

Your teachers for Texas Camp 2019

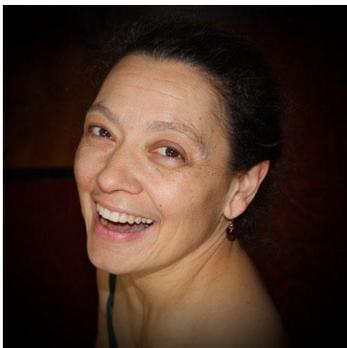
Tineke van Geel and Maurits van Geel

are a dynamic couple who teach international dance.

Tineke has worked as a folk dance teacher since 1975 with close ties to Armenia, the country of her dance specialization. She attended classes at the Choreographic School and at the Pedagogical Institute in Yerevan and received an award from the Armenian Ministry of Culture for being an ambassador promoting Armenian dance and culture. Tineke is known



as an outstanding professional teacher and has taught dance workshops on various continents. **Maurits** has been active as a dance teacher, lecturer, and choreographer since 1975. From 1988 to 2011 he worked at the International Dance Theater, serving as artistic director for 15 of those years. He directed 47 productions based on field research, often in collaboration with local ethnomusicologists. He regularly made research journeys around the world, traveled in various countries that were part of the Silk Road, and did extensive research on two dance productions about the Roma.



Andy Taylor-Blenis and Ricardo (Ricky) César Gaitán Muñoz

have paired up to teach the dances of the renowned Nelda Guerrero Drury. **Andy** graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a BFA in dance and is the daughter of the co-founders of the Folk Arts Center of New England. She teaches international dance through the Folk Arts Center, Revels Inc., and Mass Movement. In addition, she has taught at Harvard, Emerson, Boston University, Boston Conservatory, and the Jeannette Neill Dance Studio. Andy is currently director of

the Mladost Folk Ensemble, a group she founded in 2006, and has danced for 19 years with the Prometheus Dance Company and also dances with the RSCDS Demonstration Team and Wheaton College Dance Group. Andy is a frequent teacher at the San

Antonio Folk Dance Festival.

Ricky began his dance training at age 5 with the Instituto Cultural Mexicano. By age 13 he was a soloist with the Ballet Esplendor de México. In 1973 he joined the San Antonio College Folk Dancers and under the direction of Professor Nelda Guerrero Drury performed throughout the United States and Mexico. From 1977 to 1994 he was associated with the Nacional Aztlán de México in Mexico City as a member, soloist, and dance captain. Ricky is currently director of Ballet Folklórico Alegría at the James Bonham Academy of the San Antonio Independent School District.



Shirley Johnson returns as our singing teacher. Shirley grew up singing, dancing, and playing the accordion. She sang with the Duke University Chorale, and in 1979 provided the musical accompaniment for the Pittsburgh Area Slovaks as they performed in Czechoslovakia. From 1992 to 1994 she performed in Rome, at the Vatican, and on Italian radio and TV. In 2016 she toured Spain with Michelle Alany and Nefesh Joykestra and recorded her third CD.

Get ready for Texas Camp!

The board is pleased to share some tidbits about the upcoming Camp, November 28th to December 1st. The party themes will be:

Fly Me to the Moon...

Commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing with a stellar camp party. Come as an astronaut, an alien, a heavenly body... The sky's the limit for creative costumes.

Journey to Armenia

It takes good friends, spirited dancing, and good food to get in the mood. Show off your best Balkan attire and we'll see you there.

Mexican Fiesta

Put on some south of the border color and join us for some dancing and fun that would make a Mexican proud. Vamos de fiesta y bailamos. ¡Olé!

This year's stunning **T-shirt** design is by Anne Alexander. Be the first to order yours!



Registration for Texas Camp will open in early August.

Upcoming board meeting

The next TIFD board meeting will be held on August 24th at the home of board secretary Holly Plotner. The meeting will begin at 12 PM, and TIFD members are invited to attend. If you plan on attending please inform the president, RosieLee

C. Salinas at roecamsal@gmail.com at least one week prior to the meeting.

The board has a number of items on its agenda. Paramount among them is the wrap-up planning for the 2019 Thanksgiving Camp. Other items that may be considered are the migration to a new database, a new method for setting up files for board activities, etc.

Calendar

September 2019

Mountain Playshop

Friday, September 20 - Sunday, September 22
YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC
mountainplayshop.org

Mountain Playshop is a regional dance weekend that attracts dancers from throughout North Carolina and nearby states to dance, socialize, and relax in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. This year we are featuring **Beth Zweigoron**, **Mike Schafale**, **Ruthy Slann**, and **Paul Taylor**.

November 2019

Old Country Weekend

Friday, November 1 - Sunday, November 3
Cross Point Camp, Lake Texoma, OK
OKCIFD.org

This year's Old Country Weekend features **Ahmet Lüleci** teaching Turkish dances. Ahmet is an absolutely fabulous dance instructor, and attendees are sure to enjoy his charismatic and energetic teaching.

Texas Camp

Thursday, November 28 - Sunday, December 1
Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX
tfd.org

This year's Texas Camp will feature **Tineke & Maurits van Geel** (Armenian/International dances) and **Andy Taylor-Blenis** (Mexican dances)!

March 2020

NFO Conference/Laguna Folk Dance Festival

Thursday, March 5 - Sunday, March 8
Laguna Woods, CA
nfo-usa.org

The annual conference of the National Folk Organization (NFO) is being presented in conjunction with the 50th Laguna Folk Dance Festival. **Yves Moreau** will be the main teacher.

Submissions

The TIFD Newsletter is produced at least four times a year. We welcome event announcements and article submissions for the newsletter. Please send them to editor@tiff.org.

When planning your charitable donations please consider TIFD,
a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization.

(Or simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6055403 and
Amazon will donate to Texas International Folk Dancers.)

Visit our website