

Yalenka Ukrainian Dancers
Society



2016-2017
HANDBOOK



Yalenka Ukrainian Dancers Society was established in 1975 by a group of dedicated parents. They were the teachers, seamstresses, managers and fundraisers. Classes were held in the basement of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church. That early spirit of Yalenka thrives today, 42 years later. Our students now enjoy specialized dance studios and benefit from the teaching and guidance of professional instructors. Our parents continue to serve as volunteers and members of the Board of Directors.

Throughout its history, Yalenka's Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian students, ages three to adult, have stepped and jumped their way to the rhythm and lyrics of age-old traditional and modern Ukrainian music. Our students have learned the basic steps of Ukrainian dance from many regions of Ukraine – Poltava, Hutzul, Bukovyna, Volyn, Polissia, Lemke and Transcarpathia. Through fundraising efforts and the opportunity to buy beautiful authentic costumes from Ukraine, Yalenka has built a large inventory of costumes representing each unique region. In addition to traditional Ukrainian dances, Yalenka's instructors have choreographed story lines that incorporate the entire school and have become a favorite for the dancers and audience alike.

The goal of Yalenka Ukrainian Dancers Society continues to be **“to teach Ukrainian dance skills in an environment that promotes commitment, self-confidence and the enjoyment of the Ukrainian Heritage”**.

For more information, visit Yalenka's website at www.yalenka.com, our Facebook page, Instagram or Twitter account.

2016-2017 Calendar

8 September	- First Thursday class
12 September	- First Monday class
13 September	- First Tuesday class
22 September	- Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School)
30 September	- Registration cut off date (all fees due)
20 October	- Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School)
24 October	- Monday parent viewing night (last 15 minutes of class)
25 October	- Tuesday parent viewing night (last 15 minutes off class)
27 October	- Thursday parent viewing night (last 15 minutes off class)
17 November	- Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School)
4 December	- Bingo (evening – Sunday)
12 December	- Last Monday class before Xmas break
13 December	- Last Tuesday class before Xmas break
15 December	- Last Thursday class before Xmas break
15 December	- Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School)

Have a wonderful Christmas break!

8 January	- Bingo (evening – Sunday)
9 January	- Monday classes resume
10 January	- Tuesday classes resume
12 January	- Thursday classes resume
26 January	- Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School)
28 January	- Malanka at Thornecliffe Greenview Community Centre, 5600 Centre Street N (all dancers performing)
9 February	- Bingo (evening - Thursday)
23 February	- Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School)
23 February	- Thursday parent viewing night

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| 27 February | - Monday parent viewing night |
| 28 February | - Tuesday parent viewing night |
| 12 March | - Bingo (evening - Sunday) |
| 18-19 March | - Southern Alberta Ukrainian Dance Festival (SAUDF) |
| 23 March | - Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School) |
| 27, 28 & 30 March | - Spring break – no classes |
| 6 April | - Bingo (evening – Thursday) |
| 20 April | - Board meeting 6:30 p.m. (Edge School) |
| 21 April | - Dress rehearsal, Annual General Meeting |
| 22 April | - Year end concert , Bert Church Theatre (Airdrie, AB) |
| 1 May | - Bingo (evening – Monday) |
| 11 May | - Bingo (evening – Thursday) |
| Mother's Day Weekend | - Cheremosh Festival (tentative) |
| 3&4 June | - Calgary Ukrainian Festival |
| 6 & 8 June | - Costume return (tentative) |
| 15 June | - Bingo (evening – Thursday) |

There **will** be practice during teachers' convention in February.

PLEASE CONSULT THIS SCHEDULE WHEN MAKING HOLIDAY PLANS WHENEVER POSSIBLE!

Please watch whiteboard, emails and newsletters for event details and extra rehearsals.



