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TIFD Youth by Lisa Horn

I have spent 22 of my 26 years in Folk Dancing. To me, folk dancing was just something everyone did. Or at least that's what I thought until I went to Middle School. :)

Growing up in folk dancing was wonderful! Every Friday night I would see my friends and we would play, laugh, and dance together. We all developed such great friendships that we are still close today. Every now and then we think about what would have been if we all hadn't met at folk dancing, and the answer is that we wouldn't have met each other. I know that I can speak for my folk-dance "clique" when I say that we all feel very lucky to have met each other!

Folk dancing has always been a passion for me. I love to dance! It seems like every Friday night and four days straight at Texas Camp is never enough!

The folk dance community taught me to be more mature than my age because I was always around different age groups. I have never felt uncomfortable around people older or younger than myself because that is how I was raised. And I was mostly treated like one of the adults instead of just some brat kid running around. Throughout my years in dancing, I have developed a larger group of family and friends than just my immediate family. There is always someone to talk to, laugh with, go to shows and concerts with, and most importantly—to dance with. I feel that I have more friends and family than half of what most people have!

I don't think I could imagine my life without growing up in the life of folk-dancing. Both of my parents danced and so I have always felt that it is in my blood. My niece and nephew too have shown that they love to dance since they first learned to walk. A group as loving and welcoming is hard to come by. I cherish my folkdance family every day!!

Chef Needed for Camp 2009

Laura LaGue, our wonderful camp chef for several years, will be spending Thanksgiving with her family in 2009. No one can fill her shoes, but someone's gotta feed us! Send your helpful suggestions to campchairs@tifd.org.



2008 TIFD Membership Directory

Thanks to all TIFD members who renewed their membership or attended Texas Camp. The enclosed membership directory is intended for personal use by TIFD members and any commercial use is forbidden.

Book Review

Making Gourd Musical Instruments by Ginger Summit and Jim Widess

copyright 1999, published in New York by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. (CD with recordings of 30 all-gourd instruments also available from www.caning.com.)

People the world over have made musical instruments from gourds for hundreds if not thousands of years. In this remarkable book you will learn how to select and prepare gourds for different uses. (If you don't grow your own, your local farmers' market can likely help you out, and there is a list of suppliers in the back of the book as well.) Gourds can be used to make idiophones (initial vibrator is solid material that vibrates by virtue of its own rigidity); membranophones (initial vibrator is a stretched membrane, such as a drum skin); chordophones (initial vibrator is a stretched string); and aerophones (initial vibrator is air, either enclosed in a chamber or free). You can even make cases to hold your gourd instruments, and of course you can decorate with paint, carving, beadwork, etc. Not only that, this book with its full-color illustrations shows you how to play your newly made instrument!

Learn to make a rain stick, thumb piano, xylophone, marimba, rattle, drum, flute, zither, banjo, nose flute, guira, trumpet mute, or ocarina. There are detailed instructions for attaching beads or shells to the outside of a gourd to make a shakere (see photo).



Dance in History

"But speaking of plain quadrilles reminds us of another new one—the Virginia reel. We found it a very easy matter to dance it, as long as we had thirty or forty lookers-on to prompt us. The dancers were formed in two long ranks, facing each other, and the battle opens with some light skirmishing between the pickets, which is gradually resolved into a general engagement along the whole line: after that, you have nothing to do but stand by and grab every lady that drifts within reach of you, and swing her. It is very entertaining, and elaborately scientific also; but we observed that with a partner who had danced it before, we were able to perform it rather better than the balance of the guests."

Mark Twain, "Territorial Enterprise" January 10, 1863

Deadline for the next issue of TIFD News is April 18

The TIFD Quarterly Newsletter is published on the first of the month, in February, May, August, and November; the eLetter is sent on the first of the remaining months. Uncertain who to send your news to? Send to Sally and Terri, both at editor@tifd.org, and we will sort it out from there.

TIFD News is published four times a year for the members of Texas International Folk Dancers, a non-profit educational organization. Submissions for publication are welcome, yet subject to editing. All opinions expressed are those of the author exclusively. Material herein may be reproduced with the editor's permission.

