

TEXAS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS January 2012 eLetter

Send your news to editor@tiffd.org. There are 4 quarterly newsletters and 8 eLetters each year; Anne Schaffer does the latter. The deadline for sending in information for the February newsletter is January 18th and for the March eLetter February 22nd.

Editor's Note: Due to the large amount of TIFD and Camp news in the December eLetter, there was no room to include local and other news. Therefore, this month's eLetter will be devoted primarily to local and other news from the past few months.

TIFD NEWS

Positions. This being the time of year when people traditionally make New Year's resolutions, consider volunteering your skills and time to TIFD. There are two important positions that need to be filled at this time: chair (or co-chair) of the 2012 Texas Camp and editor of the TIFD News, our quarterly newsletter.

The Camp chair or co-chair is an ex-officio member of the Board, required to attend meetings either in person or via Skype. The duties include: choosing and negotiating with the dance teachers, singing teacher, and chef; picking your staff; deciding on the party themes; and creating the schedule. If interested, contact the TIFD Board at board@tiffd.org.

The newsletter editor is also an ex-officio member of the Board, but is not required to attend meetings. The job includes: finding, assembling, and editing items for each issue; updating the calendar section; selecting which photos to use; and indicating to the layout person the priorities for these. (The details were published on page 2 of the May 2011 issue of the newsletter, available under Publications at www.tiffd.org.) If you are interested in this position, please write to board@tiffd.org.

Camp Photos. For all of you 2011 Camp attendees who took photos during the weekend, please send a selection of your favorite/best photos to editor@tiffd.org by January 18th for possible inclusion in the February issue of TIFD News. Jan Bloom, our Texas Camp Historian, would also appreciate receiving them for use in the 2011 Camp scrapbook. Send them either as prints to her address in the syllabus or as digital files to board@tiffd.org. Please include the names of any individuals shown and identify the event or activity depicted.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Austin. As I write this, AIFD will be holding its annual New Year's Eve party at its regular Saturday night time and place. With food and drink, and live music coordinated by Don Weeda, it should be loads of fun. PLUS there is an after-party at the home of one of the folk-dancers, with even more food, drink, and live music.

Earlier in the holiday season, on December 10th, AIFD held its annual Open House at its usual Hancock Recreation Center space. It coincided with HRC's annual Trail of Lights event, during which the public strolls at night along the paths of its golf course, which are lined with luminarias. It is also a good opportunity to introduce people to the delights of folk-dancing. This year AIFD engaged Nefesh to provide live music for the occasion. This band incorporates

Western and Eastern musical elements to produce unique interpretations of Sephardic (Judeo-Spanish), Balkan, and Israeli songs; it also performs original compositions.

And earlier in the fall, on Halloween, AIFD held its annual evening of spooky frivolity, with unusual programming by Misi Tsurikov and Iola Hallock. Live music was provided by the Texas Camp Band, the Annoying Instrument Orchestra, and the Home Grown Contra Band. (Anne Schaffer)

Dallas. On November 4th, the Plaza Arts Center in Carrollton, a suburb of Dallas, was the venue for a nightclub-style, BYOB event featuring a Bulgarian dinner and a concert by Theodosii Spassov and Friends. Spassov, a national icon in his native Bulgaria, is a master of the kaval, an eight-hole wooden shepherd's flute. Joining him were guest musicians and singers from Austin (singer/musician Shirley Johnson, the bands The Inheritance and VaNa Mazi) and Dallas (local Bulgarian rock band Byalo Zeleno Cherveno). The exciting program wove together the joyous folk traditions of Bulgaria with world sounds. (info from Shelley Allison)

Houston. HIFD had a very busy fall. It began with the October 7th return of the popular band Bulgarika, which provided music and song for a wonderful night of high-energy Bulgarian dancing. (It had previously entertained us during its February 25th visit.) Making up the ensemble this time were Donka Koleva, her husband and daughter, and the great accordionist Ivan Milev. The Bulgarian community came out in full force and wasted no time getting onto the dance floor and starting the party. They far outnumbered the Americans present. Most of the dancers were female, but occasionally some men joined in and formed a separate line. There were many more little children this time, all but the two tiniest ones trying to learn the dances in the women's line. About an hour into the party, the mystery tupan player from the February party showed up, and soon afterwards came a mystery kaval player! And then, when the party ended, they were gone...like ghosts in the night. Where do they live the rest of the year???

