



May-June 2011

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## Spring Fling/Orlando's 40th Anniversary

by Pat Henderson

Spring Fling was combined with the celebration of 40 years of dancing by the Orlando group at the Whirl & Twirl Square Dance Hall in Orlando. David Digby, the founder of the Orlando group, and his wife, Dorothy Archer, visited from Atlanta for the occasion. It is truly amazing that there were six original members in attendance: David Digby, Morris and Sheila Rasy, Teresa Borker, Larry Wartell and Chris Feninger.



Dancing at Spring Fling

Photo by Judith Merkt

The festivities started at 11:30 am with a pot luck lunch, complete with an anniversary cake. I had selected 40 dances (see [40th Anniversary Program](#)) to represent the 40 years of the club, starting with dances from the first tape that we played every week back in the 70s. It progressed through a few performance dances during the big performing years and, more recently, our camp favorite of each year.

**Original members of Orlando International Folk Dance Club: Larry Wartell, Morris and Sheila Rasy, David Digby, Chris Feninger and Teresa Borker.**

Photo by Pat Henderson



After several hours of dancing, we took a break and recognized several members' birthdays with another cake. Those celebrating birthdays that week were: Ann Robinson (a big one), Joe Birkemeier, Jan Lathi, and Sheila Rasy. By the end of the day, around 7 pm, almost 60 people had come and danced 98 dances. The date for the next Spring Fling will be March 31, 2011. Put it on your calendar now!



# Orlando/Orange County Celebration of World Dance Day 2011

by Teresa Borker

With the Mayors of Orlando and Orange County executing Proclamations declaring Saturday, April 30th the official World Dance Day - 2011 in Orlando/Orange County, and the sponsorship once again of Festival Bay Mall, from 1 to 6 PM, the indoor center court stage area was alive with over 130 performers from 13 different dance groups. Orlando area club, school, academy, community and professional performers presented 30 different forms of the art of dance.

International dancing was well represented at the event with performances exhibiting the art of Irish step dancing; Mid-Eastern folkloric, belly dance and tribal gypsy; Latin; American clogging and hip-hop; classical Spanish and flamenco; as well as traditional ethnic dances of India, Mexico, China, Africa, the Caribbean and France.

This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Kip Watson, who passed away on April 10th after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a well known classical ballet and Broadway dancer from Orlando who returned to the area and became a leader in the arts as director of the Florida Film Festival; Executive Director of the Osceola Center for the Arts; and in dance as a teacher, coach, mentor, choreographer, director, and one of the original founders of Southern Ballet Theater, now known as Orlando Ballet. His passing was a great loss to the Central Florida arts and, especially, dance community.



Irish step dance by Tir Na Greine Irish Dancers



Folkloric dances from the State of Jalisco by Folkloric de Mexico



Spanish Flamenco by Flamenco del Sol

Photos by Teresa Borker

[The Orlando/Orange County Celebration of World Dance Day 2011 was produced by Teresa Borker, an FFDC member and one of the original members of the Orlando International Folk Dance Club. See [Spring Fling](#) article and accompanying photos.]

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All that led us to great parties and workshops at annual Spring Festival at the International House of the University of Chicago. That Balkan music and dance festival covered the last weekend of March, was led by one of my first Balkan folkdance mentors, John Kuo, and included the old reliable Atanas Kolarovski. To be able to dance with that distinguished Macedonian performer and teacher was an event. He was the same as I remember him from the 70's and 80's – soft spoken and quick. In his mid 80's now, he still can relate to us amateurs in his unique way.

It was our first time dancing with and learning from Ahmet Luleci, giving us some Turkish; Ventzi Sotirov, some Bulgarian; and a local newcomer, Konstantin Marinov adding some different Bulgarian. Friday and Saturday night parties consisted of local bands and singers providing great sounds and sights for hours. Saturday night brought performances by singers and dancers from about ten local Serbian, Polish, Bulgarian and Hungarian groups.

Linda and I finished up our visit in the Hyde Park neighborhood walking over to the steps leading out of the Ida Noyes Hall, where I met her in '79, and the Oriental Museum with all the mummy displays, where we had our first date. We've been through some fun times since that fated period in our lives.

We finished the two weeks with another visit to New York Bagels & Bialys on the way to airport, for two dozen bialys. They sure smelled good on the plane and all the way back to Gainesville!

## Tampa Trivia

by Terry Abrahams

Andi's gone – boo hoo! There was a party for her in Sarasota. Bill, Ursula and I attended. They also did their world dances on the same evening and it was great fun. (See [Sarasota Grapeviners](#).) Sarasota does a great job! I usually go to Orlando for their World Dance Day celebration, but the price of gas is keeping me from going too many places.