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In Memory of Anne Pittman

Anne Pittman passed away at age 90 on November 25, 2008. She was instrumental in getting folk dancing started in Texas, and taught folk dancing in her PE classes at U.T. in the mid 1940's. Anne helped get the Austin folk dance group started, and this group evolved into the Austin International Folk Dancers. She also served as an advisor to the first Texas Folk Dance Camp in January 1949. As co-author of *Dance A While*, a widely used college textbook now in its 10th edition, she has influenced the teaching of folk dance throughout the U.S.

In her lifetime, Anne received The National Dance Association Plaudit Award; the San Antonio Dance Festival Award; and the National Folk Organization of the USA Award. The Heritage Award, the highest honor given to dance educators, will be presented posthumously by the National Dance Association at the 2010 convention in Indianapolis.

Outside of folk dance circles, Anne is best known for her work as tennis coach and champion of women's sports at the University of Arizona. She received many awards in tennis and coaching. At age 89, she played in the Summer National Senior Olympics and took home the Silver Medal.

Contributions and memorial gifts to a tennis scholarship in Anne's name will be welcome. Send to: Sun Angel Foundation, attn: Anne Pittman Tennis Scholarship, c/o Stephen Ponder, P.O. Box 872205, Tempe, AZ 85287-2205.

TIFD Board Election Results and Next Meeting

Congratulations to newly-elected TIFD Board members Sally Jenkins, Terri Chadwick, Misi Tsurikov, and Jan Bloom. These trustees will take office at the February 7 TIFD Board meeting. Thanks to outgoing Board members Chris Broad, Lisa Horn, and Misi Tsurikov for their valuable service to TIFD.

The next TIFD Board meeting will take place on Saturday afternoon, February 7, 2009 in Houston. TIFD members should notify Chris Broad if they want to attend or if they have an issue they would like the Board to consider.

Calendar

February 6, 2009, Houston. Jacqueline Schwab (pianist for Bare Necessities) in concert: "Mark Twain's America: A Portrait in Music" Info ksparks@mdpc.org (713) 782-1710 or tcurtis@mdpc.org (713) 490-0946

February 7 San Antonio. Jacqueline Schwab, pianist for Bare Necessities. Afternoon workshop and evening English Country Dance. Info james.drury@att.net

February 8 possibly, San Antonio. Jacqueline Schwab in concert. Info, james.drury@att.net

February 13-15 Houston. Bayou Bedlam, sponsored by Houston Area Traditional Dance Society. Features Notorious playing, and Shawn Brenneman calling. www.bayoubedlam.org

February 21 Houston. Winter YOW (Your Own Workshop) by Houston IFD. Afternoon teaching by HIFD members. Pizza dinner (bring side dishes or dessert and your own drinks), evening dance party. More information at www.folkdancers.org.

February 21 California. East Bay, Berkeley, CA, 60th Annual Folk Dance Festival of the Oaks. Lee Otterholt teaches Balkan dances. Info Mel Mann, Festival Chairman, 510-527-2177 or meldancing@aol.com

March 11-15 Richardson, TX (near Dallas). National Accordion Association annual convention. www.nationalaccordion.org

March 12-15 Houston. Lindyfest by Houston Swing Dance Society. Classes for all dance levels, soul sessions with living legends, hot performances and four endless nights dancing. www.lindyfest.hsds.org

March 13-15 San Antonio. San Antonio Folk Dance Festival, featuring Lee Otterholt, Balkan; Miroslav Marcetic, Serbian; Sandy Starkman, International; George Fogg, English. Nick Bratkovich will be playing too. Registration \$60. For more information contact Nelda Drury at 210-342-2905, Lissa Bengtson at lbengtson@lake.ollusa.edu, or www.safdf.org

March 15 Libuse, LA. Louisiana Czech Heritage Festival. Info daniho402@gmail.com

March 20-22 Albuquerque, NM. Hungarian workshop for all levels; individual and couple dances. Richard Balazs teaching. www.abqfolkdance.org

