

Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

MARCH-APRIL 2016

Special Points of Interest:

- *2016 Camp – a wonderful memory*
- *Announcement of next year's teachers (see President's article)*
- *Jack and Lynda retire as leaders in Gainesville*
- *Kelly stars again*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY PAT HENDERSON

Our wonderful FFDC Presidents' Weekend Workshop with Roberto Bagnoli and Ed Austin was a great folk dance experience. We danced around the world from India to Portugal in keeping with the theme. Ed and Roberto both gave us nice dances to take home. It was their first time as teachers to our Florida "Camp" and they were well received. In all my years of going to camp (almost all of them), I have never seen two teachers into the whole experience by dancing in each other's workshops and also still dancing at our night parties at midnight. When I said "goodbye" to them on Monday, I wanted to give them a "Party Animal" award! Ed was at Roberto's review on Monday and was in my set for the Portuguese set dance and Roberto was my partner. That was the highlight of my weekend! Thank you to Roberto and Ed for a very fun and entertaining weekend!

I made a couple of changes in the schedule that worked out well. First, I moved the Culture Corner to 2pm right after the lunch break. Lee told me last year that he would have liked to do the Culture Corner before his dance session so I decided to give our lunch another hour to digest so I moved it to 2pm. This worked out well since there was plenty of time for the AV to be set up. Also, at 5pm, we were not lingering at the Culture Corner as in previous years. We were dancing and it was easier to end on time. The Hot Tub with the President was next on the schedule and it was fun to relax there

before dinner. The second change was doing the video recording in the session that the dance was taught. Ruthy Slann tried this at Karmiel USA last Labor Day weekend and this method was preferred since the dance was on everyone's mind. I asked our two teachers before the weekend and they preferred this way also. For those of you who have the DVD, you see a lot more of the attendees dancing this way. It looks more natural as Steve Turner captured the dances so well. Thank you to Steve for the videoing.

A few more thanks to some of the organizers: Ruth Ann Fay, the treasurer and collector at the event along with the assistance of John Daly; Doris Wolman for organizing the Olga Princi Auction; Debbie Shook for bringing all those beautiful costume pieces for the auction; Balkan by the Beach group and leader, Janet Higgs for the Friday night snack; my group (Orlando) for the Saturday night snack; and Linda Seltzer and the Gainesville group for the Sunday night snack; Terry for the t-shirts, buttons, quilt and chopped liver (one of our more delicious traditions). A special thank you to Andy Pollock for putting together the night programs. He had the hardest job and he was the DJ the whole weekend. I thank all of you who



Inside this issue:

President's Note	1
Editor's Notes	2
February 30th Comments	3
Minutes of Annual Meeting	4
Camp Song	5
Facebook and Florida Folkdance	6
Olga Princi Silent Auction	6
And This Is The Results	7
And This Is The Results II	7
Two Terrific Teachers	8
Camp Photos	9
Camp Comments	12
Orlando Offerings	13
Radost Dance Club	14
Sarasota Grapeviners	14
Gainesville	15
Tampa Talks	15
The Villages	16
Our Orlando Star Is At It Again!	16
All You Ever Need To Know About Relationships Can Be Learned In A Dance Class	17
Notes From All Around	18
As The Opanci Hop Step	19
Events	21
Folk Dance Tours	21

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

came to make our weekend a great success.

On Monday, I announced our teachers for next year: SONIA DION AND CRISTIAN FLORESCU!

PS's

We have two t-shirts left: Women's medium and Men's medium \$15 Send money to Ruth Ann Fay (contact information in the membership renewal section).

Here is a photo of the lost and found item.



EDITOR'S NOTES BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

Of course camp was wonderful, but I'll save those comments for others. The most interesting thing for me was the "blast" – that's when you send one thing to bunches of people – that I sent to all of you for your contributions to this newsletter apparently did not reach everyone. Luckily one of the people it didn't reach was our President. Then Andi said she didn't get anything either. So I re-posted the blog, or the blurb, or the "whatever" to all of you again asking you to tell me you received it, and this time got lots and lots of responses – 35 to be exact! I

should make mistakes more often! Many of you received the first one, many of you did not. John???

Wha'hopin'? Sometimes technology doesn't work I guess. Well, the most fun was the comments on my obvious mistake, asking for your articles by February 30. Wanna see some of your cleverness? As for an explanation of the problem – see John's comments on the next page (along with everyone else's!).



Check this out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYiHg-a87hk>

It's a video of Hai Ne Ne Ne – found by Varda of the Sarasota Grapeviners

February 30th Explanation From John

Recently our esteemed editor sent out a message which some people didn't receive, and she had to send the message again. She asked me if I had any idea what happened since I'm the webmaster for the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

To a computer geek the answer is fairly straightforward. You may remember 16 years ago there was a great deal of concern about the millennium or year 2K bug. The problem was that many computers really didn't keep track of the complete date. The year on these computers was 98 or 99 or whatever rather than 1998 or 1999. So when the year became 00, bad things would be bound to happen. Computers might think the year was 1900 rather than 2000.

Many different fixes were applied, and the year 2000 came and went without catastrophe. But some of those fixes in computer calendars are now coming back to cause problems. Terry's computer is obviously one of those whose calendar was modified to include 30 days in February for certain leap years, hoping that somehow that would avoid the millennium bug. Once we get into March all should be well again until July when the computers will think that there are only 30 days in July.

