



Israeli Folk Dancing Club Inc.

Postal address: The Secretary, PO Box 477, Elsternwick, Victoria 3185

Established 1988

Incorporation No. A0018887H ABN No. 83 008 797 893

www.nirkoda.org

Email: nirkodamelbourne@gmail.com

Newsletter July 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2010



In November 2010, Nirkoda will be turning 22. Nirkoda has run most of the classes for the past 22 years at the Uniting Church Hall, Booran Rd Ormond. We have had a wonderful association with the Church over that time and they have tried very hard to address the concerns voiced by you, Nirkoda's loyal membership. Unfortunately, the Church has been unable to effectively cool or heat the hall and maintain the floor.

As a result from December to March, we have had to relocate classes to the air conditioned Cedar Street which has only been available due to the generosity of the Italian Club, obviously not a long-term prospect.

The Nirkoda Committee values your input. We have been searching for the past 18 months to find an available, centrally located hall, suitable for all seasons with a wooden sprung floor - quite a challenge!!!

The Committee is delighted to announce Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday classes will be held here at St Aloysius Primary School, a beautiful, centrally located venue. Both Thursday classes will remain at their respective locations - Thursday night class at Booran Rd and Thursday morning class at Birch St.

Nirkoda dancers can now dance at an improved facility with state-of-the-art sound equipment and the club's unique data projector. The improved facility obviously adds to the club's running costs. Price increases are therefore unavoidable but the Committee has endeavoured to keep these increases to an absolute minimum. From August 1st 2010 single entry will be \$10 (Members) and \$12 (Non Members). The Nirkoda Blue Members Card will be \$115 but Nirkoda Membership is unchanged at \$20 per annum.

2010 has been busy for Nirkoda. Our innovative Beginners Structured Program provided a Gold Pass Card to New Beginners for only \$40. This enabled a Beginner to use this UNLIMITED Entry Card to any of our beginners' classes over an 8 week period (i.e. 32 classes for \$40). All beginners' dances were uniformly taught at every class requiring planning and co-ordination between all your teachers - a real team effort. The feedback from the many dancers was very positive and Nirkoda plans to introduce this program again later this year.

Nirkoda continues its involvement with the community and schools. Dancing at King David Fete in March, with other groups at the Yom Ha'atzmaut Concert in April and performing at the Rotary Dance Expo in May. A combined camp in March 2011 will bring all 4 groups together - a hugely significant and exciting prospect.

Sagi Azran returns to Melbourne by public demand to run our camp in August 2010. Our camp accommodation is a 4 STAR motel, Brooklands of Mornington. The dance venue Mt Eliza Community Centre is only 10 minutes from our accommodation and has a sprung wooden floor. This camp promises to be very comfortable and fun-filled. I am also thrilled to

announce that not only is Sagi coming, but he will be accompanied by Sharon Elkaslassy. Sagi and Sharon choreographed Rov Hashaot and Paamoney Habalkan. Sharon has also choreographed several dances in his own right. Wait till you see the energy of these 2 young, talented men!

The 2009/2010 Committee has worked incredibly hard. Helen Rawicki our extraordinary Treasurer has been strong, organized and has stream-lined a very important role, Denise Setton has been our Secretary, methodical and organized, Denise Borghi my Vice President has been tireless, generous with her time and so focused on the best for Nirkoda. Denise is always looking for new dances, learning new material and keeping abreast of the dance world. Both Hillary and Marlena are so practical and level-headed and an integral part of the successful functioning of this group. The 09/10 committee has been innovative, thoughtful and strong. I thank them all so much.

A special thank you to Martin who covers all things technical, sound, computer and music. His work is invaluable, greatly appreciated and performed with the minimum of fuss. A special thank you to Marg Frawley for helping while Helen was away. Thank you also to those who have baked, cut fruit, decorated and helped with the Beginners Classes.

