

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- *Getting Ready for Presidents' Day Workshop—see Page 2*
- *Incredible Serbian Dancing—See Page 7*
- *In Memory of Gary Lanker—see Page 10*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY JACK SELTZER

For those who have missed it, check out the folkdance.org website to take in all the fun photos from Camp '14. It was a memorable weekend and exciting to reminisce about.

We are reaching the moment again for us all to come back together for our annual dance and fun weekend in Florida. Almost a year has passed and it passed so quickly. Shouldn't we share it all again?

Yves Moreau, Lee Otterholt, and NFO members from all over the country will all be welcomed to our Florida home for three fantastic days and nights! It's our 35th FFDC Presidents' Weekend Folk Dance Camp. Who has been to them all? Who missed one or two only? Who was the President in year 1? Year 10? Lots of trivia is revealed on the website.

But that's not the best of it. We also get to welcome everyone else who can join us and appreciate our fine hospitality in the more unique of campgrounds, the Renaissance Hotel Orlando Airport. We are going to have a great time seeing and enjoying each other's company, figuring out new dances left and right, discovering new and great rhythms and melodies and appreciating the expertise of two great teachers.

The alphabetical listing of the dances and the actual nightly party programs will soon be added to the website. We are aiming for about January 15 for the alphabetical list and January 31 for the actual nightly programs. We'll send out

an e-mail alert when these are posted, so stay tuned. Notice on the website that the 2014 programs are listed, so you can have an idea of what to expect this coming year. We've compiled this list from all of our requests as of Thanksgiving weekend 2014. It is as inclusive as possible, and may be tweaked a bit more before the final list is posted.

At camp during our annual meeting, we'll be having our biennial election of officers. I've really enjoyed the time being President and it's time to hand off to someone else who will carry on the tradition of bringing fun and enjoyment to Florida folk dancing for the next two years. It takes all our local leaders to contribute to the overall dance climate so give it some thought and consider serving as an FFDC officer. Thank you current officers; Vice President Jean Murray, Secretary Pat Henderson, Treasurer Terry Abrahams, Historian Caroline Lanker and Newsletter editor Pat Pieratte. We also very much appreciate Vicki Kulifay's efforts with the newsletter layout editing and John Daly's efforts as website guru.

I'd like to remind you to put aside some ethnic souvenirs or costumes you've collected so easily over the years, for the Olga Princi silent auction. I know that parting with them can be such sorrow. But any such contributions will

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

be converted to funds to provide scholarships for worthy applicants, through the silent auction coordinated by Doris Wolman.

Congratulations this year go to our two well-deserving Olga Princi scholarship recipients April Dotson and Olivia Bacallao. Each of them participates in the Ocala Vanguard High School Folk Dance Club sponsored by Lynda Fagan. What a fantastic opportunity for each of them. April is in her senior year and with her Irish dance experience

will be able to join and contribute to any folk dance group in her future. Olivia danced with us last year and can't wait to continue her 'cultural, graceful, inspirational, beautiful, fun, meaningful and unique' joy with folk dancing. Those are her words for what she felt at the 2014 camp last year.

So have a fun end of the year as here comes 2015. Sounds like a New Year's Eve party at Pat and Bobby's place should help bring in some good cheer!

RENAISSANCE ORLANDO AIRPORT HOTEL BY PAT HENDERSON



Here is some information about the host hotel for both the National Folk Organization Conference and the Presidents' Weekend Folk Dance Workshop. First, to get the special group rate for the rooms, you must book through the Florida Folk Dance Council at www.floridafolkdancer.org. The room rate, which includes the breakfast buffet, is \$120 double and \$110 single. Deadline for this rate is January 15!

For those who are flying to Orlando, choose the Orlando International Airport (MCO) not the Orlando/Sanford International Airport. Upon arrival at MCO, follow the signs from the gate to the train which will take you to the main terminal. The 68 second journey provides a great view of the landscape and waterways of Orlando International Airport which is one of the most beautiful airports I have seen. Proceed to Baggage Claim A or B, depending on your airline. Once in the main terminal, look for signs for Baggage Claim A or B and take the stairs, escalator or elevator down to the Arrivals/Baggage Claim Level (Level 2). After claiming your baggage, **call the hotel for complimentary shuttle pick-up** (407) 240-1000. Tell them where you are located (Baggage Claim A or B). They will direct you to the exact shuttle pick up location on the Ground Transportation Level (Level 1), outside the terminal.