Board Contact Information

Chairperson:

Joseph Tysowski

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joety23@hotmail.com

Vice Chairperson:

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Casino: Zena Kuziej

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Publicity:

Jamie Plosz

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andrechk@telusplanet.net

Festivals/Solos & Duets:

Lisa Bratz leesahbee@shaw.ca

Instructor Liaison:

Larissa Groch larissagroch@gmail.com

Instructor Contact Information

Natasha Olshevska 403-836-6505
nolshevska@outlook.com

Jordan Trechka 403-338-0272
jmtrechka@gmail.com

Vladimir Andreev 403-923-0331
hellovlad@hotmail.com

Dallas Tregubova 403-771-6699
dtregubova@hotmail.com

Serguei Makarov 403-244-8999
smakarovbest@gmail.com

Milolika Smolyaninova
milolika.smol@gmail.com

Megan Daniels
megan.daniels@shaw.ca



Classroom Etiquette

Your instructors have requested the following rules of classroom etiquette to be followed while in class:

- Use the washroom before class
- Line up outside the doors leading to the studios; let previous class out first at the start of class; quietly sit on floor in front of stereo and wait for instructor to complete attendance
- Library manners please
- No talking during class. No running, screaming, tag, wrestling, or uncontrolled behavior
- CELL PHONE/iPAD USE IS NOT PERMITTED DURING PRACTICE TIMES OR ALLOWED IN DANCE STUDIOS. Keep phone on vibrate or with ringer off and stow in dance bag. In the rare event that a dancer is expecting an unavoidable phone call, communicate this to instructor at the beginning of class.
- NO FOOD OR DRINK (other than water) ALLOWED IN DANCE STUDIOS
- Bring water bottle to every class as water breaks are given
- Clean up after yourself
- Bring your smile!
- Yalenka expects its members to show respect to themselves, their fellow dancers, the group, the instructors and the rehearsal studio. Older dancers are expected to show leadership and set an example to younger dancers. If these expectations are not being met this can result in dancers being asked to leave the school.



IF students do not follow the guidelines listed here will be a three step process:

- 1st – the instructor will speak with the student and parent,

- 2nd - class rep will contact the parent and the board chairperson will be notified,
- 3rd - student will be asked to leave the class and return pending board decision.

Dress Code

This is important to the image of the dance school. Please ensure that your child follows the dress code for proper attire for each class.

IF students do not follow this code there will be a three-step process:

- 1st - the instructor will speak with the student and parent
- 2nd - class rep will contact the parent and the board chairperson will be notified
- 3rd - the student will be asked to leave the class and return when dress code is adhered to

Girls

- Bodysuit, tights and skirt – **uniform colors will be specific to each group:**
 - **ISKRA** - plain ballet pink (very light pink) bodysuit & tights - pink dance skirt
 - **MALENKI ZIRKY** - plain ballet pink (very light pink) bodysuit & tights - baby blue dance skirt
 - **PROLEESOK** - plain ballet pink (very light pink) bodysuit & tights - lilac (light purple) dance skirt
 - **VEETERETS** - plain ballet pink (very light pink) tights & black bodysuit - black dance skirt
 - **KALYNA** - plain ballet pink (very light pink) tights & black bodysuit - black dance skirt
 - **VESELKA** - black bodysuit & tights - black dance skirt
- Red slippers with elastic across ankle; double check with instructor for proper positioning

- Hair up off of face and neck; ballet buns or French braids pinned up; no loose ponytails
- No jewelry or watches

All Boys/Men:

- Black jazz pants; no tearaway/noisy pants or pants with pockets. Avoid pants that are too long or have snaps/zippers as they make tricks difficult
- Plain T-shirt, any colour; no logos/writing/pictures
- Black slippers with elastic across ankle; double check with instructor for proper positioning
- Hair off of face; wear bandana or sweat band if needed
- No jewelry or watches

Please check with your instructors if you have any further questions with respect to dress code.



Instructor Expectations

Dancers:

- Arrive, ready to dance, 5-10 minutes before class starts
- Follow classroom etiquette rules
- Practice at home between classes
- Know your dance steps

- Talk to your instructor if you don't understand what they are asking
- **No food, gum, cookies or candy** during dance practice or in the dance studio at all.

Parents:

- Bring your dancer 5-10 minutes before class starts, prepared to dance
- Ensure your child has used the washroom before class
- Provide water bottle for your dancer
- Ensure dancers have eaten before practice. However please avoid a heavy, full meal as a full stomach can cause stomachaches during rehearsal. A light snack or salad is digested faster but still provides energy for dance.
- Remind your dancer of classroom etiquette prior to class
- Regularly check email for important group information
- Note and record any important information and/or dates
- Ask questions if you need clarification
- Support your child's efforts. Be on time and prepared for all events
- Encourage your child to practice at home
- Volunteer in the club
- Enjoy the performances! Tell your dancers how well they are doing
- We are guests at our host studio – please help us ensure that we are welcome back by keeping the waiting area and washrooms clean and relatively quiet



Attendance at rehearsals:

It is extremely important that dancers attend practices on a regular basis and arrive to class **ON TIME**. Late and absent dancers disrupt class time and make it extremely difficult for instructors to complete their lesson plans and choreography for our dancers. Please respect your instructor's time to ensure our dancers get the most out of our rehearsals.

