

# Florida Folk Dancer

A Newsletter of the Florida Folk Dance Council, Inc.

October - November 2008

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## President's Letter

Plans are shaping up for **Florida Folk Dance Camp February 13-16, 2009**. Roo and Yves are making their travel arrangements and looking forward to their weekend with us. Caroline is in charge of recruiting people to provide our evening snacks. Jean is spending hours working on a computer based registration system similar to the one that she uses so successfully for the national dog agility shows. Once again "the girls" of Melbourne are making great plans for lunches. Everybody does a lot of work with very little help from me and I truly appreciate it.

### Scandinavian Dance Party/Workshop

Roo's primary focus this year will be the beautiful and challenging Basque dances. She is also an accomplished Scandinavian dance instructor, and those of us who love Scandi dancing have asked her to do a mini-workshop/party on Friday afternoon before camp formally starts. Possibly one of the pre-party sessions will also have a Scandinavian theme.

I'm open to suggestions as to how people would like this structured. If you have an interest in Scandinavian, please drop me an email at [President@folkdance.org](mailto:President@folkdance.org) and tell me what you would like. We would love to see a groundswell of interest in an introductory level Scandinavian dance class. Based on past experience, however, I'm currently planning an intermediate level session for people who have some experience with Scandi and can already do a basic polska, hambo and schottis. I can change if enough people are interested in an introductory class.

### Registration

Please register as early as possible. Hotel rooms are assigned first come, first served. We do have a few more rooms than last year, but there is still the issue of whether you will share a bed with your roommate or want a room with two beds. Also, the hotel requires a room count four weeks before the event. I realize now that the current form is wrong because it says we will close registration on January 15. That is really too late. **Please register before January 10 to ensure a room in the hotel.**

A flyer for camp and registration forms are available on the FFDC website, [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org). On the main page, go to the calendar section. Click on "More Information" in the entry for camp. That will bring up the flyer. Near the bottom of the flyer are the links to the registration forms. Each person who will attend camp should fill out a separate registration form.



**Bobby Quibodeaux and Andi Kapplin at Fall Fling. Story [page 3](#).**

*Photo by Caroline Lanker*

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## Non-Dancing Companion

One of the benefits of the hotel is that dancers can bring a non-dancing spouse/significant other/friend/whatever. Last year, there was some confusion about how to register this extra person. This year there are separate registration forms for dancers and non-dancing companions. If you're bringing a non-dancer to share your room, please fill out a registration form for each of you. On the dancer's registration, specify "Single occupancy" for the room. That tells us that the registration of one dancer is paying for the whole room. The non-dancer's registration form is for meals, name tags and T-shirts.

## Credit Cards

By November 5, I hope to have the website set up to allow you to pay with a credit card through PayPal. Not everybody likes PayPal, and it does cost us a few dollars when someone uses it. But the camp fees are higher now that we use the hotel, and I wanted to make the opportunity available for those who would benefit from a little responsible credit.

## Next Officers

Our hope is that the computer system Jean is working so hard on will simplify much of the routine hassle of doing the administrative tasks for camp, making it much easier to recruit officers for the next two years. I'm also putting together some ideas for using the website to facilitate communication among the officers, especially when they live in different cities. It's hard to include everybody when some of the officers live in one city and meet regularly at dance and social events. For this administration, the tasks of the officers are sufficiently different that it seems to have worked out. But I definitely recognize the need for a better way to share the decision making on such important issues as instructors and fees.

## T-Shirts

I was told to announce that the T-shirt sizes are all unisex. As a guy, I also had to be told that the guys don't need to worry about this. The women will understand. I leave it at that.

## Graduate School

Going well, learning a lot. I had no idea there could be so many preservation problems with brick and stone!

Best,  
John

## Tampa!

by Terry Abrahams

Wasn't [Fall Fling](#) fun?! Tampa showed up in good style, with Andi, Ursula, Judith, Ernesto, Bill and myself. J, E and I stayed with Jean and got to see her new house on her new property. I got to help wash the horse and enjoy her shepherds – animals and dancing – great combo!

As per usual, the food was almost as good as the dancing, and we did so many dances, we hurt the next day! Now Ursula, Bobbie and I are going to the Sharpes Assembly and looking forward to some more good dancing and company.

