



Ballroom Dance Society

Silver Slipper

July 2008

THE NEXT GENERATION

On June 6 over 500 enthusiastic Grade 5 and 6 students demonstrated the jive steps they have been learning in a School District 68 program organized by Margaret Yung. Margaret had introduced the students at several Nanaimo area schools to basic jive lessons in 2005.



This year, assisted by instructors Nelson Wong and David Seath, a total of 20 schools participated in the end-of-term jive contest.



With 552 students registered a large hall was needed so the SD68 Jive Contest was held at Beban. Several club members helped out, notably Fred Rockwell who played the music, Nelson Wong with photography and several judges sprinkled around the crowd. Fred Rockwell and Barbara Yee donated a

trophy which went to the school with the best team presentation (Randerson Ridge). NBDS provided our sound system and financial support toward the cost of the hall and medals for the dancers judged best. Congratulations to all the students; we hope some will join us in the future!

THE LAST GENERATION

Peggy Crathorne, one of the founders of the ballroom dance community in Nanaimo, died recently in Qualicum Beach at the age of 94. Peggy, and her late husband Alf, started teaching ballroom dancing at Bowen Park in 1980, and to give their students a place to practice, formed the Silver Slipper Club that held dances biweekly. When Alf and Peggy moved to Victoria a few years later, their students took over as the Nanaimo Ballroom Dance Club which was then incorporated as a society in 1993. Several of those early students, including Jim and Minnie Beaman, Jim and Della Burrell and Mac and Dorothy Atkinson, attended a celebration of Peggy's life at her recent home at The Gardens in Qualicum. NBDS members Ches and Irene Scott, Nelson Wong, John Novotny, Emily Deitrich and John Maher also attended. Jim Burrell spoke about Peggy's leadership in dancing and extended best wishes to her family on behalf of NBDS members.

DANCE PACIFICA

The strong Nanaimo area delegation to Dance Pacifica did very well again this year. Placing in the top 3 in their respective events (some in several events) were Connor McLeod & Haley Breedlove, Kevin & Joan Doyle, Dean Rimmer & Erin Yung, Timmy Groenewold & Cailin Purvis, and Brian Morgenstern & Elizabeth Marshall-Morgenstern.

Zillion Wong and Sara Laing placed first in all five dances to take the standard championship, and edged out victory in the Latin championship by a single vote over Michael Duong & Peony Yao. Kevin Fahy and his partner placed third in standard.

Instructional Workshops

The next NBDS pre-dance workshop will be on August 1 at Bowen. In keeping with the Hawaiian Night theme, the workshop will be on hula dancing, presented by Elaine Thompson. Sounds like fun!

More Practice Space for You!

There will be 16 dance practices, in addition to the pre-dance practices, during July and August. **New!** Practices are now being held every Thursday at the new Oliver Woods recreation centre. Check the practice calendar on the web site: www.ballroomnainimo.ca.

Video Library

The dance club has been slowly building a video library over the years for the benefit of the membership. 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. See the door people to obtain a list of video titles, or contact Bruce at 754-1735 for details.

MEMBER NEWS

Dancing Outside the Box

by Barbara Yee

The Crimson Coast Dance Society hosts a free annual workshop called the Body Talk Project. These classes are open to participants of all skill levels and ages from 4 to 70. I was attracted to register for the classes because they were advertised as a fusion of hip hop and contemporary dance. My partner and I are thoroughly enjoying ballroom dancing, but after watching hip hop dancers on various television shows, I also wanted to explore some of those movements.

Our first session was at the Scout Hut on July 3. Though I had invited a few girlfriends to join me in my adventure, only one was brave enough to show up. And, she could only participate in one session. Most of the class was in their 20's, 6 children from ages 4 to 12, and half a dozen senior citizens.

The facilitator was Malgorzata (Mal) Nowacka, Artistic Director of Toronto's Chimera Project. The Globe and Mail stated that she is "one of the most original choreographers currently working in Toronto, possibly in the country." After warm-up, where we moved every part of our bodies in a circular pattern in different directions, Mal had us rolling on the floor down the length of the room. We were to lift our bodies up for a moment of suspension and then melt into the floor moving down the room. I did not suspend all that well, but I think I got the melting part.

Another exercise was to portray various emotions (anger, depression) and states such as beauty and being heroic by our own physical movements. We also tried to characterize personally the opposite gender which brought on peals of laughter. Though it required some thought, it was a fun and interesting exercise.

The second session was similar to the first session, but we added moving like a snail (on the floor again). I was starting to become impatient as nothing we did during the two sessions resembled hip hop.

