

BURNABY INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS

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Dance Location: Charles Rummel Centre 3630 Lozells Ave. Burnaby BC

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WELCOME!

We are pleased you decided to try folk dancing with us. Did you know the first time is free? We enjoy the fun, the exercise and the challenge, to our heads as well as our feet, of learning traditional dances from cultures throughout the world.

The group meets Tuesday evenings from September to early June with a break at Christmas. Each evening begins at 7:00, with a few warm-up dances; then we learn and review a few dances. During the last part of the evening, we try the new dances again, and members' requests are played and danced, sometimes with a brief review. Since early 2017 introduction to basic steps has been offered from 6:30 to 7:00 each Tuesday at Charles Rummel Centre, at no additional cost.

Each season a few weeks of instruction by a guest folk dance teacher will alternate with some weeks of teaching and review by experienced members of our own group. The dance experience of our members includes clogging, tap, jazz, ballroom, country, flamenco, and more, in addition to folk dance.

HISTORY

The Burnaby Parks and Recreation Department offered folk dancing at the Burnaby Arts Centre in the late 1970s. When the teacher of that course moved away in 1979, many of the participants continued to learn and dance together, calling the new club the Century Park Folk Dancers.

Through the 1980s, when the name changed to Burnaby International Folk Dancers, we danced at the Burnaby Arts Centre. We met at that Centre, renamed the Shadbolt Centre for the Performing Arts, through May of 2003. Since September 2003, the Charles Rummel Recreation Centre, 3630 Lozells Avenue, at Government Street, has been our Tuesday home.

Since 2014 we have hosted, and organized with dancers from other clubs, the Lyrids Folk Dance Festival in late April. <http://lyridsfolkdancefestival.org>

ORGANIZATION

BIFD has as much organization as it needs to keep dancing. We are a registered non-profit group which relies on the skills and efforts of members to accomplish its necessary business. Check the Constitution on our website for more details. The officers elected at the annual meeting in June 2017, are

President	Jane Kupfer	Secretary	Chrisanne Pennimpe
Vice President & Membership...	Chrisanne Pennimpe	Treasurer	Bev Neilson

Members with other responsibilities include Dale Adamson, and Bev Neilson, Music Coordinators; Lori Larsen, Dance Director; and Dale Adamson, Technology Director.

Any business or upcoming events of interest to the group are brought up during the brief break in dancing each Tuesday evening. Drop-in fees, or membership fees paid in September and January, pay for the room rent and incidental expenses. Voting members pay \$5 annual membership dues. The club often receives a small honorarium for a performance. A list of members with phone numbers and e-mail addresses is produced annually.

By registering your email with us you will receive a list of the program for the next Tuesday and a few messages about upcoming events of interest to dancers.

PERFORMANCES and PARTIES

Performances, whether at a festival, or at a care facility, give us the opportunity to polish a few dances and to share our enjoyment with others. Six to ten members dance at a typical event. It is up to each dancer whether to participate in an upcoming performance.

We usually present the same eight to ten dances totaling fifteen to twenty-five minutes for several performances before compiling a new performance suite. When we are asked by a school, a festival, or others to teach a few dances, we are eager to do so, knowing the event will be fun for the students and for us. Practice sessions precede most performances.

Learning all these dances and never using them as the cultures of origin do wouldn't be right, would it? At least three times a year we have parties where we dance the members' requests with a brief review when needed. All parties include snacks and the opportunity to wear any costumes or near-costumes we may have.

LEARNING TIPS and ETIQUETTE

Sometimes the quickest way to learn a dance is by imitating, with no verbal instruction. Request periods and parties are good opportunities to pick up dances this way. We hope the dances you have learned from formal teaching will give you confidence and skill to learn other dances by following. Choose someone who knows the dance well and dance behind that person. When you think you can do the dance, join the line. Join the end of the line farthest from the leader, in the middle of a two-leader line, or anywhere in a circle. Wait for a slow part to join the middle of a line or a circle. If you don't have a belt for a belt-hold dance, join a line of others using a different hold. Watch the leader of your own line during dances with variations called by the leader, alert to "opa", a kerchief wave, or other step change signal.

Teachers appreciate it, and we all learn more, when we save our visiting until the instruction is finished. If you already know the dance being taught, take the class anyway. Your experience can help others near you. If the dance is done differently from the way you learned it elsewhere, do the Burnaby version. When you want to ask the teacher about the different versions, do it later, privately.

One last tip – try to learn the names of the dances so you can request them. Jotting down dances' names and a few notes will remind you about the dances you want to repeat or check on the Internet. You can add your favourites to the ongoing request list for inclusion in later programs.

RESOURCES

On the Internet, inserting a dance name into a general search engine often turns up dance notes, recordings of the music, and videos of performances. Ask us to recommend websites with dance descriptions, or Google the name of the dance to get videos and notes. In addition to a collection of folk dance recordings, audio and visual, this club has dance descriptions in notebooks and in published form. We also have books about international costumes and the teaching of dance, and several (mostly) authentic folk costumes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Public libraries have books of dance descriptions and costumes, and sometimes have recordings of dance music to borrow. You may request copies of dance descriptions from our collection.

Folk dance groups in Surrey and Squamish have programs similar to ours. In Vancouver the West Point Grey Community Centre offers folk dancing. Each summer Vancouver International Folk Dancers offers folk dancing in Stanley Park on Tuesday evenings. Check our website for information about the other dance groups.

Northwest Folk Dancers Incorporated (NFDI) (www.nwfolkdancers.org) is a non-profit organization in Seattle that promotes folk dancing. Their monthly newsletter, [Northwest Folkdancer](#), lists upcoming events in the region, and features other information for the folk dance enthusiast. See the club copy on Tuesday. Many ethnic organizations support groups specializing in their traditional dances. Ethnic associations and churches often know how to contact these groups.

We look forward to dancing with you and getting to know you. See you next Tuesday!