

Folk Dancer

The Magazine of World Dance and Culture



With swords as long as they are, children dance "long sword" morris in Berea, Kentucky Christmas Dance School. Photo: K. Budd.

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Folk Dancer

Editor.....Kevin Budd
 CalendarMaya Trost
 Production MgrBev Sidney
 Advertising.....Paula Tsatsanis
 Distribution...Arlene Lindfield
 Judy Barnett

Send calendar content to
 Maya Trost: 25tahoe@gmail.com
 For other content contact
 Bev Sidney, 35 Touraine Ave.
 Downsview, Ontario M3H 1R3,
 or e-mail: kbudd@ica.net

Sheryl Demetro.....Correspondent
 Marylyn Peringer.....Correspondent
 Mirdza Jaunzemis.....Correspondent
 Carole Greenberg.....Correspondent
 Carole Greenberg.....Proofreading
 Rachel Gottesman.....Proofreading
 Janis Smith.....Proofreading

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We encourage your contributions! **Deadline for the Mar. 15, 2009 issue is Feb.15 th.**

Visit OFDA's Website
 for local information and links to other
 dance-related sites.

www.ofda.ca

Web Design: Noemi Adorjan
 416-530-1528 or friendlyweb@gmail.com
 Web Maintenance: Helen Winkler



Ontario Folk Dance Association (OFDA) is a non-profit organization. Established in 1969, incorporated in 1986, the OFDA's aim is to promote folk arts and particularly folk dancing of many cultures.

Steering Committee: Beverley Sidney Phone: 416-635-5598 e-mail: bvsdny@gmail.com
 Maya Trost Phone: 705-645-6154 e-mail: 25tahoe@gmail.com
 Helen Winkler Phone: 416-229-1749 e-mail: yiddishdance@ca.inter.net

Treasurer
Membership
Secretary

Janis Smith
 Mirdza Jaunzemis
 Marie Hori

Executive Members at Large
 Gilda Akler Sefton ~ Adrienne Beecker
 Kevin Budd ~ Ken Cowan ~ Wendy Devine
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 8 Manhattan Drive
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Cover: With swords as long as they are, children dance "long sword" morris in Berea, Kentucky Christmas Dance School....photo by K. Budd

The Panache of pan* Zagorski

By Kevin Budd

This issue we have the pleasure to present the scoop on one of our dedicated dancers. Aside from his dance abilities, his computer-like brain that records every dance he's ever done, Walter Zagorski is a tireless hard worker for the folk dance community. This is the other side of being a folk dancer, or at least part of a being a member of a folk dance community. We dance as a group, but we run on individual volunteers. People are the engine of our groups. The remarkable dedication of our teachers over many years, even decades is a wonder to behold. Those who volunteer in whatever capacity enrich their own lives as well as those of others.

Let us then applaud Walter's example and humbly learn as well, and perhaps consider in some small way how we too can contribute to our dearly-loved greater family. It needs us, and we need it. So read all the dirt on Walter, and imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, let us flatter the man as he deserves.

And this just in: one reads of the decline of morris dancing in the UK. From an article in "The Guardian" by John Crace, "According to the Morris

Ring, which represents more than 200 teams across the country, the dance is facing extinction because fewer people are taking part, and those who do are getting older." It is said that in twenty years the vast majority of morris dancers will be dancing in heaven, or will have become unable to deal with the physical demands. This could spell the death of this traditional dance form. Does this sound familiar?

Possibly there is a solution. Perhaps folk dance needs to "re-brand" itself. Perhaps the time has come to update and modernize our hoary image of staid tradition, and do what we must in order to draw in new young dancers into the fold. At a skating event I was attending a short time ago, I was noticing that during the event advertising was playing constantly above our heads on a screen. A hockey team in nearby Mississauga, called "The Majors" was being promoted over and over. One thing that caught my eye was that the hockey team had officialized many items. That is, as the Olympics receives money in order that a company making, for example, refreshing drinks, may represent itself as "the official" soft drink of the Olympics, so this team, the Majors, had various official items advertised on the screen.

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The OFDA has established an e-mail list in order to communicate timely information of interest to folk dancers. If you would like to add your name to the list, send an e-mail request to: bvsdny@gmail.com



Please do let us know about special events!

My favourite amongst the list was a certain brand of beef jerky. Yes, the hockey team had an official brand of that leathery, dried and salty chewing experience, known as jerky. Now there is a tradition for jerky of course. It is a time-honoured method of preserving meat for later consumption. And how old is this tradition? It seems that at least as far back as the Incas, there has been jerky. The word itself is from “charqui” meaning “burnt” in the Quechua language. So I had to ask myself at that point, Does the OFDA have an official brand of beef jerky? Well in case you thought otherwise, we do not! Hard to believe but there it is. In fact, as far as I am aware, no folk dance group in the civilized world has an official brand of beef jerky. Not even one morris “side” has, either, I would suspect, though many might have an unofficial brand of fermented barley beverage. Feel free to correct me if I misspeak myself.

And perhaps that is what we need. Official stuff. Think of the popularity that would be ours, the young people we would attract, the new positive press we would elicit, should there be not only an official beef jerky of folk dancing, but perhaps an official falafel, an official running shoe, an official hand bag, an official headband, herbal tea, travel agency, and even a tartan! We’d be all set. Consider the panache one would evince by being seen publicly wearing the

official baseball cap, sunglasses or MP3 player of the OFDA! Unquestionably it would be a stylish statement that would arouse envy and admiration in all who noticed same. Okay, for you women, an official scarf would serve as well.

The word panache, by the way, comes from the French/Italian/Latin for “little feather”, pinnaculum. A feather in the cap. A sense of style. Panache.

* *pan* is the Polish word for “mister”



*Mystery photo; where do you think it was taken?
(Answer is on page 14.)*

OFDA APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES SUBSCRIPTION TO THE *Folk Dancer* MAGAZINE

☐ SINGLE \$24 ☐ FAMILY* \$30 ☐ ALL U.S. AND OVERSEAS \$24 CAN./\$22 U.S. FUNDS

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Spotlight on Walter Zagorski

By Mirdza Jaunzemis

Walter Zagorski's life has for many years been associated with various types of dance: folk, English country, ballet, contras, and squares to name a few. He has been involved in and made many contributions to the larger dance community. We in folk dancing realize that if no one remembers a dance "Walter will know it!"

It was during his fourth year studying engineering at the University of Toronto that Walter discovered folk dancing, which opened a whole new world to him. Since he had some free time during this year of his studies, he thought he would investigate courses and programmes offered by the Phys. Ed. Department. He had tried out ballroom dancing previously, but was intrigued by this new (to him) form of dance. As it turned out, Judy Silver was the instructor – and he enjoyed the class so much that he continued. What appealed to him was the fact that one was not dependent on a partner, and he enjoyed the music and the style of dancing that he observed and took part in. Although Judy told him about Friday night dancing at the International Folk Dance Club (IFDC), at the University of Toronto, he did not begin immediately, but finally showed up after finishing graduate school. He reconnected with some previous acquaintances there, found that the people were very friendly and welcoming, and he was hooked!



