



October 2005

TFTM *news*

The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

DANCERS' FUN EVENTS

by Lorien Tersey, Dance Committee Chair

Summer is over and we are entering the busiest part of our dance year. We have some fun events coming up, including a **Halloween Costume Dance** on the **Saturday, October 29**.

We won't make you go home if you come as yourself that night, but we know how much fun you have when you get silly. Maybe we will even come up with some door prizes.

Then, in November, we have **Buz Lloyd** bringing his band **In-A-Contra-Da-Vida** all the way from North Carolina. (See page 9 for more details.)

We have had a stronger than usual attendance all summer, with a steady stream of newcomers, so we are in a good position to make some big plans for the new year.

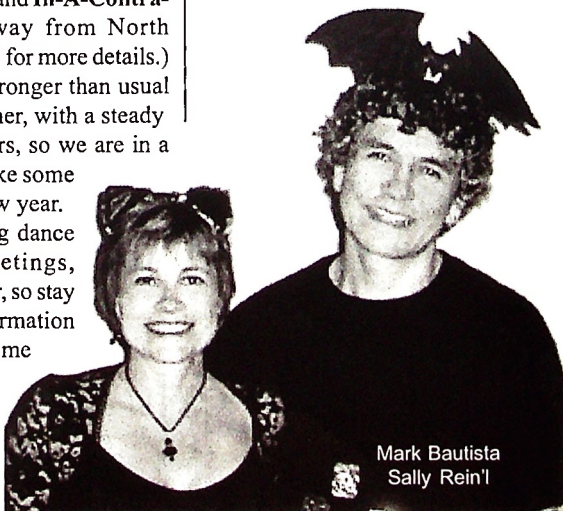
I will be hosting dance committee meetings, beginning in October, so stay tuned for more information about the date and time at dances and on the e-news.

All members are welcome to attend the meetings

and help make our dances better than ever. At the first meeting, I will unveil the results of the survey which many of you participated in earlier this year. Good news. It looks like we all agree that we want to dance more!

For more information about dancing or volunteering contact me at contradance@tftm.org or 520-591-2432.

Don't forget to check out the listings of Upcoming Dances on page 8.



Mark Bautista
Sally Rein'l

TFTM Board Members *

*President	Marilyn Cleavinger	president@tftm.org	520-795-2081
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Newsletter	Jorga Riegenbach	newsletter@tftm.org	520-749-2710

TFTM BOARD NEWS

by Marilyn Cleavinger, TFTM Board President



I'm happy to report that, thanks to **Rohn Brown**, we have finally located a space to refinish TFTM's portable dance floor. Having seen five years of heavy use at dance camps since it was last refinished, the floor certainly merits our attention. We need volunteers on Saturday, October 1 and 8, to help with move the floor panels. Please lend a hand. Contact Rohn at 520-519-6245 or email cirusflyer@yahoo.com.

The Annual General Meeting for TFTM members will be held Saturday, October 15, at 9:15 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. The items of business will include the presentation of the annual financial report, proposal of updates to the TFTM bylaws, and the election of the Board of Directors. Nominees for the Board of Directors are **Steve Richard, Marilyn Cleavinger, Dale Tersey, Lorien Tersey, Omer Claiborne, June Pitts and Cheryl Anderson.**

Upcoming Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 24 and Monday, November 28 at the Tersey's home, 3227 E. Glenn Street. The proposed changes to the TFTM bylaws will be put to a vote at the November 28 meeting. Members who are unable to attend the General Meeting and would like to receive information about the proposed changes, please contact me. The contact information is listed above.



Rohn Brown

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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, or call us at 520-408-6181.



**IN THE
SPOTLIGHT:
MIKE
MCGARRY**

Mike's sunny laugh and cheerful enthusiasm liven up TFTM

dances. Mike moved to Tucson (2002) by way of Toledo, Ohio (1992) and Phoenix. He likes the sense of community in Tucson.

Mike is a carpenter. He enjoys bicycling and yoga. Fresh fruit pies are one of his favorite treats.

In addition to being a long-time TFTM member and contra dancer, Mike also makes the International Folk Dance scene. Although he can't remember exactly when he started contra dancing, perhaps in 1994, he has pleasant memories of chasing a girl in Kalamazoo, a folk dancer, who took him to a contra dance there.

