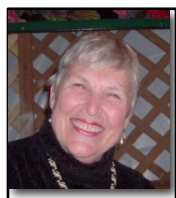




President's Message



OK folks! Camp is just around the corner – here are important details:

- Dates: ONE MORE TIME! January 19-22, Friday – Monday. It is not too late to register.
- Address: Clarion Hotel, 3835 McCoy Road, Orlando, FL 32812. If for any reason you are lost, call 407-845-0900. (See below for directions.)

- Hotel check in time: 3 pm. Check in at the hotel desk. If you registered for camp, you are pre-paid. Our Camp Registration desk will be open by 4 pm at the latest – it will be near the dance room (St. Martin). You may come a day early, or stay a day late, for the same group price we are getting if you want to have a little “get-a-way” time.

- Dinner: On your own. The hotel has a very nice restaurant and is well priced if you don't want to go somewhere else.

- The Friday dance party will begin at 7 pm. You can register as you go into dance.

- Yes, we are dancing on Monday until noon. It will be a review, but without the taping – much more fun!

- CDs and DVDs: The teachers are making a data disc which will include music files and video files of their dances plus dance notation. It will be an 'all in one' and for sale for \$45. Please bring cash for this, as checks are hard to cash for them. This worked well last year, and we hope you will take advantage of it this year as well.

- Breakfast : 7-10 am, but warm-ups will be at 8:45, so eat a little early! A full schedule will be given to you at registration. However, for those of you who are interested (only) in the set dancing, it will be on Saturday, directly after the meeting at 1 pm.

- Non-dancing stuff: There is a pool and a work-out room. Coffee in the rooms. Wi-Fi.

- Directions - Gary provided these, but we recommend you use your GPS also:

>From the Airport - Head North on S Access Rd Jeff Fuqua Blvd. Use the 2nd from the right lane to turn slightly left onto S Semoran Blvd. Use the right lane to take the ramp onto FL-528 W FL-528 Toll W. Take exit 9 for Tradeport Dr Conway Rd. Turn Left onto Conway Rd Tradeport Dr. Turn right at the 1st cross street onto McCoy Rd. Destination will be on your right.

>From I4, get off at Sand Lake Road going east; turns into McCoy to 3835.

>From 436 going south, right on Frontage Road. Turns into McCoy to 3835 OR get on Conway south to Right on McCoy.

>From 528 from East, Exit 9; from west exit 8, left on Tradeport Drive, left on McCoy. 3835 to your right very soon.

>From North or south on Florida Turnpike go to 528 East to Exit 8, left on Tradeport, left on McCoy, etc.

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Editor's Note: It doesn't seem like I can put out a short newsletter – once again – lots of happenings. Enjoy!

And yes, it looks different, doesn't it! Vicki Kulifay has had to switch to a different publishing software, so we are experimenting with a new look and feel. Stay tuned...it will continue to morph.

The Last Dance...Ernesto Baizan

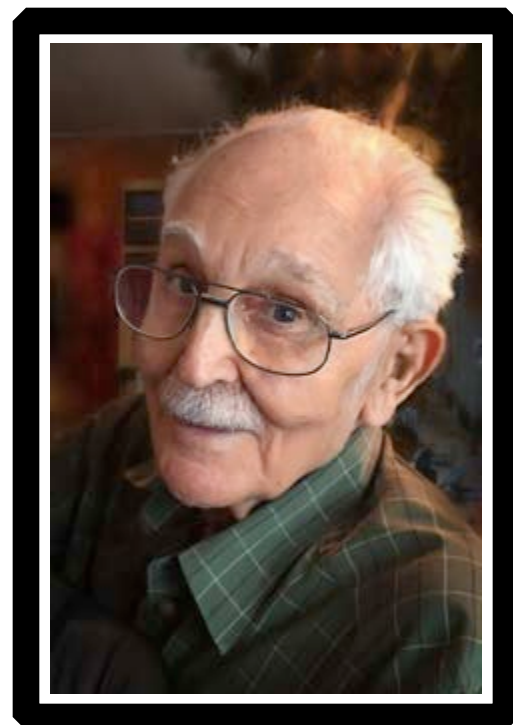
Ernesto settled into his final siesta October 13, 2017. He was born in Cuba on March 20 1927, the youngest of 4 siblings, to Manuel Baizan and Genoveva Garcia, natives of Spain, and immigrated with the family to Molins de Rei, Spain, when Ernesto was a toddler. After his obligatory military service in the Spanish army as a lieutenant in Melilla, N. Africa, Ernesto and brother Gabriel surreptitiously crossed the Pyrenees into France, surfacing in Paris where they got by as tour guides and studied forestry at the Sorbonne. The brothers' next move was to Havana, Cuba, where their small start selling paint products imported from Houston evolved in a few years into a successful manufacturing enterprise.