*En garde! I mean
...olé...I mean opa!*

attended was conducted by Yves Moreau, and he found it to be a lot of fun! Later he joined the Ontario Folk Dance Camp committee and became involved in helping to plan and operate the camps. He can often be seen taking part in couple dances because he is sought out as a partner and is an accomplished dancer. He knows his stuff and will make his partner (expert or not) look good! He now does the late-night programming for the entire weekend, staying up and playing the "tunes" into the wee hours of the morning. As long as there are dancers, Walter is there to play the music and to help with unfamiliar dances.

Walter is also on the committee at IFDC, where he maintains the equipment, music collection, teaches some dances and generally helps out at the Friday night dances. For a number of years now, he has organized programmers for Tuesday evening dances in the summer at Sir Winston Churchill Park, where he is frequently on hand to help with music, and dancing. In addition, he has been attending Mainewoods Dance Camp for many years, where he is currently the President. He helps to plan and organize the camp and assists in whatever capacity he may be called upon to fulfill. Over the years he has become known for his encyclopedic memory of dances. He is a general "factotum" at many OFDA events, and thus is a very important and committed



*Ada Dziewanowska knew who to pick
as a partner at OFDCamp!*

The first workshop he

member of this organization. Furthermore, he has maintained his interest in English Country dancing, and has been involved in calling dances at various sessions.

But there is another side to Walter – that of the performer. He was a long-time performer (from 1983-1998) in the group “Village Folk”. In addition to watching live theatre, he has taken part in community theatre musicals with the St. Clement’s Drama Group, and the first production that he was involved in was “Calamity Jane” in 2004. He did the famous “bottle on the head” dance in the musical “Fiddler on the Roof” and demonstrated that he is a fine solo singer. He also appeared in “Schwartzspell” in 2008. He often takes part in the chorus, but works behind the scenes as well. He plays clarinet, and was a member of Kevin Budd’s folk dance band.

There is also a competitive edge to Walter’s personality: he competes every year at the Royal Winter Fair in the Olde Tyme Square Dancing competitions. He and his group have competed in

both Mature and Open classes, and have placed anywhere from first to fifth (or lower at times). This year they came in second in the Mature category and fourth in the Open. The top five groups get rosettes as prizes, and also a cash prize, which is usually used by the groups to defray costs for entry fees or costumes.

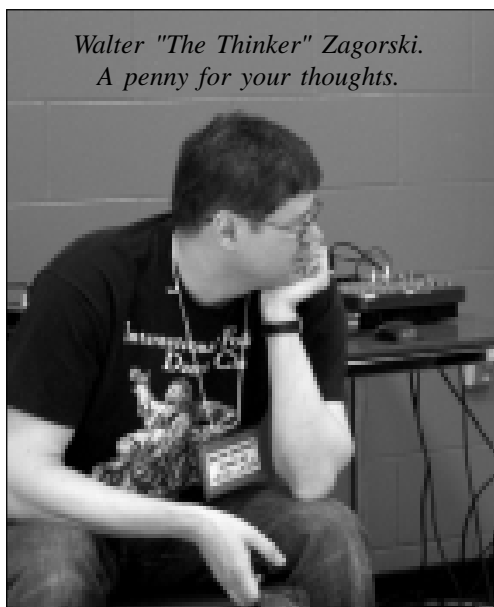
Walter has always shared his enthusiasm for folk dancing and his expertise with the rest of us. He has inspired many of us to try out and succeed at “challenging” dances, and we realize that quite often we can master them! He has enhanced our knowledge and enjoyment of dance and we appreciate his input and efforts. Kudos to Walter!



Hop right...now where has that line gone to?



On break...let someone else put up that poster.



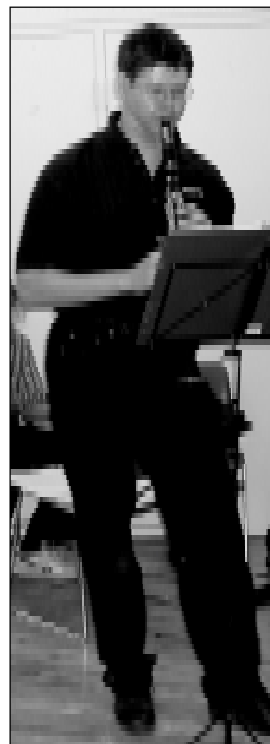
*Walter "The Thinker" Zagorski.
A penny for your thoughts.*



Go vest, young man!

◀ *On the set of "Felicity: an American Girl Adventure".*

Play that folky music, white boy! ▶



Hmmm, left heel 1cm. too high I see.

Dignity, it's all about dignity! ▶



Let's see if they have THIS request! HA!

Folk Dancer

Bolivian Postscripts

By Julia Kossowski

This is the continuation of a series of e-mails originally printed in the May issue of the magazine ("Messages from Bolivia") relating travel experiences of Adam Kossowski's daughter, Julia.

Sent: March 8, 2008
Subject: Argentina?
Don't Mind if I Do.

So it's officialAndrew and I have arrived in Argentina. We're sitting in a small town in the north of the province, just north of the bigger city of Salta. We've had an exhausting few days - a lot of overnight buses and travelling to fit everything in. It's nice to finally be somewhere where we can relax for a few days! To



Julia & Capuchin Monkey

give you the quick version of our past few days; well, we left La Paz on an overnight bus on Monday night after Andrew and I finally recovered from our sick stomachs. We arrived in Potosí at 6am (ugh!) and went on a tour of a cooperative silver mine where Bolivian men work in conditions that are just incredible. The tour brings you right down onto your hands and knees climbing through these nasty tunnels. It was quite amazing. We then left that evening for a six hour (treacherous!) bus ride to Uyuni. We arrived at one a.m. only to sleep a few hours before getting picked up to start our three day tour of the famous salt flats, coloured lagoons and more. Our three-day tour had us packed in an eight-person Jeep for over 950 kilometres in total. We saw some of the most spectacular things that I've ever seen in my life - it was rather humbling, inspiring and amazing. Flat crystallized salt lakes, thousand year-old cactuses, flamingos feeding in red lakes at 4000 metres high! You couldn't look around without snapping an amazing photo. Just incredible. That tour ended last night and we immediately hopped on an overnight train south

to the border with Argentina. The train was supposed to be all in the dark, but a technical problem made it three hours late so we got to enjoy this morning in a dining car sipping coffee while the wild scenery passed us by. We crossed the border this morning (with absolutely no problems except the fines we had to pay for overstaying our visas...but

the customs guys didn't try and charge us more than we should pay, so that was a relief!) Andrew pointed out aptly that we spent exactly four months in Bolivia - what a time, I was a bit nostalgic leaving, but still excited to get going. Right, so then we hopped on our first Argentinean bus south for three hours to where we are now: Huamuhaca. The scenery is



Uyuni Salt Flats Cacti

similar to Bolivia, and even the people are still darker and more Bolivian looking. But there are still very obvious differences in the country. It's really nice experiencing the new smells, sights and sensations. People are certainly much friendlier; even children smile back at you when you smile at them....which is wonderful! I'm looking forward to exploring some more; for tonight, it's going to be an early night and some recovery time! We hope to arrive in Buenos Aires by Thursday night in time to meet Andrew's sister on Friday morning. We'll probably be going to Salta and Cordoba over the next few days. So many options!! And so many kilometres to cover...ugh! Alright, my eyes are drooping, I'll leave this for now. I'm happy to see that even in this tiny town's internet cafe there are headsets on the computers which means a Skype (Internet telephone) date shouldn't be too tough in the future. Hope all is well with everyone. Happy March!

