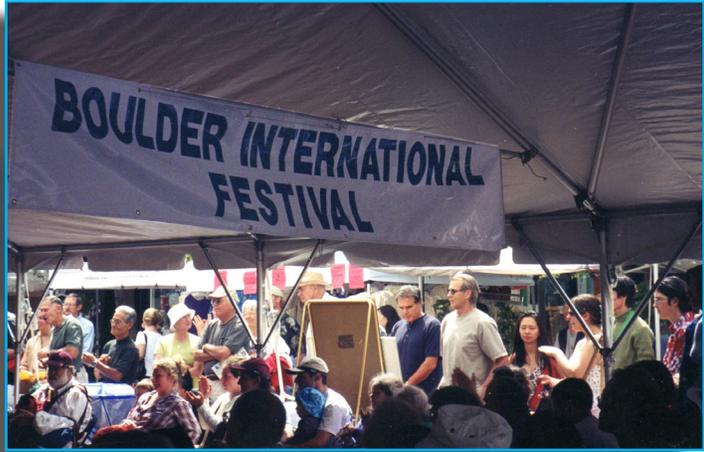


History of
The Village Arts Coalition
International Festival



Compiled & Written by Melba Shepard • Layout by Jane Shepard
Cover Montage by Maggie Butler



1981 ~ 1983

The Village Arts Coalition's INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL began with folk dancers Maggie Butler and Tink (Alex) Wilson sponsoring what was then called BOULDER FOLKFEST, on the downtown Boulder Mall from 1981 through 1983. Maggie, assisted by friends, did publicity and recruited dancers and vendors for an international marketplace. Tink, with the help of Christy Barden, Phil Rice and others, built a plywood dance floor. The FOLK FEST was an amazing two-day weekend event, exhibiting traditional folk dances from around the world, performed by a variety of local groups in full national costume. It also featured live music, international singing and drumming groups, and audience participation. Performances went throughout the day, with vendor booths nearby selling imported merchandise, all of which created a fascinating international atmosphere for mall visitors.



The Festival's first producers, Maggie Butler and Tink Wilson, post the welcome banner.



EARLY PERFORMANCE: Joe Miller leads a group demonstraiting Ukrainian dance.



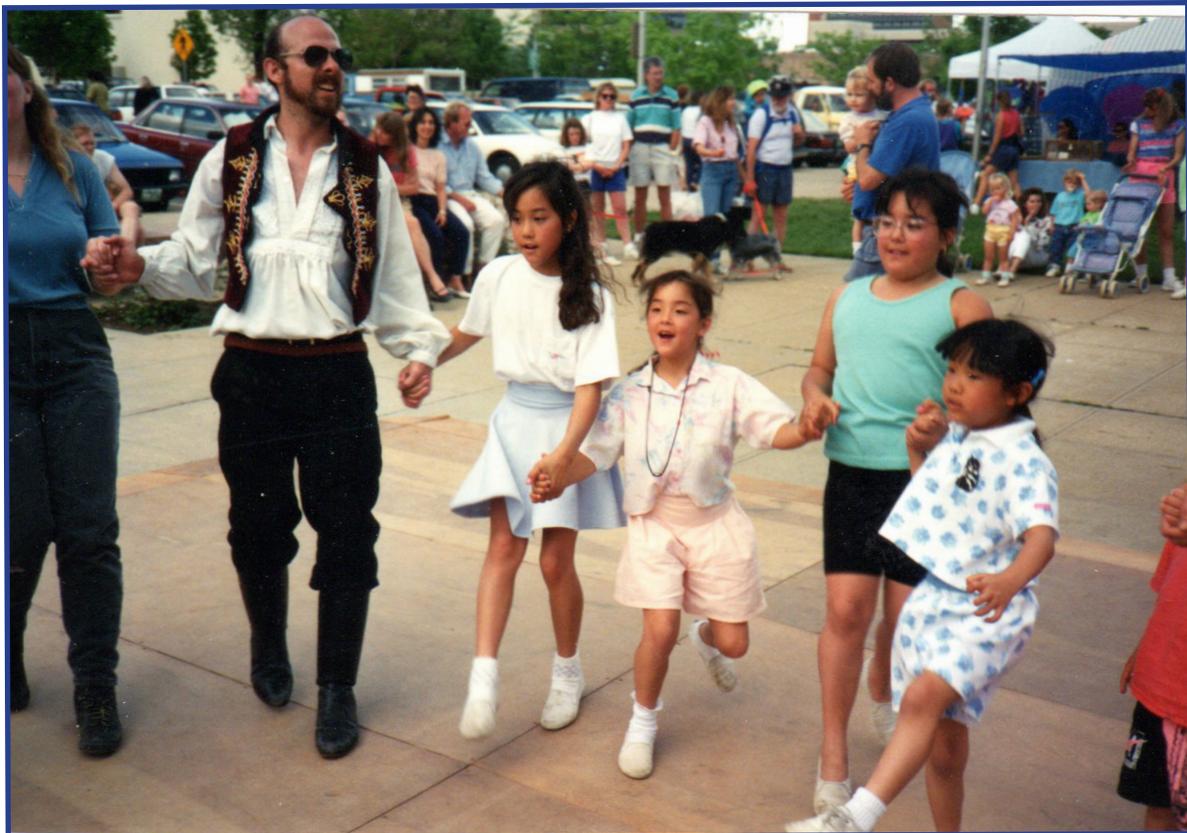
The Scandinavian dancers show their stuff, including Margaret Lowe and Per Runnestô.