In 1954 Ernesto married Judith Williams, a lively, Spanish-speaking American would-be commercial photographer. In 1960, the family, now including sons Hansen, Daemon, and Remy, overstayed a Michigan vacation because of broken diplomatic relations and Cuban political uncertainty. By the mid-60s, settled in Houston and again working together, Ernesto and his brother had a flourishing business, Packaging Service, and the family now included two daughters, Roxana, and Cory. Ernesto moved the family to Tampa in 1971 and built another successful operation, Sol Chem Packagers, which provided a comfortable living for the next couple of decades until he chose to retire. His life-long dedication to money making steered him into several profitable real estate investments, but his major interest became the stock market, which he pursued with ferocious intensity

and quite respectable returns throughout his remaining days.

Ernesto was a simple soul whose life was his own unique design of effort, love, dance, and song. He was a family man, dedicated to his wife and children. He delighted in vanquishing a chess, tennis, or ping pong opponent, if possible with a dramatic unreturnable smash. His interest in yard work famously waned as he spent more and more time dancing and entertaining folklorists and musicians from all corners of the globe at the big house in the Palma Ceia neighborhood. He would dance anywhere if music inspired him, and over their 63 years together, Ernesto and Judith danced countless paso dobles, tangos, waltzes, Swedish polskas, and more. He sang with friends at parties, with table side entertainers in restaurants, and at least once with a wedding mariachi. He knew few of the words but all of the tunes, and when his voice gave out he just sang under his breath the rest of his years.

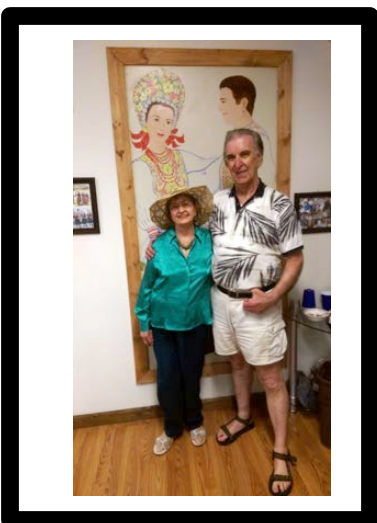
Ernesto is survived by his wife, Judith, all of his sons and daughters, 11 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren, his brother Manuel and sister Joana Grau in Barcelona, and brother Gabriel in Houston. He requested that his remains be donated as a training tool for aspiring medical students. A Celebration of Ernesto's Life will be held Dec 28, 4 to 7pm at Kate Jackson Center, 821 S Rome, in Tampa. A program of singing and dancing will begin around 5:30. Everyone is encouraged to bring or send their written thoughts and Ernesto stories for a Memory Chest.



Editor's Note

Again, another beloved dancer has left us. Everyone knew Ernesto – a kind, considerate, happy, fabulous dancer. He was the best husband, the best dad ever. He had been failing for quite some time, but we were hoping against all hope that he would never go.

The Last Dance...Emily Brozek



Emilie S. Matejka-Brozek-Beloved mother and grand mother. 11/28/28-09/08/17. She was preceded in death by her first husband Theodore A Matejka 1981, her second husband Bernard Brozek 1990 and sister. She is survived by two sons, two daughters and 7 grandchildren.

Emilie was born and raised in New York City, knowing the hardships of the Great Depression along with her parents and older sister.

Emilie persevered through childhood illnesses to become a beautiful, enchanting, energetic and motivated young woman. After graduating from high school, Emilie worked at a New York Hospital and Cornell University as a pediatric research assistant and lab technician while pursuing her college courses in the evenings, but gave up her career to be a stay at home mother. After her husband died, Emilie decided to return to college to

complete her education and then worked at Ormond Hospital on Atlantic Blvd for several years in medical transcription and as an administrative assistant. After the passing of her second husband, she devoted her life to her grandchildren who brought her much joy throughout her remaining years.

Additionally Emilie had several hobbies--first and

Continued on Page 3

Fall Fling Survives Hurricane by John Daly



Fall Fling brought a roomful of dancers from all over to enjoy a day of request dancing, good food, and

good company.

Fall Fling 2016 was (literally) blown out by Hurricane Matthew because there was no power in the venue. This year, Hurricane Irma was a little too early, and power was restored in time for the Fling. Happily, the dancers were not deterred by the organizer's warning to bring wading boots, and indeed we could not have asked for a better day.

Julieta made the suggestion that we might consider starting earlier on Saturday next year, and just not do the Sunday morning gathering. If you have thoughts about that, drop a line to John Daly at ffdc@dalypreservation.com.

