

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

FEBRUARY MARCH 2013

Special Points of Interest:

- *FFDC has a new President (and other board members)*
- *The 2013 Camp was fabulous*
- *We say goodbye to a dear friend, Julius Horvath*
- *All the groups are busy (dancing, that is!)*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY JACK SELTZER

Wow, camp was sure fun! We just spent four fine days and three nights of exciting dancing and relaxed dining at our comfortable Kissimmee hotel. Special thanks to Ercument and Bata for giving Turkish, Azerbaijani and Serbian dances a renewed spirit. Now we have to get down to work keeping as many of the dances as possible. Thanks to Pat Henderson for getting us our review DVD so quickly which always helps us remember the dances.

This year, I was elected the new President of FFDC. Thanks a lot to Terry for her endless work the last four years in that capacity. Jean Murray is now our Vice President, taking over from Judy Merkt. Pat Henderson will continue as corresponding secretary and

John Daly as Treasurer. Pat Pieratte has taken over as our newsletter editor from Caroline Lanker. Caroline is our new historian, and Terry will remain on the Board as past president. Thanks to those who have served so ably in the past, and to the new and continuing members of the Board. As your President of FFDC, I'd like to continue making the Florida folk dance experience as creative as possible.

I'd like to present a brief overview of my folk dance life which began as a child in the '50s watching my parents

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From left to right: Pat Henderson, John Daly, Jean Murray, Jack Seltzer, Caroline Lanker, Terry Abrahams, and Pat Pieratte

PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

dancing at Brighton Beach Baths in Brooklyn. After a five-week trip to Mexico and San Miguel de Allende in the summer of '75, my folk dance experience began more seriously in a Chicago dance group led by John Semmlow and Claire McNight on Monday nights. I never realized how natural it was for me to hold hands with others in a line while straining my neck looking down at everyone's feet to figure out where I was going and laughing about how badly I was dancing. Every time I sat down from exhaustion and mental fatigue I was nicely scolded to get back up and do the next one. After dancing a small group often went out to a pub where one of the requirements was to tell a joke while giving a toast. I was amazed I could laugh so much after such an exhausting night of folk dancing.

I next began going to Nate and Sue Lofton's group on Thursday nights where thirty to forty people talked and danced in a circle and continued socializing after the dance. The pace was slow so I didn't have to worry about what my feet were doing all the time.

Then there was Paul Collins' group Friday nights at the Old Time School of Folk Music in the Old Town section of town. A small square room packed in about 60 people for three hours each week. Dancing and socializing was a great way to end the work week.

Chicago was a great place to begin dancing to all styles of international, hearing Hungarian tunes which had my

mind flying and Bulgarian women singing incredible harmonies, along with some great people to share it all with. I was lucky to teach in the public schools during the day and run around from group to group for about 5 years.

When Linda moved up from New Orleans in 1980, we also joined Dit and Sandy Olshan's group. We attended different workshops, including John Kuo's University of Chicago Hyde Park 'three teacher' weekends every fall. Our trips to dance with Pece Atanasovski in Oteshevo, Macedonia gave us a good background in folk arts. Then there were the big dance parties with homemade international cuisine at Herman and Helen's country home outside Chicago once a year. 'Partners only' was Herman's mantra with lots of swinging your partners. Jane Farwell's Folklore Village in Janesville, Wisconsin was always a creative dance experience. She always let us invent a great time like a Morris Dance weekend with lots of sticks clacking all day, or a Semmlow 'kite making' weekend.

Linda and I have lived in Gainesville since 1984. Our son Simon came into our lives in 1986, but we never stopped dancing. Retiring in 2010 after 40 straight years teaching in public schools has been a huge awakening. I feel like my character has been freed and I'm ready to tackle this new challenge as President. Thanks to all for giving me a chance.

Let's Dance! Opa!



New President Jack Seltzer and
Past President Terry Abrahams

*"I'm ready to
tackle this new
challenge as
President."*

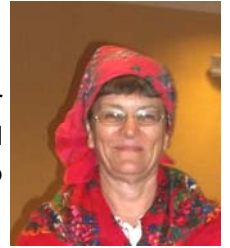
*“This has been...a
team effort.”*

EDITOR’S NOTE BY PAT PIERATTE

For anyone who hasn’t heard, I was elected at camp as your new editor. I’m just learning the ropes, so thanks to everyone who is helping me in this new position, as well as everyone’s patience. This has been and hopefully will continue to be a team effort. Vicki Kulifay will be doing the final setup for each issue, Pat Henderson and Marilyn Frew will be doing final editing reviews, and at least for this issue, Caroline Lanker edited the photos. This has all been very helpful. If you all

send in material for the newsletters, I’ll do my best to keep you informed.

There is still a lot to learn after this issue is finalized, and the learning process makes me appreciate all the hard work Caroline Lanker put into doing the newsletters the last seven years. We appreciate her dedication during all these years.



EX PREZ SEZ BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

It’s hard to believe this is my last article as president of the FFDC. But I think I’ll enjoy reading Jack’s articles while I sit back and relax! Congratulations to Jack as new president, Pat Pieratte as new Editor, and Jean as new Vice

President. The Board is getting new blood and that’s a good thing. The experienced officers are still there – Caroline as Historian, John, still counting the money, and Pat Henderson, still secretary in charge of venues and food. I’ll continue on the Board as ex-officio, but with a LOT less duties. I know Jack is already hyped up and thinking hard about next year and it should be exciting.

