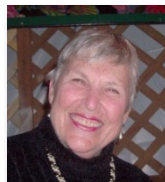




Prez Sez by Terry Abrahams

Remember when “zoom” used to be the word little kids used when playing with their cars? And the car would go zoom, zoom, zoom, all over the floor. Lots of words have changed meanings, lots of words have been added to our vocabulary, but Zoom is all the rage right now. And if it weren’t for that, folk dancers wouldn’t be having as much fun! This isn’t perfect, but it sure beats nothing, and except for Orlando, which is dancing (take care dancers), we’re living off Zoom times.



I saw answers to a letter Roo Lester wrote to all of us, that some people are dancing outside, being very careful, but having fun. BTW, the Israeli folk dancers in St. Pete have started meeting on Sundays outside now, and seem to be doing fine. Of course there are a gazillion zooms now, and I am doing both international and Israel in places I couldn’t have gone to. I especially enjoyed Pinewoods, which I’ve always wanted to go to, so there is an upside. I finally bought a camera/mic – and now everyone can see me and hear me, not that it matters this much, but I enjoy having it. Makes it a lot easier than the way I was doing it before with my cell phone.

I usually go to Karmiel USA for an Israeli Dance workshop, but of course it has been cancelled. However they are doing a virtual, and I'll be watching that! If you're interested, go to karmielusa.com. Ruthy Slann's camp, for those of you who remember Ruthy from our camp. She has a team of wonderful teachers, who will be adding to our list of new dances

My body isn’t moving much, due to the chemo pill I’m taking, but I’m enjoying watching and talking to friends, so that’s good enough for me. I see some of you at times, but there are so many now, we don’t necessarily bump into each other, but I think we’re all enjoying those moments when someone does our favorite dance, or we see someone from camp.

Speaking of camp (that was my segue)...I don’t feel the need to cancel, as February is a long way away. So, at the moment, we’re still planning for it, and looking forward to dancing with Jaap and his partner, who I hear

Continued on Page 2

Inside This Newsletter

President's Message.....	1
Passings	2
Last Dance - Marion Hoercher.....	2
Club Reports In	2
Orlando International Folk Dance Club.....	2
Gainesville Update.....	3
Tampa Trivia.....	5
The Villages Folk Dancers.....	6
FFDC Annual Camp	6
2021 Teacher's Bio's.....	6
Footnotes	7
Safety While Dancing Alone.....	7
Keeping Track of Large Numbers of New Dances.....	8
The History of Mayim Mayim and Japan!.....	9
Random Thoughts.....	9
Calendar, Events, and Tours	10
Calendar.....	10
Folk Dance Tours.....	11



Editor's Note: newsletter articles should be submitted using the "newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org" email address. Thank you Vicki

Prez Sez (continued)

Continued from Page 1

is even better than he is! He's looking forward to being back in Florida after many years- he was here in 1986! Can you believe it? That's more than many years – that's many many years. I'm sure we all look forward to seeing him after such a long hiatus and seeing each other as well.

Well, I hope you are all wearing your masks (there are so many cute ones out there), staying 6 feet away and washing your hands. The fencers' joke is that we are the perfect sport for coronavirus – we wear a mask and glove and if someone comes close to us we stab them.



Until next time...

Passings

Last Dance - Marion Hoercher



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Marion Hoercher, a long time Grapeviner, who passed away on July 28 at the age of 92. For many years, she was involved in dancing all over the world and luckily for us, made time to dance with the Grapeviners as well. She was always enthusiastic, had a bubbly personality and loved to dance. She leaves friends and wonderful memories for those who knew her.

Below is her daughter's address in case you would like to send a card of note with a personal message. Her daughter will save the messages and share them with her family—all 53 of them--when they are all together to celebrate her life.

Susan Hoercher
2522 Charlock Court
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Club Reports In

Orlando International Folk Dance Club By Pat Henderson

Save the date!!! Orlando International Folk Dance Club. Holiday Party:

Saturday, December 12, 11-6 pm at the Crystal Ballroom Dance Club, Casselberry.