The hotels have a section for pick-ups and you will be given a numbered slot to find. When leaving Orlando, you should arrange your departure time with the front desk. The shuttle leaves on the hour and half hour.

The hotel address for those who are driving is 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando Florida 32812.

- The hotel is located outside the north exit of the airport on SR 436 (Semoran Boulevard).
- If you are coming into Orlando by car, the hotel is at the corner of Semoran and North Frontage Road.
- From the airport or exiting from the Beachline (SR 528), head north on SR 436 (Semoran), turn left on North Frontage Road.
- If heading south on Semoran Boulevard, drive past the hotel and turn right on North Frontage Road. Then turn right onto Forbes Place which takes you to the entrance of the hotel.

Take a ticket at the parking gate and for those who check in, your room card will become your free parking pass. I will have parking passes available for those not staying at the hotel.

There are many restaurants in every direction of the hotel and the compli-

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EDITOR'S NOTE BY PAT PIERATTE



This has continued to be a very busy time for me, in many areas of my life. When it comes to computers, I have recovered some but not all of my files from my Windows 7 laptop crashing. But in the meantime I thought my "new" Windows 8 laptop was crashing, since it stayed on a gray screen forever, despite several re-boots. I finally turned it off and much later when I tried again, it came up normally. I had just done an update on it, and I think it was taking forever to finish the update and be ready to go again. This was just after I had finished taking not one but two Windows 8 courses and was beginning to feel more comfortable with it! I also took part of a Photobook course, but I need to take the Picasa course in January and February before I'll be able to go back and finish my book and do two more books, one on each of my trips to Europe. Then I may be able to enhance my own photos for the newsletter. That is if you still want me to continue in this position. I could go either way; I'm so busy I wouldn't mind someone else taking over as Editor, but I could also continue if the membership wishes. So if someone is itching to take on this challenge, go for it!

I am still very busy dealing with my husband's estate and belongings. I have an attorney working on some things I can't do myself, but I have done and still need to do a number of

things. Just one example is dealing with Social Security, which took about ten phone calls and an in person visit to get everything done correctly (well, close enough for government work!). All of this for the final death benefit of \$255!

I have been working hard to lighten the load of Ed's belongings. I have had three huge and very successful garage sales since October, and it will probably take another sale a month for the next year to get things under control. I have done a number of donations too, and will do more in the future, as well as selling some things on Craig's List or similar outlets.

I also continue as Clerk of my church, which is a challenging position, especially given my recent computer problems. But I'm also continuing to exercise and do more fun things like going to Christmas concerts and plays. Little by little, I'll get on top of things.

For some lighter entertainment, watch Matt Harding's new Dance Around the World video at: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/PwepA6TaZk?rel=0>. This is the follow-up to his 2006 and 2008 viral Dance Around the World videos. His moves have gotten better, and he even does some dances that are native to the locations he is visiting. Enjoy!

RENAISSANCE ORLANDO AIRPORT HOTEL

(Continued from page 2)

mentary shuttle will take you within a two mile radius. Remember that dinner Friday is on your own. The hotel has a restaurant, pool and hot tub along with a refrigerator and microwave in each room. When you check in, you will be given breakfast vouchers. Especially if you are coming from out of state, check the weather forecast for the time you are here: it could be 40 or 80 degrees!

Since this is a Marriott property, some of you may want to use your points. If you do, you will not have the breakfast buffet which is \$15.95 per day and possibly have to pay \$14 a day parking and \$9.95 Internet depending on your reward level. If you already booked with points and want to change, contact the Marriott to reverse.

This promises to be a fun-filled five days when two great organizations come together.

