

September 2005

# TFTM news

The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING FROM THE EDITOR

EXPIRED  
JIM McCONNELL

by Jorga Riggenschach

**A**s required by our bylaws, The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music will have an annual, General Meeting on Saturday, October the 15, 2005, at 9:15 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Park and Fourth Street, Tucson, Arizona. This meeting, during second October dance, will be sandwiched in at the break. There will be no charge if you wish to attend the meeting but not the dance.

During this General Meeting, members of the Board of Directors are elected and changes in our bylaws are proposed. An issue on the table this year is changing our fiscal year to reflect a period that coincides with our financial cycle.

TFTM, dues-paid, members are invited to attend, vote, and participate in the discussion of the future of our dynamic group. This is an important membership responsibility because it creates the strong framework that supports TFTM.

**Y**es, it's true. Our lovely nineteen-year-old editor, **Laila Lewis**, is off to grace the halls of academia. She finished her stint as editor with the multi-month, special summer edition. We'll miss Laila—she brought energy and excitement to the job. This issue has her final Caller's Corner column.

In addition to her talents as an editor and writer, Laila is a caller and a dancer. She's also learning to play fiddle music on her cello. She likes art of all kinds and she's even taking a blacksmithing class.

Laila is in her third year at Pima Community College and planning to transfer to the UofA next semester. With so many skills and talents, her main problem is deciding exactly where to focus her abundant energy. Linguistics interest her and, as a person who likes to teach and be in charge, a college professorship is an attractive idea. "Maybe," Laila added, "I could be a professional caller on the side. Calling is my passion, but it's

Can't get enough music  
and dance? Go to  
[WWW.TFTM.ORG](http://WWW.TFTM.ORG) for listings  
of local and statewide activities.

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## TFTM Board Members\*

*President	Marilyn Cleavinger	president@tftm.org	520-795-2081
*Treasurer	Steve Richards	treasurer@tftm.org	520-882-3068
*Secretary	Dale Tersey	secretary@tftm.org	520-906-0352
*Website	Omer Claiborne	website@tftm.org	520-321-4298
*Dance	Lorien Tersey	contradance@tftm.org	520-591-2432
*Bookkeeper	June Pitts	pitts7@aol.com	520-751-2502
Newsletter	Jorga Riegenbach	newsletter@tftm.org	520-749-2710

### WHAT CONTRA'S NOT

**C**ontra dance has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with country line dancing. Nada. Zilch. And if it did, we would deny it. Okay, we admit that some people enjoy both contra dancing and country line dancing.

Contra dance groups receive absolutely no funding from Oliver North.

Generally, no classes are required or even offered except for a non-required half-hour introduction before the dance.

We do not wear costumes (except on Halloween) or any particular style of clothes. You are encouraged to bring a separate pair of soft-soled, non-scuffing shoes to protect the dance floor. Tennis shoes are quite adequate for the first-time dancer.

Very little footwork is required in contra dance. The most common type of movement is a smooth walking step.

From [www.sbcds.org/contradance/whatis/](http://www.sbcds.org/contradance/whatis/)

Music begins to  
atrophy when it departs  
too far from the dance.

Ezra Pound



Jeff Thorn, burnin' the rosin off his bow.

### DANCING FEET

**T**he human foot is a highly specialized structure containing 26 relatively small bones, more than 150 ligaments and an intricate network of muscles, nerves and blood vessels.

The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music  
Newsletter is Published

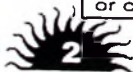
Ten Times a Year By:

The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music  
PO Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music (TFTM) is dedicated to keeping the traditions of community music and dance alive and growing in Tucson. TFTM sponsors and promotes concerts, dances, workshops, and informal music sessions. Through these activities and a newsletter publication, TFTM builds awareness, educates, and fosters diversity in music and dance in the Tucson community.

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music is incorporated in the state of Arizona as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

For more info, visit [www.tftm.org](http://www.tftm.org), or call us at 520-408-6181.



difficult to make it pay.”

Laila works hard at calling. “I give credit for my calling ability, such as it is, to the workshops I’ve attended at dance camps. Credit also goes to the people in Las Vegas, where I used to live, and to the folks in Tucson for welcoming and encouraging me, even though I’m so young.”

So, thanks and farewell to Laila as newsletter editor. Fortunately, she’ll continue to be actively involved in the Tucson Contra scene at many levels.

#### GOALS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

In upcoming issues, we’ll include more info about TFTM members in a new column entitled, “In the Spotlight.”

Let’s have more membership participation. Specifically, I’d appreciate it if you’d email or call with tidbits of relevant information. For instance, I’d like to hear about Camps and Contra Dance/Traditional Music activities that you’ve attended. I’d like to know about music/dance awards and contests. Please send me your tips, ideas and suggestions, too.

**TUCSON DANCE SCENE:** Many of our dancers cross-train. When they aren’t at a Contra Dance, they are participating in International Dance, Swing, Ballroom, Cajun, Scottish, Irish and others. Local dancer, **Jan Rust**, sends out a weekly email with a day-by-day list of all the dance-related activities in Tucson. Email Jan at [jcrrealor@aol.com](mailto:jcrrealor@aol.com) if you’d like to

receive the list.