1990 ~ 1991, Memorial Day Weekend

The FOLK FEST was discontinued after 1983, until the Village Arts Coalition was established in 1989. (VAC is a non-profit umbrella organization comprised of groups and individuals who support the folk arts, primarily music and dance.) With the insistence of VAC Board Member Bonnie Askew, the Boulder Folk Fest was continued under the new name INTERNATIONAL FOLK LIFE Fair. It was produced in conjunction with the Boulder Creek Festival, was held in 1990 and continued through 1997. It took place in front of the Boulder Public Library, using a 36' x 40' plywood floor, which was designed and built by Tink (Alex) Wilson and his crew of folk dancers. The program involved a series of thirty-minute dance performances with groups wearing the native costumes of countries they represented. Merchant booths, selling imported arts and crafts from around the world, surrounded the dance floor. And the VAC information booth offered ethnic baked goods.



A Balkan women's choir drew the crowds in front of the Library.



Donald Vukovic teaching young dancers.

1992 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

The July 1992 issue of STOMP! (VAC's newsletter) featured an article by **Anne Vickery** giving a graphic description of the INTERNATIONAL FOLK LIFE FAIR as it was carried out during the early nineties by eager and enthusiastic volunteers. She wrote...

"...The 1992 International Folk Life Fair began with the stirring sounds of bagpipes as the Denver Pipe Band led the Village Arts Coalition section of the Boulder Creek Festival parade down Pearl Street and past the reviewing stand. At the head, Marcia Crary and Will Crary and their friends in folk dance garb, carried the International banner. This was followed by the Village Arts Coalition Banner and bagpipers wearing their Scottish kilts. The colorful red banner of the Boulder Dushanbe Sister Cities was carried by folk dancers in bright Tadziki costumes. Postoley Dancers in their red, white and blue costumes with black fur hats (stopping from time to time to perform Ukrainian dance steps to the delight of the audience along the street) completed our block long entry.

At 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, our tireless logistics crew, Phil Rice, Tink Wilson, Tom Gaines, Jessie Mallo, Stan Wilkes, Hank Murphy, Zieg Heintze and Greg Shonle began assembling the wood floor in front of the library, setting up bulletin boards decorated with international pictures and flowers and setting up the tent, loaned by Debbie Shapera, and tables for the Village Arts Coalition booth.



"All day Saturday and Sunday, thanks to emcees Linda Fischer and Bonnie Askew, there were performances by folk dance groups in the Denver/Boulder area. Between performances Tink Wilson, Tom Masterson and Donald Vukovic taught easy dances for the public. Melba Shepard had organized fourteen merchant booths with jewelry, pottery, drums and other interesting items from around the world. The theme for this year's International Fair was "Let's Build the Teahouse!" So the Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities had a premier location with parts of the teahouse on display and Russian souvenirs for sale.

Thanks to Sheryl Horner who organized the VAC booth with Deborah Howard, Shirley Capps, Sabine Schaffner and Anna Ellis, who all sold pizelles (Italian cookies by Jim, Skip and Debbie), Baklava (Greek pastry by Donald) and vinoks (Ukrainian head bands made by Copper Redstone, Marcia Crary and all their helpers.) Thanks to all who decorated, baked, made banners and helped to put up and take down the whole shebang. Special thanks to Bruce Pollak for putting together all the written materials, Stan Wilkes for doing whatever was needed, to Will Crary, our indispensable sound man and to Jim Gluck who built, repaired, created and organized all the last minute necessities. A special thanks also to Tom Gaines and Gib Gilbert who acted as masters of ceremonies throughout the performances and open dancing."

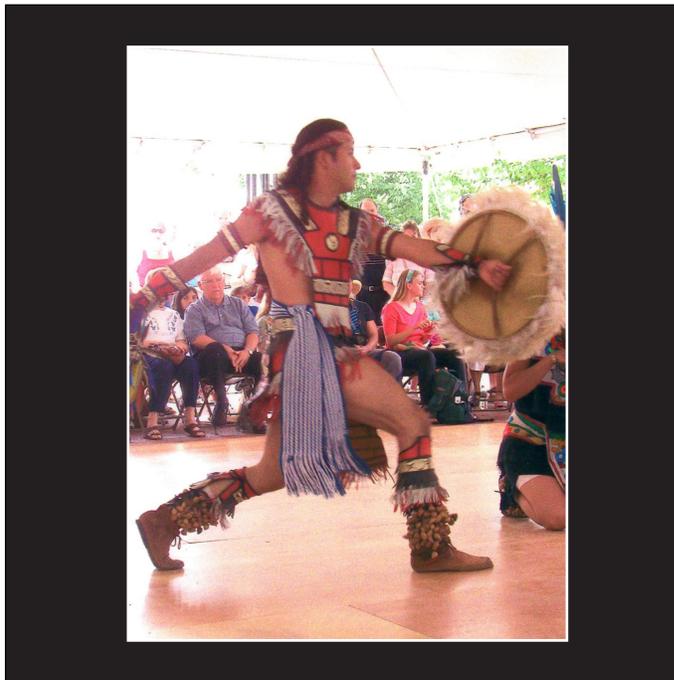
Also in that issue of STOMP! **Paula Smith** wrote a special thank you to **Anne Vickery**, who coordinated activities of the festival, *"The financial success of the Folk Life Fair was, in no small part due to Anne's Herculean effort. That involved rallying volunteers, gathering supplies for pastries and scavenging for pictures for bulletin boards. She organized baking crews and bulletin board crews, and then she baked, arranged, tacked and participated in setting up the VAC booth. She marched in the parade, performed with the Village Dance Group and helped with public folk dancing. And in the end, Anne was out there hawking the remaining pizelles and vinoks that she and other volunteers had spent many hours making."* This was typical of the annual event coordinated by Anne Vickery for a period of sixteen years.