In July, 2005, Mike danced in Greensborough, Asheville, and Winston-Salem, NC. "There seems to be a strong sense of community over a wide area," Mike said, "and more younger dancers there, but not

necessarily better dancers."

"My pleasure," Mike explained, "in contra dancing is what Susan Michaels calls the *Zen of the Dance*; you can just let go and drop into the music. My focus is usually on smoothing my moves and the transitions with other dancers. In most figures, equally shared weight is the way to get to the Zen. I don't try to memorize every bit of a dance because there seems to be a collective memory that is conveyed between dancers. Sometimes I get lost in the dance, but collective memory does require my active participation.

"What I don't like is too much talking by callers and conversely, dancers on the floor who prevent the caller from being heard, because both keep us from dancing. I don't like "rubber arm," which means giving too little or no weight. On the other side of the coin, too much force or weight isn't good either. I can't hold my partner up and it's not my job to carry anyone's weight but my own. Like everyone else, I don't enjoy being forced or shoved by the rare dancer with an overbearing or intolerant attitude.

"When I make a mistake, I laugh at myself and pay more attention to that part next time."

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LIVE AND LOCAL

by Dale Tersey

Looking at local bands that move in and out of the Traditional music sphere of influence, we see some really eclectic mixes. Voted Tucson Weekly Tammie Awards Best Folk Band in both the 2004 and 2005 and one of Tucson's rising stars of acoustical music, **The Determined Luddites** perform high-energy, music with a focus on harmonious vocals, virtuoso instrumental performance, and strong rhythm. Their music spans a wide range of traditions from the British Isles, America, and the Caribbean.

The Luddites are: **Dan Davis** on mandolin, mandola, guitar, harmonica, and vocals. **Dan Hostetler** on guitar, mandolin, and vocals. **Randi Pantera** on bass and vocals. **Mark Robertson-Tessi** on mandolin, banjo, bouzouki, and harmony vocals.

Mark, with his mandolin, has been known to sit in on the TFTM Contra Dance Open Band on occasion.

Live performances by The Determined Luddites are a toe-tapping delight and, although they aren't currently playing a regular, weekly gig as they have in the past, I'm betting that we'll be seeing them on a regular

basis in the future.

Their new CD, "String Theory," will debut early in October. There are 18 tracks on the new CD. It includes 17 all-original songs written by **Dan Davis**, **Dan Hostetler** and **Mark Robertson-Tessi** and one, reggae-ized fiddle medley.

Randi said "We started work in Tucson's Wavelab studio in March of 2005. We decided to record a CD because the four of us enjoy working together and we were playing so much original material at shows that hadn't been recorded yet. Special guests, **Greg Morton**, **Jim Lipson**, **Dan Buckley**, **Jen Robertson-Tessi**, **Craig Schumaker**, and **Kristen Beaton** (fiddle) came to recording sessions and added unique touches. "Dave Firestone even played a little cantankerous goat's butt."

(Dan explained later that, when someone suggested that Dave dampen the head of his bodhran, he exclaimed, "Ugggg, it'll smell like a goat's behind.")

The mics were on and Dan says they haven't decided whether or not to leave Dave's comment on the CD.)

CDs will be available at **CD Baby** online, **Borders**, **CD City**, and **Hear's Music**.



Dave Firestone

AQUA VITA, WATER OF LIFE FOR TFTM

The music ends and there is a rush of dancers to the water jugs. After an especially long and vigorous dance, a small traffic jam forms at the door. There's a sigh of pleasure at the end of each long drink of icy water. It's not your imagination; That water really is fabulous.

So, how does that wonderful water magically arrive to sustain us? By way of **Aqua Vita Natural Foods Market**, 2801 N Country Club Rd., and TFTM member, **Mike McGarry**. Aqua Vita generously supports TFTM by donating their pure, steam distilled, filtered water and ice for our dances. Mike delivers it and fixes one jug plain and one with a hint of fresh lemon.

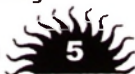
Karen Collins, an active and tireless TFTM volunteer, started the water "service" at TFTM dances. She felt that having excellent water, not just tap water, was a necessity for dancers. "Water with lemon" was her thing, too. Although Karen is gone, her legacy of caring lives on.

