



JANUARY 2006

TFTM *news*

The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

HAPPY DANCING IN 2006

by Lorien Tersey, Dance Committee Chair

The dance committee has spent many hours of self-examination and after careful consideration we have made the following resolution: For the year 2006, we plan to have more dances!

Starting in January, we will add **Fourth Saturday Dances** to our schedule and the first one is extra special. We are turning the **Karen Collins Memorial Dance** into an annual event. We will have a clothing exchange, so bring all those dance duds that you no longer wear and someone else can give them new life. Look at it this way: If you haven't worn an article of clothing in the past year, you need to get rid of it and find something you will wear.

We will also have goodies at the break and we're considering the idea of a post-dance party.

Caller **Claire Zucker** will be premiering a dance written in Karen's honor.

The first three months of 2006 will feature many exciting combinations of bands and callers.

Check out the full schedule on page 7 for all the details.

One of the highlights will be the **February 4 Dance**, when we will commemorate twenty-six years of TFTM dances. **Tod**

Whittemore will be calling and the band will be **Hands Four**.

In March join us to celebrate caller **Deb Comly's** 50th birthday with **Cis Hinkle** calling to our own **Privy Tippers**.



Photo: John and Jo execute a fancy swing.

TFTM Board Members *

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TFTM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Dale Tersey, TFTM President

The TFTM Board of Directors met on November 28, 2005, for our regular meeting and my first as President for the upcoming year. Cheryl Andersen has taken over as the Secretary.

During this meeting, we reviewed the Dance Camp feedback that seemed to focus on the floor and its ongoing maintenance. We decided to institute a program to carry out regularly scheduled annual maintenance and replacement of a few floor panels each year. Our other big issue was the long overdue revision of the Bylaws to change our fiscal year to match our budget needs. We also want to correct some outdated language.

Our next meeting will be January 16, 2006, 7:00 pm. at the Tersey residence, 3227 E. Glenn St.

The meetings are open to all TFTM members.

I am more and more convinced that music, by its very nature, is something that cannot be poured into a tight and traditional form. It is made up of colors and rhythms.

Claude Debussy



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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.



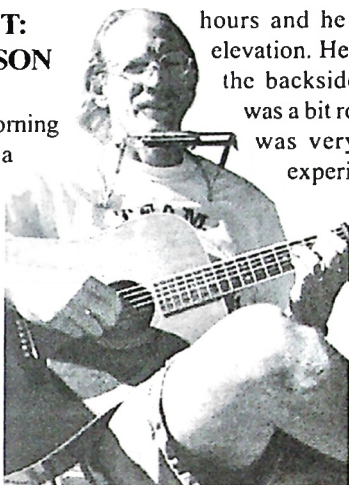
IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CHUCK WILLIAMSON

Sitting in the stark morning sunlight, playing a guitar and a harmonica, Chuck Williamson presents a high-contrast picture. The intense light on one side, the deep shadow on the other are a metaphor for Chuck's life. Described by his friends as a brilliant man and an accomplished musician, he is also a dedicated athlete.

Celebrating ten years in remission from testicular cancer, Chuck recalls his struggle with the horrific disease and the devastating depression that followed his diagnosis and treatment. He said cycling, running and music offered him a mental health lifeline that literally saved him. The contrast between ten-years-ago and now is enormous and marvelously sweet.

Looking at the quiet, slender, handsome man, it boggles the mind to realize that the day before he decided, to ride his bike from his house on Twenty-second Street to the Dance in the Desert Camp northeast of Oracle—at least a fifty mile ride. Amazing, huh?

Well, as Paul Harvey loved to say, "Here's the rest of the story." Chuck didn't take the relatively flat route to Oracle, he came over Mt. Lemmon. The longer, sixty-mile trip took seven



hours and he climbed 6000' in elevation. He said the ride down the backside of the mountain was a bit rough, but overall he was very blasé about the experience.

When I asked what sort of expensive bike he rode, Chuck explained that he had purchased his Trek (hybrid) bike at a yard sale in October.

He also rides his bike twenty-miles round-trip to his job at Pima Community College every day.

