



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015

Special Points of Interest:

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- *A new group in Florida—Balkan By The Beach: page 6*
- *In Memory of Joan Washington: page 7*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY JACK SELTZER

I am excited for camp! Between full time and part time dancers, we have over 110 people attending, including a number from NFO. Here are a few final thoughts before our 35th President's Weekend camp in just a few days:

- Bring any fun folk costumes to wear to the nightly parties (Saturday—Bulgarian, and Sunday—Balkan if possible). Some clubs wear their club t-shirts on Saturday.
- This year we will have a dance program for each party. See the website: <http://www.folkdance.org/> for a copy of it with the schedule. (you could download it and enlarge for your own copy if you need)
- One of our members, John Ward, has produced a document of possi-

ble YouTube videos on the website for you to review a specific version of a dance.



- Those arriving at MCO airport need to call the hotel at 407-240-1000 for shuttle connection (indicate terminal A or B to hotel operator).
- A syllabus will be available for you online only. It should be on the website by Sunday, February 8th.
- Donate an ethnic item for silent auction for Olga Princi Scholarship fund or bring items for giveaway or to sell to other dancers.

See you all soon. Opa!

EDITOR'S NOTE BY PAT PIERATTE

This is probably my last newsletter, at least for the time being. We have at least one other volunteer to serve as editor, and I am happy to step aside, since I am so busy with my other activities. I have enjoyed being editor, but it has been a challenge to get the newsletters out in a timely manner. I will be helping with the transition, but am looking forward to having a little more time to make progress on my other projects.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles and photos for the newsletters the last two years. Many thanks to Pat Henderson for fine-tuning articles and photos, and to Vicki Kulifay, who has patiently worked with me on the final set-up of the newsletters. This has truly been a team effort, and I'm sure it will continue to be so in the future. I hope to see you soon at camp!



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YEARNING TO JOIN THE DANCE BY SUSAN CERULEAN

(Editor's Note: this is part of a blog by Susan on man's relation to nature. You can see this entry with more photos at <http://comingtopass.com/blog/>. If you enjoy this article, you may wish to subscribe to Susan's blog at the same link.)

A really good contra dance is the closest I've come to flying in a flock of shorebirds. In this kind of dance, you and your partner move with another couple through a series of figures with evocative names like Mad Robin, Box the Gnat, California Twirl, Ocean Wave, and Hay for Four.

What transforms a contra from a series of rote steps to a transcendent experience is the ability of the group to synchronize. You need a room full of people working together, moving in time to music. When a great caller and a fabulous live band drive the movements into your body memory, that synchrony can happen. It feels to me like being in a company of wild birds.

Last weekend, Jeff and I drove south to the Florida Snow Ball, as we do every January, to Gulfport. There, the Gulfport Casino Ballroom perches on the north shore of Boca Ciega Bay, a water body so developed that its tiny swath of sand is highly prized, both by people and shorebirds.

From where we whirled on the white maple ballroom floor, I could see assemblages of black skimmers, willets, and several varieties of gull resting on the beach. They were as connected to one another as the dancers inside.

But unlike the dancers and the Gulfport beachgoers, the birds' options were limited. We dance or walk along the shore for pleasure, but shorebirds need the beach for sleeping, feather care, eating, and nesting. The restive and rare birds—like the black skimmers I watched outside the windows—were the first to be displaced. Willets and sanderlings will sometimes skip ahead and then double back to the same feeding spot after danger passes, but the shyest species will not. Human disturbance renders the beach

almost unusable to its original inhabitants.

Each time I caught a glimpse of the birds swirling into the air, describing currents in space with their bodies, I knew that something had scared them off the sand. In this urban setting, the birds weren't moving for the pleasure of flocking in flight: inevitably it was because humans and their dogs walked oblivious into the shorebirds' assemblies. But I even watched people run and even stamp at the rare congre-



Dancers at Snow Ball; photo by Susan Cerulean

gations of birds, just to see them fly, or to take pictures, reducing the living beings to mere spectacle.

At Snow Ball, Jeff and I learned a new dance figure: Yearn Left, We stood in a line of couples, holding hands, facing a long row of other pairs, The caller—my favorite, Seth Tepfer—directed us feel pulled...drawn...to the couple standing on the left diagonal.