In the meantime, I just want to do my own summary of my last camp – 2013. I must say, it was terrific! Not because of me, but because of:

the teachers (of course) – no one could have been better to represent Turkey and Serbia; no one could have taught, smiled, joked, or picked better dances. Thanks so much to both Bata and Ercument.



*“Next year, I’ll
just smile and
dance”*



Bata Marcetic, and Melda, Ercument, and Devin Kilic

(Continued on page 4)

EX PREZ SEZ (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 3)

The special evening performances which were great fun – the Serbian teens performing so well, their parents even bringing food (I know they have a name for their group, but I've lost the piece of paper), and Melda Kilic, singing her wonderful Turkish folk tunes as well as Christmas stuff (that was a surprise). What a gorgeous gal with a wonderful voice and sense of humor, and little Devin was so cute to have around too.



Terry Abrahams and Violeta Kopanja

The venue can't be better: our own place – all to ourselves, with enough room for everything we do – eat, dance, sell! The hotel was so responsive to our needs, and I thought the food was terrific as well. Pat made sure they took good care of us, and she also takes care of renting the wood dance floor.

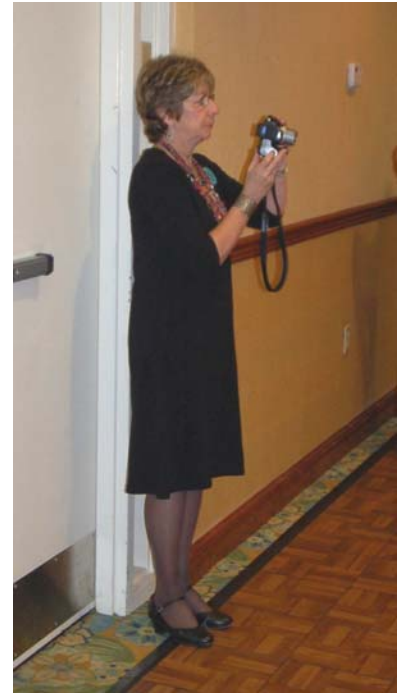
The registration, money and legal stuff which went smoothly because of John (what a good guy to have around).

The many volunteers this year. Vicki designed the schedule, fixed some of my poetry (some of that was Judith's as well), many people did delicious snacks (thanks to every one

of you), Judy obviously did good publicity for us (look how many were there) and she did a terrific job on all sales as well. Jean and John did a ton of work getting Julius' "stuff" ready for seeing and selling. Susan helped make Julius' memory area work, Judith provided the display board, Caroline sent me pictures to use, and Staples blew up the centerpiece. Andy did a marvelous job with the music, both during the day and evening parties; Andi and Lynda did a good job of being head of the line when doing the reviews. Marilyn and Aurora packed me up and kept me sane.

Sadly we celebrated Julius' life through pictures and last dances, and I hope he approved. We even found one of his tablecloths to put out front so we still have that memory. I bought one of his shirts to help my memories of him, but nothing will ever erase his presence in our memories.

I'm not sure if I've missed anything. My T-shirts, buttons, chopped liver and song were as usual, my loud voice as well. Won't you miss it? No, I didn't think so. Next year, I'll just smile and dance – I love it! Maybe my knee will even be better, who knows? So – thanks to all of you for attending. My next responsibility is Spring Fling in Pinellas Park on Saturday, April 27. I hope to see you all there!



Judy Merkt, Photographer



*“Dancing
is...good for
body and soul”*



Bata Marcetic and Lynda
Fagan

*“...it's good to
teach/ re-teach
the older
dances, so they
don't get
completely
corrupted over
the years.”*

CAMP MEMORIES

We have received a lot of compliments on camp, and have listed some of them here.

Claudia Terrence: Camp was great this year!

Susan Barach: Camp was very well organized and lots and lots of fun!!!! I must say that this venue is great--I love having the eating and dancing so close together--it makes it very, very convenient, although the dance floor was maybe too crowded.

Kelly Fagan: The highlight for me was when Lynda paired with Ercument to demonstrate the couples dance in the Monday review. She is so completely elegant and seemed so very happy. I am so proud of her.

Lynda Harris: I had learned a couple of the camp dances already, "monkey-see-monkey-do style", so it was nice to learn them the correct way. This goes to show that it's good to teach/re-teach the older dances, so they don't get completely corrupted over the years.

Andi Kapplin: It was just fabulous to see so many people in the circle, and I was happy to see how many of us managed to stay up until midnight - or even a little after! I counted seventeen dancers one night! And I managed to stay to the end all 3 nights!

Violeta Kopanja (with the Serbian dancers): It was definitely inspiring to see so many people dancing to the tunes of Serbian music. Truly amazing! The kids had a chance to get together and perform for such an inspiring crowd. We all enjoyed the evening.



Bernice Roth: I loved the camp, but in the future I would appreciate learning one or two easier dances thoroughly that we could enjoy during workshop sessions, at the evening dance, and take back to our groups without too much extra work. This would be in addition to challenging dances for those that can do them.

Katy Warner: It was wonderful to see so many happy healthy people - and even some not so healthy folks happy to be dancing. Dancing is certainly great for body and soul. Bata and Ercument were both wonderful. It was lovely to have Ercument's wife and daughter join us. They were charming. Bravo to Terry for tracking Ercument down in Turkey and figuring out a way to get him here. I loved the addition of the Serbian dancers on Saturday and Melda's performance on Sunday. My favorite moment was seeing Dylan dance Florica perfectly (after not having danced it for 5 years) and having Gary Dockter matching him step for step. It was brilliant!