Chuck has run three marathons this year and he qualified for the Boston

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TFTM ADVERTISEMENTS

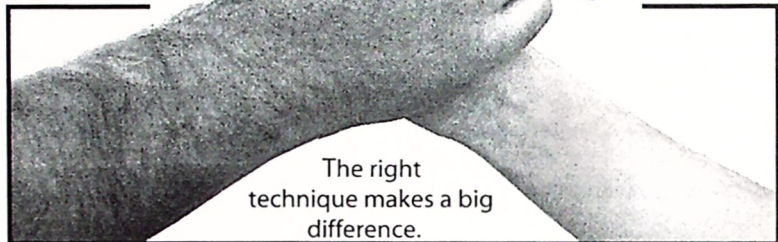
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Scottish Highland Bagpipes. Private instruction or public performance. Call William Don Carlos at 520-907-4460 or email pipes-are-loud@wdoncarlos.com

Getting a Grip on the Allemande



At the 2005 Dance in the Desert Camp, caller/instructor Joseph Pimentel taught a workshop on “Highly-Sought Partners.” One area of particular emphasis was the allemande.

“Allemande,” which means “German” in French is “a movement used in country dancing or square dancing that involves partners changing positions, often by interlinking arms.” In contra dancing it involves a hand-to-hand turn.

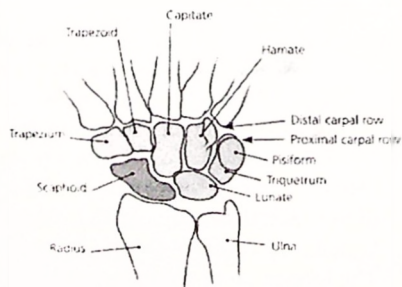
Joseph explained that the wrist is delicate and that a correct allemande is essential so that dancers are not injured.

Indeed, the wrist is an incredibly fragile and complex “group of bony articulations and soft tissues. . . .” The drawing to the right shows a dorsal view of the bones of the right wrist.

In a correct allemande, Joseph

explained that the wrist should neither be flexed nor twisted. The forearm and hand should be straight, fingers slightly bent and the thumb tucked in beside the fingers. The arm should be bent at the elbow and partners, hands palm to palm, should give even and consistent weight as they turn.

By practicing a safe and correct allemande, Joseph said that dancers will have better form and a safer, more enjoyable dancing experience.



LIVE AND LOCAL

by Dale Tersey

This month I want to focus on another Tucson Celtic band, Trim the Velvet, a five piece band with flute, tin whistle, fiddle, Irish Harp, bass, bodhran (Irish drum), and two vocalists. The band plays the more traditional Celtic roots music of reels, jigs, hornpipes, waltzes and airs from both Ireland and Scotland.

The band's two vocalists, William Don Carlos and Jim McConnell, also mix in ballads and upbeat vocals.

They have been playing together as a band for about four years and each member has extensive experience playing Celtic traditional music.

The five current members of Trim the Velvet include William Don Carlos who plays fiddle, Scottish small pipes, highland bagpipe, and sings with the group. William has been a tenor for the Arizona Opera Company and has performed worldwide.

Mary Bouley plays Irish harp, keyboards and electric bass. Mary has a great style that is well known throughout Arizona. Mary also performs with the band Oceans Apart, out of Phoenix. Last year she was

asked to sit in with Cherish the Ladies for their Tucson appearance and she has performed with the Chieftains here in Tucson.

Don Gest plays wooden flute, tin whistle and bodhran. Don was a member of the band New Potatoes and also performed with an early version of The Mollys.

Jim McConnell plays guitar and has an extensive vocal repertoire of ballads and tunes. Jim has played with numerous bands in Tucson and throughout the U.S, and has over 30 years performing experience.

The newest member of the group is Lorna Govier, on Irish harp. When Lorna performs, the audience receives a special treat when she and Mary play harp duets or harp with keyboards.

The band's next appearance is January 6, 2006, at the Irish benefit "Little Christmas at O'Malley's" at O'Malleys on Fourth Avenue.

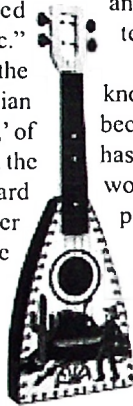
As usual, the band has several gigs in March around St. Paddy's day. They love to perform and are available for bookings. The contact is Don Gest by email at dongest@msn.com or by phone at 520-981-1475.



UIS FOR UKELELE

Spelled “ukulele” or “ukelele,” it is defined as, “a stringed instrument like a small guitar with four strings, associated especially with Hawaiian music.” The word ukelele comes from the late 19th century, “from Hawaiian ‘ukulele, literally ‘jumping flea,’ of uncertain origin: perhaps from the Hawaiian nickname of Edward Purvis, a British army officer who popularized the instrument.”

There is a Ukulele Hall of Fame Museum in Cranston, Rhode Island and Tucson boasts its own burgeoning Uke Club called “String-



alongs.” The contact is Carol Humphrey, 520-791-4865.