Please stop by the **Aqua Vita Natural Foods Market** on the northwest corner of Glenn and Country Club and let them know that you, as a TFTM dancer, appreciate their continued support of the contra dancing community.

Folk music? Why, daddy, I don't know no other kind of music but folk music. I ain't never heard a horse sing a song.

Louis Armstrong

TFTM Info 520-408-6181



WWW.TFTM.ORG



Nina Hamburg
Steve Supina

FROM THE EDITOR

by Jorga Riggenschach

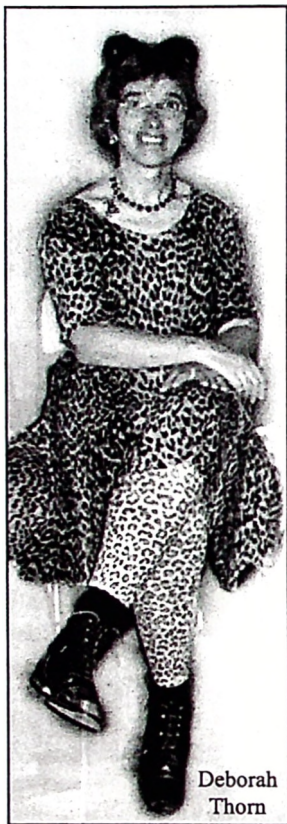
As **Lorien Tersey** points out on page one, things are really hoppin' at TFTM and Lorien is one of the reasons why. You want to talk about hard working? In addition to her full-time job at Tohono Chul Park, Lorien, as Dance Committee Chair, is constantly looking for and booking bands for our remarkable contra dances. And, as if that weren't enough, she works at the dances, too. She's a marvelously skilled and athletic dancer, so she knows what to look for in bands. TFTM dancers all benefit from the work Lorien does. So, kudos to Lorien and a big thank-you from all of us.

A while back I was fortunate to hear **Christopher McGrory**, a world-famous Irish dance accordionist perform. Heavenly. He has moved to Tucson, so keep an eye out for his

Continued on page 7

TEACHING COURTESY, PART ONE

by Bruce Hamilton



It struck me one evening as I watched my dancers push, scowl at and pester a newcomer, that I was watching well intentioned people who happened to be unskilled at helping. The thought that followed was, "Well, Bruce, whose job is it to teach those skills?"

Oops.

So I began trying to weave into each evening a bit on how to help effectively.

First, teaching helping skills works. At the last two San Francisco English dances I attended (one as caller, one as dancer), three completely new dancers came in the door. This is a jolt for a dance with only twelve to fifteen couples and for an English dance where there's little repetition and a fair amount of unconnected moving. The new dancers were absorbed seamlessly: they got partners, they moved, they saw happy faces all around them, they saw holes where they were supposed to go, they made mistakes, looked around to see what ought to be happening and fixed those mistakes. The room was quiet so they could hear the caller. It was magnificent. And it happened both times I was there. Most of it was generous-spirited dancers, of course. But where I watched the details,

I saw people who have worked with me, doing things I taught.

Second, teaching these skills takes time. I've been making this pitch off and on for at least ten years.

Third, receiving help is also a skill (and teaching it is, again, the caller's responsibility). Ironically, when I started working on this, I got rapid, dramatic results. The bad news is that few dance venues give the caller explicit work-on-skills time with beginners.

Giving Help: You want to help, and people look to you for help, but the obvious things to do are distracting and sometimes disruptive. Even if you are only whispering to one person, you send a message that it is not important to listen to the caller. What can you do?

1. Keep looking for ways to help. An efficient presentation by the caller assumes the experienced dancers are helping, and helpful experienced dancers are part of a healthy social atmosphere.

2. Don't say anything.

3. Don't touch people except where the dance calls for it.

Cutting out talking and touching seems to cut out everything, but it doesn't. Practice this, and you'll begin to discover a wide variety of ways to communicate. This communication will not only make you a good helper; it will also improve your dancing and teaching.