I hope that explains everything. John

February 30th Comments from Others

David Digby: OK, if the deadline is really Feb 30, we have forever to submit. But, just in case it's actually leap day, here is a photo of certain dancers "heating it up with the president" in the hot tub Saturday afternoon. (Editor's Note: see photo collage for picture.)

Mary Zaleta - WOW!! I thought it was special to have Feb. 29th come only once every four years, but this will be my first Feb. 30th ever.

Arleen Kaufmann - By the by, there are only 29 days in February. This is Leap Year. Maybe celebrate Sadie Hawkins Day.

Bill Fishman - I got it ? (*Still confused*)

Sarah Zimmerman - . There is no 30th of February! It's leap year! There's never a Feb 30. (*Oh*)

Andi Kapplin - Ain't no 30th of Feb. Only 29 days. (*Oh (...and later)* How many days until February 30th? (*You'll never let me forget it will you?*)

Pat Henderson - Do you mean March 1? A joke, right? (*I wish*)

Kelly Fagan - Wow...amazing deadline too.....February 30 :)

Lita Pinter - Will not be sending any articles, in spite of your very generous deadline of 30 (!) February

Andy Pollock - I'm impressed that you found a way to add an extra day into February.

Vita Hollander - 30th of February??? Hee, hee -- now there's a leap year for you

Pat Pieratte - By the way, there is no 30th of February; this is the odd year that we even have a 29th of February! (*Yes, I GOT it!*)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2016, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The 2016 annual meeting of the members of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc. was called to order by President Pat Henderson at 12:45 pm. Before the meeting officially began, Pat announced a schedule change from previous years. The Culture Corner with Roberto will begin at 2:00 pm today. Then after Roberto and Ed teach, there will be a break from 5:00-6:00 pm.

The minutes of the 2015 annual meeting, were approved as published in the March-April Florida Folk Dancer.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer Ruth Ann Fay announced that the Treasurer's Report will be published in an upcoming Florida Folk Dancer. The FFDC's funds are in a good condition.

Editor Terry Abrahams called for articles for upcoming newsletters, and specifically for articles on How I Started Dancing, and Pat will write hers for an upcoming issue. Terry has shortened the calendar information, since anyone wanting more information on an event can check the online calendar. People seem to be enjoying the Hop Step Step articles, which were written many years ago by former Tampa folk dancer, Irma Polster.

Historian Caroline Lanker has many old FFDC newsletters which she is gradually scanning onto the website. So if you have old newsletters you wish to see, check first to see if they are already online. If they aren't, please e-mail Caroline to ask her if she already has them.

Committee Reports:

The Olga Princi Scholarship Committee (Kelly Fagan, chair, Judith Baizan, Larry Wartell and Julieta Brambila) met and developed a one-page procedure for awarding the scholarships. The main difference is that now the whole Board approves scholarship recipients, instead of just the President. The Treasurer's Report will include information on Scholarship expenditures and recipients, Priya and Olivia.

The Program Committee (Andi Kapplin, chair, David Digby, Andy Pollock) developed a form for attendees of camp to request three dances. From this list, the committee can create the evening programs for camp. The form will be used next year. This is a complicated process, making sure the dances are varied by country, formation and difficulty. The committee was thanked for their hard work. There were two suggestions for improvements to the way the programs are set up: 1) to include spaces after a certain number of dances, for impromptu request dances, and 2) to announce each dance, or at least the dances requiring partners, or set dances.

Old Business: there was none.

New Business:

Possible date change for camp:

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of changing the date of camp to try to get better hotel rates. But the overwhelming consensus was to leave the dates as Presidents' Day Weekend.

Future location for camp and prices:

There was a more lengthy discussion on this topic. The hotel raised the price by about \$30 per person this year, and this may have resulted in fewer people attending. The hotel has already been informed that we wouldn't be able to return if the price increased again for next year. Several people from the Melbourne and Gainesville groups didn't attend, but some of the reasons were financial and some were health-based. With walk-ins, about 100 people attended camp this year, and 18 people flew in from other states.

Another hotel, the Park Inn by Radisson on Highway 192 in Kissimmee, was recently visited by the Pat and Nicki, FFDC Vice-President. It was about \$25 less per night, but the hotel is less luxurious than the Renaissance Hotel where we have been dancing the last couple of years. One big advantage of that hotel is that it has a floor available that is the same size as what we have rented for over \$2,000 the last few years.

(Continued on page 5)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2016, ORLANDO, FLORIDA (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 4)

Gary Berke volunteered to do some more research into Orlando-area hotels, to see if a better option, possibly near the airport, exists.

Two straw polls by hand vote were taken, to help the Board make decisions for next year. The first vote was to see how many people would be willing to pay up to \$20 more to remain at the Renaissance. A majority voted in favor of this proposal. The second vote was of those who would be willing to go to the Park Inn if it would save \$50. A majority voted in favor of this proposal too.

Appointment of new Secretary: Since Pat Pieratte had to resign as Secretary because of her busy schedule, the Board appointed Caroline Lanker to serve as Secretary/Historian for the next year.

Announcements:

Spring Fling/OIFDC 45th Anniversary will be held on Saturday, April 2 at the Whirl & Twirl in Orlando. The Fling will start with a pot luck lunch at 11:30 am, and will run until 6:30 pm.

Yves Moreau cruise: about 12 people from Florida will be joining the cruise with Yves and France Moreau, from Ft. Lauderdale on April 15-29. Pat and Bobby will be going on the cruise to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. There are a few places left on the cruise, in case anyone else wants to join it.