(Continued on page 6)

CAMP MEMORIES (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

Doris Wolman: In his President's note, Jack pointed out one of the dance party highlights: "an extremely funny 'Levi Jackson Rag'". I was involved in that effort, as well as an equally funny 'Mairi's Wedding'. In both cases, experienced members of the respective sets attempted to guide or point lost dancers in the correct direction and gently 'nudge' them into position. At the conclusion of the sets all the dancers were in approximately correct positions and there were laughs, hugs and congratulations all around. For me, this is the epitome of the fun and nurturing environment created by the FFDC. We all strive to learn the dances well and use proper form, but we can laugh at our own mistakes. You make dancing fun for all comers; many thanks!

Jan Lathi: Some great moments at camp for me were:

- The electric energy during our Saturday night party dancing to Dana; you could feel it in the air!!
- Seeing our instructors do their dance at the correct (very fast) pace - wonderful!!
- The silent moment of remembrance for Julius
- Having some of the young performers join us for a group dance
- Learning so much from the Cultural Corner with Ercument
- The joy of everyone becoming lost in the moment during a much-loved dance!!!

Pat Pieratte: Camp was so great that it's hard to pick favorite moments, but here are a few:

- Rooming with Terry, which is always a lot of fun
- Wearing my Croatian costume (which I bought last summer in Zagreb) for the first time
- Seeing Dylan dancing with so much skill and enjoyment after being away for so long
- Dancing the hambo with Bata; he had never danced it before, but watched it through a couple of times and did it flawlessly!



Julius Horvath

*"The silent
moment of
remembrance
for Julius"*

(Continued on page 7)



Camp participants and Serbian dancers

CAMP MEMORIES (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 6)

*“Thank you
to all the past
and present
Board and
volunteers
who make
this
possible!!!!”*

Sara Osborn: We Georgians had a great time at "camp" again and we thank all of you for running such a good workshop and making everyone feel welcome. A tremendous amount of work goes into it and we all do appreciate it. The before dance morning warm ups were helpful in getting the kinks out of our bodies. I especially enjoyed the one by Andi Kaplan that got us moving with dance motifs.

Jack Seltzer: Here are some of my camp highlights:

- Dancing all Saturday night in one of Julius' plain white Hungarian embroidered thick fabric shirts with sleeves which hung long and freely and buttons all over the front.
- Dancing in my opanci from Macedonia, which I purchased on a 10-day trip to Oteshevo with Pece in 1984. I am proud of the rubber tire which was used by the shoemaker for the sole of the shoe. Wearing opanci or dance boots makes it seem like you can't make any dance mistakes!
- Seeing Pat and Bobby running frantically to the hot tub for relief from the windy but sunny air in Kissimmee. I'll never forget the smiles on their faces when they finally sat down in the hot water. But I couldn't stand around too long without having to jump in myself.
- Doing exciting dances with Ercument, like the bicycle dance Karabag, the quick and bouncy Esmer, the relaxing Cano and Reyhan.
- Dancing Levi Jackson Rag which was the epitome of folk dancing: everyone mixing in the middle of the set at one time or another, passing each other, partnering with each other, laughing while struggling to keep it together and smiling broadly when the music ends, hopefully with the same partner you began the dance with. My partner Dusanka Radovic is a sweet lady and a complete folk dance enthusiast who sang beautifully during many of the Serbian dances.

Mary Jean Linn: Friday night we just flew through the request dances, some of which I hadn't danced in ten or more years. I thoroughly enjoyed that, and the fact that I could almost remember them. Thank you to all the past and present Board and volunteers who make this possible!!!!



Olga Princi scholarship winners
Valerie Dorr and Shristi Thoresen

Valerie Dorr: What an incredible weekend! I want to thank the Florida Folk Dance Council and the Sarasota Grapeviners for awarding me one of the Olga Princi scholarships for this past President's Weekend Camp. I wasn't exactly sure what I was in for, but what fun! I appreciated the way you welcomed a stranger into your midst. Everyone was helpful and tolerant as I stumbled my way through new dances at the parties. The teachers, Bata and Ercument were amazing and very easy to follow - quite the aerobic workout! The energy of the weekend reminded me of everything I have always loved about dance, and especially folk dance - the music, the dances, the costumes and the culture. It is wonderful to be able to return to something I loved so much as a young adult and had gotten away from for a long time. Thank you again for encouraging me to continue to dance!

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CAMP MEMORIES (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 7)

Bill and Kathie Thompson: Coming from Vancouver, British Columbia, we couldn't get enough of Florida's wonderful sunshine! But even better was experiencing, once again, the warmth of the Presidents' Weekend Folk Dance Camp's participants, many of whom remembered us from our previous visit three years ago. It was great to reconnect with old friends, learn new dances, and also enjoy the fabulous hospitality of our hosts, Andi and Steve Kapplin, and of your new venue, at the Holiday Inn in Kissimmee.

A special treat for us was reconnecting with Steve Turner, of Winston-Salem, NC. We'd last seen Steve 30 years ago, when we used to dance together in Chapel Hill, NC. (Chapel Hill International Folk Dancers are already planning for their 50th reunion in 2014, and we're hoping to attend.) Even more surprising was that Steve had filmed Bill dancing Ludo Kopano at Steve's Winston-Salem studio, and had even posted it on YouTube! Definitely a Rip-Van-Winkle moment! The shoes, he still has, and even the legs (though he's no longer in the habit of wearing such short shorts), but the hair is a distant memory!

