

TIFD presents the 74<sup>th</sup>

# TEXAS CAMP

Live! In person! ~ November 25 – 28, 2021

## *Michael Ginsburg*

Balkan Dancing

*Don Weeda* ~ *Shirley Johnson*

Camp Band

Singing

TEXA - KOLO

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 25-28, 2021

LIVE & ON-SITE IN BOTH TEXAS & CALIFORNIA,  
WITH GLOBALLY INCLUSIVE ZOOM SESSIONS.

★ THE 74TH TEXAS CAMP

MICHAEL GINSBURG

JOHN FILCICH KOLO FESTIVAL'S ★  
70TH ANNIVERSARY

SONIA & CRISTIAN  
STEVE KOTANSKY  
AHMET & EVREN

REGISTRATION AT [WWW.TEXA-KOLO.ORG](http://WWW.TEXA-KOLO.ORG)

[WWW.TIFD.ORG](http://WWW.TIFD.ORG) | [TEXAKOLO2021@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TEXAKOLO2021@GMAIL.COM) | [WWW.KOLOFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.KOLOFESTIVAL.ORG)

# About Texas Camp

Texas Camp, held each Thanksgiving weekend, is one of the longest-running and best-loved international folk dance camps in the U.S. The setting is [Greene Family Camp](#), a modern facility in the scenic hill-country of Central Texas. Texas Camp offers a unique opportunity to join in a celebration of music and dance from all over the world in an informal and supportive atmosphere.

In addition to dance instruction — provided by world-class instructors each year — we offer singing classes, folklore presentations, hearty ethnic cuisine, a host of special-interest dance sessions, and incredible evening parties with live and recorded music. Musicians are always welcome at Texas Camp, and are encouraged to join our friendly camp band to perform at parties each evening.

We hope you will join us for a wonderful holiday experience full of dancing, feasting, fellowship, music and fun.

## Changes for COVID

This year's COVID protocols require all campers to be fully vaccinated. Sadly, this means that we must suspend the Kids' Club (Family Support) program until children can be safely vaccinated.

## Additional attractions

- Enjoy **wonderful ethnic cuisine** made from traditional recipes
- Texas Camp features a strong live-music tradition: the versatile **Texas Camp Band**, and other local bands will also perform.
- Beautiful **sprung!** wooden dance floor

## Financial assistance

TIFD offers a limited number of full and half scholarships in memory of longtime dancer and Texas Camp attendee Bobbi Gillotti. To apply for this scholarship fill out the [application form](#).

## Facility

[Greene Family Camp](#) is located in Bruceville, TX, just south of Waco. The closest major airports are in Austin (AUS) and Dallas (DFW). Driving directions will be posted soon.

All camp facilities are heated and air conditioned. You never know what the weather will be in Texas! Most activities, including dancing and meals, take place in the main hall.

# ***TEXA-KOLO***

We welcome you to join us on-site for Texas Camp or Kolo Festival. For those who are not able to attend our live events, you are invited to Zoom into Texa-Kolo. Selected sessions from our live events will be broadcast over Zoom. [Zoom registration](#) is free, donations gratefully accepted.

Zoom registration will be open November 1.

# COVID Protocols

From the TIFD Board:

*“The TIFD Board is dedicated to making this event a joyous celebration, and to keep each other safe. Towards that end, we’re introducing some changes from previous years’ in person events.*

*We support that each person’s personal situation is different. Using extensive research and experience from recent in-person events, we’ve carefully designed these protocols to maximize our community’s safety, while still preserving the most precious elements of Texas Camp.*

*For those who will join us for this event, please carefully review the safety protocols outlined below. Together we’ll practice new ways to support what we love while we protect our health and safety.”*

If after reviewing these protocols, you still have questions or concerns, we want to hear from you. Please email us at [campchairs21@tifd.org](mailto:campchairs21@tifd.org)

Pre-Camp:

- Submit proof of vaccination
  - All campers must be fully vaccinated.
  - Email a scan of your vac card to [registrar@tifd.org](mailto:registrar@tifd.org) by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you’re not comfortable emailing a copy of your vaccination card, we will set up a Zoom call with you. At that video call, you can show us your information. Email [registrar@tifd.org](mailto:registrar@tifd.org) to set up a Zoom session.
  - TIFD will not retain any vaccination records received as a part of camper registration.
- Submit evidence of negative covid test taken within 72 hours prior to camp
  - Submit via email to [registrar@tifd.org](mailto:registrar@tifd.org) prior to arrival
- All campers and staff should perform an [Individual Health Check](#) before coming. Please stay home if you’re not well or not sure.