There was a suggestion to set up a Florida Folk Dance Council Facebook page. Lynda Fagan was asked to set this up, and everyone is requested to post Florida-based pictures and events on the page. Kelly Fagan helps administer the Folkfeet Facebook page, for more generic folk dance pictures and events. Someone mentioned that there is also a web-site, Dancweb Florida, for all types of dance events in Florida.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Pieratte, Secretary

SONG FROM 2016 CAMP

By Terry Abrahams

**Sung to the tune:
*No Business Like Show
Business***

There's no dancing like folk dancing
Like no dancing I know.
Every hop-step-step is so exciting
Every Yemenite is so much fun
And the teachers make it so inviting
They are delighting – everyone
This fine weekend, sublime weekend
Is more than one could wish
Eddie and Roberto are the best around
Friendships certainly do abound
Nothing like this weekend ever could be found
And with this – never fear
We will come back next year

FACEBOOK AND FLORIDA FOLKDANCE BY LYNDA FAGAN



Florida Folk Dance Council has joined 21st Century Social Media: we now have a Facebook page! The page is still a work in progress. We need your help for this to be a useful tool in sharing information with each other and in promoting folk dancing in Florida.

If you don't have a Facebook account, then you won't be able to see the page. Setting up an account is easy. Avoid putting personal information like phone numbers. You can control your Privacy Settings to regulate who sees your information and what they can see. I usually set to "friends only."

To find the page, go to little Search box (magnifying glass) and enter Florida Folk Dance Council. After you've been there once, your computer or phone will remember and it will come up as you begin to enter F-L-O...

Be sure to hit "like" when you find the page. After you "like" a page, then any posts that are on the page or "tagged" will appear on your timeline.

If you post a photo on Facebook that you would like us to see, then "tag" me or Florida Folk Dance Council and I'll make sure that the photo appears on our page. I'd like to get a photo of each dance group. Naples already sent me (via text) their club photo during camp. Send your official group name with the photo.

I have found Facebook to be an extremely useful tool to communicate with people. If you don't have someone's phone number, you can get in touch with them via a Facebook "message." Even when I'm in a play at the theatre, a Facebook page is set up for all communications with cast and crew. Email is not nearly as convenient.

So if you don't have Facebook on your Smartphone, download it now. Then go to Florida Folk Dance Council and "like" our page.



OLGA PRINCI SILENT AUCTION BY DORIS WOLMAN



The Olga Princi Fund continues to grow. Thanks to all the donors who made the program successful. There were scarves, shirts, vests, skirts, belts, jewelry, and many varieties of ethnic clothing, shoes and cook books. We had three tables full of items up for auction. The bidding started off slowly, but by Sunday things really took off. The auction netted \$68.00. In addition, Debbie Shook (former FFDC dancer), brought in a huge collection of her mother's handmade dance costumes which took up another two tables. The sale of these items was on the honor system—Take what you want and put

whatever you think it's worth into the donation box. People were most generous. At the end of Sunday afternoon we had another \$54.50 for a total of \$122.50! AND--- BTW, people generously donated on the registration forms a total of \$675.00.

Thanks to all who helped our Scholarship fund to grow. It was such a joy to see our two scholarship dancers on the floor. FFDC people are among the warmest, most caring individuals I know.

See Olivia's and Priya's stories on the next page—for the reason why we do the scholarship!

AND THIS IS THE RESULTS BY OLIVIA BACALLAO

This was my third year having been blessed with the opportunity to attend dance camp. The first year I came to camp, I really didn't know what to expect. My enthusiastic teacher, Ms. Lynda Fagan, convinced me to apply for the Olga Princi Scholarship, and I figured it was worth a shot. I had only begun dancing at the start of that school year, so I knew very few dances at the Friday night party when I arrived, but I was so excited to just jump in to every dance that came up. To see so many people of different ages, sizes, and backgrounds, join hands and dance alongside one another...it gave me a new sense of what joy could be. I discovered what it's like to feel individualistic, and feel like a part of a great

whole, all at once. That wasn't a feeling I wanted to stop experiencing.

This last camp was an irreplaceable experience, just as the other two were, but by far my favorite. I got to spend the weekend dancing alongside my good friend Priya, and the friendly personalities I have come to know in the past few years. I got to be a student under two spectacular teachers, and add some more lovely dances to my repertoire. The weekend was fantastic from the hotel, to the food, to the music, to the people. Even while my feet ached endlessly throughout the weekend, I can't say there was a moment I didn't enjoy.



AND THIS IS THE RESULTS II BY PRIYA MANOHAR

I joined a folk dancing club at my school just this year. When my friend Olivia told me about camp, I was a bit reluctant to sign up. I had very little experience folk dancing and didn't know if I would fit in. However, I decided to step outside of my comfort zone and sign up for camp. Now looking back at it, this was the right decision. I can't remember the last time I had so much fun! Everyone there was extremely friendly and made sure that I felt comfortable. The instructors, Ed and Roberto made learning new dances easy and exciting. All the songs were catchy, especially the bhangra! Olivia and I would go back up to our

room and hum the songs when we weren't dancing. My favorite part about camp was the dance parties in the evening. Even though I didn't know many of the dances, I would always jump in the circle and follow the person next to me. Many times someone would teach me the steps. By the time the last day of camp came around, I didn't want to leave. Even though my feet were sore I didn't want to stop dancing. Dance camp was a great new experience for me and I can't wait to come back next year!



TWO TERRIFIC TEACHERS BY ANDI KAPPLIN

Editor's Note: The Lyrids Folk Dance Festival in Burnaby, Near Beautiful Vancouver, BC, Canada, is having Roberto this year, and they asked Andi to write about him after she sent just one word – FANTASTIC!