**FORMAT CHANGE:** As you’ve noticed, the newsletter has a new, more portable format which reflects the active, vital personality of TFTMers. We’ll have info on newsletter deadlines and coverage periods available on the Web. Our next issue, October, will cover October 1- Nov. 20, 2005 and the deadline is September 20, 2005. Next, the Holiday Issue, will cover a two-month period from 11-20-05 to 01-22-06. The deadline for this issue is 11-01-05.

**TBA:** “To Be Announced” is a message you’ll often see in the newsletter. By the nature of the beast, we have to work a month or two ahead and sometimes information isn’t available when we go to press. Luckily for us, that’s not a problem because we have an excellent Webmaster, **Omer Claiborne**, keeping us up-to-date at [TFTM.ORG](http://TFTM.ORG). Please check the Web site often, especially prior to dances and events for updated information.

There is so much information on the TFTM Web site including On-Going Events Around Tucson, History of American Contra Dance by **Becky Nankivell**, Special Events, Ticket Outlets, Arizona Contra Dances, forms for Dance in the Desert and TFTM Membership, lots of links and much more. Of course, all the links are hot, so with the click of a mouse you are off on a Contra adventure. Please

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consider making TFTM.ORG the Home Page on your browser.

### HIRING MUSIC AND DANCE

**TEACHERS:** The City of Tucson, Parks and Recreation is on the lookout for music and dance teachers. If you want more information, please contact **Jeanne Jerousek-McAninch** at [Jeanne.Jerousek@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Jeanne.Jerousek@tucsonaz.gov), [jemcaninch@cox.net](mailto:jemcaninch@cox.net) or call 520-791-5909.

I could dance with you  
till the cows come home.  
Better still, I'll dance  
with the cows  
till you come home.

Groucho Marx

### GREEN FIRE

**G**reen Fire Music & Art Collective, formerly the Greenfire Bookshop at 925 E Ft Lowell Rd, is a membership based organization that seeks to provide a venue for the finest music, art, and performance art in the Southwest. They host concerts by local and nationally touring musicians, have open mics, songcircles, art fairs, art displays, dances, and provide meeting spaces for community groups, yoga classes, dance classes, or whatever feels appropriate to the venue.

If you are interested in performing, teaching, or if you need a meeting or event space, or have questions about Green Fire, go to [www.GREENFIREBOOKS.com](http://www.GREENFIREBOOKS.com) or call (520)408-0677.

### LIVE AND LOCAL

by Dale Tersey

**I**'ve written about a few of the set bands that play regularly for our Contra Dances, but what about the Open Bands? The third Saturday dance is generally Open Band and in the past year we have enjoyed some wonderful sets of musicians sitting-in for the evening.

July was no exception. Eleven talented musicians filled the hall with lively, lovely music. The sound system was up to the task and we provided mics to everyone. There were five fiddles with **Sharon Goldwasser** and her student **Erich Winters**, **Jennifer Sordyl**, **John Beland**, and **Jeff Thorn**. **John Clabourne** played

banjo, **Chuck Williams** played the penny flute, **Claire Zucker** played the bodhran, **Judy Francis** keep the rhythm with her piano and we had two guitars for backing in **Steve Richard** and **Jim Whitsell**—Jim also plays the mandolin.

**Jim McConnell**, **Craig Tinney**, **Dave Firestine** and **Jacque Wohl** also often play on Open Band nights.

We have many fine musicians who can take a melody and run with it. **Lorien Tersey** coordinates the Open Band to ascertain that we have experienced players and newer players who wish to sit in. If you'd like to be included in the email notices for the Open Band, send an email to [contradance@tftm.org](mailto:contradance@tftm.org).



## DANCE IN THE DESERT - NOVEMBER 11-13, 2005

by Claire Zucker

This year's **Dance in the Desert** promises to be a fabulous event. Not only is it our 10th anniversary (fun stuff right and left), but our talent is just stellar this year. **Flapjack**, from eastern Canada, will wow us with their unique contra repertoire, not to mention their instrumentation including twin fiddles, mandolin, banjo, and rhythm combo consisting of kitchen percussion, stand-up bass and guitar. On top of that, **Joseph Pimentel** and **Susan Michaels** will be treating us with contra dances, an English dancing workshop, and much much more.

Joseph hails from Columbus, Ohio and is known for his charisma and infectiously joyful calling. Susan



Fiddler, Sharon Goldwasser, plays with *Round the House*.

Michaels, from Southern California, is referred to as "the Zen caller" by some because of her smooth, easy teaches and flowing dances. She can also rise to the ridiculous when the occasion demands. Warning! We might just demand it.



Registration is filling up. **Got Men?** That's what we need. There are several lovely ladies on the waiting list and we need men to sign up ASAP. Please spread the word.