March 20-22 Chicago. 44th Anniversary Spring Festival. Balkan/East European dance and music, held at International House at the U of Chicago. Dance, singing, and instrumental music workshops, concert, dance parties, and culture sessions with master guest teachers and artists. Info John Kuo at 777-324-1247 or balkanske_igre@yahoo.com

March 27-29 Tulsa. TIFD's 40th anniversary party Friday night featuring live music by Nick Bratkovich, followed by weekend international folk dance workshop, Jana Rickel teaching. Info salandalan@sbcglobal.net

March 27-29 Columbia, MO. Spring Breakdown contra weekend. Great Bear Trio and Nils Fredland. <http://mmt.d.missouri.org/special.html>

April 3-5 Austin. Set for Spring English Country Dance Weekend. Joseph Pimentel calling, Goldcrest playing. www.setforspring.org or info@setforspring.org

April 4 San Antonio, TX. Bluebonnet Scottish Country Dancers Ball. featuring Clandestine \$30 to dance, \$10 to sit and watch and groove. For more info contact Patti Heard 210-392-2195 or heard@uthscsa.edu.

April 16-19 near Denver. NFO (National Folk Organization) annual conference. <http://www.nfo-usa.org/Conference2009.htm>

April 24-26 Dallas. When In Doubt, Swing! Lynn Ackerson calling, Moving Violations playing. (Editor's note: I just got 2 CDs of Moving Violations - they mix Balkan tunes, Baroque tunes, and regular contra tunes! Can't wait!) <http://www.nttds.org> or wids@nttds.org or Rhonda Beckman 214-893-7102

May 8-10 San Antonio Contra Dancers 25th Anniversary - featuring workshops and dances with Tony and Beth Parkes. More info to come.

May 8-10 Boulder, CO. Romanian dance workshop with Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion. Info from Ilana at (303) 449-2381 or ilana.baror@bvsd.org

May 15-17 Troy, MO (near St. Louis). Kimmswick Dance and Music Festival. All-volunteer contra dance weekend similar to Fiddler's Dream. www.childgrove.org/kimmswick, info at dale@childgrove.org

June 29-30 Richardson, TX. O'Flaherty Irish Music Youth Camp. www.oflahertyretreat/youthcamp or youthcamp@oflahertyretreat.org

July 21-31 Greece. NISOS NAXOS 2009: an 11-day non-profit seminar on Greek Cycladic dances : tradition, music, dance, arts, culture, history & memories from the Aegean Sea. Website under construction, but please feel free to phone 00 33 6 03 78 28 77, or e-mail nisosnaxos@gmail.com

October 8-11 Dodgeville, WI. Pourparler, sponsored by NFO (National Folk Organization). Focuses on teachers of children's dance. <http://www.nfo-usa.org/pourparler2009.htm>

October 23-25 Midlothian, TX. O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat. Classes, concerts, singing, instruments. www.oflahertyretreat.org or info@oflahertyretreat.org

August 3-15, 2010, Koprivshitsa, Bulgaria. <http://www.jimgold.com/Bulgaria2010.htm> Start planning now!

Jacqueline Schwab in Concert

Houston Concert:

What: "Mark Twain's America--A Portrait in Music," a solo concert of vintage American by Pianist Jacqueline Schwab, heard on a dozen PBS series by Ken Burns

When: Friday, February 6, 2009, 7:30 pm

Location: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial Drive (at Blalock), Houston, TX 77024, Fellowship Hall

Information: ksparks@mdpc.org or (713) 782-1710; tcurtis@mdpc.org or (713) 490-0946

San Antonio Dances:

What: afternoon workshop and evening English country dance, called by Jacqueline Schwab (pianist with Bare Necessities and English country dance leader)

When: Saturday, February 7, 2009

Information: Jimmy Drury, james.drury@att.net

Possible San Antonio Concert:

When: Sunday, February 8, 2009

Information: Jimmy Drury, james.drury@att.net

Thanks!