On the local scene, we are being joined by Nieces – first to come was Bobbie's niece, Denise – we call her Da niece, Denise, who is so excited, she is even trying Israeli now. A couple of weeks ago, Maria brought her niece, Laura, and she seems to like it as well, so along with a new gal, Yvonne, who has transferred in, we're ten of us and dancing in a circle! Bobbie and Denise are also doing flamenco and have done a couple of gigs in the last month. I helped out a couple of months ago.

No trips abroad this month, so finally – a short article! Once again, though, it was so good to see everyone at the Fling. Thanks Melbourne!



Melinda Lugo, Bobbie Ward, Denise Green and Terry Abrahams at a flamenco show for the wives of the Masons on July 18.

*Photo by Carmen Oliver*

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## Fall Fling 2008

by Bobby J. Quibodeaux

Fall fling was off to a good start with an early crowd. Premium parking without standing water was for the early birds. Melbourne was blessed with enough rain to offset the rest of the state's deficit.

By lunch, the folk dance crowd had reached almost 40. As usual, the covered dish meals were varied and exceptional. I just love covered dish gatherings. I almost forgot that I am really there to dance. There was even enough food left for the evening meal.

John and the Melbourne gang of helpers did a great job at hospitality and the preprogrammed list of dances. We covered a wide range of dances from past Florida workshops and a few from trips and other gatherings. It was nice to see fellow dancers that we may not have seen since the last fling or possibly longer.

For the really energetic, Melbourne danced their regular Friday night and was also scheduled to dance a couple of sessions Sunday. My hat is off to those who participated in all three days.



Left to right: Kelly Fagan; Arleen Kaufmann, Terry Abrahams, Fannie Solerno, Palmira Mora-Valls; Suzan Grinarml, Virginia Marszal, Bernice Roth, Eva Gaber, Lila Gaber

*Photos by Caroline Lanker*



Fall Fling dancers - yep, all 40 of 'em. Left to right – sitting/kneeling: Fannie Salerno, Eva Gaber, Lila Gaber, Felissa Gaber, John Daly, Jean Murray, Willa Davidsohn, Terry Abrahams, Caroline Lanker, Suzan Grinarml, Virginia Marszal, Kelly Fagan, Bobby Quibodeaux; Second row: Pat Henderson, Betty Nehemias, Ernesto Baizan, Judith Baizan, Joy Herndon, Minerva Berkowitz, Palmira Mora-Valls, Ann Robinson, Bernice Roth; Top row: Bonnie Olsen, Catie Geist, Lou Dania, David Dania, Ursula Tison, Andi Kapplin, Arleen Kaufmann, Donna Young, Julius Horvath, Bill Schwarz, Jan Lathi, Manuel Mora-Valls, Gary Lanker, Ruth Ann Fay, Claudia Terrence, Joan Washington, Wally Washington, Juanita Schockey.

*Photo by Jean Marszal*

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## Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance Weekend

by Catie Condran Geist

There were 76 participants at the Sharpes Assembly English Country Dance weekend in Sebring on October 17-19. Robin Hayden from Amherst, MA, was the guest teacher and caller and she brought some interesting and lovely dances. We all learned how to move and keep time with the music. Robin Hayden has the wonderful ability to sing the tune as she is walking the dancers through the dances. The music for the two evening dances and the Saturday morning workshop was played skillfully and beautifully by Full Circle (Veronica Lane, Robbie Zukauskas, and Ted Lane).

The refreshments after the dances were truly delicious. They were set out artfully by Chun-Ni Hines and Pat Scott on Friday night and by Nettie and Ed Swan and Tricia and Kenton Smith on Saturday night.

Bernice Roth, Willa Davidsohn, and Fannie Salerno were the lunch mavens who worked so hard to transport and prepare and set out the food. It was marvelous! Willa Davidsohn was also the registrar and she did a wonderful job keeping all of the finances straight.

Veronica Lane taught an Israeli Folk Dance session on Saturday afternoon, attended by quite a few of the dancers, including the FFDC members who were there. Terry Abrahams assisted in demonstrating the dances. Veronica also taught a Zumba Gold class on Sunday morning before the Farewell Dance. Four of the Florida callers, Catie Geist, Colette Moore, Pam Russo, and Onie Senyk, took turns calling dances during the social English dance session on Saturday afternoon. All of the callers who attended the weekend, including Robin Hayden, took turns calling the dances at the Farewell Dance. Onie Senyk founded the Sharpes Assembly weekend, along with her late husband George, and it continues to delight all of the dancers who are able to attend each year.



