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Texas Camp—A Blast from the Past and Blast into the Present

2 50 years ago—1958. Dave Rosenberg and the charming mountaintop campsite in San Antonio stand out in memories of this year. Chairmen were George and Mary Lowrey; Dave’s teaching was ably supplemented by that of Mary Tymkowych and Nelda Lindsey Drury. The kaleidoscope of memorable events flashes visions of the poor drowned roast pig for the Hawaiian luau; Dave killing the monster so realistically in Belgian Carnival night; intensive work on the exciting Sardana; a rapt group of us dancing Yovana Yovanke to greet the dawn the last morning of camp.

6 25 years ago—1983. Kálmán Magyar taught Hungarian dances and David Henry taught Greek dances. The syllabus from 1983 includes Dudálás, Dunántuli Ugrós, and Körtánc, as well as Sta Dhyo, Syngathistos, and Zonaradhikos.

8 46 years ago—1962 (just because the figures are available). Financial statement from Texas Camp shows income of \$2084.50 and total expenses of \$1808.23. Total pay for staff (statement does not say how many people) was \$375.00. How times have changed!

3 weeks from now—2008. Yves Moreau, France Bourque-Moreau, and George Fogg present Bulgarian, French, French Canadian, and English Country Dancing. Anne-Louise Schaffer will lead singing classes that will correlate with the dances being taught. Suze and Richie will be there with goods at the Balkan Bazaar. Parties include The Tacky Party, The Sofia Stomp, and Monty Python’s Dancing Circus. Costume ideas for all these parties are on the TIFD webpage at www.tifd.org so there is every reason to have a great costume every night. Elastic waistbands will help you accommodate the delicious meals planned by everyone’s favorite camp chef, Laura LaGue.

As usual, remember your sheets and pillow, your favorite dance shoes, and your musical instruments. If you’re donating something to the auction or book sale, remember that too. Come prepared for weather that could be anywhere between 30 and 90 degrees. Remember to bring ear plugs, money, and your toothbrush! And most important, your smile!



From the Editor—Appreciation Appreciated

Except for a very few globetrotting dance teachers, everyone I know of in the world of folk dance is a volunteer. Some volunteers are more visible than others. Teachers, programmers, party-planners, and club presidents are pretty visible and usually get plenty of recognition for their contributions, which they indeed deserve. But in the invisible sector are legions of volunteers who work just as hard, and they too deserve and need an “attaboy” at least occasionally. Your board members (city clubs as well as the larger Texas organization) meet outside of dance time to steer the club’s finances and growth; your newsletter writers often don’t know if anyone even reads what they write; your webmasters delve deep in the hidden workings of computerland doing things no one else even understands; your music librarians keep the music you want at the ready; your club historians or scrapbook-keepers take it upon themselves to record the events of your club. Who else in your club deserves a pat on the back? It’s always the right time to say, “Well done, thank you for all you do.”

Book Recommendation (Fiction Alert!)

The Historian, by Elizabeth Kostova, is a fictional account of a young woman in search of the truth about Vlad the Impaler, commonly known as Dracula. People who read this book as a vampire story have been disappointed by it; I don’t read vampire stories so I don’t know what they find disappointing. I, however, read it more or less as a travelogue, and, having never been to the countries described, found it fascinating. Our heroine travels through the Netherlands and France, and makes extensive stays in Romania, Hungary, and Turkey. I viewed the vampire plot as simply a means to put the protagonist (whose name we never learn) onto the train, mulecart, or road to the next exotic stop in her journey, taking us along with her, of course. If you’ve been to the places described, maybe you won’t like the book’s fictitious nature; however, if you haven’t been there, it certainly lights the fires of desire to travel!