Team work, professionalism and mutual respect are crucial to a smooth working teaching staff. Ilana, Rita, Marg, Rosie and Denise certainly have that. Preparing, planning, meeting, learning dances and working together are all tasks of Nirkoda's wonderful teaching staff. I thank each of them for their tireless work, enormous energy, support and high teaching standards. Marg will be facing some difficult times ahead. We wish Gravin our love and best wishes.

My 3 years as President is ending tonight. I promised John that 3 years was a fair and reasonable time. John has been my rock, supporter and silent listener. I have sought advice from him and he has been on the receiving end of my frustration more times than I care to remember. Our children are also ready for more of my attention as is our 1st grandchild.

I look back with pride over what we have achieved during the time I have been privileged to be President of Nirkoda. There have been some wonderful achievements, some very innovative decisions, a strategy and pathway to the future.

I would like to think that if I have left any legacy, it is that Nirkoda is a happy and extremely friendly place to dance.

I extend my best wishes and support to the incoming committee.

JUDI BANKY
JULY 2010

Interview with Haya Elisha –
Award Winning Dancer

Haya was born in Jerusalem, the first girl after 6 brothers. Her father was keen on having a daughter, and then after her they had twin girls, giving them a total of eight surviving children. One of her younger sisters migrated to Australia, and sponsored Haya and her husband to come here, in 1953. By then they had had their three sons, and the youngest was only one year old.

Haya's excellent English is due to her schooling at the renowned "Rothschild" school, which assisted her integration into Australia. The effort to come to Australia took many applications, and at one stage the Australian government withdrew their visas. Her family all worked very hard and they have established successful careers, in various areas.

I asked her how long she had been dancing, she tells me her sister in law had brought her to Nirkoda twelve years ago. Haya had previously wanted to learn, but her late husband discouraged her, from it. She was widowed fourteen years ago, and was keen to try it then. So how else does Haya spend her time? She has devoted herself to her family which now consists of 3 sons, 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren!

Her recent award was not for dancing, but for 50 years of volunteer service to "Bnai Brith" where she has visited elderly members of the Melbourne community, including "Brotherhood of St Laurence" clients. The people come to be entertained, are given afternoon tea, or are visited in their homes by Haya.

I asked her what she gets out of dancing, (twice a week) and she said she loves the music in her native language, and enjoys the benefit of exercise, without feeling that it is an effort.

All of this is even more astounding when you look at this immaculately groomed woman, and realize that she is eighty six years old! We wish her "Mazeltov" on her remarkable achievements and hope she continues to enjoy dancing and her lovely family.

Denise S



Haya Elisha

From Nirkoda Events 2010:



Australia Day 26th of January



Partners Marathon 7th of March



Nirkoda Performance Troupe 23rd of May



Purim 2nd of March



Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration



Purim 2nd of March

Class Reports

Thursday Morning Class

(held at Birch Street, Scout Hall, South Caulfield.

9AM – 10AM Beginners 10 AM – 12MD Intermediate.)

The Gold Card Beginners Programme held from February 2010 was very successful. Congratulations to the dancers who undertook the series, and for their persistence in continuing to learn and attend regularly. Every 6 to 7 weeks a “dance through” is held for the intermediate members to enable them to get through 125 dances in their repertoire, and for members to enjoy their favourite dances. Several of the class dancers also attended other Nirkoda classes.

New dances recently introduced too the class in 2010 include:

El Elohey Shamayim – God, Master of the Universe – Avner Naim 1995

Hachol Yizkor – The Sand will Remember – Gadi Bitton – 2010

Kanir’eh – Apparently – Yaron Ben Simchon – 2010

Cumbia Semana (Proved to be a great success!!!) – Line Dance by Ira Weisburd.

Many thanks to Ilana Cohen who is rostered when available during school holidays. A warm welcome to Mary Hoenig who has joined our Thursday morning class. Rosie Tusia and I work together as a team to present a challenging but interesting dance and music program for the members.

Special appreciation to Frankie Paper and Nina Borg for their help in welcoming members to the class during door duty, while Gravin is away following

his recent surgery. Gravin is slowly recovering and sends his greetings and thanks to all for their cards and well wishes. I am deeply appreciative of your support and care for both of us during this unexpected stay for Gravin in hospital.