1993 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

An example of the variety of performances for the festivals comes from the 1993 STOMP as they were listed by Anne Vickery: LatandeTjere (from Sweden), Planina Balkan Women's Choir, Dambala African Dancers, Friendship Israeli Dancers, Maroon Bells Morris Dancers, Swinging Singles, Boulder Scandinavian Dancers, Grupo Quetzal, Colores Internacionales Folk Ensemble, Tapestry Ethnic Dancers, McTeggert Irish Step Dancers, Hoofin' High Country Cloggers and Swing Shift. **Lynda Parsons** was the emcee that year and **Linda Sue Fischer** "rounded up and scheduled talent."

Approximately \$1900 was raised to support the event, \$1500 from vendor booth rentals and \$400 from sales at the VAC booth. "*Many people volunteered to do the work this year,*" declared Anne Vickery, as she listed the contribution of specific helpers:

- Stan Wilkes organized the parade
- Sheryl Horner organized the VAC booth
- Melba Shepard sold space for merchant booths
- Lynda Parsons emceed for the entire event.
- Willard Crary lent his expertise running sound
- Linda Sue Fischer scheduled the talent worked both days.
- Tink Wilson, Rod Frehlich with others laid the floor
- Marcia Crary and Copper Redstone handled decorations
- Jim Gluck provided benches, chairs and bulletin boards
- Sabina Schaffner and Marcia Crary headed up baking
- Donald Vukovic, Gil Gilbert and Daniel Morse led the open dancing.



1994 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

The 1994 INTERNATIONAL FOLK LIFE FAIR honored **Vytautas Beliajus**, who that year received the 1994 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. **Vyts**, known by many as "Mr. Folk Dance USA" had danced, taught, lectured, presented and produced folk dance demonstrations for more than sixty years. During World War II he started a newsletter titled **VILTIS** ("Hope" in Lithuanian) as a means of communicating with his students fighting overseas. **VILTIS** was distributed widely to folk dancers across the United States for more than 50 years.

1995 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

According to the Boulder Daily Camera review, *“The booths were varied, the food tasty and the entertainers enthusiastic.”* But the 1995 INTERNATIONAL FOLK LIFE FAIR was challenged by rain, *“Members of the Village Arts Coalition kept on dancing in spite of the rain. They stomped their feet in puddles on the wooden floor as the Israeli music played.”* Barbara Roach and Otto Verdoner were pictured in the newspaper dancing with umbrellas held over their heads. Late Saturday afternoon the sun finally appeared, the mood changed and, *“Everyone’s charged up,”* emcee Bee Gee Stivers was quoted as saying.

The Festival was again supported by rental of vendor booths and sales at the VAC booth. Dance performances were, at times, interspersed with teaching of easy folk dances for the public. These lessons received enthusiastic participation. Dave Schwartz, current leader of continuing Hungarian Táncház in Denver, got hooked on folk dancing when he joined one of these sessions in the early nineties.



Not even rain could keep Barbara Roach and Otto Verdoner from enjoying the dance floor.

1997 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

The Boulder Creek Festival, sponsored by the City of Boulder as a Memorial Day Celebration, was started in 1984 as a program of the Parks and Recreation Department. **THE INTERNATIONAL FOLK LIFE FAIR** was a major crowd-pleaser of that event beginning in 1991. But the Creek Festival was expanding, almost out of control by 1997, and a decision was made to turn the festival over to a non-profit citizen's group, the Board of Community Celebrations (BCC).

A director was named by the BCC to manage the festival, and the Village Arts Coalition was requested to release a list of international vendors, because **THE INTERNATIONAL FOLK LIFE FAIR** would now become a section of the BCC Hometown Memorial Festival. But the Village Arts Coalition was not willing to become incorporated into the privately owned festival. It was decided to go it alone.

Caiico & Boots demonstrated the most popular form of American folk dance: square dancing.



