



ISSN 1209-255X

Folk Dancer

The Magazine of World Dance and Culture



Fabric pattern on a chair at an exclusive Toronto eatery.

PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO FOLK DANCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2

March 2009

What Can We Do Better?

By Kevin Budd

Now and then we get inquiries here at Folk Dance Towers, Building 3, Floor 42, private elevator D, where we occupy the north-east penthouse suite, as members of the international conglomerate, Folk Dance International Investors' Group. The view from up here is fantastic. A little office joke here is that on a clear day you can see Skopje. The chit-chat at the water cooler is jocular indeed. Very humorous we all are. Yes, well, until the recent downturn in world markets and the crashing of the real



"Folk Dance Towers"

estate scene and the famous "credit-crunch", all our folk-dance-related investments were doing very well, indeed. Humour was an everyday thing around here. Between dance breaks, when most of the office would put down the computer mouse, and join in a quick hora or syrto, we did get some work done, and the occasional joke only served to keep office spirits high while we toiled away on the many affairs of the Ontario Folk Dance

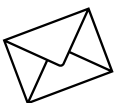
IN THIS ISSUE

REGULAR

<i>Editorial</i>	.... 3
<i>Upcoming OFDA Events..</i>	10
<i>Dance Calendar</i>	.... 11
<i>Dance Classes</i>	.... 15
<i>Photos</i>	.... 23
<i>Grapevine</i>	.... 26

FEATURES

<i>ALife on the Ocean Wave</i>	.... 5
<i>All a Bored!</i>	.... 9
<i>Dance Day 2009</i>	....19
<i>Berea Dance School</i>	.... 20
<i>OTEA Scholarship '09</i>	.... 25



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!

Association. Recently, though, the mood has turned darker, and the humour as well. The joke these days is that on a clear day you can see Buffalo, and the reality is, sadly, that you can. Perhaps in our new location, should it come to that, the few dozen of us left after head office cutbacks will be able to see across the street, as long as we are not relegated to a basement. There is talk that the OFDA may have to move into tighter quarters, maybe uptown somewhere, let go a few hundred of our valued staff, and put off that company bash on the beach at Lake Ochrid in the south-west of Macedonia until things look up. So you can understand how the poetic has turned prosaic, how the dance of celebration has become a dance of concern and watchful waiting. Two steps forward we go, and then, pause, and then...two steps back.

So, as I was saying, we get inquiries now and again from people who have questions about folk dancing. Various other associations and groups ask about what we are doing, and we offer our experience happily, sharing and learning along with the greater dance community. Only a couple of weeks back there was an inquiry from the soggy wastelands of Oregon, from whence came an expressed interest in our program of dance cafés that we have been running for lo these several years. For those of you who may

be unaware of the facts, the idea for the cafés came from a desire to combine dancing with two other main activities of folk dancers; eating, and socializing. Oh, and the fourth, travel, must needs be ignored here. The legendary dance group run by Al (just spell my name right) Gladstone at the YMCA in Toronto, some decades back, was something of an inspiration, as the enjoyment had by many there became mythical. I never actually had the pleasure of attending the event, not having yet awoken to the many joys of folk dance, however, even in my mind, Al's group represented a nonpareil of the genre. But to return to the inquiry; the questions asked where of the "What works and what doesn't?" variety and I endeavoured to answer them honestly. My overly florid and long-winded point here is simply this; we can learn from each other. Are there areas in which we can improve? Can we see what works in other parts of the folk dance community? Can we meet the needs of our own dancers while promoting folk dance itself? In the words of a recently elected President, "Yes we can!" Do feel free to send us your ideas. We are your association. The address is above, for the time being.



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

* FAMILY CONSISTS OF 2 ADULTS & ALL CHILDREN UNDER 18

MEMBERSHIP TO:

OFFICE USE ONLY:

NAME (Please Print)

ADDRESS

CITY

PROV/STATE

POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY

PHONE: ()

GROUP/AFFILIATION

e-mail:



A Life on the Ocean Wave

By Dorothy Sloan

In mid December, dancers and friends set off for Nassau to join the MV Explorer for a trip up the Amazon River. Realizing the vagaries of Toronto's winter weather, we had fortunately decided to set out one day early as the Explorer offers prior boarding. This was fortuitous as two of our participants were cast aside by the airline in New York and only managed to join us on sailing day.

