

Boulder Israeli Dance

Rokdim Baharim (Dancing in the Mountains) Workshop

\$1,800 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund – June 18-19, 2022

Report prepared by Margie Cantor

Note from the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund: This grant was provisionally funded in August 2020 but delayed due to the pandemic. We are so glad the in-person workshop was finally able to happen!

We had a very successful and fun workshop taught by the world-renowned Israeli Dance Instructor Marcelo Marianoff of Argentina. Aside from the new dances taught by Marcelo on Saturday and Sunday, we also had two energetic and lively dance parties.

Boulder Israeli Dance is a longstanding social folk dance group in Boulder that Alex Wilson attended for many years. As we know, Alex (Tink) was a fantastic Hungarian Dance teacher and loved International dancing as well. When he found our group, he was smitten with the high energy, music, and people. He quickly became a very integral part of our community! We were inspired to hold a first-time workshop with the generous award of the grant we received from Alex's fund. This allowed us to bring to Boulder an excellent Israeli Dance instructor for the benefit of Israeli dancers in Boulder, Denver, northern Colorado and across the U.S. We also hope that we have encouraged new dancers and younger dancers to keep Israeli dance alive! We had 45 attendees, 12 of whom were from out of state.

Prior to the formal workshop sessions, we made a last-minute decision to gather our out-of-state attendees along with our Boulder volunteers, to have an opportunity to just relax, meet Marcelo and dance a little bit in the mountains! (The Hebrew name for our workshop meant "dancing in the mountains," after all.) We thought it would be the perfect welcome, Boulder style.

We received lots of positive feedback from the attendees (many of whom were thrilled to finally meet, learn from, and dance with Marcelo in person!). Marcelo holds weekly Zoom classes and more recently began to resume his workshops around the globe. He is currently known to be the best Israeli dance teacher worldwide and we felt fortunate (with the aid of this grant) to have had him come to Boulder.

Here is a testimonial written on the page of one of our web groups from an out-of-state attendee:

"I would like to express my appreciation for all the planning and love that went into the Boulder dance weekend. I was so excited to finally meet Zoom friends in person! And Marcelo...what a revelation to see, dance with, and be taught by him in person! Your magic is amplified when you are leading us in the circle!"



Dance Instructor Marcelo Marianoff



I feel that we truly held an event that embraced Alex's spirit of Israeli dance and his love of bringing people together! I made a small area on a table, where I placed photos of Alex (see photo at right) and brought a copy of the book I received at his life celebration with stories about Alex for people to read and I spoke about him, so attendees could get a feeling for this amazing man, as I really wanted to bring him to our event!

"Alex, we honor you, and know how THRILLED you would be to see us all dancing together with a wonderful young Israeli Dance teacher. Thank you for this gift! We feel you here. You LOVE bringing people together... and you are!!!"

We were also very happy to see that there was a newspaper article written in the "Intermountain Jewish News" about our workshop.

Thank you to those on the grant committee who helped guide me in the process of applying for the grant. I learned a lot and it gave me some positive goals to work towards during the height of the pandemic. What a wonderful community of folk dancers we have!

Videos of three dances taught at the workshop:

- Achshav - <https://flic.kr/p/2nuepm8>
- Aneni Bashirim - <https://flic.kr/p/2nubVpM>