If your child will not be attending class, please advise your instructor as soon as possible.

- Ms Natasha - please leave a message on her cell phone (403-836-6505)
- Mr Jordan - please email Jordan at jmtrechka@gmail.com
- Mr Vlad - leave a message at 403-923-0331
- Ms Dallas - email dtregubova@hotmail.com , text or phone (403-771-6699)

If your dancer arrives late, please ensure that he/she enters class quickly and quietly, causing minimal disruption to the class.

Instructors will be keeping track of attendance to classes to identify early if dancers are consistently late and/or absent for rehearsals. If dancers consistently arrive late (more than three times) the instructors will notify class reps and the board of directors to determine the impact of these absences to the class time of instructors and other dancers.

Parent Viewing Nights – In addition to regular performances, parents are invited to view the last 15 minutes of class twice per year. This will allow parents to see how their dancers are progressing in a classroom situation and to meet as a dance group with the instructor (see calendar for specific dates). If parents have concerns and want to view other class times, please speak with your instructors directly to make arrangements to minimize disruption to class time.

Attendance at Performances:

Yalenka is proud to participate in numerous performances, from our own events, including Malanka and our recital, to various festivals and other shows throughout the year.

It is extremely important that dancers arrive to these performances *READY TO DANCE* at the time given by the instructors. This includes having costumes on, with hair and makeup (as needed) done.

Note that being late affects the ENTIRE CLASS at performances, as instructors may need to rework dances at the last minute for potential absences and nervous dancers become even more nervous.



To ensure our dancers are thoroughly warmed up and prepared to perform, **our instructors reserve the right to not permit late dancers to perform at these venues.**

Yalenka on Social Media!!!!

Our dancers are the best PR that we have! As such we regularly promote our dancers and our dance school through various social media platforms, including our website (yalenka.com), Facebook (Yalenka Ukrainian Dancers Society), Instagram (yalenkaukrainiandancers) & Twitter (@YalenkaDancers). Follow us on social media!

There is a photo/media release on all registration forms allowing Yalenka to use our dancer images in these platforms. However, if you have any questions regarding the use of these photos, please contact the Board of Directors for clarification.

Rehearsal Schedule

**These classes are subject to change based on enrollment,
studio availability and teacher discretion.
*All classes to be held at the Edge School studios.***

Mondays:

6:30-7:30pm - Boys Enhancement (ages 8+)
7:30-9pm - Veselka choreography

Tuesdays:

6:00-7:00pm - Kalyna & Veselka Enhancement
7:00- 8:30pm- Kalyna choreography
7:15-8:15pm - Radist (adult) Enhancement
8:15-9:45pm - Radist (adult) choreography

Thursdays:

5:45-6:30pm - Iskra
6:30-7:30pm - Malenki Zirky
6:30-7:15pm - Proleesok & Veeterets Enhancement
7:30-8:30pm - Proleesok choreography
7:30-8:45pm - Veeterets choreography

Additional rehearsals will be scheduled for all groups in order to prepare for performances. Information outlining details will be forwarded to you as they become available.

Yalenka has been proud to provide ballet enhancement class for our older dancers to work on the fundamentals of dance. The purpose of the class is to enhance and assist with ballet/dance basics as well as warm-up for the choreography portion of the class. This year, Proleesok & Veeterets dancers will also have 45 minutes of enhancement as part of their regular class.

Enhancement is **STRONGLY** encouraged for all eligible dancers. Our Artistic Director, Ms. Natasha, sees this class as a huge opportunity for our dancers to improve and strengthen their basic and core dance movements. This year Ms. Natasha has obtained a

new instructor, Megan Daniels with extensive ballet training and instruction that she received at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Ms. Megan will be instructing all Enhancement classes for dancers from Proleesok to Veselka. Please do your very best to have your dancer attend this very important class as well as their choreography class.