1998, July 18 ~ 19

Publicity for the 1998 **INTERNATIONAL FOLK LIFE FAIR** described the festival as follows:

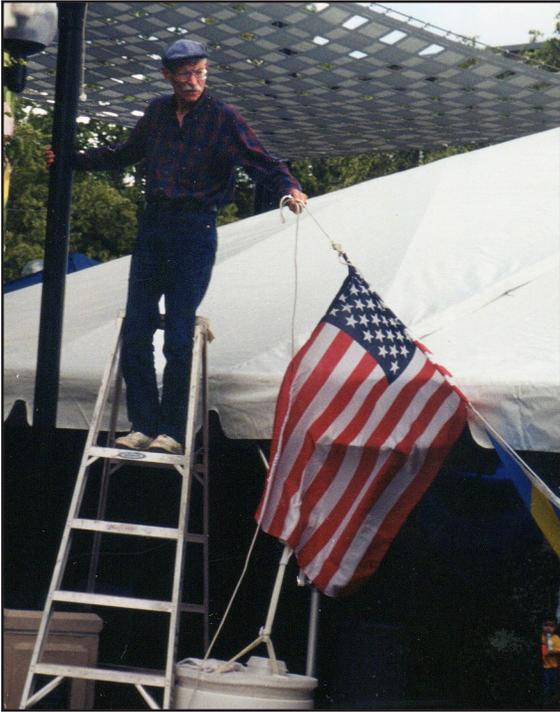
“A colorful, fun, two-day event of international dance and music group performances, participatory dancing for the public with instruction and ethnic food. International vendors will sell arts, crafts and international wares in their booths surrounding the dance floor. Come visit, enjoy and participate in this unique international atmosphere created by the Village Arts Coalition.”

The event was held in its usual location in front of the Boulder Public Library as an independent event. But the days were hot and dry. Shadeless under the sun, without other attractions along the creek, the Festival was something of a disaster! It had very low attendance and enthusiasm for the event was not forthcoming.

The Village Arts Coalition Board had a decision to make concerning the annual **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**. It was an important event in fulfilling the mission of the organization. Members of Boulder International Folk Dancers (BIFD) were committed to providing volunteers and publicity for the festival. Performing groups enjoyed the opportunity to demonstrate the music and dance of countries and cultures they represented, and import vendors were happy to purchase booth space to sell their unique wares at the festival. But how could the Festival succeed without being part of a larger event like the Creek Festival? To be usurped by the BBC was unthinkable. Our solution was to move the festival to the downtown mall, the location of its origin.

1999, June 19 ~ 20

Held in front of the Court House on the Pearl Street Mall, **THE BOULDER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** became an annual mid-summer event, under the auspices of the Downtown Business Association. Funding for that year was granted by the Boulder Human Relations Commission (\$2,250) and the Boulder Arts Commission (\$1000). Further support was offered by the Boulder Daily Camera. Permits for the event were approved by the City, Boulder County and the Health Department.



The festival's tent featured flags from all different countries. Tink Wilson pic-

A large tent was erected to protect the dancers and audience from the elements. VAC Volunteers were out in force. Chairs were set up around the floor for viewer comfort. A ladder was brought to hang flags from countries around the world. Sound equipment was installed in a tent, along with a changing area for dancers. Spaces were marked off for vendor booths along 13th street. In this location there was also ethnic food available.

Mid-morning, on a gorgeous summer day, bagpipers marched down the Pearl Street Mall announcing the beginning of this colorful event. An atmosphere of excitement surrounded the Festival, with flags flying and the sound of music from around the world attracting a crowd. **THE BOULDER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** had found its niche, and hundreds of mall visitors were delighted.

In its first year on the Boulder mall, merchants sold international goods, comprising what Anne Vickery called "Vendor Alley".



Let the show begin! A performance schedule was in place for two days of exciting, colorful demonstrations by folk dancers in national costumes, Planina Balkan Women's Choir, Spelemanslag Scandinavian fiddlers, and free dance lessons for the public. Emcees wearing national folk costumes were ready to introduce performers, offering information of interest and inviting the audience to, "Feed the fish bowl," which was passed periodically to collect donations in support of the event.



Sharon Gillespie's *Spelemannslag* of young fiddlers has performed in the festival every year since 1990.

Anne Vickery coordinated the Festival with volunteer help from the dance community. Members of Boulder International Folk Dancers had signed up, during Friday night dancing, to fill various volunteer positions. **Linda Fischer** scheduled the performances; **Stan Wilkes** was in charge of the vendor booths; **Willard Crary**, sound; **Mary Ann Evans**, the emcee; **Rod Frehlich** and **Terry Plamkin**, logistics and **Deborah Howard**, the VAC booth.

On Friday evening under the tent, **Lyn Mead** sponsored a jam session with folk musicians. Security guards would be on hand from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Musicians were on-watch until they arrived. In addition to the scheduled program, gift certificates from several ethnic restaurants in Boulder were auctioned between dance performances. **Şerefé**, **James Hoskins'** professional Balkan band, played for open dancing on Saturday evening.

At the end of the festival the rental tent was taken down and a group of volunteers cleared away the elements of a marvelously successful first annual **BOULDER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**. Equipment was stored in Anne's garage and the floor was taken to **Christy Barden's** barn. **Lyn Mead** prepared a thank you pizza party for volunteers, which was held at **Anne Vickery's** home. The grand success of the event was celebrated by an exhausted group of happy volunteers.



The Festival's first coordinator, **Anne Vickery**, shows off her folk finery.

1999 continued...

> Belly Dancing often proved a popular draw at the festival, and sometimes audiences would be invited to join in for a lesson .



> Steward Hartman was, and continues to be, the photographer for the festival.



< The Storm Mountain group from Fort Collins presenting Balkan dancing.



The Balkan Women's Choir, led by Julie Lancaster, brought singing to the stage.

