

# LYIFD Story

Langley & Yuanyuan International Folk Dancers (LYIFD) were founded by Sam Chiang and his wife, Eunice Lu, in late September 1998. Both had a passion for international folk dancing since their senior high school and university days. The main goal was to gather people who loved to dance or simply wanted to exercise and meet people within the community.

Initially, Sam and Eunice opened up their garage to the group on a weekly basis to teach those who were interested in folk dancing. With their patience, humor, and earnest teaching, the interest group quickly grew into a large number of students.

In late October of 1998, with the help of Langley Family Services Association, Sam and Eunice were able to officially establish the Langley International Folk Dance Class with lessons on Wednesday mornings at Douglas Recreation Center. Later on, due to the rapid increase of interests and requests from Surrey students, Sam and Eunice launched a second class on Thursday mornings at Fraser Heights Recreation Center, Surrey on March 23rd, 2006.

LYIFD members now consist of people from Canada, Taiwan, mainland China, South Korea, Vietnam, and more. The weekly classes have become a highly anticipated activity for the students, and despite the different nationalities, everyone in the class has become part of this big family. They support each other by helping out whenever they can, for example, searching for performance-related clothes and props, all of which demonstrate teamwork and love for this interest group.

Aside from their regular classes, the group participates and performs in many community events, such as the Taiwanese Cultural Festival, Tzu Chi Humanistic Academy's year-end celebration, various senior home seasonal events, Chinese New Year Party at United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society (S.U.C.C.E.S.S.), and the annual Fraser Heights Country Fair. In addition to their performance at the Country Fair, the students also set up food stalls with Taiwanese cuisine to help fundraise for Erma Elementary School's education funds.

It started out with a simple thought of offering folk dancing and exercising opportunities to Langley's Taiwanese community, which quickly grew into a fun and family-like communal group. From time to time, they also host activities such as costume parties, potluck gatherings, outings, karaoke party, and more. Being able to give back to the community while doing the things they love is their utmost pride and joy as a team and as a communal group.