At Camp:

- Once you’ve arrived, don’t leave :-)
  - We are asking campers and staff to respect our “no in and out” policy.
  - Once you’ve checked in, please stay on site until your departure from camp.
  - Registrations are for 3 or 2 consecutive nights.
- Masking Requirements

- We are not requiring masks for this event.
- We support your choice to wear a mask if you are more comfortable doing so.
- Housing will be more spread-out than in previous years.

### Items We'll Offer at Camp:

- Here is a list of items you'll want to have for this camp experience. We'll provide supplies of them, or if you prefer, bring your own.
  - Handkerchiefs to hold instead of hands while dancing
  - Extra Masks available if desired
  - Hand sanitizer stations throughout camp
  - Temperature checking station

### Individual Daily Health Check:

## Daily Health Check – Anything Unusual?

Perform your daily health check **BEFORE** coming to camp, & stay at home if you are experiencing these symptoms.

Perform your daily health check when **starting your day**, & please mask and see the camp co-chairs if you identify concerns.



Camp Co-Chairs: Holly Plotner & Shirley Johnson

# ***REGISTRATION & SCHOLARSHIPS***

**Register here:** <https://register.tifd.org/>

After you fill out the online registration form, you will have the option to pay using PayPal or by check. You will then receive an automatic reply email summarizing your registration choices.

As we get closer to camp, the registrar will send out more information, including what to bring, any updates, etc. Any questions? Email [registrar@tifd.org](mailto:registrar@tifd.org).

Please submit any cancellation requests to the [registrar](#) via email. The \$15 TIFD membership charge is non-refundable. Full refunds will be sent for cancellations received by November 1. Cancellations received after November 1 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. All refunds will be mailed after camp.

Texa-Kolo Zoom registration and Kolo Festival registration is at [www.Texa-Kolo.org](http://www.Texa-Kolo.org)

## **Scholarships Available**

**Don't let money keep you from attending!** In memory of Ms. Bobbi Gillotti, TIFD offers a limited number of full or half scholarships to full-time campers in financial need. Application forms are available online at [www.tifd.org/downloads/gillottischolarship.pdf](http://www.tifd.org/downloads/gillottischolarship.pdf), and must be received by October 20. Applicants will receive notice of results by November 1. After receiving notice, each scholarship awardee must then submit a camp registration form by November 8.

## **Reduced Rate For Non-Dancers**

A non-dancer is a camper with physical challenges which prevent dancing, or a campers' family member who does not participate in camp activities (classes, parties, etc.) This rate is not available to part-time campers, scholarship recipients, or anyone receiving a staff discount.

## **Important Dates**

October 20	Deadline for all scholarship applications
November 1	Registration deadline
November 8	Registration deadline for scholarship recipients
November 8	Absolute last day to register!
November 25	Camp begins!

# **STAFF BIOS**

## **Michael Ginsburg**

Michael has been director and lead trumpet player of Zlatne Uste Balkan Brass Band since 1983.

He accompanied ZU to brass festivals in Guča, Serbia, three times between 1987 and 1990, as well as in 2003 and 2005,

where he and ZU were able to play and party with local brass bands and experience the music in its natural setting.

Michael and Zlatne Uste worked with Ekrem Sajdić and Zlatni Prsti brass band in 2003, and in 2005 with Vranjski Biseri, both in Vranjska Banja, Serbia. Michael performed in the summer of 2010 with Zlatne Uste at the first competition of international bands at the Sabor Trubača in Guča, Serbia, representing the United States.

For many years, Michael has been interested in Balkan music and dances, especially Macedonian and Serbian. He is an expert in the complicated rhythms of Balkan music and has made several research trips to Bulgaria and the former Yugoslavia, and studied in Macedonia with Pece Atanasovski, with whom he made research tours of the country. Michael has been on the teaching staff of the Macedonian Pearl seminar in Berovo, Macedonia. Michael lives in Yonkers, NY.

## **Don Weeda**

Don is a master accordionist and well versed in many musical styles. He plays with many ensembles, and his folk music career spans over 30 years as a performer, recording artist, and workshop conductor at festivals and camps all over North America. For many years Don has led the Texas Camp band and has provided much delightful live music for camp parties and other events.

## **Shirley Johnson**

Shirley grew up singing, dancing, and playing the accordion. She sang with the Duke University Chorale, performing at Carnegie Hall in NYC and at Disney World. From 1992 to 1994 in Rome, Italy, she sang with the "Coro Misto" of "L'Accademia della Filarmonica," performing throughout Rome. She has performed with various bands around Austin, and has been a popular singing teacher at numerous Texas Camps.