Gainesville Update by Joyce Dewsbury



Well, GIFD are still not dancing although some might be dancing at home, reviewing dances, etc. So this is a photo montage mostly of a little history going back to 2017. During that year and several years before we danced at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville (UUGF) in their very nice social hall.

Here is a photo of us taken during the break (February 3). We had two visitors that evening. We always enjoy having visitors or new dancers.



This photo was taken in Arlene's backyard (February 13). She hosted a luncheon with Gary and Peg who visited Gainesville briefly. (Left to Right - Joyce D., Arlene, June, Peg, Gary). Gary and Peg have been traveling and living in Europe. Currently they are on a small boat winding their way over the water ways in the Netherlands and having a marvelous time. Gary does a number of very fine paintings and pen and ink drawings. We all envy them and their travels.

This photo was taken during one of our breaks. We always had a break time midway through our dance night when we socialized and had some yummy snacks. (February 25).



Here Gary leads a dance (April 29). It was one of his favorites and it was difficult.



Continued on Page 4

Gainesville Update (continued)

Continued from Page 3

We were invited to give a performance at the Civic Media Center (May 27) which Julieta organized. This was taken just before the performance.



Every once in a while when we could not dance at UUG we went to the Mennonite Center. It was a small but very nice space to dance. (June 2)

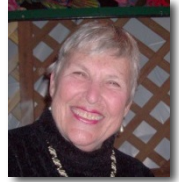


Lastly we have Joyce S. about to lead a dance at UUG. (August 12).



May everyone stay safe and well. And may we be back dancing together soon.

Tampa Trivia by Terry Abrahams



We're each trying to say something that is a little interesting...sorta...

Andi: I've been enjoying many Zoom sessions. My list of new dances has reached almost 40! And I'm sure there are more to come as there are more workshops on the calendar. In addition to folk dancing in my kitchen, I'm doing Jazzercise in the studio four days a week, eating out inside a restaurant occasionally, and visiting a friend at her house maintaining social distance, getting massages and hair cuts too. My new accomplishment has been to read an ebook for the very first time - I'd managed to avoid it until now!

Judith: I zoomed Pinewoods, saw most of it, and thought it was thrilling. I also "went" to East European Folklife Center. (EEFC.org, I think is the website.) They have done two near identical weeks, one first in Mendocino CA, and the second following very soon after, in for several years now, in Iroquois Springs, NY. I wrote a lengthy article about it after I attended last year's event. I had planned to go to it this year, but...the virtual was not nearly as much fun, especially as I didn't recognize very many of the dancers. I try to do Ira's Balkan Facebook event on Saturdays, and last week I did his first hour, and then went to the New England event 2 to 4 pm. Dancing alone is not very satisfying. I feel like I'm not doing anything very well, and I guess it's true! I know my balance has been off for some while. Other than that, life is exactly the same every day – I still walk, eat, sleep!

Gary: I'm not doing any dancing. My carpet is so soft it's like dancing on a mattress, and frankly, although I am the least social person at dancing, I miss the company, so it's just frustrating. I barely leave the house, but have been hearing a bit more from family, especially one angel of a great nephew who's just gone off to Oberlin College and had to endure quarantine. Imagine stepping out in the world when every contact is a risk. As some of you know, I write every day, and am up to page 320 in a new book,

which is a continuation of the Jean Auel books, and takes place 30,000 years ago. I love writing, and now and then I even think about having someone read my stuff!

Terry: My daughter Mickey is painting my house. It will be white with bright blue trim and a red door. So far so good, but we had to redo a back wall where Eddie didn't use good wood. So that was a day. My grandson is going to help this Saturday. It really looks good! Susie and I are up to five dogs again. Deb left one here after grooming, and it never wanted to go home, and so it goes. And since I'm home so much, I've been making Covid 19 buttons and recently started adding Biden/Harris buttons. As per usual, they are available if anyone is interested.

