



President's Message

by Gary Berke

Happy very strange holiday season!

I hope you are all enjoying the holidays as much as possible, though it's a difficult time for many.

This letter will be devoted entirely to our February weekend. Our members present a full spectrum of attitudes toward Covid, and I am one the most casual, having danced without masks since before vaccinations were available. I've now been jabbed three times. I employ a simple strategy I developed when my sister came for a ten day visit, and I had to decide whether to hug her. Was it worth the risk? That is the most personal of decisions. No one can determine the degree of risk for another person, but friends respect each other's vulnerability. Dr. Barry Sieger, an esteemed retired infectious disease specialist who keeps current with the most up to date information, has agreed to consult for our camp. He will either be present in person or a phone call away, and he has approved the protocols mentioned below under "vital note."

WORKING SCHEDULE FOR THIS YEAR'S CAMP - Subject To Change:

FRIDAY

- 4 pm: Check in and check out your room; register with us; eat dinner with friends; note there are many restaurants nearby.
- 7:30 pm: Welcome party. Meet Jaap and Mea over a new dance or two.
- 9:30 pm: Snacks - this ain't a meal folks, just a refresher.
- 10:00 pm: More dancing till midnight.

SATURDAY

When the hotel breakfast begins, our breakfast begins.

- 9-9:15 am: Warmups
- 9:15-10:15 am: Jaap teaches Bulgarian
- 10:30-11:30 am: Mea teaches International
- 12-1:15 pm: Lunch and Membership Meeting, so don't run away.
- 1:30-2:30 pm: Mea teaches International.
- 2:30-3:15 pm: Culture Corner
- 3:30-4:30 pm: Jaap teaches Bulgarian
- 4:45-5:45 pm: Set dancing or free time*



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

Articles for the March-April 2022 newsletter will be due February 27.

Thank you

President's Message (continued)

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6-7 pm: Dinner

7:30 pm: Party with some review snuck in before 9:30 pm. Choice couple dances interspersed.

9:30 pm: Snack - really our dessert from dinner, plus...

11:59 pm: The party ends...for most.

SUNDAY

Breakfast begins when dining room opens.

9 am: 15 minutes of warm up?

9:15-10:15 am: Mea teaches International

10:30-11:30 am: Jaap teaches Bulgarian

12-1 pm: Lunch with our 50th Anniversary Celebration

1:30 pm: Auction ends.

1:45-2:45 pm: Jaap teaches Bulgarian

3:30-4:30 pm: Mea teaches International

5-5:45 pm: Culture Corner Number 2

6-7 pm: Dinner

7:30 pm: Party with couple dancing interspersed and review if requested

9:30 pm: Snacks (dessert), and then party resumes

11:59 pm: The party ends...if anyone lasts that long..

MONDAY

Breakfast begins when dining room opens

9:15 am: Fifteen minutes of warmup, seriously?

9:30-11 am: Final review

12 pm: Check out deadline. Good bye until next year.

SCHEDULING NOTE:

If people choose not to do set dancing because of the pandemic, we will have more free time or change the Saturday Culture Corner to that time. Normal couple dances only present the risk of interacting closely with a chosen partner, and they are not scheduled separately. So if people request them, we'll play them. (I've already requested two.)

VITAL NOTE:

The FFDC Board voted that all people attending any part of the weekend must present proof of vaccination (including booster) or a negative Covid test within 48 hours of arrival at camp. The PCR test is the best according to Dr. Sieger. It is free and available at CVS or Walgreens. Think of it as getting tested for travel. You probably need to schedule the test ahead of time - generally one week out. So please act to allay your friends' fears, whether you think them reasonable or not, so people feel safe to join us.

Thank you,

Gary

Club Reports In

Heard It From The Sarasota Grapeviners by Carol Spangler



I am happy to report that our group is showing a bit of growth and renewal.

We've welcomed someone new to our group. Her name is Judy Gilbert and she is a returning dancer, having danced many years ago. Speaking of returning, we have a few of our snowbirds back in attendance. John Lesko is back and Charlotte and Steve Cole are supposed to come this week. Several more will be back in January. We also had a special visitor last week. Penny Brichta joined our group. She is mainly an Israeli dancer and teacher and does workshops in several states. If anyone did June camp on Zoom this year, she was the other instructor besides Lee Otterholt.