Clockwise from upper left: the sharpes Assembly Saturday evening ball; Robbie Zukauskas; Veronica and Ted Lane; Robin Hayden; the Saturday evening ball.

Photos by Caroline Lanker

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## Karmiel Israeli Dance Festival

by Debbie Meitin

This past July I had the distinct pleasure and privilege of attending the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Israeli Dance Festival in the Northern Israeli city of Karmiel. Two other Israeli dancers from Orlando attended as well, Evelyne Parisien and Nashiely Aguilar. We also participated in the Summer Course for Foreign Teachers of Israeli Dance, a seven-day workshop prior to the festival.

Evelyne and I spent three days in Jerusalem before we were taken to Karmiel to meet our fellow dancers and course participants. Dany Benshalom directed the course, assisted by Ruthy Slann. Dany has taught workshops for us in Orlando and Gainesville and Ruthy is also well known to many Florida dancers. There were participants from many countries – Serbia, Germany, Finland, Italy, Mexico, Australia, Taiwan, Canada and different parts of the United States.

Each day was very busy. Several prominent choreographers taught us some of their dances and talked about their connections with Israeli dance. One of them was Eliyahu Gamliel, one of the original choreographers and the composer of *Eretz Zavot Chalav*. He has been creating dances since the early years of the state of Israel. Other teachers were Shmulik Gov-Ari, who led our May 2008 workshop in Orlando; Gadi Biton; Dudu Barzilay; Oren Shmuel; Eli Segal; and Shlomo Maman (artistic director of the festival). Every evening we traveled as a group to a different dance session. There were hundreds of people at most of these sessions. It was very clear that Israeli dance is a very popular social activity throughout Israel. We saw some of the same people several nights.

We stayed in the Absorption Center for new immigrants (no, none of us moved to Israel). Although they thought the renovation would be completed before our arrival, we had a little surprise – no elevators – and we stayed on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors. Lots of exercise, as if we weren't already exercising enough! The apartments were very nice, once we got up the stairs.

I celebrated my birthday in Israel along with Dany, whose birthday was a few days before mine. Ruthy got a beautiful and delicious cake and we were serenaded by "Happy Birthday" in many different languages.

After the seven-day course, the festival opened. What an amazing experience! Each day there were performances of ballet, modern and ethnic dance groups from around the world and a two-hour show in the outdoor amphitheater each evening. The evening shows included popular Israeli singers and staged choreographies with over 100 dancers, and concluded with great fireworks. At midnight, the Israeli dance action moved to three different venues and continued until 6:00AM! There were thousands of people there in massive circles. We were told that the population of Karmiel increases by 20,000 during the festival.

I can't wait to go back next year!

Right: Gadi Biton,  
Debbie Meitin and  
Eliyahu Gamliel



Above left: Debbie Meitin, Dany Benshalom and Ruthy Slann (all standing) with birthday cake and other celebrants.  
Above right: one of the evening dance sessions – early in the evening before it got crowded.

## Yoav and Rakefet Ashriel in Florida

by Debbie Meitin

Many Florida Israeli and international dancers were treated to two workshops – on September 16 in Tampa and September 18 in Gainesville – given by one of the legends of Israeli dance, Yoav Ashriel. After several workshops in New York, California and Oregon, Yoav and his daughter, Rakefet (the name of an Israeli dance he choreographed in the 1950s) came to Florida before traveling back home to Israel. I had the pleasure of attending both workshops and serving as their host and chauffeur during part of their Florida visit.

Yoav Ashriel and his late wife Mira were key players in the Israeli dance world for many years. Yoav helped to screen new dances as choreographers presented them at workshops. Mira, his life partner, died in February, and he decided to come to the US with his daughter, Rakefet, to teach some of the dances he has choreographed over the last 50 years or so. It was really hard to believe that he is 78 years old. His mind is very sharp and his dancing and stamina are excellent. I guess that's what happens when you dance all your life. Rakefet is a talented dancer in her own right, and serves on the faculty at the Wingate Institute in Israel, which is Israel's National Center for Physical Education and Sport.

