



President's Message

by Gary Berke

Hello everyone,

Having just gotten over a bad case of Covid in spite of four inoculations, I just discovered what it means to be in two high risk groups. Hint: it is not high risk for getting the disease, as I thought.



I've been working hard tying up the loose ends for our wonderful winter weekend, **and the registration form is on the website.**

www.folkdance.org

I worked very hard to get several provisions in the contract. Everyone who wants a downstairs room will get one, but it is **subject to availability**. To make sure you get what you need, please register as soon as possible. Then Eva will note it on our manifest, and eliminate all (I hope) chances for the hotel making the mistakes they made last year.

As you may be aware, we overestimated the number of people coming to last year's weekend, so we lost money. That is why I have appealed to all group leaders for a count of people who hope to come, and based this year's charges on rounding up that number. Fifty-five hopefuls rounded to 60. With new strains of Covid at large, we cannot be ruled by hope, because we can't afford another loss, especially as many people don't pay their FFDC membership fee. Should we raise it to \$20 so people take it more seriously?

Back to camp, Carla and I worked hard to save money in the one area we could, meal costs. By basing our food choices on nutrition and fun, we saved quite a bit. But that was offset by a four percent rise in service charges from the hotel, bringing it in line with service charges of every hotel in Orlando. Four percent of \$300, for instance, is a \$12 per person increase.

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Message From The Editor...

Please send articles for insertion to newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org email address.

Take care, Vicki Kulifay

President's Message (Continued)

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Rumors are destructive, such as the one which claimed that I forbade Andy Taylor Blenis from teaching any couple dances. False. Couple dances are one of her specialties, so why would I choose her only to ban them? Due to complaints in the past, I did tell her to limit couple dances to two, but have one in reserve on demand, your demand. I really do value your opinions, but haven't figured out how to get people to respond when I ask for them. I thank Vita Hollander for checking with me, so I could stop a rumor which would discourage people who love couple dancing from coming to camp.

Regarding the website, we have been working on many complicated problems with our webhost, and Joe Davis has been working hard on it. We hope to present a new website (which I really like) to the Board for review very soon.

Finally, please make sure you send anything that has to be posted to our present website to John Daly—in the form you want it to be. Do not expect him to do any artistic arrangement. We are grateful that he has administered the website all these years.

Happy dancing, happy life...

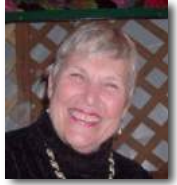
Club Reports In

DeLand and OIFDC by Kelly Fagan



“OPA!!! DeLand and Orlando International Folk Dance Clubs pooled resources to entertain the residents and guests of a Altamonte Springs retirement facility in August as part of an entirely Greek evening of celebration under the leadership of Kelly Elisabeth Fagan and her precious mentor and friend Anne Robinson”

Tampa Trivia by Terry Abrahams



Hi All!

We are having some GOOD dancing! Andi is back from Vancouver – Yeah!! She brought back a few wonderful dances – simple, sweet - we love them. She was spotlighted one Saturday for the June Camp Preview and then again on another Saturday for the Lyrids Preview. She attended both of those workshops and was asked to lead some of the dances she had learned. Andi's becoming known! And certainly well deserves it. As we know, she's a wonderful teacher.

Judith's kids, Hansen and Joanne, really help – turning us into an actual circle! And they're such good dancers! Ken comes often enough to make it even better (he retired from the Florida Orchestra, so can dance more) and we're hoping Karen survives her broken foot and comes back soon.

In the meantime, Judith can't dance enough, so she's going to the John Campbell Folk School weekend to get in some more Scan dancing. She's crazy and we love her.

Vicki is back from France (but arrived home with Covid). Even tho she doesn't dance with us, we consider her part of our group and happily will see her at camp since she didn't come to the Fling.

Almost all of us had Covid within the last few months, most from traveling, some - just because. I think I got it when I went to a fencing tournament in Orlando. The tournament was my last hurrah – I gave myself a birthday present (86) and decided to compete one more time before I can't anymore. I was terrible, but it was fun.

