

BYU | ALUMNI

BYU Folk Dance Alumni Newsletter

Upcoming Events

BYU Folk Dance Alumni celebrate 60 years in 2016!

Tickets to the reunion lunch

October 15 at Homecoming are available here:
<https://folkdance60.eventbrite.com/>

Homecoming Parade

October 15 | 10:00 a.m. - Noon
BYU Homecoming Parade
It's worth getting up for free "blue" pancakes being served at 8:30 a.m. south of the Creamery on 9th East. We can all sit together (9th East curbside, east of the Law Building, lots of parking) to cheer, reminisce, and enjoy the celebration.

Homecoming Football and Spectacular! tickets with group seating are at www.byutickets.com/promo (use promo code FOLK).

Spread the word and join the **Facebook** event on the BYU Alumni page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/157471538034390/>

Dance Assembly

November 8 | 11 a.m.

Christmas Around the World

December 2 | 7:30 p.m.
December 3 | 2 & 7:30 p.m.

Spotlight

by Wendy Callister Spencer

When I got to BYU in the Fall of 1991, I auditioned for the Folk Dance Team. I did my best to keep up with all of the new steps they taught, and somehow landed in the 11:00 Wilk class! It was the last class they filled, and I was thrilled to have made it! We performed during the Homecoming half-time show that Fall, and from that point on I was completely hooked. During my sophomore year I toured with SPAC, and then during my junior year I was on PAC and was also able to tour Greece, Jordan, Turkey and Bulgaria



Ancient Ruins in Turkey

Amy Thurston Jex, Wendy Callister Spencer, and Jennifer Cronin Orme touring ancient ruins in Turkey, Mediterranean Tour 1994

(Summer 1994). Right after tour, I left on my mission to New York City. I graduated from BYU in 1997.

A while back, I had a phone conversation where I expressed my concern about the inappropriate things I was seeing in the dance world and especially for my children. It was a bit of a discouraging conversation, as the person I was talking to did not agree... but as I hung up from the call, a very clear, distinct, and very powerful impression came directly to my mind and heart: "Now is the time." I sat stunned as I realized what the Lord was saying to me... Now was the time to open that performing arts center (an idea that I had shelved twelve years prior). I hadn't thought about it in years, and now I was so busy with my kids and a Stake Dance Festival... how could I do that now? But I could not deny what I knew I was supposed to do. With much prayer and the Lord's guidance in the process, three months later on the weekend after the Stake dance festival ended, I opened Building Young Leaders.

Building Young Leaders has now been open for four years. We opened with only two dance classes and some academic classes for homeschoolers.

Now we offer about 17 different dance classes, including show choirs, World Dance, Ballroom Dance, Lyrical Ballet, Hip Hop, and Broadway Style dance. Last year we started a company level team of junior high



and high school students, and recently took them on a Northern California

tour where they performed at Pier 39 in San Francisco, as well as other venues in Vallejo and Sacramento. Our favorite performance was at a retirement center where we were able to bring so many smiles to the residents.

There are so many ways that BYU Folk Dance has impacted my life. It trained me in ways I didn't know I was going to need! It allowed me to experience

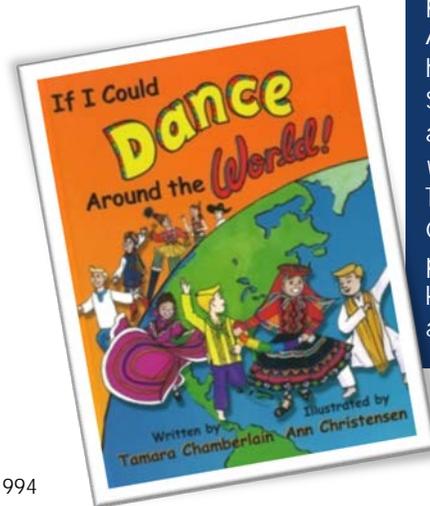


BYU Folk Dancers
Mediterranean Tour 1994

the true joy of dance without a focus on competition. We performed simply to bring joy to people, and we saw it on their faces everywhere we went! I remember performing at a senior



center in Greece, where after we performed an older woman took my face in her hands and just cried with joy. We didn't share the same language, but as we have all seen through Folk Dance, God can speak in other ways. The love of God can and does come through. I am deeply grateful for the gift of the BYU Folk Dance in my life, and I think about it every day.



Dance Around the World

Tamara Marshall Chamberlain (1988-1992) has written a delightful children's book titled, "If I Could Dance Around the World". With every book sale, she is giving money back to the Folk Dance Alumni Scholarship. It is a book about two children and their adventures when they dance around the world and learn about other people through their music, culture and dance! The illustrations are beautiful and were hand painted by folk dance alumni, Ann Christensen. Each book is hardcover and sells for only \$10. Books may be purchased at Amazon.com or www.suncrestpublishing.com. They make excellent Christmas gifts and with each purchase, you are helping keep the spirit of folk dance alive in our children.

International Folk Dance Ensemble

On Tour in Nauvoo

This past June, the International Folk Dance Ensemble and Mountain Strings entertained enthralled audience members for two weeks in and around Nauvoo, Illinois. As always, their combination of lively dances and foot stomping music was a real crowd-pleaser. At one performance, audience members could not stop praising the performers saying, "It was the best event of the day". Likely, the BYU performers' shows were the best events of the whole two weeks!





Friday, October 14

- ✓ 8:15 p.m. | **BYU Football Game**

Saturday, October 15

- ✓ 10:00 a.m. - Noon | **BYU Homecoming Parade**

Alumni come celebrate with us at the homecoming parade. It's worth getting up for free "blue" pancakes being served at 8:30 a.m. south of the Creamery on 9th East. We can all sit together **(9th East curbside, east of the Law Building, lots of parking)** to cheer, reminisce, and enjoy the celebration.

- ✓ 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | **Alumni Reunion and 60th Anniversary Celebration**
Lunch will be followed by dancing with a live band and kids activities.
- ✓ 7:30 p.m. | **BYU Homecoming Spectacular**

*Football and Spectacular group seating available
with promo code: **FOLK** (byutickets.com/promo)*

Luncheon Tickets: \$15 for Adults
<https://folkdance60.eventbrite.com> \$8 for Kids (under 12)
\$8 for 60th Anniversary shirts

RSVP by October 5th