2000 ~ 2006

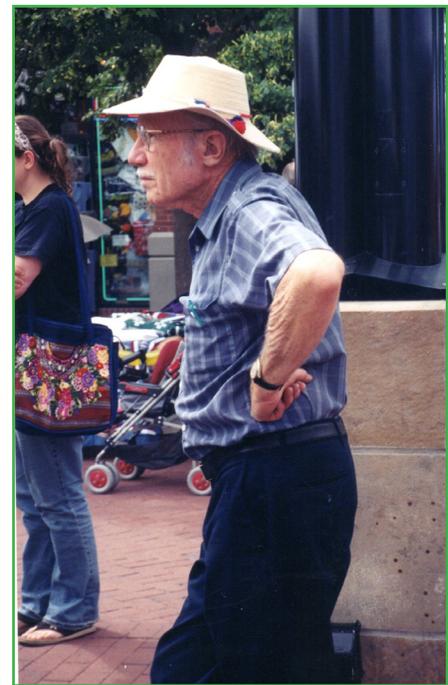
The **BOULDER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** continued as an annual summer event on the Pearl Street Mall, becoming a highlight of the season for the public. **Anne Vickery** continued her faithful and enthusiastic coordination. A committee of VAC Board members continued to organize and contribute to the success of the festival each year. BIFD was prominent in active support with volunteers.



Rod Frehlich and Ilana Bar-or answer questions and hand out information at the VAC Booth.

In 2004, **Barbelfish Balkan Band** was invited to play live music for participatory dancing at the end of Saturday's activities. This set has become a popular feature of the festival, with various bands participating from year to year.

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Stan Wilkes was involved with planning and production of the festival from the beginning until his retirement in 2012.



This picture of Melba Shepard and Tink Wilson wearing their Norwegian bunads was regularly used for publicity.

Ilana Bar-or assumed the important role of contacting performing groups and scheduling performances. A City policy was established requiring the collection and disposal of recyclable Festival trash. **Caroline** and **Joe Stepanek** assumed that responsibility using their truck for transport. **Rod Frehlich** handled publicity. **Stan Wilkes** continued working with vendors. **Tink Wilson** brought a ladder from the County and hung the international flags. **Deborah Howard** was in charge of the VAC Booth.

At the end of the 2006 festival and party at her home, **Anne Vickery** announced her retirement as Coordinator of the Festival. In appreciation of her 16 years of vigorous and dedicated service, The VAC Board arranged for the planting of maple tree in Anne's honor on the lawn of the Avalon.

2000 ~ 2006 continued...



Tink Wilson got the audience on their feet teaching simple folkdances.

Boulder International Festival 2003 Vendors

Boulder Daily Camera	Free Newspapers
R.U.S.S.	Russia: Crafts
OM Imports	Vietnam: Lanterns, shoes, dresses
Juvel International, Inc.	Thailand: Wood utensils, silver, jewelry, body art
Indus Creations, LLC	Pakistan: Wind chimes, wooden instruments, gifts
Truong An Inc.	China: Carvings, statues, fountains
Asha for Education	Greeting cards, note paper, bead jewelry, candles
Vintage Kimono	Japan: Silk kimonos, accessories
Tibetan Sisters Art	Tibet: Rugs, jewelry, artifacts
GG Imports	Unique silver jewelry
Real Life Photos	Colorado scenic photos
The Silver Cactus	Quality sterling silver jewelry
Buttons & Bows	Clowns, balloon figures
Aart's Studio	Dutch: Scenic art
Estun-Bah	Yellow Bird Indian Dancers
Village Arts Coalition	Flowered head bands, festival information
Hmong Needle Work	Hmong: Tapestries, weavings
Tibet Gallery	Tibet & Nepal: Clothing, gifts
Tino Andes	Ecuador: Clothing, gifts
Mariposa	Indonesia: Clothing, gifts

The year's vendors showed a variety of products from around the world.



FESTIVAL BULLETIN BOARD: Between dance performances, visitors to the Festival could wander through the mall and/or learn more about the performing dance groups from its bulletin board.

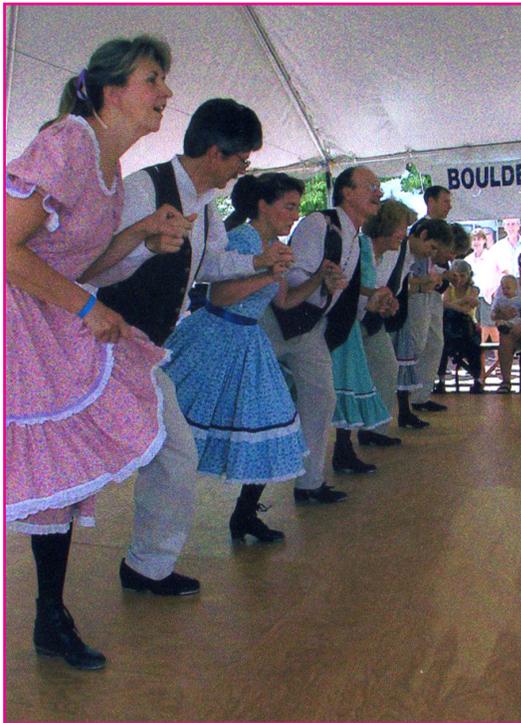
< Willard Cray has faithfully handled sound for the Festival since its beginning in 1990. He is free of city oversight because of his reputation as a proven technician. Willard has danced with Calico & Boots for many years, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Boulder Dance Coalition (formerly VAC.)