Among our group were Sandy Starkman – our fearless dance leader, Helga Hyde, Cecille Ratney, Florence Shulman, Vita Baron, Dorothy Archer, Marylyn Peringer, Dorothy and Jeremy Sloan, Laine Ruus who

teaches the Toronto Danish Folk Dancers and her husband Tom. Also with us were Marion Meyers, from NY, Beatrice Vandervelde, who had danced before, and her sister Janice Baker from Sarnia, who was introduced to dancing onboard. Also a new dancer was, Miriam Wodlinger, a friend of Cecille's, a spry 91 year old who braved a rolling deck to join in.

Student trips on the MV Explorer began in 1963 as "World Campus Afloat" and changed to its current name, "Semester at Sea", 14 years later. The University of Virginia took over in 2006. Spring and fall trips of a hundred days for students from the university circumnavigate the globe, either from Florida, San Diego, or the Caribbean to the west coast

of North America or in the opposite direction. There are ports of call in Asia, Africa, and South America, and some trips navigate the Suez Canal. This is not your usual cruise. The MV Explorer is a twenty-four thousand tonne motor vessel built in 2002 in Germany. It is billed as the fastest passenger ship

afloat, but of course it does not normally test its full speed. However on this trip it did sail at 29.5 knots for about 190 kilometres in order to meet a helicopter for the evacuation of a passenger who urgently needed a blood transfusion.



From our point of embarkation in

Nassau we made stops in St. Barthelemy and Barbados. While sailing around the coast of South America, we celebrated Hanukkah and Christmas at sea before beginning our long trek up the Amazon River. Our first stop was in Manaus on the banks of the River Negro, which meets the brown waters of the Solimoes River, flowing together without mixing the two distinctive colours of the water for about six kilometres.

Manaus is a fascinating Portuguese-speaking city of one and a half million with no roads either in or out. How do they travel? The river is the highway and a myriad of small ships sail to other points on the river. Some trips take two to three days and the passengers bunk down on deck among their

goods and chattels. Even the main dock in Manaus floats.

The city itself looks like any other with cars and consequently, the usual noise and traffic jams. It was founded in 1669 by the Portuguese as a fort against possible invasions from the neighbouring Dutch. Between 1890 and 1910 it prospered because of the rubber trade and architects and tradesmen were brought in from Europe to create "The Paris of the Tropics" with a European atmosphere. In the centre is the most magnificent Opera House built in 1896, and we were fortunate to be offered a concert by two local musical groups with differing styles, representative of the region. We were able to see but could not enter the gorgeous Centro Cultural Palacio, home to several small museums. We heard that it is very ornately furnished with rich tropical hardwoods on the floors, doors and mouldings. The entire back garden has been transformed into a "People of the Forest" exhibit showing the lifestyle of the people of the interior.

In 1967 the Manaus Free Zone was established and with the demise of the rubber industry the electric and electronic appliances and mobile phone manufacturing companies have relocated their plants there, reviving its prosperity. It is also an important centre for ecological tourism and Jeremy Sloan had an interesting experience in the jungle, led by Army experts, learning survival techniques, sleeping in a hammock and eating bush foods.

After a day and a half in Manaus we went on to Santarem which was a total contrast. It stands at the conjunction of the Amazon and the Tapajos rivers and is a market city and a popular area for tourism. It was very warm at the beach which we could see from a distance. An Israeli gentleman dressed in a loin cloth and very little else, who acted as the local PR man, led us to a small café where they served the most divine frozen passion fruit juice. He later persuaded the owner of an arts and craft store nearby to open, to the delight of our inveterate shoppers.

