#### **JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023**



# President's Message by Gary Berke

# The Last President's Message of 2022 and the First of 2023!

Happy New Year!

I hope you all have had wonderful holidays and have weathered the last Covid storm. I've had it twice in the last

ten weeks, even though I had my third booster after the first time. I also got a flu shot for the first time in my life and initially thought that the second case of Covid was a reaction to it. So, with a refreshed feeling of mortality, I face the New Year thinking of all the wonderful friends we lost this year, most recently, Caroline Lanker.

Registration is moving forward for camp. Please get yours in ASAP, because although I worked hard to get downstairs rooms on the contract, this provision is only good if you register by January 3, the day we are due to get our registrations in. It is subject to availability in any case, but our chances decrease the longer we wait after that date.

I am waiting for the list of dances our teachers plan to teach, which I will share with group leaders upon their request. Group leaders, the list is only an email away once I get it, so don't hesitate to ask for it, so we don't have too many dances your people already know.

Carla and I worked on a fun menu, which she is putting through, but the number of choices depends upon the number of people we have registered. For instance, if we need thirty people for two selections, with sixty people we can have four selections. So it makes a big difference in the variety we receive. The earlier we have a good number, the more likely we are to get the best selection.

Finally, elections for officers are coming up this year. Anyone who thinks he or she would like to serve, please make sure you are nominated. I am also enclosing the schedule for camp (Page 9) in the newsletter.

Here's to a great 2023!



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# Passings

# Notice of the Loss of Caroline Lanker

As many of you have already heard, we tragically lost Caroline Lanker on December 13, 2022.

Her family will be sharing her obituary with us, but it was not ready at time of publication of this issue. But this time actually gives us (her FFDC fellow dancers) a chance to collect and share memories and photos of Caroline. Send any items you'd like to include to Vicki Kulifay at newsletter@floridafolkdancer.org by February 26. They will then be included along with the obituary, which we hope to have by the March/April 2023 issue of the newsletter.

**RIP** Caroline.



Caroline and Gary Lanker in 2012. Gary passed away in 2014.

# Club Reports In

## Orlando International Folk Dance Club by Pat Henderson

We couldn't believe that we had another hurricane come through the state after the devastation of Hurricane Ian in September, but we had Hurricane Nicole cancel our dancing on November 9. The rest of the year went smoothly and we had our annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 21, starting early with a potluck dinner. We had several who planned to come and missed at the last minute for various reasons. Traveling during December to visit family were Carla to the DC area, Frank to Michigan, and Cathy to Arizona.

Our group performed on Thanksgiving weekend in downtown Orlando at the Dr. Phillips Center at the fifth FusionFest. Our theme was Ukraine and its neighbors. We entered with Horehronsky Czardas from Slovakia, then W Moim from Poland, and ended with Oj Maju, Maju. It was Adena's first performance with us. Also, we were happy that Bob Monaghan from New Jersey was able to join us. We were well received.

We are looking forward to seeing Jaap and Andy again at our workshop February 3-6.





# Gainesville Update by Joyce Dewsbury

The group is dancing every Wednesday and also dancing once a month at Alz Place which is the group's community service. I have not been dancing and will shortly explain.

The photo here was taken several years ago when we were still dancing at the Rosa B. Williams Center. To date the center has not scheduled dance groups to be there.



Now for a brief personal note. I was diagnosed a couple of years ago with severe spinal stenosis. The pain and impact on my legs affected my ability to dance. Lots of physical therapy and some injections did not work. So off to surgery I went and I had a laminectomy where bones are removed (in my case) from the L4/L5 area of the spine so that the nerves are no longer impinged. It will take a while to fully recover but I am hopeful that I will be able to dance again...especially those more vigorous dances that I love.

This photo is from October 19 and shows some members wielding

percussive instruments. Julieta always brings these and often folks use them to add some rhythm to the dance music. And it is fun to use them.



Some of the members danced at Alz Place on November 20. It has always been a good experience for the dancers and the folks who are patients there.





## Gainesville Update (continued)

#### **Continued From Page 4**

Here is the group photo from December 7, just before the break. Kelly visited and it looks as if she is holding a pie. Pictured are (L to R) Joyce Story, June, Peter, Kelly, Julieta, Tina (Kelly's Mom), and Donna.



On December 14 this happy group danced - Joyce S., Felipe, June, and Peter.

On December 21 Pearl visited the group. She had not been there for a long time so everyone was very happy to see her. She lives in Jacksonville. Pictured are Julieta, June, Peter, Gary, Bo, Joyce S. and Pearl's son, Charles.



The Gainesville International Folk Dancers wish everyone a very Happy New Year. May it bring some happier times to us all.