Thanks to the dancers of South Brevard who put together a great weekend.



Thanks to the owners of the quilts that we hung around the rooms, and thanks to the Gainesville crew who helped us take them down and fold them on Sunday morning.



Wonder Woman – Fanny – without her the Fall Ball would have a hard time!



The Last Dance...Emily Brozek (continued)

Continued from Page 2

foremost was a lifelong love of folk dancing and she was quite active in several different organizations for over 30 years until health problems no longer allowed her to do so. She served as a docent at the Daytona Museum of Arts and sciences, she was an avid bike rider on the beach, she enjoyed traveling, she was a fan of professional baseball and Jai Alai. She loved all types of music, gymnastics, ice skating and never missed watching the

Olympic Games. Emilie helped family and friends anyway she could. Emilie was one of a kind-a tireless and selfless person who will be truly missed by all those who knew her and loved her. Donations in her name can be made to the American Red Cross for all the hurricane victims or the American Heart Association.

Addendum by Pat Henderson: Emilie was an avid folk dancer most of her life. She danced with the Daytona group with Julius and also with our Orlando group since she had a daughter living in the Orlando area. She was part of

the Orlando performing group in the 1980s-2000s and was our ambassador when we were dancing the Oktoberfests. She would use her charm to get us extra benefits. She was always dressed to a tee with beautiful folk dance outfits and she would never tell us her age. She only came to dance in recent years when Bob Monaghan from NJ was visiting (see photo of their last visit two years ago). She was a beautiful dancer and will be missed by those of us who knew her.

Group Updates...Venues, Days, and Other Things



Sarasota Grapeviners Moving

The Grapeviners are moving to a new dance studio beginning Monday, November 13—the time will change—we will be dancing from 7:15 to 9:45. We will be dancing on Mondays (at least) while the Bayfront is undergoing renovations.

Here are the details: Sara Dance Center, 5000 Fruitville Road, Approximately 2 miles west of 75 on the south side of the street—past Honore. The studio is in a strip mall and has a big parking lot—you can park anywhere.

Gainesville Moves by Julieta Brambila

The Gainesville International Folk Dancers (GIFD) have moved their dance day and location to Thursdays from 7 to 10 pm at the Rosa B. Williams Recreation Center located at 524 NW 1st St., Gainesville, FL 332601. The City of Gainesville requires a \$5 fee per attendee. Our calendar is at www.gifd.org (click on "calendar"). Visit us on FaceBook at:

www.facebook.com/GainesvilleInternationalFolkDancers/

Here is a street view and a map of our new place:

The entrance has been painted recently and it looks like this:

We love the Mural Room:

But we also have the Percussion Room and the Ballroom, the second of which is here illustrated:

New Israeli Group by Jeana Kibel

Jeana Kibel, semi-retired from the VA, recently moved to New Port Richey, where she has started a new Israeli dance group. Her dance class meets every Tuesday from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at the Gulf Harbors Woodlands Clubhouse, 3936 Marine Parkway, New Port Richey, FL 34652. There's no charge. Anyone interested can call her for more info at 727-254-0544. Jeana's group used to meet in Largo. So if you're up there – go!



Special Days

Karmiel USA by Terry Abrahams

As you all know, I attend only 3 "big" camps a year. I go to our dance camp, the big contra Snow Ball and Karmiel USA, an Israeli Dance Camp run by Ruthy Slann (whom we all know when she comes to our camp). Until 3 years ago, this camp was co-run by Dany Ben Shalom, but the TSA got him and won't let him back into the states. But Ruthy continues to run an excellent dance camp, suited just to the needs of those of us who attend. That means, only one, maybe two couple dances (many of us don't do couple dances, and Machol Miami spends at least ½ their time doing couple dances); she continues to remind us and teach wonderful old dances so that they aren't forgotten in the rash of new stuff. She doesn't hire a choreographer, so she (and Dany) can pick great dances from any and all choreographers instead of our learning only those from one choreographer). Her camp is also one of the friendliest – no snobs, no one pushing you out of line because you don't know the dance. She combines easy and difficult dances, giving us all what we need. She even has a beginner session, which helps spouses coming in. So we all live on this Mountain in NC for three days, eat better than at home, dance our hearts out and make new friends, renewing the old. You might want to consider this camp next year.



Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance by Catie Condran Geist



The Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance weekend was held in Cocoa Beach on October 13-15, 2017, at the Cocoa Beach Recreation Center. The guest teacher and caller was Beverly Francis from Metuchen, NJ, and she called interesting and lovely dances that went along with the two themes honoring Jane Austen (2017 is 200 years since her death) and Patrick

(Pat) Shaw (2017 is 100 years since his birth). The music was skillfully and beautifully played by Full Circle from Jacksonville, FL (Veronica and Ted Lane). The gym was transformed into a beautiful ballroom by the decorating committee who covered all of the walls with quilts and murals and silhouettes of historic-looking English country

dancers. There was a reception after the Friday evening dance and another "supper" after the Saturday evening Ball and all kinds of delectable and delicious finger foods and desserts were served. There were 60 dancers from all parts of Florida, plus a dancer from Missouri and a dancer from Georgia. There were also dancers who spend part of the year in another state (KY, MN, NC, and NY) and part of the year in Florida. Some of the dancers are also members of the FFDC (including Bill Byars, Ruth Ann Fay, Catie Condran Geist, Mary

Jean Linn, Delores Lustig, Bernice Roth, and Fannie Salerno). The host hotel was La Quinta on A1A which is very close to the Cocoa Beach Recreation Center. I hope you will consider joining us next year on October 12-14, 2018 at the same location! I can be reached at catiegeist@att.net.



Special Days (continued)

Serbfest 2017 by Terry Abrahams

St. Petka Serbian Orthodox Church does a Serbfest every year, and this was a really good one. Money earned at this fest continues to support the building of their new church, which is looking great! The stage is full of performances – from children (Folklore Dance Group Serbian Crown) to adults, this year from The Folklore Dance Group Balkan of Miami and Folklore Dance

Group Kalemegdan of Los Angeles, CA. The children were adorable and it's wonderful to see a culture continue to stay alive. A band was there – the Serbian Ethno Music Band – Bistra Vodka from Clearwater, and we did some dancing while they were playing. As per usual, food was abundant and good, and if you wanted to spend money there was "stuff" to buy from

Serbia, raffles and a kids corner. It's quite interesting to go to this – mostly people were speaking Serbian, it's a very large community, and it was as close to Serbia as you could get in the US. Pat, Bobby and I loved it on Saturday, don't know if others went other days – The fest is three days long. Try to not miss it next year.



Travel

Scotland and Chasing Mary Queen of Scots by Pat Henderson

Last fall, I found out in the same week that Clan Henderson Society and Jim Gold were both planning a tour of Scotland this August. I thought a moment about which one to join and decided to join the Jim Gold tour because of my love for folk dancing. This decision was enhanced when I realized that I could join the CHS on some events of their tour also. Since my family name is Henderson (I did not change my name when I married) and I have been interested in tracing the Hendersons as far back as possible, I saw the trip as a chance to walk in the steps of my ancestors. Little did I know that I would see several Henderson areas, but I also followed in the footsteps of Mary Queen of Scots also known as Mary Stuart and Mary I. On our second night of our tour, we were dancing in the courtyard of the Linlithgow Castle where she

was born in 1542. It was a ceilidh called the Scotch Hop and there were several generations of people dancing. There was a caller who walked through each dance and a live band played the music. Even my daughter and travel companion, Julie Quibodeaux, danced most of the dances. It was an enchanting evening. The next day we toured the Edinburgh Castle and were in the room where Mary gave birth to James (VI of Scotland and I of England). A couple of days later, we were in the Sterling Castle where Mary was crowned Queen in 1543 since Sterling was the capital before Edinburgh. We were in her chamber. After the end of the Jim Gold tour, which was led by Richard Schmidt, I was able to tour the Fordell Castle with the Clan Henderson Society. The

Continued on Page 7

Scotland and Chasing Mary Queen of Scots (continued)

Continued from Page 6

Hendersons lived there hundreds of years ago and Oliver Cromwell destroyed a lot of it and it lay vacant for over 200 years. It was eventually rebuilt and today is privately owned. Our clan had a special invitation for a tour of the castle on August 19 and we were in the small bedroom where Mary hid out until she left for England. She was Catholic at a time when Scotland was turning Protestant so she was being hunted. Since Elizabeth I was her cousin, she thought she was in line for the throne so she fled to England and was later tried for



The Old Course in St. Andrews

walked from the castle onto the field and it will be a moment my daughter and I will always remember. There was very little dancing with the tour but we did go to one Scottish Country Dance session and Julie and I went to another ceilidh our final night in Scotland in Edinburgh. The day before we left, I researched my family and found some clues and found a mistake on Ancestry.com! My Henderson ancestor



Linlithgow Castle

treason and beheaded. Aside from hearing so much about Mary Queen of Scots, I enjoyed seeing the country from the lowlands to the highlands. We saw the first golf course from over 600 years ago in St. Andrews. It is still being used and we walked on parts of it. My favorite experiences of the trip were seeing the Glasgow Botanic Garden and walking in with the Henderson Clan at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It was a show of bands from all over the world with dance groups to dance to their music. It was held right outside the Edinburgh Castle which is in the middle of downtown. We



