

## Watch Your Step!

### "Dancing Through the Decades" 10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Show

*\$700 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - April 2018*

Dearest Alex Wilson Fund,

On Sunday, July 22, 2018, at the Avalon Ballroom, Watch Your Step put on a successful anniversary show. It featured dances from the 1900-1970s, dance lessons and audience participation, cake, and an open social dance. Doors opened at 6PM, and performances kicked off at 6:30. We chose dances from our Ragtime repertoire, 1920s, 1930-40s, and 1970s, with eight costume changes. During costume changes, various members taught steps from each era, and then we had a short period of

open dancing before the next performance segment began. At the show's end, former members joined us for a version of The Stroll, which incorporated costumes from all of our eras – 1900-1970, and dancers demoing steps from their costume era as they were introduced. Two narrators, Joan Hemm and George Bradford, presented the program. The script also thanked the many people who have made contributions to Watch Your Step over the years, from mentors to choreographers. Following the show's conclusion, cakes were brought out, and we finished the evening with a social dance that featured songs from our various eras, all put together by Frank Vernon.



Photo: Adrian Swenson



Photo: Judd Johnson



Photo: Adrian Swenson



Photo: Judd Johnson

**Attendance:** Approximately 100 people attended and enthusiastically participated.

**People involved:** The Watch Your Step! Dance troupe – 16 dancers, with guest performer Jeff Kellem of California joining us. Former members joined our finale: Lloyd McCaffrey, Lavinia Ycas, Neal McBurnett and Ron Blewitt. Volunteer help included: Ingvar and Sally Sodal on the door; Eldon Grimm serving cake; Adrian Swenson photography; Judd Johnson - additional photos; Julien Mira - video. Many people

from the audience helped with take-down. The WYS dancers performed all the other needed activities.

**Advertising:** We advertised primarily through social media – FB postings on the Watch Your Step! site and the Avalon Ballroom site; personal lists through email; announcements at Avalon dances and through Jim Borzym’s email list. We also created posters that were placed around the Avalon.

**Donations:** Donations were collected at the door, which offset some of our expenses for space rental, food, supplies and marketing. Following the event, we were able to return \$470 to the Fund.

--Report from Susan Reisser



Photo: Adrian Swenson



Photo: Adrian Swenson



Photo: Adrian Swenson

**Show Testimonials:**

"I just want to tell you all that I really thought the event yesterday was terrific—it was interesting, tasteful, creative, intelligent, entertaining and fun! I thought that every piece of it was well thought out and executed—from the narration by George and Joan (who both have gorgeous clear voices and articulate beautifully), to the punctuation of the performance with lessons relevant to the dances, to the costumes and choices of dances and music.

"I feel very fortunate to be a part of a dance community with such talented people.

"Thanks again. I look forward to the 20th anniversary party!"

– Heather McDonald



Photo: Adrian Swenson

---

"I had a blast at your show, my first but hopefully , not my last ! You guys are SO good and including your audience in the show was sheer brilliance!"

– Joe Miller



Photo: Adrian Swenson