New Online Dance Forum

A couple of months ago, a new dance discussion group sprang up. One of its stated purposes is to help you get roomfuls of people instead of handfuls. Though it is trying to stay focused on Balkan dance groups, many of the contributors participate in International Folk Dance, and of course a lot of ideas that help one group will also help other groups. Check it out at <http://balkan-ethnic-dance.forumotion.net>

Deadline for the next issue of TIFD News is January 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@tiffd.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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Calendar

November 5-10, 2008 *Kabile*, famous Bulgarian band, plays several concerts throughout Texas. Info at koleverafolk@netzero.net or <http://balkandance.net/kabile> (However, the information at this website is sketchy and only has specific information on the concert in Arlington, near Dallas. For other cities, you will need to e-mail the address above.) Meantime, the **Arlington** concert will be at The Blue Danube European Restaurant & Cafe on November 6-7. Dinner is included in the ticket cost. AIFD is sponsoring *Kabile* at the Hancock Rec Center in Austin on November 8, 7:00-11:00 pm.

Other dates and places listed in general are:
 San Antonio on Nov. 5 (see San Antonio News)
 Houston on Nov. 9 (tentative)
 New Orleans on Nov. 10

Nov. 7-9, 2008 *Petit Jean November Dance Weekend* sponsored by the Arkansas Country Dance Society. Contras, English Country Dance, Waltzes, Squares and more. Info: Fran LaFace fclaface@swbell.net or 501-327-5739

November 12, 2008 *Scottish Country Dancing and More*, OddFellows Hall, Houston, 7:00 pm. Breton Dance with live music by E.J. Jones, bagpiper, and band. E.J. will teach several Breton dances; all of the folk dancers are invited. Info at <http://home.att.net/~diannashipman/SCDM.htm>

(P.S. This website also has a wealth of information on prevention and treatment of dance injuries.)

November 14-16, 2008 Lawrence, KS *Pilgrim's Progression*, contra dance weekend with Tom Hinds calling and Lit Splickety playing. Info at www.lawrencebardance.org/#wknd

November 22, 2008, Tulsa, one-day *Couples Folkdance*

Workshop. Jan and Dan Luecking of Fayetteville, AR will teach Tubarozsa Csárdás, Ei Hatal, Czardas Vrtielka, and Dos Besitos, as well as one or two others to be decided. Jane Whitt's Dance Studio, 7030 So. Lewis, Tulsa, noon-5 pm. Tentative cost \$10/person. Info from salandalan@sbcglobal.net

November 27-30, 2008, Bruceville, TX, Texas Camp. Details at tifd.org. Yves Moreau, France Bourque-Moreau, and George Fogg teaching Bulgarian, French, French Canadian, and English.

December 24, 2008, San Antonio. *Śląsk Ensemble*. Details in this issue under News from San Antonio.

December 31, 2008-January 4, 2009, Kingston, OK (Lake Texoma), *Fiddler's Dream*, contra dance weekend conducted entirely by volunteers. nttds.org for more details.

March 13-15, 2009, *San Antonio Folk Dance Festival*, details as date approaches.

March 20-22, 2009 *44th Anniversary Spring Festival*, International House, 1414 E 59th St, Chicago featuring Balkan/East European dance and music cosponsored by CEERES & International House at the University of Chicago. Dance, singing, & instrumental music workshops, concert, dance parties, and culture sessions with master guest teachers and artists. Info: John Kuo at balkanske_igre@yahoo.com, 773-324-1247

TIFD Board Elections

TIFD has a nine-member Board of Trustees. Board members serve a three-year term, with three members elected each December. The Board normally meets four times a year to oversee TIFD operations including Texas Camp, publications, finances, and promoting folk dancing in Texas and surrounding states. Please contact our election chair, Georgia Horn georgiahorn@alltel.net, if you have an interest in running for Board this year. Georgia would also appreciate receiving your suggestions for other dancers who you think would make good Board candidates. The committee would like to have nominees in place before Texas Camp this year.

Proposed Amendment to TIFD Bylaws

The TIFD Board of Trustees is proposing an amendment to the bylaws that will change the procedure used for Board elections. This amendment will be voted on by the TIFD membership at the Annual Meeting, which will be held at Texas Camp. The amendment has four purposes:

- (1) The election committee would be replaced with a nominating committee, and a timeline for selecting nominees would be specified. Nomination by petition would still be allowed.
- (2) The required minimum number of candidates for the election would be reduced from two more than the number of vacancies to just the number of vacancies.
- (3) Voting by acclamation at the annual meeting would be allowed if the number of candidates equals the number of vacancies; otherwise, mail ballots are still required.
- (4) When the ballots are tallied, the candidates with the largest numbers of votes would be the winners. This would replace the complex election procedure specified in the current bylaws.

