



Ballroom Dance Society

Silver Slipper

December 2008

Honorary Life Memberships

by Jim Burrell

On October 3, at the Anniversary Dance, NBDS paid tribute to a couple of long time friends who have been dedicated members of our society. Nelson and Pinky have been in the dance club since the mid 80's. As dancers they competed with great success from 1986 through 1994 and had groups of 20 to 30 members traveling to Victoria and Vancouver cheering them on. They soon served on the executive. Nelson, on the music committee, started the CD library and purchase of our sound systems, while Pinky helped organize many specialty dances as entertainment committee head. Who could forget Nelson, Kam & Gavin as the Supremes, or Nelson as Hula Champ? As president in 1993 Pinky, with Nelson and supported by the club, organized and chaired the First Island Fantasy ball and both have worked to ensure its success for the last 16 years. We members and all who attend the IFB have enjoyed the best amateur dancers in the province plus world class professional showcases.

Over the last 20 plus years they have devoted so much time and expertise to our society, arranging practice sessions, doing the music, MCing the IFB, serving on the executive and IFB committees, arranging workshops, nearly every part of the running of the society.

They've also been great promoters and ambassadors of ballroom dancing. As instructors they have introduced hundreds of couples to dancing. Nelson's working with junior students have produced many great dancers; look at Zillion, the 4 time Amateur Champion of B.C. As parents this involved travel all over Canada, the U.S.A., even to Blackpool England to competitions; that's commitment! Pinky as president has achieved so much with Dancesport BC. Together their efforts have put Nanaimo on the Ballroom dance map. The saying 'if you want a job done well give it to a busy person' certainly applies to them.

Tonight on behalf of our executive, in recognition of your outstanding service, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Nelson and Pinky have been named Honorary Life Members of our Society. Congratulations, Nelson and Pinky!



Pinky Speechless

For the first time in memory, Pinky was caught totally by surprise and speechless! However, Nelson and Pinky recovered soon enough and wrote the following thank-you.

Dear NBDS Board,

Pinky and I would like to thank you for selecting us as being the recipients of the Honorary Life Membership at the Anniversary Dance. This award is indeed of highest honor coming from the NBDS. We were totally surprised and, as Pinky described, speechless.

We wish you all the best and looking forward to a magnificent season of ballroom dancing.

Nelson

Dancing With The Stars

Fabulous! Awesome! Great Fun! These were some of the words being used to describe the NBDS Dancing With The Stars charity fundraiser held on November 22.

Ten local celebrities, teamed up with local dancers or instructors, put on shows that were by turns spectacular, elegant, colourful, brave, sexy and hilarious.

Four expert judges provided appreciation of the artistry of the competitors and ranked them for artistic merit. The judges were our own Ted Barnett, a qualified ballroom championship adjudicator; Holly Bright, artistic director of the Crimson Coast Dance Society; Geraldine Furrer, artistic director of Fresh Feet Productions and the Nanaimo Ballet School; and Russell Kilde, an actor, director, instructor, dancer and choreographer.



The four finalist couples were (from left to right above): heart specialist Kam Bandali and Gwen Spinks dancing Argentine Tango; RCMP Superintendent Jeff Lott and Marilyn Metcalf-Joiner dancing the Cha Cha; author Lynne Bowen and David Duncan dancing the Waltz; and PQB News Editor Steve Heywood and Elizabeth Morgenstern dancing the Viennese Waltz.



Then the vote-buying began in earnest, and when all votes were counted Kam Bandali with Gwen Spinks won the coveted mirror-ball trophy.

Congratulations to all the competitors for a lot of hard work and stellar performances! The real beneficiaries of the vote-buying, and all the proceeds of the event, a total of \$4000, are the clients of Haven Society. And of course, everyone who

participated enjoyed a fabulous evening. Thanks to Andy Mundy and his team for putting such a wonderful event.



Marilyn starts a cha cha police chase by stealing Jeff Lott's hat; News anchor Courtney Carne makes the news with Chris Wood in a wild salsa routine.



Artist Richard Hoedl looked great with Norma Stevenson in the competition. David Duncan surprises Lynne Bowen and takes her on a beautiful waltz with memories of old Nanaimo.



Among the demonstrations, Jane Walters and Nelson Wong (left) dazzled us with a paso doble pro-am, and David Duncan and Evelyn Matthews (below)

showed us their championship style in a lovely waltz. All photos except as noted are Courtesy of DanceSportImages.com, and are available by link from the NBDS Dancing With The Stars web page, as are photos by Trent Whaley and Cim MacDonald. See the DWTS page at www.ballroomnanaimo.ca/DWS.





Elaine Thompson, Elaine McNeil and Leigh Buchanan performed a dramatic Flamenco dance (T Whaley photo).