Now for the "life story folk dance connections" part of our article. Here is yet another true love story with a love of folk dance at the start. Barbara and Sergio Sigras shared their wonderful story. I met them at my first Grapeviners' dance evening. They kept me firmly in the circle with their gentle, helpful cues, and got me off to a great start with the Grapeviners.

Let's begin our story with Sergio who was born and raised in Greece, and came to international folk dance already knowing Greek dances. After finishing his mandatory stint with the Greek Army, he moved with his family to Venezuela and finally landed in the United States in 1975 to study electronics. He lived in Manhattan while attending RCA Institute for engineering and spent a lot of his spare time walking around Manhattan. Walking through Central Park one day, he heard ethnic music and, approaching the music, he saw people dancing. That was the beginning of his love for international folk dancing. Being a young, tall, handsome man, it was also an opportunity to socialize and meet new people, learn new dances, and hear Greek and dance to Greek music.

Enter Barbara Sigras who also lived in Manhattan at that time. Her neighbor invited her to try folk dancing

with Karl Finer's group. She enjoyed the music, liked the people, and liked learning new dances. She was tall and also noticed a few taller men. She started folk dancing several times a week hoping to learn more dances and maybe meet and dance with the "tall guy." After meeting and finally dancing a few partner dances with Sergio (the "tall guy"), they started dating and within the year they were married!

They danced weekly with George Tomov at his studio on 14th St., the 92d St. Y on Saturday nights with Steve Zalf, Carl Finger, at the Mark Ballroom, etc., and some Saturdays in Central Park with Alex (unknown last name) in his very short shorts, and the PS41 playground in the Village.

They moved to Paramus, NJ and, while working during the day Sergio and attending night school to complete his Masters at Fairleigh Dickinson University, they found Jim Gold. In order to use the gym for folk dancing, Jim was teaching folk dance as a 1-credit course and Sergio needed 1 credit. Sergio was the only one who ever took that course and received 1 credit!

And, the story goes on and on. They have been together for 44 years, dancing all the way!

And in closing, a final "small world" additional note to the story of our leader, Andi Kapplin. Early this month, Andi had dinner with Sandy Cuttler and her husband. Sandy is another "dance buddy." There is a feeling of a kind of "family connection" among folk dancers. But Andi recently found out that Sandy had shown up on her DNA report as a possible relative. She hasn't figured out how it could be, but it was still amazing to her that someone she knew as a dancer was on her list!

Gainesville Update by Joyce Dewsbury



We are dancing every Friday evening so that is a very good thing. And, as mentioned previously, we have a very nice place to dance thanks to Joyce Story. Joyce lives in Hawthorne and she procured the Hawthorne Wellness Center so we had a place to dance during the pandemic. The Rosa B. Williams Center, where we did dance for several years and where we had Summer Fest several years ago, is still closed. And now that the Omicron variant is descending upon us all, it may be awhile before we can return to our former dance location.

The photos which follow were all taken during our break time, when we can socialize and have some snacks.

This first photo is from October 29. Pictured are June, Joyce, Felipe, Julieta, and Peter. Our fearless dancers.



This next photo was taken on November 5 and all are holding shakers of some type. Felipe, Peter, and Gary are in the back row while June, Joyce S., Nancy, Bo, and Julieta, are in the front row.



On November 12, Peter's birthday was celebrated. We always celebrate birthdays and Julieta makes sure that the honoree wears a party hat and a banner is held. Heather is way in the background and Joyce D. is to the right of Peter.



Gainesville Update (continued)

Continued From Page 4

The entire group of dancers that evening were in a line on December 3. Left to right are June, Heather, Nancy, Peter, Joyce S. Felipe, Bo, Gary, and Melinda.



The final photo was taken on December 10. And this evening was especially joyful because Cheri, Gabe and their adorable daughter Naomi were able to join us. They had a bit of a drive but they wanted to dance with us. They have moved back to Florida so we hope they will be able to join us more often.