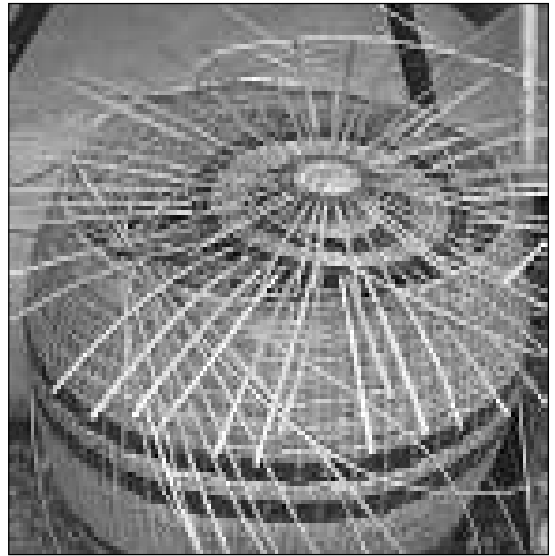
There was no shortage of reasons for festivities. We celebrated Cecille's ninety-second birthday with a special dinner, complete with champagne and birthday cake. New Year's Eve followed and the first of January brought us to Trinidad just in time for the Trini Lime; a post Christmas party which goes on until January sixth. We had the opportunity to listen to steel band music and to taste tropical drinks and food at a private home. One group heard some amazing musical instruments hand-made by a local gentleman from gourds and other materials.



Another few hours at sea brought us to Dominica, the northernmost of the Windward isles. We felt that it had unspoiled natural beauty, earning its name of The Nature Isle. The only two major cities are Rosseau and Portsmouth at opposite ends of the island. We did not see the national bird, the Sisserou parrot except on the flag, but vividly coloured flowers were all around us. Although it does not have many beaches, it is a popular spot for scuba diving and many passengers chose that activity.

Dominica is the only Caribbean island with a population of pre-Columbian native Caribs who live on the east coast in an area granted by the British in 1903. With EU assistance the Kalinago Barana Aute Carib Indian Cultural Village has been built, and is run by well-trained and informative Tour Guides. In a spectacular longhouse we were treated to a show of music and dance with interesting instruments with

girls performing the dances depicting animals and hunting; an unusual switch. Their woven baskets, hats, purses and other items in the craft shops were



Photos by D. Sloan



skillfully made. Yes, I bought yet another basket! We sampled a most interesting fruit called “noni”, (morinda citrifolia) which tasted of blue cheese!

When the sea was moderately calm, Sandy led a one-hour class open to all the passengers. A number of people already dance in their home towns

but she also attracted a number of new participants, which was very encouraging. At times we had up to thirty, which taxed the space available. Later in the cruise Sandy realized that the hour after we had to be back on board from the shore excursions, and before the ship sailed, was perfect for her classes as we were still tied up at the wharf. The Activities Staff agreed and it made it a much more pleasant experience for all. At the Talent Night, sixteen of us presented three dances which were very well received by the other passengers.

Our next stop was Basseterre on St. Kitts where we chose to take the Scenic Railway Tour which ran in a complete circle around the island, allowing us to see the whole country in three hours. The double decker train was built almost a century ago to deliver sugar cane to the sugar mills and runs on a very narrow gauge which was most noticeable when we crossed a couple of bridges over deep canyons! We passed a number of abandoned stone sugar mills standing starkly against the lush green fields. This was luxurious sightseeing; a lovely warm day sitting on comfortable rattan sofa on the open top deck, drinking a Pina Colada and being serenaded by an a capella group. Paradise.

Frederiksted on St. Croix was our next port. We chose to take the historical walking tour in Christiansted which, after visiting the original Steeple Church, took us to Fort Christiansvaern built by the Danes in the early 1800's. The architecture is typically Danish and the church is very well preserved. The very explicit guide book was printed in Danish and English and delighted one of the Danish Folk Dancers who is a Royal Guard. The whole town is very pretty, with multi-coloured houses, and the street names still in Danish.

We found a CD with music for quadrilles and minuets/ menuettes obviously based on the still popular Danish folk dances. A trip to the local library brought research material but, alas, no instructions for the steps.