2007, June 14 ~ 15

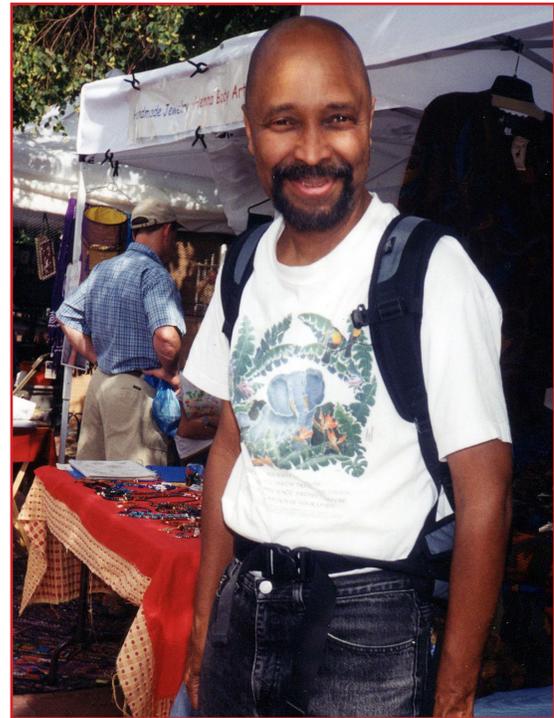
Ballet Folklórico Mexicano featured dancers of many different ages.



Donna Shonle assumed responsibility for coordination of **BOULDER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**. After more than a decade of this annual production, and with the changes in location and operation, volunteer involvement began to change. Coordination had become more complicated, involving permits for locations and food sales as well as applications for funding. There were regulations to be met and requirements to be addressed. A crew of enthusiastic volunteers was still available, primarily through BIFD. A much larger crowd of spectators stayed for longer periods of time at this location, because chairs and protection from the elements were available under the tent.



The Hoofin' High Country Cloggers showed off American clogging.



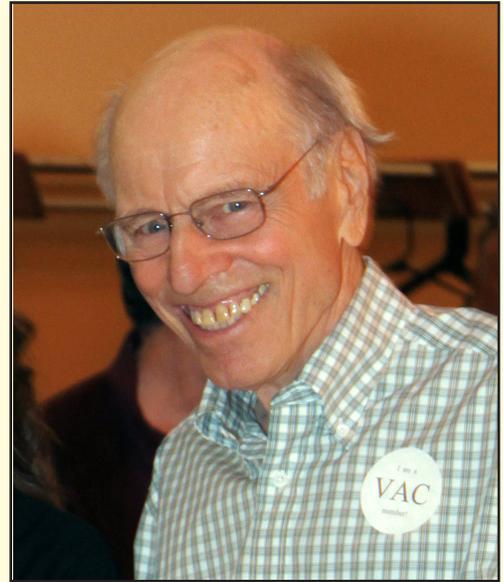
The charismatic **Skip Ellis** for several years taught simple folk dances for the public and performed with the Israeli Dancers.

The movable plywood floor, having taken a beating for twenty years, was in desperate need of replacement. **Ingvar Sodal** took on the project of designing a floor and heading a construction crew. The crew, included: **Dan Anderson, Christy Barden, Rod Frehlich, Duffy Keith, Tom Masterson, Jerry Olson, Phil Rice, and Alex (Tink) Wilson**. They worked for several weeks constructing a unique and superior sprung floor for dancing (see following page.)

2007 Building the new floor..



Phil Rice, Jerry Olson, Rod Frehlich and Dan Anderson joined the volunteer crew building the new floor.



Among his many contributions to the festival, Ingvar Sodal designed the new floor and served as foreman of its construction.



< Nancy Keith and Sally Sodal join the gents in giving the new floor its first dance.

Celebrating completion: After the building was done, the crew, their friends and spouses sat down to feast on the Sodal's deck.



2008, June 13 ~ 14

Marshall Shapiro became coordinator of the newly designated **VILLAGE ARTS COALITION (VAC) INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**. The VAC Board determined that the name of the festival should indicate its sponsor to increase awareness in the community.

The VAC booth was always the information center for the Festival. It had a tent with tables, but was makeshift at best. In 2008 **Chuck Palmer** built a wood cabinet in three sections, which provided a master booth. It was adorned with large photographs for the center of the Festival. Vinoks, the colorful, flowered Ukrainian headbands, created by volunteers, continued to be for sale. Information and publicity items for dance classes and events were available for the public there.

That same year the **Village Arts Coalition**, in partnership with **Chuck Palmer**, purchased property at 6185 Arapahoe. This would become the **AVALON BALLROOM**. And with its purchase, the dance community volunteers had a new, exciting project in working together to construct a ballroom floor. Other styles of dancing had become popular, and participation in international dance and music had declined.

CALICO & BOOTS:

>
Participants since the festival's inception, Boulder square dance group Calico and Boots always gave fun and colorful performances, here sweeping the women off their feet.



Below: the group's performances were sometimes enhanced by live music.