Ernesto's next surgery after camp made him much better and he's dancing again on Friday nights, as well as a little contra. We're thrilled, and very happy for Judith as well.

Maria Pasetti showed up once – it was good to see her again, but the possible newbies have disappeared. Tampa seems doomed to stay small. But we're dancing! Well, I got a Nook for Mother's Day and I need to register it – so th.. th ..that's all folks!

## Prez Sez

Is it possible I have very little to say? Couldn't be! But Caroline says it's time to write again! I spent much time before Passover doing Passover things: I had 23 people in my home, including some folk dancers, along with my family, which took a lot of cleaning and cooking.

The next night was our "Show" – which you must have heard of by now. It's a special Seder a group and I write. This was our sixth. It has turned into a full-blown musical comedy, but the Passover order of events stay intact – one just has to watch for them. I write the majority of the songs; the group meets weekly for a considerable time for plot lines (always about Moses, interestingly enough!) and funny lines, and this year we did the Wizard of Schnozz. (We change themes every year.) It took some tricky doings, and I spent an inordinate amount of time with costumes, props and choreography, as well as being the scribe for the meetings. So now that it's over (and it went great – 170 people in attendance), I feel as if I have nothing to do. We had to find a new venue for next year (sound familiar?) and I took care of that.

Having time to think, I realized it's time to pick camp teachers for 2012. I think I've got the first run wrapped up, but am waiting to surprise you in a later issue. I made a list of every teacher we've had, seen in materials from other camps, from people who (including you) have made suggestions, some new to us, some not, and am trying to do what will be best for all of us. I appreciate your trust in me as I make what I consider the most important decision of my year.

Here's a thought. I just found out that there is a yoga "class" that meets every Sunday in our big downtown park. It's free, open to anyone, and in a perfect venue. I went yesterday for the first time. It turns out it's been going on for almost a year and I didn't know about it. I had such a good time, I'll be going again. Which makes me think – I'm wondering if folk dancers could do something similar. I know there is outdoor dancing in Israel and also in Vancouver. Have any of the rest of you ever tried it? Maybe we could just do it once under the auspices of the FFDC to see what happens. Maybe in the fall, instead of the summer, when it's too hot. Well, it's a thought. Would anyone care to give it a shot? G'ville, I'll bet it would work on your campus. Hmmm.

Well, this is more like me – going on and on. Dance your heart out this summer!

–Terry

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## From the Editor

It appears activities are starting to slow down for the summer. The spring ethnic festivals are over, most snowbirds have left, and the rest of us are planning our summer travels and activities. The Flagler Beach club will host its annual Flagler Fling on June 25 (see [Events](#)). It's a day of dancing and eating at the beautiful clubhouse in the condo where Betty Nehemias lives. Also, see the [Sarasota Grapeviners'](#) article for their summer plans.

As you can see, I decided to change the look of the Florida FolkDancer a wee bit, by moving Prez Sez off the front page. I've been itching to put more pictures on the front. (You may have noticed – I like lots of pictures, when I can get them.) Never fear, our Prez will be back on the front page at crucial times, like when she has important information about camp!

In April, Gary and I were visited by some folkdance friends from California: Robert and Elizabeth Null, Hadi Babazadeh and Barbara Bevan. The visit came about because last summer Gary and I offered a six-day stay at our "bed and breakfast" for the auction to benefit the Stockton Folk Dance Camp scholarship fund. We advertised it for two people, but when the high bidder, Robert, wanted to bring four people, we made it work, with an airbed temporarily set up in our dance room.

It was an eventful six days. We picked them up at the Port of Tampa, when they came off a Caribbean cruise. They didn't want to waste any time, so we immediately headed across the state to the monthly Sunday set dance session with John Daly and crew in Melbourne Village. There we learned that Robert and Elizabeth already knew Fannie, Willa and Bernice; they were all on the Jim Gold trip to Greece in 2006. (See "Views of Greece" in the November 2006 Florida Folk Dancer, available on the website, [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org). I printed out that issue for Robert and Elizabeth and they enjoyed reading our Florida dancers' account of the trip.)

The Melbourne dancers were doing English Country dances that day and we all joined in. Unfortunately, in one dance that required dancers backing up past each other, Barbara and I ran into each other. She tripped, fell over backwards and broke her wrist. (A word to dance leaders: if you lead dances that involve people backing up past each other, please make sure your dancers are spaced widely enough to do so safely.) That pretty much ended the dance session, as Gary drove Barbara and Hadi to the nearest hospital emergency room, with Fannie to show the way.

