



# Judy Davis 2010

## JUDY DAVIS

What brought me to this wonderful place in the Shaggers Hall of Fame began in the second grade at the Adams Dance Studio in High Point, N.C., learning all the usual "little girl" dances of tap, ballet and ballroom basics until age fourteen, when my father got me on track with a Jitterbug basic. I practiced with the doorknob for years so I would be able to dance with the fellas at the City Lake Pavilion in High Point, Crystal Lake in Winston-Salem and The Jokers 3 in Greensboro. The fellas included Danny Bean, Roscoe Goad, and Jet Jackson and the music was by Earl Bostic and The Tams. Then there were summer trips to the Beach where I danced with the likes of Jimmy Mills, Mike Campbell and Donnie Christenbury, and the experience was all the more intoxicating when we were at The Pad, Sonny's Pavilion, or after hours at The Forks in Little River.

In 1965 I moved to Atlanta to begin my stint as a flight attendant for Eastern Airlines. Although Atlanta was not a major center for Shaggers, I still found guys like Pug Wallace and John Breeden, who were willing to polish their styles with a little North Carolina Shagger like me, at places like Chick Hedrick's Club and the Sans Souci. During that time I would make trips home, and that meant shagging at the Castaways and later at the Bushes in Greensboro. I had the great good fortune at that time to dance with some of the best: Sherrill Perry, Eddie Page, and Sparky Stuart who were all regulars at Bill Griffin's inland beach clubs, and was I grateful they were!

In 1969 I married and become a wife and mother. Dancing became an occasional thing at high school reunions and the infrequent trips to SOS. I still treasure those memories of early SOS events and shagging at the original Spanish Galleon when it was owned by Harold Bessent and Buddy Owens. SOS was my time to "style and profile" with the cream of the crop in the Shag world.

In 1994 I found myself single and ready to dance again. I signed myself up for shag lessons with the best-Susie Beaver- and in so doing not only got a great teacher and mentor but a supportive and cherished friend. Eventually I began doing exhibition dances at conventions as well as entering non-pro contests. My first big event was dancing with Otis Harris in the first Shag division held at the American Swing Dance Championships in New York in 1996, placing fifth. In 1998, I was asked by Susie to assist with her students in her dance company, which in itself was an invaluable learning experience. I went on to dance in numerous non-pro and mixed doubles for charity such as the Bunk Leach Charity Event and Shaggers Hall of Fame Foundation at Thirsty's II in Greensboro. In 1998 I was overwhelmed to be inducted into the National Living Legends of Dance in Virginia Beach.

I believe I have had the extreme good fortune to have been taught by, have danced with and have associated with some of the finest dancers of our time, including Lynda Carole Flynn and Sandra Schwartz Adams. For two years I had the pleasure of dancing with Wayne Stancil, culminating at the National Shag Dance Championships in 1999 and again in 2002 with Rodger Woodson. Shagging has given me a lifelong foundation of loving, supportive friends, many of whom are like family to me and I offer sincere thanks to them and the Shaggers Hall of Fame for this supreme honor.