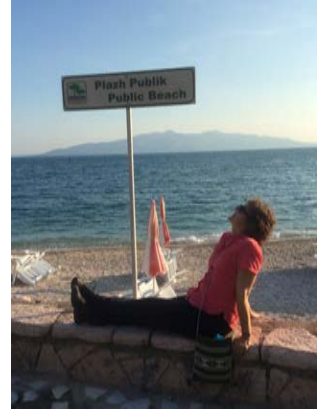
Henderson of Fordell Castle

who came to the colonies was Matthew in the mid-1750s to Delaware and then he lived in western Pennsylvania. His grandfather was John, not Robert so I will send in my correction. In closing, I would say that I am very impressed with the beauty of the country of my ancestors. Also, it was not your typical Jim Gold tour in that there were only six of us including Richard. There is another trip scheduled next September which should be a beautiful time to go.



Edinburgh Castle

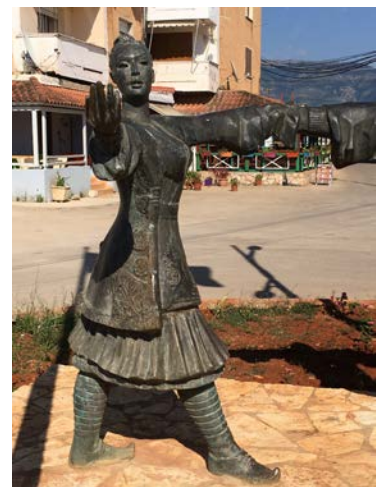
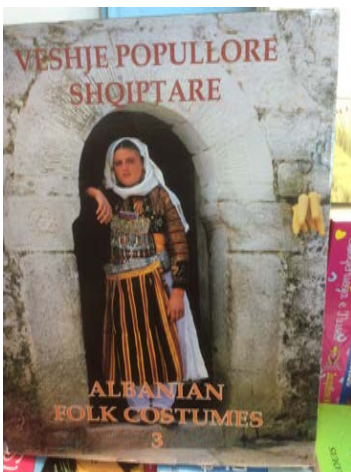
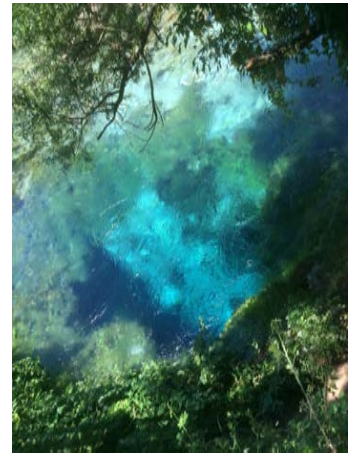
Travel (continued)



Albania by Kelly Fagan



Enchanting...earthy....soulful...rugged
Albania.....dancing with Yves and France
Moreau, Steve and Susan
Kotansky....soaking in the smells, sights,
pulse of seaside Sarande....playing in the
saline perfect sea...castles...ancient
churches....flora.....creatures...the
beautiful, warm hospitality of the
Albanian people....and always.....surprises



Club Reports In

Gainesville by Joyce Dewsbury

ARTWALK took place on September 29, 2017 and the Gainesville International Folk Dancers participated. Our dance group and the contra dancers were at the Rosa B. Williams Center and each group did a half hour session of teaching a dance and then doing the dance. We took turns over a two hour period so that the members of each group could experience the two types of dance. It was a lot of fun to do contra dancing again and also meet the other dancers or in some cases greet old friends. As a result at least one of the dancers with the contra group is now joining us on Thursday evenings for international folk dancing.

Julieta Brambila and Diane Fanara made the trek down to Melbourne to attend FALL FLING. They had a great time and thanks is extended to John Daly for again hosting this annual event.

Last week we danced in the smaller room with the mirrors which has a floating wood floor. We enjoyed dancing there, and I know that our respective legs and feet felt good the next day.

OIFDC by Pat Henderson

Our club had a very slow start of the season which started September 6 with the category 5 Hurricane Irma looming. Fortunately, all our members made it through the storm with minor damages but a whole lot of clean up. Bobby and I were among the lucky ones who never lost power and we slept through the whole thing!

When we resumed dance after the storm on September 20, we started our alphabetical game with the names of the dances so it was "A" night. We featured dances starting with the letter A and the next week was B, etc. It has proven to be a lot of fun as we do dances that we haven't done in awhile but still know very well. Since we are an all-request group, it can become some the same dances requested over and over every week. There is still room for plenty of requests so we haven't reached a letter yet where we could dance the whole night on one letter.