TAMPA TRIVIA BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

Most of our group were with families during the holidays— Andi checking on her granddaughter in Chicago and attending a cousin's wedding in Orlando, and the Baizans hanging with family in Atlanta and coming from Canada. Ursula beats the pants off the men at table tennis at her retirement center, and Andy hangs out in the swing world. I went to Spring Hill for Thanksgiving. Boy, are we an exciting group! We all had a wonderful time at Fall Fling, and are looking forward to camp. Registrations are flowing in as the deadline nears, and a wonderful bunch of people are coming!

I had a wonderful few days beginning the day after Xmas, when I drove to Sanibel to see my sis, her Rabbi daughter, Rabbi son in law, his son and her daughter for a wonderful meal made by the Rabbis. The next day I drove to Boca for a fabulous dinner with a long-lost friend, Debbie, who is excited to attend our camp. We attended an evening of Israeli dancing with Machol Miami, the first time in years for me. The theme of this great evening party was Romania, but since they had

done all those dances in the daytime, we settled for a lot of Greek-like dances. I saw many people I haven't seen in forever, as well as Ruthy Slann (who's coming to camp!), Honey from NY (who I traveled with last year), Livia from Canada, and some old Blue Star people. The food was unbelievable, and I even sold some buttons. Then it was back to Boca to sleep.

The next day I went down to Ft. Lauderdale to see a Chicago friend I haven't seen in 20 years, whose husband died in November. It was good to be with her, her daughter and grandson. She has a condo on the beach; we walked, talked and had lunch. Back in Boynton Beach I joined my fencing coach's wife, daughter and next door neighbor for dinner to celebrate her 94th Birthday. After a party with a few more neighbors, I took off to dance again at MM. After a good sleep and breakfast in Boca, I returned to my house. I bet I gained 5 pounds, and I certainly used a lot of gas – but what a great time!



GAINESVILLE GOINGS-ON BY JACK SELTZER

Thank you so very much Melbourne Folk dancers! Again, you have exemplified the tremendous hospitality and ease of bringing all us out of town folk dancers together for your annual Fall Fling. On the weekend of Nov 1 many of us Gainesvillians (Julieta, Arlene, Diane, Gary, Linda and I) were able to spend a whole Saturday (morning – night) and a Sunday morning dancing up a storm. What a fantastic feeling of warmth and family it always is in this fine state of Florida! We had cool weather but warm hearts!

Gainesville made the papers again recently. And what a splash we made, on the front page of the region section! There we were dancing for the local folks who came out for the Matheson

Fall Festival. Here's the link to the newspaper article: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20141026/ARTI-CLES/141029714?tc=c>

Since we danced on uneven terrain, we made the hour mostly participation dances. You should have seen the smiles, heard the laughter and dug the comments from all the participants. Linda lead us in 'Above the Rainbow' after we pulled everyone along in changing sides, clapping and clicking at correct times in 'Chillili.' The front page shot is of opening with the classic 'An Dro Retourne.' It was a fun event.



Chillili, photo provided by Jack Seltzer



An Dro Retourne, photo provided by Jack Seltzer

FOREVER YOUNG DANCERS BY KAY DEMOS



Screen shot captured from YouTube video

When I am snow-birding in Florida, I belong to a group of older dancers called FOREVER YOUNG that performs at local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, schools, and any other organization that invites them to dance. Most of the dancers grew up doing the standard three Pan-Hellenic dances, so they have to be taught the regional Greek dances from scratch.

Our teacher, Angie Markos, selects simple Greek dances that can be easily choreographed for performances. We meet once a week at the Hellenic Benevolent Association's facility for an hour of practice. The dances we learn are easy ones, since most of the dancers have one or more physical aches that preclude them from doing anything too strenuous. But, as we say, the dancing keeps us "forever young".

It is fun to put on our costumes and dance before appreciative audiences. We recently performed at the Greek Festival at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in New Port Richey, FL. It was a wonderful weekend weather-wise, so we had a large audience.



In the below video, taken on Sunday, November 16, we are performing at this festival. The dance origins are announced by the emcee at the beginning of the performance. The woman leading the line is Angie Markos, our instructor, and I am dancing next to her. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SV17gqCj3z8&feature=youtu.be>



Orlando Halloween Party, photo by Kelly Fagan

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB BY PAT HENDERSON

Our group started off with three weeks of dancing in the new dance studio in September. However, the last week of September and October brought record rain to Orlando and we had to cancel twice. We also missed the second week in October as Bobby and I were on a trip to four islands of Hawaii (see separate article).