We are all fine now, although Gary had an additional bronchial thing, which kept him from the Fall Fling, much to his dismay. The rest of us were light cases. Those of us who did attend had a wonderful time – the new place John found was really nice and the floor wasn't that bad at all! As per usual, good food, good dancing, good friends. It was nice to see his wife (Barbara) in attendance and a few old-timers showed up to make it even more fun. Some of us went to the Serbian Festival in Orlando before the Fling – lots of performances, minimal dancing for us this year. And they didn't have meat because it was Friday, so we missed out favorite sausages and stuffed cabbage. Oh well. Rounded off the weekend with games at Pat and Bobby's on Sunday, so a pretty good weekend!

There's another Serbian festival coming up in Miami (or somewhere down there), the weekend next to the Shmulik Gov Ari workshop, so that will be fun.

Greek festivals abound – Tampa's on November 4-5. Whew! Don't we love folk dancing and all the activities that surround them!

Looking forward to camp – it's not that far away now. I designed a T shirt that I think you'll all like – look for it in this issue and when you register - make sure you include that in your order. And as past president, let me remind you guys who are not coming to camp to pay your membership. It's only 10 bucks, but the dollars add up, and we need it.

Here's a nice quote to end my article: *"Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."* (Mary Oliver)

Orlando International Folk Dance Club by Pat Henderson



We started dancing after our summer hiatus on September 7. Little did we know that it would not be again until Bobby's birthday on October 5 that we would dance again. We had a lot of rain and then we had Hurricane Ian. This has been a good month dancing every Wednesday and culminated with our annual Halloween Party/Oktoberfest. It was fun seeing Cathy dancing with her flamingo costume!

Several of us enjoyed dancing at the Fall Fling in

Melbourne on October 8. Thanks to John and the Melbourne group for continuing this tradition.

We have had many of us traveling. Over the summer, Caroline Lanker visited family in upstate New York and also in Oregon where she sold the condo that she owned. Carla visited with her family in the DC area. She has two grandsons there. Ann attended a glass jewelry making class at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina. Eva had a trip to Michigan over Labor Day weekend and then DC to be with family for Rosh Hashana. Bobby and I went to the Karmiel USA Israeli dance weekend over Labor Day and then to New Orleans later in September for the wedding of our nephew (my sister's only child). Rich and Linda Nicoli returned to Florida for the winter after a trip to Italy that they had planned twice before. They visited Rich's Italian relatives, hiked the Cinque Terre and then did a "Bike and Barge" trip down the Po River from Venice. Some folk dance and other friends joined them on the river trip.

I am saddened to report that Barry lost his wife, Gretl, on September 24 after a brief illness. Our condolences go out to him.

Also, Nicki is having her third knee surgery and Jan Arcari had a knee surgery a few weeks ago.

Mark your calendars for our annual holiday party. It will be Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 pm.



Heard It From The Sarasota Grapeviners by Carol Spangler



Summer is over and the season has begun...a little more traffic and a little less humidity. Before we leave the summer session, we would like to thank Sergio Zigras and Yifat Drucker for keeping our group dancing while our teacher, Andi Kaplan, was way up North in Vancouver to reconnect with family and friends. The summer session is a cooperative effort and thanks also go to the brave Grapeviners who lead dances that were their favorites.



We know we are back in business when Susan is back at the mike organizing the group and Andi is back in the middle of the dance floor doing her favorite thing: helping new dancers discover international folk dance!



And here we are in our new venue - The Senior Friendship Center in Sarasota. We had hoped that being at the Center might attract some new dancers and I'm happy to report that we have already widened our circle to several new folks. They just fit right in.



From the looks on the faces of Sergio and Ann Paige, I think our new venue and the start of our new season is a success!



Gainesville Update by Joyce Dewsbury



The good news is that we are still dancing. We have not been able to find out what is going on with the Rosa B. Williams Center where we formerly danced. But the Hawthorne Wellness Center has been a fine alternative, thanks to Joyce Story.

Again all of the photos are taken during our break time when we socialize, discuss any dance related issues, and have some yummy snacks. The chocolate that June brings is a big hit.

This photo is from August 24 and is one of the larger groups we have had dancing.



The next photo was taken on August 31. Our fearless leaders Julieta and Joyce S. are to the left. Tina and Donna drive from Ocala and they are present. And they are in some of the following photos also.