Here's Andi's article.



FLORIDA'S PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND WORKSHOP 2016 featuring Roberto Bagnoli & Ed Austin—
Review of Roberto Bagnoli by Andi Kapplin

Our weekend workshop was FANTASTIC! Ever since a Vancouver dancer mentioned that she thought Roberto Bagnoli was the best teacher she'd ever had at any workshop, I had been hoping the President of the Florida Folk Dance Council would bring him to our annual President's Day event. As the saying goes, "The third time's the charm" as this was the third year I had recommended him. He was absolutely fabulous. He taught 6 dances - all keepers - and the music was marvelous. His singing and yelling during the dances just added to everyone's enjoyment - and was quite contagious! He was very personable: attended the other instructor's sessions, participated in the evening parties and was always ready to answer any questions. The other teacher at the Florida Weekend was Ed Austin from Brigham Young University. He directed the Brigham Young University performing folk dance troupes for over 25 years. Ed now accepts requests for teaching recreational folk dance groups. His recreational dance focus is international in scope. Appalachian clogging and Welsh folk dance have been areas of concentrated interest and research, and he is well-versed in western, central and eastern European dance styles. He is presently serving his second term as president of the National Folk Organization of the United States (NFO).

AND....by Terry

Our second teacher, though not on the "circuit" (we realized we would like him from meeting him at camp last year, when he was representing NFO) was Ed Austin, a professor at Brigham

Young U. We all know his background (see above), but on a personal note - Ed was one of the more enthusiastic teachers we've had at our FFDC camps, and it was "catching!" As he went through a myriad of dances, he told why he liked each dance, and when he got done, we liked it too! He was very clear in his directions (and a nice large voice – no microphone needed), his syllabus is equally understandable, and he picked great dances – so varied as to go from India to Israel. He talked to everyone, enjoyed each conversation, had lots of information, danced his heart out. His little performance of a Samoan dance (where he stripped – wow!) was an added attraction. Put him on your list of possible teachers for your next camp!



CAMP PHOTOS!



re, mala mon

SERBIAN *BUL

(mah'-lah moh'-meh) "Joy



Rhythm:
fami
will
count
figu
18/1
of 1

part of
end tucks
es hand-

e un-
ses, this
d. "quick"
dual dance
ers, the
he .second

Come Monday,
the "leftover"
review group

FIGURE I - Walking in Rhythm
Rhythmic pattern:
REMINER INSTRUCTIONS:
(Six walking steps per
2 quick, 2 slow).



Meas. 1 Facing to R, take two slow walking steps in this direction
continuing in same direc-
slow steps (slow).

. 1 until leader signals



REMINER INSTRUCTIONS:
(Step-hop on Rft, step Lft, 2 steps Rft Lft)



leader signals change
quick quick-



CAMP PHOTOS!

15.



Lft, then 4 running steps Rft-
steps Rft-Lft, and 2 running

y quick steps Rft-Lft, the 1
running steps Rft



Meas

FIGU

R

R

quick-quick

sideways to

R, step Lft in back of Rft, step Rft sideways to R, hop on
bounce twice.)

), Hop on Rft (quick), step in this
); step R with Rft, facing center

(quick), step Rft R (1 count)



the end, do a triple sciss

"If we sell enough of
these tshirts, we can
come to camp :)!"

Meas.

1 Facing R, step Rft (sl

side in this direction

Center (quick)

Rft R, extending Lft

Lft, extending Rft

low (quick).

with opposite footwork.

quick quick-quick-slow-quick-quick

at that instead of step-close-
do a step-hop-stamp).



CAMP PHOTOS!



ME (continued).

cing R, Step Rft (slow
ward in this direction
t, facing center (quick
ep Rft R (slow); hop e
R and raising L knee
ar R toe, straightenin
c. Same as Meas. 1, bu



16.



quick-quick-slow-slow

step forward, then 2 small steps
step forward again. Step-hop-
steps in place. Rft-Lft: with

Meas. 1 Facing center, step forward
step Lft in place beside Rft
step backwards (quick-quick)
(slow), hop on Rft and step
quick).

Meas. 2 Step backward with Rft (slow)
beside Rft (quick-quick), step Rft-Lft in place
quick), hop on R heel out to side. R knee straight (slow);



According to the
ce would be:

Fig. VI
Fig. VII



CAMP COMMENTS! (EDITORS RESPONSE IN ITALICS)

MJ Linn—I like the a la carte aspect of camp and hope that we can even attract some more people that way. Hope the new Facebook page helps with that. Thanks to all who made the week end possible. Maybe post the new Facebook info somewhere

Louise Adler—It was a wonderful weekend with great people, good instruction & amazing dances. (*love that word*)

Sarah Zimmerman—Pat - Congratulations on a well-run, beautifully organized and fun 2016 camp! I had a great time on Friday and Saturday. I had to leave Sunday for a swim meet (I'm a master's swimmer and there's always a big meet on the same weekend as camp). The

teaching was wonderful and the dance programs were also great. Nothing but good things to say. Thank you so much for all the time and effort you put into this and everything else you do. You're awesome! (*I guess it went swimmingly*)

Everett Lunsford—The workshop was very good, but I don't have any pictures or comments for the newsletter. (*That's ok - you responded and that's what I wanted*)

Ed Gaines—Got your email. I don't really have an article. I am into the fun aspects of dance rather than the organizational aspects. (*Not really about camp, but it suits us, doesn't it?*)

Ellen Winchell—very sorry I missed camp. (*Well, don't let it happen again*)

Priya Manohar—Everyone there was extremely friendly and made sure that I felt comfortable

Vita Hollander—Loved dancing with all of you!