Terry Abrahams and Andi Kapplin had a large turnout (close to 50 people) for Yoav at their regular Tuesday night Israeli dance session. People came from all the surrounding communities, including Orlando, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Clearwater and probably others that I missed. Yoav and Rakefet taught several of his classis dances, including *Erev Ba, Bo Beshalom, Tzama, Sovevuni, Irisim* and *Rakefet*. While in Tampa, he also talked to a Hebrew class at the University of South Florida about the history of Israeli dancing and was delightful!

On Wednesday I took them to EPCOT (with tickets thanks to Jennifer Velt, a Tampa Israeli dancer who works part-time at Disney World). Thursday afternoon we went to Gainesville, where Andy Weitzen had arranged a workshop at the regular Thursday evening Israeli dance session. There were at least 40 people there, including dancers from Jacksonville, Ocala and other nearby communities. Besides teaching, Yoav spent a little time talking to the group about the history of Israeli dance and his role in it. The Gainesville dancers also provided a huge amount of delicious snacks.

The groups in Tampa and Gainesville were extremely friendly and hospitable. My last activity was taking Yoav and Rakefet to the Orlando airport on Friday to catch their flight to New York. My time with them was lots of fun, especially talking to them about the history of Israeli dance and the many choreographers and teachers I know in Israel.

### From the Editor

Plans are progressing for Florida Folk Dance Camp 2009, to be held on President's Day weekend at the Kenilworth Lodge – the same venue as last year. John's letter focuses on camp. The teachers are two favorites of many dancers – Yves Moreau and Roo Lester. I am coordinating snacks – see [Hungry for Snacks](#). More information will be coming in newsletters between now and camp.

John has been doing some work on the website. Much of it is not visible, such as the facility used to update the calendar pages. But one improvement is of benefit to everyone. He has started creating new email addresses for FFDC officers. So far there are two – for the president ([president@folkdance.org](mailto:president@folkdance.org)) and the newsletter editor ([editor@folkdance.org](mailto:editor@folkdance.org)). Email sent to these addresses is now forwarded to John's and my personal email addresses. But in the future, the email will be forwarded to whoever holds the positions at the time.

Gary and I are continuing to enjoy the feast of dancing that is available to us here in central Florida. Recent big events have been [Fall Fling](#) and the [Sharpes Assembly](#), and we have also danced with the [Orlando club](#) at their Oktoberfest celebration, in Melbourne with the [South Brevard Folk Dancers](#) and in Tampa at Judith Baizan's Wednesday night Scandinavian class. Since we have to drive over 1½ hours to get to most of these places, we sure are glad gas prices have come down and we get about 30 mpg in our little car.

The response to recent calls for articles for the newsletter has been very gratifying. Many of our members now regularly report on the activities of their clubs, special events and trips. Others send notices about upcoming events, poetry, web links to sites featuring dance videos, etc. I have received many nice compliments on the job I am doing as newsletter editor, but it would be a pretty dull newsletter without the input of our many contributors. To our authors – thank you and keep up the good work!

– CL

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## Gainesville Dancers Host Ice Cream Social

by Julieta Brambila

The Gainesville International Folk Dancers organized a fundraiser to benefit the Gainesville Dance and Music Association on August 20th at Sweet Dreams Ice Cream. We enjoyed dances by Cyndi and by Merald Clark of the Greenwood Morris dance group. Jack Seltzer and John Ward participated in a couple of their high-stepping spirited dances with sticks and handkerchiefs. Barry Gibbons was present as well, representing the Gainesville Old Time Dance Society. Tara Bolker, of the Gainesville Country Dancers, visited our event and bought an ice cream.

John joyfully and tirelessly led us in dances to recorded music for about three hours, in front of the ice cream store. Toshi and Talia, thank you for joining us!

The picture below was taken by Cyndi. On the left is June Littler and on the far right is Julieta, talking with a visitor to our table of information about folk dance and general dance in Gainesville and Florida.



We enjoyed a brief but colorful sunset and occasionally felt the strong breezes from the slowly approaching Tropical Storm Fay. I am grateful to Jack and Linda for helping set up the display and music and to John, Joyce Dewsbury, and June for helping take it all down. This was a small but memorable event which we hope to repeat, if only to enjoy some ice cream again while dancing together with good friends.