Bobbie Kayser, Jerry Accettura and friends enjoy the Saturday evening open dancing.

That year **Hermine Higgins**, the VAC Manager, assumed coordination of the festival. This was a responsibility added to her part time position. Volunteer enthusiasm for the event was waning. Earlier enthusiasts were aging and the festival had reached a point where routine duties were handled by paid staff. Volunteers were still vital for specific tasks.

Ilana Bar-or, who had recruited and scheduled performances for the preceding eight years, turned over that big job to **Bev Baker**. Bev continues to find amazing talent and to schedule a fine combination of dance, music and teaching of easy dances for the public into the current year of 2014.

2009 was the year of constant weekend rain. Water was running down, from County court house property on the north, onto the dance floor. A different type of floor was used that year. It was made up of large, heavy plastic squares that connected closely together. It got a severe workout and held up well with much flooding and mopping. The use of that floor has continued.

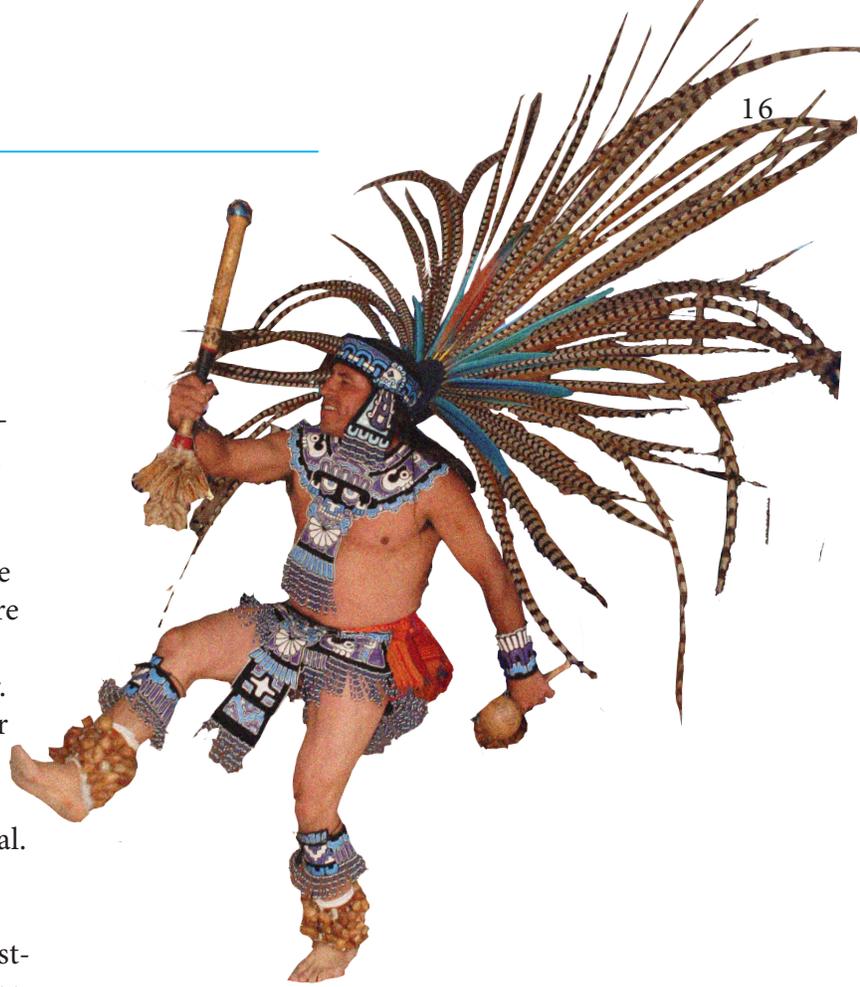


Julie Lancaster's Balkan band BARBELFISH played for open dancing. Here Julie is joined by bandmate Meagan Chandler (left).

Hermine continued to manage the festival, with support from the Festival Committee. Volunteers would arrive late Friday afternoon to set up the VAC booth, lay out vendor spaces, construct the floor, hang flags, help with sound system and changing tents, everything. Lyn Mead's traditional jam session under the tent was unavailable that year.

As an alternative, the Committee decided to invite open dancing for the public, and Scootback Square Dance Club offered to host the event. Dancers arrived wearing their attractive square dance gear. They brought their old time music and their caller for the dance moves. Mall evening crowds were invited to join in. It was a great success and has become the annual opening session for the Festival.

In an effort to increase interest and excitement between scheduled events, our coordinator suggested a drawing, with dance related prizes such as free dance classes. The promotion was offered that year, but did not draw enthusiastic response and was discontinued.



Traditional dance costumes have always been an exciting part of the festival's presentations, including the popular Danza Azteca.



Girls from the Bohua Chinese School brought charm to their performance.

2011, June 21 ~ 23

Another creative idea: the Festival Committee suggested that it might be beneficial, in promoting the event, to provide festival T-shirts for volunteers to wear. Requests were publicized for festival logo proposals to be used on T-shirts. A stipend was offered, and the logo was used for publicity as well as for shirts. Somehow, the effort was not enthusiastically received, and T-shirts were scarcely worn by volunteers after that first year. The logo however is still being successfully used in publicity.