Jacqueline Schwab, (617) 775-7553

jacquelineschwab.com

myspace.com/jacquelineschwab

Dance on the Water Cruise to Russia contributed by John Clement

We went on Mel Mann's Dance on the Water cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg from June 30 to July 11, 2008. Emily Rosenberg, John & Emily Clement, and Sharon & Marty Samson were all on the cruise. There were also some familiar faces such as Sandy Starkman who has been at SAFDF. We spent a couple of days in Moscow visiting the Kremlin (fortress), Red Square, St. Basil's church, and the subway. The subway stations are sumptuous with beautiful murals, marble floors and chandeliers. We also had a side trip to a newly restored working monastery, and the Russian trade center where we participated in Russian dances.

The cruise visited the towns of Uglich, Yaroslavl, Goritsy, Kizhi, Mandroga and finally St. Petersburg. There were many stunning churches with glowing interiors. Many churches have been restored and are now used as places of worship. Two of the noted churches were huge wooden churches in Kizhi with many domes. No nails were used in construction. During the cruise Lee Otterholt taught Russian dances, and we danced on the "sun" deck in the late evening. We danced and watched the sun go down at 11:30, and continued in the bright twilight after midnight. Two nights we had to beat a retreat because it was extremely cold, and the other night was while the ship was stationary in the locks. As soon as it stopped moving hordes of mosquitoes proceeded to extract a pint per minute.

Every night the Prikamie folk group had a live dance and music show, and at the end of the trip a one hour concert. We were also treated to a violin concert on board the ship, and there was a piano bar. Among the optional tours was a performance of Swan Lake, a Cossack show, and a choir concert. We also took the Petersburg extension; there was a participation folk show in the Nickholaiivsky palace.

The highlights of Petersburg were the Catherine Palace, the Hermitage, and Peterhof, Peter the Great's fountain garden supplied with fresh water from mountain lakes. Peterhof is truly impressive for the variety of fountains with formal laid out gardens. The four of us from Houston also went to the folk museum in Petersburg and the Siege of Leningrad museum. The Siege museum was very moving and showed a short film where we could see the destruction and privation wrought by the German and Finnish troops. This movie is on Youtube, but with inferior music. We also saw Don Quixote performed by the Kirov in the old Maryinsky theater.

Our hotel had a hallway that seemed like it was a mile long! At the same time in the Renaissance the Western churches were decorating the walls behind the altar, the Eastern churches put their decorations



along the altar rail. Eventually they filled the whole space with icons "iconostasis," but had 2 small doors that could be opened during the service for the congregation to see the altar. The rebuilt church was originally dynamited by Stalin, but the patriarch hid the original plans and after the fall of the Soviets, the church was rebuilt exactly the same way with the same materials. Opposite our hotel in Petersburg is the Tikhvin cemetery where practically all the great Russian artists, writers, and composers were buried including Pushkin, Tchaikovsky, Borodin... Opposite to that cemetery is where all the great older political figures and noblepersons were buried. And adjacent to that is the church where Alexander Nevsky is buried. St. Alexander (they canonize all great political figures or assassinated tsars) repelled the Swedes at the site of the church in 1200, as I recall. It is the subject of the movie "Alexander Nevsky," which is one of the most influential and greatest movies ever made. It is worth renting. It was directed by Eisenstein, with music by Prokofiev. The tsars and their families are buried separately in the church of St. Peter and Paul on the first fortress built by Peter the Great. The last royal family is there in a separate room because the remains could not be separated from their servants'. The family was canonized by the Russian church. The story of their fate is fascinating and there is a very readable thick historically accurate book, Nicholas and Alexandra, by a noted historian and author.

The Hermitage of course is a fantastic world-class museum as it was originally the Tsar's palace (one

of them) with their private art collection (hermitage). It is worthwhile going to the web and looking at the pictures of the Hermitage, Peterhof, and the Catherine Palace. Be sure to look at the pictures and read about the Amber Room which is entirely lined with carved amber. The Catherine Palace was named after Catherine I, the mother of Elizabeth, who commissioned the palace. Catherine the Great came later. Elizabeth was a party girl whose lavish spending was considered excessive by later tsars and tsaritsas.