Our days at sea were either lazy or filled with activities. A sample day would bring an early morning yoga class; a lecture entitled "Don't Sleep. There are Snakes, Life and Language in the Amazon Jungle"; a craft workshop; a tour of the ship's bridge; a talk entitled "Why Plants live where they do"; bingo; swing dance; a "Community College" presentation from fellow passengers who feel they have something to share. The most popular of these were "Digital Photography" by the two ladies who ran the computer lab and Laine Ruus from our group, who was a ten-year old passenger on the Stockholm during the sinking of the Andrea Doria and spoke of the event as she remembered it, and as she was told by her parents. On two occasions Marylyn told delightful stories, one at a Hannukkah celebration and the second at Talent Night when the children who gathered at the front of the main lounge were absolutely enthralled, as were we. A talk by Marissa Batt, who was a prosecutor in Los Angeles for twenty five years, was so popular that it had to be repeated in the main lounge. She was a most entertaining speaker, and she did not paint a pretty picture of the American justice system. O.J. Simpson's trial was one featured, confirming the views most of us had. Her book, "Ready for the People: My most Chilling Cases as a Prosecutor" is entertaining reading. Other activities to be fitted into the day were meals, snacks,

music by the three inhouse pianists, movies and games. Was this a relaxing cruise? It could be whatever you made it.

Our last port of call was La Romana in the Dominican Republic. We had arrived on Three Kings Day, also known as Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. It is often viewed as the last day of the season - the end of the twelve days of Christmas. The locals stretch the holidays as long as possible and one man told me that they prefer to run straight into Carnival and the pre-Lenten celebrations before getting back to work. As a consequence the market and other points of interest were closed. We had chosen a city tour of Santo Domingo including a typical lunch of local foods. Diego, son of Christopher Columbus, lived here in a magnificent palace, now the Alcazar Museum. It contains lifestyle relics from the 1500s and a huge collection of wonderful art. We were happy that it was open.

And so back home via Fort Lauderdale; waiting for the U.S. Customs and Immigrations to allow us to disembark; the search for your luggage in the huge warehouse where it is placed, supposedly in some semblance of order known only to the warehousemen, and the queue for a taxi to the airport. The "stand here but don't stand there" orders by the security man controlling the Air Canada limited space reminded us that we were just bodies to be moved like chess pieces. The reality of snow and cold which greeted us in Toronto was far from the idyllic twenty-one days we had spent cocooned on the Explorer.

Next year's tour, departing on December 17, and returning on January 7, 2010, is on the Pacific Coast of Central America starting in Ensenada, Mexico and visiting Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco, Chiapas, Costa Rica, Guatemala and back to Ixtapa, Mexico, Puerto Vallarta and Topolobampo, disembarking in San Diego.

Contact Dorothy Sloan at 416-489-7072 or send e-mail to: travelsouthpacific@rogers.com or djsloan@rogers.com for further information.

All a Bored!

By Kevin Budd

On a cruise ship heading towards Bermuda, the Queen, or the Star, or the Empress of something or other, we were entertained in various ways. The on-board casino with its half-crazed gambling addicts was entertaining in a depressing, I-never-want-that-to-be-me way. The auction of bad art was amusing. They had another name for it, but really, that is what it was. The overeating by passengers was a little less amusing, and the chocolate festival of bad chocolate was a mix of odd and mediocre. I like bitter dark chocolate, but I was faced with a sea of over-sweet milky goo, shaped into pirate ships, corn dogs dipped in chocolate, liquid brown syrup, and chocolate-flavoured you-name-it. I named it...but the name may not be repeated herein.



Chocolate Festival: one lad's dream.

But there were stage shows, and there were dancers and remarkably, they were not bad at all. Given the slight rolling of the ship, it must be a challenge to do any acrobatic dancing on a stage, but they managed quite well.



Exotic ship's dancer

Photos by Kevin Budd

Also on stage at various times were comedians, both rude and jocular, a talk about Bermuda; informative, and a crew "talent" event. I am sure that each crew member was very good at his or her shipboard employment, but performing talent was sorely lacking. It seems that people everywhere think they can sing and dance. And perhaps they can, a little, but in the immortal words of Noël Coward, "Don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs. Worthington."