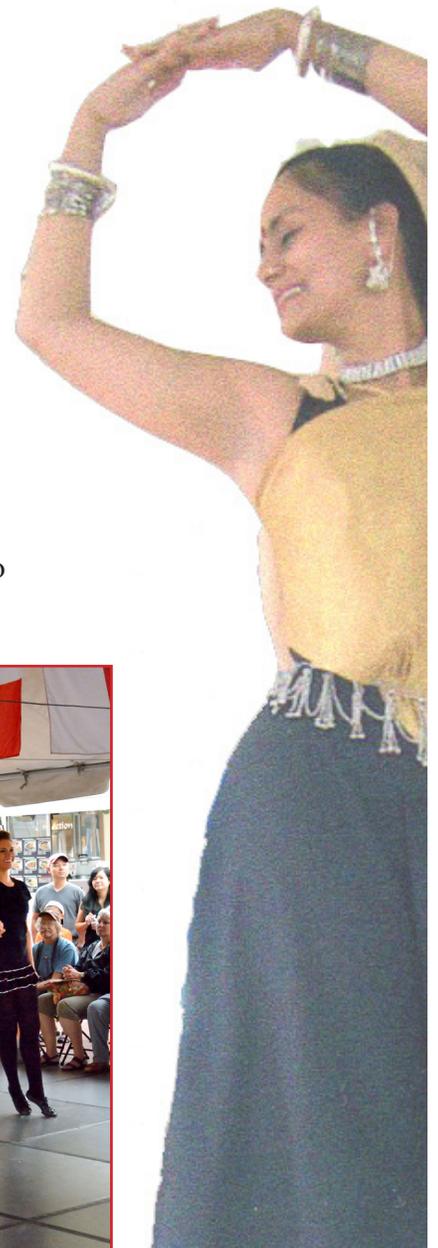


The Festival had always been self-supporting via vendor fees, fish bowl donations, and grants from the Human Relations Commission. With the cost of T-shirts, the event had to be subsidized by the VAC Board. This called into question the continuation of the tremendous effort and reduction of interest and participation by the dance community. The Festival was continued with stipulation that financial support from the VAC Board would be limited.

2012, June 22 ~ 24

Hermine Higgins resigned her position as VAC Manager and International Festival Coordinator. **Jim Schwartzkopff** was chosen to coordinate the International Festival. Jim has a background in festival management, and took over production quite late for detailed planning. His fundraising within the business community was fruitful however, and he came through with a successful festival, on budget, with a \$65 surplus!

A small group of dedicated volunteers were on board to set-up and take-down. A few became stand-in emcees. **Otto Verdoner** brought such high energy and humor to the job of emceeing that donations to the *fish bowl* exceeded all other years.



>
Elizabeth Van Noy's Celtic Steps School of Irish Dance has performed in the festival for the past five years. The daughter of John and Sondra Barton, Elizabeth (second from left) grew up in the dance community and is now a world-class Irish dancer.



2013, June 27 ~ 29

Festival planning started more effectively that year with Jim doing additional fundraising in the community. Festival flyers in color were widely distributed. A small group of strong men volunteered to construct the floor, a few others completed the set-up for the booth and the festival came together with little effort. It had become routine after more than a decade of practice.

That was the first year Stan Wilkes was not responsible for vendors. He had always collected sales tax from those with no license. Jim learned that it was no longer necessary for the contractor to collect taxes.



The Japanese women drummers brought good vibrations to the mall.

2014, June 20 ~ 22

Set-up was started early on Friday afternoon. Jim had arranged for heavy work to be done by some of the young staff of Fuzeboxe Fitness Club. Dance volunteers drove the truck to bring supplies from the Avalon. They set up the booth, hung the flags, and helped Willard with his sound and dancer change tents.

In May 2013, the VAC Board changed the name of the Village Arts Coalition to **Boulder Dance Coalition**. THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL is also undergoing significant changes with a new name, and by moving toward a more accomplished production level. It seemed to be time for the VAC INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL to be professionally produced.

Jim applied for and received funding from the Alex (Tink) Wilson Legacy Fund in support of this change. The Boulder Human Relations Commission denied allocation of funds for the 2015 festival, in favor of funding to Postoley, **Tom Masterson's** summer evening of International Folk Dancing near the Dushanbe Tea House. Additional granting sources are being explored.

For 25 years the INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL has entertained and educated the public about world culture with lively demonstrations of music, dance and other folk arts. In 2015, with **Jim Schwartzkopff's** skillful guidance as the Festival Coordinator, members of the dance community are dedicated to continuing this traditional event into the future.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the following for their help with this document:

- Anne Vickery, for excellent recording of the event over the years, and the majority of the photographs.
- Maggie Butler, for the cover composite, earlier photographs, her editing help.
- Ingvar Sodal, for pictures and information about the new floor.
- Bev Baker, for clarification of the dance groups.
- Julie Lancaster, for help with identification of participants, and her editing help.
- Barbara Roach, for locating the picture dancing in the rain.
- Hermine Higgins, for sharing memories of what happened when.
- Marshall Shapiro, for photograph identification.
- Sally Sodal for her editing help.
- Steward Hartman for providing (much less taking) photographs.



This publication is dedicated to the memory of Alex (Tink) Wilson, who was one of the original founders and who continued active involvement throughout the remainder of his life.