Sent: March 25, 2008

Subject: So Long Bolivia

Hola chicos, Since my last email we've also been super busy working. January and February just flew by as we finally got into routines, working at our respective volunteer roles, making friends and exploring La Paz even more. We both continued with our work with children at an orphanage and the children's hospital. I also ran several workshops for a rural Bolivian village about market research for their eco-tourism project, and we both amassed many hours at the UNICEF office putting together emergency kits for flood victims in southeast Bolivia. Andrew continued his work as a mountain biking guide and successfully got hundreds of tourists safely down the "World's Most Dangerous Road"... with only a handful of bloody injuries. I was also lucky to have a ten-day trip into the subtropics to volunteer at an animal refuge, feeding and playing with monkeys all day; absolutely fabulous, despite being covered in monkey poop all week. Well, the Bolivia chapter is over now, (just flew by!) We definitely had our fair share of very "Bolivian" experiences. I'd like to quickly list my "not in the guide book" experiences: - Met the Bolivian president, Evo Morales, at Carnaval. He

sprayed me in the face with party foam. I take it as a complete compliment. - Survived monster floods in our part of the city in February where a bridge two blocks from our house was washed away and our cab had to sit in a road with water a half a foot deep until it drained. - Survived the largest hail I've ever seen (jelly bean size) that actually stung massively when they hit...and had to protect twelve Bolivian children under a tarp until the storm passed. - Endured Bolivian stomach bugs. - Yelled at fake immigration police. - Snuck through protesting road blockades in rural Bolivia. - Got our photos printed in the National newspaper (solely as a spectator, but it counts!) - Survived a minor fender bender resulting from bad cab drivers and stray dogs. - Biked down the "World's Most Dangerous Road" at the peak of the rainy season on the last trip before the road was closed for over a week due to treacherous landslides. - Wrestled an ocelot (jungle cat) that was attacking a baby monkey. It was a stellar few months being settled in Bolivia. It was obviously sad to leave. Ironically we got sweet stomach bugs as a result of our "going away party" so we had to stay a few days longer than planned anyway. Tomorrow we head to Uruguay and will be back in Argentina shortly after; after that, we're unclear. We've finally put together our last photo album. It's crazy to think we'll be home in a few weeks, so I can actually say "see you soon" to most of you. Take care and stay healthy, Julia



Mountain Bike Tour, Near Top



Upcoming OFDA Events

- Sat. Mar 14/09 - Dance Café - Tamar Cohen, Spanish Dancing
Sat. May 2/09 - AGM & Café - with the Gael Force Dancers
Sat. June 20/09 - Special "Picnic" - details to be announced.....

Short Series Class Information

~~ **Additional folk dance classes are available from:** Teme Kernerman 416-636-1880,
and Olga Veloff Sandolowich 416-447-9823,

. ~~**For Dance, Folk Arts, and Program consultation**, call Al Gladstone 416-466-5651.

~~**For daytime dance programs with the Toronto District School Board**, call
Continuing Education Community Programs, Sabrina Bates: 416-338-4223 ~~

Scottish Highland and Canadian Step Dancing lessons. Bold Steps Dance Studio; we are located in Toronto at 100A Ossington Ave and 240 Avenue Rd, as well as in Etobicoke at 144 30th St. Classes for adults and children of all levels. Classes are \$10 each and payment is on a 'pay as you go' basis. First class for free! Contact Meghan at 647-404-2653, or visit www.boldstepsdancestudio.com

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Scottish Country Dance Classes for Beginners, Winter 2008. Cost: \$80 for 10 classes (pro rated for later registration.). Info: Alice Chase at 416-410-7078 / www.rscdstoronto.org

Mon. - Jan 5-Mar 9 at St. Leonards Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave., near Lawrence Stn.

Wed. - Jan 7-Mar 11 at Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Ave., near Runnymede Stn.

Thu. - Jan 8-Mar 12 at Eastminster Church, 310 Danforth Avenue, near Chester Stn.

Scottish Ceilidh Dance Classes

Fridays, 7:30-9:30 pm: Jan 30, Feb. 6, 20, 27, and March 1, at St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave. (2 mins from Lawrence station) No partner required.

Teacher: Teresa Lockhart. \$8 at the door. Info: Carole Bell 416-221-1201.

Classes with Karen Millyard

English Country Dancing ~ Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced

Vintage waltz - No partner is required, no waltz experience is required.

Introduction to Irish Set Dancing - Imagine square dance performed to lively Irish music!

Cost for all classes: \$50 / \$40 for students; family rates also available. Please note: students taking more than one course simultaneously will receive a special rate.

Information: 416-769-2166 or www.torontoenglishdance.ca

Upcoming Events

PLEASE SEND ANY EVENT/CALENDAR INFORMATION TO MAYA: 25TAHOE@GMAIL.COM

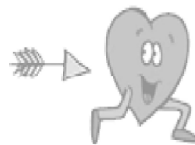
IN FEBRUARY

☞ = Ontario Event



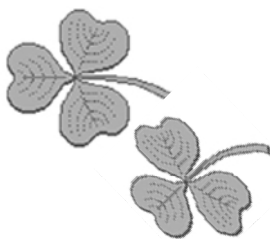
Feb 14 Valentine's Day
Feb 16 Family Day
Feb 25 Ash Wednesday

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- Feb 13-15 Dance Flurry** (22nd annual), **Saratoga Springs, NY**; contras, squares, swing, international, Cajun. Info: 518-292-0133, info@danceflurry.org, www.danceflurry.org
- Feb 13-15 Appalachian Clogging Workshop, Brasstown, NC**; featuring Annie Fain Liden, David Liden, Emolyn Liden, Martha Owen; \$270; note: limited to 50 dancers. Info: 800-365-5724, 828-837-8637, dance@folkschool.org, www.folkschool.org
- Feb 13-15 Workshop And Népi Buli, Montreal, QC**; featuring Gázsa, Gémesi Zoli, Hruz Szabolcs, Medve, Öcsi; Info: clares@MIT.EDU
- Feb 14 Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association February Dance.**; 8:00-10:30 pm, at Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave.; music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent; \$25 (members \$20), children/spectators \$4; free parking. Info: Forbes Duncan 416-266-3377, www.rscdstoronto.org.
- Feb 20-22 French Folk Dance Weekend, Brasstown, NC**; focus on bourées and the mazurka with dances from all regions including circles, mixers, chains, etc.; limited to 50 dancers; featuring Cessany Monteriol, Christian, David Diguseppe; \$170. Info: 800-365-5724, 828-837-8637, dance@folkschool.org, www.folkschool.org
- Feb 21 ☞ Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association Tartan Ball** (46th annual); 6:00 pm-1:00 am; at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel; music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent; \$115. Info: Jim Stark 416-691-8025, jstark@sympatico.ca www.rscdstoronto.org/events.html
- Feb 21 ☞ Ceili & Set Dance**, Toronto, Russian Orthodox Church Hall 823 Manning Ave; live music; all levels; most dances are 'walked through' first; basic steps are taught at beginning of ceili (~30 min); 8:00-11:30 pm; \$10. Info: Pat Mahony 289-232-0754
- Feb 27 ☞ Hamilton International Folk Dance Club Croatian Workshop with Zeljko Jergan and Birthday Celebration for Alice Farrenden**, 8:00-11:00 pm, St Paul's Anglican Church, Corner of King St West and Haddon Avenue, (Westdale) in Hamilton; \$10.00. Info: Stefania Miller millers@mcmaster.ca
- Feb 27 - Mar1 Transylvanian And Balkan Dance Weekend**, Colrain, MA; featuring Trei Arcus, Xopo; at Round Barn. Info: www.xopoandfriends.com

