

# The Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC



The group meets almost every Wed. night from September to June. We start at 7:30 pm and end at about 10 pm. If you are interested in coming, please be sure to call or send an Email to **THE NORDIC DANCERS** to confirm that the group is meeting on a particular Wed. night.

[NordicDancers@aol.com](mailto:NordicDancers@aol.com)

Tel. (301) 864-1596

**Wednesdays 7:30 – 10:00 pm**

The meeting place is:

*All-purpose room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Highland View Elementary School  
9010 Providence Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20901*



[www.NordicDC.org](http://www.NordicDC.org)



**THE NORDIC DANCERS OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**, is a folk dance group that was founded in 1972. The group preserves the traditions of community dance groups (*folkdansgille, folkdanslag, tanhuryhmä*) that were brought to this country by immigrants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The group is composed of about twenty people, most of whom were either born in one of these countries or are of Nordic descent



The group's repertoire consists of traditional village dances, both for couples and groups, and set dances choreographed from traditional forms and figures. Dances include *bygdedanser*, such as varieties of *polska, pols, masurkka*, and *springar*, as well as Nordic square, contra, and circle dances and *gammal dans*, such as *hambo, schottis*, and variations of polka and waltz. A list of examples is available on the group's website.

**THE NORDIC DANCERS** believe that everyone has something to learn, both experienced dancers and newcomers, and that the learning is part of the fun. The group provides opportunities for everyone to improve or refresh basic skills, develop new ones, and try new dance steps and dance forms. Each year brings a different set of dances while offering opportunities to do enduring favorites



**THE NORDIC DANCERS'** teachers—Lars Johanson, Chris Kalke, and Ross Schipper—collectively bring to the group decades of dance experience. This experience includes growing up and dancing in Nordic communities and participating in dance courses and workshops with teachers from the Nordic countries. In addition their enthusiasm for the dances and the accompanying folk traditions strengthens their commitment to keep learning and expanding their own skills and repertoire. All three also play instruments – accordion, fiddle, and hardanger fiddle, respectively.



The group enjoys sharing the dance traditions with the community and makes presentations for the various Nordic organizations and occasionally for other groups as well. The group performs in traditional folk costumes. The group has also sponsored workshops with teachers from the Nordic countries and has hosted touring dance groups from Scandinavia.

**THE NORDIC DANCERS** have participated in the Nordlek Festivals in 1997, 2000, 2003, and 2006 in Finland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, respectively.



**THE NORDIC DANCERS** welcome the children of the community to join them once a month and for special events. The purpose is to share with the children the music and dance traditions of the Nordic countries and the fun of participating in group dancing. The children are invited to participate with the adults in special holiday performances.