Mr. Vlad is also continuing to offer an optional boys class (ages 8 and up) on Mondays. This class is designed to teach technique and dance steps specific to boys in Ukrainian dance.

Fee Schedule

The instructors will assess the dancers in September and place them in a class appropriate for their age level, ability and dance experience. Once decisions regarding placement are made, they are final.

Iskra:	\$245 per year
Malenki Zirky:	\$300 per year
Proleesok	\$360 per year
Veeterets	\$390 per year
Kalyna	\$410 per year
Veselka	\$465 per year
Radist	\$465 per year

Enhancement – included in above fees.

All fees include one class and individual photo. There is a 10% discount for families registered in three or more dance classes. There is a \$35 fee for all NSF cheques.

A costume deposit cheque of \$200 per dancer will be collected and held until costume return at year's end. If the costume is not returned in good condition OR **if the costume is not returned by June 30, 2017**, the cheque will be cashed.

A volunteer deposit cheque of \$350 per family will be collected and held until year's end. This will be cashed if **2 volunteer jobs and/or all required bingos** have not been completed. (Note: the number of bingos may be reduced to less than the usual 4 bingos depending on enrollment).

Casino years only - An additional \$350 cheque will be required for casino years as approved at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. This cheque will be cashed if families do not volunteer for the casino specifically. **There is no casino scheduled for the 2016-2017 dance year.**

Yalenka will no longer be pro-rating fees for dancers that join late in the year. For example, if someone joins in November or January, the fee is the **same** as the full-year fee. Any prorated request of the full year fee due to varying circumstances (for example due to injury or a dancer that has just moved to Calgary during the year) will be at the discretion of the Yalenka Board and may not necessarily be calculated on a monthly breakdown.



Fundraising

Yalenka's major fundraising events include bingos, a casino and our annual Malanka celebration. Gaming and other fundraisers provide us with a large sum of money allowing us to keep our registration fees reasonable, while still being able to:

- hire professional instructors and pay competitive wages
- buy music for specific story lines and dances
- rent studio space with ballet barres and sprung floors
- order specialized costumes from Ukraine or hire professionals to sew regional costumes
- help subsidize dancers for competitions, and
- offer travel opportunities to the dancers.

As a result of gaming funds, we are able to offer affordable dancing to families.

Yalenka's next casino date is scheduled for between October and December 2017. There will not be a casino scheduled for this dance year.

Festivals

Yalenka dancers participate in festivals annually, allowing our dancers to showcase their dancing abilities. **Southern Alberta Ukrainian Dance Festival (SAUDF)** is held in March and Yalenka is continually looking at new festivals for our dancers to attend. As many of our students participate in these festivals, please watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Note: All Yalenka groups perform at SAUDF festival unless otherwise notified by your instructor.

Cheremosh Festival (St. Albert, AB): For the past few years, Yalenka has been participating in this spectacular dance festival. Class reps will be consulting with families early in the dance year

to determine interest in participating in this festival. If dancers are participating in Cheremosh Festival their class will continue rehearsals after the year end concert, and until the festival is held Mother's Day weekend in May.

Calgary Ukrainian Festival (CUF): In 2010, Yalenka participated in the first Calgary Ukrainian Festival and this event continues to be an important part of Yalenka's dance year. It is extremely important that Yalenka continues to have a strong presence at this important event in the Ukrainian community.

Please note that Yalenka will be performing at CUF this year (potentially all groups, including Iskra)! As this festival is held at the beginning of June it is important to remember that **rehearsals will be held during the two weeks prior to CUF** to prepare for this important event.



Solos and Duets

Yalenka supports dancers to further their dance experience by participating in learning solos and/or duets in addition to their class dances.

Yalenka supports these dancers by paying the entrance fees to compete in dance festivals. **However, the costs of preparing these solos and duets will be the sole responsibility of the parents/dancers (including studio space and instructor fees).** Please consult with your instructors to organize your solos and duets.

If your dancer wants to prepare a solo or duet this year, you must contact your instructor and the Festivals chairperson (Lisa Bratz – leesahbee@shaw.ca) by **October 31st.**



Year End Concert

To celebrate our year of dance, Yalenka plans an annual Year End concert. As in previous years, our entire dance school participates in a storyline choreographed by our artistic director and instructors.