We hope that everyone had a very joyful holiday. May 2022 be much better than the last two years.

Take care and Stay Safe.

Tampa Trivia by Terry Abrahams



The New Year is here – and so are we!
That is good news we all agree

We're dancing at Israeli, which is dandy
Because we are doing it at the home of Andi

Thursdays' the new day for International group
Still at the rec center, still a small troupe

But we have two new gals, a miracle – yes!
We're almost a circle – what joy I express

We're coming to camp, can't wait to go
We'll beat Covid yet - let it be so!

So see you soon, but in the meanwhile
Happy New Year greetings are sent with a smile!

Orlando International Folk Dance Club by Pat Henderson



Our group had a wonderful fall season with more and more dancers coming to dance in person. We had our usual Halloween Party with international and Halloween costumes encouraged.



Our little party room addition to the dance studio is working out nicely. We have a long table along one wall with chairs on another two. The fourth wall opens into the dance floor.

Our performing group danced on November 28 for FusionFest, an international festival in downtown Orlando. We had a former Florida dancer, Bob Monaghan from New Jersey, and Ellen Spielvogel from

Honolulu, join us for the show. It went really well, especially after the tech people started the music at the right time!



A couple of days after the show, Bobby, Ellen and I traveled to Delray Beach where Ellen has a condo. Then we had a couple of other friends join the three of us for a snorkeling trip to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo. It was an impressive reef and we saw a goliath grouper and schools of colorful fish.

We had our annual Holiday Party on December 15 starting with a pot luck supper. Nicki Wise brought reindeer antlers for everyone. We had a wonderful evening and had 22 dancers come, a new post pandemic record.



Traveling over the holidays to see family were Cathy Holleman to Arizona, Carla Powers to the DC area, and Tami Epstein to Denver.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!

Events

Fall Fling 2021 by Pat Henderson



When Fall Fling was postponed from October 2 (think Covid...), Ruth Ann Fay came through with an alternative. She offered her beautiful home in Deland with a large dance floor where we have had many folk dance parties.

For those who have been dancing in Florida for decades, you may remember when Fall Fling was in Deland at the Women's Club and John Daly along with Joan and Wally Washington were the hosts.

The postponed event took place on December 4 starting with a pot luck lunch. We had about 26

people attend and the event lasted until around 6 pm.



Since this was in December, we had Rob McCullom and his wife, Sarah Sheard. They are in south Florida for the winter. That was an added bonus to the postponement.

Another bonus is that we were able to celebrate the birthday of Kelly Fagan, whose birthday was a few days later.

A third bonus was that Judith Baizan, one of the founders of FFDC, came and was able to dance with us. She said that she could dance better than she could walk since she is having hip trouble.

Final bonus was that Annelies Mostert from the Netherlands and her husband, Bert, were able to attend. In fact, he took photos of us and even a few videos.

At one point in the afternoon, I reminded dancers that FFDC had just turned 50, since the initial meeting was in the fall of 1971. We will have a proper celebration at camp in February, when we hope to have a lot more people. Everyone enjoyed dancing together and holding hands.



Save the Date Reminder - FFDC Camp Weekend February 11-14, 2022 in Orlando, FL

Note from Gary Berke:

Something I've failed to mention earlier is our Olga Princi scholarship fund. FFDC has a special fund to help a worthy person get to camp. If you have someone in your group who you think would like to come to camp and it would be of value to your group (eg encouraging someone new to become a regular dancer), send me their name and the reasons you are suggesting them by January 20. I will put their name up to the FFDC Board and we will make a decision. I don't think we've ever turned anyone down, but we need to know ahead of time to make arrangements for them. If you have any questions about this, let me know.



Terri has done another "bang up" job designing the 2022 T-Shirt. It honors both the 2022 event, and the Anniversary celebration we were hoping to have last year.



SET DANCING ALERT!

