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Video: A Glimpse of SAFDF

Misi prepared this video about the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival for a City of San Antonio grant application.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zugu0bqDt50>

Texas Camp is Coming! by Genevieve Kent-Elbaor and Jay Elbaor

Greetings from your 2013 Texas Camp Chairs!

We are happy and honored to be serving you as co-chairs this year for what promises to be a great Texas Camp. One of the most exciting parts about organizing Texas Camp has been the opportunity to invite back Steve and Susan Kotansky, who last taught at Texas Camp in 2004. At that time I (Genevieve) was 16 and had just started dancing with Csárdás Hungarian Dancers of Austin, and it was eye-opening to hear Steve talk about their travels in Europe and how they gathered folk dances to teach back in the States. After that experience, I was inspired to start saving up money to move to Europe myself, which turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made--and I have YOU dancers and organizers to thank for it.

Having moved back to my beloved Texas folk dance family, I make it a personal mission to build on our foundation and to use my strengths to provide the type of experiences that have so influenced me over the years. It is truly a pleasure to be able to give back to the community and come full circle to see how the next generation of new dancers (from age 3 to 93) will be inspired by what our group has to offer.

And speaking of strengths, over the course of planning Texas Camp 2013, I can fully appreciate the talent that our community brings to the table, year in and year out. Without all of our skill sets, Texas Camp would not happen, and it has been an eye-opening experience to see how our individual strands weave together to form a rich tapestry that continues to be woven into new, exciting patterns.

Let us then join together this Thanksgiving to tighten our bonds as we weave in and out along the dance floor.

Best Regards,
Genevieve & Jay

Texas Camp Silent Auction

Doing some Fall cleaning? Don't forget the Texas Camp silent auction! Just box the items you are donating and store them in that special closet until it's time to load the car for Camp.

Also, consider asking your employer and friends for gift certificates. Next time you visit your favorite restaurant, ask the manager about donating a \$50 certificate. If a request by letter is required, contact Lissa Bengtson, furnishing her with the name and address of the establishment, and the name of the manager or person-in-charge.

If you have questions or would like more information about Texas Camp's popular Silent Auction, call Lissa at 210-867-0692 or email lbengtson@ollusa.edu.

Congratulations to Noel Osborn!

Our Oklahoma City International Folkdancers golden girl, Noel Osborn, has accepted a prestigious position professionally. She is now with the National Park Service as Resources Manager of Chickasaw National Recreation Area.



TIFD Board of Directors

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Next Board Meeting

The next TIFD Board meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 28 at Texas Camp. If you have an item you would like the Board to consider or if you would like to attend, please contact board@tifd.org. If members of TIFD wish to have a copy of Board minutes, please request by email to board@tifd.org or contact any Board member.

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. Send news to editor@tifd.org. Articles received after the deadline may be postponed until the next issue or the next eLetter. Deadline for the December eLetter is November 24.

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.

CALENDAR LISTINGS: Send email to editor@tifd.org and webmaster@tifd.org.

ADDRESS CHANGES: For newsletter mailing list or TIFD Member Directory, contact TIFD, PO Box 4516, Austin, TX 78765, Attention: Chuck Roth, 512-453-8936, tifd@austin.rr.com.

SOUTHWEST FOLK DANCE DIRECTORY: Contact board@tifd.org if you want to take on this project.

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS: Email editor@tifd.org or mail to TIFD News, PO Box 4516, Austin, TX 78765.

Calendar of Events

November 1-10. New Braunfels, TX, *Wurstfest*. 53rd annual celebration, featuring Alpine and Bavarian food, music, dance, etc. <http://www.wurstfest.com>

November 15-17. Lawrence, KS. *19th annual contra dance weekend, Pilgrim's Progression*, featuring music by The Great Big Taters and caller, Cis Hinkle. <http://www.lawrencebarndance.org/lbdawknd>

November 22-24. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, *Holiday Folk Fair* - Travel around the world at the 70th Annual Holiday Folk Fair International. For details: <http://www.folkfair.org>

November 28-December 1. Bruceville, TX. *Texas International Folk Dancers Texas Camp*. Registration deadline November 8. Steve and Susy Kotansky teach Hungarian couple dances and Albanian line dances, with live Albanian music and singing instruction by Raif Hyseni and Merita Halili. www.tifd.org

November 29-30, 2013. San Francisco, California. *The 62nd Annual Kolo Festival*, Featuring teaching by Yves Moreau (Bulgarian), Lee Otterholt (Balkan), John Filcich (Kolos), Frances Moreau (Breton), and Jerry Duke (Greek), plus singing and instrument classes. Further details: <http://balktantunes.org/kolofestival>

