

John and Barbara Uhlemann

These two remarkable people met at the Folk Dance Club while attending Grinnell College. Each had come to the Folk Dance Club to fulfill a Physical Education requirement. Thank you, PE, for bringing these two people together, married now 47 years and still folk dancing.

John says the music got him 'hooked' on dancing. The dances John found to be most interesting were the line dances, a newer element in the international folk dance world at that time, although the Uhlemanns are also active in the couple dance gatherings in the area.

The dance and music inspired John and Barbara to travel to Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, former Yugoslavia, Greece, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech republic as well as Western Europe. They created their own travel programs, seeking dance and music events, thereby broadening their connection to the folk music and dance of the countries they are visiting. John has introduced a number of dances that they have learned while traveling.

Twenty-five years ago, John was asked to do a radio show devoted to ethnic music. John has put his heart, soul and knowledge into the programs. John will be making a presentation to us about his radio program at our annual conference.

Barbara Uhlemann is currently on the board of directors for the East European Folklife Center and serves as their treasurer as well as being the treasurer for the local folk dance organization. An important part of the work that Barbara does is preparing the financial reports that support grant applications for their dance, music and cultural activities and events.

For the last eight years they have been carrying forward their interest in the folk music and dance of Eastern Europe by bringing their grandchildren to the east coast Balkan Camp.

John and Barbara truly have a lifetime commitment to the folk milieu. Their participation, organization, business support, research and carrying it forward with their grandchildren is remarkable.