Margaret R Robinson
Nirkoda Teacher

Thursday Night Class – mid year report.

We are well into the year now, and I am pleased to report Ilana and myself have been kept on our toes (so to speak Ha Ha!!) keeping up with the new beginners and their enthusiasm learning new dances.

After a very successful intake, our new members have been amazing, learning circles, lines and PARTNERS!

The other dancers in the group have shown their support and encouragement, and its made a great difference in the achievements of the class, as well as extending their own knowledge of partner dances.

Ilana and I would like to thank the entire class for their support and we will continue to bring you the classics as well as the latest popular dances from workshops around the world and Australia.

For the more advanced members we ask that you put aside the dates of our camp with Sagi, as we think you would enjoy the experience in so many ways.

Happy dancing!!!

Ilana and Rosie

Sunday Night Class

Our Sunday partners group continues to grow and we are delighted to welcome new partner dancers to this night.

Everyone is progressing and building up their repertoire and we have bridged some very popular dances to the newer members, such as: **Lagaat BaMayim** and **Al Temaher**.

We have also revised some dances on request which include **Ma SheBeneinu**,

Chai Lemaanech and Shoveret Galim.

A very popular dance "Rov HaShaot" that Sagi taught last year always brings much vocal fun when played (yes we sing along!) and we look forward to his return in August to teach us more great material.

Come and join this very friendly group and discover the special enjoyment that partner dancing brings.

Thanks to Martin for his help with the beginners and to Uri for the rest of the night!

A big thank you to the teachers who covered my absence in May while I worked in India. (and no, I did not get to dance there...)

Happy dancing!
Denise

Tuesday night is the highlight of the Nirkoda week! With a full room of dancers we consistently have a fun, energetic and warm place to catch up with friends, learn a new hit and revise some old classics.

Starting with partners at 7:30 – 8:00 we have a keen group who are enjoying learning this repertoire, some for the first time after many years of circles and some returning to partners. REMEMBER - the teachers will always share around and partner you if you wish to join this time slot.

We have taught some great new circles this year including the most popular circle dances voted in Israel for 2009 - Kama Ahava Yesh Be'Eneich by Shiker and Elohim Taase SheNigdal by Shmulik.

Our most recently taught dance Sfinoteha (her ships) by Rafi Ziv is already a favourite and if you listen really closely you can hear the places she sails to, in her imagination - Iceland, Argentina and New Zealand.

We complete the night with an hour of partners, making sure we dance the ones revised in the early time slot again.

See you on the dance floor
The Tuesday Team.

Saturday Revision Class

What a wonderful year 2010 has turned out to be with a huge number of Saturday Class devotees!!

Our Saturday Revision Class covers all levels, Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced over a 3 hour period.

Nirkoda's New Beginners Program has brought some very keen dancers to Saturday. Paying just \$40 for 8 weeks UNLIMITED use, many dancers have attended 3 classes or more per week.

Intermediate dancers have come a little later in the afternoon and found themselves staying longer - a sign that their standard and repertoire has increased and improved.

Tuesday Advanced dancers have had many dances bridged on a Saturday (they continue to request current and older dances they have seen at other classes!!)

"Theme" workshops will also feature in the year ahead.

Saturday's favourite dances include Mei Hanechalim, Minei Kolech, Salamati, Hazmana Lemachol, Hora Ben, Al Salsalim and Dudu.

A special thank you to Marg who continues to be a wonderful help each and every week.

**Thanks to all who support the class .
Judi Banky and Ilana Cohen**



Marathon Queens Birthday

MARATHON QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

Around 50 keen dancers joined us in one of our new venues (Foch St). Judi has been looking for alternative halls that we can use when Booran Rd is unavailable or when we dance late, and this hall although a bit squishy has a great floor and is recently renovated.

We danced 150 dances during the night including many requests and many dances that tested our memories!