The reasons for the proposed changes follow. Every year it is becoming increasingly more difficult to get qualified people to run for TIFD Board. Our current bylaws require that we have two more candidates than the number of open positions (typically five candidates for three positions). The election procedure in the bylaws

was devised many years ago when we had many dancers eager to run for Board. This is no longer the case. Many times the elections have been delayed and the ballots have been mailed out late while more candidates were being recruited. We propose that we follow a procedure similar to that used by many other non-profit organizations. A nominating committee would select enough candidates to fill the vacant positions and information about these candidates would be published in the TIFD News. Anyone else who wanted to run for Board could still do so by submitting a petition with five signatures as they do now.

The main purpose of the original election committee was to collect filing petitions from members who wanted to run for Board and to mail out and tally the ballots. The election committee is being replaced with a nominating committee with a mandate to get an earlier start to actively seek out qualified candidates. The complex procedure for tallying ballots specified in the current bylaws was desirable when we had a larger number of candidates, but it is no longer needed when the number of candidates is equal to or close to the number of vacancies.

The current bylaws can be found on the TIFD website at www.tifd.org/downloads/TIFD_Bylaws.pdf. The proposed amendment to change the bylaws follows this article. Please look it over. If you have any questions or concerns, please send them to our bylaws committee: Mike Revesz (mrevesz@austin.rr.com) and Chuck Roth (croth@austin.rr.com). That way we can answer your questions now and save time at the annual meeting.

Proposed TIFD Bylaws Amendment to Change Election Procedures

Replace ARTICLE II – ELECTIONS with the following:

1. Nominations
 - (a) An annual election shall be held to fill vacancies on the Board.
 - (b) Any TIFD member in good standing and 18 years of age or older who is willing and able to attend Board meetings is eligible to run for election.
 - (c) At its first meeting after January 15, the Board shall appoint a Nominating

Committee with three or more members. At least one third of the Committee members must not be current Board members.

- (d) The Nominating Committee shall seek out qualified candidates to run for Board. The Committee should consult the Board and member groups to help identify suitable candidates. A request for candidates to run for Board shall be mailed to all TIFD members no later than July 1.
- (e) By October 15, the Nominating Committee Chair shall report to the Board a slate of nominees. The number of nominees should be equal to or greater than the number of vacancies on the Board.
- (f) The list of candidates nominated by the Committee along with their statements of qualifications and their statements about TIFD goals and activities shall be published in the November TIFD newsletter.
- (g) Additional nominations by petition will be accepted up until the Annual Meeting. The nomination petition shall include a statement of qualifications of the candidate, the candidate's statement about TIFD goals and activities, and signatures of 5 TIFD members.
- (h) The slate of nominees will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor provided that the nominee has agreed in advance in writing to run for Board and has signatures of 5 TIFD members to support the nomination. If the slate has too few nominees, the nomination period will be extended by one week, during which time additional nominations will be accepted, either from the nominating committee or by petition. Any further extensions require Board approval.

2. Annual Election Procedure

- (a) If during the Annual Meeting the total number of nominees equals the number of vacancies on the Board and a motion to close nominations is passed, then the nominees may be elected by voice vote.
- (b) If there are more nominees than the number of vacancies on the Board, the election must be conducted by mail (paper or electronic) ballot. The Nominating Committee shall mail a separate election

ballot and a statement of candidates' qualifications to each adult TIFD member on or before December 10. Proposed bylaw amendments may be included with the ballot.