Nelson and Pinky Wong demonstrated the latest ballroom Latin style (left) while Dave and Norma Stevenson (right) performed Old Time Dancing in the formal standard style.



Parksville mayor Sandy Herle goes jitterbugging with Brian Morgenstern (left); freshly elected Nanaimo councillor Diana Johnstone gets a start in jive with Bruce Joiner.



A special treat was the Argentine tango demonstration by Manuel Ortiz and his partner Laura Rodriguez, visiting Nanaimo as part of a 6 week tour in BC (T Whaley photo)..



At the grand finale, hosts Fred Rockwell and Sara Treutler begin to call forward the winners of each round (T Whaley photo).



The actual grand finale was provided by NBDS President Andy Mundy when the prizes were drawn. Carried away by the rules that apply to lotteries and raffles, Andy not only removed his jewellery and sleeves but started to perform a strip tease. Fortunately Fred intervened after the cummerbund came off!

Grand Ball Highlights

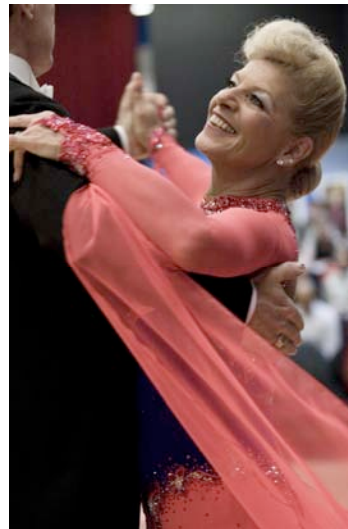
Several Nanaimo area dancers went to the Grand Ball held in Richmond on November 7 to 9, 2008



Nanaimo's favourite son Zillion Wong dancing with partner Sara Liang (above) was the highest-placing Nanaimo area dancer at the Grand Ball on November 7 to 9, 2009, placing 6th in the Adult Open Standard Championship.



Kevin Fahy, dancing with partner Phoebe Gau, (above left) placed 12th. Bill and Jean Pennington showed good form and did well.



Brian Morgenstern made Beth look great in the Sr. Silver standard but they finished just out of the medals.

Connor McLeod and Monica Kunn



distinguished themselves performing an honour dance on Sunday afternoon. While Connor is now a veteran (the Grand Ball was his fifth competition), Monica had started dancing only 9 weeks earlier. "We had set targets with our coach, Margaret Yung, and met all of them" said Monica.



Timmy Groenwold and Cailin Purvis placed in all 4 events they entered: 2nd in Junior Pre-bronze Latin and Standard



and Junior Bronze standard, and 3rd in Junior Bronze Latin (above, with Lisa Rimmer and Ken Yung).

Ken also danced in the pro-am events with 4 students who all received 1st class awards: above from left,

Heather Von Hugo, Lisa Rimmer, Manuela Raviglione, and Debbie Townsend.

Board Update

The NBDS Board met on November 8, 2008. Here are the highlights.

Treasurer report: Projected expenditures to the end of 2008 are expected to be slightly less than revenues.

Liability insurance: With about 140 events per year that involve risks arising from activities such as injuries resulting from slips and falls on dance floors, falls from ladders, the board decided that, like most societies, we should have liability insurance (see letter from Andy).

Dancing With The Stars: With tickets sold out, the board confirmed that all net profits (expected to be greater than budgeted) will be donated to Haven Society.

Committee organization: the board reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the committees and made a number of changes to improve or clarify, with more to come from the venue committees.

Letter From The President

An open letter to the members of the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society.

The NBDS Board has purchased an annual liability insurance policy and the following is a summary of discussion concerning this.

Since 1992, when the Charities Act was repealed, there has been no protection for Society Directors. In the event of a lawsuit, members have no personal liability but Directors are liable. There are real risks arising from NBDS activities such as injuries resulting from slips and falls on dance floors, falls from ladders while decorating, and liabilities related to serving beverages at dance events. For this reason most Societies require some form of liability insurance.

Previously, only selected NBDS events such as the Anniversary, Christmas and New Year dances as well as the IFB have been covered on an individual event by event basis. This is costly in the long term and does not provide cover for any other dance event. It was recommended that NBDS obtain liability insurance to cover all its activities on an annual basis. This would cover all events and practise sessions as well as, for example, time spent setting up for dances.

Consensus was reached by the Board members that NBDS should have an annual general liability insurance policy, with a deductible, with which the Society would be able to indemnify its Directors. Quotes were obtained from the only two available suppliers. The lowest priced policy cost \$2200 and was therefore purchased at that price. This policy includes participant coverage and tenant's liability for rental locations as well as cover for Directors and Officers.