IN MARCH




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Mar 8 *Daylight Savings Begins*
 Mar 10 *Purim*
 Mar 11 *Magha Puja Day*
 Mar 17 *St. Patrick's Day*
 Mar 27 *Hindu New Year*

Mar 13-15 San Antonio Folk Dance Festival; teachers Lee Otterholt (Greece and others), George Fogg (English Country), Sandy Starkman (International) and Andy Taylor-Blenis (Teachers' Workshop); featuring International Folk Dance groups from New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Austin, Houston and San Antonio; \$60 (\$55 before March 1). Info: Nelda Drury 210-342-2905, www.SAFDF.org


Mar 13-15 Manitoba Folk Dance Association presents Ahmet Luleci Turkish Dance Workshop, Winnipeg, MB; beginner, intermediate and advanced workshops in traditional folk dances from all over Turkey in various folk styles Info: Jeremy Hull, 204-477-5981, prolog@mts.net, www.members.shaw.ca/mifda/


Mar 14  **OFDA Spanish Café** with Tamar Cohen Adams. *Details on page 27.*

Mar 14  **Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association March Dance** (beginners' night); 8:00-10:30 pm, at Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave.; music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent; \$25 (members \$20), children/spectators \$4; free parking. Info: Forbes Duncan 416-266-3377, www.rscdstoronto.org.

Mar 20-22 Spring Festival, Chicago, IL; Balkan, Eastern European, and Eastern Mediterrean Folk Dance, Music and Culture; at International House (1414 E 59th St.); \$100. Info: 773-324-1247, balkanske_igre@yahoo.com, ihouse.uchicago.edu/programs/programs.html

Mar 20-22 Tri-City Folk Dancers Present Yves & France Moreau, a workshop of Balkan & other dances, Schenectady, NY; \$50 (includes lunch on Saturday). On Saturday evening, in celebration of their Golden Wedding and 40+ years of folk dancing, Heather and Donald Treble are treating participants to a Balkan Buffet and folk dance party with live music.*See more details on page 25, and online at www.ofda.ca/events*

Mar 21  **Ceili & Set Dance,** Toronto, Russian Orthodox Church Hall 823 Manning Ave; live music; all levels; most dances are 'walked through' first; basic steps are taught at beginning of ceili (~30 min); 8:00-11:30 pm; \$10. Info: Pat Mahony 289-232-0754

Mar 21  **The West End Workshop and Tea Dance (Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association),** Brampton, ON; classes morning and afternoon, with hot lunch, tea dance in afternoon; at Turner Fenton SS, North Campus, 7935 Kennedy Road; \$45 (\$12 for Tea Dance only). Info: Anna & Tom Rielly, 519-927-5520, www.rscdstoronto.org/whats_on.html

Mar 26-28 U of T Festival of Dance (13th annual), Hart House, Toronto; over 200 dancers come together and share their remarkable talents over three nights of performances; \$12 (seniors/students \$10). Info: (416) 978-8849, www.uofttix.ca

Mar 29 Shevchenko Musical Ensemble Gala Concert, Welland, ON; featuring Shevchenko Choir and Welland AUUC Mandolin Orchestra; Polish Cultural Centre in Welland; 2:00 pm. Info: 416-533-2725, info-sme@bellnet.ca, www.shevchenkomusic.com

IN APRIL



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27	28	29	30			

Apr 9 First Day of Passover

Apr 10 Good Friday

Apr 14 Baisakhi

Apr 22 Earth Day

Apr 4- May 3 World-Fest, America's Largest International Festival, Branson, Missouri; performance groups from throughout the world representing their traditional music, dance, and culture; taste of international cuisine. Info: www.bransonsilverdollarcity.com

Apr 16-19 National Folk Organization Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado; Performing Arts groups, recreational/social dance teaching; featuring Ingvar Sodal, Dick Oakes, Sanna Longden, Roo Lester and possibly others; speakers, meetings, parties; lots going on. Info: Katherine St. John, kstjohn@burgoyne.com, <http://www.nfo-usa.org/events2007.htm>

Apr 16-19 Grassroots Festival, Silk Hope, NC; contras, squares, international folk, Cajun dance; stringband, roots rock, bluegrass, African, Andean, jazz, blues; dance tent w/wooden floor; music, plenty of on-site camping, foods, arts, crafts, dance, workshops, poetry slam, kids area. Info: 919-542-8142, shakorihills@grassrootsfest.org, www.grassrootsfest.org

Apr 17-19 Toronto Spring Thaw Dance Weekend; contras, English, squares, waltzes; featuring Wild Asparagus; at Eastminster United Church (310 Danforth Ave.); \$45. Info: 416-532-2025, info@tcdance.org, www.tcdance.org

Apr 24, 25 Macedonian Ensemble "Tanec" from Skopje will be in Toronto; world renowned Macedonian Ensemble of folk dances and songs, as part of its 60th Anniversary tour, will put on two performances in Toronto; at John Bassett Theatre (Metro Toronto Convention Centre). Info: <http://www.TanecNorthAmericanTour.com>, info@MacedonianLife.com, 905-764-7816, sunstage@rogers.com, 905-450-2584

Apr 24-26 Neffa Folk Festival, Mansfield, MA; dance, music, crafts, and food from many lands; all performers donate their talents as volunteers; one of the largest dance festivals anywhere. Info: 781-662-6710, neffa@neffa.org, www.neffa.org

- Apr 24-26 Trillium Twirl, Dowling, MI;** contra, square; featuring Lift Ticket, Tom Hinds; \$120. Info: 517-321-3070, dbaur@provide.net, www.mdh-online.org
- Apr 25 - Dance and Cultural Tour of Romania;** Suceava (Bucovina), Romania; sponsored by The
May 2 DOINA Foundation; dance workshops, sightseeing excursions, performances, meals, accommodation, local transportation; €745. Info: +31-10-421 86 22, fax +31-10-455 60 65, stichting.doina@hetnet.nl, www.StichtingDoina.nl

LOOKING/BOOKING AHEAD...



Book your dance (and other) travel vacations through a folk dancer! Call Dorothy Sloan, President of Aotearoa Adventures Inc....See her ad on page 26.

