



November-December 2010

Contents

[Prez Sez](#)
[Olga Princi Scholarship](#)
[From the Editor](#)
[Trip to Bulgaria, Continued](#)
[Two Hours in Bulgaria](#)
[Flawless Fall Fling](#)
[Return of the Bata](#)
[Atlanta News](#)
[Pinewoods English Country Week](#)
[Sharpes Assembly](#)
[A Tale of Two Workshops](#)
[Orlando IFDC](#)
[Bobby's 65th](#)
[Fifty Plus Years of Dancing](#)
[Tampa Trivia](#)
[Sarasota Grapeviners](#)
[Holiday Party Plans](#)
[Letters](#)
[Holland America Cruise January 30](#)
[Dance Videos on the Web](#)
[Events](#)
[Tours](#)

Prez Sez

If my life gets any busier, I'll have to go back to work to rest! But I wouldn't have it any other way. October finally ended. Oktoberfest was fun; I loved San Diego and the wedding; receiving my veteran fencing award was a highlight in my life; the contra Fall Ball had a terrific band and caller; and our Fall Fling was terrific!

Many of you signed up for our **Presidents' Weekend 2011** (it's hard not to call it camp) at Fall Fling, and will receive either your free DVD or T-shirt. But if you didn't sign up at the Fling, don't let that stop you from registering as soon as possible. **The deadline for registration is January 10.** If you miss the deadline for registration, you must make your own arrangements for rooms and food and pay ala carte prices for the workshops and parties.

Venue:

We have changed venues since last "camp". The new venue was announced in the July/August FFD, but it bears repeating. We are still in Kissimmee, still in a hotel, with some more positive points. It will be at the Holiday Inn Main Gate East, 5711 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy. (US 192) Kissimmee, Florida. It is all indoors, so we don't have to bother with the weather. The hot tub is more convenient and open into the night. Well, those are the more important points!

Olga Princi scholarship: See [Olga Princi Scholarship](#).

Help! Help! Help!

Snacks:

The hotel is allowing us to do our own *and* to have them near the dancing (another good change), but they *must* be *ethnic!*

Syllabi:

This year the teachers are not sending syllabi (don't ask). But there are those of us who would like them. I would like some volunteers to offer to take notes on one (or more if you are willing) dance, double check with someone else and prepare to write them up for afterwards. Normally we have them ahead of time, and that just isn't happening.

If you are one of the people that like to receive the syllabi, think hard about being a part of the solution. If necessary we can wait for the DVD to come out and double check the dances there, but that may not be necessary if you take good notes. Think hard about helping produce the syllabi. I thank you ahead of time.

Remember, we are having Greek and Hungarian teachers, so we'll have Hungarian and Greek party nights and the snacks should match. It isn't decided which night is which – Saturday or Sunday – but if you volunteer to do Greek or Hungarian snacks you can have a say in which night.

It would be terrific if your club as a whole would offer to do an evening – pick your country, check the Internet (or your old fashioned cookbooks) for recipes, and put your hand up and offer. Snacks can be snacks. They don't have to be a full meal, with main dishes, or anything. But – they *must* be *ethnic* – not just grapes and cheese. That includes Friday night by the way; that night could be any ethnicity you like – Eastern European, South American, Indian, Asian – whatever! Do I hear any offers?



Trip to Bulgaria, Continued

Not all of the great material produced from the August 2010 Bulgaria trip with Jim Gold made it into the last newsletter, due to lack of space. Some of it spilled over into this issue. Below are more pictures and at right are an article and pictures from one memorable day on the trip.



The Florida contingent: Bobby Quibodeaux, Pat Henderson, Jack Seltzer, Linda Seltzer, and Sandra Suplicki



East meets West: Bulgarians and tourists dancing together at the Koprivshtitsa Folk Festival. The woman leading the line is talking on a cell phone!

Photo by Pat Henderson

Two Hours in Bulgaria

by Jack Seltzer

Out of our eleven days on the Jim Gold Bulgarian tour this summer, there are two hours that really stand out in my mind – in Kovachevitsi village. “Where is this place on the map?” I kept wondering when we left the three-day festival in Koprivshtitsa. Well it wasn’t there! I can tell you between which two towns it was approximately, but after 2-3 hours of an unbelievable time there, I really didn’t care anymore. This village was a standout. What an incredible happening we enjoyed with the people there.

When our bus pulled into the quiet plaza on that day (photo above, by Jack Seltzer), we were first greeted by the mayoress and her entourage. There were speeches about how welcome we were and how the town would one day have a Hilton for us to stay at across from where we were standing. Ha! We were going to get, in a few hours, all the hospitality this town had to give to outsiders.