# Heard It From The Sarasota Grapeviners by Carol Spangler

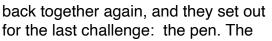
Many of our Grapeviners are on the move and not just at dance sessions. My husband and I have just returned from a cruise around the British Isles, that included Ireland, Scotland, the Orkney Islands, Normandy Beach in France, and finally a week in London. It was great, but not unusual. Most of my travel stories were fun, but nothing you haven't either done yourselves or heard about from friends. However, Lynda Harris took a vacation that I doubt you have ever heard about or could imagine. Happily, she was willing to write a wonderful story about her passion for sheep dogs...who knew? Here it is, in her own words.

"What can be more fun than sitting in the sun and watching dogs herd sheep all day? Well, ok, maybe a lot of things... but watching the sheep dog trials at the 5-day competition in Meeker, Colorado is one of my favorite things to do on an autumn weekend.

Imagine a field about the size of four football fields. The handler and dog start out together at the bottom of the field. At the top of the field, ten sheep wait. The handler gives the dog the command to fetch the sheep, and off s/he goes at a dead run. The dog comes up behind the sheep and starts them moving down the field, directing them through a set of panels (imagine a large opening in a fence), then down to where the handler is standing, around the handler, back up the field, across the field through two more sets of panels, then back down the field to the handler. Whew!

And that's just the beginning. Now the handler and dog, working together, must separate out the three sheep that are wearing big brightly colored collars. This is tricky, because the sheep want to stay together. When one or two get split out from the flock, they all get nervous and try to get back together again. The dog controls the sheep with body language and intense eye contact. (If a dog should get so frustrated that he nips a sheep, the dog is immediately disqualified.)

Once the three sheep have been successfully 'shed,' the handler tells the dog to put the flock



object is to get the sheep into a small pen -- a plan that the sheep think is a truly bad idea.

Oh, and BTW – there's a time limit to accomplishing all the above.

And for the Finals, there's an extra twist: after the dog fetches the ten sheep and brings them through the panels and down to the handler, s/he is told to "Look back!" because there are ten more sheep waiting at the top of the field. The dog can't see those sheep, and his instincts are to keep his ten sheep in a tight little bunch – not to turn his back on them and run back up the field. This creates a stressful situation for all: dogs, handlers, and spectators.

Sheep dog trials are held all over the country. If you'd like to see one in person, go to <u>https://usbcha.com/sheepdogs/sanctioned-sheepdog-trials</u>."

Lynda tells a great story, because I could see it all in my mind's eye and it actually made me want to check it out. There may be a trip to Colorado for me come autumn!

Next, I'm happy to share another "How I came to Folk Dance and found my true love story." You may recall that I started this series just to hear about how folks got started in International Folk Dance and quickly found out that many of them included a love story, and not just a love of dance.

Wylie and Erica Crawford are snowbirds and when they flew back in this year, I asked them to tell me their story. I had a feeling that it might be a good one. Wylie started folk dancing in the 1960s while attending Antioch College in southwestern Ohio. The dancing took place every Friday night on "Red Square" - a brick surface not best for dancing. But they were all young and enthusiastic. Eventually, he became one of the "troika" of leaders of the group.

When he graduated, he went to the University of Chicago, where dancing was thriving under the leadership of Paul Collins - again, on Friday nights. Continued On Page 7



## Heard It From The Sarasota Grapeviners

#### **Continued From Page 6**

At the same time, there was a group in Evanston being run by Sanna and Mars Longden on Monday nights. These two groups, along with others, meant that one could dance virtually every night of the week.

It was at the Monday night group that he first laid eyes on Erica. After the dances, they would adjourn to the Longden household for an after-party. This is where they became better acquainted. One thing led to another and they have been blissfully married for over 22 years. I love this direct quote from Wylie:

"I remember being told early in my folk dance career that folk dancing was not a likely place to find a mate (the dancers are 'just too weird.') To that, I can happily reply that folk dancing has been very good to me!" I had a chance to hear a little more of the story from Erica and from the glow in her eyes in the telling, I think she feels the same way...that folk dancing has been very good to her, too.



Events

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



## Working Schedule For This Year's Camp Subject To Change

**IMPORTANT NOTE**: Please observe our Covid regulations, which remain unchanged from last year. The FFDC Board has voted that all people attending any part of the weekend must present proof of vaccination (including boosters) or a negative Covid test within 48 hours of arrival at camp.