We had planned to arrive at a certain port town in Bermuda, and then to enjoy a local festival there, complete with gombey dancers. Alas, the winds were strong, we were diverted to another port, and due to our absence, the festival was cancelled. Sadly, the presence of the one ship was sufficient to drive the local economy, and with our absence, it remained un-driven.

The official message for Dance Day

29 April 2009

The future of dance lies where there are persons who do not dance. These belong to two categories: those who simply did not learn, and those who think that they are not able to dance. They represent the greatest challenge for the dance teacher's profession.

In line with UNESCO's struggle against prejudice and discrimination, we are trying to expand the boundaries of dance and to change the current perception of what a dancer is.

Dance performances are not necessarily exhibitions of extreme physicality, accurate precision, or bursting emotion - they can be celebrations of interaction between performers. We can enrich dance concerts with dancers, singers, actors, narrators, mimes, acrobats etc., of all ages and all degrees of ability.

Bringing the 'excluded' into dance is a moral duty, but also opens a great door in times of economic crisis and unemployment. In every country there are millions of persons with physical or mental disabilities. We believe they are ready to dance.

They will create jobs to thousands of dance teachers. They can be assisted by the Ministry of Health, whose budget is many times bigger than that of the Ministry of Culture.

Integrating marginalized persons into the practice of dance is as important as integrating them into the workforce.

CID holds to the philosophy that everyone can dance. Dance Day 2009 is dedicated to inclusive dance. Let us include all members of society into our classes and our performances.

Prof. Alkis Raftis
President of the International Dance Council CID
UNESCO, Paris

1. The official Dance Day message is mailed to over 150,000 dance professionals in 200 countries. It is translated to dozens of languages.
2. Dance Day has been established in view of attracting attention to the art of dance, every year on the 29th of April. On that day, dance companies, dance schools, organizations and individuals, professionals as well as amateurs, are asked to organize an activity addressing an audience larger than their usual one.
3. The International Dance Council (Conseil International de la Danse - CID) is the official umbrella organization for all forms of dance in all countries of the world.
 - CID is recognized by UNESCO, national and local governments, international organizations and institutions.
 - Its members are the most prominent federations, associations, schools, companies and individuals in more than 150 countries.
 - It is the supreme forum bringing together international, national and local organizations, as well as prominent individuals active in dance.
 - It was founded in 1973 within the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, where it is based.
 - UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Conseil International de la Danse - CID -
International Dance Council
UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, FR-75732 Paris 15,
France
www.unesco.org/ngo/cid
www.cid-unesco.org

Berea Christmas Country Dance School

By Kevin Budd



Exuberant Tiny Dancer

My second foray into the wilds of Kentucky for a dance week resulted in a more enjoyable excursion than previously. The Christmas Dance Camp at Berea College was as busy as ever, the historic Boone Tavern was closed for renovations, weather was remarkably good, and food was significantly improved from our previous sojourn south.

From their website:

** Berea College is distinctive among institutions of higher learning. Founded in 1855 as the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, Berea charges no tuition and admits only academically promising students, primarily from Appalachia, who have limited economic resources.*

** Students work for their tuition while there, which fosters a strong sense of community and real employment experience.*

The no-tuition policy does not apply to the dance camp, but compared to most other camps it is still a real bargain, even given the advancing American greenback. The dorm rooms we stayed in were good value, though we did have to rearrange the bunks and dressers, mop the whole floor, and enhance the comfort of the hard mattresses with our own foam topper.

Dancing was heavily contra, with some fine English dancing led by Brad Foster, and available options of various kinds of rapper and long-sword morris. There was shape-note singing, crafts and a mummer's play, in which I took part. This performance marked, to my knowledge, the first time a Romanian pan flute has been used in a mummer's play.