They gave us a performance with six costumed ladies and a Roma boy belting out their hearts in a song. Next we were danced down the street to a villager’s home and back yard, where we given all kinds of delectables (banitsa – a white cheese pastry, for example) that the town’s people had put together for us, and there were at least 52 of us.

Then the entertainment got serious. One of the original Mystery of Bulgarian Voices, Kremena Stancheva, gave us some solos and duets; then the accordion player took off. What sounds and sights under the trees in Kremena’s garden.



Jack Seltzer, center, with the mayor, to the right of Jack, and other citizens of Kovachevitsi village

Photo by Linda Seltzer

What was next? Well, lots of pictures, hugs and well wishes as they danced us back to the square and serenaded us as we sat on the bus waiting to leave, concluding two unforgettable hours out of eleven fun-filled days in Bulgaria this summer.



Kremena Stanchova and a musician

Photo by Pat Henderson

[Return to Contents](#)

I think that including a lot of oldies benefited the program. It seems that the tried and true dances get a lot of people out on the floor. To add some variety at points scattered throughout the day, several people taught new dances, reviewed dances or led walkthroughs of set dances.

Jack: It was a good test for my new toe – seven weeks after a toe joint implant. My toe survived, after I took two Aleve around 5 PM.

Terry: We did our usual potluck lunch, which just seems to get tastier and tastier – plenty for everyone and yummy! The food committee worked hard to keep us very happy and we thank them again.

Pat: This year, we did not have to buy extra food, since there was enough for both lunch and supper. There were so many choices, we could have different dishes at each meal.



Playing for the dancers: Terry Abrahams, David Davia and John Daly

Photo by Jean Marszal

Terry: In between, our little rag-tag “band” went out on that lovely porch and practiced a couple of numbers to be presented to the group. This year David Davia, who played the trumpet, joined John and me – thanks, David! John and I get lonely and the trumpet was a great addition!



The band played this oldie, among others – can you tell what dance it is?

Photo by Jean Marszal

Pat: Thank you to John and the Melbourne group for hosting this wonderful event.

Terry: If you missed it, you should be sorry. If you didn't, you were one of the 50ish dancers who had a great day! And those of us who spent the night afterward thank our hostesses for the beds, the company, and the excellent breakfast!

John: Anyway, it was a great Fling. The Melbourne group really appreciates everybody coming. It's always a lot of fun.



Jan Lathi and Julius Horvath enjoying a tête-à-tête

Photo by Terry Abrahams

Sixty-plus year folk dancer Ann Robinson

Photo by Terry Abrahams



Caroline Lanker, in center of circle, teaching a dance

Photo by Jean Marszal



The peanut gallery: Palmira Mora-Vals, Ursula Tison, Gary Lanker, Ernesto Baizan, Joan Washington, and Wally Washington in the front row.

Photo by Terry Abrahams

[Return to Contents](#)

Sharpes Assembly

by Caroline Lanker

The English Country Dancers of Melbourne and Titusville hosted the Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance Weekend on October 15 – 17, at the Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring, Florida.

The caller was Michael Barraclough, from Annandale, Virginia. The program included a variety of old and new English Country dances. The traditional ball was held on Saturday evening, for which many people dressed in formal attire or period costumes. Full Circle did a splendid job of providing music, including a medley of a dozen or more pieces for one dance! At least 82 people were signed up ahead of the weekend.

The weekend was organized by Melbourne ECD dancers and Florida Folk Dance Council members Catie Geist, Bernice Roth, Fannie Salerno and Willa Davidsohn. Other FFDC members who attended were Ruth Ann Fay, Delores Lusting, Virginia Marszal, Caroline Lanker and Gary Lanker.



Fannie Salerno, on left, and other dancers

Photo by Caroline Lanker



Sharpes Assembly, above: top row: Catie Geist; Gary and Caroline Lanker; second row: Michael Barraclough; Ruth Ann Fay, center, with other dancers; third row: Full Circle band – Veronica Lane; Robbie Zukauskas; Ted Lane

Photos: of Catie by Thomas Howe; of Gary and Caroline by Delores Lustig; others by Caroline Lanker



Dressed for the ball: from left: Bernice Roth, Fannie Salerno, Virginia Marszal, Willa Davidsohn, Delores Lustig, and Caroline Lanker.

Photo by Jean Marszal

Videos of dancing at the Sharpes Assembly can be viewed on YouTube at the following addresses:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAK0n6PbsiY
www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7AVo3UfKCA
www.youtube.com/watch?v=37q3zWM8w8M
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BGN5ZHxcsI

Additional photographs taken by photographer Thomas Howe may be viewed at

www.flickr.com/photos/thomas_h1/

[Return to Contents](#)

Orlando International Folk Dance Club

by Pat Henderson

Our club danced every Wednesday in October thanks to a record rainfall of zero for the month for Orlando. That beat the old record of 0.1 inch from 1946. The first Wednesday, we celebrated Bobby's birthday and also had our annual Oktoberfest. Terry came over from Tampa and composed a song for him while she was driving. She and Kelly performed it; the lyrics are on the right.

