and a half or two ... what a problem to have, right? We continue to learn, dance, sing, and laugh every Wednesday night. A couple of new additions to our group appear to be "hanging in", so that is encouraging as well.

In addition to our wonderful snowbirds – Ron and Kathy Fico, Sue Gordon, Andree Juneau, Ivan and Annette Krakowsky, Tom and June Morse, Maureen Pride, Alice Schwartz, and Chris Vincent – we enjoyed a three-week visit from Sonna and Mars Longden, from Chicago. They are always a joy to have with us. We've also enjoyed several visits from Nancy Wilusz, and some of our Tampa friends – Terry Abrahams, Bill Schwarz, and Andy Pollock. A Sarasota welcome to all whenever you can get here.

On the administrative end of things, we asked for a volunteer to act as our group's historian – someone to clean up and maintain our binders of pictures, articles, and such – and Lynda Harris accepted the job with enthusiasm! Susan Barach and I are thrilled. Lynda is doing a great job and the "in progress" binders will get a showing at our annual Snow Ball on January 30th. As usual, it is an all-request night, a festive evening with a nice long break to allow time for refreshments and socializing – and perusing the group's history.



Photo by  
Judy Merkt

**Lynda Harris**

Lastly, I would like to take this time to give a huge thank you to Caroline Lanker for all of her many hours making our newsletter one of the best I've seen. Caroline has always aimed for perfection and she has gotten it most of the time. She has encouraged us to give her news, pictures, events, etc. month after month for I don't know how many years. Caroline, I salute you my friend, and thank you.

## Orlando International Folk Dance Club

by Pat Henderson

Our club breezed through the holidays with our Holiday Party on December 12. It started with a pot luck dinner before dance and was enjoyed by all. We do the Western Trio Mixer to Jingle Bells and Juanita brings bells for all the ladies to shake during the dance. It is always a lot of fun.

It was the time for cruising: Fred and Juanita Schockey, Phyllis and Ed Dammer, Joan and Wally Washington, and Bobby and I all went on different Caribbean cruises in December and January. Manuel and Palmira Mora-Valls visited her family in Puerto Rico over Christmas. They had not been there in 20 years and said that it has changed for the better.

Jan Arcari sang at the Community Chorus Christmas at the Movies show. Kelly Fagan performed in Scrooge: the Musical at the Athens Theatre in DeLand in December. She was delightful as Mrs. Jollygood. We welcomed Annelies Mostert from the Netherlands back to dance; she is wintering in Florida now that she retired. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone at camp.

### Best in Show



Orlando-area dancer Ann Robinson was a winner at the "Great Day in the Country" arts and crafts show in Oviedo on November 10. The annual show, sponsored by the Woman's Club of Oviedo, draws artists from all around central Florida. The 2012 show featured 350 artists' booths. Entries are judged in various arts and crafts categories, but Ann's charming ceramic elephant teapot won the overall, combined Best in Show prize. Congratulations, Ann!





### March 8 Greek Festival – Melbourne

Place: St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church,  
5965 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL

Time

Information: [www.saint-katherine.org](http://www.saint-katherine.org)

### March 9 – 14 Hungarian Folk Dance and Folk Music Camp, "Napraforgok"

Place: Camp Frontier, 18050 U.S. 301 Wimauma, FL, in the Sarasota area

Contact: [napraforgoktabor@hotmail.com](mailto:napraforgoktabor@hotmail.com)

Information: [napraforgoktabor.org](http://napraforgoktabor.org)

### March 15 – 17 San Antonio Folk Dance Festival

Place: Our Lady of the Lake University,  
San Antonio, TX

Contact: [info@safdf.org](mailto:info@safdf.org)

Information: [safdf.org](http://safdf.org)

### March 21 – 24 National Folk Organization (NFO) Annual Conference

Place: several venues in Las Vegas, NV

Information: [www.nfo-usa.org](http://www.nfo-usa.org)

### March 22 – 24 Playford Ball Weekend

Place: Cohn Adult Learning Center, 4805 Park Ave.,  
Nashville, TN

Contact: 615-385-1129, [wilkinsoned@comcast.net](mailto:wilkinsoned@comcast.net)

Information: [www.nashvillecountrydancers.org](http://www.nashvillecountrydancers.org)

### March 22 – 24 Chicago Spring Festival

Place: International House, 1414 E. 59th St.,  
Chicago, IL

Contact: 847-331-7842

Information: [www.chicagospringfestival.org](http://www.chicagospringfestival.org)

*Look for more event, tour and cruise notices on the calendar of the FFDC website.*

## Folk Dance Tours

### July 28 – August 11 Jim Gold trip to Bulgaria, Macedonia and Greece

Led by Jim Gold

### July 30 – August 12 Jim Gold Hungary Tour

Budapest, Folk Festivals and Jászberény Folk Dance Camp

Led by Adam Molnar

Contact for Jim Gold tours: 201- 836-0362,

[jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com)

Website: [jimgold.com](http://jimgold.com)

*Please note: The Florida FolkDancer 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!)*

## FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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FFDC Website: [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)