- (c) Before the ballots are mailed, the president will appoint a proctor to receive and tally the ballots.
 - (d) All submitted ballots postmarked by January 8 will be tallied to determine the winners. If there are X-many vacancies on the Board, the X-many candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be declared the winners. In case of a tie vote, the winner of the last place on the Board will be determined by the nominating committee.
 - (e) If terms of office of different lengths are being filled in the election, the length of term for each electee may be determined by mutual agreement of the electees. Lacking such agreement, those elected first with the largest number of votes will serve the longest terms.
 - (f) Election results shall be posted with the Secretary by January 15 and announced to the membership prior to the first meeting of the new Board.
 - (g) Newly-elected Board members will take office at the start of the first meeting of the Board held after January 15.
- ## 3. Special Elections:
- (c) Special elections may be conducted at the annual meeting or by mail ballot.
 - (d) If special elections are conducted by mail ballot, the Secretary will send out ballots to all adult TIFD members. To be a valid election, ballots from at least 1/4 of these members must be received within 30 days of the date of mailing.

In addition, the following bylaw change is needed: Under Article VI, Standing Committees, replace Section (d) with:

- (d) Nominating Committee. This committee will be responsible for nominating a slate of candidates to run for the annual Board election as described in Article II.

News from Local Groups

Oklahoma City News

Old Country Weekend with Ercüment Kılıç teaching Turkish dances was a blast! Emily Rosenberg and her many volunteer helpers did a great job of organizing a wonderful weekend at the matchless Cross Point Camp on Lake Texoma; she even remembered to order perfect weather. About 35 dancers from 4 states attended. Ercüment taught 8 dances and conducted a Culture Corner, as well as hosting a bazaar selling Turkish scarves, beads, bracelets, figurines, china, CDs, and T-shirts. Anne Alexander and Don Weeda provided live music both Friday and Saturday night, and were often augmented by Shelley Allison, Dustin Cooper, Bill Walker, and Ercüment Kılıç on a variety of instruments.

Kodak Moments: Christi Cooper's and nine-year-old Rachel Alley's graceful bellydancing during breaks; Dustin Cooper's hammered dulcimer breakfast minstrelsy; Ercüment's inimitable "dirty old, toothless old man" act during the dance Tesbih; the dance-off competition to see who had mastered the CMAP (Caucasian Men's Arm Position) the best (Jana Rickel won a lovely bracelet—see photo on page 8); Tom Miller's annual swim across the bay; Jack Alley and Noel Osborn leading the singing and dancing of Hanter Dro (Quand j'étais jeune) while Anne Alexander played the nyckelharpa.

If you see someone running at you with one elbow leading, and both hands made into fists, DUCK!

Dallas News

Ercüment Kılıç was in Dallas for a few days after the Old Country Weekend workshop in Oklahoma, so he came to our regular Friday evening dance meeting on October 24th and taught four dances: Cano, Esmer, Dağlık Karabağ and Menim Balam.

San Antonio News

On October 15 and 16, members of the Board of the International Folk Culture Center in San Antonio interviewed five applicants for the part-time position of Director, IFCC, after the previous director resigned to operate a business she started. The IFCC administrative assistant is still present in the meantime, and international folk dancing continues each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. with Elaine Moczygemba and Lissa Bengtson teaching. Pastries and drinks are provided during the breaks.

The IFCC will welcome Bulgarian ensemble Kabile at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, for an evening of music and dance open to the public.

Plans are progressing in San Antonio for the appearance of 30 singers and 30 musicians from the Śląsk Ensemble from the Silesian region of Poland.

They are expected to arrive in San Antonio the week before Christmas, and work is currently ongoing to have them perform not only in San Antonio, but also in Houston and Corpus Christi and perhaps elsewhere during their South Texas visit. Msgr. Franciszek (Frank) Kurzaj, president of the Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation, is arranging housing for the troupe at the Oblate Seminary in San Antonio.

Msgr. Kurzaj advised the Silesian Polish parish of Panna Maria, Texas, southeast of San Antonio, that the troupe will play and sing at the Karnes and Wilson countywide Pasterka (Shepherds' Mass) at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24. The Polish Pasterka with its lovely carols is one of the traditions maintained for 154 years in south-central Texas among the Silesian Polish settlements. The choir commences caroling a half-hour or more before Mass begins. Organist Elaine Moczygemba has led the countywide Polish choir for the past 11 years. (The Pasterka may have to be celebrated in the huge community hall in Panna Maria because of an expected large number of attendees hoping to hear the Śląsk Ensemble.)