Discussion took place on how to fund this expense. Although the NBDS is a non profit Society and currently achieves its aim to break even, it does not generate enough income over expenditure to finance this insurance.

To fund an annual insurance policy the following options are available:

- 1) increase the yearly membership fee
- 2) increase the cost of admission to our monthly dances
- 3) budget ticketed events to cover the cost of insurance

In discussion, options 2 and 3 were rejected on the following grounds: The cost of admission to monthly dances was increased only last year and it was felt it would be unacceptable to the majority of the membership to impose yet another increase so soon. Budgeting the small number of ticketed events to provide insurance for all dances and practises would place an unfair and unnecessary burden on those who attend these events; a minority would be subsidizing those who did not attend ticketed events.

Consensus was reached that the cost should be funded by an increase in membership fees. Since members have expressed a desire not to volunteer by failing to come forward when asked, and we face larger costs to hire staff for some functions, the fee increase should be sufficient to cover those expenses too. An increase in membership fee from \$10 to \$20 will be sufficient to generate the required funds. Although this represents a 100% increase, it is still exceptional value for money compared with, for example, the Victoria Ballroom Dance Society whose membership fee is well over twice that amount.

The NBDS Constitution and Bylaws require any change in membership fees to be approved at a general meeting. Since membership renewals for 2009 are currently under way, the next opportunity to do this would be for the year 2010.

The Society has sufficient funds to weather a minor financial loss over the course of a year should this occur and it was felt we should fall back on these reserves if necessary. It was pointed out that individual event insurance would have been purchased for ticketed events anyway, between the inception of the insurance policy and receipt of income from any increase in membership fees if that increase were to take place with effect from January 1st 2010. It was decided to continue to budget for the individual insurance at ticketed events during 2009 in any case and put that money towards the cost of the annual policy, therefore mitigating any financial loss which might be incurred.

It is intended to include two proposals in the agenda at the next AGM:

- 1) To increase the annual membership fee with effect from January 1st 2010 in order to finance the annual insurance policy and the hire of staff at some functions.
- 2) That this increase should bring the annual membership fee up to \$20 per person.

This is, of course, open to discussion and amendment of these proposals at the AGM should members wish to do so.

Andy Mundy, President NBDS

New Workshop Instructors

The December 5th dance will kick off with a workshop taught by Nanaimo's newest ballroom instructors, Jeff and Eva Bettany.

Jeff danced ballroom as a child growing up in England, quit in his early teens then finally got back into dancing with Eva in 1991.

Eva's dance background started with classes in Afro-Jazz, then Ballet and Flamenco, before moving onto ballroom. Living in Saskatchewan it was difficult to find qualified International Ballroom teachers so Eva and Jeff travelled to England for professional training at the Ford Dance Centre in Newcastle, home of several British Champions. After several years of training, Jeff and Eva obtained their Associate Degrees with the UKA. They gained valuable experience by teaching syllabus classes to children and adults and assisted with demonstrations and lectures to EADA competitive couples.

Eva and Jeff promoted International dance in Saskatchewan by working with the University of Saskatchewan Dance clubs and Dance Saskatchewan as well as their own non-profit organization, Saskatoon Dancesport.

Jeff and Eva have been regulars at the NBDS dance practices at Nanoose since moving to Yellow Point this past summer, and we will hear a sample of Jeff's extensive CD collection when he plays the music for our New Years Eve party. Let's welcome them to Nanaimo!

Tommy Black

by Barbara Barnett

We are saddened to hear of the death of Tommy Black who was known to many of us in the dancing world of western Canada.

He and Moira came to Vancouver from Scotland already accomplished dancers, they competed in British Columbia as amateurs and became the BC Amateur Champions. Their interest in dancing continued after they stopped competing and both of them became involved in the executive work of the amateur and professional teaching organizations and in helping other couples to achieve the enjoyment that they had had through dancing. The Dance Club at UVic was their main teaching field (although they had had a studio in Vancouver), they arranged competitions between UVic. and VBDS, Tommy was a keen teacher who worked hard to get the best out of the students.

In 1994 approximately they left Vancouver moving to Arbutus Ridge on Vancouver Island where they once again promoted dancing among the residents of the Ridge and did come up to Nanaimo for the NBDS workshops

It seems that they, ie. Moira, and /or Tommy, retired many times but kept starting teaching again as it was, along with their son Ken, and daughter, grandchildren, golf, their dog and their parrot, their main interest. We are saddened that we will not have Tommy's knowledge and wit to make us remember our footwork.

Instructional Workshops

Workshops are scheduled on the calendar on our web page at www.ballroomnanaimo.ca. The next NBDS pre-dance workshop will be on January 17 at Nanoose when Andy Mundy will teach the quickstep. Nelson Wong will teach a samba workshop at Bowen on February 6, 2009.

