

We have been really impressed with the exponential growth of Capital City Historic Dancers and Musicians! We appreciate every one of you who has been coming and dancing with us.

Our group started over 30 years ago as dance camps that eventually became a Dance Band Class and a Folk Dance class that met weekly through the continuing education classes offered by Franklin County Schools. As the band improved they began to play for the dance class and the two were combined. Then as Don and Sylvia began to age the official group Capital City History Dancers and Musicians was formed in hopes of continuing to pass on the heritage and love of dance.

With the growth, we have experienced some growing pains. At present we are trying to balance our mission of preserving the rich variety of dances that have been passed down to us through the generations with our wish to continue to provide a wholesome atmosphere for the entire family.

To that end, we now plan for a portion of our dances to be **Teaching Dances**, whereby dancers preteen and older can learn new – more complicated – dances with the aid of our volunteer instructors. While no experience will be necessary, these dances will be conducted more like classes, and so they will probably not have much appeal for smaller children. We feel such dances are important for our work of keeping alive the culture represented by ballroom and English folk dancing. In this age of amnesia, so many of the traditions and skills which help remind us who we are have been lost, forgotten, or discarded; Capital City Historical Dancers & Musicians was founded specifically to counter this trend. If families still choose to come together to these more advanced dancing classes, we will depend on parents to make sure that their children behave in an appropriate manner for a class setting, and stay quiet enough that real learning can happen. During the nicer weather months there is a playground across the street as well as a fenced back yard where the children can play. There is a community garden out back that they will need to be mindful of, but still plenty of space to play.

There will still be 4 **Family Dances** over the course of the year. As before, each Family Dance will have a theme, decorations, and refreshments. While instructors will also be available at these dances, the emphasis will still be upon a wholesome, relaxing environment for the whole family where if you can walk you can dance. We will do super simple dances for anyone as well as some of the dances that we have worked on during the classes. We will still do a teaching walk-through before each dance, but if you choose to not come to the classes you will find it easier if you partner with someone who does come.

With this mix of Teaching Dances and Family Dances, we hope to promote excellence in dancing while also providing a means for passing on a love of dance to the little ones.