

Boulder Dance Coalition

Party to Celebrate 25 Years of the VAC/BDC and 10 Years of Dancing at the Avalon

October 10, 2015, at the Avalon Ballroom in Boulder, Colorado

\$2000 grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - Sept. 2015

Anniversary Party a Great Success

Members of the Boulder Dance Coalition came together to plan and execute a grand party in the Avalon Ballroom to celebrate 25 years of the Village Arts Coalition / Boulder Dance Coalition and 10 years of dancing at the Avalon. Well over one hundred members of the dance community were in attendance for the fun and festivities, which included live music by three bands.



Photo from the very first dance at Avalon (Wild Asparagus) is playing. Note: pre-canopy!



The Avalon today (from the 2016 Boulder Balkan Bash)



Ballroom floor in progress



Nailing the ballroom floor



Planina opened the festivities with a set of music from the Balkans and Eastern Europe for folk dancing. Then Dixie Leadfoot and the Chrome Struts, a rockabilly swing band, played for a dance lesson, followed by open swing dancing.

At 6:00, a delicious dinner spread created by Halina Palmer was eagerly devoured, after which folks gathered around the stage to hear some reports in celebration of the occasion.

Larry Utter, president of the VAC/BDC, announced that the name of the organization had recently been changed to the Boulder Dance Coalition to better describe the primary purpose of the group as it had evolved over the years. Larry gave a brief historical description of the happenings of VAC in the past and he introduced Chuck Palmer, whose generous participation in forming a partnership with VAC made the creation of the Avalon a reality. Photos were shown and memories shared about the transformation of this originally nondescript commercial building into the prized dance facility it now is. That transformation was truly a community effort, from the hand-laid sprung wooden dance floors to landscaping of the building to development of multiple studios, including Sodal Hall. The Avalon now hosts a busy schedule of regularly repeating as well as one-time-only dance and community events.

Following the clearing of tables and chairs to accommodate dancers, CFOOTMAD's Contra Dance Trio began to play. A Grand March led by Ingvar and Sally Sodal got everyone up and moving, ready for a variety of dancing well into the night. After an energetic set of waltzing and contra dancing, the event gave way to dancing to recorded music.

A welcome interlude was held during the evening for serving of dessert. The highlight of that event was homemade ice cream served from the ice cream freezer in which it was made. Stan Wilkes carried out his tradition of providing ice cream for VAC potluck parties for the past 25 years.

The celebration was supported in part by a grant from the Alex (Tink) Wilson Legacy Fund. Alex was one of the original founders of VAC. In addition to that, participants contributed generously to the fish bowl that was provided for showing appreciation of a memorable evening and for a quarter century of support for the dance community.