More information will be provided as plans firm up. If you have a venue for the musicians and singers, contact Msgr. Frank at St. Paul's Catholic Church in San Antonio, or contact Elaine at e-mail cdrmoczygemba@yahoo.com. Please note, the dancers from the Ensemble are not expected to be here, just the musicians and singers.



This is how we are learning the words to our closing dance in Tulsa! Jana Rickel dances with a huge poster containing the lyrics to Trugnala Rumjana hanging around her neck. Those who want to sing position themselves across the circle from her. As people learn the words (or drop out of making the effort) they move closer and let other people stand directly across from the words. It works! We are getting lots of singing participation, for the first time in many years.

Costume Care contributed by Wendi Kiss

Well, how do you care for your folk costume? First of all, we are assuming that this is a costume you wear to dance in, not a museum quality piece that you intend to preserve for posterity. Unless you made the costume yourself and pre-washed all the components, you cannot be certain how it will react to washing or dry cleaning, but you want to keep the costume clean and dust free. So here are a few guidelines.

Fabric in folk costumes can generally be broken down into three groups – animal/protein, vegetable, and man-made. Wool and silk are in the first group, linen/hemp and cotton in the second, and rayon/acetate and polyester in the third. You need to treat each group differently *and* be aware that your trim or embroidery may not be the same fiber. If you live near a museum or university that houses a textile collection you can find out what dry cleaner they use. Searching out a dry cleaner yourself is matter of finding one that is willing to work with you and preferably has the dry cleaning plant on premise. If you don't have that resource available or choose not to dry clean, it is possible you can hand wash the costume yourself. Do be aware that once you use water, you cannot undo any of its effects. If the piece is a blend of fabrics, treat it according to the least hardy.

Test for colorfastness first. Pick an inconspicuous area of the garment, put several folded white paper towels under the area you're checking. Dampen the area with cold water, put several folded towels on top and place a weight on top. Check the towels at 5 minutes and again at 15 and 20. Any color on them means the color is *not* colorfast. Also do this check on any embroidery/trim. **WARNING** – wetting silk or acetate/rayon material can stain the fabric itself!

If you pass the colorfast test, you can attempt washing – do it in a large flat basin with lots of cold running water – your bathtub or shower. Start with a plain cool water soak and rinse until the water runs clean. If needed, you can wash again with a translucent dish washing soap such as “Dawn” (avoid the milky lotion kind). You can also use “Synthrapol” or “Orvus.” Do *not* ever use a commercial laundry product, as many of them have bleaching agents and they are alkaline, which is bad for wool and silk. Again, rinse until the water runs clear. **Don't ever** use any kind of chlorine bleach or enzyme on wool or silk. It will eat the fabric.

To dry your costume, get excess water out by rolling the costume in dry towels and gently squeezing. A clean chamois-type towel (Miracle Dry or ShamWow, for example) works great. Finish drying your costume spread out flat on towels if it's heavy. If it's lighter, you can use a plastic hanger—never use metal or wood as this may stain the fabric. It may take several days to dry, so be patient. You can flip the costume from front to back to speed drying. This is also an excellent time to

finger press in any pleats.

Now that your costume is clean, *don't* store it in plastic! Use a padded hanger for lightweight costumes. In fact, most folk costumes were folded and stored in chests. See if you can find someone to show you how the costume should be folded. When you wear your costume, wear garment shields or an old T-shirt underneath and *always* wash or clean your costume after wearing it – even though it may not smell bad, contact with your body oils and salts means it needs cleaning!

Wendi Kiss is a textile and costume addict from northern Colorado. Currently she is the Costume Director of Storm Mountain Folk Dancers and was past Costume Director for both Avaz and Karpatok dance ensembles.

International Accordion Festival Report contributed by Don Weeda and Shelley Allison

TIFD members Don Weeda, Ben Smith, and Shelley Allison attended the International Accordion Festival in San Antonio in October. Don was there as a spectator but has played there in the past. Shelley and Ben drove Ben's van and lent support for the Roma band Kal. Hundreds of people attended performances on 5 stages, most of them outdoors, listening to musical styles from all over the world—Cajun, Czech, Basque, Balkan, Roma, Panamanian, and even the Canary Islands.

