

# Surrey International Folk Dancing Society

By Annie Kaps

Crescent Beach Folk Dance Retreat, September 20-22, 2019



Oh, the joy on participants' faces! Oh, the joy of dancing feet!



Along with music, singing often accompanies International folk dancing. A scheduled workshop for singing of rounds and ethnic songs, evolved into an unscheduled addition of joyful bird calls and barbershop harmony.

During the sing-along hour, we returned to a dance presented at the 2017 retreat which was a favourite on childhood playgrounds and there is absolute joy (photo) on the faces of dancers as they strutted through "Valerie."



In order to showcase the talents of the attendees, many volunteered for Saturday's after-dinner entertainment with presentations of dancing, singing (showcasing a song composed for the occasion), musical instrumentation.

Early morning guided walkers (even in Sunday's downpour) were not only treated to utilizing scopes for seeing Blackie Spits' birds and looking for them on provided checklists, but also viewing some sea lions on one of the sand bars.

To introduce registrants to this unique Surrey area, the City provided maps and information on the 33 Memory Stones placed throughout the Crescent region. Of these, 13 form the Salish Moon Stones. <https://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/18419.aspx>

A highlight of the Saturday afternoon was a walk from Alexandra to these stones and an interpretive talk about the lunar month associated with each stone.

The weekend of September 20-22, 2019, Alexandra Neighbourhood House (<https://www.alexhouse.net/facility-rentals-camp-alexandra>) saw beautiful sunny fall weather greeting folk dancers arriving for an autumn folk dancing retreat.

Surrey International Folk Dancing Society hosted registrants---along with Lower Mainland dancers---from India, New York, Washington, Ottawa, Squamish, Kamloops, Saltspring and Vancouver Islands.

"Fall Fair" was the theme for the retreat. Registrants brought floral bouquets for judging, bouquets which decorated the dining and dance halls.



International folk dancing at its best! Request dancing to registrants' favourites; volunteer teachers introducing new dances from around the globe: Canada (Quebec), U.S.A., Indonesia, Finland, Albania, England, France, Taiwan, Romania, Belgium (Flemish), Greece, Israel, Macedonia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Poland, Turkey (Kurdish).



All the dance instruction, musical instrumental accompaniment, singing, birding, guided walks, videography, photography were volunteered.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Surrey's Cultural Grants Program for their financial assistance.

This is the third retreat hosted by the Surrey International Folk Dancing Society; their second for Crescent Beach; their first was in Mission

## Visit NFDI on Facebook

Did you know that NFDI has a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nwfolkdancers](http://www.facebook.com/nwfolkdancers))? If so, have you "liked" and "shared" it? The more people who "like" our page, the wider our audience grows, and the more likelihood there is that we will attract new members to our dance groups.

If you are on Facebook, you can post on the NFDI page. Include your club's activities to which you are trying to attract a larger audience; for example, classes, dances, special events, etc., and reach more people—hopefully, prospective dancers, as well as existing dancers. This is public information, and can be seen by anyone with a Facebook account. If there are comments made on a post, the friends of the commenter can also see the post, which helps spread its reach, so making comments on a post is a helpful thing (as long as they aren't negative!).

Do you have a photo of your group that you would like to share with a wider audience? Photos get viewed more than other posts, so including a photo with your event posting will help it reach more people.

If you are not on Facebook, you can still send things to post there. Just specify that you want them on the NFDI Facebook page, and send them to [nwfolkdancers@gmail.com](mailto:nwfolkdancers@gmail.com).

Many people use Facebook, and this is one way that non-folk dancers, as well as existing folk dancers, can find out about your club's activities.



## ALT > Klezmer

**ALT > Klezmer** ("old klezmer") reunites three of the Northwest's favorite klezmer musicians in a special evening of traditional Jewish, Romanian, and other tunes from the Carpathians and nearby lands.

Sunday, November 3rd, 7 p.m.

Cafe Artichoke, 2007 SE Powell, Portland

\$15 in advance (all ages welcome!)

Tickets and more info:

<https://110319.brownpapertickets.com/>

**Sandra Layman** (violin) co-founded the Pacific Northwest's first klezmer band in 1980. For many years, Sandra played in a violin-cimbalom duo with the late Alexander Eppler. Her repertoire also reflects her collaborations with clarinetist Joel Rubin and multi-instrumentalist Hank Bradley. Sandra's acclaimed recording "Little Blackbird" is a "a stunning, amazing, virtuosic weave of astounding music" (Ari Davidow, Klezmer Shack). It features a wild, wonderful variety of Romanian, Balkan, Greek, Turkish and related music

**Christina Crowder** (accordion) lived for ten years in Hungary and Romania, including two years as a Fulbright scholar, recording elderly Romanian violinists who had played for Jewish communities before World War II. Christina was a founding member of Di Naye Kapelye, an ensemble dedicated to researching and performing the traditional Jewish music of the Carpathian region. Christina performs regularly with Michael Winograd and the Honorable Mentschen, Alicia Svigals Klezmer Express, and many others. Christina is musical director for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of "Indecent" and on the faculty of the Yiddish New York winter festival.

**Yankl Falk** (vocals/clarinet) is well-known to local audiences for his work with the Carpathian-Pacific Express, Hora Tzigane, and other ensembles, and for his 30 years as host of the Sunday morning Yiddish Hour on local radio. Yankl has toured extensively and recorded three CDs with the Carpathian Jewish roots ensemble Di Naye Kapelye. He has also toured and/or recorded with Don Byron's Music of Mickey Katz, Polka Madre (Mexico City), Di Fidl-Kapelye (Amsterdam), Yale Strom, and the Black Cat Orchestra.