We had our annual Halloween party on October 29 and enjoyed all the costumes and goodies (see photo). We were saddened by the loss of another member when Joan Washington passed away on November 19 from heart failure. Several members of our group attended her memorial in Deland on November 22. Wally is coping well although it is hard to adjust to this sudden loss.

Those traveling this month were Phyllis and her husband Ed to Baltimore for

an early Thanksgiving visit with family, Barry Sieger traveling to Cape Cod to visit his brother, and Eva Gaber and her daughters visiting family in Pennsylvania for Thanksgiving.

On November 15, seven members of our group joined most of the Tampa group to see the Serbian dance troupe Talija in St. Pete. (See separate article.) Our Holiday party was December 17 starting at 6:30 pm with a pot luck dinner. Then on Wednesday, December 31, we are having a folk dance New Year's Eve party starting at 8:30pm. Bring finger food to share during the evening. Accommodations and air mattresses are available for staying overnight. At some point, Bobby will shoot off some fireworks. Happy holidays to all and a wonderful New Year too!



Orlando Dance Studio with new floor and pictures, photo by Pat Henderson

HAWAI'I TRIP BY PAT HENDERSON

Bobby and I left Orlando on October 2 and stopped in Los Angeles overnight on the way out and back. While in LA, Beverly and Irwin Barr took us to their international group, the Westwood Co-op. We were impressed with how many Israeli dances they did.

While in Honolulu we danced international and Israeli while we stayed with our dancing friend, Ellen Spielvogel. Ellen visits Orlando a couple of times a year and dances with us then. At the international group, another visitor from Boston was there. We knew most of the dances and they clapped at the end of each dance which was cute.

Bobby and I flew from island to island and were amazed at how much of Hawaii is open air. The entire Kona Airport is completely open as well as the lobbies of all the hotels. We snorkeled five times, saw the Waimea Canyon on Kauai, drove to the top of Haleakala Volcano on Maui and stayed two nights for his birthday in Volcano on the Big Island. We saw the Kilauea caldera at night with the glow and in the day time also. Just north of Hilo was our favorite spot of the entire trip in the Hawaii Botanical Garden. Nearby Akaka Falls was the most beautiful tropical walk to the falls. We also hiked up and down the Napali Coast for three hours. I am

glad that I had my hiking sticks with me as it was very treacherous.

We returned to Los Angeles on October 13 and then home on October 14 after 11 days in paradise.



Pat at Akaka Falls, photo by Bobby Quibodeaux



Pat and Bobby hiking the Napali coast on Kauai, photo by Ellen Spielvogel



Waimea Canyon on Kauai, photo by Pat Henderson

TALIJA ART COMPANY FROM SERBIA BY PAT HENDERSON

The Serbian Folk Dance Group Talija Art Company was on a six-week U.S. tour and Florida was on their itinerary. Talija was established in 1998 in Belgrade, Serbia. The group currently has about 300 members including children. They had a performance in a middle

school in St. Petersburg on Saturday, November 15. About 13 international folk dancers from Orlando and Tampa enjoyed their show.



Talija, photo by Pat Henderson

Not only did they do Serbian dances but also Russian, Hungarian and Macedonian. Their program stated that they have performed more than 250 times for cruise ships on the Danube. It was the fifth time that they have visited the Serbian community in St. Pete although I had not heard of them coming previously.

They had a five member orchestra with a drummer in a dancing costume. He

seemed to be the actual leader of the group since he was introduced at the beginning. Most of the announcements were in Serbian so we relied on the program to tell us where the dances were from. Talija has two youth groups and one adult group, and a guest group of women from the St. George SOC of Clearwater also performed.

We were all amazed at the precision dancing of all the Talija groups. Even the youngest group had exact footwork and were well rehearsed. Some were probably as young as six. The adult women did a ribbon dance similar to a Maypole dance but much more intricate. One of my favorite dances was the Shopsko done by the men including the drummer, who danced while he was drumming!