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## My Trip

by Joy Herndon

For years I wanted to see my family. I am the youngest in our family of nine and five have passed on to a better place. It grieves me to say I had to wait until my husband passed on to be able to see them, but my place was with him in his last days. I grieve for him every day, but it was time for me to visit the family I have left. On this trip I visited my brother and sister who live in Sacramento, California.

My daughter, Carla, went with me and helped me plan this trip. What a blessing she was in this hard time of my grieving. I have to tell you a little story. I was expecting my sister to pick us up from San Francisco and drive us to Sacramento. After we got off the JetBlue plane and were getting our baggage, I was watching our stuff and some strange man was there, acting homeless. I said to him, "This is our stuff." He looked at me kind of funny. I looked again. OMG, it was my brother, Denny. I did not recognize him; he had lost so much weight. I was so ashamed. Then I just hugged him. I never thought I would not recognize my own brother.

We went to the Sacramento Zoo and visited a lot of wineries. I got to visit Lake Tahoe just for a few hours, rode the lifts and saw the beautiful mountains. What a sight to see – well worth the trip there. I would go again if time permits. Carla and I did some sight-seeing on our own, but we did not have a car. I didn't go dancing – just didn't have the time, and when you don't have a car it is difficult to get around. We could have rented a car, but who wanted to drive in California? We would have gotten lost for sure. The roads are not like Florida. They're up and down around and over – no thanks!

We took a boat trip to visit Alcatraz – that was a must. The building is old and broken down. The cells were as big as some of your small bathrooms – just enough room for a small bed and one toilet. Wow, but, you know, once you've seen it... I would not go back. I enjoyed the boat ride, though.

We also went to old town Sacramento. That was interesting – again, lots of walking. All in all, I had a wonderful time. I brought back some old pictures of my sisters that have passed on. I plan on enlarging them and making a place in my home for display.

I love T-shirts, so every place we went I bought a shirt. Silly me – what can I say? One day I will go traveling again – maybe a trip to Minnesota to see my sister, Peggy, who is 81. That is, if I can make it next year. We will see.

## Orlando International Folk Dance Club

by Pat Henderson

Our club is having a great fall, dancing every Wednesday and having our share of parties. On October 1, we celebrated Bobby's birthday. We played an extra long polka so he could polka with all the ladies! Then on October 15, we had our Oktoberfest, complete with knockwurst and Oktoberfest beer. We resurrected a bunch of German dances that our club performed regularly years ago, including *Sauerlander Quadrille* and *Shuhplattler Landler*.

We plan to have our annual Halloween party on Oct. 29. We had about 13 from our group, if you count Palm Coast, attend Fall Fling in Melbourne on October 11. We had an exceptional day dancing and the food was great. Thanks to all of you who attended to make the day special.

In other news, a few more of us traveled this past month. In my last travel report, I did not mention that Kelly Fagan spent a week with her family in Boone, NC in August. Eva Meyer and her husband, Dave, took a September trip to Israel. They especially enjoyed visiting Masada. Joy Herndon went to California – see her article, [My Trip](#). Emilie Brozek traveled with some of her family to the Finger Lakes area of New York.

Two of our dancers have been involved with local theater. I taught D'Hammerschmiedsg'sellen and Ox Dansen to an adult theater group that is working on *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. They perform for children.

Kelly Fagan will play the mother superior in *Nuncrackers* on November 7-9, 14-16 at the Wayne Densch Theatre of the Performing Arts, Sanford, Florida. The performances are on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday matinees. Discounts might be available for groups.

### Spring Fling Date for 2009

Mark your calendars now for Spring Fling on April 4, 2009, 10 AM - 7 PM, at the Whirl and Twirl square dance hall in Orlando. More details will be published in coming months.



Clockwise from upper left: Joy Herndon, Ann Robinson and Juanita Schockey in Oktoberfest garb; Pat Henderson and Bobby Quibodeaux doing *Shuhplattler Landler*.

Photos by Caroline Lanker

## The Grapevine Dancers

by Marie Millett

Delores Lustig, Mary Finegold, Varda Ruskin and I journeyed to Tampa to dance with Yoav Ashiel and his daughter, Rakafet in September. It was a reunion for Varda and Yoav. He was her first folk dance teacher when she was twelve years old. It's always good to dance with friends from other places. Thanks to Tampa for hosting the workshop.