This photo of June and Joyce S. dancing is very nice. I believe that they were dancing Hot Pretzels, which is one of June's favorite dances. The date is September 7.



Here is a photo of the entire group on September 7.



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Gainesville Update (continued)

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On September 15 the drum seemed to be an important feature in the photo of the group.



Here is the group on September 22. A bit smaller than usual. But Heather (left) was there. She is not always able to attend so it was good to have her with the group.



Finally here is a photo of four of our group who danced at Alz Place which is our community service. It is organized by June and Joyce S., who provides the music and the organization of the dances which are done.

The dancers, left to right, are Joyce S., Peter, June, and Gary. They danced on a Friday in September.



I trust that all are well and that no one currently has come down with COVID which, is still with us unfortunately.

Happy Dancing.

Events

Fall Fling by Pat Henderson

On Saturday, October 8, John Daly and the Melbourne group hosted the Fall Fling at the clubhouse of Melbourne Village. We had danced there years ago before dancing at the Heritage Hall for many years. It was a nice facility and perfect for our potluck lunch spread which was how the day started. The FFDC Board ate their lunch in a side room, but were without Gary who had bronchitis. We had the meeting on Zoom for those who could not be there. The Board worked out a couple of details about camp and the registration forms were released. A few dancers signed up immediately.

Bobby and Myriam played the music for the dances requested. We had dancers from the following groups there: Gainesville, Melbourne, Orlando, Sarasota, and Tampa. In all, we had 25 come for a day of dancing fun. One big surprise was when Jenneine Lambert and Kathy Dudek arrived from Naples. Kathy danced with the Orlando group in the 70s and 80s and then she moved to North Carolina. She spent recent years living and working in Alaska, but moved back to North Carolina this year, finally retiring. She volunteered to help the Red Cross with



hurricane relief and Jenneine was hosting her during her stay. A couple of us saw Kathy's post on Facebook about coming to Florida and told her about the Fling in Melbourne.

We danced until about 5:30 pm and by then, many of us were glad it did not go longer since it was not a wooden floor. The important thing is that we were together again for a day of fabulous dancing.



FFDC Winter Workshop 2023

Jaap Leegwater

Andy Taylor-Blenis

FLORIDA FOLK DANCE COUNCIL



WINTER WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 3-6, 2023

RAMADA GATEWAY

KISSIMEE, FL

www.floridafolkdancer.org



Footnotes

A Visit to France by Vicki Kulifay

My husband, Bernie, and I packed in a lot with our three week tour of northern France. We started with either days in Paris with a Rick Steve's tour. Staying a block from the Eiffel Tower, we explored just about every "arrondissement" in Paris, reveling in the culture and in the wonderful food. We climbed the Arc de Triomphe and even visited the other two arches on the axis: the Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel (in front of the Louvre) and the Grande Arche in La Defense. We walked through museums galore (the Orsay was our favorite) and viewed Notre Dame several times from the river and walkways.

The next 10 days were spent as part of an Avalon River cruise - but starting on land. We visited Saint Malo, Mont St Michel (another absolute highlight of the trip), and Normandy. And then onto Le Havre,

where we boarded a river boat for an eight day sail back up the Seine into Paris.

An absolute treat for me on that portion of the trip was taking a baking class to learn to make macarons. It was so much fun and tasty. Not sure yet I'll tackle them back home.

Unfortunately, we both came down with a bad case of Covid (caught in France somewhere), but have since recovered.

Instead of leaving everyone with photos of Paris and France, I instead am including all the cat photos I took in the Orsay Museum (obviously I am a cat lover). Most of these are from larger paintings where the cat was just part of a bigger subject. And even though we covered every inch of the museum, I bet I missed some.



The Importance Of Folk Music In Helping People To Feel Human by Laurence Mesirow

Published in the www.jewishwebsite.com on September 12, 2022 - Courtesy of Terry Abrahams

When I was growing up, folk music was more than just a kind of quaint exotic pretty music to which people listened. It was also a vehicle through which people could ground themselves in the remnants of traditional cultures that were still able to survive the sensory distortion that was so present in modern technological society. It was also a way that people could bond with one another using folk music as a form of emotional template. Folk music did this because traditional folk music as well as tradition-inspired folk music are a very pure form of primary experience with a lot of organic stimulation that is generated by the people performing the music.