#### FRIDAY

4 pm: Check in, check out your room, register with us, eat dinner with friends
7:30 pm: Welcome party. Meet Jaap and Andy
9:30 pm: Snacks - this ain't a meal folks, just a refresher
10:00 pm: Dance the night away... ('til midnight)

#### SATURDAY

When the kitchen opens, breakfast begins
9-9:15 am: Warm up
9:15-10:15 am: Teaching
10:30-11:30 am: Teaching
Noon-1:30 pm: Lunch; MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND VOTING FOR OFFICERS, so don't run away
1:45-2:45 pm: Teaching
3:00-3:45 pm: Culture Corner
4-4:45 pm: Teaching
5-6 pm: Free time, games, or music jam
6-7 pm: Dinner
7:30 pm: Party with some review snuck in by 9:00; choice couple dances interspersed
9:30 pm: Snack - really our dessert from dinner, plus...
12 midnight: the party ends...for most

#### SUNDAY

When the kitchen opens, breakfast begins
9-9:15 am: 15 minutes of warm up?
9:15-10:15 am: Teaching
10:45-11:45 am: Teaching
Noon: Lunch; a few moments of memory for lost friends
1:30 pm: Auction wind-up
2-3 pm: Teaching
3:15-4 pm: Culture Corner
4:15-5 pm: Teaching
5-6 pm: Free time, games, or music jam
6-7 pm: Dinner
7:30 pm: Last party with couple dancing interspersed and review tomorrow
9:30 pm: Snacks, and party 'til midnight...

#### MONDAY

When kitchen opens, breakfast begins 9:15 am: Fifteen minutes of warm up, seriously? 9:30-11 am: Final review, if it takes that long Noon: Check out deadline; good bye until next year

## Footnotes

# Winter Folk Dance Day Brings Hundreds to Tartu by Michael Cole

Reprinted from ERR News December 12, 2022. ERR News is the English-language service of Estonian Public Broadcasting. <u>https://news.err.ee/</u>

Once a year in December, folk dancers from all over Estonia gather together on the cobblestones of Tartu's Town Hall Square (Raekoja Plats) for the traditional Tartu Winter Dance Day. This year's event saw a record number of people involved, including over a thousand folk dancers.

Usually, the busiest time for folk dance parties in Estonia is in the summer. So, the annual Tartu Winter Dance Day, which took place this Saturday, was one of the few times during the colder months, when hundreds of dancers get all dressed up in their traditional folk costumes and come together to perform.

"It's very nice to dance here, in such a big crowd. After a long time, we can finally come to the Winter Dance Festival, we feel really positive. We can dance ourselves warm, so that's why it's so good to be here," said Ilmar, one of the folk dancers involved in this year's event.



For some participants, this was their third, fourth or even tenth

Tartu Winter dance Day, with the numbers involved growing every year. This year, more than a thousand dancers took part, weaving their way around the square between the huge Christmas tree and glass houses of the Tartu Christmas village.

Schoolchildren learn how to make traditional blood sausages

Kati and Meelis for instance, travelled to Tartu from Viimsi to take part. "It's the first time we've been (for this), so it's a really good feeling," said Kati.

All kinds of traditional Estonian folk dances were performed on the day, some more well-known than others. "We've been searching the archives for a few 'old numbers' that haven't been danced for a long time and made our own arrangements for them here," said Robin Gielen, artistic director of the Winter Dance Day.

"In fact, they're all things like that, which every folk dancer has, at some point, tried their hand at," Gielen said.

Of course, the folk dancing in traditional costumes is all accompanied by live music, which this year was provided by Regina Mänd, Kert Krüsban and Villu Talsi.

"The way musicians play is like in the old days. If they want, they play faster, or they play slower. That makes it more interesting for the dancers too. Musicians don't play the same rhythm all the time, otherwise they would get bored. The same is true for dancers, I think," Gielen said.



