



The Toe Tap Tribune

news of the Manitoba International Folk Dance Association
September 2006

Calendar

Thursday, October 26/06
7:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Greek Dance Workshop with
Yvonne Hunt

Friday, October 27/06

MIFDA Halloween Social
Refreshments, costumes
encouraged

Friday, December 15/06

Holiday Social
Refreshments

Fridays, Dec. 22 & 29/06

No dancing

All dancing at
Churchill Park United
Church
525 Beresford Ave

Successful Open House

We started our year with a well-attended and enjoyable open house at our new location on Sept. 8. About 50 people attended, including many new faces, a lot of regulars and a few irregulars as well. We did about 10 or 12 dances for everyone to join in, with a few demonstration dances and a short set of dances by the MIFDA band, which had been rather hastily reconvened after the summer. People enjoyed the dancing and the refreshments and goodies that our members provided. The hardest part was getting people to quit dancing and go home – it was a great start to the year.

MIFDA CONTACT INFO

Membership: Linda, 477-5981
email: ljhull@mts.net

Publicity/newsletter: Lori, 452-5662
email: lori@media-galori.com

MIFDA email: mifda@shaw.ca

website: <http://members.shaw.ca/mifda>

Five MIFDA Members Sighted at Balkan Camp North of New York City!

Yes, it's true: five MIFDA members were found dancing, singing, drumming, and playing musical instruments at the annual week-long Balkan Camp. For six days, deep in the Catskill Mountains north of New York, Jeremy Hull, Linda Hull, Kelly Seifert, Barbara Fuller, and Roger Redwin enjoyed themselves immensely. They attended up to five Balkan-related music or dance classes each day. Instrumental classes were too numerous to list completely, but included tapan (pronounced "tuppin," a kind of a big bass drum) for Roger, dumbek (pronounced "doombeck," a smaller drum—looks like a "bongo" drum) for Linda, Greek ensemble (for Jeremy on violin), Trans-Carpathian ensemble (for Barbara on violin), and Bulgarian clarinet (for Kelly). And that didn't even include singing classes (like Macedonian chorus for Kelly) or dance classes (everyone did at least

some of these).

As if this were not enough, the camp staged a folk dance every evening with live Balkan-style musicians and ensembles. And even then it was not done! After midnight the "kafana" opened—a sort of Balkan night-club at which assorted volunteers sung, danced, or played until the wee (very wee) hours.

Naturally, under these conditions, it was important to eat well, and fortunately the camp had hired an excellent cook for this purpose (though rumor has it that the food only SEEMED good because we were so happy and hungry all the time...).

And it was also important to sleep well, or at least to sleep occasionally.

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Jeremy, Kelly, Roger
Linda, Barb

For more photos visit: members.shaw.ca/mifda/whatsnew.html

Celebration of Hope

On August 26 the MIFDA dancers performed as part of the Needs for Hope Festival in Old Market Square. This was a free public concert to raise awareness/money for the NEEDS Centre for War Affected Families and the ROUTE Program for Refugee Youth. It featured multicultural entertainment, speakers, displays, and children's activities. We did a set of four dances, Alunelul, Am Sgula, Black Forest and Sitno Zensko Horo, and then a large circle of people from the audience joined us for An Dro Retourne. Seven dancers were involved, including Bonnie, David, Don, Kathy, Jeremy, Linda, Lori, and Roger, with different leaders for each dance. The performance was very well received, and we were paid an honorarium of \$100 which we donated to the NEEDS Centre.

New Dance Location

Due to changes in their tenant use, the Gas Station/Osborne Village Board advised us to seek another location for this year. After some investigation of options and an email poll of our members we reached an agreement to rent the gym at Churchill Park United Church. The rent is comparable to what we were paying in the past and the new space has the advantages of a nice, large wooden dance floor, an available kitchen, and easier parking. We have also found the Church friendly and accommodating.

Irish Set Dancing Classes

Monday evenings, 7:30-9:30 at Riverview School in the multipurpose room. First class Sep. 25. Classes are free, fun and everyone is welcome to come and participate. Carol Ann Coish is the organizer and Jeremy Hull and Carol Ann are the teachers. For info - Carol Ann, 487-0756 or Jeremy, 477-5981

Balkan Camp, continued

The five Winnipeggers were in a bunkhouse with no less than NINE other people. Yet they managed to get some sleep anyway—possibly because many of our bunkmates appeared to do a lot of their sleeping during the day instead of at night. Reports varied as to the desirability of the sleeping accommodations. It is best to ask the

five campers directly and individually about this, because their reactions were—well, complex.

All in all, though, a great experience, as shown by the fact that all five MIFDA members returned to Winnipeg safe and sound, and ready to try more dancing, and playing, and singing, and eating, and sleeping . . . even back here.

Review and photo opposite page:
Kelvin Seifert



Photo left: J. Hull

Greek Dance Workshop with Yvonne Hunt

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006
7:30 - 11:00 pm
Registration: 7:00 - 7:30

Churchill Park United Church
525 Beresford Ave, 2nd floor
(1 block west of Osborne south)

\$15 Refreshments provided)



Who Is the Workshop For?

This workshop is for interested dancers at a variety of levels, from beginning to more experienced dancers. The workshop is open to any interested participants.

What is Greek Dance?

Greek dancing is a living tradition with roots in antiquity. Most of the dances are done open circles or lines, or sometimes as couples. Often the dances are based on a few basic steps with variations and improvisation. Some dances are slow and expressive, while others are high energy dances. The most important thing is to join in the "kef" or the spirit of the dance.

Where Can I Get More Information?

For information about the workshop please call Jeremy at 477-5981

Who is Yvonne Hunt?

Yvonne Hunt, who lives in Seattle, has taught Greek dancing at all levels to American students since 1973 and has conducted extensive field research in Greece since 1975. She has organized and taught summer dance seminars in Greece since 1981 and has taught all over Europe. Yvonne lived in Greece for 14 years where she worked for the Society for the Dissemination of National Music and taught at the Hellenic American Union and the Athens Center. She has also written a book, *Traditional Dance in Greek Culture*, and various articles. In addition, she has directed numerous performing groups and has appeared in many Greek television productions of traditional music and dance.