Their costumes were beautiful and were changed for each segment. We had two instrumental interludes during the nonstop program of over an hour and a half. This is a group to see if they return as some who saw them said that they beat the Tammies!



Talija Ensemble, photo by Pat Henderson

HOW I BEGAN FOLK DANCING BY CARLA POWERS

I was born and grew up in the Netherlands and it was around 1961 when I first started folk dancing. I had joined a local community club which had just added a folk dance program. The Dutch Folk Dance Organization (NEVO) had recently put out their first crop of folk dance teachers (a two year course) and we were lucky enough to get one, at least to get us started. At first we mostly did English Country Dances because they were the only ones the teacher had recordings of (remember those big 78's?)

Our next teacher, Renske, had a friend who played the accordion and who had quite a repertoire of international dances, and so we learned, to name a few, Lech Lamidbar, Shibolet Basadeh, Ersko Kolo and Korobushka. There were a number of Dutch folklore groups in our area but no international ones, so we decided to form our own performing group to promote international folk dancing. We called ourselves "Shalom". We did not have money for costumes but since our hometown, Almelo, was located at that time in "textile country" we were able to persuade the president of a textile factory to donate yards and yards of fabric! We made our own costumes, one a sort of Balkan inspired, and the other a general one. We performed at local gathering spots, mostly on national holidays, and we actually acquired some new members this way!

Of course we also had our folk dance weekends/camps organized by the NEVO which we all joined. We stayed at Youth Hostels and danced in school gyms in the towns where the camps were held. And believe me, this was a far cry from our U.S. Catskills resorts! But we were young, enthusiastic, and as long as we could dance, it didn't matter very much what the accommodations were like!

I also had the opportunity to meet and dance with some wonderful foreign guest teachers, the most famous one,

as it turned out, was Atanas Kolarovski. In 1964 he had just completed his first U.S. teaching tour and he spent one whole wonderful week with us. In those days he did not have any recorded music and his English was practically non-existent (in fact, each time I saw him again in the US he reminded me that I gave him his first English language lesson) - so he taught with his feet, hands and accordion! Since Atanas was going back to the U.S, and I was waiting for my "one year abroad" visa, we planned to meet again in New York for the next year. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, this reunion did not happen until a few years later.

I came to the US in January of 1966 and arranged with Atanas to meet at a workshop in NYC during his 2nd US Tour. He sent me a note written in Mac-

edonian which, of course, I could not understand! Unfortunately I could not attend the workshop but I kept the note to this day. Then, years later in 1984, I remembered to bring it with me to camp at Holiday Hills where he was scheduled to teach. At some point we were sitting outside on a bench, reminiscing, and I pulled out the note intending to ask him to tell me what it said. He sighed and said "Carla, it's too late now". He is still my favorite folk dance teacher of all my years of danc-



Atanas Kolarovski, photo provided by Carla Powers

HOW I BEGAN FOLK DANCING (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 8)

ing!! I thought you might enjoy seeing these photos of a "young" Atanas from the 60's.

Before I came to the US, my sponsor family on Long Island, knowing how much I wanted to be able to continue folk dancing, put me in touch with Kenny and Nomi Spear who were teaching in Queens, NY. I corresponded with Kenny while I was waiting for my visa and he kept me informed of the folk dance events and dances he and Nomi taught. I will never forget the first time I danced with them! It was all so different and yet very much the same: new dances, new faces, but the enthusiasm, camaraderie and pure joy of folk dancing were the same!

After I met and married my husband, George (so much for staying only one year in the U.S!), I did not dance for a number of years. One lucky day I found myself at Nomi Spear's class at the Kissena Boulevard Y in Queens and there I met Ellen Golann who, it so happened, taught an international folk dance group in Syosset, NY, only a few minutes from where I lived in East Norwich! I danced with Ellen for more than 35 wonderful years and occasionally with other Long Island and New York teachers. I attended numerous

weekends, camps, and workshops with many different guest teachers such as Jaap Leegwater, Theodore Vasilescu (who, by the way, speaks very good Dutch - he taught Romanian in Holland since the early 60's), Yves Moreau, Moshe Eskayo, Mihai David and many more.