Andy: I have attended most of the Zoom workshops presented by the Folk Arts Center of New England (<http://facone.org>) held at 2 pm on Saturdays. They have had workshops with Ahmet, Roberto, Joe Graziosi, Zeljko, Steve Kotansky, Susan Lind-Sinianian, Tineke & Maurits, Iliana Bozhanova, Sani Rifati (gypsy), Lee Otterholt, Aaron Alpert, Richard Powers, and Gergana Panova. For those who have not seen Gergana, she has nice dances, great styling and teaches in clear English (not just counts). FACONE will be hosting her again soon. On one of their Tuesday night Zooms their guest teacher was Tom Bozigian who I hadn't seen since 2002. He is still a very efficient teacher and has not lost a step since 2002. In fact he seemed younger than he did in 2002. The Tuesday night 'Fountain' dances were hosted by another teacher from President's day weekend - Andy Taylor Blennis. That dance (Tuesday night) is being moved (perhaps to a new night- check at <http://facone.org>).

Vicki: some dancing, some biking, some walking, some yoga, some pilates (all, all by myself)...and lots of baking (sigh). Too much baking...too many calories. Have dug back into Ancestry.com trying to really get a handle on Eastern European family roots. Social distancing and wearing a mask all the time.

The Villages Folk Dancers by Sarah Zimmerman



August has come and gone and while a number of us have been virtually folk dancing with Ira Weisburd and some others, we haven't met as a club since June. We met outside in a covered pavilion a couple of times, and then it got too hot to dance, wear masks, and swelter in the humidity.

We waited until the Rec. Centers reopened, but again the mask situation was something we didn't really want to have to deal with. I don't enjoy dancing with a mask, as do the majority of our dancers, and since it's basically mandatory, and necessary for a number of us, we've suspended dancing until further notice.

I'm sorry to have to add that I have been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and have been dealing with that since June. I've been having chemo-radiation so my energy level is pretty low -- otherwise I'd be having some ZOOM sessions for our members, and attending Bobby and Pat's as well. The prognosis is good -- stage 2, squamous cell, less invasive than the other type which is adenocarcinoma. Still, it's all going to take some time and it will be a while before I'm back to normal. I guess that's true for everything in the time of COVID. Meanwhile, I hope everyone remains safe and healthy and happy and dancing whenever and wherever they can!

Editors Note: Our heartfelt wishes and hugs to both Sarah and Terry. The whole FFDC wishes you both a speedy recovery.

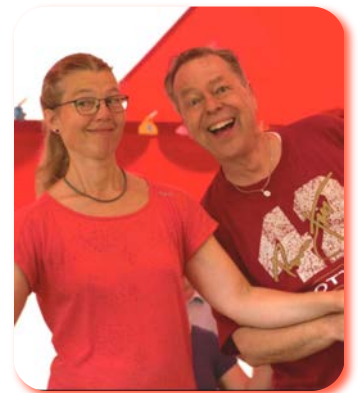
FFDC Annual Camp

2021 Teacher Bio's

We are remaining optimistic that we will be dancing together next year for our annual camp. Here's a little bit of background on our teachers.

Jaap Leegwater is known by many folk dancers worldwide for his fun teachings and dances like Karamfil, Dobrudžanska Pandela, and Mari Marijko. He started his dance career in his native country, The Netherlands, where he earned degrees in both education and international folk dance. Fascinated with the irregular Balkan rhythms and drawn to the expressiveness of its movements, Jaap specialized in Bulgarian dance and choreography. He was one of the first non-Bulgarians invited to study at the State Choreographer's Schools in Sofia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Along with Japp, his partner, Mea Nordenfelt, will also be teaching. Mea grew up folk dancing and today she is a dance educator and dance and conversation therapist with training from the Stockholm University of the Arts. She regularly teaches dance, her areas of specialty including preschool, the elderly, and rehabilitation.