Food from the college cafeteria was influenced by the South, with catfish, corn dogs, grits, and a Cajun shrimp creole. But wait! Those are not



Brad Foster in a whirl of English dancers

shrimp! They are in fact crawdads! For the less adventurous there was a good selection of salads, pizza and other tasty fare including, for the first time, hot peppers! This was a welcome change from the Boone tavern fare which had been notoriously bland. Two cafés in the village offered real coffee. There was also a special New Year's Eve dinner complete

with a symbolic non-edible boar's head and the singing of the carol by the same name.

Many folk dancers will know the name Roo Lester, who was there in fine fettle, teaching up a



Harry Khamis and Roo Lester

storm of Scandinavian couple dances. It's always good to review the hambo...they always play one at the New Year's party.

The whole area is a hotbed of traditional crafts, and at the college, one can even earn a degree with a concentration in Appalachian studies. Broom making can be one of the activities, and the products of such work are available for purchase at the college store. Nearby, one can visit a collection of craft stores with fine quilts, carvings, paintings, jams and preserves, woven clothing and all manner of iron implements. However, Berea is still in a "dry" part of the state. Alcohol may



Quilts above and dancers below in the Great Hall

not be purchased there. Still, driving a couple of miles down the road to a wet county is a minor inconvenience if one should wish to sample the local bourbon and corn whiskey brands, now rivalling fine Scotch and the best tequila. On the other hand, I understand that one can carry a handgun in one's car, so there are certain freedoms preserved.

No state permit is required to purchase a rifle, shotgun, or handgun. Residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky who are citizens of the United States shall have the right to purchase or otherwise acquire rifles, shotguns, handguns, and any other firearms...



The dragon in the mummer's play



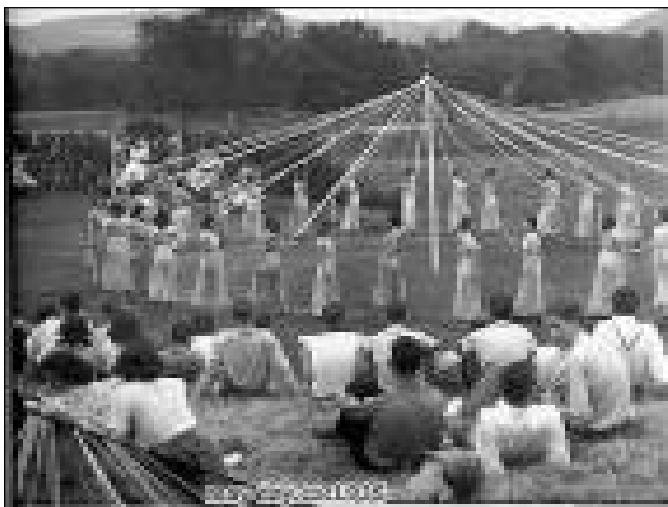
Funny hat night

It is unlawful to carry a concealed firearm on or about one's person.

Firearms located in glove compartments, locked or unlocked, are not considered concealed.

This is a strongly Christian area of the world, and the dance camp expresses same with the unspoken gentle assumption, in song and attitude, that Christianity is a fine thing for all concerned. Southern hospitality and genteel conversation are a pleasant reminder of days gone by. One can still pick up some brown seed pods on the

college grounds, containing the large flat seeds of the Kentucky coffee tree. As the name suggests, one can roast and grind these to make a poor-man's coffee substitute, however should you care to try it, be warned that the seeds contain cytosine, a toxin similar to nicotine, and dangerous in large quantities.



An old Berea Tradition

Photos From Recent Dance Events....

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

On January 31st about fifty participants turned out for the OFDA's Bulgarian Dance Café with guest teachers Katya Tileva and Nedyalko Tilev.

Katya and Ned, originally from Bulgaria, are now residents of Toronto. They started to teach dance classes for the Bulgarian ethnic community about four years ago, and in that time have managed to develop a performance



Village costumes added colour to the evening



Ned in centre-circle playing tapan

group that's quite accomplished and participating in many festivals, local and further afield.