We're hoping to see you all again, next time we manage a February sun-break, if not this coming year, maybe in a couple or three years. Thanks for all the great memories!

*“Thanks for
all the great
memories.”*



From left to right, Kathie Thompson and Bill Thompson from Vancouver, B.C., Diane Baker from California, Andi Kapplin (from Sarasota and Vancouver), Dusanka Radovic from Michigan, Steve Turner from North Carolina. Faces in background: Richard Eddy, Jim Osborn, Dorothy Archer. Steve Turner is the videographer who stepped in to video camp.

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CAMP MEMORIES (CONTINUED)



It was just fabulous to see so many people in the circle.

(Continued from page 8)

Serbian, taught by Bata:

- 1) Niski Cacak
- 2) Pre Picor
- 3) Veliko Backo Kolo
- 4) Cicino
- 5) Stara Djurdjevka
- 6) Davorike Dajke 7
- 7) Svrljig
- 8) Retko Kolo – Krnjevacko
- 9) Pembe (Gypsy version)

Terry Abrahams: It was a great camp - Turkish and Serbian teachers, good food, lots of people and a great floor. It was the highlight of my year! I thought Andi's folk dances to American music were a cute little addition to each evening. For those who don't remember, we danced Alunelul to Lonely Goatherd from the Sound of Music, Erev Ba to Till There Was You by the Beatles, and Sweet Girl to With a Little Help from my Friends by the Beatles.

Lita Pinter: This was my first-ever Presidents' Weekend Folk Dance Camp, but it won't be my last! Where do I begin? Everything was so well thought out and organized. The venue could not have been more convenient - all under one roof. You unloaded your car and did not have to leave the building until you were ready to leave. My 8th floor window looked out over the treetops, beautiful at sunrise. On the ground floor, a few steps from the elevator - and you were in the carpeted dining area. One step off the carpet - and you were on the dance floor.

Ercument's and Bata's dances were definite keepers. The evening programs consisted of an excellent mix of dances with plenty of spaces left for on-the-spot requests. There was no time to sit down. We saw very enjoyable performances by the Serbian dance group and by Melda Kilic.

However, the highlight for me personally was the reunion with Jack and Linda Seltzer, whom we hadn't seen in 18 years! It does not seem possible that Linda started folk dancing with our group in New Orleans over 30 years ago. All in all it was a very happy reunion and enjoyable weekend. Thanks again to all the wonderful people whose hard work made it happen.

Ercument Kilic: We tremendously enjoyed every minute. We talk about our time there continuously. I very much enjoyed teaching there; you were all so very nice to us. I liked Bata also. He is a very nice gentleman. Devin saw me dancing for the first time and she keeps asking me to dance in the house. If you ever make it to Turkey, let us know.

Turkish and Azerbaijani, taught by Ercument:

- 1) Esmer
- 2) Daglik Karabag
- 3) Cano
- 4) Seyh Samil
- 5) Uc Ayak
- 6) Reyhan
- 7) Coskun Coruh

SONG FOR CAMP 2013 BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

(Tune: Oh How We Danced on the Night We Were Wed)

Oh, how you danced, while I just ran amuck
Finding lost T-shirts, (I did have some luck)
The wood floor is sweet and the food is delish
Our rooms also nice, now what more could you wish?

Oh yes, the teachers – guess they played a part!
Without them I guess that we just couldn't start
But Bata and Ercument both took my heart
Oh gosh, I just love them so

So now at the end of my Prez Sez career
I want you to know how I hold you all dear
But now I can dance every dance without fear
So I'm looking forward to our camp next year!



*"...I'm
looking
forward to
our camp
next year!"*

TERRY'S PARODY BY KELLY FAGAN

Note: Terry bought the writing of this parody at last year's Olga Princi auction, and it was sung by Kelly at camp this year, assisted by her sister, Lynda Fagan.



Because of our traditions, we've kept our balance for many many years here at Florida Folk Dance Camp. We have traditions for everything. How to eat, how to sleep, how to sell, how to dance, and even how to wear clothes. For instance, we always keep our feet covered, and we always wear our little dancing shoes.

You may ask, "How did these traditions start?" and I'll tell you. I don't know.

But they are traditions, and because of our traditions, every one of us knows who he or she is. And that God expects him to Dance!

(Tune: If I were a Rich Man)

*If I were a rich chick
Daidle daidle diga diga diga
diga diga bum
All year long, I'd travel,
dance and joist
If I were a wealthy gal!
Terry, oh Terry, have we got
a job for you
You'll preside over FFDC
until you're 102
But it's a nice job, a good
job, right? Of course, right!*

(Tune: Mazel Tov)

*A blessing on your head,
Mazel Tov, Mazel Tov
Just so much can be said,
Mazel Tov, Mazel Tov
For buttons and for camp
You've led us like a champ
Ex-Prezie Terry Abrahams!*

(Tune: Sunrise, Sunset)

*Here are the friends we love
to dance with
Gathering to uncamp once a
year
We don't remember grow-
ing older
Step by step, that's clear
Hop step, step hop, cross
back, braid step
Holding hands as we go
Following teachers and each
other
Laden with happiness and
cheer*

(Tune: Sabbath Prayer)