- May 1-3 International Folklore Festival,** Sofia, Bulgaria; organized by Europe Foundation for the development of cultural initiatives in collaboration with the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture; dance, vocal, and instrumental ensembles from around the world participate. Info: <http://www.folklorefestivals.com/eng/default.aspx>
- May 2-20 Stara Planina Fest “Balkan Folk 2009”,** Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria; the number 1 festival in Europe for traditional folk arts. Info: <http://www.folklorefestivals.com/eng/default.aspx>
- May 15-18 Ontario Folk Dance Camp - 50th Anniversary this year!**  
- May 20-26 Wereldfolkloreade 22nd International Folklore Festival,** Oostrozebeke, Belgium. Info: <http://www.folklorefestivals.com/eng/default.aspx>
- May 27- Skamba skamba kankliai folklore festival,** Vilnius, Lithuania.
Jun 1 Info: <http://www.folklorefestivals.com/eng/default.aspx>
- Jun 20  OFDA Picnic - stay tuned for details.**
- Jun 25-28 Balkan Festival Workshops,** Zetten (near Arnhem), The Netherlands; featuring Ben Koopmanschap (Albania to Kroatia), Dick v.d. Zwan (Greek), Ersin Seyhan (Turkish), Bianca de Jong (Bulgarian), Silviu Ciuciumis (Romanian), Hedwig Schoots (Song), Helen van Bochove (Ball); orchestras Orkest Trediki, Orkest Sultan. Info: Silviu Ciuciumis +31-10-421 86 22, fax +31-10-455 60 65, stichting.doina@hetnet.nl, www.StichtingDoina.nl

The Mystery Picture (on page 4) is Berea Community School, in Kentucky

Dancing in Ontario

- Mail class info to: Bev Sidney, 35 Touraine Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3H 1R3 or bvsdny@gmail.com
- Classes generally run from Sept/Oct to June. Check with contact person for precise dates.

(For information on Short Courses, See Page 10)

TORONTO – WEEKLY CLASSES

- Monday** Israeli, with Yossi Strauch. Bialik Hebrew Day School, 2760 Bathurst St (at Viewmount) 7:00-11:00 p.m. \$5. Info: Yossi 905-761-0004 or Sophie 416-221-6280
- Israeli, with Teme, Helen and Riki, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) 4588 Bathurst St. (north of Sheppard). Beginners Class 7:30-8:30 p.m. Intermediate 8:30-10:00 p.m. Info: Teme Kernerman: 416-630-5871(home) ; 416-636-1880 ext. 364 (office).
- Tuesday** Israeli, with Laurie, Michael and Teme. BJCC (see address in Monday listing). Intermediate 8:00-9:00 p.m. Advanced and Request: 9:00-11:00 p.m. Info: Teme 416-636-1880 ext. 364 or 416-630-5871.
- Wednesday** International for Seniors 55+ with Teme and Sandy. BJCC (see address in Monday listing). 9:45 a.m. Beginners & Review of existing repertoire dances. 10:15 -11:30 a.m. more experienced dancers Info: Teme 416-636-1880 ext. 364.
- International with Sandy Starkman. BJCC (see address in Monday listing). 8:00-10:30 p.m. Beginners welcome. Info: Teme 416-636-1880 ext. 364.
- International for beginners with Dorothy Archer, at North York Seniors Centre, 21 Hendon Ave. (Finch and Yonge) 9:30 to 10:30. Non-members welcome. Info: Kelley Fish 416-733-4111 or Dorothy 416-447-2380.
- Scottish Country, Trinity St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St. W., west of Spadina, 1-3 p.m. with Isabelle MacPherson. Info: Flora 416-762-0112.
- Serbian with Miroslav Bata Marcetic. Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, 1500 Gulleden Drive, (Burnhamthorpe & Dixie). 8-10 pm. Info: 416-695-4364 www.marcetic.com
- Ukrainian, Shevchenko School of Folk Dance; children (age 12-16) 7-8:30 p.m.; adult performing group 8:30-10:30 p.m. Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. 416-533-2725.
- Thursday** International with David Yee at Ralph Thornton Centre, 765 Queen St. E. (east of Broadview). Elevator to 2nd floor. 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. Donations. Info: 416-466-5651.
- International with Olga Sandolowich, at Banbury Community Centre (Lawrence and Leslie area), 120 Banbury Rd., . 7:30-10:00 p.m. Info Olga: 416-447-9823.
- Friday** International Folk Dance Club, 371 Bloor St., s/e corner of Bloor & Spadina, gym 122. 8:00-11:00 p.m. Info: Judy 416-658-7876/ www.johnduncanrose.com/ifdc/information.html.
- International with Olga Sandolowich. 10 am -12 noon. North Toronto Memorial Arena, 174 Orchardview Blvd. (Yonge and Eglinton). Info Olga: 416-447-9823.

- Saturday** Indian Dance, Movement & Rhythm classes with Rina Singha. 1470 Gerrard St. E., 11:00 a.m. Info: 416-463-1710.
- International with David Yee. Church of St.Martin-in-the-Fields. 151 Glenlake Avenue, One light north of Bloor., East of Keele St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Info: Adrienne 416-231-3014
- Sacred Circle Dance, Bloor Street United Church, 300 Bloor St. W., 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Info: Barbara Herring 519-923-6445 or barbfish1@sympatico.ca.
- Sunday** Ukrainian, Shevchenko School of Folk Dance. Children (age 5-7, 8-11): 10am-12:45pm; adult performing group: 1-3pm. Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. 416-533-2725.
- Frolics in the Hey, English Country Dance , 7-9 pm, Danforth Baptist Church, corner of Danforth and Bowden. (One street west of Chester.)\$8, free for musicians (Open Band) Info: Cathy 416-762-0598, www.ecdtoronto.ca

OTHER CENTRES – WEEKLY CLASSES

- Belleville** **Tue** Scottish Country. Queen Victoria School. 7:30 p.m.
Info: Jan & Bill Cunningham 613-965-4212.
- Burlington** **Mon–Thur** Flamenco, Oriental (Belly), Pilates, Ballet at Village Square Dance Centre. Info: Sandy MacCrimmon 905-632–6023.
- Hamilton** **Thur** International Folk Dance for Seniors 55+ with Dale Hyde. Seniors' Centre, YWCA, McNab St.S. Beginners and Intermediate. 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thur** Canadian Step-dance for Seniors 55+ with Dale Hyde. Seniors' Centre, YWCA, McNab St. S., Hamilton.Beginners. 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.
- Fri** Hamilton International Folk Dance Club, 8-11 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church, King St. W. at Haddon Ave., Westdale. Info: Stefania at millers@mcmaster.ca or Richard or Linda at 905-528-4026.
- London** **Fri** International Folk Dance. Info: Ross Lemon 519-438-1177.
- Napanee** **Thu** Scottish Country. Market Square, Napanee. 7:30 p.m. Info: Sheila Keller 613-393-2955 or Alex & Anne Currie 613-354-9504.
- Ottawa** **Tue** Ottawa Israeli Folkdancers. Info: Judy 613-729-2090, www.ottawaisraelidance.ca
- Thu** International Folk Dance. Info: Susan Barker 613-729-1515 www.ifdo.pugmarks.com
- Peterborough** **Sat** English Country Dancers, at George St. United Church auditorium, 534 George St. N., at 8 p.m. Info: Kate Jarrett 705-876-1082.
- Picton** **Mon** Scottish Country. Town Hall, Picton. 7:30 p.m.
Info: Sheila Keller 613-393-2955.
- Whitby** **Tue** Irish Dancing with Maureen Mulvey. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, 113 Brock Street. Info: Maureen 416-446-6993, www.expage.com/maureensreelirishdancing

Dancing in Ontario

BI-WEEKLY AND MONTHLY CLASSES

Cajun Toronto: with Swamperella band every 3rd Saturday, Sept–June. Dance lesson 8:30 p.m., band 9:30 p.m. \$7 Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W., west of Dufferin. Info: 416-588-9227, swamperella@idirect.com.