Since set dancing offers a unique opportunity for intimate exposure to up to eight people per dance, some people are opting out this year. We should probably do without mixers, which are even worse. With normal couple dancing we can restrict our exposure to select people (who are worth the risk). Please let Gary know if you want to keep the set dancing hour on the schedule (4:45 pm Saturday) at ghberke47@gmail.com.

**BREAKING
NEWS!**

2022 Spring Fling!



When: March 26, 2022

Time: 11 am - 5 pm

Where: Mocassin Lake Nature Park in Clearwater, FL

Footnotes

Embroidery – Decoration or Magic? by Folkdance Footnotes Beyond Choreography Blog

Editors Note: This article has been copied from the folkdancefootnotes website (Terry provided info on this site several months ago in the Newsletter). <https://folkdancefootnotes.org/clothing/embroidery-decoration-or-magic/>.

There is a plethora of articles about all facets of folk dancing on the site. This particular article one caught my eye because it is something different, yet still related to dance. Also the initial graphic is stunning in its colors.

“It is sometimes hard for us to realize that within living memory people inhabited – and indeed some still do – a world they believed controlled by supernatural beings both good and evil. Every spinney, every copse, every crossroads, every stream, every stone held its own spirit: every culture had its own hobgoblins. In Islamic belief there were not only men and angels, but also a third class of beings made of fire, jinns. The Indians believed in witches and liver-eaters – jiggerkhars – who just by looking at a person could steal their liver and kill them.

Magical powers were not confined to supernatural beings, but were held also by women. *From Embroidered Textiles by Sheila Paine, 1990*

Human conception was not understood and when in the eighteenth century it was first established that it was the result of sexual intercourse the claim was greeted with derision. Women’s ability to produce children was therefore regarded as miraculous and their fertility was protected by decoration.

Women could also house the evil eye – the most feared of all spirits, for the eye is the mirror of the soul. In the late 1980’s Reuters reported that a synagogue in Israel had stopped admitting women because of a series of disasters in the area for which it was believed women with the evil eye were responsible.

The evil eye is malicious and wishes to destroy perfection: brides and babies are particularly vulnerable. It, and evil spirits in general, can attack the body and cause illness or even death. Against them three aspects of embroidery are considered effective – the position in which the embroidery is placed, patterns that hold a mystic power, and assertive materials. The evil eye especially can be overpowered by anything that dazzles and makes it blink, such as shiny objects, pieces of metal, coins, buttons, mirror that reflects and holds its image: by anything that tinkles and distracts it; by objects that can pierce it, particularly triangular ones holding the power of the trinity and the feminine mystique; by gaudy bright colours, by alternating colors along edges; and by anything that confuses it through asymmetrical pattern where it loses its way.



Embroidery – Decoration or Magic? by Folkdance Footnotes Beyond Choreography Blog (Continued)

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The evil eye and jinns are still greatly feared in the Islamic world and there the protective devices of embroidery are usually consciously employed. Often, however, the choice of pieces of mirror, alternating colours and the like have become almost subconscious, as has superstition in the West.

POSITIONING

Costume in general and embroidery in particular play a protective role both physical and spiritual. Those evil spirits likely to attack the body are kept out by decorative devices at every edge and opening. From Asia to Western Europe, embroidery is commonly placed encircling the neck, along the hem and cuff, around pockets and also at buttonholes. Seams are closed with decorative stitchery and certain vulnerable places carry heavy embroidery. Those are the front bodice, the shoulders and sleeves and often the sexual area and the centre back. Even when they cover much of the garment these areas of embroidery never intermingle but are always clearly defined. In each case such embroidery was destined to protect these specific and significant parts of the body. Most heavily embroidered – and the last item of Western European costume to disappear – was the coif. As can be seen in any village of Eastern Europe the headscarf and apron still linger as everyday wear, though they serve no practical purpose.

The purpose of the ubiquitous apron of most European peasant costume, and particularly that of Eastern Europe, is symbolically protective and not practical. Varying in style with each village but normally heavily embroidered, intricately pleated or finely woven in striped patterning, it covered a dress or petticoat that almost always was deliberately left plain where the apron would be worn. It is the antithesis of an apron worn to protect precious clothing. Instead it protects the body.

