

# tifd TEXAS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS

## NEWS

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### Texas Camp! Nov. 25–28, 2021, Greene Family Camp

Who will be teaching at Texas Camp? Check out [this video](#)!

We are planning an in-person camp, Nov. 25-28, 2021. The COVID situation will greatly influence what camp looks like, and we will make every effort to plan a safe and joyous experience for all.

Due to all the challenges of planning a camp this year, we expect registration to be open around October 1.

### TX Camp Survey

Please share your ideas, comments, and concerns about an in person camp this November, by filling out our [survey](#). Yes, it is mostly the same survey we sent out earlier this summer, but we are interested in knowing if your views have changed.

The survey will remain for one week, through Monday, August 23.

### A Message from the President

It has been a difficult year and a half for us all. There may be more challenges ahead, but I choose to dwell on the positive.

Community is key, and we've learned how to keep our folk dance and music community connected through local and national virtual events. Zoom isn't for everyone, but for me it helps fill the hole in my heart caused by not being able to dance and play music with my friends. There are a number of links at the end of this newsletter for ongoing dances, classes, and festivals.

The TIFD board, along with camp co-chair Shirley Johnson, is actively planning the 2021 Thanksgiving Camp. Thanks to everyone who is lending their time and talents in support of TIFD. We greatly appreciate your leadership and volunteerism. I'm looking forward to again holding hands with all of you!

Holly

## **A Letter from Dallas**

The occasional driver across a small I-35 underpass in old downtown Carrollton (near Dallas) on Sunday afternoons for the past several months may have experienced a mysterious, mirage-like sighting of masked folks dancing outdoors, six feet apart, to music emanating from an open-doored hybrid SUV's speakers. Thank you, Alan and Karen Murray! The Murrays also have served as programmers and the main teachers for the Dallas-area international folkdancers "formerly known as the Plaza Arts Center Folk Dancers." Todd Sullivan and others have taught or reviewed dances as well. About a week ago masks became optional.

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, we took it a step further. A small group of us who'd had the shot gathered for an in-person demo at a senior citizen residential center at the request of longtime TIFD friend and folkdancer Nurit Amit. Nurit wanted to show her fellow residents what exactly she was talking about regarding international folkdancing. We demonstrated eight dances put together by Alan and Karen:

**Ya de Kalinushka (Russia)**

**Erev Ba (Israel)**

**Esmer (Turkey)**

**Aleunelul (Romania)**

**Chikulata Chikita (Roma)**

**Santa Rita (Mexico)**

**Linda Eh (South America)**

**Twelfth Street Rag (US)**

... plus a closing Lesnoto for which Nurit and a couple of brave souls from the audience joined us. It was a great pleasure to dance with Nurit again, and with each other! Here's a snapshot of the moment:



Front row L-R: Karen Murray, Brenda Nibert, Nilgun Sezgin  
Back row L-R: Ping Chun, Dorothy Zarbo, Todd Sullivan, Sylvia Karmanoff,  
Shelley Allison, Nurit Amit, Nancy Bernstein, Alan Murray

Tentative plans are afoot to do another dance demo, this time at a Dallas-area ethnic restaurant sometime this summer!

— Submitted by Shelley Allison

## A Texa-Kolo Rewind

With over 1300 registrants, 30 bands, dance teachers, song classes, music classes, performances and interviews, Texa-Kolo became an overnight hit over Thanksgiving weekend, 2020. Seen in over 35 countries, from Australia to Hungary, from Guatemala to Hong Kong, from Norway to Turkey and everywhere in between, it was a true world-wide mega-fest. The festival was co-directed by Bill Cope on the Kolo Festival side and Holly Plotner on the Texas Camp side. Representing the best of both the festival and dance camp, the online dance halls brought a taste of both traditions to Zoom viewers.

Personally, I have been to both Texas Camp and Kolo Festival. I attended Texas Camp back in the 80's when Sunni Bloland was the headline teacher. I had forgotten about how much fun we had there, until I watched the Texas Dance Hall slideshow of bygone Camp days. That's when I spotted a photo of me dancing along with many of my old Texas friends. Memories started to flood in. I'm sure many viewers shared the same experience when watching an old performance, or listening to 15 of our favorite teachers interviewed by Sherry Cochran during her "Blast from the Past" cameos—both pre-recorded and live.

Meanwhile, for the past few years I have also attended Kolo Festival on the same

Thanksgiving weekend and haven't looked back since. Why? Kolofest offers live bands and plenty of them. If I was not dancing to John Morovich and the Chubritza band in the main dance hall, then I was in the Kafana enjoying the hauntingly beautiful Hungarian music of Danubius or the traditional music of Cabin19 or Zabava! Similarly, one could hear all this music in the online Zoom Kafana that represented the best of both Kolo Festival and Texas Camp, with over 20 bands from which to choose. In the main rooms, dance classes were offered from great master teachers like Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu or Joe Graziosi. If that was not enough for us, there were singing classes by John Morovich, Maria Bebelekova or Michele Simon to name a few. So much talent was combined into one very packed weekend, with a little something for every taste.