Kelly Fagan was the lead in a play at the Breakthrough Theater for three weekends in September and October. It was: Class of '59: Ten Year Reunion and was a musical with songs from the 50s and 60s. Several folk dancers from our group and from out of town enjoyed it. My favorite songs were: Wedding Bell Blues and Unchained Melody.

Those traveling since the last article were: Gary Berke returned from spending the summer with his sister at the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge. Nicki Wise who went to Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, especially liked Florence. Phyllis Dammer went on the Oasis of the Seas to the Western Caribbean with her husband, Ed. Ruth Ann Fay and Craig Thomas went to Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Paris on the Euro Rail. They saw the Bayeux Tapestry and as many cathedrals and concerts as they could. My daughter and I went on the Jim Gold trip to Scotland. See my article elsewhere in the newsletter. Then Bobby and I went to Karmiel USA in Highlands, NC for an Israeli dance workshop. Other FFDC members attending were Terry Abrahams, Donna Young and Bonnie Olson. Caroline Lanker spent two and a half months in California and Oregon and attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp while she was there.

We had some birthdays in October and celebrated on October 4 and 11. The party was for Bobby on October 4 and on October 11, it was for Gary Berke and Ruth Ann Fay who both reached their next milestone within days of each other. Our next party will be the Halloween Party on October 25. Our Holiday Party will be Wednesday, December 13, in the clubhouse of Nicki's condo in Winter Park. Check the calendar for details.

Club Reports In (continued)

Sarasota by

David Bowie got it right..... “ch ch ch ch changes, turn and face the strange”. Change of season, change of dance day, dance location and dance time. But first-- a big thank you to Delores, Sergio, Yifat, Varda, Lynda and Barbara for all their efforts during the summer to keep the Grapeviners running-- and dancing-- smoothly. Summer even brought the addition of two new dancers who have been dancing regularly. Many trips were enjoyed during the summer and we hiked, biked, “eclipsed”, danced, drank awesome coffee(me) and ate copious amounts of ice cream(me again!).

The ch-ch change of season brought Andi and new dances back to the Grapeviners. Our first two new dances were E Shukar Romnji and Ec Ec-- fun to dance and fun to say. October’s dance ender Nyandolo was beautiful and has been my earworm for weeks. I am happy that fall continues to be a time for learning-- even if there are no desks or backpacks in my “classroom”.

Ch ch change number two is a big one! Due to renovations at the Bayfront Center, the Grapeviners will be changing the location as well as the day and time of our weekly dances. We will now be dancing on Mondays from 7:15pm-9:45pm at the Sara Dance 5000 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota. Our new schedule will start on Monday 11/13/17. We are looking forward to the floating wood dance floor! The renovations at the Bayfront Center are scheduled to take 8-12 weeks. We’ll see.....

We are excited to welcome back more and more snowbirds in the weeks to come. We hope most will have returned in time for our annual Snowball-- scheduled for 2/12/18. Yup, that’s 2018 already! Big thanks again go out to Sergio for maintaining and updating the Grapeviners’ website. More links to dances continue to be added and any further changes to our dance schedule will be listed on our website, www.ifdsarasota.webs.com.

While the day, time and place of our dance may change-- maybe even several times-- what doesn’t change is the sense of community we bring to-- and take from-- our weekly meetings. Even though I may be unsure of politics, world events and the weather(thanks Harvey, Irma and Maria-- and even shades of Charley) I am always grateful to “ turn and face the strange” with the dancers that hold me up and move me forward. I hope I do the same in return.

Tampa by Terry Abrahams

We miss Ernesto...

Andy Pollock Keeps Us On Our Toes

I put up a video of Ludo Mlado as danced at camp, a great simple dance that some of the out of state people at camp knew but that most of us did not. <https://youtu.be/LhismTzkYM4>

Abuse of the Ego by Andy Pollock



A dancer's ego can help them but it can also hurt them.

Many years ago I drove up from Pawtucket RI to MIT in Cambridge, MA for an evening workshop during the week. I had to stay late at work as some problem arose right at the end of the day that needed attention. I barely got there in time to change shoes before the start of the workshop. Many of you never got a chance to take a class with Pece Atanosovski but those who have, know that he moves along. I really needed a few minutes before the class to unwind. I didn't get them and I didn't do well. To top it off I saw this 2nd year dancer (OK she was very talented and had done about 6 years of Israeli but still I had about 7 years of head-start at Int.) who was getting everything perfectly. My pride was wounded. The next week there was another workshop at MIT. This time I made sure that I got there early and concentrated hard. The same 2d year dancer was still asking questions long after I had the dance down. I consider this an example of putting one's ego to good use.