To prepare for this, Yalenka dancers will be required to attend extra rehearsals with the entire dance school. These rehearsals usually take place on Sundays during the year (dates will be announced as soon as they are decided on – usually in November, February, March and April). These rehearsals are vital as the instructors put the individual group dances together into one amazing show. Storyline practices may also take place during Tuesday night rehearsals later in the school year.

Please watch for upcoming newsletters and emails for further details as they become available.

Travels with Yalenka

Every few years Yalenka plans a major trip to keep the dancers keen and give them the opportunity to travel and dance.

In 2006 Yalenka went to Disney World and danced at the Magic Kingdom, as well as Universal Studios in Florida. In 2008, Yalenka went to Ukraine to perform and participate in workshops as well as visit the different regions represented in dance. The memories of the culture, food, amazing history, architecture, regions, and dance have stayed with Yalenka's dancers since this adventure. 2011 brought a group of Yalenka dancers to New York for workshops and a chance to experience this vibrant city. Just prior to this dance year a group of Yalenka dancers travelled to San Diego to perform!

Stay tuned to the newsletter for further information as plans for Yalenka's next trip begin right away!

Costume Care:

Costumes are a very important and expensive part of dancing and Yalenka is proud to be able to offer costuming for our dancers. In return, it is very important that the costumes be cared for in a specific manner. Please follow the instructions provided:

- DO NOT eat, drink, or smoke in or near costumes; water only if required
- DO NOT put costumes on the floor
- always transport costumes in garment bag
- always hang up costume when not in use
- always hang costume immediately after use
- DO NOT hang costume on metal hangers
- if a costume requires laundering, contact a costume coordinator and follow their instructions. When in doubt, do nothing.
- ensure your costume is in good repair. Mend any loose buttons, pompoms, snaps, trim etc. Repair any holes. If you are unsure or unable to do so then please contact a costume coordinator ASAP so we can put your dancer on stage looking their best.
- costume instructions will be given with costume, including instruction for hair and makeup.

If you have any further questions/concerns about costuming, please contact your costume rep or speak with one of our knowledgeable costume coordinators:

Shannon Walsh
shannonwalsh@shaw.ca
403-818-7937
Tara Schweigert
tara.ld.kaye@gmail.com
403-305-1339



Volunteer Expectations:

Each family is expected to volunteer with **2 jobs and participate in 4 bingos and the casino (if being held) each year**. There are many opportunities to volunteer throughout the year.

Each class requires:

1. Class representative:

- act as liaison between instructor and parents
- phoning duties for class if required
- distribution of tax receipts and photos to class
- work with special events coordinator to determine availability of dancers for external performances, when they arise
- correspond with families via email with information on upcoming performances, costume information, as well as important class and school information
- organize teacher gifts if desired by group
- maintain regular contact with group instructor about class and/or parent concerns

2. Costume representative:

- assist costuming coordinators with distribution and return of costumes for individual group. This includes attendance at costume pick up and return events for your group.
- become acquainted with the costumes for your group, learning the various pieces for both boys and girls, how they



are worn and the care of the costumes for performances and when they are at home.

- communicate this information to parents via email and ensure that all dancers have complete costumes.
- assist groups on performance days to ensure dancers are prepared for performances assist parent and instructor in making sure all our dancers are dressed and pinned correctly and comfortably.

Other opportunities to volunteer include:

- Malanka (Ukrainian New Year)
- Costume workshops & return
- Final concert

Yalenka is operated by volunteers!

It is imperative that we all do our share to ensure our continued success so that our families may learn and perform this amazing dance form.



Instructor Profiles

Natasha Olshevska (Artistic Director)

Natasha moved to Canada following an illustrious career where she studied dance in Ukraine for 15 years performing in numerous countries around the world. Natasha also danced with Theatre Ballet in Ukraine for three years where she was awarded a “first category ballerina” degree. In addition Natasha taught dance in Ukraine for 6 years.

She currently dances with Calgary’s Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre and has taught with Yalenka since 2001. She continues to dedicate herself to Yalenka's dancers and is well known for her creative choreography and vision behind Yalenka’s storyline each year. Her passion and love of dance is legendary!

