



JANIS GRIMES (2001)

Janis studied ballet and tap dance as a child in Arlington, VA, and danced in the chorus line as a Bow Belle with the British Embassy Players for 6 years in the 1970's and 1980's. In 1992 she discovered Carolina Shag and, along with Rick Hendrix (VSHOF, 2008), is a charter member of the Northern Virginia Shag Club (NVSC). She served on the Board of Directors of the NVSC for 8 years, was the newsletter creator and editor for 4 ½ years, chaired the dance committee for 5 years, and served as President for 2 years. Janis was a dedicated student of the legendary Susie Beaver (BSNHOF, 2003). Janis was inducted into the National Living Legends of Dance in 2002.

An active instructor and competitor, she established and taught Carolina Shag classes offered through the Fairfax County Department of Recreation for 18 years, and offered private individual and group shag lessons as well. Janis initiated a Beginner Shag course at George Mason University in February 1998, thereby introducing the Shag to Northern Virginia area university students and faculty. She has won 1st Place in a Shag Division at the VA State Open Swing Dance Championships; and twice won 1st Place in a Shag Division at Swing Fling at Tyson's Corner; as well as placing 3rd in the prestigious American Swing Dance Championships in New York City. Janis has competed and placed 1st and other places in the Amateur Division of the Competitive Shaggers Association (CSA) at contests in NC, SC and VA. Photos of Janis dancing are featured on the covers of several dance CD's, including the Cammy Award winning "Blues on the Loose" (1997); "Blues on the Loose II" followed; and "A Measure of Blues" after that.

In 1999, she married her dance partner, Steve Booth, VSHOF 2002, and in 2015 Janis and Steve moved to Richmond, joining the Richmond Shag Club. They brought to the RSC their dancing talent and creativity, polished in several years of CSA competition and continued study and practice of the Dance. They joined the RSC Dance Instruction Committee and have become regular instructors, providing (in rotation with other couples on the Committee) monthly Shag classes for Beginner and Intermediate level dancers, as well as offering special workshops for Juniors and other Shaggers at the RSC "Sunday Shag Jams." They also taught several sessions of Shag lessons at the Richmond Dance Masters studio in Lakeside.

In 2004, Janis and Steve taught Shag lessons at the Virginia Beach Shag Club's 15th Annual Beach Bash. She has assisted Steve for years with the induction ceremonies for both the VSHOF and the National Living Legends of Dance. Moreover, she takes special satisfaction and joy from helping junior shaggers develop, including her own grandchildren. A second home in Norfolk close to her "grandbabies" gives them a closer "base of operations" to frequent and teach Shag at several Tidewater area venues, including the Colonial Shag Club and the Boogie on the Bay Shag Club, as guest instructors.