*Terry:
May the Lord protect and
defend you
From injuries may you al-
ways repair
May your days be blessed
With dancing and with zest
Oh hear, our dancer's prayer
May God bless you and
grant you long life
May each dance be a source
of joyful life
And may you always be
A Dancer on the Roof!!*

*“Dance as if
no one is
watching.”*

TAMPA TO HOST SPRING FLING BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

Tampa will be hosting the Spring Fling, to be held April 27 at the Pinellas Park Auditorium from about 10 to 6. We told them we were only setting up at 10, but we can set up and dance at the same time. Don't forget to bring a dish to share – it's always a blow-out and fun besides. I hope we do as good a job

as Melbourne and Orlando – they are hard acts to follow. I doubt there'll be a tea-time break, but we'll do our best on drinks, etc. If you think you are coming, please let me know. If we have 50 people, the cost will be \$5.00 each, but if we have fewer people, we'll have to raise the price a couple of bucks.

TAMPA TRIBUTES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

I renamed this column (usually I say Tampa Trivia) in order to pay tribute to Julius, whom we all loved and will miss so much, to pay tribute to Caroline for all of her wonderful newsletters and also to congratulate the new officers of FFDC.

The Tampa group is small and because of that fact, loves to come and see everyone at any event we can. All of us but Kathy (who was out of town on something even more important (is that possible?)) came to camp and had a wonderful time. Those of us who contributed in some way were happy to

do it, and will continue to help the new Board. When not contributing, we were just happy dancers and even my knee did better than I expected. I loved the snacks provided by all – thanks to you, and glad my chopped liver continues to be appreciated.

Seeing people from other states was also exciting – I've always thought we'd get these people, if for nothing else, for the good Florida weather, and now we did – although to tell the truth, I think they came for the teachers. Bill and Kathy stayed around a few days, and we got to dance with them again.

*“Seeing
people from
other states
was also
exciting...”*



Julius Horvath and Terry Abrahams

Aside from that, some of us hit Sarasota on Wednesdays, some will be seeing Kelly in Cats on April 11, many of us go swing dancing, contra dancing, etc. Guess who was in town for a minute – Colleen Finnegan! It was great seeing her – even if just for a few minutes. She even found time to go ballroom dancing with Judith!

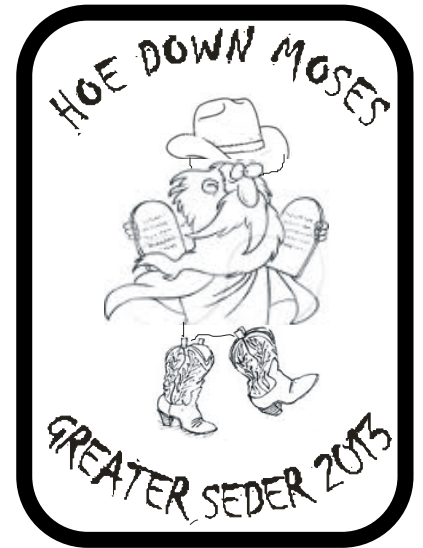
I'll see you all soon. Dance as if no one is watching.

TERRY PARODIES PASSOVER BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

As many of you know, I write those silly songs for camp, but I also have written entire shows with those silly songs. For the last eight years, there has been a group of us called Greater Seder who write a silly Passover show. As you may know, Passover was possibly Christ's last supper and occurs around Easter. The time is not always the same, as the Jewish calendar is lunar and changes. We have a Seder, a dinner with symbols that tell the story of the Exodus when Moses brought the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. This story is told to the children at the table who may be unfamiliar with it. Symbols such as salt water for the tears shed while in slavery are used throughout the story.

This group puts on a Seder at a restaurant for people who don't have a second night Seder to attend, and we

change the theme every year. It is actually a musical comedy, with the prayers and other traditions thrown in. This year's theme is Hoe Down Moses, obviously set in the west (bank), and here is a picture of our T-shirt and button. Other shows have been Star Trek, Sederday Night Live – you get the idea. Of course I have scripts and DVDs for all the shows. Imagine re-telling the story of Moses in a different way every year. This year we have sold out, with 230 people coming! Since this activity always follows camp, I have a couple of busy months in a row. I direct the show, and do most of the props and costumes as well as the choreography. What would I do without these two great activities? Well, I'll find out about camp next year – without planning it, I won't know what to do with my time!



A LITTLE HUMOR

Q. How many folk dancers does it take to change a light-bulb?

A. Just one, but they break a lot of bulbs when they drop everything to get onto the dance floor when they hear the introduction to a dance they want to do.

Q. What is good for your soul but not your soles?

A. Dancing!

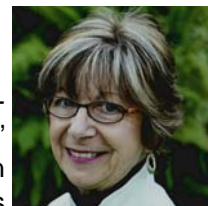
SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS BY JUDY MERKT

The first quarter of 2013 has almost come to an end and we sure have hit it running. Our annual Snow Ball in January was great fun as usual. And since there was no snow as usual, everyone was able to attend and a lovely time was had by all. At these annual parties of ours, we feature a long-time Grapeviner by reading a

short member profile. D.A. Tyler was our featured Grapeviner at the Snow Ball this year and what an interesting life she has led. D.A. (the nickname given to her at birth by her young cousins whose favorite radio program was "The D.A.") has worn many hats. She attended the University of Florida when there were very few women and lots of GI students – this is where she learned to jitterbug. Then, leaving Florida at the ripe age of 21, she travelled over the years to Colorado,

California, Arizona, and overseas where she trained, studied, danced, sang, and entertained. Finally back in Florida due to family illness, D.A. found the Grapeviners, and we are very grateful for that. D.A. wisely advises us to "carry on" as she points out that

we have a good number of "super-seniors" still folk dancing in Sarasota – it helps keep us young and alert !