Serguei Makarov

Yalenka is privileged to have Serguei Makarov as one of our instructors. Formerly of Kyiv, Ukraine, he is currently the Artistic director of Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre of Calgary.

Mr. Makarov graduated from the prestigious Kharkiv Ballet School of Ukraine in 1970 and began a 17 year career as a male soloist with Virsky, the Ukrainian State Dance Company. For the past 15 years, he has been actively sought after worldwide for his choreographic genius, rigorous and precise dance instruction and as an artistic director.

Mr. Makarov is one of the world’s leading exponents in Ukrainian folk-ballet and Vaganova ballet instruction. He has held Master classes in Vaganova ballet for renowned schools throughout the world and has conducted advanced Ukrainian folk-ballet classes with some of the world’s finest Ukrainian dance companies.

Jordan Trechka

Jordan comes to the Yalenka family with over a decade of diverse dance and teaching experiences. Graduating from the University of Calgary with a BA in contemporary dance, and a BEd. in Early Childhood Education, Jordan has been excited to share his passion for movement with children and adults any chance he gets. Currently dancing under the direction of Serguei Makarov with Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre, Jordan has toured across Canada, Australia and the Western USA

delighting audiences. A proud supporter of the local Ukrainian community, he loves to perform at any opportunity, and is also a member of Korinnya Folk Ensemble. Jordan looks forward to another exciting year with Yalenka!

Vladimir Andreev

Mr. Vladimir Andreev is a graduate of the National Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Virsky of Kiev, Ukraine where he received the status of professional Dance Artist, choreographer and Ballet Master. He also has a vast knowledge of a variety of European styles of dance. After moving to Canada in 1996, he became artistic director of the Zirka Ukrainian Dance School in Vancouver. He also led two other dance ensembles in Abbotsford and Nanaimo, BC, and each year he has instructed summer dance workshops in Vernon, Victoria and outside the province. From 1996 to this moment Vladimir supervised and taught Ukrainian dance in different groups, schools and ensembles in various provinces of Canada (Toronto, ON, Winnipeg, MB, Regina, SK, Vancouver, BC, Edmonton and Calgary, AB). Since moving to Calgary Vladimir has taught with Yalenka, Barvinok and Hopak School.

We are fortunate that he has decided to return to our school, as his expertise is a valuable asset to our teaching team.

Dallas Tregubova

Dallas began her life in Ukrainian dance at Yalenka in 1986 at the age of 6. Her passion of Ukrainian dance grew through her childhood years as she competed, in which receiving numerous awards, also attending workshops with renowned dancers, choreographers in Canada and Ukraine. She has now been under the direction and training of Serguei Makarov for 15 years of classical ballet and Ukrainian dance. Her passion, dedication and commitment has led her to worldwide tours as a soloist.

Dallas has 4 years of teaching experience within Calgary and she is currently with the Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre. Through proper technique and stage presence Dallas believes it gives young dancers the confidence to love the dance and ultimately strive to be the best they can be. As an instructor, Dallas feels her main objective is to use her own



training and most of all experience to guide young dancers to find their passion within Ukrainian dance.

Milolika Smolyaninova

Milolika is a Yalenka Alumni, starting her journey in Ukrainian dance 11 years ago with Yalenka and she has returned to us as an assistant instructor. Currently at the University of Calgary she is double majoring in Mathematics and Education to one day become a Mathematics teacher. She fights for any chance she can get to spread some knowledge and skill!

Though she retired from Yalenka, she currently dances with the rest of the wonderful instructors at Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre. Milolika loves being part of the Ukrainian dance community and is super excited for the new year of dance.

Megan Daniels

Megan Daniels has been a practicing professional dancer for over 10 years. Growing up in Saskatoon, she studied with Yvonne Jaspar at Jaspar Academy of Dance and at 15 went to Winnipeg to attend the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. After graduating from the program, she danced as an apprentice with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company for a year, before deciding to branch out into the world of contemporary dance, where she danced with Jill Henis's company, Mixology Dance Theatre for 4 years.

Teaching has also been an important part of Megan's dance career, as she is passionate about passing all the years of dance wisdom on to the next generation of young dancers. Most recently, Megan has acquired a 200 hr yoga teacher training certificate, which enables her to teach another aspect of movement and creativity to eager participants.