Olivia Bacallao—The weekend was fantastic from the hotel, to the food, to the music, to the people. Even while my feet ached endlessly throughout the weekend, I can't say there was a moment I didn't enjoy.

Delores Lustig—Camp was great, especially loved the enthusiasm and energy of the teachers.

Robin Brigaerts—Yes, I heard that camp was wonderful. My knee lets me know when I've danced too much, and three days were definitely out of the question. But Janet tells me that Sonia and Cristian will be coming next year. I've been trying to attend one of their workshops for some

time now and will show up next year even if I'm able to dance only one of the three days. (*I have a button that says "Even if I'm sitting, I'm still dancing" - do*

Rob McCollom—I enjoyed the dances Ed and Roberto taught but I felt they were somewhat abandoned in the evening programs. I think it is nice to just play the music and have the teachers lead their dances and whoever wants to can join in. Except for the initial teaching and

the Monday review, several dances were not seen. One suggestion - make the evening program shorter (fewer pre-program requests) so we can dance more of the taught

dances and get to requests earlier in the evening. Andy does a superb job but I feel he is overwhelmed with the number of dances. (*We're listening*)

Gary Berke—I think the food was fine if it was \$15 for lunch and \$25 for dinner a la carte, but at \$25 and \$35 respectively, we need to have higher standards. There were not enough choices and to be offered only tea, coffee or water at that price? Both meals should have

come with soda and a glass of wine at least. We must negotiate better. I am determined to find a better place and negotiate a better deal.

Pat Pieratte—Camp was a lot of fun, as always. It's great to see and dance with the other Florida dancers each year.

Lita Pinter—Thanks again for the excellent workshop!

Doris Wolman—FFDC people are among the warmest, most caring individuals I know.

Andi Kapplin—they (the teachers) were absolutely fabulous.

ORLANDO OFFERINGS BY PAT HENDERSON



Our club has been doing great this year with twenty or more dancers attending nearly every week. We have had up to four "youngsters" coming (those in their 30s and under). Thank you to Kelly Fagan and Joe Davis for bringing them. A student who was a member of the Cultural Dance Society that I sponsored at the college when I was working was one of our recent additions. We welcome all the new dancers and hope that they will continue to dance.

Since we are the local group, most of us attended camp. It was a wonderful weekend and we thoroughly enjoyed dancing and partying with Roberto and Ed. We took our annual photo that included David Digby, our founder, and his wife.

A few of us had time to travel since the last issue. Barry Sieger traveled to Alaska to see the northern lights. Here is how he described his experience: "We'd go out late at night usually close to midnight and just see the lovely stars - distant, quiet, sparkling. Then there would appear a non-descript green smudge in the northern

sky, this would enlarge, spread along the horizon ...colors would change, reds, yellows, joining the deep green, a dynamic, constantly changing array of form, light and movement."

*Carla Powers visited the South Florida dance groups and sent an article about her visit. Caroline went to Nicaragua on a mission

A few members have had medical issues: Fred Schockey had kidney stones blasted twice in January and is finally on the road to recovery; Phyllis Dammer received a new pacemaker after camp and she is doing well; I had a heart ablation in January and have had no recurrence of heart racing of which I am thankful; Betty Nehemias left camp early for health reasons but she is doing better now.

We want to remind everyone to join a day of request dancing at Spring Fling/Orlando's 45th Anniversary Celebration on April 2, 11:30am-6:30pm at the Whirl and Twirl in Orlando.



RADOST DANCE CLUB — VANGUARD HIGH SCHOOL BY LYNDA FAGAN

I was so pleased that I was able to bring 2 students to Florida Folk Dance Camp again this year. Thank you to the board for awarding Olga Princi Scholarships to Olivia and Priya, because without your assistance they would not have been able to participate.

We've been having a blast with our new dances from Ed Austin and Roberto Bagnoli: Bhangra, Ffaniglen, Repasseado, and Hai Ne Ne Ne. And now that we have the DVD for review, this week we can do Serez, Te Joci Cu Focul, and Vendeguldo.

Our club has been asked to dance at the Cultural Fair this month. Some of

my dancers are reluctant, but we did it last year and it was a positive experience. I think that we'll even add some costumes in addition to our club T-shirts.

5 of my 6 dancers are Seniors, so the future of Radost is uncertain. I'm still exploring the establishment of a youth folk dance group of local home-schooled students. Olivia is planning to attend Central Florida College in Ocala, so I'm hoping that she would be interested in being my assistant. Either way, I think that it's essential that more young people discover the joy of international folk dancing.



SARASOTA GRAPEVINERS BY JILL LUBINER

The Grapeviners' winter Wednesday evenings continue to be filled with friends—old and new! We enjoyed a wonderful, memory filled evening on January 13 as we honored our dear friend Marie Millet. Our program included many of Marie's favorite dances and also a silent auction of folk dance clothing and related items contributed by Marie as well as by other Grapeviners. Our treasury grew by \$64 that evening and we were all warmed by the many photos of Marie "in her element" that were displayed around the Bayfront Center. Big thanks to Varda for creating the photo displays and to Erica and Wylie who bravely took control of the silent auction duties!