“Let the emotion of yearning draw you forward to that next couple you will be dancing with,” Tepfer explained. The Yearn is a very simple movement, but full of feeling. As we incorporated the figure into a sequence with others we already knew, Seth gradually withdrew his words. Through the microphone

YEARNING TO JOIN THE DANCE (CONTINUED)

came just a whispered hint to remind us of our next move.

“Sssss.....”, he whispered, when it was time to Circle Right, “Hhhhhh-aaay... for Hay for Four, and then “Y-y-y-ya...” and we knew it was time to Yearn. Like the shorebirds, a group mind gradually infused the dance and the dancers with

elastic, joyful connection.

I believe the yearning so many of us feel has to do with all the ways we've been cut off from the natural world. A first step to healing our loneliness is to pay attention to and honor, the needs of all of Earth's life forms. There they are: right outside the window!



Skimmers on the beach; photo by David Moynahan

KELLY IN LES MISERABLES (FROM THE FACEBOOK DESCRIPTION OF CAST MEMBERS)

Kelly Elisabeth Fagan - Deland, Florida. Kelly is playing the infamous Madame Thenardier in the upcoming Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center production of Les Miz, March 6-15, 2015 with possible holdover dates through March 22. She has had an illustrious career and has played some amazing roles.

Kelly Elisabeth Fagan is most at home exploring a mountain trail deep in the green wood, splashing with her young aquatic physical therapy friends, international folk dancing around the world, and playing upon the stage, Aldonza (Man of La Mancha), Maria (The Sound of Music), Abigail Adams (1776), Domina (A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum), The Baker's Wife (Into The Woods),

Charlotte Haye (Moon Over Buffalo), Lady Thiang (The King and I), Nancy (Oliver!), Nellie Lovett (Sweeney Todd), The Reverend Mother (Sound of Music), The Princess Puffer (Mystery of Edwin Drood), and Dolly Levi (Hello Dolly) are among her favorite "friends". Honored with numerous theater awards across Central Florida, Kelly is over the moon excited to sink her teeth into Madame Thenardier alongside her friend and fellow thespian, Bob Sollien. If our cast "sing through" is any indication of delights to come, our audience better hold onto their seats and prepare to be WOW'd. Or as the French say "oo la la"!



ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB BY PAT HENDERSON



We ended 2014 in the party mode. We had our Holiday Party on December 17 starting with a pot luck dinner. We danced the mixer to Jingle Bells one last time. Since New Year's Eve was a Wednesday, we decided to have a party and a sleepover. Jack and Linda Seltzer from Gainesville, Pat Pieratte from Tallahassee and Terry Abrahams and Andy Pollock from Tampa made the trek. We had two locals, Nicki Wise and Gary Berke stay over, and other club members who attended were Kelly Fagan, Ann Robinson, and Caroline Lanker. We played games in the afternoon before the party at night. During the evening, we danced for a couple of hours and then Bobby entertained us by setting off a box of fireworks (one at a time!) as we all watched from the balcony of our home. Then we played more games the next day. It was a long, fun party!

We welcomed Annelies Mostert back from the Netherlands for a few months. She made it to the Holiday Party. Betty Nehemias spent the holidays at her son's home in West Palm Beach. Jan Lathi went to Key West with her two sons and a toddler grandson. All was well until one her sons became ill. After he recovered, they were able to do some fishing. Fred and Juanita Schockey went on a Caribbean cruise over Christmas week. Phyllis and Ed Dammer also went on a Caribbean cruise with some of their family members. Rich and Linda Nicoli went to Milwaukee for a big birthday of a daughter-in-law. Carla Powers visited her son in Virginia on her way to New York. She danced with two of her previous dance groups while in New York. Unfortunately, she became ill on the

trip and ended up missing her first Holiday Party with us. Nicki Wise went to New York City with some friends and had an inside tour of the NBC studios. She met Al Roker and others and saw the green room and the kitchen they use on the show.

