

H O O L Y E N

## 25th Anniversary Party

*a benefit for  
JSSH Emergency Relief Fund*



*Saturday  
December 29th  
6-7 p.m. Potluck  
7:30- ?? Party*

*dance program*

*exhibitions*

*requests*

### Join in the FUN!!

\$2.00 Adults

\$1.00 Students

Senior Center Ballroom  
2601 NW Tyler  
Corvallis, Oregon

PLEASE BRING SNACKS

Sponsored by the Corvallis Parks and Recreation Dept.



Jay also encouraged Ron Bell, our beginning folk dance teacher. I believe he said he started in 1983 when Jerry Duke taught at the Hoolyeh Festival. Ron was in high school then. I remember him dancing a few years later. He learned dances so quickly and was a mentor to many older dancers.

I remember Patsy Shreve, our intermediate folk dance teacher, from my first weeks of dancing with Rosa on Saturdays. She made me feel welcomed. She's out of town now, so I can't ask her, but I know she danced with Irma Weir and Kathy Kerr at OSU and has performed in several groups and goes to Stockton almost every year.

Coreen Casey replaced Dina in about 1985. She had come to Corvallis to get a Master's degree. Folk dance is a passion of hers and she says she knows about 300 dances, but every time she tries to learn more, something has to go. She can't remember more than 300. Coreen loved Scottish Country Dancing and taught a class at the OSU Experimental College. She has now finished her degree and taken a job and started a folk dance group in Idaho.

After Jay resigned in 1985, Sandy Simowitz became the director just long enough to put on a wonderful 20th anniversary party. Michelle Grismer, a folk dancer from Kathy Kerr's classes at OSU, also taught. Mary Bucy then became the Director from 1986-1988 and Patsy Shreve and I taught the Beginning class while Mary, Dave and Coreen taught the adults and Dana Poling taught the children. Mary and her steady volunteer, Dave, re-instituted many of the dances they remembered from earlier Hoolyeh times. Mary started the highly successful Beginner's Festival in 1987 so that beginners could enjoy a festival without being overwhelmed with difficult dances. Finally, in the Fall of 1988 I became the director.

I have enjoyed watching Hoolyeh's evolve. It's exciting to watch the enthusiasm of new dancers discovering the dances and making them their own, just as my daughter and I did not so long ago. The Hoolyeh slogan, "Let's get together and have fun" remains at the heart of all we do. But things continue to evolve: Saturday mornings at the Senior Center ballroom with Dana Poling now include a movement/exploration time for parents and young children (age 1-5) before the regular dance time for Kindergarten through 3rd graders. The Junior Hoolyeh Performance Group has included 20-25 children for the past three years. They now perform on Monday evenings. Because dancers really wanted a wooden floor, we moved beginning dancing to Mondays in 1988, and this year added a joint intermediate session so that everyone can dance together during the recreational, request time. On Friday's, Sandy Siegienski teaches the teens, followed by open recreational, family folk dancing. Sandy started dancing just two years ago when she entered OSU, and learned quickly from Kathy Kerr, Julie Reed, and Hoolyeh teachers, as well as attending Stockton both summers.

After Coreen left, in 1988, Michelle Grismer came back to teach many dances she'd learned at OSU. Bob and Luella Henderson started what might be called the "Hoolyeh Country Folk Dancers" to keep alive the many dances Coreen had taught them and to learn more. Corvallis has had a generous amount of excellent dancers willing to teach: Michael Onstad returned in 1988, Janet Binker, Steve and Julie Reed, Ellen Young, Tom Binker, Denis White, Marty Roberts, Dana Poling, Elliott Zais, Don Main, Michelle Grismer and Les Berg. Until she left for Iowa in 1989, Kathy Kerr was a frequent guest teacher and dancer. There have also been visitors from Israel (Moshe and Hadas Kress) and Sweden (Torgney and Inge) and recently France (Erwan Loret) who have taught us special dances.

Thanks to Vic Amoth, we now have a new dance list! Weeks before computer Ken Yates used to create the Hoolyeh Dance List in the 70's was to be shut down, Frank Griswald helped to get the dance list converted from tape to disk. Vic then began the lengthy process of converting it to a data base and adding in all of the tapes and new records. The first draft of the printout is ready for its first test at the 25th Anniversary party. Thanks also to Ron Bell for starting the major job of taping the entire record collection. He's archived all of the 78's and 45's! Now that I've started, it's difficult not to try to thank everyone. No doubt I'll miss a few, but I don't want any readers to believe that a director



can do much at all. As Hildred said, she had lots of help. Each person has their own special way of helping. Sometimes it might be by having a beautiful smile, a willingness to help newcomers, or to mop the floor, seeing what needs doing and doing it.