We have a few snowbirds back here in Sarasota. We will **not** be dancing on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 26; Christmas Eve; or New Year's Eve. Otherwise, do come and dance with us. Andi has been teaching some new to us dances she learned in Vancouver.

We've missed Eva Stunkel several weeks this past month while she tried to find out why her heart is beating so fast. So far she hasn't learned the cause, but it was great to have her back dancing last week.

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## Hungry for Snacks

by Caroline Lanker

Volunteers are needed to do the evening snacks at Florida Folk Dance Camp in February, 2009. In the past, dance clubs volunteered to do the refreshments for the evenings of camp. Last year Orlando, Sarasota Grapeviners and Tampa provided the snacks for one evening each.

Unfortunately, we no longer have many large clubs to rotate the job among. And there are some outlying people who haven't enjoyed the privilege of doing snacks for camp. This year, we are trying something different - asking for individual volunteers. About 12 volunteers are needed to do the snacks for the three evenings. They will be grouped into three teams, one for each evening. Once a team is assigned, they will communicate among themselves to determine what food to provide and how to divide up the work.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me (see contact information on the back of this newsletter). Each person will only be asked to do snacks on one night. Please specify which night(s) you could do and if there is someone else you would particularly like to work with. Alternatively, you may get a group to volunteer together.

Here is some more information to help you make up your mind.

- œ The camp will reimburse the expenses for snacks up to a pre-determined, reasonable amount per night.

- œ Each team is responsible for buying, preparing and bringing the food and beverages, for set up and for cleaning up the serving tables and serving dishes.

- œ Ethnic foods corresponding to the theme of the evening party are encouraged but not required for Saturday (Basque) and Sunday (Balkan) nights. Friday evening does not have any particular ethnicity associated with it.

The amount to be reimbursed, suggestions of ethnic foods and other details will be provided to the teams well before camp.

Please volunteer so we don't have to twist arms to make sure there are evening snacks at camp.

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## Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary

Our 60th Wedding Anniversary celebration took place in our subdivision clubhouse at Tropical Shores. The actual date of our wedding was September 12, 1948 in Spring Valley, NY.

The anniversary party was a total surprise. We were shocked. Children, grandchildren and great-grands came from all over the eastern U.S.: from Minneapolis; Chicago; Baltimore; Louisville and Seneca, SC. They really enjoyed their stay on Siesta Key. All our folk dance buddies, new and ancient, were there, too. We have remarkable photos to keep this event in mind.

– Shirley and Dmitri Babiak



Picture board displayed at Shirley and Dmitri Babiak's 60th wedding anniversary celebration

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

## South Brevard Dancers

by Suzan Grinamrl

On the 19th of September the South Brevard International Folk Dancers celebrated dancer Jean Murray's birthday. Food and wine were served, including a German chocolate cake baked by Fannie and Willa. Special guests Caroline and Gary Lanker arrived from Frostproof. We had enough people for set dancing and danced beyond our usual 10 PM closing. President John Daly chose a wide selection of dances new and old and we had quite an athletic workout to commemorate Jean's special day and her exciting move into a new home.

On October 10 - 12, we sponsored Fall Fling at the Melbourne Village Community House. (See [Fall Fling](#) on page 3.) It was a wonderful weekend with a great turnout – approximately 40 people in attendance including groups from Orlando, Tampa, Palm Coast, Flagler and Miami. Bernice, Willa and Fannie did an outstanding job of organizing the potluck lunch and supper and cleaning up. The weekend was fun-filled and the dances (100 or so) were a wide variety, with President John Daly's computerized music making the dances seem almost as if live musicians were present. We even learned a new "\$5000" dance taught by Kelly, Ann and Terry, who learned it during their trip to Romania.



Jean Murray with birthday cake.

Fall Fling, left to right: Lou and David Davia; Jean Murray and John Daly; Wally and Joan Washington; Judith and Ernesto Baizan.



Photos by Caroline Lanker

## Dancing Changed My Life!

by Bernice Roth

It was only by chance  
That I learned to dance  
When my heart was so sad  
I needed something to make me glad  
An item in the paper caught my eye  
Which gave me an instant high  
To learn something new was my thought  
Could this be what I sought?  
Would dancing be for me?  
I would try it and see  
Little did I know  
That from it I would get a glow  
And improve my body and mind  
In ways very kind  
So today I can boast  
While making a toast,  
Dance for your health  
So you can enjoy your wealth.