Contras

- Owen Sound: the Fiddleferns Dances meet first Saturdays, varying callers, live bands. Kris 519-376-7955, krosar@bmts.com , www.getfor.com/Pages/fiddleferndances.
- Toronto: Mainly Contras at Islington Seniors Centre, 4968 Dundas St. W., Various Sundays. Info: Ann Logan 905-709-9241.
- Toronto Country Dancers 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Basics at 7 p.m. \$10 (Members \$8). St. Barnabas Church Hall, 175 Hampton Ave., south of Danforth near Chester subway station. Info: Susan 416-532-2025, www.tcdance.org

Contras & English Country

- Hamilton: Hamilton Country Dancers meet first Saturday 8–11, at All Saints Church, corner of King and Queen. Info: www.hwcn.org/link/jig.
- London: London Country Dancers 3rd Saturday of each month at St. James Westminster Church, 115 Askin St., 8 p.m. Live music by New Rigged Ship. Info: 519-439-3622 or 519-433-1834.

English Country

- Ottawa: Ottawa English Country Dance Club. Orange Hall at 41, Rosemount Avenue, the first and fourth Wednesday each month. Call Nigel M Kilby 613-836-2233.
- Toronto English Country Dancers, First Saturday each month, at 823 Manning Ave. See www.torontoenglishdance.ca for dance schedule.

Israeli

Toronto: Traditional and Classic Israeli with Teme and Yossi. Dates will be announced. Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. (near Sheppard). Info: Teme 416-630-5871, or 416-636-1880 ext. 364.

Sacred Circle For info (Can/U.S./U.K.), contact Brigitte Evering, 905-372-1834, moonfire@eagle.ca or Barbara Herring, 519-923-6445 or barbfish1@sympatico.ca

Scottish

- Napanee: Market Square, 7:30 p.m. Info: Sheila Keller 613-393-2955 or Alex & Anne Currie 613-354-9504.
- Belleville: 7:30 p.m. Info: Jan & Bill Cunningham 613-965-4212.
- Toronto: RSCDS Toronto Scottish Country Dance Assn. Info: 416-410-7078.

Square

- *Old Tyme* - To see the many locations holding old time square dances visit the Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers' Association's dance directory: <http://sca.uwaterloo.ca/cotsdca/1DanceDirectory.html>, or call Murray Smith at 519-372-9275.
- For info on *Modern square* dance in southern Ontario, call Ann Logan 905-709-9241.

Swing

Toronto Swing Dance Society, 2nd & 4th Fri. at The Argonaut Rowing Club. 416- 638-TSDS or www.dancing.org/tsds/. For Lindy Hop info: Peter Renzland 416-323-1300, or peter@dancing.org

Folk Dancer

Dancing Out-of-Province...

- Buffalo, NY** **Tue:** Intl. Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo 10-11 am. \$2 per session.
Joe Malkiewicz 716-883-2084, joemalk@aol.com
Fri: Intl. Info: Lilian Leiber 716-884-3764/ Gayle Fairchild 716-759-6868.
- Calgary** **Fri:** Intl. 8 p.m. Ken Charkow at 403-280-9225, kcharkow@aol.com.
Sat: Contra dance, approx. once per month. Caller and live music. Karen Pollock
403-686-1129 or Marge Leeder 403-230-0340.
Sun: Israeli, most Sunday nights. Ken Charkow. See Friday above.
- Charlottetown** **Wed:** Irish Set, plus occasional weekend ceilidhs.
Thu: Scottish Country Dancing. Call for location, Tony or Marion 902-675-4093.
Eastern P.E.I. offers old-time sets in St. Peters, Goose River and Monticello.
- Edmonton** **Thu:** Intl. in a club atmosphere. Leanne or Doyle 780-454-3739.
Fri: Intl. Ann Smreciu 780-481-2327.
- Ferndale, MI** **Fri:** Intl. 8:30-11:30+, Wood floor, refreshments. Rick King 248-376-6992,
rickbking@comcast.net.
- Halifax** **Thu:** Intl. 902- 464-1288.
- Montreal** **Mon:** Israeli classes. Hilda Smolash 514-485-0600 or 342-2056.
Sun., Tue. & Wed: Israeli, Intl. Maurice Perez 514-738-8867.
Tue & Wed: Intl. 514-382-7166.
Various Dates: Danse Quebecoise. Claude Jubinville 514-529-7236
- Rochester, NY** Intl, two Fridays/month, 7:30-10:30 pm. Friends Meeting House, and Mondays at
the JCC, 7:45-9:45 pm. Ruth Hyde 585-461-9266, rhyde @ frontiernet.net.
- Saskatoon** Intl. Donna Motlow 306-373-7788.
- Sherbrooke** **Wed:** Intl. Joe Webber 514-562-8569 or Louise 514-346-4016.
- Vancouver** **Mon:** Vancouver Intl. Folk Dancers (VIFD) www.vcn.bc.ca/vifd 7:30-10 p.m. Susan
Pinkham at 604-732-9652, susanpinkham@shaw.ca or Sarah Olesh at 604-874-
6373, smolesh@yahoo.ca
Tue: Burnaby Intl. Folk Dancers - 7:30-9:30 p.m., Charles Rummel Centre - 3630
Lozells at Government, Burnaby, burnabyfolk@shaw.ca or jbkupfer@shaw.ca
Thur: Surrey Intl. Folkdancers at 7:30, Walnut Road School - 16152 82nd Avenue,
Surrey. For information call - 604-583-7048.
- Victoria** **Wed:** Saanich Intl. Folkdancers, beginners class. 250-598-6888.
Thur: Israeli. Nicci Violette 250-595-6473 or Margo 250-381-4243.
Fri: Saanich Intl. Folkdancers. 250-598-6888.
- Winnipeg** Manitoba Intl. Folk Dance Assn., Jeremy Hull 204-477-5981, ljhull@mts.net.
Sacred Circle: Astrid Hudson 204-642-9973, ahudson@mts.net.
- Wolfville, N.S.** **Tue:** Intl. At Acadia University. Heidi 902-542-0867, kettlc@glinx.com.

Vancouver International Folk Dancers Celebrate Their 50th Anniversary

By Maya Trost

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, the Vancouver International Folk Dancers (VIFD) celebrated their 50th anniversary by having a big bash. This event, while important to the Vancouver community, would not normally be noticed by the dance community in Ontario, except for the fact that I am now a member of both. I found it rather interesting and thought that some of my Ontario friends might be interested as well.



(from Seattle), Stari Zvuci (of Vancouver) and last, but definitely not least, a Seattle band with a well-known guest artist from Skopje, Macedonia, Stefce Stojkovski. Two of the instruments which Stefce played this evening were Gajda and Kaval. It seems he is able to play fifteen different instruments.

The event took place in St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church (the VIFD has a fairly strong Serbian presence). The church hall is not very large; I was told that it had a capacity for two hundred for dinner – that would be very close seating indeed. The organizers, wisely, decided to limit the number of tickets sold to 150. The room is definitely smaller than our Ralph Thornton venue. Additional tickets (I don't know how many) were sold for people to come after dinner, for the dancing. Personally, I was quite impressed that they could sell even 150 tickets. I was trying to imagine the same situation in Toronto.

The price was very reasonable; \$30 per person for dinner and dancing. The dinner was a delicious, Serbian-style buffet, prepared by the women's auxiliary of the host church.