To give a true view of Hoolyeh's I must also cheer our get-togethers at Jay and Linda's, the Hendersons, the Deardorffs, the Amoths, with Ken Trammell at Mazama Lodge, and at the McMechan's. The refreshments at festivals have been so good in recent years that the Afterparty dances have been starting almost an hour late because everyone's still eating!! Thanks to Karen Gelderman, Leona Deardorff and Arleen Libertini, Luella Bell, Siegrid Quarry, Lydia Amoth, and Adrian Bonosevich. And thanks to those who are always willing to help clean up: Borg Christensen, Tom Binker, Jim Deardorff, Vic Amoth and Bob Henderson. Those who help provide music: Denis White and Steve Reed. Other key volunteers are Denise Purdy, John and Peggy Dearing, Carolyn Brown, Jim Hall, Ross and Debbie Jackson, Mary Bucy, Helen Horvath, Louis and Arleen Libertini, Jane Thomas, Jeanette Nasset, Jim and Sue Noel, Debbie Pierce, Rebecca Gitschlag and Claude Winter.

Most of you don't know much about the role of the Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department. Dan Eden is once again my direct supervisor and mentor, as he was Hildred's, Jay's and Mary's. But Pete Gutierrez and Patti Eberhardt played important roles from 1988-90. The office staff, Laura Jones, Vicki and Janet also help to make administrative tasks go smoothly. Dan, Vicki, and Patti have enjoyed dancing, too!

Through all the years of folk dancing, Betty McCauley has been another key force. Michael Onstad said he remembers her always being there in the 60's and now, she's always there saying, "You're doing a good job" and helping wherever she can. Hildred Rice and Jay Thatcher and Mary Bucy and Michael Onstad continue to help in many ways. Kay Dick has been another key support person for me personally and for the Hoolyeh's since 1966. And, for all of us, I thank the current teaching staff: Patsy Shreve, Ron Bell, Dana Poling, and Sandy Siegienski. And most of all, I thank Bill and Rosa.

When I first started dancing, I heard only the music. It was just me and the music. I knew very few people because I danced every dance. Now, when I think of Hoolyeh's, I think first of the people. Thank you all for making the Hoolyeh's possible.

#### **Today's Junior Hoolyeh Performance Group:**

Thanks to Dana Poling, Director of the Junior Hoolyeh Performance Group and the Children's Folk Dance Program since 1985. She started folk dancing in the Parks and Recreation program when she was 6 years old. She danced with Howdy Booster and Mrs. Butts for about three years. Then she started dancing again with Kathy Kerr at OSU and taught the Junior Hoolyeh's in 1979-80. In the past year they have performed at the Majestic Theater opening, the Independence Festival, Hoolyeh Festival, the BARC benefit concert, and at schools, nursing homes, the Grace Center Day Care Strawberry Festival, and Girl Scout Thinking Day.

Thanks also to Anne White, Parent Coordinator of the Junior Hoolyeh's all the other parents who support the dancers with transportation, phoning, making and paying for costumes, and by being their best audience. Thanks to all the dancers who share their enthusiasm for folk dance with the community. They gave an excellent performance this year at the "Russian Christmas" benefit for the Presbyterian Church choir which will soon be visiting Corvallis' Sister City in the Soviet Union. On December 17th they took a few minutes to write and draw about dancing with the group:

**Kaci Anderson:** I think dancing is special because it helps me build up my courage and I think it's fun. Sometimes I get bored and don't want to go, but I always do because I end up always having

fun. I'm glad it moved to Monday's because I did not get to watch very many cartoons when it was on Saturdays. I also like having Dana for a teacher and I like to learn dances from different cultures.

**Shannon Anderson:** Dancing is exercise. Dancing is lots of practicing and performing.

**Maria Church:** People have different ways to express their feelings. Some people express their feelings in art or writing poetry. I like dancing because it makes you relax. I have been in this dance group for three years and I love it!

**Sara Fels:** I like dancing because it is exciting and challenging.

**Kristy Hewett:** I have been dancing for about two months. I really like it. My favorite dance is the Doudlebska Polka. But I really like all of them.

**Mary Anne Hewett:** I have been dancing for about two months. I really like it because it's fun and I love it. My favorite dances are the Polka and Ciuleandra. I can't wait to learn more.

**Robin Hibbs:** I think dancing is fun because it teaches me fun dances that I did not know before.

**Kuyanna Lehman:** I love to dance. I have been dancing for three years. I day dream about dancing a lot. For two years I was in a preschool group. Then my dad talked me into ballet. My Mom looked around, but it was too expensive and the folk dancing was only ten dollars a year. And now I'm in the performance group.

**Lily Mathre:** I think dancing is fun, very, very fun. I think it is a lot more fun with Dana teaching it.

**Carol Mathre** also dances with the Junior Hoolyeh's.

**Rosa McMechan;** When my mother first dragged me (kicking and screaming) to dancing at the age of 6 I thought folk dancing was the stupidest thing in the world. (Part of it was because the girl I was "forced" to dance with thought I was the most "uncoordinated" thing ever.) But my folkdance teacher was patient and found time to help everyone be better dancers. Two years later I joined the Junior Hoolyeh's and I am still here today, enjoying being the older girl, enjoying dancing.