Carol says that, at this point, the club is more like a beginning ukelele class. She is teaching what she knows and has invited in a more advanced teacher.

In the future, with a more knowledgeable player base, the club will become increasingly active. ‘Lil Rev has been invited in to give a demo and workshop on Friday, February 3. 1-3 pm.

The hottest new uke is the FLUKE. “It is slightly larger than concert size with 15 frets and an overall length of 23 inches. Its solid maple neck and Australian pine top are combined with a molded body and fretboard, creating a full, bright tone.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LINDA & HARRY STACY

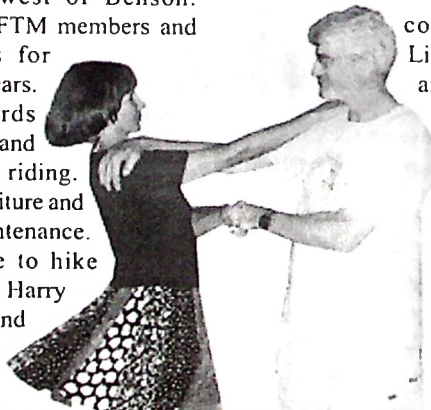
This popular, good-looking pair of dancers hails from Cochise County west of Benson. They’ve been TFTM members and contra dancers for more than five years.

Linda boards and trains horses and teaches English riding. Harry builds furniture and does ranch maintenance. They both love to hike camp and travel. Harry enjoys hunting and Linda likes horseback

riding, canoeing/kayaking and reading. She’s an amateur archaeologist and collects American Indian arts and crafts.

This summer they spent three weeks in Ireland and they recently from a nine-day trip to Oaxaca and Puebla, Mexico.

Harry likes contra music and Linda enjoys clogging and meeting people at dances. Linda’s least favorite thing is “getting totally sweaty while dancing in the summer. Harry dreads trying to get his “bones going again after the ride home at midnight.”



UPCOMING DANCES

Location	Date	Time	Band	Caller	Cost
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Jan. 7	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	Privy Tippers	Becky Nankivell	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Jan 21	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	TBA	J.P. Thom- Gronachan	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. ☺ Jan. 28	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	Karen Collins Dance! OPEN BAND	Claire Zucker	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Feb 4	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	HANDS FOUR	Tod Whittemore	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Feb 18	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	OPEN BAND	Claire Zucker	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Feb 25	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	TBA	Ken Cooper Don Copler	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Mar 4	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	Privy Tippers	Cis Hinkle DEB'S PARTY	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	Sat. Mar 18	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. Mar 25	Lesson 7:30 pm Dance 8-11pm	TBA	Ken Cooper Laila Lewis	\$7 Public \$6 TFTM \$5 Student



ONGOING ACTIVITIES of Traditional Music and Dance. These are not TFTM events.

♫ Irish Jam Session at O'Malley's: Traditional Irish jam session on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7 pm at O'Malley's, 247 N. 4th Avenue. Info: 520/623-8600.

♫ Scottish Country Dancing: Thursdays, 7:30 pm, First United Methodist Church, 915 E. 4th St. Info: 520-299-5566.

♫ Celtic & Old-Time Jam: Open Jam session on the first and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm, Rincon Market, 6th St. at Tucson Blvd. Set up in the Deli area- tunes from the TFTM Tune Book and some other sources.

♫ Shape Note Singing: First and third Saturdays, 3-5 pm, Sonora Cohousing Common Room, 501 E. Roger Rd. Info: 682-6201.

Friday, January 6, 2006, 6:00 PM Little Christmas at O'Malley's. Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade, Inc. is holding a holiday party at O'Malleys, 247 N. 4th Avenue. There will be music, ceili dancing, a silent auction, food, and fun. Admission is \$10. For further information, contact Meg Lofgren at 349-7246 or Andy Brown at 419-1057.

Sunday January 15, 7:00 PM: The **Determined Luddites** will play a house concert at The Adobe Hacienda (**Linda Lou Reed's** house at 1800 West Magee Road) Here's your chance to hear one of Tucson's best local bands in an intimate setting. Admission probably will be about \$5 and may include a potluck dinner. Call Linda at 544-0401 for more information.

Danu in Concert, Saturday, March 4, 8:00 pm, Berger Performing Arts Center, 1200 W. Speedway at ASDB. CO-SPONSORED BY TFTM. Danu is an Irish traditional music group based in Rinn/Ring, Co. Waterford, Ireland, made up of seven traditional musicians.

The group has a strong ethos of loyalty to the tradition from which their music comes and yet still bring a fresh, inspiring approach to their performances.