January 18-19, 2014. *Veselo Folk Dance Festival*, Eugene, Oregon. Ahmet Luleci teaches Turkish dances. For more information: Linda Ketchum 541-726-7548; linket@aol.com

February 7-9. *Bayou Bedlam Contra Dance weekend* in Houston, TX, featuring Will Mentor calling to the music of Perpetual e-Motion. <http://www.hatds.org/bayoubedlam/index.php>

February 14-17. Orlando, FL. *A Balkan Veselie* with Mihai David and Steve Kotansky. Register soon. <http://www.folkdance.org>

March 7-8. *Camellia Festival*, Sacramento, California. Balkan dance workshops on Friday night and Saturday afternoon by Lee Otterholt and a Scandinavian teacher to be announced. <http://www.folkdancesac.org>

March 14-16. *San Antonio Folk Dance Festival*. Miroslav Marcetic, Serbian; Sanna Longden, international; Renee Park, Hawaiian. <http://www.safdf.org>

March 14-16. *Set For Spring English Country Dance weekend* in Oklahoma City, featuring Joanna Reiner calling to the music of The Third String Trio. <http://www.nttds.org/setspring13/home.html>

Travel Opportunities

Jim Gold

March 8-21, 2014, Israel, led by Jim Gold with Dr. Joe Freedman

May 4-15, Armenia, led by Jim Gold with Tineke Van Geel

June 29-July 11, Greece, Santorini July 10 - 13, led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt

June 15-25, Norway, led by Lee Otterholt

July 25-August 7, Ireland, led by Jim Gold

July 28-August 11, Hungary, led by Adam Molnar

October 7-21, Balkan Splendor, October 21-25, Dubrovnik extension, led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt www.jimgold.com

Mel Mann

June 20-July 5, 2014, Slovenia, Croatia and the Adriatic Coast

October 5-16, Madrid, Moorish Spain and Portugal <http://folkdanceonthewater.org/>

Yves and France Moreau

January 25 to February 8, 2014, Exotic Caribbean Cruise with Yves and France and special guest teachers Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion

November 15-27, New Zealand and Australia Cruise <http://www.folkdancecruise.com>

News from Local Groups

Houston IFD

by Sue Coffman

Last Sunday, October 6, Dance Houston held an event they named Discover Dance at Houston's popular downtown park, Discovery Green.

Forty-eight local dance groups took part.

The weather was perfect with cool temperatures and low humidity.

The park was divided into four distinct zones with all the performing groups at the Zone 1 stage, each allowed a three-minute slot. These groups followed one another on and off the stage as if they were dancing on a factory conveyor belt.

While they were all fantastic, I must admit that I didn't see many performances because I was too busy at the other zones.

Zones 2, 3, and 4 featured teaching and audience participation. I learned some moves from New Guinea, Jamaica and Mexico and danced with Buddy Steves at the Swing Dance Society zone time slot.

The Houston International Folk Dancers were given forty-five minutes of teaching and audience participation in Zone 4. Although I enjoyed our dancing on the green, I was also thinking about the other groups that I was missing – like the Bollywood group whose music I could hear going on nearby.

We had a great turnout of HIFD members and a disappointing number of newcomers. We were able to entice about six non-folk dancers to join us; three of them were from the group waiting to come on after us.

It was all fun, though, and *Dance Houston* is already planning *Discover Dance II* in April of 2014.



Dancers at Discover Dance

Oklahoma City IFD

Ooooh la la! The Oklahoma City International Folkdancers hosted French dance teacher, Gyslaine Van Tilbeurgh, at this year's Old Country Weekend. Fall is the time for folk dancers to gather regionally and exchange dance material, at Cross Point Camp, by Lake Texoma. October 18, through October 20, Ms. Van Tilbeurgh taught 16th Century bransles, line dances from Brittany; brisk Basque dances from South Western France; as well as other dances from her homeland. Van Tilbeurgh makes her home near Paris. Before traveling to the U.S., she was a professional folk dance teacher at Maison de Jeunesse in Metropolitan Paris. She says dancing was a family tradition. Van Tilbeurgh's mother organizes folk dance workshops and monthly folk dance balls.