Some of us waited for word from Gary and did a few slow circle dances to pass the time. Eventually, Barbara's wrist was put in a splint and she was released from the hospital with pain pills and instructions to go to her doctor in California and get a cast on her arm as soon as she returned home. We finally brought our guests to our house late that night.

Barbara is a dance leader herself and a real trooper. She was not about to let a little thing like a broken wrist keep her from dancing or anything else. They did touristy things, like Disney World and our local Bok Tower Gardens. They did Florida things, like seeing lots of sandhill cranes and eating breakfast on our porch overlooking Lake Reedy. And they all accompanied us to dance with the Orlando group on Wednesday. There we found that Pat and Bobby and Ann Robinson also knew Robert and Elizabeth from the 2006 Greek trip. (See also [OIFDC](#) article.) Other Floridians not mentioned yet who were on that trip were Kelly Fagan, Claudia and Joe Terrence, and Jan Lathi.

When we had some spare time, we pushed aside the airbed in our dance room and the six of us danced together there. They introduced us to some of their favorite dances and reviewed some dances that we had seen in California. There were no more mishaps during their stay and we hope to see them again in California this summer.

– CL



**Dancing at the Lankers: L to R: Robert Null, Hadi Babazadeh, Gary Lanker, Caroline Lanker, Barbara Bevan**

*Photo by Elizabeth Null*



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## Sarasota Grapeviners

by Judy Merkt

Hello from Sarasota, everyone. Regrettably, in the last three to four weeks, we have seen most of our snowbird members off to their various northern or western homes, so our summer crew is smaller of course, but no less enthusiastic. On April 27th, we celebrated World Dance Day with an all-request dance party. As in the past two years, we had a very full playlist that made for an evening of wonderful non-stop dancing.

It was also Andi's last evening dancing in Sarasota before traveling to Vancouver for the summer. I asked Andi for an okay to tell you this – she is going to be a grandma for the first time. Yes, her daughter and son-in-law are expecting, due in August. Congrats to Andi and family.

On the health front, Marie Millett has been released from rehab and she continues to heal comfortably at her apartment. We were delighted to see her doing a great job "chair dancing" at our World Dance Day celebration.

Earlier in April, several of us (Susan Barach, Chris Vincent, Ron and Kathy Fico, and I) attended Spring Fling and had a grand time. And with Andi, Terry, Bill, and Ursula travelling from Tampa as well, we were able to give the Orlando dancers a nice west coast representation in celebration of their 40th anniversary. 'Twas a great party indeed! Thanks Orlando, for all your hard work. We appreciate you.

We are well into May now, and it's easy to tell that the "season" is over in southwest Florida – fewer cars



**Sarasota dancers at Spring Fling: front row: Susan Barach, Andi Kapplin, Judy Merkt, Ursula Tison; back row: Ron Fico, Kathy Fico, and Chris Vincent**

(no improvement in driving skills however), more seats available at the theaters, the arrival of the infamous love bugs – ooh, it's a bad year for those babies – and as I mentioned earlier, fewer Grapeviners dancing it up each week at the Bayfront.

However, we do dance all summer here in Sarasota. Please join us if you find yourself in our area. We have several folks who can put you up overnight, so you don't have to make a long drive home after dancing all night.

I turned on what little charm I have to recruit summer teachers and had good success. In addition to teachers from our own crew (Delores Lustig, Varda Ruskin, Linda Nicoli, and myself); Caroline Lanker and Bobby Quibodeaux agreed to help out – Caroline for a 3-Wednesday stint in May/June and Bobby for a 2-Wednesday stint in August. It will be a fun summer for sure.

Please consider joining us for our 2nd Annual "Summer Stomp" on Wednesday night, July 6th. It will be an all-request dance party from 7 until 9:30 and it will be an absolute blast, we guarantee it!

P.S. we have a website now. It is still a work in progress, but please take a look at [www.internationalfolkdancesarasota.com](http://www.internationalfolkdancesarasota.com)

## Flagler Fling Planned

by Jan Lathi

The third annual Flagler Summer Fling, sponsored by the Ocean Marina Social Committee and the Flagler Beach International Dance Group, will take place June 25-26, 2011. On June 25th, we will meet at the Ocean Marina condo recreation center at 11 am, with pot luck contributions for lunch/dinner, and dance until the early evening. All our out-of-town guests are invited to sleep over at local dancers' homes. On Sunday morning, we'll walk the beach at Flagler Beach and/or swim in the ocean and go back to Jan's home for a swim in the pool. Finally, we'll eat lunch at an ethnic restaurant or Maggie's European Café on the ocean, as we did last year.