4. If mistakes happen, let them. If the method you chose didn't work this time, let it go, both physically and mentally. For example, suppose someone is headed for you, about to give left shoulder into a hey that you know begins with right shoulder. You catch their eye, give them a big smile and angle your body slightly for a right shoulder pass. You may also do other things, but suppose none of it works and the time comes when this is going to be either a left shoulder hey or a collision. Shift your body around and make it a left shoulder hey. Just as important, shift your mind around and decide that a left shoulder hey is fine with you: it moves, it takes the right length of time, it leaves you all in the right place (though possibly with wrong momentum), it may produce some nice mirroring with your partner, etc.

You can be planning how to get out of it gracefully, and you may be wondering how to make this work better next time, but don't let that interfere with

your genuine enjoyment of the figure and the people in it. Teach that mistakes are no big deal by acting as though they are no big deal. There are many repetitions, there are other people helping, there are other dances tonight and there will be other nights.

5. Dance well, enjoy yourself and let it show. Your example teaches both choreography and style, and by dancing well (not stopping to "help" for example), you assure that the vacant spaces appear in the right places at the right times. Your genuine cheerfulness allays the beginner's fear that they are hindering your fun.

Californian Bruce Hamilton is a well-known caller and teacher. This article is reprinted, with his permission from the CDSS newsletter. Next month, in Part Two, Bruce will talk about how to Receive Help.

Continued from page 5 - FROM THE EDITOR

performances. Read about him at www.tucsonirishcommunity.com.

Have you noticed that some of this issue's photographs are Halloween-ish? They are from last year's dance. I hope they'll put everyone in the mood to don their costumes this year so I can take a few good photos for next year.

Lots of excellent suggestions have been coming in for newsletter articles. "D'Agony of D'Feet," comes to mind as a good example. Send in your ideas, especially if you already have a good title in mind.



UPCOMING DANCES

Location	Date	Time	Band	Caller	Cost
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Oct. 1	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	HANDS FOUR	TOD WHITT- MORE	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Oct. 15	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	OPEN BAND	PEG HESLEY	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Oct. 29	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	HANDS FOUR	CLAIRE ZUCKER	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Nov. 5	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	IN-A- CONTRA- DE-VIDA	J.P. THOM- GRONA- CHAN	\$8 Public \$7 TFTM \$6 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Nov. 19	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	OPEN BAND	DON COPLER & LAILA LEWIS	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Dec 3	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	PRIVY TIPPERS	J.P. THOM- GRONACHAN & KEN COOPER	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Dec. 17	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	ROUND THE HOUSE	BECKY NANKIVELL	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student

I like Wagner's music better than anybody's. It is so loud that one can talk the whole time without other people hearing what one says.

Oscar Wilde

Don Cople and an un-nun friend.



TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DANCE IN THE DESERT

by Claire Zucker



The fun begins in November up at the Oracle YMCA camp north of Tucson. We are celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of Dance in the Desert. Our unique Contra Dance Camp attracts dancers from all over the nation and even a few international attendees. We're getting down to the wire, but there is still room for a few more couples and we have plenty of space for single men. For more information go to www.tftm.org, call a board member, or pick up a registration form at the dance.

Even if you don't attend the camp, you can still enjoy the festivities. Although the camp officially begins on Friday, there is a very special **Thursday, November 10**, dance that is open to the public. Callers **SUSAN MICHAELS** and **JOSEPH PIMENTEL** will be joining us and the music will be provided by an all-star band consisting of our local favorites. The cost is \$10 (pay at the door), and the dance will run from 7:30 til 10:30 and is at the Oracle Y Camp.

Also, please donate a couple of items to the Dance in the Desert raffle. There will be a collection box at all of the regular first and third Saturday dances or and you may contact **Lorien Tersey** to arrange a drop-off of your donation. We welcome all sort of things like chocolate, coffee and coffee related supplies, bed and bath items, gift certificates, and also gently used items like jewelry, contra dance clothes, and ceramics.

IN-A-CONTRA-DA-VIDA

Tim Smith and **Buz Lloyd** met at a Chapel Hill, NC Irish jam session in the early 1990s and began playing for dances in the Chapel Hill-Durham, NC area as "**In-A-Contra-Da-Vida**" shortly thereafter.

Tim (keyboards, flute and concertina) has long been a lover of Irish music and is a regular at Celtic week at the Swannanoa Gathering every summer.