The Russian people were very hospitable and we even were served tea and homemade pieroshkies by a grandmother in her house in Goritsy. But with the good came the bad. I had \$100 picked out of my pocket in the subway, but they didn't touch my antique camera because it used film.

All of the places mentioned have web sites and the Volga River cruises are also on the web for those who wish to look at pictures. Mel Mann's site is: <http://www.folkdanceonthewater.org/> and he has posted pictures from the trip. I could go on for pages, but I doubt the readers could. We thoroughly enjoyed the cruise. Eventually I might post a few videos on YouTube from the cruise.



News from Holly Kuper

To my folkdance buddies

I guess I should write to all of you devoted folkdancers that I too am devoted but I have had a few things going on in my life that have kept me from enjoying all the annual festivities in Bruceville and beyond. First of all my mother and father had been sick on and off the last few years so I have been spending Thanksgiving in Cleveland, Ohio for the last two years. Three years ago I was in New York, you may recall. Then sadly my father, of 84 years and a remarkable man from day one, died peacefully at home on December 13th 2008. We gathered as an extended family and we loved and cried and sang and ate and shared stories and photographs. The service was amazing and my mother is doing well, with my nephew moving in to keep her company and go to college in Cleveland. He may have a hard time keeping up with her.

On my Dallas home front, my daughter Olivia Kuper Harris has become quite the star, winning a spot out of 6000 high school senior applicants in Florida's NFAA competition for the arts in Musical Theatre with an honorable mention in Jazz. There is a possibility of Presidential Scholarship money as well when she goes to Miami in mid-January. She also was selected out of hundreds to be one of the 8 singers for the Grammy Youth Ensemble singing Jazz that plays at all the pre-events in LA and the after party surrounding the Grammys Jan 30-Feb 8. They may be on TV but whatever happens it will be an exciting week with professionals in the music world.

Dylan Kuper Harris is getting ready for his Junior year abroad in Florence, Italy. What could be better for a fit 21 year old. Who knows, I might have to visit. Ciao.

As for myself, since I have not been able to folkdance as much, I have started Swing Dancing. Mostly I have ended up being the photographer more than dance, as I shot for Buddy Steves at the Lindy Fest 2008 and the Swing Out New Hampshire fabulous 5 day Labor Day camp for Mark Kapner's website and publicity. I am looking forward to more dancing in 2009. Fewer trips to visit the sick, and many wonderful photo assignments.

Thanks for thinking of me. I haven't disappeared but my obligations have superseded my dancing at the moment. I will be back.

Holly

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News from Local Groups

Dallas News

Beginning on Friday, Jan 23, 2009, DIFD will meet at the Quaker Meeting House, after about 10 years at the old location. The Quaker (Friends) Meeting House is at 5828 Worth St., Dallas, 75214 (near Gaston and Abrams).

San Antonio IFCC News

Upcoming for February:

For \$2 per person:

Every Wednesday: Salsa 6 – 7:30 p.m. and
International Folk Dancing 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Every Thursday: 5 – 6 p.m. Folklorico Dance
6 – 7 p.m. Middle Eastern Dance
7 – 8 p.m. Line Dancing

Every Sunday: Scottish Country Dancing 3 – 6 p.m.

Fourth Friday (Feb 27): 7:30 – 10 p.m.

International Folk Dancing with Jimmy Drury

For \$6 per person:

2nd and 4th Saturdays: Contra Dancing with Live
Music www.sacontradancers.org



Above: The Bulgarian band Kabile performed in Austin in November.

Below and right: HIFD dancers.



Hungarian Performance in Houston by Anne Schaffer

In mid-December, the HIFD board received a special performance/teaching request from the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston. This was special because HIFD rents the church's Channing Hall to dance in every Friday night and on other occasions throughout the year (such as the recent New Year's Eve party).

For years the HIFD board had offered the UU board to do a free performance for them, but this was the first time they had taken up the offer. They requested a short Hungarian performance followed by the teaching of a Hungarian dance. This was to follow a Hungarian dinner that the UU board itself was going to prepare. Hungarian was chosen due to the close association of Unitarian Universalism with Hungarian Transylvania. The attendees would be contributors to the fund-raising silent auction they had recently conducted.