# Calendar and Tours

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

## Event Calendar

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

2023-01-16	Israeli Dance and Workshop with Shmulik Gov-Ari, Delray Beach, FL, No web information
2023-01-10	Folk Ball Festival, Madison, WI, www.madfolkdance.org/folkball, Madison Folk Dance Club
2023-01-27 Virtu 2023-01-27	ual Virtual Stockton Winter Folk Dance Camp, <a href="http://www.folkdancecamp.org/">www.folkdancecamp.org/</a> Florida Snow Ball, Gulfport, FL, <a href="http://www.floridasnowball.com/">www.floridasnowball.com/</a> , Tampa Friends of Old-Time Dance
	Florida Silow Bail, Guiport, PL, www.hondashowbail.com/, Tampa Flerids of Old-Time Dance Florida Folk Dance Council Winter Weekend Workshop, Kissimmee, FL, www.folkdance.org/, FFDC
2023-02-03 2023-02-17	Dance Flurry, Saratoga Springs, NY, www.flurryfestival.org
2023-02-17	<u>Greek Festival</u> , Saratoga Springs, NY, <u>www.nurryiestival.org</u> <u>Greek Festival</u> , Sarasota, FL, <u>www.stbarbarafestival.org</u> , St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
<u>2023-02-17</u> 2023-02-17	Ocala Greek Festival, Belleview, FL, www.greekfestivalocala.com, St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church
2023-02-17	<u>Greek Festival</u> , Ft. Myers, FL, www.greekfestfortmyers.com, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
2023-02-17	<u>Greek Festival</u> , Winter Haven, FL, www.happeningnext.com/event/greek-festival-eid4so0mgcbms1, St.
2025-02-17	Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
2023-02-23	<u>Cerritos Lunar New Year Festival</u> , Cerritos, CA, <u>www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm</u> , Folk Dance
2020 02 20	Federation of California, South
<u>2023-02-24</u>	<u>Greek Festival</u> , Melbourne, FL, <u>www.saint-katherine.org/fest_info.html</u> , 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
2023-04-13	Kochavim Israeli Dance Camp, Wimberly, TX, www.kochavim.net
2023-04-14	Springdans Northwest, Seabeck, WA, www.skandia-folkdance.org, Skandia Folkdance Society
<u>2023-04-21</u>	<u>New England Folk Festival</u> , Malborough, MA, <u>www.neffa.org/What_is_Festival.html</u> , New England Folk
	Festival Association (NEFFA)
2023-04-21	Lyrids Folk Dance Festival, Vancouver, Canada, www.lyridsfolkdancefestival.org
2023-04-28	Boulder International Folk Dance Spring Workshop, Boulder, CO, www.boulderfolkdancers.org,
2023-04-28	English Country Dance Weekend, Brasstown, NC, <u>www.folkschool.org</u> , John C. Campbell Folk School
<u>2023-04-28</u>	English Country Dance Weekend, Dodgeville, WI, www.folklorevillage.org
2023-05-06	Cerritos 40th Anniversary Festival, Cerritos, CA, www.socalfolkdance.org/calendar.htm, Folk Dance
	Federation of California, South
<u>2023-05-12</u>	International Folk Dance Camp, Hopewell Junction, NY, www.ifc-ny.com
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
<u>2023-05-26</u>	Florida Folk Festival, White Springs, FL, www.floridastateparks.org/FloridaFolkFestival, Florida State
	Parks
2023-05-26	Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle, WA, www.nwfolklife.org
2023-06-01	June Camp: An International Folk Dance Weekend, Deerfield, IL, <u>www.sites.google.com/site/</u>
	junecampifd
2023-06-04	International Folkfest, Murfreesboro, TN, <u>www.mboro-international-folkfest.org</u>
2023-06-10	Scandia Camp Mendocino, Mendocino, GA, www.scandiacampmendocino.org, Scandia Camp
2023-06-17	West Coast Balkan Music and Dance Workshop, Mendocino Woodlands, CA, www.eefc.org/balkan-
	<u>camp/west-coast</u>

## Event Calendar (continued)

Continued from Pa	ge 12
2023-06-22	Toronto Israeli Dance Festival, Toronto, Canada, <u>www.israelidancetoronto.com</u>
2023-06-22	International Dance and Music at Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA, www.facone.org, Folk Arts Center
i	of New England
2023-07-08	Nordic Fiddles and Feet, Lyman, NH, www.nordicfiddlesandfeet.org, Nordic Fiddles and Feet
2023-07-14	Montana Folk Festival, Butte, MT, www.montanafolkfestival.com
2023-07-16	Stockton Folk Dance Camp - Week 1, Stockton, CA, www.folkdancecamp.org, Stockton Folk Dance
	Camp
2023-07-16	KDI Dance Camp, Murray, KY, www.knobtiger.com
2023-07-23	Stockton Folk Dance Camp - Week 2, Stockton, CA, www.folkdancecamp.org, Stockton Folk Dance
	Camp
2023-07-28	Lark Camp, Woodlands, CA, www.larkcamp.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
2023-08-20	Mainewoods Dance Camp Week 1, Fryeburg, ME, www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org
2023-08-27	Mainewoods Dance Camp Week 2, Fryeburg, ME, www.mainewoodsdancecamp.org
2023-09-01	Karmiel USA - Israeli Folk Dance Weekend, Highlands, NC
2023-10-26	Pourparler, Dodgeville, WS, www.nfo-usa.org/pourparler, NFO

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: <u>https://daleadamson.com/event-submission/</u> Use this link to access various other items (including Andy Pollock's calendar!): <u>https://daleadamson.com/other-online-event-calendars-of-interest/</u> - Andy's calendar also resides here: <u>https://tinyurl.com/andyscalender</u>

## Folk Dance Tour Contacts

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

For Seminars of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis, contact moisidiskyriakos@gmail.com.

For tours with Sonia and Cristian, see <u>http://www.soniacristian.net</u> or contact Sonia at <u>sonia\_dion@hotmail.com</u>.

For Jim Gold Folk Tours, see <u>http://www.jimgold.com</u> or contact Jim Gold at <u>jimgold@jimgold.com</u> 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 <u>http://www.tinekevangeel.nl</u>.

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

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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