On Monday, January 12, we had 4.5 inches of rain in three hours, so we went to plan B for dancing on Wednesday, January 14. Since we could not dance at our home and it was my birthday, about 20 dancers met at the Olympia Restaurant. It was special since my daughter Julie was here from Colorado and celebrated with us. We had dinner and then we danced to a CD of Greek music that I had brought with me.

On January 23 and 24, several of us attended the Greek Festival in Belleview (Ocala). Kelly and Deane and Gary Berke went on Friday along with Kelly's sister, Lynda. Then several members of our group went on Saturday and some Gainesville group members joined us along with Lynda again. The band, Night in Athens, was exceptional this time, especially with their version of Karagouna. There were performances by the church's dance group (fortified by some dancers from The Villages), and by University of Florida students.

Most of our group will be attending the folk dance weekend coming up, with NFO and FFDC coming together for five great days of dancing and camaraderie. Having Lee and Yves together for the same weekend will be quite a hard act to follow.

TAMPA TIMES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

I changed the name of the article this time, just to be different. I'll bet you never look at that anyway! At any rate, Tampa is coming full blast to camp and can't wait. Since I'm the registrar this time around, I know who is coming and there will be some wonderful surprises! It'll be a great camp!

Vicki, Ursula, and I joined the Sarasota group for their holiday party – it is wonderful to be with so many other dancers. Andi leads their group, and they couldn't have anyone better. Vicki also had a chance (while on work travel) to dance with the International Folk Dance group in Anaheim, CA. It was a great evening - doing some familiar and unfamiliar dances.



Leaders of the Anaheim group—Sandy Wodicka and Nancy Atwood with Vicki Kulifay; photo from Vicki Kulifay



I went to the contra Snowball and if one likes contra, this is the piece de resistance – two fabulous callers, two fabulous bands, only the best dancers, gender equal, a perfect venue and a lovely covered dish dinner to start it off. Judith was in charge of setting up the covered dish and I helped, so we got to see everything that was brought before it was eaten up – 300 dancers, so lots of dishes and lots of eating. We were exhausted from dancing, but it was so worth it.

I'm attending a small high school reunion on the beach this weekend (the class above me and a few others that live in Florida). Also, there was a fencing tournament last weekend, so I've had some great weekends! Our Israeli group had a few visitors lately, which pumps us up – if only they'd move here...

"Genug" – that's Yiddish for "enough". See you at camp!!

DELAND DANCING BY KELLY FAGAN

Under the capable logistical coordination of Ruth Ann Fay, and my fearless pursuit of keeping the dancing moving and learning how to lead, DeLand continues to thrive and grow.

We meet first and third Tuesday nights, generally, but it's best to contact us to confirm, as we sometimes adjust to my theatre schedule. We often meet for dinner for a Greek, Italian, Mexican, or Thai supper at 5:30 and dance from 7:00-9-ish. Regulars include Pat, Bob, Gary, Jean, Miriam, Ruth Ann, et moi.

There is lots of laughter and gracious patience from our groupies. Come join us; we'd love to see you!

Our beloved Claudia Terence is coming in for the FFDC camp and will also dance with us in DeLand on the Tuesday following camp, February 17 and in Orlando on Wednesday, February 18. OPA!



BALKAN BY THE BEACH BY ROBIN BRIGAERTS

South Florida has a new international folk dance group, Balkan by the Beach, which meets Friday afternoons from 1 to 3:30 in Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st Street in Delray Beach. The cost is \$5 for Delray Beach residents and \$6 for non-residents.

Balkan by the Beach is led by two long-time folk dancers, Janet Higgs and Robin Brigaerts. Snowbird Janet is based in Indiana and regularly attends folk dance workshops throughout the Midwest as well as those in Florida. Class members love the enthusiasm with which she teaches her extensive repertoire of international folk dances. Year-round resident Robin has been sidelined recently by back and knee injuries, but hopes to soon be able to join Janet in teaching the dances she's learned in both New York and northern California.

Balkan by the Beach offers a varied program consisting mainly of Balkan folk dances but also including dances from Israel and other nations. Our group has many experienced dancers

as well as a few novices to the world of folk dancing. We provide some instruction and try to honor as many requests as possible.



Balkan by the Beach dancers; photo from Robin Brigaerts

For more information about Balkan by the Beach, contact janetlee1003@comcast.net or rbrigaerts@google.com or talk to Janet at the Presidents' Day weekend workshop.