Aside from the two dances that they taught us (Tran Tran Libe Le and Grancharsko), we learned a bit about Bulgarian naming conventions - i.e. Tileva (wife); Tilev (husband); Tilevi (couple). From time to time Ned picked up his tapan, enhancing the beat of the recorded music and adding extra energy to the room. He also brought along his zurna, an instrument that he's been learning to play, and although he apologized for the fact that the instrument had dried out (and was

Photos From Recent Dance Events....

Photos by Leon Balaban and Bev Sidney



making unexpected sounds) because of lack of practice on his part, he did get through with only one or two fugitive squawks.

Katya and Ned brought and wore representative costumes, and the room was all the more colourful because Karen Bennett very generously raided her collections in order to decorate the dance hall with Bulgarian travel posters and to bedeck a number of dancers with Bulgarian costumes.



Katya & Ned Tilevi demonstrating Grancharsko



PICK YOUR OWN
Strawberries – Raspberries
Currants – Gooseberries
Fresh Vegetables
Tomatoes – Peppers
Fall Raspberries

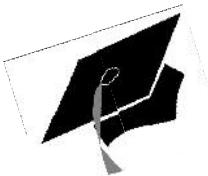
COUNTRY MARKET & FARM YARD FUN

- Whit's Own Strawberries & Raspberries
- Preserves, Ontario Honey, Maple Syrup
- Bakeshop. Seasonal Giftware
- Fresh Ontario Produce
- Barnyard Animals
- Wagon Rides
- Pedal Tractors
- and MORE!

**BIRTHDAY HOE DOWNS
SCHOOL TOURS – PUMPKINLAND**

www.whittamoresfarm.com

905-294-3275 - 8100 Steeles Ave., E., Markham, ON



Request for Submissions

2009 OTEA SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Each year the OFDA Executive Committee accepts applications for the OTEA (Olga Sandolowich, Teme Kernerman, Ernst Krehm and A Gladstone) Scholarship.

The deadline for submissions for 2009 will be May31.

The purpose of this fund is to assist people involved in any folk-related activity to further their studies, attend workshops/courses, etc., and thereby enrich themselves and benefit the Ontario folk dance community.

The applicant should specify: (a) what the gain will be for him/herself and the folk dance community; (b) a proposed timetable, including time required to complete the project; and (c) a proposed budget (maximum ~\$200 this year)

*Please forward OTEA Scholarship Fund applications to OFDA Steering Committee
c/o Beverley Sidney, 35 Touraine Avenue, Downsview, Ontario M3H 1R3
or bvsdny@gmail.com*



Congratulations to Olga Sandolowich on becoming a great-grandmother! Michael David Sandolowich made his arrival in Halifax on January 22, weighing in at 9 pounds. Baby and great-grandma are doing very well.

Ken Cowan's now missing his troublesome gall bladder. Laparoscopic surgery in February went well, after which he did some convalescing at the home of his daughter - hopefully, by the time you read this, we'll be seeing Ken back on the dance floor.

Hamilton's group has been celebrating some birthdays - in addition to its 25th anniversary. Last November Carl Toushan was still going strong at 81, and this past week Alice Farrenden became 80 years young! Congratulations to both!



As we move further into 2009, the Executive is planning more celebratory events to

CALL US FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS!

**AOTEAROA
ADVENTURES INC.**

Especially Australia, New Zealand & Southern Africa

DOROTHY SLOAN

President

10 Campbell Crescent
TORONTO M2P 1P2

Tel:[416] 489-7072
Fax:[416] 489-3361

travelsouthpacific@rogers.com

Travel services provided by K Walsh & Associates, TICO Reg. 4400099

**TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE
ARCHITECTURE AND
ZERO NET ENERGY**

519-542-1365
905-833-5402

FAX 519-540-0558

studio@denisbowmanarchitect.ca

10715 SNOWS CREEK ROAD,
R1M1 Caledon, ON L7E 1L7

**DENIS BOWMAN
ARCHITECT INC.**

MPAC, OAA



mark OFDA's 40th Anniversary. Our intent is to include some special feature for each of this year's dance events. So, at the May Café/AGM Irene Markoff's students, "The York University Balkan Ensemble" will provide us with an opportunity to dance to live music and singing (a kind of village experience for us modern-day urbanites!). We won't be having potluck supper that evening, but refreshments will be provided by OFDA.