Atanas Kolarovski, photo provided by Carla Powers

After I retired this past May we moved to Longwood, Florida. Long before we moved I had checked the Internet to see if there were any international folk dance groups near my new residence since I did not want to move to a place where I couldn't dance! I feel so fortunate to have found the wonderful Orlando group!! Pat and Bobby and the other members made me feel very welcome and I felt

right at home with this group of wonderful people. I attended my first Fall Fling in Melbourne where I met more lovely Florida folk dancers, many of whom I recognized from the photos in all the back issues of the Folk dancer newsletters I had read (thank you Dan and John!)

Folk dancing has been my joy, my favorite hobby, and, at times, my salvation! It has given me many wonderful experiences, true friendships, and great memories. Keep on dancing - it is nectar for the heart and soul!

GARY LANKER BY CAROLINE LANKER

Gary Lanker passed away on September 22, 2014. He was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. His earliest dancing experience was when he was in a ski club in his high school years. On ski trips, there was dancing in the evening after skiing. There are a lot of Scandinavians in that part of the country and he was exposed to Scandinavian dance then.

During his college years at Washington State University in Pullman, he was active in folk dancing. Years later, I met a folk dancer who had known him then, Karen Wilson-Bell, when we ran into her during our first time at Scandia Camp Mendocino. Karen sent the following account of Gary's folk dance experience at WSU:

Gary Lanker was an active member of the Washington State University Folk Dancers when I joined the group in 1959. This was a social club as well as a dance group and we went everywhere together, often in the back seat of Gary's Studebaker. We danced every Saturday night at the Compton Student Union Building (the Cub) and made costumes for performances. I remember watching Gary leading the U Šest, admiring his style with a relaxed bounce in every step. Gary served at least one year as the president of the group (I think it was from 1960 to 1961).

We attended dance festivals around the area and made a memorable trip in 1961 to California for Spring Break. We walked among the Giant Sequoias, ate out in San Francisco's Chinatown, and played in the waves at Big Sur. Gary was always ready to drive a carload of folk dancers out to the surrounding countryside for picnics or gathering wildflowers. He met his first wife, Bobbin Kyte while folk dancing. Many of us met our spouses in the WSU folk dance group.

Indeed, when Karen saw Gary's name on the roster at Scandia Camp, she introduced herself to Gary with, "I re-

member you. You were the best man at my first wedding."

After Gary and Bobbin's children were born, they ceased dancing. Later they divorced and Gary, in Southern California, took up square dancing and enjoyed doing all position dancing in a singles group. This is a more advanced form of square dancing, where everyone learns how to do the dances from any position, instead of the traditional men and women's positions.

Later still, Gary moved to Houston, Texas and decided to try folk dancing again after a 20-year hiatus. That is where I met Gary in the fall of 1985. I was also divorced and we started dating about six months after we met. In addition to dancing weekly with the Houston International Folk Dancers recreational group, we joined Dansul Tejas, a performing group that specialized in Balkan dancing. We practiced weekly and did many

performances. Our most elaborate performances were Bulgarian sets that we did at the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio during August for about three years.

When Gary lost his job in Houston, he was hired by the Army Corps of Engineers, which meant relocating to San Antonio. He danced with the San Antonio Folk Dancers and made weekend trips to Houston to see me and dance there, also.

Gary and I married in 1989—his second folk dance wedding. Along with dancing at the reception, the folk dancers introduced us to a wedding tradition of Texas folk dancers—the groom



Gary and Caroline, photo provided by Pat Henderson

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GARY LANKER (CONTINUED)

toss. About a half dozen of the biggest, strongest male dancers lifted Gary up and tossed him in the air.

Later that same year, Gary and I, along with two of my children, relocated to Boynton Beach, Florida. There we came across another folk dance couple from Oklahoma with whom we were acquainted. Together with them, we started a small folk dance group that met in Palm Springs. We continued that group for several years.

In 1999, Gary got a new job in Temple Terrace. He moved to the Tampa area first, while I stayed behind to get the Boynton Beach house ready to sell. He immediately began dancing with the Tampa International Folk Dancers and in Judith Baizan's Scandinavian dance classes, both of which I joined later.