Now let's look at the opposite case. I have lately found myself thinking about some of the dances that I have been taught but never do. In some cases these are dances that I really don't like much. However, in other cases I pretended to myself that I didn't like the dance because I didn't have it down. There was some little problem with executing a step or with the sequence that I easily could have solved with 10 minutes work. Rather than do that I had lied to myself to protect my ego, and pretended that I didn't like the dance. This is something that a lot of dancers do (names at end of newsletter- just kidding!). Often I've seen people suddenly like a dance that they always said they did not, once they understood the step that was giving them trouble. It can be as little a thing as knowing that a step starts with a hop even though all the subsequent repetitions start with a step. So next time you tell yourself that you don't like a dance, consider whether you really don't like it or if you just need to spend more time learning it.

By now you know that Tampa has lost Ernesto. He was one of the smoothest leads I have ever seen. We will miss him.

How It All Began

Jim Gold's Beginnings

Editor's Note: When writing last month's issue, I focused a few articles on choreography. But when interviewing Jim for that, his history of himself dancing was also quite interesting to me. I've put a couple of these "biographies" in the newsletter about other people, and meant to continue with the idea. This article will start that possibility again. If you would like to be spot-lighted – why and when you started folk dancing – I'd love to hear from you.



When I was 24 yrs old, I worked as a waiter in a hotel in New York's Adirondack Mountains. At that time, I never danced. One night I peeked in to a folk dance evening that

Fritzi Gerber was leading. She was dressed in a folk dance outfit and made quite a picture. There were about 100 people in the room, noisily milling about. Suddenly, she moved to the middle of the room, raised her hand, and in about 5 seconds, the room became totally quiet and still. I was shocked and amazed. What did this woman just do? How did she have this power to so quickly silence this, unruly mob? Then Fritzi told

everyone to form a circle, and she began teaching her first dance. (Which I believe was Ersko Kolo from Serbia.) I also stepped into the circle. At the end of the class, Fritzi said she was teaching folk dancing every afternoon in the clubhouse at the edge of the lake. I decided, why not give it a try. After I finished waiting tables at lunch, I went down to the lake. Fritzi taught Sestorka (also from Serbia). It was the first dance I actually ever learned. I had never heard such exciting and beautiful music before. I ended up totally thrilled. That afternoon class began a process that changed my life.

After that summer of folk dancing, I returned to my apartment in New York's Greenwich Village. I searched out folk dancing, and found all kinds everywhere. I started going to classes. Coming from a formal classical music background (I

played violin), I just loved the informality of the folk dance scene, it's acceptance of almost anyone who tried to dance, no matter how bad, unskilled, or timid they were. Plus the music was so beautiful and exciting! I couldn't resist.

So three or four times a week, I went dancing wherever I could find it. Polish, Ukrainian, Israeli, International, whatever. I loved the music, and I loved to improvise. This was also true when I improvised while dancing the Hambo at International House in New York, and the teacher, Marianne Hermann, threw me off the dance floor, because I was going in the wrong direction, knocking off people and couples as we moving in the opposite direction around the room! I

Continued on Page 12

Jim Gold's Beginnings (continued)

Continued from Page 11

remember wondering why she would bother doing that. After all, I was just making up steps, and not bothering or hurting anyone, and careful not to bump into others as I and my partner traveled in the opposite direction around the room. But stop me she did. That was my first public attempt at improvising.

Several years before this, I had given up violin, and learned how to play guitar and sing folk songs. I also started taking classical and flamenco guitar lessons. (Teaching and giving concerts on classical and folk guitar later became my career for about 15 years.) I also played guitar for an Israeli folk dance performing group called Aviv. (Peter Yarrow later took my place.) It's lead dancer was Sonny Newman. When Aviv disbanded, Sonny decided to open a folk dance studio on 23rd Street in Manhattan. This second floor studio soon became a mecca for excited new folk dancers (who wanted to escape from the Herman's stilted method of teaching.) I learned many folk dances at Sonny's.

At the time, I worked as a social director in a Catskill Mountain Hotel called Chaits. One of my duties was teaching folk dancing. By then, I knew about 10 dances and taught them all. Although I didn't realize it at the time, that summer was the beginning of my teaching career. After I got married, we decided to buy a house and moved from Greenwich Village to Teaneck, NJ. The only class I knew around Teaneck and in the north Jersey area was one given

in nearby Hackensack by Ken Spear. My wife and I went to his class, but it so happened that that night Kenny was sick and the class was cancelled. Then one of the dancers said to me, "Hey, Jim, you taught dancing this summer, you've got some records at home. Why not go get them, bring them down, so we can dance?" I agreed. I went home, got the records and ran the class. Soon after that Ken Spear decided to give up the class. So I was "elected" to take it over. Thus I began my first folk dance teaching class.