Then, on Saturday June 20th we'll have an OFDA Picnic. That's in the early stages of planning, but this year the venue is going to be at The Whole Village in Caledon. The community, which Denis Bowman has had a great hand in developing, includes an ecovillage and biodynamic farm set on 190 acres, and if the weather's good that day, aside from dancing and picnicking al fresco, we'll have the chance to have a tour of the property. In the interim, you can have a virtual tour at www.wholevillage.org

**The OFDA is pleased
to acknowledge
the gift of a
donation from
Carl Toushan
Thank you,
carl !**



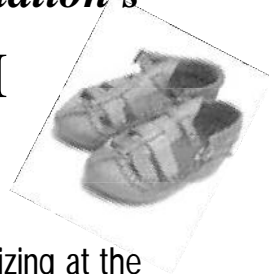


The Ontario Folk Dance Association's

Balkan Café & AGM

Saturday May 2, 2009

6:30 - 10:15 p.m.



Enjoy an evening of Multicultural Dancing and socializing at the OFDA AGM/Café. To help celebrate its 40th Anniversary, OFDA will be providing Refreshments this evening,

and the opportunity to dance to

the (live) music and singing of York University's Balkan Ensemble, led by Irene Markoff

***PLEASE NOTE *** Change in format for this evening...The start time is 6:30 p.m.
There will be NO Potluck Supper, but OFDA will supply Refreshments/Snacks
(If anyone wants to bring a brown-bag supper to eat at the Ralph Thornton Centre, you can chow-down with the Executive at 5:30 p.m.)

Featuring:

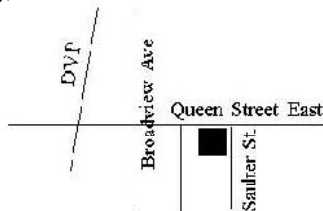
- Our world class Annual General Meeting ~~Get Together~~
 - The GTA's favorite folk dances
 - Food, Folk, Friends, Fun.....Free!
- and**
- Irene Markoff's York University Balkan Ensemble (musicians and singers)

Free Event

Saturday May 2
6:30 - 10:15 p.m.

Refreshments Included

- 6:30-7:00 - Intl Dancing
- 7:00-7:30 - York U Balkan Ensemble - Intl Dancing
- 7:30-7:45 - Break & Socializing
- 7:45-8:15 - York U Balkan Ensemble - Intl Dancing
- 8:15-8:45 - Intl Dance Program, with teaching/leading
- 8:45-9:30 - AGM
- 9:30-10:15 - Request dancing



Ralph Thornton Centre, Toronto

765 Queen St. East of Broadview at Saultier, elevator to 2nd floor

Free Parking available on side streets

Info: Kevin: 416-485-0572, Adam: 905-631-7907, e-mail: ofda@web.net

SHAN SHOES

Manufacturer of Multicultural Dancing Shoes

Handmade 100% Genuine Leather with Coloured Stitching

U.S. & Group Orders Welcome



- 1 Croatian: Sestinska Style
- 2 Slavonia A
- 3 Croatian: Pokuple
- 3+ Slavonia B
- 4 Croatian
- 6 Dubrovnik
- 7 Croatian (white)
- 9 Boot (smooth)
- 10 Boot (textured)
- 11 Macedonian/ Shopski/Bulgarian
- 12 Serbian-Flag
- 13 Serbian-no Flag
- 14 Greek
- 15 Ukrainian
- 16 Polish

Inquiries/cheques payable to:

SHAN NECESKI

462 Birchmount Rd. Unit 28

Toronto, ON CANADA M1K 1N8

Bus: 416-693-4039 Cell: 416-427-1066

e-mail: snekeski@hotmail.com

PRICES:

European size 34 shoes cost \$44.

Add \$1 per size, to size 50.

Plus 8% PST (ON residents only).

Plus handling/postage \$9.

Inquire for other sizes, or for boots.