Highlights included the Roma Accordion Convergence, with 3 separate groupings of Roma (Gypsy) accordion-based groups from Serbia (Kal), Bulgaria (Neshko Neshev, supported by Kalin Kirilov who had played at Texas Camp several years back), and Romania (Andrei Mihalache).

Also, the Trio Roi Maceda from Galicia (Northern Spain) performed, though hampered with borrowed instruments, and Rupa and the April Fishes (performing from a number of primarily European and American traditions) showed that it is possible to be a wonderfully fun group and still be technically brilliant.

And the group performing Basque music (and teaching Basque dances during their workshop to some alert TIFD members) was from Boise, Idaho—go figure! (*Southern Idaho and northern Nevada are full of Basque shepherders and their descendants—ed.*) And, of course, Texas was well represented as well by Joe Ely, Joel Guzman, Charles Thibodeaux, and the Vrazels' Polka Band.

It was difficult to find a main-stage event without audience members dancing. Some, including Ben and Shelley, even danced along the sidewalk just across the river from the Arneson stage. Thankfully, no one was reported falling in who had to be quickly pulled up and out like last year.

Lyrics—Mavi Boncuk*

Onda bunda şundadır
Şunda onda bundadır
Mavi boncuk kimdeyse
Benim gönlüm ondadır

Bu dünyada sevgi büyük ihtiyaç
Herkes sevmeye sevlmeye muhtaç

Herkesle dost ol herkesle arkadaş
Ömrümüz geçiyor bak yavaş yavaş

Onda bunda şundadır
Şunda onda bundadır
Mavi boncuk kimdeyse
Benim gönlüm ondadır

Blue (Good-luck) Bead

In this world, love is a big need
Everybody needs to love and be loved
In this world, love is a big need
Everybody needs to love and be loved

Be a friend to everybody, be a buddy
Look: your life is passing ever so slowly
Be a friend to everybody, be a buddy
Look: your life is passing ever so slowly

That person over there has it, this one has it, that one has it
That person, this one, that one over there has it
Whoever has the blue good-luck bead
That person has my heart

[Note: The use of “that person”, although it doesn’t sound as good in English, keeps it gender-neutral, as it is in Turkish.]

Translation provided by Laura Blumenthal, Vancouver, BC

* Nazar Boncuk is a Turkish good-luck “evil eye” charm. It was born of the age-old “evil eye” superstition that one person can cast a spell on another. To prevent this, for millennia Anatolian artisans have created blue glass “eyes” that “look” straight back at the spell-caster as if to say “I see what you’re doing, and you can’t get away with it!” Incidentally, in the dance notes distributed decades ago, there was an important typographical error: The translation of the title “Mavi Boncuk” was given as “Blue Beard,” when in fact it means “Blue Bead.”



Jana Rickel shows her blue bead bracelet—see OKC News, page 6

Recipe—Creamed Zucchini with Dill

Thanks to Lita Pinter who, in drying out her Katrina-soaked old syllabi, ran across this. Old syllabi are valuable and interesting, and sometimes even tasty!

Source: back of syllabus from a 1983 workshop in Houston by Marty Koenig. All the other recipes in these syllabus pages are Balkan so we must assume that this is also from the Balkans. It’s delicious and easy to make, and just right for the overabundance of zucchini this time of year!

2 pounds zucchini
2 Tbsp. white vinegar (next time I’ll try lemon juice instead)
1/2 cup water
1 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. sugar
1-1/2 Tbsp. butter
1-1/2 tsp. dill weed
2 Tbsp. flour
4 Tbsp. sour cream

Wash zucchini (peel if skins are old and tough). Slice into julienne strips. Place in 3-qt. pot, add vinegar, water, salt, sugar, butter, and dill. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 8-10 minutes or until tender. Mix flour and sour cream. Add to zucchini, stirring constantly until sauce thickens.