We hope many of you will come and we'd appreciate an email ([amarjan1@bellsouth.net](mailto:amarjan1@bellsouth.net)) if you are coming. Let us know if you would like a place to stay or want a recommendation of a motel/hotel.

The recreation center is located in Ocean Marina near the flag pole on Ocean Marina Drive, which is at the border of Flagler Beach and Beverly Beach on highway A1A. Please note that parking is available only in unnumbered spots. If you need directions, just ask me. We look forward to seeing you all.



# August

## August 4-7 New Mexico August Folk Dance Camp

Teachers: Yuliyana Yordanov and Carlos Mora

Place: New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, New Mexico

Contact: 505-310-0301, [dorotheamig@gmail.com](mailto:dorotheamig@gmail.com)  
Information: [www.swifdi.org](http://www.swifdi.org)

## August 13-20 Balkan Music and Dance Workshop

Place: Iroquois Springs, Rock Hill, New York

Contact: 510-547-1118, [office@eefc.org](mailto:office@eefc.org)  
Information: [www.eefc.org](http://www.eefc.org)

## August 14-20 Mainwoods Dance Camp Week 1

Teachers: Teme Kernerman, Israeli; Jaap Leegwater, Bulgarian; Ann Smith, Scottish

Place: Indian Acres, Fryeburg, Maine

Contact: 973-787-4614,  
[info@mainwoodsdancecamp.org](mailto:info@mainwoodsdancecamp.org)  
Information: [www.mainwoodsdancecamp.org](http://www.mainwoodsdancecamp.org)

## August 21-27 Mainwoods Dance Camp Week 2

Teachers: Dale Hyde, Welsh; Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, Romanian, Šani Rifati - Romani

See Mainwoods Dance Camp Week 1, above

# August - September

## August 28 – September 3 Mainwoods Dance Camp Week 3

Teachers: Roo Lester, Scandinavian; Lee Otterholt, Balkan and Beyond; Hilde Otterholt, Hawaiian

See Mainwoods Dance Camp Week 1, above

# September

## September 9-11 Mountain Playshop with Daniela Ivanova

Place: Black Mountain, North Carolina

Contact: [info@mountainplayshop.org](mailto:info@mountainplayshop.org)  
Information: [www.mountainplayshop.org](http://www.mountainplayshop.org)

## International Folk Dance Tours

*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!).*

## June 12-22 Jim Gold Tour to Norway

Led by Lee Otterholt

Contact for all Jim Gold tours: 201-836-0362,  
[jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com)  
Information: [www.jimgold.com](http://www.jimgold.com)

## June 21 – July 2 Dance on the Water Cruise

Portugal – 4 day Lisbon Tour, 7 day Douro River Cruise; Dance leader Roberto Bagnoli

Contact: Mel Mann, c/o Berkeley Travel, 1145 Walnut Street, Berkeley, CA 94707; 510-526-4033,  
[meldancing@aol.com](mailto:meldancing@aol.com)  
Information: [www.folkdanceonthewater.org](http://www.folkdanceonthewater.org)

## June 30 – July 12 12<sup>th</sup> Seminar of Greek Dance with Kyriakos Moisidis

concentrating on the dances of the several ethnic groups in the area of Thessaloniki

Place: Amulianni and Thessaloniki, Greece

Information: [www.moisidis-dance.gr/en](http://www.moisidis-dance.gr/en)

## July 23 - August 1 Jim Gold Seminar Tour of Bulgaria (NEW)

Five day seminar on Bulgarian folk dance, music and culture in Plovdiv, plus visits to the Dorkovo Folk Festival and the towns of Sandanski and Melnik. This tour may be followed by the Bulgarian tour August 3-15.

Contact information with Norway Tour, above.

Information on Plovdiv seminar:

[www.folkseminarplovdiv.net](http://www.folkseminarplovdiv.net)

## August 2-15 Jim Gold Hungary Tour

Led by Adam Molnar

Contact information with Norway Tour, above

## August 3 - 15 Bulgaria Tour

Led by Jim Gold

Contact information with Norway Tour, above

## Oct. 16 - 28 Jim Gold Greece Tour Santorini extension: Oct. 27-30

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt  
Contact information with Norway Tour, above

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#### FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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