***Keeping toes and fingers crossed that the 2021 camp proceeds -
February 5-8***



FootNotes

Safety While Dancing Alone From Roo Lester via NFOUSA

Patrick McMonagle wrote the following article and gave us permission to share it.

It brings up some things I had not considered and would love for us to share how we are addressing the concerns.

Roo

Safety While Dancing Alone

In our years of dancing, we dance near friends who would help in an accident. If I step on my shoelaces while dancing a hambo and exhibit the aerodynamics of a turkey, one frozen for Thanksgiving dinner, people would notice and offer help. That kind of help is missing for many of us in online dances. I'm luckier than many, Marjorie would hear my "thud."

Paul Collins and I had the same thought at about the same time a few weekends ago. Paul leads virtual dances in the Chicago area. I host the small Zwiefacher online dance (info: www.folkdancing.com/zwie). We got on the phone with each other and talked up all sorts of safety ideas that had no chance of working. Next day I walked up to the local Seattle Fire Department station and was cheered to find fire fighters enjoying spare time, nothing dangerous going on.

The duty Lieutenant had time for conversation about the risks in online dances. She clearly stated that an attempt for me to protect someone from injury, say, in Memphis, while we are online is not

likely to be practical and would require me gathering legally protected information in advance. That exposes me to legal action if a hacker invades my computer. And the data would be of limited use anyway. If someone in the class saw someone fall while dancing alone, we might still need a court order to use our data to get a physical address and activate their local 911, not impossible but not an instant response either. (Perhaps we know only their phone or network ID. An attendee might expose only their first name and an initial. And only half the people in these events use a digital camera that allows us to see a fall anyway.)

The Lieutenant offered two ideas to help all protect themselves when participating in remote dances alone.

- 1) Have an instant 911 call button active on your phone and have the phone within easy reach, even if you are injured.
- 2) Use some kind of buddy system. Make a deal with a buddy or a whole klatsch:
 - You trust them to always connect with you after the dance.
 - You trust them with medical alerts. "And if I sound smashed, my blood sugar is probably way off. Tell me some young people are coming to visit me. Then call 911."

Paul may schedule an online discussion on this topic in the future. Email me if you want to know when. (pat@folkdancing.com) Anyone is welcome to republish this on paper or web. Tell me where, please. And thank you, Seattle Fire Department. I already wrote them and made the "Thank You" official.

Keeping Track of Large Numbers of New Dances by Andy Pollock



I have found that I enjoy learning dances virtually more than attending a virtual dance. However since it is easy to attend 3 or more virtual folk dance classes per week, how do you keep track of all those new dances? The Folk Arts Center workshops last 4 hours and sometimes they teach as many as 10 dances. I try not to tackle any more than 10 dances per week so I can give each one a decent amount of attention.

One thing I like to do is track the new dances that I am learning in a spreadsheet. The most important thing to learn is the dance name. If you have that much, you can often track down whatever you are missing- steps, music, video, notes, etc.

It is also important to list the presenter and the original teacher. Many times dance names are re-used, but with the exception of Mihai David, few teachers present different dances with the exact same dance name that THEY used before. I add columns to my sheet to let me know if I have the correct music, notes and video.

I have another column that I add to track my progress. Without being able to take these out on the dance floor and teach them I need to motivate myself by giving myself a grade. Here is my grading system. Anyone tracking their dances should modify it to fit their goals and experience level.

Blank: haven't done anything on this since learning it

E: have looked at it but I can't recall most of the dance

D: I can remember a lot of the dance but I'm still making major mistakes

C: I can follow the dance without major errors

B: I know this dance well enough to teach and lead in a local group

A: I know this dance really well and I think I can teach/lead it so people will have at least as much fun following me as anyone else if I lead it at a state or regional event.