Megan is thrilled to be involved with the Yalenka School for the first time and is eager to meet and be inspired by all the talented dancers!

Yalenka Board Positions

Chairperson

- Act as representative for the organization
- Oversee and organize everyday operations of the school
- Call and chair board meetings; book facility for same
- Support other board members in their roles
- Hire instructors and ensure instructor contracts are complete in conjunction with instructor liaison
- Act as mediator, as required
- Arrange instruction facility rental and rental contracts
- Ongoing recruitment of incoming board members

Vice Chairperson

- Registration activities (done by vice-chair or delegated registrar), including preparing & collecting registration packages and preparing class lists with instructors.
- Assist with studio rental contracts, as secondary contact when chairperson is not available
- Grant/bursary/donation applications
- Chair meetings in the event the chair is not available

Secretary

- Record minutes during board meetings
- Compile and distribute minutes from board meetings
- Circulate agenda and reminders for upcoming meetings

Treasurer

- Has care and custody of all funds and securities
- Maintain bank accounts (operating and casino/bingo accounts)
- Deposit and write cheques for signature by qualified signing authority
- Prepare and maintain adequate accounting records
- Update board members at each meeting on the current finances of the school

- Prepare annual budget with input from other board members
- Arrange for audit or review of previous year's financials for year ending May 31
- Present previous year's financial statements at the Annual General Meeting as well as a projection to the current year end
- Prepares and submits casino/bingo reports to Alberta Gaming Commission

Costumes

- Act as liaison between costume coordinators and artistic director and inform the board of costume requirements
- Obtain budget approval from the board for costume requests
- Work with costume coordinators to ensure that all groups have costume reps, and report concerns that require board intervention/discussion.
- Ensure that costume reps are aware of their responsibilities and are comfortable with all aspects, including communication with the parents, volunteer time commitment and required attendance (costume pick up & return, dress rehearsals, and performances)

Communications

- Take relative information from board, and other Yalenka members, to compile a monthly newsletter
- Compile and publish pertinent information from board meetings
- Email newsletter and other timely updates to all Yalenka families
- Maintain white board at dance studios, where available
- Update & publish Yalenka handbook annually

Publicity

- Publicize concerts and events to general public through media releases and to the Ukrainian community

through church bulletins, Ukrainian websites and other Ukrainian newsletters

- Collaborate with media for special appearances
- Photography when required
- Outside advertising for membership drives
- Preparation of pamphlets, posters and other image-creating promotional materials
- Website maintenance

Special Events

- Organize and book facilities for photo night, year end concert, dress rehearsal and concert date - includes board approval, contract signing & payment for facilities; request stage manager; coordination of instructors with theatre staff; and food services as required for concert events.
- Organize external Yalenka performances (including schools, organizations, weddings, etc.) – organize dance request with instructors and liaise with specific class parent representative to determine availability of dancers

Volunteer Coordinator

- Coordinate volunteers for special events as required
- Record volunteer hours and report same to treasurer
- Coordinate class parent volunteers

Fundraising

- Organize any fundraiser for Yalenka (not including bingos & casinos)
- Collect and distribute all orders when they come in
- Inform parents of any fundraisers coming in the near future

Gaming Chair

- Attend casino and bingo meetings representing Yalenka
- Report granted casino and bingo dates to board and Yalenka families via newsletter

- Organize volunteers for casino and bingo dates
- Complete casino and bingo applications and related paper work
- Communicate bingo payout information to treasurer

Festival Coordinator

- Communicate with instructors and parents for dance festivals, including solos, duets, and group dances
- Submit registration forms and fees for festivals
- Keep instructors and parents informed of festival times and locations once received.
- Communicate with instructors of any other festivals contacting Yalenka for participation.

Instructor liaison

- Ensure accurate communication between the board and the instructors.
- Share pertinent information with the board regarding the needs of the instructors.
- Schedule instructor meetings with key board members.
- Work with the chairperson to issue instructor contracts.
- Work together with the board and artistic director when new instructors are hired.
- Assist in determining the need for assistants and ensure they are in place.

The role of the board, as a whole, is to make decisions regarding the day-to-day operations of the club, keeping in mind the philosophy of the school. Board members are volunteer parents and dancers.

Board meetings are held monthly on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
All parents/families are welcome to attend.