Of course, we had our annual Halloween party on October 27. Several from our group attended the Fall Fling in Melbourne which was absolutely wonderful. See [Flawless Fall Fling](#). We have not seen that many dancers at a fling in a long time. Bobby and I enjoyed the Orlando Serb Fest on November 6. Bata Marcetic brought his adult group from Toronto. See [Return of the Bata](#).

A few dancers traveled recently: Nicki Wise and her husband were in the North Carolina mountains and Phyllis Dammer and her husband Ed enjoyed a week in a timeshare in Palm Coast. Bobby and I joined them on Thursday, Nov. 4 and we danced with the Palm Coast group.

Mary Jean Linn reports that she and her husband Bill Byars took some family trips over the summer. One was to the Chicago area for Bill's niece's wedding. On an east coast trip to New York they danced with folk dancers and contra dancers in Richmond, Virginia. She also attended her nephew's wedding in Portland Oregon.

Kelly Fagan has spent most of her fall preparing for and performing the part of Mrs. Lovett in the play *Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. It ran October 29 – November 14 at the Athens Theatre in Deland. On Sunday, November 7, a group of us from various cities in Central Florida met for lunch and then attended the play. Kelly was fantastic in a large and difficult role; we all enjoyed the play and seeing her in it. Kelly and a few of her fans are seen in the photo below.



Photo by Pat Henderson

After the play: Fred Schockey, Betty Nehemias, Kelly Fagan (in costume and makeup for her role as Mrs. Lovett), Jan Lathi, Claudia Terrence, Caroline Lanker, and Ruth Ann Fay.

Bobby's 65th

by Terry Abrahams

[To the tune of "If I Only Had a Brain" from the Wizard of Oz]

You have finally reached the age where
You're eligible for medicare,
'cause now you're sixty-five

You can have an operation
Even when you're on vacation
As long as you're alive

There is this big advantage
It's not just an old adage
It's OK to grow old

It don't cost you any money
Either you or your honey
It is just as you've been told

You can have a heart attack
Or get a bad infection in your eye
You'll always get your money back
Unless – of course you die

But for now just keep on dancin'
With Pat keep on romancin'
Good luck from us all here

Have a happy, happy birthday
Making sure it's full-of-mirth day
And we'll do it again next year!



October 6 party in Orlando: in front: Bobby Quibodeaux and Terry Abrahams; behind: Ruth Ann Fay, Gary Lanker, Jan Lathi, Manual Mora-Vals, Palmira Mora-Vals, Caroline Lanker, Betty Nehemias, Emilie Brozek, Chick Hechtman, Phyllis Dammer, Karen Hechtman (hiding behind Ann), Ann Robinson, Juanita Schockey, Kelly Fagan, Pat Henderson

Photo by Ed Dammer

[Return to Contents](#)

Caroline Lanker:

I started college at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM in the fall of 1960, knowing not a soul there. I very soon became friends with some other girls in my dormitory who were from Los Alamos, NM and had been folk dancing while they were in high school. They found out about a folk dance club that met at the YMCA in downtown Albuquerque and got some boys who had cars to provide the transportation for all of us to go there. I loved it. The existing folk dance club consisted of "older" people – probably in their 30s and 40s. The infusion of us college "kids" kind of energized the group. I continued to dance there throughout my undergraduate years.

I have danced pretty continuously ever since, only missing about two years – once when I was in graduate school where there was no folk dancing available and one of the years when I had a baby. (My other two pregnancies didn't keep me from dancing.) After my first marriage ended in divorce, when I was a single parent with three kids, folk dancing was my main and almost only social activity. Gary and I met at folk dancing in Houston, Texas in 1985. We married in 1989. Many folk dancers attended our wedding and we had folk dancing at the reception.

Now, fifty years after I started, I can't dance as long and as hard as I used to, but I still love it. Folk dancing provides such a wide variety of ways to enjoy it – dancing for all tastes and abilities!



**Judy Merkt,
dressed for
Halloween, at the
Sarasota
Grapeviners on
October 27.**

Photo by Gary Lanker

Tampa Trivia

by Terry Abrahams

It's hard to believe I have nothing to say, but have I ever missed getting an article in the newsletter about Tampa? OK – there was one time, but there was an excuse. So, a brief hello from Tampa. We loved seeing everyone at the wonderful Fall Fling. (See [Flawless Fall Fling](#).) Melbourne does a terrific job – it is always a pleasure to go there. Ursula and I got over to Orlando to see Bata and his adult group perform at the Serb Fest, and it was well worth the trip. (See [Return of the Bata](#).) He's such a sweetie – and talented besides! There was an article about the Oktoberfest we all went to in St. Pete in the last issue of FFD.