For general information or disability seating call 981-1475.



FOLK SHOP

MUSICAL TREASURES

According to the Folkshop's owner, Tall Paul Blumentritt, the Ukelele is what is hot this month in Traditional Music. Paul said that ukes were hot in the 1920s and 1930s and again in the 1960s, due in part to the popularity of Tiny Tim's 1968 rendition of Tiptoe Through the Tulips. Now, there is a renewed interest manufacturing and playing ukes.

One of the better known contemporary American ukelele players is Wisconsin's Marc "Lil' Rev" Revenson.

"I love the Ukelele because it is playful and fun in a very serious world. It evokes a time and place that is free of care and lifts the spirit. Most Uke players agree that it is hard to play a dark song on the Ukelele.

"I love timeless, rooted things and the Uke gives that to me. I am drawn to small instruments; When you play the Uke, you almost cradle it like you would a baby. You pick it with your fingers, it is very intimate and close to your heart.

"I fell into my Ukelele career, and now I'm writing books for Hal Leonard Publishing, touring and teaching at Uke events around the world. I have two

all-ukulele albums: The Fountain of Uke, Volumes 1 and 2.

"I have a niche, in that I play Old Time Country (Hillbilly), Folk, Novelty and Old Blues on the Uke and draw on a lot of stuff that few professional Uke Players tap into. With the national Uke scene, it is mostly focused on either Hawaiian (which is just huge) and Tin Pan Alley, which I love.

"There is a massive resurgence of Uke Players, builders and recordings. It is an instrument that doesn't need a lot of study to just strum a few chords and start playing. It is very proletarian—a real working class instrument like the harmonica.

"Dale Webb, recently featured in a New York Times article about manufacturing the Fluke, an improved ukelele, is the brother-in-law of Jumpin Jim Beloff who spear-headed the American Uke revival. There is a rich American history with builders like Martin Guitar Company building Ukes again and



Photo by Deane Jahnke ©2003 lilrev.com

lots of new exciting builders like Mike Da Silva (www.ukemaker.com, www.fleamarketmusic.com or www.ukuleleclub.org).

"This is a great time to be a Uke Player," 'Lil' Rev concluded. "While I am learning a lot from so many of the great Uke Players today, my greatest source of inspiration is old 78 records with Roy Smeck, Johnny Marvin, Cliff

Continued on Page 10

Marathon. Currently he is working to better his speed and endurance by running 50-60 miles a week. He doesn't follow any particular regimen, although he believes **Jeff Galloway's** system is the most effective and practical. (Galloway is an author and former Olympian.)

The center and joy of his life are his children **Simon**(15), **Rose**(17), and his wife—musician and teacher—**Sharon Goldwasser**.

Formerly a Houghton Mifflin editor for field guides, Chuck wants to start writing again. And, with his naturalist's eye, he'd like to do more trail running.

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Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30pm – GREG BROWN with Jason Wilber

Thursday, Feb. 2, 7:30pm – Po' Girl with Carolyn Mark & Special Guests

Sunday, Feb. 19, 7:30pm – HAPA from Hawaii with Hula Dancers

Friday, Feb. 3, 8:00pm – Statesboro CD Release Party

Friday, Feb. 10, 8pm – Chris Burton Jácome Flamenco

Thursday, March 2, 7:30pm – Roots of the Rails: Special kick off concert.

Edwards and many others.”

'Lil Rev will be in the Tucson/Phoenix/Sedona area for two weeks from February 1-12. He is looking for gigs on **February 8, 9, 11, and 12** at schools, libraries, nursing homes, House Concerts, Folk Clubs and teaching Workshops in Mandolin, Harmonica, Ukulele.

During his Arizona tour, here's his schedule: **Fiddler's Dream-Phoenix, AZ, February 4.** Workshops (Uke and harmonica) www.fiddlersdream.org 602-997-9795

Fiddler Dream: House Concert: Sunday Feb. 5, 7pm, with Celia (www.celiaonline.com)

Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30pm, Future Studio, Sedona, AZ 1702 E Glendale Ave. Opening for Celia 1-928-282-9139.

'Lil Rev was scheduled to play Thursday, Feb. 9, at Greenfire, but it looks like Greenfire will be closing its doors as of February 1, 2006.

You can contact 'Lil Rev at www.lilrev.com or call 414-305-2328.

Please, be gentle.
Hands are delicate.
A hard, crushing grip can be very painful, especially to someone with arthritis.



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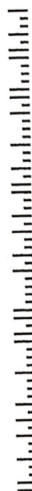
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