By 2004, we had built our house in Frostproof and Gary had gotten a new job not far from there, in Lake Wales. A necessary part of the house was a dance room over the garage! There was no international dancing very near Frostproof, but we started holding dances in our dance room whenever we could and introduced a few local people to folk dancing.

After Gary retired in 2007, we were able to travel farther to dance. Gary didn't mind driving at night and we drove 1 ¼ hours or more to Tampa, Orlando, Sarasota or Melbourne to dance, sometimes several times a week. We also started square dancing again, which we could do closer to home, and progressed to the advanced level. With some trepidation, we decided to introduce some of our square

dance friends to folk dancing and invited a bunch of them to folk dance parties at our house. Those parties turned out to be very successful and filled our dance room to overflowing.

We also started attending dance camps in the summer – Stockton Folk Dance Camp and Scandia Camp Mendocino in California and, once, Nordic Fiddles and Feet in New Hampshire. We traveled to the west coast to visit family and, wherever we traveled, we found places to folk dance and sometimes square dance. We made a number of friends that way, and some of them visited us in Florida as well.

In February 2014, Gary was diagnosed with lymphoma in his leg. Those of you who were at Florida Folk Dance Camp 2014 saw Gary dance for close to the last time. He was treated for the lymphoma in his leg, but in August it was unexpectedly found to be in his brain as well. After that, further treatments were ineffective.

I feel very fortunate to have been married to Gary and have had him as my dance partner for over 25 years. I deeply appreciate all the dancers and other friends who came to his memorial service on September 30 in Lake Wales and who have expressed their condolences to me and my family.

Besides me, Gary is survived by his brother Richard Lanker, his son Alan Lanker, his daughter Linda Porter, his stepchildren, Margaret Jackson, Martin (Joe) Sheridan and Nancy Williams, his brother's and children's spouses and six grandchildren.

EVENTS

January 16-18, Orange Blossom Ball

Place: Gold Star Ballroom, 3100 S. Ridgewood Ave., South Daytona

Information: <http://orangeblossomcontra.com/> or orangeblossomball@yahoo.com

January 23-25, Ocala Greek Festival

Sponsored by: St. Marks Greek Orthodox Mission of Greater Ocala

Place: 9926 SE 36th Avenue, Belleview, FL

Information: www.greekfestivalocala.com or contact Ron 352-750-6051, rbadami@comcast.net

January 23-25, Florida Snow Ball

Sponsored by: Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance

Place: Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd. South, Gulfport

Information: <http://www.floridasnowball.com/> or contact Stan or Linda Prince at 727-823-2725 or tfootd@tampabaycontra.com

January 24-25, Shen Yun Chinese Dance Performances

Place: Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville

Information: <http://www.shenyun.com/tickets>

February 5-8, Greek Festival, Sarasota

Sponsored by: St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Place: St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 7671 North Lockwood Ridge Road

Information: <http://www.stbarbarafestival.org/> or 941-355-2616

February 11-16, NFO Annual Conference

Sponsored by: National Folk Organization (NFO)

Place: Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando

Information: <http://www.nfo-usa.org/ConferenceAnnual.htm> This will be held in conjunction with the Florida Presidents' Weekend Folk Dance Workshop.

February 13-16, FFDC Presidents' Weekend

Sponsored by: Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

Place: Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando

Information: Teachers: Lee Otterholt, International and Yves Moreau, Bulgarian. See www.floridafolkdancer.org/Camp2015/index.html, or contact Jack Seltzer at president@floridafolkdancer.org or 305-359-2903

February 13-15, Greek Festival, Winter Haven

Sponsored by: St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 1030 Bradbury Rd.

