

Furusato Dancers

2024 was a great year for the Furusato Dancers. Here is a summary of our year.

Performances

We had 15 performances this year, the most we ever had in one year.

- Mochitsuki Shinnenkai – Jan 14
- Welcome Day Celebration and Newcomer Expo - Mar 3
- Ethnic Dance Festival – Apr 3
- Unveiling Ceremony at Gorge Park – Apr 26
- Music Festival Highlights Concert – Apr 29
- Sakura Concert with Newcombe Singers – May 1 & May 5
- Folkloria – Jun 1
- Japan Fest – Jul 20
- Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day – Aug 9
- VNCS Cultural Fair – Aug 24
- Greek Fest – Sep 2
- Saanich Autumn Lantern Festival – Sep 14
- Colwood Insight Festival – Sep 15
- VNCS 30th Anniversary Luncheon – Nov 2



Dance Workshop

After a long absence we had a dance workshop led by Karen Hirano, the daughter of our long time Sensei, Hirano Sensei. This took place on March 17. Karen taught us two lively contemporary dances – Genki Ondo & Nippon Cha Cha Cha. We hope this becomes an annual event.



Group Size

Our dance group went through a significant growth spurt this year. We added 5 new members bringing the size of the troupe to 17. Welcome Diane Cathro, Djuna Nagasaki, Kazuko Mito, Mary Kreger and Reiko Takeda.

Japanese Canadian Legacies Grant

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Fund. We used this grant to upgrade our music play back system and to acquire spare obis to be used with the yukatas donated to us by Nana Spence. The new music system allows us to play all our music as mp3 files and is much more flexible to use and to transport around.

Finances

Financially, the Furusato Dancers had a very good year. Because of the large number of paid gigs (11), we ended up with an operating surplus of \$685, our largest operating surplus ever. Our revenue comes primarily from two sources – annual membership dues (\$50 adult and \$25 for child) and gig honorariums. Our main expense is the rent of our practice facility at the Cook Street Village Activity Centre. As of December 31, 2024 we have \$5,070.46 in our bank account. Attached is a detailed Financial Statement for Furusato Dancers for 2024.

Furusato Dancers - 2024 Financial Statement				Period : Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024	
Balance in bank as of Dec 31/2022				\$4,384.38	
Revenue				Comments	
Membership fees				\$895.00	includes \$100 for 2025 dues Djuna & Mary
Performance Honorariums					
Welcome Day				\$200.00	
Unvieling of Interpretive Signs Gorge				\$200.00	
Sakura Concert (2)				\$300.00	
Hiroshima-Nagasaki				\$150.00	
VNCS Japanese Cultural Fair				\$100.00	
Colwood Insight Festival				\$175.00	
Greek Fest				\$350.00	Includes \$75 honorarium for Rina El-Nahas
Saanich AutumnLantern Festival				\$175.00	
VNCS 30th Anniversary				\$175.00	
Honorarium Total				\$1,825.00	\$1,825.00
Miscl (testing e-transfer)					\$1.00
Total Revenue				\$2,721.00	
Expenses					
Practice space rent - Cook Street Village Activity Centre					
January 1 to December 31, 2024				\$1,056.24	
Dance Workshop					
Honorarium				\$200.00	
Room Rental				\$63.08	
Ferry expense (passenger)				\$38.40	
Transportation				\$30.00	
Subtotal				\$331.48	\$331.48
Ethnic Dance Festival Registration					\$185.00
Uchiage/Bonenkai					\$373.20
Rina El-Nahas honorarium – Greek Fest					\$75.00
Miscl					\$14.00
Total Expenses				\$2,034.92	
Net Annual Operating Costs				\$686.08	
Balance in bank as of Dec31/2024				\$5,070.46	
				This is the amount in our chequing account.	