Buz, a dance organizer since the early 80's, is a frequent visitor to New England, is a veteran of numerous fiddlers conventions, and plays a repertoire of Southern, Northeastern and Celtic fiddle tunes.

Although various artists have been featured with the band over the years, in 2003, **Jeff Engel** (guitar and cittern) began playing regularly with **Buz** and **Tim**. **Jeff**, who is also an aficionado of Irish music, plays the guitar in DADGAD tuning.

From the outset, **In-A-Contra-Da-Vida** has played a repertoire of mostly traditional Irish and northeastern tunes with the occasional modern tune from one eclectic source or another. Influences ranging from *The Holy Modal Rounders* to the *Rolling Stones* can be discerned by attentive dancers with eclectic interests and/or intact memories!

I-A-C-D-V plays regularly at the CSDA Third Friday dance in Chapel Hill and has played dances as far afield as Keene, NH and the VFW dance in Cambridge, MA. Their appearance in Tucson on Nov. 5 will be their first foray west of the Mississippi.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SUE ANDERSON

TFTM is welcoming lots of new members to the Saturday dances, like **Sue and Mark Anderson** and their daughters, **Kira** and **Tara**. The Anderson's reside on the far Northwest side of town. Mark works at Texas Instruments and Sue is an active community volunteer.

This summer Tara and Sue spent two weeks in Georgia at a craft school with Sue's parents where they learned how to make cabochons and wire wrap jewelry. Later in the summer Mark, joined them and they traveled to the Czech Republic.

"I like that we don't have to buy fancy costumes for contra dancing," Sue said, "and that we can wear comfortable shoes. Contra dancing is a social experience in contrast to something like jazz or ballet where technical expertise is an absolute necessity. Although there are certainly "better dancers" and "less wonderful dancers," contra dancing doesn't come across as a competitive experience. We're not vying for the big solo, or a first place medal. I'm pleased that our kids enjoy this activity, too.

"I still have trouble doing a proper swing. I had a knee operation last year and theoretically it is fine now. Nonetheless the knee feels just a little less stable and that makes it harder to actually relax into a swing."



Sue and Mark Anderson

PETE MORTON AT GREENFIRE

Patricia Walsh, Greenfire (www.greenfireonline.org) Board member, reports that English singer/songwriter **Pete Morton** (www.petemorton.com) will be at Greenfire, 925 E. Ft Lowell Rd., on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. (\$10). **Pete Morton** is from Nottingham, England and performs a wealth of traditional and contemporary folk songs. Patricia will sponsor a house concert for Morton on Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., (\$10). Morton will perform at Javalinas on Friday, Dec. 2 in addition to two appearances in Phoenix in December. Call or email Pat—walshpat@hotmail.com or 520-247-3098 for more information or house concert reservations.

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.

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Dance Camp

Contra Dances

Special Events

*I think dancing is a primal urge coming to life
at the first moment we need to express joy.*

James Cagney (1899 - 1986)

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

The TFTM Dance community needs YOU! Our members are active, vital individuals who love to dance—truly movers and shakers. We need fresh energy and perspectives. The October General Meeting is coming up and the organization needs to recruit several more Board Members. We aren't stingy—we want to spread the fun, comradery and duties around. TFTMers don't stand on the sidelines and watch—they jump in and participate. You know what they say about many hands.

TFTM is a volunteer-run organization with an "Active Board" model in which the Board Members and a number of "ad hoc" committees do all the work to see that the members have the best time we can arrange for our dances, concerts and special events. We need you to become actively involved as either a member of the board or as a member of the ad hoc committees.

Please contact one of the Board Members listed on page 2 and say, "Hey, I'd like to get off the sidelines. What can I do?"

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IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE:

DANCERS' FUN EVENTS	1
TFTM BOARD NEWS	2
IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MIKE MCGARRY	3
LIVE AND LOCAL	4
AQUA VITA, WATER OF LIFE FOR TFTM	5
FROM THE EDITOR	5
TEACHING COURTESY	6
UPCOMING DANCE SCHEDULE	8
DITD TENTH ANNIVERSARY	9
IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SUE ANDERSON	10
PETE MORTON AT GREENFIRE	10
MOVERS AND SHAKERS	11