Then in February, we attended the annual FFDC workshop in Kissimmee. There was a great crowd this year, including a very nice turnout of Grapeviners – Susan Barach, Kay Demos, Chris Vincent, Valerie Dorr, Lynda Harris, Delores Lustig, Laury and Dennis Brown, Kay Zabetakis, Sue Gordon, and myself. I could also add Andi Kapplin, Ursula Tison, and Vicki Kulifay whom we share with Tampa, and last but not least, Caroline and Gary Lanker whom we share with several Florida dance groups. Sarasota was fortunate to have an Olga Princi scholarship attendee this year – Valerie Dorr – who had a wonderful first FFDC experience. And those of us who have been attending for some years added one more wonderful FFDC experience to their list! A big thank you to all who made it memorable – we did dance our little feet off, didn't we?!

In April, the Grapeviners will host their annual World Dance Day celebration. We've scheduled it for early April this year in order to include all of our snowbirds – many go back to their "other home" in late April when World Dance Day actually occurs. It will be Wednesday, April 3rd, from 7 to 10. It is an all-request night, so if you plan to attend, send a request or two to Andi Kapplin who will put the dance program together (andi@kapplin.com). Also, we encourage folks to dress festively and bring a "lite bite" to share. All this fun for a mere \$7! If you have questions, contact me (jamerkt@comcast.net) or Susan Barach or (hbarach@aol.com). Come one, come all, and celebrate what we all love to do ... DANCE!



D.A. Tyler and Sergio Zigras from Sarasota Snow Ball



Ursula Tison, Judy Merkt, Delores Lustig, Lynda Harris (peeking), Chris Vincent, Susan Barach, Andi Kapplin, Kay Zabetakis, Sue Gordon, Caroline Lanker, Laury Brown, Dennis Brown, and Gary Lanker

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB BY PAT HENDERSON

Here we are almost a month after camp and I am still hearing how wonderful camp was. Most of our group attended since now it is a local event for Orlando! Annelies Mostert, our winter visitor from the Netherlands, made it for one day. I hope that some of you were able to meet her. Our group is dancing several of the dances and looking forward to perfecting more.

Recent activities for the club included a St. Patrick's Day party on Wednesday, March 13. Then on St. Patrick's Day, eight of us performed a British Isle set at a local retirement condominium. On March 23-24, Phyllis Dammer will tap dance in her community's variety show.

Recent travel saw Kelly Fagan rooming with Julieta Brambila of Gainesville on

the Yves Moreau Caribbean cruise that included Costa Rica and Panama. Additional dance teachers were Sonia and Cristian so they had a wonderful trip with the cruise and the dancing.

Bobby and I traveled to Boca Raton and then saw the Tammies on March 7 in Delray Beach. They were great as always and did a Georgian suite that reminded us of Ercument's dances.

Bobby and I will soon be attending the National Folk Organization Conference in Las Vegas. We hope to see a lot of you at the Spring Fling in Pinellas Park on April 27. We have 3 seats left in the van if anyone wants to ride with us. Happy dancing!



*"We hope to
see a lot of
you at the
Spring Fling
in Pinellas
Park on
April 27."*

FLAGLER BEACH/PALM COAST DANCERS: BY JAN LATHI

The President's Weekend Folk Dance Camp was wonderful, well-planned and executed! Thank you to all who worked on this successful event.

I have taken it upon myself to complete a scrapbook of memorabilia, photos and other information about Julius Horvath for FFDC. If any of you have this type of thing in your files, please send me either hard copy or electronic files so it can be included. I would be happy to return your photos. I need to order the scrapbook but don't know what size to order, so the sooner the better on collecting the input items. I would especially be interested in information on the very beginning of FFDC and folk dancing in Florida. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

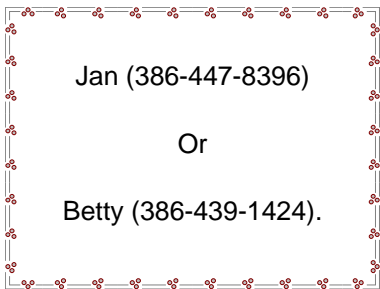
On another matter, Flagler Beach/Palm Coast dancers are hoping to set a date for the Summer Flagler Fling. We've had great attendance during previous Flagler Flings. We are considering June 8th or July 13th or possibly some other date. We usually dance and eat pot-luck on Saturday, from 11 am - ?, then we sleep over somewhere, walk the beach Sunday morning, eat brunch at Maggie's European Cafe and then go to my pool for a party. We are trying to select a non-conflicting date, so please let one of us know which date you prefer, or suggest a date which would work for you. Please contact one of us at the numbers to the left to suggest or recommend a date.



Jan (386-447-8396)

Or

Betty (386-439-1424).



TRIBUTE TO JULIUS BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

One of our closest and best folk dance friends is gone. Tears still come to my eyes when I think that we will never have him at a folk dance occasion again. A number of us attended his memorial service, and appreciated the various aspects of the day. Many people were in Hungarian costumes or costumes of other nationalities. This made us feel close to Julius, who always looked so good in his Hungarian shirts and boots.