Our annual Snowball party took place on January 27 and we thoroughly enjoyed the "all request" program that Andi put together. We also enjoyed the delicious snacks that were shared during the dance break. The Grapeviners have great taste in dances and in snacks! Before we know it both the Spring Fling in Orlando (4/2) and our annual World Dance Day party (4/20) will be here.

Several Grapeviners attended the Florida Folk Dance Camp Weekend (2/12-2/15)

—Andi, Susan, Delores, Ron, Kathy, Louise and Chris and reported that the instruction and dancing were fantastic! They had a fabulous weekend dancing and bonding with other folk dance fans. Susan said they came home "tired and with our minds spinning". Andi has already started to teach a few of her favorite dances from dance camp weekend.

Our terrific website, www.ifdsarasota.webs.com is a great resource for all dancers!! Thanks to the great skills of Sergio we can view lists and access videos of almost all of our dances. Our dance programs are sent out to members a few days prior to our weekly meeting giving us—or at least me—a chance to review a new dance via our website and feel more confident when Wednesday evening comes around. I have even found the perfect spot to practice in my house—now if I could only have a wood floor!



tarantism

(n.) overcoming melancholy by dancing; the uncontrollable urge to dance

Word Pom

GAINESVILLE BY JULIETA BRAMBILA

Joyce Story and Julieta Brambila will be running the Gainesville group starting April. Jack and Linda are still attending when not traveling, but they are passing on the leadership.



Editor's Note: Good luck, Julieta and Joyce. Jack and Linda – keep on truckin' – or is it sailing?

TAMPA TALKS BY TERRY ABRAHAMS

Luckily we have Andy heading our group with his memory and Andi with her cards. We've done all of the camp dances, and not that badly! And now that we have Pat's DVD – we're really on our way! We all loved camp – how could you not? I had attended an afternoon workshop with Ruthy Slann the day before our camp, and on Monday after camp, Andy and I stayed with Pat and Bobby and attended the local Israeli group, followed by the regular Israeli in Tampa on Tuesday. Me and my knee are about done for... Looking forward to the Tammies. Andy's doing some presentations of dances he wants to share and will put them on Facebook.

Non-dancing stuff: Judith had pneumonia before camp, and still has a cold. We've got to take care of her – she's important! Andi's husband seems to have recovered to the point where Andi isn't frantic anymore. I'm working on the next Seder – love it – imagine writing 20 songs instead of just one. I'm in my glory! I had my cataracts removed. Other than that – nada! My favorite new button: "Never give a sword to a man who can't dance" - could it be any more perfect for me? It's a quote from Confucius. Another you might not have seen at camp: "Folk You!" – suggested by a contra dancer from Snowball.



"The Dance Floor"

Where the bills & responsibility don't matter. It's where the stress is gone. My happy place, where my soul is free, my smile is not fake, and I am my true self. Nothing matters but me and the music. The dance floor is my freedom.

From Judith: I had a low fever on Jan 26, didn't feel so good the next 2-3 days-- really felt bad at Friday dancing, worse on Sat, saw the PA at CVS on Sunday and she sent me to TGH Emergency that afternoon. They kept me overnight & discharged me in the morning.

THE VILLAGES BY SARAH ZIMMERMAN

We have started doing some dancing (demonstration, not really performing) at the Mission Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care facility. They seem to really enjoy it. One of our dancers' mother lives there. She turned 100 in February and she is Hungarian Jewish, born in Hungary. We learned Horehronsky Czardas and danced it this time around. She loved it! We're going to learn another Hungarian dance for our next visit. One of the caregivers at the facility came up to me afterwards and said she almost started crying when we started our dancing because she's of Ukrainian and Polish descent and hasn't heard that kind of music in ages. All in all it was a very

gratifying and fun time!

It was great dancing with everyone at the camp and kudos to everyone who made it such a wonderful experience. See you in Orlando in April. I'm going to try to bring a contingent of Villagers.



OUR ORLANDO STAR IS AT IT AGAIN! BY KELLY FAGAN

Editor's Note: Kelly stars once again in a new production. Here's her thoughts as she goes in a different direction.

I have been yearning to explore "straight" (i.e. non-musical) theatre. I envisioned a bit part as a maid in a castle. Never in my wildest dreams did I envision such a gutsy meaty role. This chick is brilliant with a vocabulary....ummm...let's put it this way...my dictionary app is my new best friend...oh, and did you know there is an app called "LineLearner"? Best \$3.99 I've ever spent. Hope to see some of my folk footed friends in the audience. Pray for my neurons)"



THE SHOESTRING THEATRE PRESENTS "WIT"

"Wit" is a one-act play written by American playwright Margaret Edson, which won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

"WIT"

Dramatic irony. Metaphysical conceit. Dark humor and the lingering flavor of an orange popsicle.

Vivian Bearing, brilliant professor of 17th century literature, embraces challenge and inquiry. Her field is research and analysis, and her passion, the work of John Donne. An ovarian cyst intercedes. She finds herself plagued with doubt, floundering in a script where time moves too quickly, confronting paradox and a reality she knew not of.

In this Pulitzer and Tony-award winning play, the audience will explore their own responses to the big unanswerable questions with laughter and with tears.