After a year of teaching, I realized I didn't know very much. Then a pivotal event took place. I went dancing in New York at 14th street. During the class, a new teacher named Kalman Magyar from Hungary came to the class. He told the class about the new Hungarian dance class he was starting at Hungary House uptown. Then he took one leap to demonstrate a dance. I said "Wow!" I want to leap like that. And I want to dance like that! So I attended his first classes.

Kalman had a teaching method which I just loved. Basically, he would put on the (Hungarian) music, stand in front of the class, and improvise steps. He would do this for two hours straight. He'd start easy, look around the room to see if everyone was getting the steps, then he'd add a more advanced movements, always checking the room to see how people were doing. If they got it, he'd stay with the (advanced) steps; if not, he'd put back to something simpler, until the people got it, then slowly move back to the advanced. Back and forth, back and forth he'd go,

always improvising, always watching. And during all this time he hardly said a word. I loved his (this) teaching method, which I dubbed the "Hungarian teaching method." (And it, based on improvisation, was, and is the method I eventually adopted and developed to teach my own folk dance classes.)

After I had given up my class in Hackensack, and after a couple of years dancing Hungarian dancing with Kalman (Al Matyo and I went drove into the city every week to attend his classes) as there was still no folk dance classes in Teaneck. So I started a group with 3 other teachers. We each taught one week a month. But the 3 others soon quit. I decided to continue. Although I was still earning my living by giving concerts, that was nevertheless the beginning of my folk dance teaching "career.")

In 1982 someone suggested that, since I had experience in Catskill mountain hotels working as a social director, that I organize and run (lead) a folk dance weekend. I agreed, did it, and about 100 attended! I was shocked and amazed as I realized I could potentially make a living out of this! Imagine, making a living out of folk dancing! But I already had experience making a living out of another "impossible business," namely playing classical and folk guitar. So I thought, why not? I'm ready for a new career anyway. Why not give folk dancing try. And at least, for now, I could simply add it to my guitar concerts.

And the rest is history...

Calendar, Events, and Tours

Look for more information on events, tours, and cruises on the calendar of the FFDC website: www.folkdance.org

Calendar

11/9/2017	Greek Festival	Daytona Beach, FL	http://stdemetriosdaytona.org/greek-fesitval/	St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
11/10/2017	Greek Festival	Tampa, FL	http://www.tampagreekfestival.com/	St. John Greek Orthodox Church
11/23/2017	Texas Folk Dance Camp	Bruceville, TX	http://www.tifd.org/	Texas International Folk Dancers
11/23/2017	Thanksgiving Family Camp	Swannanoa, NC	http://www.familydancecamp.com/	
11/24/2017	Annual Kolo Festival	San Francisco, CA	http://balkantunes.org/kolofestival	
12/23/2017	Machol Miami 2017 Lite	Aventura, FL	http://www.macholmiami.com/	
11/26/2017	Winter Dance Week	Brasstown, NC	http://www.folkschool.org/	John C. Campbell Folk School
11/26/2017	Christmas Country Dance School	Berea, KY	http://www.berea.edu/ccds	
01/12/2018	Orange Blossom Ball	South Daytona, FL	http://orangeblossomcontra.com/	
01/19/2018	Folk Ball Festival	Madison, WI	http://www.madfolkdance.org/folkball	Madison Folk Dance Club
01/19/2018	FFDC Florida Winter Folk Dance Workshop	Orlando, FL	http://www.folkdance.org/	Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.
01/26/2018	Florida Snow Ball	Gulfport, FL	http://www.floridasnowball.com/	Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance

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 folkdanceonthewater@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> or contact Sonia at sonia_dion@hotmail.com.

For Jim Gold Folk Tours, see <http://www.jimgold.com> 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

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!)

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2017-2018 FFDC Officers

President: Terry Abrahams
president@folkdance.org, 813-234-1231

Vice-President: Gary Benke
vicepres@folkdance.org

Secretary/Historian: Caroline Lanker
secretary@folkdance.org

Treasurer: John Daly
treasurer@folkdance.org

Historian: Caroline Lanker
historian@floridafolkdancer.org

Newsletter Editor: Terry Abrahams
editor@floridafolkdancer.org, 813-234-1231

Newsletter Publisher: Vicki Kulifay
publisher@floridafolkdance.org

Immediate Past President: Pat Henderson
407-492-3006

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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701 West Idlewild Avenue
Tampa, FL 33604