Through the hard work and planning of co-directors Bill Cope (Kolo Festival) and Holly Plotner (Texas Camp), an additional 8-person steering committee (Adony Beniares, Ahmet Luleci, Cricket Raybern, Dale Adamson, Evan Chu, Paul Collins, Sherry Cochran, Wendy Brown) plus the contribution of literally dozens of dedicated volunteers, the world was able to see just why these two combined Thanksgiving weekend events have become such popular destinations for the past 50+ years. See the "Thank you" pages at [kolofestival.org](http://kolofestival.org) to glimpse the small army of volunteers and groups who made it happen. To top it all off, even John Filcich, who is now in his late 90's, danced a few Kolos with his daughter.

After being part of this weekend of music, dance, teaching, parties, interviews and performances, all I could think of was, "How fortunate am I to be part of this wonderfully talented community of artists." This sentiment was shared by both Bill Cope and Holly Plotner as we talked and shared our impressions at the end of Sunday evening's closing dance party. The Texa-Kolo Festival gave us more than just entertainment. It gave us a way to reconnect with an incredibly diverse set of people who have a variety of stories to tell about the traditions that are celebrated in many parts of the world and have become such an integral part of our lives. It provided us with healing through connection by dancing with friends both old and new. For one memorable weekend, we were able to forget the forced isolation that has kept us all in our homes for these many months. In the shared love we have for anything and everything "folk", Texa-Kolo brought us all just a little closer together for one fabulous weekend. It was pure joy!

*A longer version of this article by Kathy Molga originally appeared in the February 2021 issue of Let's Dance! magazine, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California.*

## From Our Committees

### Membership

If you haven't already renewed your TIFD membership, please do so at [register.tifd.org/membership](http://register.tifd.org/membership).

### Does your group have a Code of Conduct and dedicated Safety Team?

If not, now is the perfect time to train a team of experts who can respond to medical emergencies and unwanted behavior at your post-COVID dance events. Our set of policies and procedures has been vetted by both the SAFE Alliance and a lawyer experienced in the needs of local social dance groups, and we train Safety Teams to respond to tough situations in confidence and confidentiality. Email [safety@tifd.org](mailto:safety@tifd.org), and we can set up a training for you.

## Website Improvements Coming

## Updates and Corrections

We are presently correcting errors throughout the site, updating old information such as links and names of the Board of Directors, and deleting things that are no longer relevant. We will also revise formatting to make future edits easier.

## Website Redesign

We wish to upgrade the visual look of [tifd.org](http://tifd.org) in order to provide a better picture of who we are and to create a more appealing and user-friendly experience for visitors.

Do you have design skills? Can you help coordinate the redesign project? (Note that the current site is built on WordPress.) Please volunteer by emailing us at [board@tifd.org](mailto:board@tifd.org).

## Next TIFD Board Meeting

The next meeting of the TIFD Board will take place on Saturday, August 21, at 1 p.m. Please email [Holly Plotner](mailto:Holly.Plotner), if you would like to attend. Earlier this year, newly elected board members Denise Fynmore and Kristin Lucas were installed. We thanked outgoing members Augie Gaona and Jack Alley for their service, and elected the following officers:

Holly Plotner - President  
Kristin Lucas - Vice President  
Kathleen McDonagh - Secretary  
Georgia Horn - Treasurer

## Calendar

**Sep. 24-26** Boulder International Folk Dancers annual workshop, with Shmulik Gov-Ari teaching Israeli Dances  
[boulderfolkdancers.org](http://boulderfolkdancers.org)

**Feb. 11-14, 2022** Celebrate 50 years of the Florida Folk Dance Council at a winter workshop in Orlando, with Jaap Leegwater and Mea Nordenfelt teaching Bulgarian and Beyond.  
[folkdance.org](http://folkdance.org)

## Online Dance Events

**HIFD** dances listed on HIFD website  
Houston International Folk Dancers had some in-person dances for a brief period. In-person dances are now suspended due to the Harris County COVID threat level of red. Information about HIFD dances and Zooms can be found on the HIFD website: [folkdancers.org](http://folkdancers.org).

**AIFD** continues Zoom dancing every other week until Austin Parks and Recreation allows in-person events. Join the fun! The next Zoom Dance is August 20. Details at [aifd.cc](http://aifd.cc).

San Antonio Folk Dancers (**SAFD**) is having provisional in-person dances, simulcast on Zoom. For further information about dance times and venue, visit [sanantoniofolkdancers.org](http://sanantoniofolkdancers.org) (preferably on the day of the dance). Join the email list at [host@sanantoniofolkdancers.org](mailto:host@sanantoniofolkdancers.org).

**Texas Tuesday** Israeli dancing 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm  
Join dancers from Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Dance and/or schmooze. Requests always welcome!  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9973201440> Password: TxTuesday

**Global Folk Dance Party** (Peninsula Folk Dance Council)  
Every third Saturday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm CST  
Sign-in info: [facebook.com/PFDCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PFDCouncil)

**Folk Arts Council of New England (FACONE)**  
Weekly dance classes from top teachers. [facone.org](http://facone.org)

### Online Events Calendars

- [daleadamson.com/events-calendar](http://daleadamson.com/events-calendar)
- [daleadamson.com/other-online-event-calendars-of-interest](http://daleadamson.com/other-online-event-calendars-of-interest)
- [veselofolkdancers.org/events](http://veselofolkdancers.org/events)

### Submissions

Write to us with your announcement, past camp experience, or anything related to folk dancing! Send it to [editor@tiff.org](mailto:editor@tiff.org) and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6055403) and  
Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to TIFD.)

Visit our website