The ritual associations of the apron are many. In Transylvania it was worn inside-out for mourning; In Hungary it formed part of the costume of unmarried men and the bridegroom; an illegitimate child in Romania was said to be 'from the apron'; but mainly it was everywhere associated with marriage. This was the moment at which the bride, as well as taking a new hairstyle and headdress, changed the type of apron she had worn as a young girl to another that declared her status as a married woman. Sometimes, as in Romania, the materials used to decorate it were a gift from the bridegroom and the apron, often of red fabric, would be used in the marriage ritual or carried through the streets in the wedding procession, hung from a pole like a flag for all to see.

Women of the nomadic Sarakatsani, now living mainly in Greece, embroidered 20 to 40 aprons (panoules) during their youth, each with different symbolism – such as the cross, the serpent, or the moon – that showed the woman's social status or was thought suitable for various occasions or moods. She would then choose each day the appropriate one to wear. The apron the podia – of all Greek costume - was imbued with magical properties. In Thrace, for example, it is thrown over the stomach of a woman in labour to facilitate birth.

PATTERNS

Embroidered patterns deemed effective against evil spirits are those also chosen for amulets or jewelry, for tattooing, for felts, and as decorative devices on buildings, particularly at thresholds. Many are geometric whose origin lies in ancient mythology: the triangle, zigzag, rhomb, labyrinth, crescent, circle, 8-pointed star

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Embroidery – Decoration or Magic? by Folkdance Footnotes Beyond Choreography Blog (Continued)

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and cross. From the animal world fish, hands, eyes and horns have tremendous power. Birds, especially cocks, are often associated with horns as protective clan symbols. They are usually paired – in Bulgaria they are placed across the front neck in order to form the pattern of a cross.

The force of a pattern is strengthened by doubling or repeating it, by positioning it strategically and by adding protective materials such as tassels or shells. On shifts of Eastern European countries formerly under Ottoman rule a small single unfinished pattern, set asymmetrically or alone, is especially powerful. Symbolizing the continuity of life, it is of more ancient origin than the Islamic desire to leave something imperfect. Patterns forming a border are also frequently left with a gap.



CAPEZIO SHOES FOR SALE

WHEN MY FEET SWELLED UP AND IT BECAME OBVIOUS THEY WEREN'T GOING TO RETURN TO NORMAL SIZE, I BOUGHT A NEW PAIR OF CAPEZIO "ROCK IT SNEAKERS", SIZE 9½. WORE THEM EXACTLY THREE TIMES, BUT CONTINUING ISSUES WITH FEET AND KNEES FORCED ME TO ACCEPT THAT DANCING IS JUST TOO DANGEROUS. (WALKING IS ENOUGH OF A CHALLENGE SOME DAYS!) SO SADLY, I AM ADMITTING MY DANCING DAYS ARE OVER AND I'M SELLING THESE SHOES. I CAN DELIVER! (DRIVING IS NOT AN ISSUE, THANK GOODNESS). I PAID \$71.69 FOR THEM; NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED. LYNDIA HARRIS, LYNHAR04@GMAIL.COM