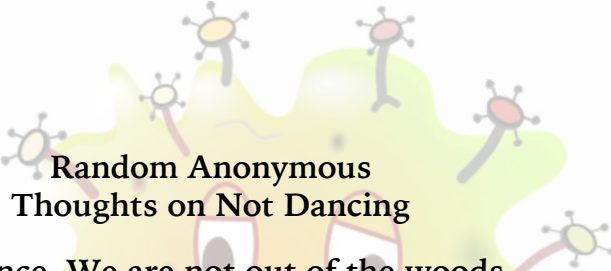
My goal is to move everything up to C level, the ones I like to B level, and the ones that I really like to A level. I find that even after I have a dance at B level that I need to keep looking at it to keep it. Once a dance is at an A level, I will not forget it (hopefully - at least until I am much older). Giving myself a grade on each dance is not quite as motivational as taking it to the dance floor and re-teaching it to others, but it does help.

The way our brains work writing these all out in a notebook would probably be even better as a memory aid but I don't have space for a lot of paper and notebooks.

The History of Mayim Mayim and Japan! (via YouTube) from Andi Kapplin

Heads up - this is 25 minutes long, but is absolutely fascinating!

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



Random Anonymous Thoughts on Not Dancing

Patience. We are not out of the woods yet. Not even close. Yes, we're all tired of isolation, and zoom meetings, and online classes. But we still have over 1,300 people dying every day in the United States. If we were Australia, we would be done with all this by now. But we're not. The US alone has a quarter of all the world's Covid cases. Since we as a nation do not have the ability to show unity and discipline for a month, we do not get to go back to normal. We're like a child who wants dessert without having eaten dinner first.

Someday, we can dance again. But not yet.

Another Random Thought - the generosity of folk dancers... Food pantries are in desperate need of food for sharing to those less fortunate. If you can donate, here is a list of the top food types requested by food pantries. You can find a local food pantry at the Feeding American website, where you can search by zip code.

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/>

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Peanut Butter | Mac & Cheese |
| Jelly | Juice |
| Cereal | Canned Beans |
| Tuna | Pasta Sauce |
| Soup | Pasta |
| Chili | Kid Friendly Foods |
| Canned Fruit | |

Last Random Thought!



Calendar, Events, and Tours

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

Calendar

CAUTION

Every effort has been made to verify the status of a workshop or festival (Thank you Pat Henderson). But this data is a moving target. Please check and recheck the status if you plan on attending or participating. Please do not rely only on what is printed below. Thank you