The HIFD board asked Anne Schaffer to direct the event. She chose a program that represented different regions of pre-WWI Hungary as well as different "layers" of dance (old vs. new). It included five women performing Somogy Karikazo, two couples performing a short Mezősegi suite, and all helping to teach Kerekes afterwards.

Since UU members tend to be well-educated and interested in socio-economic affairs, in her introductions Anne gave the audience a mini-course in how economics can directly affect women's costumes, how changes in women's costumes can lead to new dance figures, etc. She also described the improvisational nature of the Mezősegi dances and, of course, related where all the dances were from, who did them, in what kind of places, and on which occasions. The teaching of Kerekes at the end, an archaic circle dance from the high Carpathians, was overwhelmingly successful and ended the evening on a high note. Of the circa 50 to 60 people at the dinner, all but 8 were on the dance floor, necessitating two concentric circles, each with its own leader-caller.



Recipes from 2008 Texas Camp

All recipes contributed by Camp Chef Laura LaGue

Beef Gyuvech (Bulgarian Beef Stew)

The Bulgarian beef is more a technique than a recipe - I don't use set amounts. I cut up and sear off beef, saute onions & garlic, put this all in a pot with water, chopped tomatoes, carrots, bay leaf, oregano, Hungarian paprika, black pepper and a little salt. Simmer for 2 hours or until tender. Adjust seasonings, garnish with halved kalamata olives and chopped parsley.

Scones

4 cups (1#) bread flour
6 Tablespoons (3 oz.) sugar
2 Tablespoons (1 oz.) baking powder

8 Tablespoons (4 oz.) butter, cold, cut up in small pieces
(frozen butter, grated, works well)

2 eggs
6 oz. raisins
1 1/2 cup milk

Place dry ingredients in mixing bowl. Add butter and mix with a paddle. Add eggs, raisins, mix, add milk slowly while mixing. Dough should be a little sticky. Turn it out on a floured countertop, gently knead, then press or roll dough to about 3/4" thick. Cut into triangles, place on sheet pan, bake 375 degrees for 12-15 minutes until browned. This makes about a dozen depending on size.

Yorkshire Pudding

2 cups all purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
5 eggs, beaten
2 cups milk

Mix this all together with a whisk until smooth. Let rest. In a 425 degree oven, preheat muffin pan or roasting pan. Pan surface should be generously greased with beef fat and/or dripping from a roast. This is where the flavor is. Pour batter into hot pan, they should pop up fairly quickly, let them bake 4-5 minutes more to cook the inside. Serve immediately.

Folk dancing at Fiddler's Dream 2008-2009

For the first time, folk dancing was on the official schedule at Fiddler's Dream (a contra dance event) this year (we've sneaked some in, in the past, but it was never official). Shelley Allison and Brenda Nibert Howard taught a dozen intrepid contra dancers how to do Syrto, Karagouna, Merengue, and Mayim, then Tom Miller and Joni McSpadden taught the Cross-Step Waltz. Teachers and students alike performed Karagouna in the Talent Show later in the weekend. In addition, many people who regularly folk dance throughout Oklahoma and Texas performed Bavno Oro in the same Talent Show. Pictured in Karagouna: Shelley Allison, Tracy Sellers, Steve Babula, Brenda Nibert Howard, Emily Rosenberg, Sally Jenkins, Rebecca Renfro, Tom Miller, Joni McSpadden, Lissa Bengtson, Mark Cashion, Leroy Hershberger. Other folk dancers (some currently on break from folk dancing) present but not in this picture included Jane Lorenzen, Rhonda Beckman, Ben Smith, Alan Jenkins, Susan Downs, MaryJo Watkins, Ann McCracken, Kathy Keepers, Beverly Rapp, and John Rapp. Outside of Texas Camp and maybe When In Doubt Swing, Fiddler's Dream may be the biggest collection of Texas and Oklahoma Folk Dancers in one place at one time. We love it!



Texas Camp 2008 Memories



cream sundae night. Is it time to take apart the floor already? How much did you sleep? Hope to see you all in 2009!