

Mountain Playshop 2021 – Side by Side at Last!

Please join us for a dance retreat and regathering in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina on the weekend of September 24th through 26th, 2021. This year Mountain Playshop offers all that we have come to expect of our premier IFD gathering of the Southern Appalachians. Registration opens July 5.

Mountain Retreat - enjoy glades, streams, trails and mountain breezes with plenty of rocking chairs for relaxing.

Non-stop Dancing

- Learn new and revived dance treasures gleaned through a year of virtual immersion in the repertoire of our IFD hosts from around the nation and world. Four dance sessions will be led by regional leaders who will teach a few of their picks of 'the best of the Pandemic year' and lead a curated playlist and requests. This year we welcome:

Andi Kapplin- Israeli – Andi leads the Israeli group in Tampa and has been the teacher of the Grapeviners in Sarasota since 2005. She has spent part of the past 18 years in Vancouver, BC where she is involved in the folk-dance community and is often a guest teacher.

Randy Best – Bulgarian – Randy has been international folk dancing for over 50 years. He has performed with the International Folk Dance Associations Performing Troupe (St. Louis), the Grinnell College Folk Dancers, and Mandala (Boston). He has also lived and danced in Washington DC, New York City, and Durham and Chapel Hill, NC.

Mary Goodman – Asian –Mary was introduced to folk dancing at the age of 5 and fell in love. She danced regularly in Chapel Hill and is one of the founding members of the Raleigh IFD. Moving to the DC area, she danced with the Columbia MD and Wheaton/Greenbelt dance groups. She now lives in Asheville and is an active member of the Asheville IFD.

Paul Taylor – Ira Weisburd dances and Armenian – Paul has been doing international folk dancing for 46 years and has been the dance leader for the Oak Ridge Folk Dancers for over 35 years. Paul enjoys gardening, hiking, and traveling and lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

- A link to the music and videos of dances presented at Mountain Playshop will be available.
- Requests!!! Playshop 2021 will feature request dancing throughout all teaching sessions and parties. Send the favorite dances you have been longing to dance 'side by side' to taylorb0@usit.net and we will fit them into the program.

Live Music Playshop historically has enjoyed live music with our parties, and we are hoping for the same this year as we consult with local musicians. Watch our website for updates www.mountainplayshop.org.

- Bring your instruments and Pinewoods book and be prepared for spontaneous opportunities to play.
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Great food! –

- Registration includes a legendary hot buffet for dinners and one breakfast catered by our favorite Everyday Gourmet Plus. A cold breakfast will be provided Sunday for 'grab and go' or to enjoy on site. Plus, welcome and party snacks!
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- **Saturday lunch is on your own.** Explore nearby restaurants.
- Refrigeration is available in the dining hall for personal food items.

Singing – Join a community sing of some of our favorite IFD tunes.

Shopping –

- Artisans, we welcome the products of your long and hopefully creative Pandemic year! An 8x4 display table will be included with each full registration as pre-requested and as space allows on a first come first serve basis. Indicate your interest on the registration form found on our website <https://www.mountainplayshop.org/> Other artisans, including part time participants and non-participants, may purchase display space for \$20 per table; also, as space allows on a first come, first serve basis. Priority will be given to registered guests. **Invite your artisan friends!**
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- Also, the 'Shared Joy' table returns this year. Bring your beloved folk items that you are ready to pass along. We will have tags for you to mark your items for personal sale or donation to Playshop.

Play Table - Games, jigsaw puzzles, and coloring books will be stocked for you to while away any moments that you might be sitting out a dance... or two...or three...

Affordable!!

- We are keeping registration to only \$90 this year. On-site motel style housing (one double bed, one single bed and a private bathroom) is an additional \$170 for the weekend.
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 - A la carte pricing:
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 - Financial assistance is available including work scholarships and financial need scholarships. Please contact Mary Goodman to enquire: marygoodman@frontier.com
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- Work scholarships - assist with food service and/or camp setup and break down.
- Financial need scholarships – subsidies are available.

Safety

- Mountain Playshop will follow all NC health directives regarding private gatherings.
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- Due to the virus transmission risks with close contact indoor dancing, we respectfully request that people defer attendance if not vaccinated against Covid 19 or experiencing respiratory symptoms. We look forward to seeing those dancers at lower risk dance venues or when they are well!
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- Mountain Playshop is committed to maintaining a workshop environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. Accordingly, it is the policy of Mountain Playshop that all participants be free from all forms of harassment and intimidation. See the full policy here: <https://www.mountainplayshop.org/>