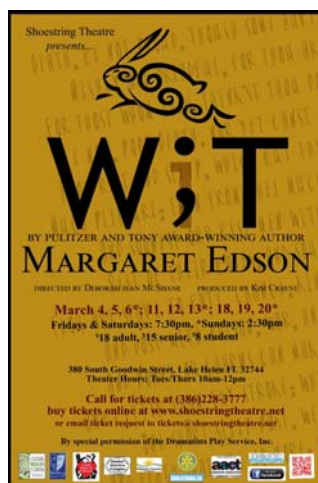
Kelly Fagan-Vivian Bearing, Ph.D.
Robert Spellman-Jason Posner, MD
Suman Gupta-Susie Monahan, RN, BSN
Laurel von Syda-E.M. Ashford, Ph.D.
Art Wuertz-Harvey Kelekian, MD/Mr. Bearing, Vivian's father

The code team, students, interns and technicians will be:

Sarah Warren
Christine Hampton
Leigh Fields

Shoestring Theater will present "Wit" March 4-6, 11-13, and 18-20.

Shoestring Theatre, 380 S. Goodwin St., Lake Helen, FL
Box Office: (386) 228-3777
Tickets Available online at www.ShoestringTheatre.net



ALL YOU EVER NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE LEARNED IN A DANCE CLASS

Editor's Note: found on our brand new FFDC FACEBOOK page. This can relate to circle dancing as well.

1. **Lead her GENTLY and she'll follow you anywhere. (For every ACTION there is an equal and opposite REACTION.)**
2. **Never CRITICIZE YOUR DANCE PARTNER. The only person you can even consider fixing is YOU. (The person who is responsible for making the adjustment is the one who knows an adjustment is needed.)**
3. **A lead is an INDICATION of some desired direction. (It's a SUGGESTION, not DEMAND.)**
4. **A dance PARTNERSHIP is 50/50. BOTH partners are equally responsible for the outcome of the partnership. (Know your part.)**
5. **If either of us insists on knowing who is right and who is wrong about our dancing, "WE BOTH LOSE".**
6. **The FIRST rule in learning dancing or something new is "DON'T HURT ANYBODY" that you might be dancing with.**
7. **BE SENSITIVE to your partner and never blame or ridicule. YOU can make it right. (Don't adjust your partner, adjust YOURSELF.)**
8. **While you are dancing, always try to concentrate on WHAT is right rather than WHO is right.**
9. **TEAMWORK gets the most points. YOU are judged by how good you can make your PARTNER look.**
10. **A good PARTNERSHIP requires patience, understanding and an awareness of the partner.**
11. **Stay FOCUSED**
12. **The way to help a partner improve is to do YOUR part so well that you know that you are not part of the PROBLEM.**
13. **Listen to the MUSIC around you. Life is a JOY when we are both in step to the same MUSIC.**
14. **PRAISE works wonders. Always applaud The LITTLE THINGS and the bigger things will follow.**
15. **Every dance is a FIVE-MINUTE RELATIONSHIP. If someone can't complete one whole dance without criticizing, it's highly probable that when the music stops, the criticism won't.**
16. **We frequently judge others, not by who they are, but by who WE are when we are with them. Make your partner FEEL WONDERFUL.**

NOTES FROM ALL AROUND

ANSHEI SHALOM – DELRAY BEACH – IRA WEISBURD WORKSHOP

Folk Dancing takes place every Wednesday at Temple Anshei Shalom, Delray Beach, from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ira Weisburd will give a special workshop on March 16, 2016, from 10:30 am to 12 noon. For information call or email Ricki Soltan at 561.499.8490.... Rickisoltan@gmail.com



**From Carla Powers- In January I had the pleasure to visit and dance with my (mostly) snowbird friends from Long Island, NY. On Friday we danced with the Balkan by the Beach group led by Janet Higgs and Robin Brigaerts and on Saturday with Ira Weisburd's Margate group. There we had yet another celebration for my friend, Betty Yoelson's 100th birthday (the third one I believe) where she was being honored by the City of Margate. It was a wonderful party and I enjoyed seeing so many dancers from my former Long Island folkdance group.*

SHARPES ASSEMBLY by CATIE GEIST

Please add the Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance Weekend to your FFDC calendar. It will be held on October 14-16 at the historic Kenilworth Lodge (100 years old this year) in Sebring, FL. Our guest teacher and caller will be Scott Higgs from Philadelphia, PA. And the music all weekend will be played by Full Circle from Jacksonville, FL. More details will follow in a few months. Thanks, Catie Condran Geist (321-427-3587)



SAVE THE DATE!

April 2, 2016

**Spring Fling
and
Orlando 45th Anniversary
Celebration**

FFDC and OIFDC

**Whirl and Twirl
Square Dance Hall**

**6949 Venture Circle,
Orlando, FL**

AS THE OPANCI HOP STEP STEP BY TIFFANY TEARDROP



(Editor's Note: Kathie Aagaard was cleaning out a drawer and found this! This continuing story was written in 1988 and the installments continued monthly in the newsletter. No one knew who wrote it, but it was lots of fun making guesses. Some of us finally found out, but I'm not telling now either. For those who remember and want to smile, and for those who missed it first time around, I'm retyping it (no computers in those days) and here is the sixth chapter.

In our last installment, gorgeous Alex Arkan had been kidnapped in Bulgaria and Ethel Ann was riding in a car with none other than the VOICE who was about to tell all.

"My name is Richard Racenica. I'm with the AFF." Said the voice.

"What's the AFF?" asked Ethel Ann.

"It stands for the Association for Freedom in Folkdancing. Your husband Alex is one of our agents. He's here in Bulgaria on a Secret Mission to retrieve some valuable information on the nature of folkdancing. Those men who kidnapped him are with the SEP. You can tell an SEP man a mile away; they always wear gray shirts with narrow gray ties."

"What's SEP?" interrupted Ethel Ann.

"Society for Ethnic Purity. They are very anxious to get their hands on the same information so that they can destroy it. They fear it would go against everything they've ever preached."