Our circle only dancers had the floor from 8 - 10, then we alternated about 4 circles with 4 partners until just after 11 pm, when our partner dancers took over and danced till 1 am. Some of the dances we have not danced for ages:

Sababa
Mishpachat Tzanaani
Agadat Hasultan
Chatul Rechov
Meohav
Nirkoda Lashalom (for Peter)
Ko'ach Lehamshich
Zorba Disco - L
Stav Yisraeli - p
Gan Eden - p
Sigalot - p
Shoshanat Sfrarad - p

Nirkoda would like to thank the Victorian government for these Monday public holidays!

Denise B & Denise S



Marathon Queens Birthday



Marathon Queens Birthday

BRAND NEW T-SHIRTS

It has been 2 years since Nirkoda printed the very successful "20 years" T shirts – they were a comfortable style, great material and long lasting.

By public demand, we are producing another lot. Keeping the same price as 2 years ago (\$20), with a new design, these will be available pre-camp on Tue 23rd August.

We're very grateful to **Boo Radley (Women's Fashion)** who helped us with the T-shirts.

DON'T MISS OUT!!



NEW PRICE STRUCTURE, as of 1st of AUGUST 2010.

To cover rising costs, the price of classes will need to be increased as follows:

- \$10 members CASH
- \$12 non members CASH
- Nirkoda Members Card \$115 - 12 CLASSES (\$9.58 / CLASS)

The Nirkoda Club Membership will remain at \$20 per annum.

Entry fees for Blue Centrelink Card Holders will not change.

We have endeavoured to keep prices as low as possible and have made this increase to provide an improved quality of equipment and venues.

Prices are never adjusted without considerable deliberation and we value your continued dancing support.

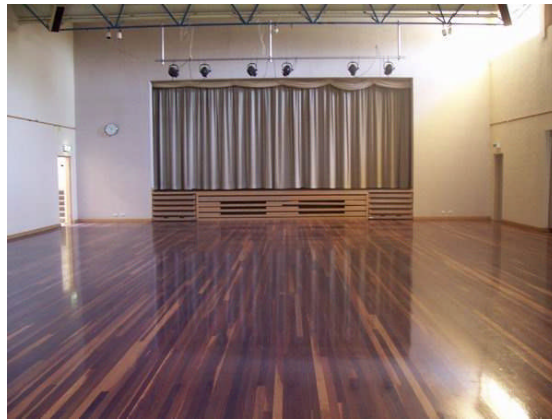
NIRKODA

Nirkoda is thrilled to welcome back the vibrant and magical

Sagi Azran

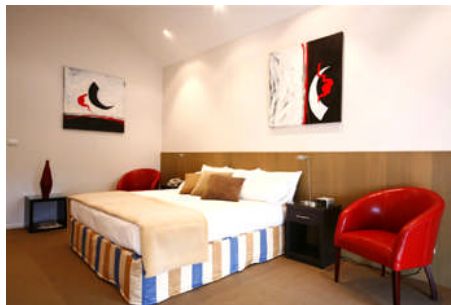
CAMP DATE: Friday 27th to Sunday 29th August 2010

DANCE VENUE: Mt Eliza Community Centre, 90 Canadian Bay Rd, Mt Eliza.



Mt Eliza Community Hall...see that floor!!!

ACCOMMODATION: Brooklands, 99 Tanti Ave, Mornington.



Go to www.nirkoda.org for full details, maps, pictures and registration form.

**A VERY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
TO ALL IFD DANCERS IN AUSTRALIA AND BEYOND!**

Hora, Machol, Nirkoda, & Zoos

are thrilled to bring you for the very first time,

a combined Melbourne Israeli Dance Camp

"RIKUD OZ" 2011

featuring the talents of 3 world renowned choreographers:

DUDU BARZILAY

SHLOMO MAMAN

YARON CARMEL

Please save the date now!

**Friday 25th , Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th March 2011
(inclusive)**

Tell **ALL** your friends in Melbourne, Australia & worldwide.

N.B. This will be the only Camp/Workshop for 2011 in Melbourne!

More information to come.....