



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: information@nirkoda.org

Newsletter December 2005

President's Report

Dear Members and friends,

It has been an extremely busy half year since the new committee took over and we are all now preparing for the next event on the calendar which is our Camp at Clunes. December 9-11. The theme is Mad Hatters and Nursery Rhymes and I am looking forward to seeing you all in your mad hats for Shabbat dinner as well as preparing either a little bit of your own verse or a skit for our entertainment on Saturday evening.

It's really not that hard to come up with something. Pick any one you remember. I did this little bit in a flash to show you how easy it can be.

Mary had a little lamb
She took him with her dancing,
And every where that Mary went,
The lamb soon started prancing.

He followed her to CLUNES one day
That was against the rules,
But Lamby came back dancing debkas
And went to all the Shules.

So there you go, Hope this has sparked the old grey matter to come up with some funny or clever, (or as I was asked , Can it be x rated) ideas.

I would also like to mention the fabulous Spring Party we had with our guest grade 3 children and parents from East Bentleigh Primary School who performed some dances for us .They were a pleasure to watch and brought a happy and relaxed atmosphere into the room. We all cheered and supported them, and in turn danced along side them in our shared repertoire.

I would also like to thank our members for making our Cup Eve Marathon a success. The dancing went on to the early hours of the morning, with a few of the usual suspects still left standing.

And of course Happy 17th. Birthday to Nirkoda this month. Let us all charge our glasses and toast to the health and continued success of our club.

Thankyou to all those past and present committee's who have contributed to shaping the club over the years.

Currently we have 185 members.

As this will be my last report for this year, on behalf of my committee and myself I would like to wish every one happy holidays and safe travel if you are going on holidays, a Happy New Year and of course Happy dancing.!!

Rosie Tusia
President



Some Nirkoda Founders at the 17th Birthday Party

We have had a Great Series of Events this Year

Spring party

The hall was brightly decorated with flowers to herald the spring season. Colourful outfits, butterflies, headgear, members old and new enjoyed a great night of dancing. The highlight was Rosie's dance group of children from East Bentleigh Primary School and their parents who swelled the hall and much fun was had as all ages took to the floor and learnt some line and progressive dances.

Cup Eve Marathon 31st October

What a great event we had – with more than 60 dancers. Over 130 dances were played.

Last dancers left standing at 2.30am were:

Fay Mieszewicz

David Pinczower

Orna Roseby

They all won a bottle of wine.

An honourable mention to Jack and Ruth Steel who stayed until 2 am.

The decorations were effective and the horse pinata a real laugh as a masked Margaret R and others tried unsuccessfully to dislodge it. It took Eli and Dave Walker multiple attempts and much laughter before the head flew off and sweets were disgorged and shared around.

Thanks everyone – especially Judi who coped with packing and locking up and shlepping stuff back to Booran Road at the end of the night (with David P's help).

Nirkoda's 17th Birthday Party **15th November**

Nirkoda was proud to celebrate its 17th birthday on the 15th November. Members and friends were invited to toast to its continued success at a champagne and nibbles pre dancing get together, where past and present dancers came to look through old photo albums and reminisce .

It was great to see people from days gone by especially some who have been away overseas for many years return to try a new debka or two as well as remember the golden oldies.

Overall it was a fantastic night and many of us walked back through time matching dances with teachers and associating ourselves with different events over the years.

Thankyou to all those who attended. We appreciate your support.

As I always say YOU (the members) are what makes Nirkoda a success. ...

Rosie Tusia/President

Community participation

Two Nirkoda groups performed at Bialik Bazaar on the 13th November 05. Firstly, the Thursday am class of dancers under the guidance of Margaret Robinson who performed 3 circle dances – Im Kashe Lalechet,

Shir and Migavo'a.

Secondly, our dedicated and hard working Ilana has once again trained a group of dancers to perform at Community events. Congratulations to all, there were many rehearsals and it required a substantial commitment from everyone. They have done Nirkoda proud and promoted the joy of Israeli dancing.

6th November -community dancing session at Sholem Aleichem fete

13th November- Performance at Bialik Bazaar.

New Classes for 2005

Nirkoda committee is committed to increasing our numbers, to enhance participation at the advanced level, build up the partners group and continue our intake of beginners.

New beginner classes

Commenced on Thursday morning at Birch Street 9am – 10am with Margaret Robinson and also in the evening 7pm – 8pm at Booran Road with Denise Borghi and Judi Banky.

Please give a flyer to your friends and spread the word dancing is fun and great exercise. Bring along a work colleague, family member or friend.

Childrens Classes

Commenced at Miller Street, Elsternwick on the 26th October 4pm – 6pm for Children/PreTeens and early Teens with Rosie Tussia. A new initiative for Nirkoda. Please spread the word.

Rosie is pleased to report that the young teenage girls are giving her a real workout at this class.

Possible holiday timetable to follow.

Coming events

Clunes Camp (Near Ballarat) 9th – 11th December 2005 (Teacher run)

Come and enjoy a fantastic weekend away with non-stop dancing and great fun. Our theme this year is Mad Hatters Tea Party and your favourite Nursery Rhyme. Start organising your “skits” with a “twist” now for our concert on Saturday night and bring a special hat for the party on Friday night. Prize for Best Hat. Special Beginners sessions will be arranged.

Affordable, comfortable accommodation in cabins at Wesley Campus , great food, fellowship, dancing, and entertainment – **DON'T MISS IT.**

20th December – Chanuka Party and last day of dancing for 2005

Final **ALL** level party for 2005. Say good bye and exchange your seasons greetings and best wishes to your teachers and friends.