MEMBER NEWS

Larry Sanders passed away suddenly at his home on October 3. Larry, a member of NBDS since 2007, attended the Newcastle Island Dance Camp and several NBDS dances. He was a regular at country, swing and ballroom dances from Victoria to Campbell River.

More Practice Space for You!

Practices are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Nanoose, and before each regular dance. **NEW!** Drop-in fees have now been set at \$2.50 per person for the weekday practices and pre-dance practices are free. Check the practice calendar on the web site: www.ballroomnanaimo.ca.

Video Library

Videos can be a very helpful aid when practising at home. Videos are available (two at a time) at no charge to current NBDS members for a three-week period.

Enclosed with this issue is a listing of the titles in the library. Contact Bruce at 250-754-1735 or catch up to him at a dance to make arrangements for use of these videos.

Personal classifieds

Tuxedo, shawl collar, with distinguished history seeks respectable size 38, 5'10" gent. Asking \$50.
Phone 250 729 9978 or e-mail barnettdance@shaw.ca

ATTENTION SINGLES

We now have a moderated email list to assist singles to coordinate with each other. This may reduce the number of times we have 3 extra ladies at one dance and 3 extra gentlemen the next! If you wish get on this email exchange please email islanddancers@shaw.ca. Instructions: open an email from islanddancers, click on Reply All, and type something like "I'm going to the dance next Friday – see you there".

Calendar Updates

The 2009 dance calendar is now posted on our web site. Don't forget to take a look occasionally to check for updates. The workshop topics and instructors for January to April 2009 are now posted, as are the planned DJs for the regular dances.

This is a story about four people named
Everybody, Somebody, Anybody & Nobody.
There was an important job to do & Everybody
was asked to do it.
Everybody was sure Somebody would do it.
Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.
Somebody got angry about that as it was Everybody's job.
Everybody thought Anybody could do it but
Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.
It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when
Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

29

COMING EVENTS

Christmas Dinner Dance

There are still a few tickets left for the annual NBDS Christmas dinner dance on December 19. Catered by Spice Of Life, this is one of the highlights of the ballroom dance calendar in Nanaimo. Great food, great dancing, great company, maybe a chat with Santa and other surprise entertainment. See Jim for tickets; \$30 per member, \$35 per non-member.

New Years Eve 2008 Tickets On Sale

Less dinner and more party than Christmas, the New Years celebration is the biggest annual NBDS event at Nanoose.

Ring in the New Year with dancing to your favourite strict tempo and party tunes for dancing. Join the conga line and swoop in and out in the big circle with all your dancing friends. Tickets are only \$17.50 each (\$35 per couple) which includes a complimentary champagne toast at midnight! NYE 2007 was a blast and 2008 promises to be just as good! See Sara for tickets.



Do you have a business that might be of interest to Nanaimo area dancers? Shoes for sale? Dance lessons to promote? Dance cruises or tours?
For a nominal fee, we will run a small ad to promote your business. Please contact the editor for details.

MONTHLY DANCES

Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion

1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nanaimo.

Next Dance: Friday, December 12, 2008

7:30 – 10:30 pm **Christmas Dance**

Cost: \$5

Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

Email: evads@shaw.ca

Oceanside Christmas Tea Dance

Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road,

Next Dance: Sunday, December 14

2:00 - 4:30pm

Cost: \$7.50 includes tea, coffee and goodies

Host: Ken Yung yungdance@live.ca

NBDS Christmas Dinner Dance

Friday December 19, 2008

NBDS New Years Eve

Wednesday December 31, 2008

NOTE: No First Friday Dance In January

Falling only 2 days after the New Years Eve party, we decided to cancel the usual first Friday dance in January.

Salsa at Basque

Every Thursday, 489 Wallace, Nanaimo

Lesson at 8:30, dance 9:00 to 12:00

Cost: \$5

Host: Chris Wood salsananaimo@hotmail.com

NBDS "Second Saturday" at Nanoose

Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road,

Next Dance: January 17, 2009

7:30 Workshop: Quickstep by Andy Mundy

8:30 – 11:30 Dance

Music: Latin & Standard ballroom by Fred Rockwell

NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park,

Next Dance Friday, February 6, 2009

7:30 Workshop: Samba by Nelson Wong

8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing

Music: Latin & Standard Ballroom by Ed Hong

The Silver Slipper is published occasionally by the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Society. The editor is John Maher (johnmaher@shaw.ca). Please send any dance related news that you think would be of interest to NBDS members and guests. If you don't send something, we may have to make something up about you, which could be worse than not sending something in your own words. Please share your stories! Thanks.

PS, if you don't send me your photos I will use the ones I have...

John