But one other factor is critically important. People have to not only be able to generate the primary experience and the organic stimulation with their singing and their playing of different folk instruments. They have to be able to fully absorb what is being generated.

We can say that the fifties, sixties and seventies was a time of experiential transition. Bob Dylan played a very important role in gradually moving people away from traditional folk music. It was a revolutionary act of defiance, when he brought his electric guitar to accompany himself at the famous Newport Folk Festival. Many people were entranced by what he was doing, while others who were more traditional folkies were very upset. Gradually, he shifted a lot of people away from folk music into what came to be known as soft rock. And then, many of those people shifted into hard rock. With this shift, there was no pretense anymore of maintaining any kind of allegiance to folk music for many of its original adherents.

So, what was really going on here. I believe that if Bob Dylan hadn't shifted a lot of people away from folk music, someone else would have done it. Or some other group or some other situation. Because as machines like television and computers and video games and smartphones and, of course, electrical musical instruments started taking over particularly young people's lives, the machines started to act more and more like mirrors and models for these young people. The young people started to respond more and more to the abrasive defined discrete stimuli of some machines and to the frictionless mediated vacuum machines of others, neither of which, of course, didn't fit into their mammalian natures. As this happened, they developed greater difficulty as human beings in absorbing the flowing, blendable, continual organic stimuli of the more traditional natural living environments. And so, of course, activities which involved a lot of primary experience and organic stimuli were not very well absorbed. As their daily life experience became increasingly transformed, people lost their capacity to effectively absorb psychologically the organic stimulation they really needed in order to survive properly as mammals. And as they started to rely more and more on defined discrete mechanical and later digital stimulation in order to pull out of the numbness that surrounded them as a result of living in modern technological society, they became more and more robotized, more like a cyborg. Such a transformation created a state of mind which would be more attracted to and more capable of absorbing the defined discrete stimuli of modern popular music with its emphasis on loud electronic musical instruments than the flowing blendable continual stimuli of folk music with its emphasis on traditional acoustic musical instruments. With the electronic musical instruments, the amplification is so loud that it is deafening. But that is the way it has to be for people who are desirous of pulling themselves out of the experiential vacuum of modern technological society. Abrasive stimuli are what they crave.

This article has been written from the point of view of folk music in the United States. There is a famous folk music school in Chicago called the Old Town School of Folk Music. It has continued to exist since the 1960's. It has certainly gotten bigger and more successful financially. But a closer examination reveals that much of the music being taught is not folk music at all. For example, the Beatles are very popular there. It is fine that people want to study the Beatles. But not in a folk music school. When all is said and done, the Beatles are part of a transition to the loud electronic music that came in with sensory distortion. Granted they aren't as abrasive as the Rolling Stones and heavy metal groups, but their electronic instruments certainly make them loud.

Oh well! It is hard for people to escape the musical influences in today's world of electronic instruments. And visual influences of strobe lights. Which tend to break people up into a series of visual fragments. Which is what people begin to feel themselves as they experience the abrasive music of today.

Calendar and Tours

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

Event Calendar

Check and recheck events to make sure of their virtual or in-person status before participating.