Above: Gyslaine Van Tilbeurgh

Below: OKC dancers



Don Weeda and Anne Alexander, from Austin, Texas, provided musical accompaniment. Artist in Residence, Melissa Young offered a drumming workshop. Oklahoma poet and storyteller, Carol Hamilton led a children's session of silly songs and stories. The highlight of the weekend was perhaps a party on Saturday night. Dancers were asked to dress "French" and attend a Midnight in Paris gala. Some costume ideas were Julia Child, Madame Curie, Maria Antoinette, and Salvadore Dali, from the Midnight in Paris film.



Austin IFD

On Oct 26, 2013 Austin International Folk Dancers celebrated Halloween with a costume party, DJed by the fabulous Holly Plotner. We were lucky enough to have the spirits of AIO come haunt the premise with the ancient and enduring dance tunes we all know and love so well. Costumes ranged from dancers wearing simple festive lights to elaborately conceived ghastly vampires. Present on the dance floor were versions of Andy Warhol, Darth Vader, a policeman, several witches (including one with a very practical, dancable dust pan broom), a few warlocks, a Scotsman, a cute kitty, and the entire Sesame Street gang. In between live music sets, Holly spun some wicked mash-up tracks that challenged dancers to "think outside the circle." We were all bewitched by her cleverness.

Prizes awarded:

Most terrifying went to Jay Elbaor dressed as a murderous rabbit.

Most disgusting went to Iola Hallock dressed as a rusalka vampire.

Most disguised went to Misi Tsurikov dressed as mad Dr. Tsurikov.

Over the Top went to Isiah Martinez dressed as Gonzo.

And What in the World Are You? went to Irene Martinez dressed as Big Bird. Many people thought she was a beautiful chicken. Oh, the trials of being Big Bird!

Many thanks to Misi Tsurikov for his sound gymnastics and atonishing special effects. Thanks to the numerous folks who showed up early to help decorate and stayed late to clean it all up. Special thanks to the Sesame Street gang for help with cleaning the cobwebs and striking the set. What a super night!!





more AIFD Halloween party pictures
photographers: Michel Breger and Soraya Castle

Review of
Pete and Toshi Get A Camera
by Jasmine Guha-Castle

Of the many wonderful movies and documentaries I managed to watch during South By Southwest of this year, this is the movie that I enjoyed the most, and I'm pretty sure that my fellow folk dancers would find it enjoyable as well.

In 1955, folk musician Pete Seeger was blacklisted by the Committee of UnAmerican Activities. Since he was severely restricted in traveling, he decided to spend some of the time filming his family and friends. The movie starts with his filming his friends, many of them local musicians. Some of his films also include well known singers such as the American folk singer, Odetta, and the blues singer, Big Bill Broonzy. The film's most poignant moments come when we are informed that the footage of Big Bill Broonzy is the last ever made of him, as the day after the filming he was due for surgery for cancer. He died a few months later.

During this time of restricted liberty, Seeger manages to get permission for a trip to Trinidad where it was recently discovered that the 55 gallon oil drums there could be turned into musical instruments - the steel drums that we know so well today. Eventually he was cleared by the Committee of UnAmerican Activities and so he decided to take his wife and their three children around the world, to film local musicians and dancers in far off places. Thus this film becomes a musical odyssey and travelogue. It also becomes a witness to history!

Their journey starts off in the Pacific, where we see the musicians and dancers in the Fiji Islands. Subsequently they head to Asia; including Indonesia, Thailand and Japan - where his wife Toshi has something of a family reunion. In India we are treated to a sitar lesson, as well as seeing the local snake charmers in action!! They proceed from there to Kenya where in addition to seeing local musicians, they are witnesses to history. In Nairobi, they see the lowering of the British flag and the raising of the Kenyan one! In Nigeria we see the talking drums in action. Pete is given a lesson in how to essentially have a conversation via talking drums! So, via the drums, he asks for someone to bring him an umbrella - and yes, he receives it!!!

Next their quest takes them to witness local musicians in Israel and Italy, a visit to Austria during the 1964 Winter Olympics and then to the Soviet Union, which for me, provides some of the most humorous moments in the whole movie. Given in fact that this is the early 60s - the height of the Cold War, Seeger gives a concert which involves him at one point chopping wood with an axe (is that more Reagan or Putin?). One wonders what the Soviet audience must have made of that. At this same concert, he even has the audience singing a chorus of one song in Swahili!!!

The next segment of their journey takes them to England, where it's Pete's turn to have a family reunion, when he meets up with his half sister, musician Peggy Seeger. The final part of the trip takes them to Belfast, Northern Ireland. Pete spends much of his time with local musicians, the McPeake family. The McPeake family record their first album with Pete Seeger and much of the family, friends and the neighborhood is captured in the movie. This is another poignant moment in the movie as these neighborhoods which existed at the time of this film (1963) are soon to disappear when the Troubles of Northern Ireland start, to disrupt and scar a generation.