Hungarian food was served after the services, and I'm sure Julius would have been pleased. A display of pictures of Julius was there, and I borrowed a couple for our camp display.



Appropriate prayers were said, and many people went up to tell of his impact on their personal lives or folk dance groups. John Daly represented the Florida Folk Dance Council, and did an outstanding job. Julius' next door neighbor (who happens to be a minister) knew Julius' life away from folk dancing and talked about many of his little quirks and humor. This really brought Julius to life in a new way. Perhaps the best part of the afternoon was seeing old friends. Olga Princi's sister Lisa and their mother were there, as well as other dancers we haven't seen in years. Catching up with their lives was wonderful, and all of our feelings for Julius could be told.

At our camp, we memorialized Julius in a number of ways. John and Jean had worked very hard to bring us memories via his costumes and objects which were put up for sale for the Olga Princi fund. None of the boots went around my calves, but just looking at them

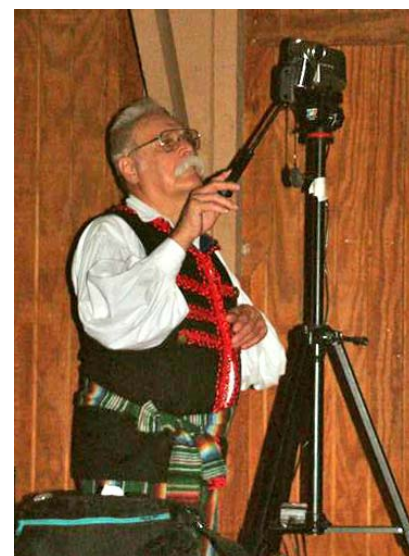
gave me good memories of Julius, and I did buy a shirt. We also had a display with a blow-up of Julius in his Hungarian costume in the middle and many snapshots of him surrounding the big picture. Included was a special photo of Julius with Olga Princi, his fiancée who died after being injured in an automobile crash, just before their wedding. During our annual meeting,

a number of us said special words about Julius, and a moment of silence was observed. During the evening party, we played five of his favorite dances; he had requested Polonez Royale, and we did four others we felt were "Julius dances." As a

final tribute to Julius, we danced Polonez Royale, Romanian Medley, Michael's Czardas, Mairi's Wedding and Adjon as Isten.

What will we remember Julius for? His tablecloths that always decorated our camps. His Olga Princi Scholarship auctions where he modeled women's clothes.

How he always had a video of Olga playing in the lounges; his love for her never faded.



Julius Horvath



Julius Horvath, Tim Sneed, and Bobby Quibodeaux

(Continued on page 16)



Terry Abrahams and Julius
Horvath

TRIBUTE TO JULIUS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 15)

ed. His smiles, even when he wasn't feeling good. His taping and production of our camp videos.

David Harkins wrote some very pertinent thoughts on the death of a beloved woman (see [David Harkins quotes](#)). With apologies to Mr. Harkins, I have modified his comments to apply to Julius:

You can shed tears that he is gone, or you can smile because he has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back, or you can open your

eyes and see all he's left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see him, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember him only that he is gone, or you can cherish his memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back. Or you can do what he'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Julius' integration into our dance lives will never be forgotten.

*"Julius'
integration
into our dance
lives will
never be
forgotten."*

JULIUS' HUNGARIAN WEDDING STORY BY CAROLINE LANKER

Several times I asked Julius to write something about Hungary for the Florida Folk Dancer. I asked him either for articles about his trips to Hungary – I think he often traveled there in the summer – or about Hungarian culture. He said he would do so, but he never did. I had the intention to sit him down and interview him for the newsletter, but I never did. Now I am sadly reminded that time waits for no man.

Julius did tell me, at least twice, about a Hungarian wedding custom. He said he himself witnessed this custom many times. I never got to record it, but I'll relate what I remember.

In Hungary, the day of a wedding, the groom (and his family, I think) goes to the bride's house to fetch the bride to go to the wedding. When the groom comes to the door of the bride's house,

he is met by one of the bride's relatives. He tells why he is there. The person at the door says he will bring out a lovely bride for the groom. But, the person he brings to the door is an elderly woman. The groom says, no, he is expecting a young woman. So the bride's relative goes back in. Next he brings out a baby. Eventually the real bride is brought out and everyone goes off, presumably to the church, for the wedding.

I cannot fully describe it the way Julius told it, but I clearly remember how Julius chuckled over the story each time he told it.



SOME MEMORIES OF JULIUS BY PAT PIERATTE

By reading Julius' obituary at [Julius Horvath obituary](#), you can tell he was a man of many interests. We are all familiar with his love of Hungarian and international dance, and his skills at videotaping, since he taped and edited our camp events for many years. We knew he owned property in Hungary which he visited each summer. And he was a great storyteller.

But how many of us knew about his avid gardening, including orchid gardening, and his love of forestry? I learned about another hobby of his many years ago, when he excitedly told me he was a father. I asked him to explain, and he said his bee hive had divided!

One time my work took me to Daytona Beach, and I called Julius to see if his group was dancing that night. It wasn't, but he insisted on picking me up and taking me to a wonderful Hungarian restaurant for dinner, so I wouldn't be alone in a strange city. This is just one instance of his generosity and welcoming nature.