A total of four bands were hired for the evening; one to play during dinner, and then three others, to take turns for dancing after dinner. For those of you who might be familiar with any of the names, the dinner music (it was actually dancing music, played during dinner – very difficult to keep your feet from moving) band was Musica Parea (consisting of a combination of Vancouver and Bellingham musicians), followed by Orkestar RTW

The bands were possibly one of the reasons for the very high turnout. In addition to present and past VIFD members, there were many there from the Seattle, Bellingham, Victoria, Salt Spring Island, Squamish and the greater Vancouver area dance communities. There were eleven participants from Victoria, among them Tanya Pearson (a beautiful dancer, who had danced with IFDC for about five years) and her mother Imke. In addition to International Folk Dancers, there were people there from the Serbian and Macedonian communities as well.

When the dancing started, and about one hundred dancers crowded onto the small dance floor, you could feel the energy level skyrocket. There was one Macedonian man, who, having had a fair amount to drink, was dancing, quite often by himself in the middle of the circle, sometimes getting down to the ground, occasionally having difficulty getting back up. This man was obviously high on the music and dance, and not just alcohol. At a certain point, he stuck a \$50 bill to the sweaty forehead of Stefce Stojkovski. Olga had always told us about this sort of thing; now I've seen it.

The dance went on till after 3:00 a.m.; alas, at midnight my coach turned into a pumpkin, and I had to go home to sleep.

Move'n'Mingle— Adapted Folk Dance Program

By Helen Winkler

Three years ago, Teme Kernerman came to me with a proposal. Would I be interested in leading the revival of a dance program for adults and teens with developmental delays, called “Move’n’Mingle”? The program, created by Teme Kernerman, had existed at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre [BJCC] for many years but had been inactive for awhile. Fellow folk dancer Trudy Wolfish had initiated the revival request, as her daughter Debbie had been a “Move’n’Mingle” participant. I reflected on my experience as a parent of Rita, a regular at OFDA and Israeli dance events who happens to have Down syndrome, as well as my experience at leading adapted folk dancing for the fragile elderly, and agreed to take on this new project.

Our group began as a joint venture between two community organizations: BJCC and Yachad. Initially the support staff consisted of volunteers and there were ten to twelve participants. In its second year, Reena, another community organization, became a co-sponsor, supplying two support staff to our program. This year, we have added regular volunteers from the Ulpna High School. Each year, the number of participants has grown, to the point that we have had to cap registration at the current level of twenty-one participants. Some of the participants attend with their own support workers, which results in a large and lively dance group, whose enthusiasm for folk dancing rivals any other folk dance group that I have ever attended.

Each evening consists of one hour of dancing, followed by a pizza dinner and then an art



activity or a game. The range of dance levels in the group is very large. We have dancers who are independent, who arrive on public transit. Others are in wheelchairs and require one-to-one or even two-to-one assistance to participate. In between these two extremes, are dancers of many different ability levels. The challenge for me, as the dance leader, is to adapt folk dances in a way that will work for everyone, one way or another. Each dancer participates at his or her own level. The goal is to provide a meaningful and enjoyable dance experience for all.

Over the past three years, our group has developed into a cohesive unit. Participants have their favourite dances, which they request either by name or by gestures. These gestural requests for specific dances will ring true for anyone who has been a DJ for an evening of folk dancing at other groups around town. I have been asked countless times to play “that one with the three turns, the stamps and sway. I forget the name...” at OFDA events. “Move’n’Mingle” is no different in that respect.

The positive spinoffs of dancing have been numerous. Behaviour during classes has changed over time, as participants have learned to attend to the task at hand and have gradually abandoned disruptive behaviours that were common in the early days, as well as blending into outside activities. This change was demonstrated clearly to me at the Ashkenaz Festival, where one “Move’n’Mingle” participant arrived and took part independently in the dance program, along with the general public. The pizza

test is further proof of the evolution of our group. In the first year, the arrival of the pizza heralded the immediate cessation of dancing. These days when the pizza arrives, the participants complain if the dance hour has ended, and they have not had a chance to do all their favourite dances. The pizza must wait.

We have participated in two performances. The first occurred at a party at Reena and the second was at the Kinus Convention for professionals who work with special needs. These were challenging events in terms of leading and organizing the dancers; however, they rose to the occasion each time. There was a learning curve though. For our first performance, I asked the dancers to arrive early to rehearse. We were given a second floor rehearsal space and the group dutifully arrived as requested. When the performance time came around, some dancers took the stairs while others used the elevator to access the auditorium. I brought the stairs group to the performance area, and realized that the group who took the elevator was missing! A support worker went to find them. She returned reporting that the dancers were hungry and had stopped for a snack! Thus we began our first performance minus the famished performers. They arrived after a while, and the show went on.

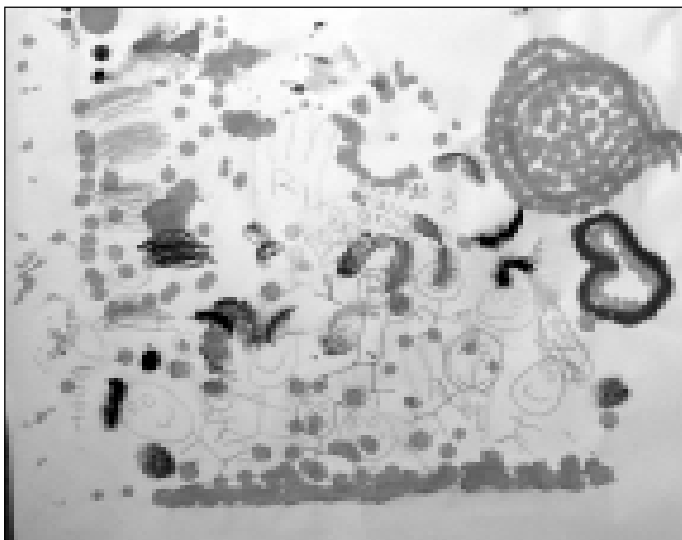
We have been fortunate to be the recipients of much assistance and support from the folk dance community. Teme Kernerman has always been available to assist, whether for administrative support,



Rita Winkler and Leon Balaban

dance ideas, or problem solving. Sandy Starkman has contributed her expertise in both managing group dynamics and dance adaptation, since she has a vast body of experience from her career as a special education teacher in Toronto. The Chai Dancers along with Susan Walker have participated in our class and performed for us, in preparation for our own performances. Leon Balaban provided live music for our end of season party and there are plans for Fethi Karakecili, to perform and teach Kurdish dance in 2009. We look forward to the involvement of other folk dancers for enrichment experiences. I am proud to say that our program continues to evolve and helps

to fulfill the urgent need for meaningful, recreational opportunities for adults and teens with developmental delays in the GTA.

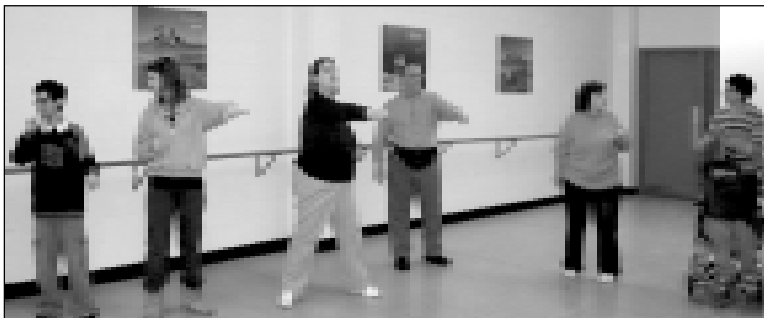


Part of a group mural, this section was done by Rita and is her interpretation of the Move'n'Mingle dance group.