Finally the family return back to the United States. It really was a remarkable odyssey in which they managed to travel to 28 countries, in 11 months, with three children.

Much of the movie is filmed in 16mm film reel, but interspersed with contemporary interviews with the family. The now adult children give us local cultural insights and remark on their experiences.

The movie is not yet commercially available but a trailer can be seen here: <http://vimeo.com/72754355>

TIFD Board Elections Are Coming

TIFD has a nine-member Board of Trustees. Board members serve a three-year term, with three members elected each year. 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. Board elections are either held at Texas Camp or in December. At present, we have one candidate for three open positions on the Board. If you have an interest in running for the Board, please email board@tifd.org. In accordance with the TIFD bylaws, we are publishing candidates' statements in this newsletter. The following statements are from Lissa Bengtson:

Lissa Bengtson (San Antonio)

Statement of Qualifications: I got my first taste of folk dancing while in high school in Austin. My friend Ann Coltman took me to Saturday night dancing at Hancock Center. I really loved it, but lacked the confidence to try it again. Finally after I graduated from UT, I heard about a folk dancing course at the Texas Union offered by Michel Breger. I took the course and I've been dancing ever since.

I'm currently the Director of the International Folk Culture Center in San Antonio, and president of the TIFD board. I'm part of the steering committee of the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival. At the IFCC we keep Dr. Mendelson's dream alive by continuing to have folk dancing and offering Cultural Focus Dinners once per month. The IFCC provides an ideal dance home for Scottish dancers, folklórico dancers, City of San Antonio dance classes, modern dancers, step dancers, square dancers and ballroom dancers, and most recently, the San Antonio Dance Umbrella (of which I'm also a board member.)

I'm a licensed Zumba Fitness® instructor, a contra caller, a Scottish country dancer and a workshop organizer. I help arrange the SA Contra Dancers' State Fair show each year. I lead folk dancing, line dancing and chair exercise for a senior center and a retirement center. I'm on the board of Swedish American Heritage Online (<http://www.sweame.org>) and plan, one day, to become a Modern Western Square Dance caller (when I find the time to practice.) I train two of my four dogs in agility, and foster a dog every other month for Alamo Rescue Friends. We have 5 cats, too, and only 4 of them are overweight. I'm considering getting a chicken or two (legal in San Antonio!)

Thoughts about TIFD goals and activities:

I had been on the TIFD board previously, in the early 90's when I lived in Tulsa. I was Camp Chair with Jo Soto a couple of years ago and learned a lot about how the TIFD board can be just as discouraging as it can be helpful. Texas Camp had been the only project of TIFD for years and years, and then last year we adopted

the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival as a committee. We had a retreat this past January that clarified some things and added to our "Hey, you know, we really ought to..." list. Since then, we now have a workable calendar on tifd.org, a YouTube channel, and more plans in the works. The current camp co-chairs created a terrific event page on Facebook for the upcoming camp. The silent auction at Camp last year made some pretty good money, and I anticipate a good auction this year (be sure to donate something!) We plan to sell TIFD merchandise on tifd.org. Progress has been made, but there are more opportunities available.

Let's benchmark how some other 501c3's are effectively increasing their outreach. Let's make our website look just as sharp as theirs (i.e. www.cdss.org, www.folkschool.org, www.nfo-usa.org, www.eefc.org) or even sharper. What services do they offer that keep the donations coming in and create strong attendance at their events?

What services can we offer that might intrigue the public? Perhaps a workshop in Eastern European music for music students. Perhaps a sewing/costume design workshop. A cooking class. We have some expertise—let's branch out with it. Can you propose something along these lines?

I'd like to see TIFD support the local groups more. This was discussed at the retreat. One method I support is for TIFD to either join or underwrite the public radio stations and college stations in the cities where we have member groups, and publicize their dance nights on the radio. Another idea is an organized list of all on-line event calendars and media contacts for every city, and the exploration of sites such as www.hootsuite.com and www.constantcontact.com to see if using them would benefit our member groups. Recently, www.ridebuzz.org was recommended as a way to set up car pools—gotta check it out!

And those dance groups that aren't members anymore, let's get them back (hello, Albuquerque). And how about all those ethnic groups (such as Bulgarians of Texas and others)—what can we offer them that would make them want to join TIFD?

What can the TIFD board do to encourage YOU to get more involved? Please email us with your ideas: board@tifd.org or lbengtson@ollusa.edu.