It is easy to register. Go to [TFTM.org](http://TFTM.org), click on *Dance in the Desert* at the top of the page and follow the links to the registration page. If you are not computer savvy, sign up at a dance or call **Claire** at 520-882-3068.

One more thing: We will be holding our ever-popular raffle again this year. Please bring your items to a dance or mail them to TFTM.

The proceeds from the raffle support our scholarship program and it's an enjoyable event that everyone looks forward to at camp.

### CLASSIFIEDS

(Free to TFTM members; contact [newsletter@tftm.org](mailto:newsletter@tftm.org))

**Fiddle & Mountain Dulcimer Lessons:** Beginners welcome. **Bob Hauth**, 520-743-3392

**Scottish Highland Bagpipes.**

Private instruction or public performance. Call **William Don Carlos** at 520-907-4460 or email [pipes-are-loud@wdoncarlos.com](mailto:pipes-are-loud@wdoncarlos.com)

## CALLER'S CORNER:

### J.P. Thom-Gronachan

by Laila Lewis

When J.P. Thom-Gronachan isn't dancing, you may find him at his downtown Tucson studio, The Musician Maker, teaching music. Or, he may be at his Marana ranch, milking a couple Nubian nannies and making goat cheese. On Sundays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., you can listen to his show, Tabasco Road on KXCI Community Radio. He plays Louisiana Cajun and Zydeco dance music. He also has a five-piece band, Black Leather Zydeco.

"In 1984, after playing Old-Timey music for a number of years in Phoenix, Steve Barnett, showed up with a mountain dulcimer. His question to us was, 'Where's your dance?' Our answer was, 'We don't know anything about that, we just play the music.'"

"Steve told us he was a dancer and caller from Vermont and he offered to teach us how to do it. That was how the Phoenix Contra dance started.

"Before he returned to Vermont, I took a couple calling workshops from Steve.

"I learned that there was already a dance community in Tucson. I attended a Tucson dance and found 50-100

dancers who had a good idea of what was going on. This contrasted sharply with the low attendance at the Phoenix dances.

"I was a bad caller in those days and I couldn't dance too well, either. The dancers put up with me and I learned. In 1987-88, I called monthly dances in Prescott and Flagstaff. While I was behind the mic, I couldn't dance, so I came to Tucson as often as I could to be just a dancer.



"In 1991, I started attending weekend dance camps in California and it was during that time that I came to consider myself a caller. I learned a lot from George Marshall. I developed an appreciation for smooth connections, precise timing, and interesting combinations of moves.

"I program an evening with progressively more challenging dances but I add few less complex dances to provide mental relief.

"Of course, it's always great to see a dance go perfectly. Sometimes, the dances that feel best start with a little confusion and then progress and get smoother. The dancers have the satisfaction of solving a puzzle.

"I'm now only calling 3 or 4 dances a year, but it keeps my repertoire fresh. I no longer end up calling everything I know."

## JOIN TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC!

Membership benefits include: Discounts on many events, including all TFTM events, plus a subscription to this newsletter and free classified listings in the newsletter.

Send this form and your check to TFTM, PO Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Single \$15       Donor \$30-99       New  
 Family \$18       Sponsor \$100+       Renewal  
 Address Change

Yes, include me in the TFTM contact email listing

I am interested in helping with:     Newsletter     Sound  
 Dance Camp     Contra Dances     Special Events

### WHAT'S IN A LABEL

Please take a moment to look at the label on this newsletter and note your membership expiration date printed above your name. TFTM's memberships run for 12 months after we get your membership form and payment. We give members a brief grace period after a membership has expired.

If your membership expiration date is not visible, and instead it says PLEASE RENEW, then your membership is already in that grace period. We would love to have you keep your membership active. For those who have renewal coming up, you can send in your renewal any time or drop it off at a dance.

TFTM owes a special debt of gratitude to Supporting Members who send in a

donation over the base membership rate. Their generous contributions help keep Traditional Music alive in Tucson.



Craig Tinney, playing the banjo.



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## TUCSON CONTRA DANCES

WHERE	DATE	TIME	BAND	CALLER	*COST
First United Mthdst Chrch 915 E 4th St	Saturday Sept. 17, 2005	Tyro 7:30pm Dance 8-11pm	OPEN BAND	CLAIRE	\$7
				ZUCKER	\$6
					\$5
First United Mthdst Chrch 915 E 4th St	Saturday Oct. 1, 2005	Tyro 7:30pm Dance 8-11pm	TBA	TBA	\$7
					\$6
					\$5
First United Mthdst Chrch 915 E 4th St	Saturday Oct. 15, 2005	Tyro 7:30pm Dance 8-11pm	<b>Annual Meeting</b>		\$7
			OPEN BAND	TBA	\$6
					\$5
First United Mthdst Chrch 915 E 4th St	Saturday Oct. 29, 2005	Tyro 7:30pm Dance 8-11pm	<b>Halloween Costumes</b>		\$7
			HANDS FOUR	TBA	\$6
					\$5

\*The different prices of admision, in descending order, are for the Public, TFTM Members, and Students.