**Amber Pierce:** I like dancing because it is fun to perform, practice each week and learn new dances.

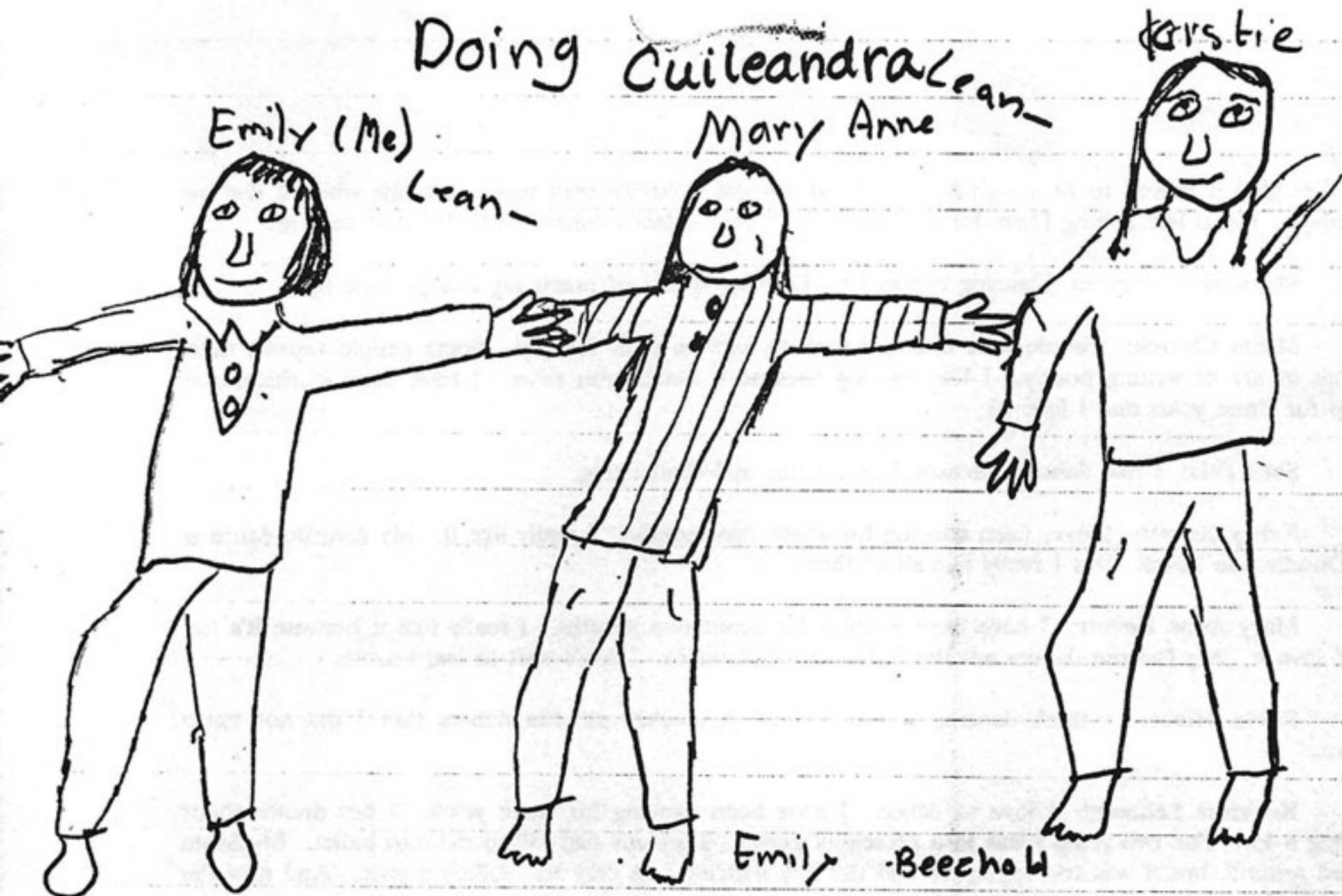
**Kate Schori:** I like folk dancing because it is very fun and active. You [Dana] are the best teacher of all!

**Chandra Seibel:** I have been dancing for three years. It's great. I like dancing because I have fun and you should join. I also like dancing because it uses energy. My favorite dance is Hora Or.

**Rhiannon Thomas:** I like dancing because I get lots of exercise, we have nice costumes, and my friends come here.

**Evelyn Wambui:** Dancing is fun. It's not hard to learn. It's quite easy. You get used to it. For example, my best dance is Korobushka. It's an easy dance. I learned more quickly than the others. It's a long dance, but I learned so fast. Some people think that dancing is hard. It's easy. Get to know it. Get used to it. If you take your time and practice, you'll get to know it. But if you don't practice, you will not get to know it. But dancing is very easy. [Evelyn came to Corvallis from Kenya this year.]





Jessalyn Epstein

I love danceing! It is COOL!

Picture

DANCEING  
IS  
COOL!!!

Dorothy White: I like dancing because it's fun and I get to go to different places in different towns. Also, I get lots of exercise too. I also get to miss part of school and I like doing things with my feet. I like dancing because I like dressing up and we dress up in costumes.

Jessica White: When I joined the first year I was here it seemed fun. I had no idea that most of the year we'd be working on dances to perform. Sometimes it was hard to cooperate and continue. I did and I'm glad I'm still dancing!

Emily Beezhold: See drawing opposite  
←

Jessalyn Epstein: See drawing opposite  
←