Dudu Barzilai workshop - (Melbourne based)

30th March – 2nd April 2006

Put the date in your diary **NOW.**

Dudu is a popular Israeli Choreographer and will be our guest for this workshop teaching his own and many dances old and new. We expect dancers from other clubs and have already had interest shown from interstate and New Zealand.

Please let the Committee know whether you would be able to billet dancers for this special workshop.

A big Thankyou to all teaching staff.

Judi and Rosie would like to thank the teachers for their enormous efforts while they were on their overseas holidays. Thankyou also to Uri Kreiser for helping out with the partners class on Wednesday nights and welcome to Rita Fischman rejoining staff on Monday nights after a long break.

We both know what a huge extra commitment was needed - Committee and teacherwise; and now know we can do it again. (only joking)!

Just so you know – Rosie did do some P.R. for Nirkoda when she danced in Munich. Some 15 quite advanced dancers meet weekly in a small hall to dance the latest dances. They have workshops with choreographers and she invited Matti Goldschmidt who runs the classes to be our guest when he comes to Australia.



Community dancing at the Sholem Aleichem College Fete in November 2005

Websites

Don't forget to check Nirkoda's dynamic website keeping you up to date with latest events and current class news: www.nirkoda.org

I'm sure you are all enjoying the colourful flyers which are Hillary H's creation and our great website with photos which Helen R. continually updates.

For matters relating to Jewish culture, coming events, Hebrew songs, Israeli dancing etc. see JewishAustralia.com and IsraeliDances.com.

Acknowledgement

Nirkoda acknowledges the Glen Eira City Council for a \$500 grant to be used for special activities at the Gladys Machin Hall. Our recent Cup Day Marathon Party benefitted from this grant and Nirkoda has been chosen to represent Volunteer dance groups in the area and the Committee is to be photographed for the local paper. Keep a lookout!

I'm sure you have all noticed how great the Booran Road Hall looks after it's makeover.

A fresh coat of paint (church hall lemon)!, new green curtains (replacing those tatty ones that let in the light on Saturday afternoons), kitchen upgrade and the excellent dancing floor.

Members' News & Views

Nirkoda drink bottles

To save the environment and encourage recycling, some members have suggested Nirkoda have their own drink bottles printed with Nirkoda logo to help reduce the number of polystyrene ones we currently use. What do you think?

Social News

Congratulations to Natalie Altman who was married recently and on the engagement of Daisy Smolarski's son.

Welcome back to Haya Stein returned from a two month world tour.

NIRKODA SUDOKU– EASY!

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Sukkot – Feast of the Tabernacles

(An edited article presented by Haya Elisha to Margaret R's Thursday morning class in October 2005).

This festival of late autumn, much beloved by the Jewish people, takes place four days after the Day of Atonement and is celebrated for seven days in Israel and eight days in the Diaspora. Sukkot commemorates the biblical time when the Jews left Egypt, their way of life after the Exodus, wandering in the wilderness of the desert before reaching the Promised Land. It is a reminder to all generations that G-d redeemed the people of Israel like a loving, caring parent. He caused them to live in temporary booths that sheltered them from the elements.

During these days, it is traditional that the family and friends gather in booths or sukkot specially erected for the occasion and take all their meals there and even some of the Orthodox sleep there, weather

permitting.

A sukkah is a temporary structure having three sides. The sukkah must be solid, but not too solid – to remind us of human vulnerability and of the fact that we are in G-d's shelter. The walls can be made of almost anything at all, but the roof, known as s'chach is what makes the sukkah a sukkah and is the last thing to go up. Anything that grows out of the ground makes a suitable roof. Laurel, rushes, pine, bamboo poles laid crosswise and on top of that, green branches placed in such a manner to let the stars shine through and be open to the skies.

The interior is decorated with paper chains, baubles, fruits, pictures of our forefathers Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph etc. Children of the household contribute decorations they have prepared at school or kindergarten and everyone takes pride in building their sukkah. A table and chairs for sitting, eating and shmoozing completes the picture.

Sukkot is also the harvest festival, deeply rooted in agricultural Israel, recalling when farmers went to the fields and lived in lean to huts and did not have time to travel back and forth to their homes until the harvest was gathered in.

Also associated with the harvest are the lulav – a palm branch flanked by sprigs of willow (aravot) and myrtle (hadassim) and the etrog (citron). Together these are known as the four types or species 'arba minim' and a special blessing is said. They are carried during Hakalet a ceremonial march in the Orthodox synagogue and paraded about during the service.

In times past, in the Temple, the high point of Sukkot festivities was the ceremony of water drawing. The importance of this ceremony was seasonal, for Sukkot comes in the autumn, after the long dry summer and just before the rainy season in Israel. Therefore prayers of thanksgiving were offered for the rains which had made the year's crops grow.

Sukkot is also a holiday for entertaining, particularly for inviting guests who don't have a sukkah.

Thus for three thousand years during this time, Jews have lived in sukkot, fragile temporary homes. Not only are we commanded to feel joy during this festival, but because it is so pleasant, so different, so exotic, so laden with traditional, historical memories....



Some Positive Thoughts on Nirkoda

The "N" in Nirkoda stands for **nurturing**.

Nirkoda has nurtured its members, as students from new beginners through to advanced level.

Those who wished to become teachers were given the opportunity and encouragement by Nirkoda Committee and members.

Those who wanted to become a Committee Member or even President were allowed to gain experience in that position at Nirkoda and supported by the Committee while in that position; thereby giving them the confidence to achieve their own goals.

At Nirkoda we are proud of our contribution to enhance the lives of **all** our students and members.

May we be blessed in the coming year, so that we can continue in our positive contributions to all.

From an appreciative Nirkoda Member

“Shana Tova” to all at Nirkoda

Solution

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