Information: <http://www.saintsophiawinterhaven.org/>, or call 863-299-4532

February 20-22, Greek Festival, Melbourne

Sponsored by: St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 5965 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne

Information: <http://www.saint-katherine.org/> or call 321-254-1045

February 20-22, Greek Fest, Ft. Myers

Sponsored by: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 8210 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers

Information: www.greekfestfortmyers.com/, or greekfestfortmyers@gmail.com

February 20-22, Greek Festival, St. Petersburg

Sponsored by: St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church

Place: 3600 76th St. N, St. Petersburg

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/supergreekfest>, <http://www.ststefanos.org/> or (727) 345-8235

February 28, International Festival, FIU, Melbourne

Sponsored by: Florida International University

Place: Panther Plaza off Countryside Road, FIU

Information: <http://www.fit.edu/iss/international-fest.php>, call (321) 674-8053 or e-mail iss@fit.edu

February 28-March 7, Duquesne University Tamburitzan performances

Sponsored by: Duquesne University Tamburitzans

Places: Tarpon Springs, Sarasota and Pensacola

Information: www.duq.edu/tamburitzans; "Schedule of Performances"

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

EVENTS (CONTINUED)

March 12-13, Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA

Place: Lowndes County Rainwater Conference Center, Valdosta, GA

Information: www.GAinternationalfolkfair.org or contact erenahuang@gainternationalfolkfair.org, 229-242-0974 or 229-506-1973

March 20-22, Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers Spring Fling

Sponsored by: Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers

Place: Cocoa Beach Recreation Center, 321 Ramp Road, Cocoa Beach

Information: http://www.gulfweb.net/rlwalker/SCDEvents/CocoaBeach/2015/SF2015_Application.pdf

March 27-29, Playford Ball Weekend

Sponsored by: Nashville Country Dancers

Place: Cohn Adult Learning Center, 4805 Park Avenue, Nashville TN

Information: www.nashvillecountrydancers.org, ncdwebteam@yahoo.com or 615-497-9864

March 27-April 4, Shen Yun Chinese Dance Performances

Places: Orlando, Ft. Myers, St. Petersburg

Information: <http://www.shenyun.com/tickets>

April 17-19, Annual Oak Ridge Folk Dancers Workshop

Sponsored by: Oak Ridge Folk Dancers

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

Information: Teacher: Erik Bendix; www.oakridgefolkdancers.org/

April 20-21, Shen Yun Chinese Dance Performances

Place: Dreyfoos Hall, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, West Palm Beach

Information: <http://www.shenyun.com/tickets>

April 25, Spring Fling, Pinellas Park

Sponsored by: Florida Folk Dance Council

Location: Pinellas Park Auditorium, 7690 59th St N, Pinellas Park (http://www.pinellas-park.com/government/departments/government_relations/city_auditorium.php)

Information: 11:30-6:00 pm, pot luck lunch, cost: \$5. Contact Terry Abrahams at tabrahams@tampabay.rr.com or 813-234-1231

September 18-20, Mountain Playshop

Place: YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, 84 Blue Ridge Circle, Black Mountain, NC

Information: watch for updated information at: www.mountainplayshop.org or contact info@mountainplayshop.org

FOLK DANCE TOURS

For **Tours and Cruises with Yves Moreau**, see www.folkdancecruise.com or contact info@bourquemoreau.com or 450-659-9271. The only cruise in 2015 is a Mediterranean cruise to Italy and France, September 14-24 with guest teacher Roberto Bagnoli.

For **Dance on the Water Folk Tours**, see <http://folkdanceonthewater.org/> or contact David and Marija Hillis at folkdanceon-thewater@gmail.com or 510-459-0092. The cruise for 2015 is Alaska, the Inside Passage and Vancouver, June 20 – July 1.

For **Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisis** each summer, see <http://www.moisis-dance.gr/en/> or contact moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com. Two seminars are planned, the Evros/West Thrace Project from July 18-25 and the 16th Seminar of Greek Dance from June 27th to July 6th.

For **Tours with Sonia and Cristian**, see http://www.soniacristian.net/workshop_schedule.ws or contact Sonia at sonia_dion@hotmail.com. The 2015 tour is scheduled for June 9-20, and many Florida folk dancers will be going on this tour. There are only a few places left.

For **Jim Gold Folk Tours**, see <http://www.jimgold.com/folkTours.htm> or contact Jim Gold at jimgold@jimgold.com or 201-836-0362. Choices for 2015 are Cuba, February 13-20; Norway, Sweden and Denmark, June 13-23; Poland, June 14-27; Bulgaria and the big Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour, August 3-16; French Canada, September 9-19; and Albania, October 4-17.

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!)

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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