Two small groups of dancers from HIFD performed at two special occasions this fall: a Romanian wedding on October 22nd and a Croatian one on November 6th. At the former, the bride was Romanian, and her parents flew in from Romania to attend. When the dancers did Hora Miresei (Bride's Dance), the bride joined in towards the end. At the Croatian wedding, the groom was Croatian; his wife-to-be had hired the dancers as a surprise for him. After each of the two performances, HIFD gave the couple a CD burned with the dance music they had used, with a label listing the dances and giving the date.

Like AIFD, HIFD will also be holding an annual New Year's Eve party. The board traditionally provides a huge platter of roast turkey, while the members provide the side dishes, desserts, and drinks. With decorations providing the ambience and wonderful food providing sustenance for the dancers, the four hours should be full of merriment, culminating in the champagne toast at midnight. Happy New Year to all! (Anne Schaffer)

San Antonio. The 54th Annual San Antonio Folk Dance Festival will take place March 16-18 at Our Lady of the Lake University's International Folk Culture Center. The teachers this year will be Yves Moreau for Bulgarian dance, George Fogg for English Country Dancing, and Ira Weisburd for International dance. The Culture Corner will be facilitated by Brenda Benton. And, of course, there will be the Friday and Saturday evening parties, the Saturday night

concert of folk-dance groups, and the Henry Lash Bash on Sunday. New this year is registration for individual sessions for those who do not want to attend the entire weekend's activities. Go to www.safdf.org for the complete schedule and registration information.

THIS AND THAT

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's learning to dance in the rain! (from Terri Chadwick's electronic holiday letter, December 2011)

CALENDAR

January 27-29, Madison, WI, Folk Ball, sponsored by the Madison Folk Dance Club. Weekend workshop with Cristian Florescu/Sonia Dion and Denes Dreisziger /Gissella Santayana; live music at the night parties. www.madfolkdance.org/folkball

February 17-19, Houston, TX, Bayou Bedlam. David Kaynor calling to music by The Retrospectacles. www.bayoubedlam.org

February 17-20, Kissimmee, FL, Presidents' Weekend, sponsored by the Florida Folk Dance Council. Teachers Yuliyana Yordanov for Bulgarian and Andy Taylor-Blenis for Portuguese and Scottish. www.folkdance.org

March 14-17, Dallas, TX, National Accordion Convention.
www.accordions.com/naa/convention/index.html

March 16, Kansas City, MO, Red Star Red Army Chorus and Dance Ensemble. Formed in 1977 to entertain the USSR troops. www.hjseries.org

March 16-18, San Antonio, TX, San Antonio Folk Dance Festival, at Our Lady of the Lake (OLLU) International Folk Culture Center (IFCC). Teachers Yves Moreau for Bulgarian, Ira Weisburd for International, and George Fogg for English. www.safdf.org

March 23-25, Austin, TX, Set for Spring English Country Dance Weekend. Scott Higgs calling to music by Foxfire and The Rolling Scones. www.setforspring.org

March 23-25, St. Louis, MO, Spring Workshop, sponsored by the International Folk Dance Association of University City (IFDA). Weekend workshop with Yves Moreau teaching Bulgarian. www.stlouisfolkdance.org/schedule.html

March 23-25, Chicago, IL, Spring Festival. Dance teaching by Atanas Kolarovski (Macedonian), Ahmet Luleci (Turkish), and Ventzi Sotirov (Bulgarian). Also music workshops, singing classes, and a Saturday evening concert. www.chicagospringfestival.org

April 20-22, Dallas, TX, When in Doubt, Swing! Contra dance weekend featuring Nils Fredland calling with Elixir. <http://www.nttds.org/wids2012/home.html>

April 26-29, Wimberley, TX, Kochavim Israeli Dance Camp. Teaching by Ofer Alfassi, David Dassa, Ken Avner, Mitch Ginsburgh, and Alana Grunspan. www.kochavim.net