Calendar and Tours

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

Event Calendar

- 2022-01-14 Orange Blossom Ball, South Daytona, FL, www.orangeblossomcontra.com/
- 2022-01-21 Florida Snow Ball, Gulfport, FL, www.floridasnowball.com/, Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance
- 2022-01-28 Virtual Virtual Stockton Folk Dance Cam 2022, www.folkdancecamp.org/
- 2022-02-11 Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Weekend Workshop, Kissimmee, FL, folkdance.org, FFDC
- 2022-02-11 Greek Festival, Winter Haven, FL, www.yasas.com/greek-orthodox-details.asp?cid=531, St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
- 2022-02-18 Greek Festival, Sarasota, FL, www.stbarbarafestival.org/, St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
- 2022-02-18 Greek Festival, Ft. Myers, FL, www.greekfestfortmyers.com/, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
- 2022-02-18 Greek Festival, Lecanto, FL, www.stmichaelgoc.org/festival.html, Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church
- 2022-02-25 Greek Festival, Melbourne, FL, www.saint-katherine.org/fest_info.html, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
- 2022-03-26 San Antonio Spring Festival, safdf.org/
- 2022-03-04 Cajun Music and Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org/
- 2022-03-25 Chicago Spring Festival, Chicago, IL, www.balkanskiigri.com/schedule-of-events.html
- 2022-03-25 Playford Ball Weekend, Nashville, TN, <http://www.nashvillecountrydancers.org/>, Nashville Country Dancers
- 2022-03-31 NFO Annual Conference, Evanston, IL, www.nfo-usa.org/, National Folk Organization (NFO)
- 2022-04-15 Springdances Northwest, Seabeck, WA, www.skandia-folkdance.org/, Skandia Folkdance Society
- 2022-04-22 Virtual New England Folk Festival- Virtual, www.neffa.org/What_is_Festival.html, New England Folk Festival Association (NEFFA)
- 2022-04-22 Boulder International Folk Dance Spring Workshop, Boulder, CO, www.boulderfolkdancers.org/
- 2022-05-12 Kochavim Israeli Dance Camp, Wimberly, TX, www.kochavim.net/
- 2022-05-13 International Folk Dance Camp, Hopewell Junction, NY, ifc-ny.com/
- 2022-05-13 English Country Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org/
- 2022-05-19 California Statewide Folk Dance Festival, Petaluma, CA, www.socalfolkdance.com/statewide.htm
- 2022-05-20 Ontario Folk Dance Camp, ontariofolkdancecamp.ca/
- 2022-05-27 Florida Folk Festival, White Springs, FL, www.floridastateparks.org/FloridaFolkFestival, Florida State Parks
- 2022-05-27 Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle, WA, www.nwfolklife.org/
- 2022-06-02 June Camp: an International Folk Dance Weekend, sites.google.com/site/junecampifd
- 2022-06-05 International Folkfest, Murfreesboro, TN, www.mboro-international-folkfest.org/
- 2022-06-10 Scandia Camp Mendocino, www.scandiacampmendocino.org/
- 2022-06-18 West Coast Music and Dance Workshop, Mendocino Woodlands, CA, eeefc.org/balkan-camp/west-coast/
- 2022-06-23 International Dance and Music at Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA, facone.org/pinewoods, Folk Arts Center of New England
- 2022-07-05 Nordic Fiddles and Feet, Lyman, NH, www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org/
- 2022-07-08 Montana Folk Festival, Butte, MT, www.montanafolkfestival.com/
- 2022-10-13 Pourparler, Dummerston, VT, www.nfo-usa.org/pourparler, NFO
- 2022-11-04 Autumn Leaves, Nashville, TN, www.nifddance.com/, Nashville International Folk Dancers

Event Calendar (continued)

Judith English has created a calendar for virtual dancing:

Use this link to access the calendar: <https://daleadamson.com/events-calendar/>

Use this link if you want to submit something to the calendar: <https://daleadamson.com/event-submission/>

Use this link to access various other items (including Andy's calendar!): <https://daleadamson.com/other-online-event-calendars-of-interest/>

Andy Pollock has created a calendar for virtual dancing:

<https://tinyurl.com/andyscalender>

*When I dance, I
cannot judge, I cannot
hate, I cannot separate
myself from life.*

*I can only be joyful
and whole, that is why
I dance.*

~ Hans Bos ~

Folk Dance Tour Contacts

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, 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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2021 FFDC Officers

President: Gary Berke
ghberke47@gmail.com

Vice-President: Carla Powers
vicepres@folkdance.org

Corresponding Secretary: Pat Henderson
secretary@folkdance.org

Treasurer: Eva Gaber
treasurer@folkdance.org

Historian: Caroline Lanker
historian@floridafolkdancer.org

Newsletter Editor and Publisher: Vicki Kulifay
newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org

Webmaster: Joe Davis

Immediate Past President: Terry Abrahams

Submissions: Send event notices for the calendar or the newsletter to Pat Henderson.

Send all other newsletter submissions to the newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org email address.

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408 Glencairn Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698