July 5 was the third and last session. As usual, we started with the warm-up by rotating every part of our body. I could not face another session of rolling on the floor so I asked if we could learn a few hip hop moves. After all, the prospect of learning hip hop was the drawing point for me. There was a dead silence in the room as everyone turned to look at Mal for her reaction. She went into deep thought and told us to take a break. Mal then gave us a hip hop routine with about 6 figures in 20 minutes. The music was fast and it took a bit of practice for us to learn the sequence, but we did manage to dance most of the routine.

This exploration of non-ballroom dancing was an interesting experience for me. I would have liked to learn more hip hop and less rolling on the floor. All in all it was fun. I might participate again next year. Anyone interested in joining me?

Health Issues Affect Dancing

Several members are on the "injury list" or otherwise not dancing of late. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Stephen and Leslie Tombs as Stephen continues his battle, and to Helen Green who is recuperating from surgery. There are no doubt others as well. Kam Bandali is recuperating from cancer treatments and expects to be back dancing at the Newcastle Island summer picnic.

One issue that continues to affect dancing for some otherwise healthy members is that some of us still smell worse than skunky to people with allergies to scents. Please remember to cut back or eliminate use of perfumes and colognes at dances.

COMING EVENTS

NBDS Summer Picnic July 27

Tickets are on sale for the NBDS Summer Picnic at Newcastle Island. Join us for a gourmet lunch prepared by the executive chef Ryan, visit with friends in the fresh air at Newcastle, then take advantage of the historic Pavilion to dance the afternoon away to tunes from the big band era. Sorry, so big band, but lots of strict tempo ballroom dance tunes from the big bands by DJ John. Nelson will get us into the swing with a workshop on foxtrot. Tickets are \$20 including ferry and lunch, available from John (johnmaher@shaw.ca).



Newcastle Island Dance Camp

The next dance camp will be held on August 1 – 3, 2008. Tickets went on sale May 1 and sold out quickly. We are keeping a wait list in case there are cancellations, and at press time there are still a few spaces for single men. If you would like to attend please email Gwen Spinks (wannadance@shaw.ca).



Old Time Dance Festival

Dave and Norma are hosting 3 dances in a row in August. First they will dedicate their regular 2nd Friday dance (August 8) at the Legion to Old Time, then follow up with a Saturday night dinner and Old Time Dance, also at the Legion. Dave says that as soon as he announced the August 10 OTD tea dance at Newcastle, a bus-load of OTD fans from England booked their flights to come.

Newcastle Island Dances in August

The Sunday afternoon dances at the Pavilion are stepping up a notch. Low attendance for "tea dances" while selling out for the dance camp last year made us re-think the approach. This year we are looking into adding more workshops and other improvements for the August 24 and 31 dances. Tickets will be on sale soon (contact John Maher for details).



Dancing With The Stars

Tickets will go on sale on September 22 for a new fundraising event held by NBDS. The main idea is to have local celebrities learn to dance with our local instructors and experienced dancers, then compete for the top honours as judged by you – the people who attend. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 22 for the Dancing With The Stars gala. There will be professional demos during the evening as well as opportunities for general, social dancing, and there will be a catered buffet by Spice of Life. We also have a sponsored big prize raffle. It will also be the best fun dance evening for a long time.



Proceeds of the event will go to support for Haven Society. Haven Society provides services to women and children, youth, families and men who have experienced violence. Services include everything from shelter and food to emotional support, counselling, advocacy, court accompaniment and, most importantly, a safe place to begin healing from the abuse. Provision of these services is entirely dependent on charitable donations.

These tickets are anticipated to sell out quickly and there are limited numbers available. Seating will be by numbered tables. NBDS members will have exclusive access to tickets during the two September dances before they go on sale to the public on September 22. Tickets will be \$30 per person which includes dinner, shows and a great time!

MONTHLY DANCES

Oceanside Tea Dance

Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose

Next Dance: Sunday,

2:00 - 4:30pm

Cost: \$7.50 includes tea, coffee and goodies

Great mix of standard and Latin

Host: Ken Yung yungdance@live.ca



**NBDS First Friday Dance at Bowen Park,
Friday, August 1, 2008 HAWAIIAN NIGHT**

7:30 **Workshop:** Hula with Elaine Thompson

8:30 - 11:30pm Dancing

Cost: \$10 for members, \$14 for non-members with workshop; \$7 and \$11 after workshop

Music: Latin & Standard Ballroom by Ed Hong

Second Friday Dance at Royal Canadian Legion

1630 E. Wellington Rd., Nan.

Next Dance: Friday, August 8 (Old Time Dance)

7:00 Workshop

8:00 - 11: pm Dance

Cost: \$5 for workshop only; \$5 for dance only; \$7 for both

Music: for Old Time Dance

Hosts: Dave & Norma Stevenson 751-8669

Email: evads@shaw.ca

Note: No NBDS Dance at Nanoose in August

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.

John