2022-11-04	Autumn Leaves, Nashville, TN, www.nifddance.com , Nashville International Folk Dancers
2022-11-04	Greek Festival, Tallahassee, FL, www.tallahasseeegreekfoodfest.com , Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church
2022-11-10	Greek Festival, Daytona Beach, FL, www.stdemetriosdaytona.org/greek-fesitval , St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
2022-11-11	CFU Tamfest, Las Vegas, NV, www.cfu.org/event/35th-annual-cfu-tamfest , Croatian Fraternal Union
2022-11-11	Fall Camp, Brandeis, CA, www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm , Folk Dance Federation of California, South
2022-11-11	Fall Camp, Simi Valley, CA, www.fallcamp.org
2022-11-12	Greek Festival, N. Miami, FL, www.annunciationmiami.org , Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation
2022-11-24	Texa-Kolo (virtual and inperson), Bruceville, TX, www.tifd.org , Texas International Folk Dancers
2022-11-24	Virtual Kolo Festival (with Texas Camp), www.kolofestival.org
2022-11-24	Bannerman Folk Camp, Black Mountain, NC, www.bannermanfolkcamp.com
2022-11-26	Orlando FusionFest, Orlando, FL, www.fusionfest.org
2022-12-21	Orlando Holiday Party, Orlando, FL, No web information, Orlando IFDC
2022-12-24	Machol Miami Lite, Aventura, FL, www.macholmiami.com
2022-12-26	Christmas Country Dance School, Berea, KY, www.berea.edu/ccds
2022-12-26	Winter Dance Week, Brasstown, NC, www.folkschool.org , John C. Campbell Folk School
2022-12-28	Folklore Village Festival of Christmas and Midwinter Traditions, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org
2023-01-16	Israeli Dance and Workshop with Shmulik Gov-Ari, Delray Beach, FL, No web information
2023-01-27	Folk Ball Festival, Madison, WI, www.madfolkdance.org/folkball , Madison Folk Dance Club
2023-01-27	Virtual Stockton Winter Folk Dance Camp, www.folkdancecamp.org/
2023-01-27	Florida Snow Ball, Gulfport, FL, www.floridasnowball.com/ , Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance
2023-02-03	Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Weekend Workshop, Kissimmee, FL, www.folkdance.org/ , FFDC
2023-02-17	Dance Flurry, Saratoga Springs, NY, www.flurryfestival.org
2023-02-17	Greek Festival, Sarasota, FL, www.stbarbarafestival.org , St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
2023-02-23	Cerritos Lunar New Year Festival, Cerritos, CA, www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm , Folk Dance Federation of California, South
2023-02-24	Greek Festival, Melbourne, FL, www.saint-katherine.org/fest_info.html , St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
2023-03-03	Laguna Folk Dance Festival, Laguna Woods, CA, www.lagunainternationaldancers.com ,
2023-03-17	Spring Norwegian Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org , Folklore Village
2023-03-24	Chicago Spring Festival, Chicago, IL, www.balkanskeigre.org
2023-03-29	NFO Annual Conference, Concord, MA, www.nfo-usa.org , National Folk Organization (NFO)
2023-03-30	Cajun and Creole Music and Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org
2023-04-21	New England Folk Festival, Malborough, MA, www.neffa.org/What_is_Festival.html , New England Folk Festival Association (NEFFA)
2023-04-21	Lyrids Folk Dance Festival, Vancouver, Canada, www.lyridsfolkdancefestival.org
2023-04-28	English Country Dance Weekend, Brasstown, NC, www.folkschool.org , John C. Campbell Folk School
2023-04-28	English Country Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org

Event Calendar (continued)

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2023-05-06	Cerritos 40th Anniversary Festival, Cerritos, CA, www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm , Folk Dance Federation of California, South
2023-05-19	California Statewide Folk Dance Festival, San Pedro, CA, www.socalfolkdance.com/statewide.htm , Folk Dance Federation of California, South
2023-05-19	Ontario Folk Dance Camp, www.ontariofolkdancecamp.ca
2023-06-01	June Camp: An International Folk Dance Weekend, Deerfield, IL, www.sites.google.com/site/junecampifd
2023-06-04	International Folkfest, Murfreesboro, TN, www.mboro-international-folkfest.org
2023-06-17	West Coast Balkan Music and Dance Workshop, Mendocino Woodlands, CA, www.eefc.org/balkan-camp/west-coast
2023-06-22	Toronto Israeli Dance Festival, Toronto, Canada, www.israelidancetoronto.com
2023-08-05	East Coast Balkan Music and Dance Workshop, Rock Hill, NY, www.eefc.org/balkan-camp/east-coast-balkan-music-dance-workshop/ , East European Folklife Center
2023-09-01	Karmiel USA - Israeli Folk Dance Weekend, Highlands, NC, www.karmielusa.com

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 Pollock's calendar!): <https://daleadamson.com/other-online-event-calendars-of-interest/> - Andy's calendar also resides here: <https://tinyurl.com/andyscaler>

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!)

Florida Folk Dancer is published six times a year by the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc., a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to further knowledge, performance, and recreational enjoyment of International Folk Dance.

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