"I don't quite understand," said Ethel Ann.

"We have reason to believe that this information would provide documentation to prove that certain dances were

not meant to be done in segregated lines..."

"You mean..." cut in Ethel Ann.

"Exactly! Men and women dancing together...holding hands in the same line, even in the tiniest of villages."

Ethel Ann gasped.

"Furthermore, we have reason to believe that the women's styling may actually be just as flashy as the men's and that the people who created these dances in the first place don't really care who dances with what style as long as everyone has fun."

"Oh, wow!" breathed Ethel Ann.

"Yes," said Richard. "I'm sure you can see the repercussions this information could have for the SEP if it were made known to the general public."

"But did Alex have this information yet? We've only been here two days. I don't know when he could have got it."

Richard chose not to tell Ethel Ann about the night in Lost Wages. He figured she and Alex had enough trouble ahead of

them without bringing that subject up. He said, "I don't know if he had it yet or not. What matters is that the SEP thinks he has it. That's why they kidnapped him."

"What will they do to him?" asked Ethel Ann.

"First they'll search him and interrogate him. If that proves fruitless, which I'm sure it will, knowing Alex, they'll TORTURE him."

"What kind of torture? Asked Ethel Ann weakly.

(Continued on page 20)



AS THE OPANCI HOP STEP STEP (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 19)

"Well, first they'll probably force him to do ethnically asymmetrical dances for a 24 hour period. Every time he makes a mistake and does something symmetrical, the person in line behind him will stomp on his toes."

Ethel Ann was beginning to feel sick.

"Don't worry," said Richard, "Alex has had special training in Ethnic Asymmetry. I'm sure he will survive. It's the next phases of torture that can be Brutal. Are you sure you want to hear about them?"

"Yes," whispered Ethel Ann.

"They'll force him to listen to 48 hours of Folkdance Announcements, and if that doesn't break him, they'll tie him to a chair, force him to watch reruns of Gilligan's Island and eat artificially flavored snack cakes."

Ethel Ann fainted. When she came to, Richard said, "Don't worry, Ethel Ann. Alex will be all right. He has Protection."

"What kind of protection?"

I'm not at liberty to disclose that at this time, but I can assure you, he will be all right. He's very resourceful. I do know he loves you. He didn't want you involved in this; that's why he never told you about it. But he wanted you with him. He couldn't stand the thought of being without you. Right now we HAVE to get you out of here. Alex would never forgive me or himself if anything happened to you. Here's the airport. We've got five minutes to get to the plane."

Well, Fellow Folkdancers, this is indeed SERIOUS. Will Ethel Ann make it safely out of Bulgaria? Will Alex survive the Torture? What kind of protection DOES he have? If he really loved Ethel Ann, WHY would he risk bringing her with him on a Dangerous mission? Don't miss our next exciting installment, and remember, don't talk while someone is teaching a dance, even if you already know the dance. It's not nice!

I remain yours faithfully, Tiffany Tear-drop

EVENTS

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

March 18—**San Antonio Folk Dance Festival**, San Antonio, TX
March 18—**Chicago Spring Festival**, Chicago, IL
March 18—**Spring Swedish Music and Dance Weekend**, Dodgeville, Wisconsin
March 18—**Space Coast Scottish Country Dancers Spring Fling**, Cocoa Beach, FL
March 31—**Kochavim Israeli Dance Camp**, Wimberly, Texas
April 01—**Spring Oak Ridge Folk Dancers Workshop**, Knoxville, TN
April 01—, **Playford Ball Weekend**, Nashville, Tennessee
April 02—**Spring Fling / Orlando 45th Anniversary Celebration**, FFDC and OIFDC, Orlando, FL,
April 29—**Lyrids Folk Dance Festival**, Barnaby, BC, Canada
April 15—**New England Folk Festival**, Mansfield, Mass.
April 17—**World Fest at Silver dollar City**, Branson, MO
April 22—**Lyrids Folk Dance Festival**, Barnaby, BC, Canada
April 29—**English Country Dance Weekend**, Dodgeville, WI
May 05—**Festival of Nations**, St. Paul, MN
May 13—**Springdances Northwest**, Seabeck, Washington
May 14—**Mayfair Ball**, Lake Helen, Florida
May 20—**Ontario Folk Dance Camp**, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
May 27—**Florida Folk Festival**, White Springs, FL
May 27—**Northwest Folklife Festival**, Seattle, WA
May 27—**California Statewide Folk Dance Festival**, Albany, CA
June 2—**Beloit June Camp**, Beloit, WI

FOLK DANCE TOURS

For **Tours and Cruises with Yves Moreau**, see www.folkdancecruise.com or contact info@bourquemoreau.com or 450-659-9271.

For **Dance on the Water Folk Tours**, see <http://folkdanceonthewater.org/> or contact David and Marija Hillis at folkdance-onthewater@gmail.com or 510-459-0092 .

For **Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis**, see <http://www.moisidis-dance.gr/en/> 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.

For **Jim Gold Folk Tours**, see <http://www.jimgold.com/folkTours.htm> or contact Jim Gold at jimgold@jimgold.com or 201-836-0362.

For **Tours with Zeljko Jergen**, contact Fusae Senzaki Carroll at fusaec@aol.com or 916-798-4675

For folk dance tours organized by **Goran Alachki (a premier accordion player)**, see www.alachki-tour.com or contact David Golber, dgolber@aol.com, 781-396-2323. A tour to Macedonia is upcoming in May 2016.

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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