## Folk Dancers Found in North Carolina Mountains

by Wanda Turner

While attending a Unitarian Universalist retreat in North Carolina over Labor Day weekend, I met Susanne Whitehead Walker. Susanne has been integral to the UU camp for the last nine years. I had not recognized her by her married name when I spoke with her on the telephone. In real life, I recognized her immediately! For years, she danced in Sarasota with her family. Randi Whitehead is still in Sarasota.

Jeanie Whitehead has moved to North Carolina, to be near Mark and Susanne Walker and their two sons, Lincoln and Logan. Jeanie's son, Craig Whitehead, and his wife, Paula, live about an hour away, also. Jeanie surprised me with a two hour visit at UU camp that was wonderful! She sends her love to Florida folk dancers.

Kathy Dudek, who is from Lakeland and formerly danced in Orlando, lives and dances in the area, also.

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## Events

# November

### November 7 - 9 St. Johns Greek Festival

Place: St. John Greek Orthodox Church, 2418 Swann Avenue Tampa, FL 33609, 813-876-8830

Times: Friday 5-10 PM; Saturday noon-10 PM; Sunday noon-9 PM

Information: [www.saintjohngoc.org/festivalindex.htm](http://www.saintjohngoc.org/festivalindex.htm)

### November 14 - 16 Holiday Dance Weekend

#### Friday: English Country Dance Party

Place: Senior Center, 909 Lane Avenue, Titusville  
Time: 7-10 PM

#### Saturday: Contra and English Country Dance Party

Place: Great Outdoors RV Resort pavilion, 137 Plantation Drive, Titusville  
Time: potluck supper 6:45 PM, dancing to 10:30 PM

#### Sunday: Ceilidh Dance Party

Place: Community House, 6200 Hall Road, Melbourne Village  
Time: 1 - 5 PM with a potluck lunch

Information: <http://chagalo.org/ecd/ecdspec.shtml>

# December

### December 26 - January 1, 2009 Christmas Country Dance School

Several teachers and dance traditions including English Country and contra; music and crafts. Roo Lester will teach Scandinavian dance.

Place: Berea College, Berea, KY.

Information: 859-985-3431, [ccds@bereda.edu](mailto:ccds@bereda.edu), [www.bereda.edu/peh/dance/ccds](http://www.bereda.edu/peh/dance/ccds)



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# 2009

### February 13 - 16 Florida Folk Dance Camp

Place: Kenilworth Lodge, Sebring, FL

Instructors: Yves Moreau, Balkan and Roo Lester, Basque

Additional Scandinavian Workshop/Party with Roo Friday Afternoon, February 13.

Information and registration forms: [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)

### March 7 Azalea International Folk Fair - World Culture Dance Competition

Place: Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center off I-75 and Highway 84, Valdosta, GA

Information: [www.gainternationalfolkfair.org](http://www.gainternationalfolkfair.org)

Videos: [www.youtube.com/folkdancecompetition](http://www.youtube.com/folkdancecompetition) and [www.youtube.com/azaleainternational](http://www.youtube.com/azaleainternational)

Note: Julius Horvath has been invited to be a judge of this competition in 2009, for the second year.

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## International Folk Dance Tours and Workshops

*Notices of selected tours are published in the newsletter and changed with each issue. A more complete list of tours can be found in the calendar on the FFDC website.*

### August 3-17 Balkan Journey

Led by Jim Gold. Sightseeing, music and dancing in Tirana Albania, Ohrid Macedonia, Thessaloniki Greece, and Bansko and Sofia Bulgaria

Contact for all Jim Gold Tours:  
Jim Gold International, Inc. 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666; (201) 836-0362, [jimgold@jimgold.com](mailto:jimgold@jimgold.com)  
Information at [www.jimgold.com](http://www.jimgold.com)

### July 31-August 11 Hungary Tour

Jim Gold Tour, led by Adam Molnar. Sightseeing in Budapest and historic towns and a two-day workshop at the Jászberény Folk Music and Folk Dance Camp.

*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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#### FLORIDA FOLK DANCER

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FFDC Website: [www.folkdance.org](http://www.folkdance.org)