Being an international folk dancer really opens up great activities, does it not? On November 11, I went to a Kirtan, which is singing for yoga people. Very nice and added to my list of new things tried. There was no fencing (Veterans Day), so I could go to the Kirtan – priorities after all. So this short article got a little longer. Hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sarasota Grapeviners

by Judy Merkt

The Sarasota Grapeviners have temporarily lost the use of the Bayfront Community Center for our Wednesday sessions. The water heater went bad and leaked lots of water, ruining the wood floor. The water heater and wood floor are being replaced.

In the meantime, we danced at Bay Village, a community near Sarasota Square Mall that has a lovely room with a small portable wood floor, on Saturday nights, November 6 and November 20. We will be dancing there again on the first three Saturday nights in December – December 4, 11, and 18, at the usual time – 7 to 9:30 PM.

Estimates are that the Bayfront Community Center will be available for Wednesday, December 22, but we won't know for sure until we are closer to that date.

Each person who comes to dance at Bay Village must be on an attendee list for each date they attend. So, if you plan to attend any of the December dates, let one of us know even if you have already been on the list for a prior date.

Contact information:

Judy Merkt 941-379-6302 jamerkt@comcast.net
Susan Barach 941-923-3302 hbarach@aol.com
Marie Millett 941-966-8250 gvdurn@earthlink.net

[Return to Contents](#)

Events

See FFDC club events in [Holiday Party Plans](#) and [Holland America Cruise January 30](#).

Be sure to check the FFDC calendar on www.folkdance.org for updates and more event listings!

December

December 24 – 27 Machol Miami 2010

Israeli dance workshop

Teachers: Dudu Barzilay and Yaron Malichi

Place: Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Contact: 305-690-4343, dancemiami@hotmail.com
Information: www.macholmiami.com

2011

February - March

February 18 – 21 FFDC Presidents' Weekend

Teachers: Kyriakos Moisisdis (Greek) & Rico Balazs (Hungarian)

Place: Holiday Inn Main Gate East, Kissimmee, FL

Contact: Terry Abrahams, 813-234-1231,
terry.abrahams@verizon.net

Information and registration form:
www.folkdance.org

See [Prez Sez](#) for more information.

Duquesne University Tamburitzans in Florida

For more dates in Florida and other information, visit the Tamburitzans' website:
www.duq.edu/tamburitzans.

February 26 & 27 Leesburg

Times: 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, both days
Paul P Williams Auditorium, Leesburg, FL
Contact: Erin O'Steen, 352-365-3506

March 1 Sarasota

Time: 7:00 PM
Glenridge Performing Arts Center Sarasota, FL
Contact: 941-552-5325

March 5 Daytona Beach

Time: 4:00 PM
Atlantic High School, Daytona Beach, FL
Contact: 386-760-9623

April

April 2 FFDC Spring Fling and Orlando International Folk Dance Club 40th Anniversary

Time: 11:30 AM – 7 PM

Place: Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Hall, Orlando, FL

Contact: Pat Henderson, 407-275-6247,
henderp@bellsouth.net

Information: www.folkdance.org, Calendar of Events

International Folk Dance Tours

Selected tours are listed in each newsletter. A more extensive list of tours can be found in the calendar on the FFDC website. This section includes one tour from each of four tour leaders or companies. To see additional tours that are offered in 2011, visit their websites.

2011

January 12 – 26 Dance on the Water Cruise – Egypt

Dance leader Lee Otterholt
7 day land tour, 7 day Nile cruise

Offered by Berkeley Travel
Contact: Mel Mann, 510-526-4033,
meldancing@aol.com

Information: www.folkdanceonthewater.org

April 27 – May 18 Central America and the Panama Canal Cruise with Karl Finger

Half-cruise itineraries also available

Contact: 413-528-2963, finger@bcn.net
Information: www.fingerfolk.com

May 8 – 18 Sicily and Southern Italy with Jim Gold

Information on all Jim Gold tours: www.jimgold.com
Contact: Jim Gold International, 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666; 201-836-0362,
jimgold@jimgold.com

May 8 – 20 Dance Tour to Armenia

Sponsored by Armenia Holiday and Tineke van Geel - Seminars

Contact: Tineke van Geel, info@TinekevanGeel.nl
Information: www.tinekevanGeel.nl and
www.armeniaholiday.com

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!).

[Return to Contents](#)

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FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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FFDC Website: www.folkdance.org