

Vince and Robin Evanchuk (by Roo Lester)

The lives of Vince and Robin Evanchuk are intertwined and their collaboration proved productive to the world of folk arts.

Vince Evanchuk was born in Winnipeg, Canada and moved with his family to the Los Angeles area as a young child. He began dancing at the age of 2½ under the tutelage of his father who lead a Ukrainian dance group. In 1963 Vince and colleague Don Green traveled to Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and learned (among other things) that one of Vince's great, great, great grandfathers was a Cossack.

Roberta 'Robin' Evanchuk was born in Massachusetts and moved with her family to the Los Angeles area at the age of 7. She has danced almost as long as she could walk. In college Robin studied English, dance arts, started folk dancing while earning her BA in Theater Arts from UCLA. In addition to her dance pursuits, much of her life was spent working as a medical librarian and in the Folklore Department.

Vince and Robin met at folk dancing in a cooperative performing group called The Gandy Dancers. They were both very active attending folk dance classes and events in Southern California. Together Vince and Robin taught a teenage folk dance group. They taught and choreographed for Vince's Ukrainian dance group, Sianka; they choreographed and lead a dance section of another performing group, Westwind.

The Evanchuks were involved with and taught a variety of dance workshops at camps and festivals and choreographies for groups Liberty Assembly, Folklorismus, Aman, the and Duquesne Tamburitzens.

The couple collaborates on all their dance material and just celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in January of 2015.

For more about the Evanchuks and their contributions, refer to Dick Oakes article:
www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/teachers/evanchuk_vr.htm