# ***SCHEDULE***

## **Full Schedule Coming Soon!**

### **Opening Day Highlights - Thursday**

11:30 am - 2 pm Registration and TIFD Sales

1:00 pm Howdy Dances

1:30 pm Opening Ceremony

2:00 pm Michael's Dance Class

3:30 pm Camp Band

5:00 pm Singing Class

6:00 pm Thanksgiving Dinner

8:00 pm SUPER HEROES! Party

# ***EVENING PARTIES***

Nightly parties include both live and recorded music. Live music is provided by the Camp Band and other local bands. Recorded music is by request! Request lists available during the parties.

Party themes and costumes are a long standing tradition at Texas Camp. Join the fun!

## **Thursday Night - SUPER HEROES!**

Channel your inner Wonder Woman or Batman! Or perhaps honor your personal heroes like mom or dad, or the nurses, doctors, grocery clerks, delivery people who helped us through the past year.

## **Friday Night - TRAVELS ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**

This famed train travels eastward through many Balkan countries. Costume possibilities include train personnel, ethnic costumes from the route, or even characters from one of the Murder on the Orient Express movies.

## **Saturday Night - DANCING PICTURES**

Dress up as your favorite movie character in a DANCING themed movie. From Saturday Night Fever to Flashdance to Singing in the Rain - anything goes. Fred and Ginger, anyone?

# ***PRE-CAMP EVENTS***

## ***Live, Zoom, and Hybrid***

### **Camp Band rehearsal – Nov. 6, 1:00p.m.**

In person in Austin, and over Zoom! Location to be announced. Email [Don Weeda](mailto:Don.Weeda@aifd.cc) for details.

### **Camp Band performance – Nov. 12, 8p.m.**

Play for dancing at Austin International Folk Dancers! **If** AIFD is meeting in person by then, the band will be the main attraction that night.

### **Family Dance program– Nov. ? – on Zoom!**

We will not have our traditional Kids Club at camp this year, due to COVID limitations. Instead, we are bringing Kids Club to your homes. Both kids and adults will enjoy this family oriented dance session.

### **You'll Be Floored! – Nov. 20 -21**

For your safety and comfort, we install our famous custom built, sprung wooden dance floor in the Main Hall. We transport and assemble our beautiful wooden dance floor the weekend before camp.

Join us! Floor czars John Alexander and Mike Revesz will direct the effort. Email them at [floor\\_czars@aifd.cc](mailto:floor_czars@aifd.cc) for details.

# ***At Camp***

## **Cuisine**

Our kitchen strives to accommodate individual dietary preferences and food allergies, but cannot meet all needs. Please provide details of any dietary restrictions on your registration form. Feel free to contact us at [campchairs21@tiffd.org](mailto:campchairs21@tiffd.org) with any concerns.

## **Housing**

All housing has central air and heat.

**Dorms:** Most campers are housed in duplex dorms that share a large central bathroom. Each side has seven bunk beds. This year we will spread out housing and have no more than 3-5 persons per side.

**Private rooms with private bath:** Each houses a maximum of two people, twin beds. There is an extra charge; see registration form for prices.

**Family Cabins:** These cabins are for one or more adults with one or more children age 16 or younger. There is no extra charge for these, and families have priority until Nov. 1.

Assignments are first come, first served, based on the date registrations are received by the registrar. If we cannot fulfill your housing request, we will refund any extra fees.

## **Important Rules**

- Smoking is prohibited anywhere within the *Greene Family Camp* grounds.
- A confirmed registration is required to attend any part of camp. No visitors or drop-ins.
- No pets are allowed anywhere within the *Greene Family Camp* grounds.
- TIFD is proud to have a Code of Conduct. Full details at [www.tiffd.org/code-of-conduct](http://www.tiffd.org/code-of-conduct)

# ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

Registrar - Shirley Johnson

[registrar@tiffd.org](mailto:registrar@tiffd.org)

General Camp Information

Shirley Johnson and Holly Plotner

[campchairs21@tiffd.org](mailto:campchairs21@tiffd.org)

Volunteer to help with floors

John Alexander

[floor\\_czars@aifd.cc](mailto:floor_czars@aifd.cc)

Housing - Wendy Erickson

[samperic84@gmail.com](mailto:samperic84@gmail.com)

Camp Band - Don Weeda

[don.weeda@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:don.weeda@austin.utexas.edu)