- 2020-09-04: Balkanalia--Cancelled for 2020, Corbett, OR, <http://balkanalia.org/>, Balkan Festival Northwest
- 2020-09-11: Mountain Playshop, Black Mountain, NC, <http://www.mountainplayshop.org/>
- 2020-09-11: Enon Valley Folk Dance Camp, Enon Valley, PA, <http://folkdancepittsburgh.com/>
- 2020-09-24: Tamburitza Extravaganza, Cleveland, OH, <http://www.tamburitza.org/>, Tamburitza Association of America
- 2020-09-25: Fandango Dance Weekend--Cancelled for 2020, Decatur, GA, <http://sites.google.com/site/englishcountrydanceatlanta>, English Country Dance Atlanta
- 2020-10-03: Fall Fling, Melbourne, FL, No web information, South Brevard Dancers
- 2020-10-09: Greek Festival, St. Augustine, FL, <http://www.stauggreekfest.com/>, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- 2020-10-09: Serb-Fest (Orlando), Longwood, FL, <http://www.serb-fest.com/>
- 2020-10-09: Oktoberfest International and Dance Weekend, Fairlee, VT, <http://www.facone.org/oktoberfest/oktoberfest.html>, Folk Art Center of New England
- 2020-10-10: Workshop with Michael Ginsburg, Dayton, OH, <http://www.miamivalleyfolkdancers.org/>, Miami Valley Folk Dancers
- 2020-10-16: Greek American Festival, New Port Richey, FL, <http://stgeorgetampabay.org/>
- 2020-10-16: Greek Festival, Lecanto, FL, <http://www.stmichaelgoc.org/festival.html>, Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church
- 2020-10-22: SPIFFS International Folk Fair--Postponed, St. Petersburg, FL, <http://www.spiffs.org/>
- 2020-10-23: Fall Swedish Music and Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, WI, <http://www.folklorevillage.org/>
- 2020-11-05: Pourparler--Postponed to Fall of 2021, Dummerston Center, VT, <http://www.nfo-usa.org/pourparler>, NFO
- 2020-11-06: Greek Festival, Maitland, FL, <http://www.orlandogreekfest.com/>, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- 2020-11-06: Autumn Leaves, Nashville, TN, <http://www.nifddance.com/>, Nashville International Folk Dancers
- 2020-11-26: Texas Folk Dance Camp--Virtual, Bruceville, TX, <http://www.tifd.org/>, Texas International Folk Dancers
- 2020-12-04: Fall Folk Dance Camp in Honor of Beverly and Irwin Barr, Brandeis, CA, <http://www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm>, Folk Dance Federation of California, South
- 2020-12-12: Orlando's Holiday Party, Casselberry, FL, No web information
- 2020-12-26: Christmas Country Dance School, Berea, KY, <http://www.berea.edu/ccds>
- 2020-12-28: Folklore Village Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions, Dodgeville, WI, <http://folklorevillage.org/>
- 2021-01-15: Orange Blossom Ball, South Daytona, FL, <http://orangeblossomcontra.com/>
- 2021-02-05: FFDC Florida Winter Folk Dance Workshop, Kissimmee, FL, <http://www.folkdance.org>, Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.
- 2021-03-11: San Antonio Folk Dance Festival, San Antonio, TX, <http://safdf.org/>
- 2021-04-23: Lyrids Folk Dance Festival, Vancouver, Canada, <http://lyridsfolkdancefestival.org/>
- 2021-05-07: International Folk Dance Camp, Hopewell Junction, NY, <http://ifc-ny.com/IFC.flier.pdf>
- 2021-05-28: Florida Folk Festival, White Springs, FL, <http://www.floridastateparks.org/FloridaFolkFestival>, Florida State Parks

Continued on Page 11

Calendar (continued)

Continued from Page 12

- 2021-05-28: Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle, WA, <http://www.nwfolklife.org/>
- 2021-06-03: June Camp: an International Folk Dance Weekend, Deerfield, IL, <http://sites.google.com/site/junecampifd>
- 2021-06-06: International Folkfest, Murfreesboro, TN, <http://mboro-international-folkfest.org/>
- 2021-06-12: Scandia Camp Mendocino, Mendocino Woodlands, CA, <http://www.scandiacampmendocino.org/>, Scandia Camp
- 2021-06-25: Toronto Israeli Dance Festival, Toronto, Canada, <http://www.israelidancetoronto.com/>
- 2021-06-27: Nordic Fiddles and Feet, Lyman, NH, <http://www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org/>, Nordic Fiddles and Feet
- 2021-07-09: Montana Folk Festival, Butte, MT, <http://www.montanafolkfestival.com/>
- 2021-07-30: Lark Camp, Woodlands, CA, <http://www.larkcamp.com/>
- 2021-08-01: Ti Ti Tabor Hungarian Folk Camp, Gig Harbor, WA, <http://www.tititabor.org/>
- 2021-08-15: Mainewoods Dance Camp Week 1, Fryeburg, ME, <http://www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org/>
- 2021-08-22: Mainewoods Dance Camp Week 2, Fryeburg, ME, <http://www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org/>
- 2021-09-03: Labor Day Weekend at Pinewoods, Plymouth, MA, <http://www.facone.org/labor-day-weekend/labor-day-weekend.html>

Folk Dance Tours

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

For tours with Tineke van Geel (sometimes assisted by Maurits), contact them at <http://www.tinekevangeel.nl>.

For the Macedonian and Bulgarian Folk Tour, please contact Vlasto at sunstagecompany@gmail.com or visit <https://sunstagecompany.wixsite.com/arts>

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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