THE VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP BY SARAH ZIMMERMAN

Here's the latest news from The Villages International Folk Dance group. We had our first session on Jan. 14, 2013 and we've been growing ever since. We have a few people (about 6) who folk danced in their past lives, but most have never done any kind of folk dancing. Right now we average about 18-20 people every Wednesday at 3:00 pm (being retired folks) and our numbers swell when the seasonal "folks" come back, to about 25-30.

I teach mainly Balkan dances. We have Dolores Brooks, who is seasonal and comes here from Ohio, who teaches Scottish and English and many other dances, since she's an active dancer in Ohio as well as here. And we have Estelle Brauer, who teaches Israeli dancing.

A small group of us performed this weekend at the St. Mark's Ocala Greek Festival. We did a Cretan Syrto which was taught to us by Mary Messner who is a member of the church. I've never seen a syrto like it actually. We also did an Hasapiko, which was choreographed so we did several weeks of rehearsal beforehand. It takes a lot of rehearsals when you are over 55!

We heard from Mary that a group from Orlando came and danced up a storm on Saturday at the festival. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday at the camp. Dolores will be there, as will Lee Beery, whom many of you already know from Tampa, OPA!



IN MEMORY OF JOAN WASHINGTON BY WALLY WASHINGTON



Wally and Joan Washington; photo by Pat Henderson

Joan Washington was born on November 23, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan. She got a degree from Wayne State University in 1971 and then worked for Michigan Bell Telephone as a systems programmer. She and I met at folk dancing and we married in 1974. I was working for Grand Trunk Railroad. We bought 10 acres of property about 65 miles north of Detroit and started building our own home. In 1986, we both retired, moved to the house we built and also bought a winter home in Deland. We quickly met the Florida folk dancers and attended the Orlando and Melbourne groups regularly along with the Spring and Fall Flings. In the early years, the Fall Fling was in Deland. Eventually, we created the Deland International Folk Dancers and led them for many years. We also supported the Flagler dance group. Not only did we folk dance, we started square dancing in Daytona and later square danced in Deland. We maintained a garden at both our homes and traveled

frequently. We started to have mystery trips where one would plan a short trip for the other after we retired. We tried to have one mystery trip in Michigan and one in Florida each year.

On August 23, 2014, a routine doctor's visit showed Joan's pulse was 330 and she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure for which there was no cure. She had a pacemaker installed on November 7 and was on a lot of medications. She passed out several times from the pacemaker and on November 17, she was returning books to the library and passed out again and hit her head. She was taken first to the Florida Hospital Deland and then they moved her to Florida Hospital Orlando South. On November 19 at 4:30am, she died a very tortured death. Her mother lived to 96 and her father is still alive at 95. The years we had together were heaven on earth for both of us. I will never stop loving her.



Joan Washington (with Pat Henderson); photo by Bobby Quibodeaux

EVENTS

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, FIT, Melbourne

Sponsored by: Florida Institute of Technology
Place: Panther Plaza off Countryside Road, FIT
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, Lake Worth, Palm Beach Gardens and Pensacola
Information: www.duq.edu/tamburitzans; "Schedule of Performances"

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 20-21, 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 8, Shen Yun Chinese Dance Performances

Places: Orlando, Ft. Myers, St. Petersburg, and Miami
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

May 9, Mayfair Ball, St. Cloud

Location: St. Cloud Community Center, 3101 17th St.
Information: 1:00 to 10:00 pm, Contact stcloudccd@yahoo.com or 386-490-4946

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

EVENTS (CONTINUED)

May 22-24, Florida Folk Festival

Sponsored by: Florida State Parks

Location: Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, White Springs

Information: www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest or 877-635-3655

September 18-20, Mountain Playshop

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

Information: Teacher: Nikolay Tsvetkov teaching Bulgarian dances; more 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 cruises for 2015 are Alaska, the Inside Passage and Vancouver, June 20—July 1, and Paris-Normandy, September 29—October 11.

For **Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis** each summer, see <http://www.moisidis-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 more information, see his website or contact moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com.

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. This tour is full and there is a waiting list.

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 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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