Helen's Tips for Adapting Teaching to Special Needs

- 1) **Decrease Tempo** - even simple movements take longer for the participants to accomplish. If the music isn't slowed down, they can't keep up and they become frustrated.
- 2) **Simplify the dance**
 - Change the steps to a level that most of the group can manage.
 - If there are both arm movements and steps in a dance, I often have to choose one or the other. So for example, Tokyo Dontaku becomes a dance that we do in place, maintaining only the arm movements-it comes out looking a bit like Tai chi.
- 3) **Increase the number of repetitions** of a figure or a movement in a dance, instead of moving on to different movements or alternating movements. It's easier for the participants to do one thing repeatedly than to keep switching.
- 4) **Eliminate or minimize direction changes.**
- 5) **Maintain Eye Contact:**
 - Maintaining eye contact with the group, keeps their attention on the dance.
 - Certain formations such as longways sets can be very confusing.
 - A circle formation where the participants can see the instructor at all times works best, at least with new dancers.
 - Dances that traditionally would be done in other formations, can be converted into circles.

For further information regarding this program please contact: Teme Kernerman 416-636-1880 ext. 364 or Helen Winkler 416-229-1749. Folk dancers who are interested in learning how to adapt folk dances for people with special needs are welcome to contact Helen Winkler for further details (phone: 416-229-1749/email winklerh@hotmail.com).



Photos From Recent Dance Events....

For many more photos of these events, see the ofda website: www.ofda.ca/photos



◀ November 28th in Hamilton, Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu taught a Romanian Workshop, as part of celebrations related to the Hamilton club's 25th Anniversary.



Then on the 29th the "Dynamic Duo" came to Toronto to perk up the Café activities at the Ralph Thornton Centre.



Photos by B.Sidney

Photos From Recent Dance Events....

For many more photos of these events, see the ofda website: www.ofda.ca/photos



Terri Taggart took advantage of the fact that Joe Graziosi would be in Toronto in early December to attend a weekend workshop put on by the Greek community, and co-opted Joe to lead a (very well attended) Greek workshop at IFDC



This year the OFDA organized a New Year's Party in Toronto's west end. About forty people came out to the Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church to enjoy its very comfortable space for socializing, snacking and dancing. A great way to greet 2009!

Photos by B.Sidney

How to Join a Kolo Line

By Cheryl Spasojevic

Published in the Northwest Folkdancer, and used with permission

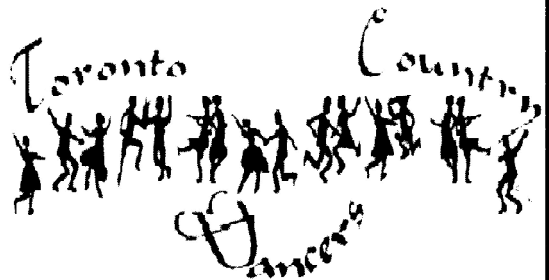


This past winter in Seattle at a dance with live music one long time folk dancer got very upset with me when I joined in the middle of the kolo line next to him, feeling that it was very wrong on my part to have done so, rather than going to the end of the line. I am well aware that in the past some teachers told us that we should go to the end of the line. Why they told us this is very unclear to me, as this is totally against the accepted way in the "Old Country." I would like to offer you the translation of a part of the background material which I recently received while attending the annual folklore seminar (camp) put on each year by the Center for the Teaching of the Folkdances of Serbia, a part of the College of Musical Arts in Belgrade. This was written by Slavica Mihailovic, one of the leading folkdance researchers and teachers here in Serbia, on the basis of her research. "At the question of how the dance began, Lazar Jekov and Tomo Kecovic described how that had been; "The young man who was to lead the kolo had a good friend who would keep the "kec" (the end person of the line) and there was no letting go, nor was there any adding on the end, but rather the kolo would be filled in between them."

These are the words of elderly men about how the dances were traditionally done, but this tradition is maintained still today. Both the front and the end of the line are honored positions, and it is considered the height of rudeness to take over either of those positions. I wanted to share this with folk dancers, particularly so that they would not

make an embarrassing faux-pas if they attended an "ethnic" event.

Additional Note: I recently ran across the same conflict in regard to hand hold, the conventional international folk dance hold being "right hand up, left hand down". When the dancer on my right resisted my attempts to connect this way, he explained that in the country of origin for the dance being done, the men would always extend their hands (facing up) to the women. Hard to argue with a native!....Bev Sidney



Spring Thaw, Apr 17-19, 2009

Toronto, Ontario - Canada

George Marshall ~ Wild Asparagus

Visit www.tcdance.org/thaw for complete event info.



A correction and many apologies (!) to Kaiva Sukse, whose name was mis-spelled in the December article about the OFDA Latvian Café.

Ken Cowan was missed at the OFDA New Year's Party, when he was sidelined with gallstone problems. There will likely be some surgery in the near future.

Born December 1, 2008, a second granddaughter for Gloria Mostyn and Arnold Rose, a great granddaughter for Sam Yanover, a sister for Selina Mostyn and a new baby for Ramona Cooperstock and Mitch Mostyn.

Lavinia and Murray Forbes are heading for Spain. This time it's not one of their many vacation adventures; they're pulling up stakes in Toronto and "retiring" at the end of February. Hopefully, they'll stay in touch and we'll still get reports about their far-flung and energetic excursions. And speaking of energy, we'll really miss them on the dance floor here!

This is a year of many anniversaries. You can read about Vancouver's 50th Anniversary Party on page 19. Hamilton celebrates their 25th year of dancing.

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2009 will also be marked in special ways by the Ontario Folk Dance Camp, celebrating its 50th Anniversary. And, not to be left out, the Ontario Folk Dance Association, celebrates its 40th year. All considered, we should be in for some good fun.



Special Celebrations!

Mar 20-22, Tri-City Folk Dancers Present Yves & France Moreau, a workshop of Balkan & other dances, Schenectady, NY; \$50 (includes lunch on Saturday). On Saturday evening, in *celebration of their Golden Wedding and 40+ years of folk dancing*, **Heather and Donald Treble** are treating participants to a **Balkan Buffet and folk dance party with live music**. These are at no extra cost but, to be included in the dinner, you **MUST** pay for the full workshop by March 7. Info: Bob (518-452-1154), Don (dontreble@aol.com), www.tri-cityfolkdancers.org; Housing: Susanatdanielson7@verizon.net

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The Ontario Folk Dance Association's **Saturday March 14, 2009** **Spanish Dance Café**

Spend a social evening in the OFDA Café. Enjoy a Potluck Supper (bring your favourite recipe) and Multicultural Dancing.

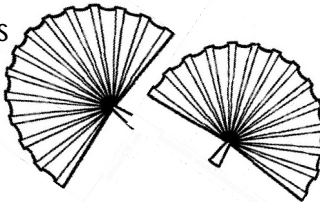
*We ask for a minimum \$6 donation (\$8 non-members)
to help cover the evening's expenses*

Featuring:

Guest Teacher Tamar Cohen Adams

6:00-6:30 International Dancing
6:30-7:30 Potluck Supper
7:30-8:30 Spanish Dances with
Tamar Cohen Adams

8:30-10 pm Request Program



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