For years Julius hosted the FFDC's Spring Fling in Ormond Beach almost single-handedly. He arranged for local teachers to teach or review dances, brought almost all the food, lugged all the music to the room (in the early years it was heavy LP records), and was reluctant to accept help cleaning up afterwards. I didn't get to many of these Spring Flings since it was quite a trip for me, but it was at one of these events that I taught Romanian Medley, which became one of Julius' favorite dances.

Julius was involved in the creation of the Florida Folk Dance Council and served as its third president. He was

so forward thinking that he was the first folk dancer in the world to realize the importance of a folk dance website and obtain www.folkdance.org for the Florida Folk Dance Council, the website we have used for many years.

He fostered younger folk dancers, in order to ensure the future of this form of dancing, and his group consisted of mostly younger dancers. Eventually his friendship with one of the dancers, Olga Princi, grew into a December/May romance. They were engaged to be married and were planning a wedding in Hungary. Julius was so proud of what a great dancer and teacher Olga was becoming. It was so sad when, following a car crash which she seemed to be recovering from, she suddenly passed on! It took Julius a few years to fully return to participation in dancing. He would come to camp but spend most of his time looking at videotapes of Olga. He also created the Olga Princi scholarship so promising folk dancers could attend our annual camp at no cost, then return to their local groups to teach the dances they learned. Julius often ran the auctions himself, and did funny things like modeling the women's clothing to increase participation in the bidding. He never lost his love for Olga, but we were glad when he again found joy in folk dancing and regained his jovial spirit. We will always remember Julius for his wonderful dancing, warm personality and generosity.

*"He fostered
younger folk
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dancing..."*



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

EVENTS

March 30, **March Mad for Plaid Double Dance**, Orlando

Place: Secret Lake Park Recreation Center, 200 N. Triplet Lake Dr., Casselberry.

Time: English country dance (5pm); potluck dinner (7pm); beginning contra (7:30-8pm); Eric Harris calls (8-11pm). Full Circle is the band for the English and The Flying Turtles is the band for the contra. Wear plaid either traditional or wild to earn prizes. \$9 for both dances

Information: www.orlandocontradance.org

April 5-7, **Annual Oak Ridge Folk Dancers Workshop**, Knoxville, featuring Joe Graziosi and Greek dances

Place: Square Dance Center, 828 Tulip St, Knoxville, Tennessee

Information: www.oakridgefolkdancers.org/

April 27, **FFDC Spring Fling**, Pinellas Park

Place: Pinellas Park Auditorium, 7690 59th Street North, Pinellas Park, FL (see photo of auditorium at: http://www.pinellas-park.com/residents/events/city_auditorium/index.php)

Time: 10 am to 6 pm

Information: Terry Abrahams, tabrahams@tampabay.rr.com

May 11, **Tea Dance and Mayfair Ball**, St. Cloud.

Place: St. Cloud Senior Center, 3101 17th St., St. Cloud, FL

Time: Tea Dance (1-4 pm) and the Mayfair Ball (7-10 pm),

Information: <http://mayfair.fullcirclemusic.net/>

May 24-26, **Florida Folk Festival**, White Springs

Place: Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Information: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest/>

FOLK DANCE TOURS

Croatia and Italy Cruise with Yves Moreau

With teacher Zeljko Jergan

Dates: June 15-26

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

Website: www.folkdancecruise.com

Mel Mann Dance on the Water Folk Tours

Contact: 510-526-4033, meldancing@aol.com

Website: www.folkdanceonthewater.org

City of Prague 2013, Three Rivers Cruise, June 26 - July 10 (2 spots left)

India, September 3 - 19 (1 spot left)

14th Seminar of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis

June 30-July 17

Contact: moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.moisidis-dance.gr/en/>

Jim Gold Folk Tours

Contact: 201- 836-0362, jimgold@jimgold.com

Website: <http://www.jimgold.com/folkTours.htm>

Poland, June 9-24, 2013

Norway, June 15-25, 2013

Bulgaria / Macedonia / Greece, July 28 - August 11, 2013

Hungary, July 30 - August 12, 2013

Albania / Corfu, Greece, October 6-18, 2013

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!)

RENEW YOUR FFDC MEMBERSHIP

Now is the time to join or renew your membership with the Florida Folk Dance Council (FFDC), if you haven't already done so. (If you came to the FFDC Presidents' Weekend 2013, you should have already joined or renewed.) If you don't renew, you will not receive the Florida Folk Dancer after this issue, if you get a mailed copy. If you have e-mail, April will be the last month you will receive e-mail announcements from FFDC. FFDC members for 2013 will also receive a copy of the FFDC membership list. Please support FFDC, and continue to support international folk dancing in Florida and Georgia. Fill out the following form to renew or join and send it with your check to treasurer, John Daly, at the address shown below.

Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

If you include an e-mail address, you will receive an announcement when the FFDC newsletter, the Florida Folk Dancer, has been posted on the website, before it is mailed, as well as other notifications to members. You may choose to receive a mailed copy of the newsletter instead of or in addition to the e-mail announcements.

FFDC Membership	Without paper newsletter	With paper newsletter
	Single \$10.00 _____	\$15.00 _____
	Family \$15.00 _____	\$20.00 _____

Make check payable to: FFDC

Mail To:

John Daly

P. O. Box 500856

Malabar, FL 32950

Any questions:

Call: John at 321-482-6818

email: treasurer@folkdance.org

Web page: www.folkdance.org

FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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Submissions: Send event notices for the calendar or the newsletter to Pat Henderson. Send all other newsletter submissions to the Editor.

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FFDC Website: www.folkdance.org



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