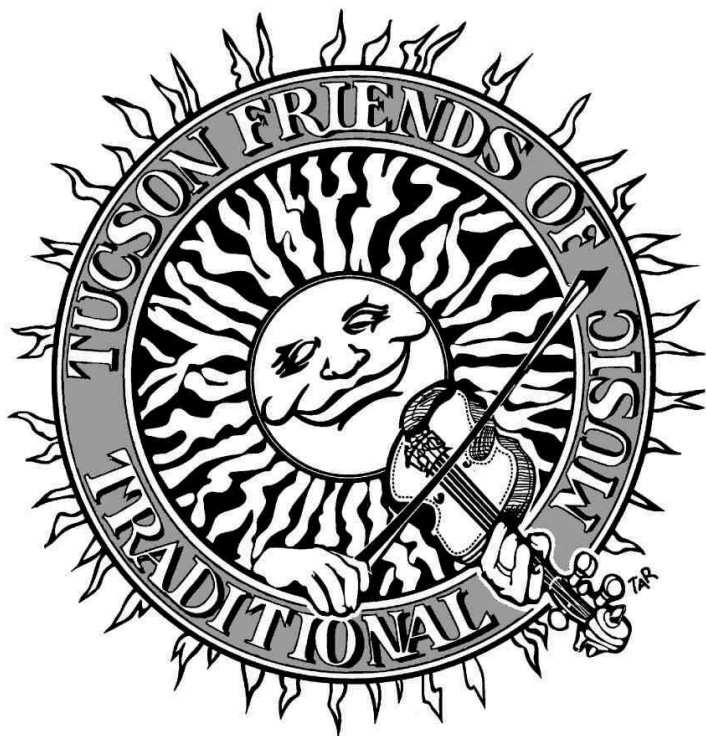




Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

August 2026 Newsletter

First Saturday Contra Dance

When: August 1st - 6:30 to 10 pm

(Doors open at 6:00 pm, Lesson 6:30 pm)

Where: Southern Arizona Dance Center, 4801 E. 29th St., Tucson ([map](#)) - Our first dance on the new wood dance floor!!!

Featuring:

Band - The Mighty Open Band

Caller - Suze St. John

What to Bring: Water Bottle, \$10 Admission Fee (under 25, \$5)

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

Third Saturday Contra Dance

When: August 15th - 6:30 to 10 pm

(Doors open at 6:00 pm, Lesson 6:30 pm)

Where: Southern Arizona Dance Center, 4801 E. 29th St., Tucson ([map](#)) with the new wood dance floor!

Featuring:

Band - The Grrrl Band

Caller - Christine Merryman

What to Bring: Water Bottle, \$10 Admission Fee (under 25, \$5)

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

Fifth Saturday Waltz Workshop and Contra Dance

When: August 29th - 2:00 pm to 10 pm

Where: Southern Arizona Dance Center, 4801 E. 29th St., Tucson ([map](#)) with the new wood dance floor!

- Band: Chakra
- Caller: [Erik Erhardt](#)
- Waltz Workshop 2:00-4:00 pm
- Waltz Dance 4:00-5:00 pm
- Pizza for Waltzers! 5:00-6:00 pm
- Contra Lesson at 630 pm
- Contradance 7:00 - 10:00 pm
- Special Pricing:
 - [Waltz Workshop](#) and Contra: \$15
 - [Waltz Workshop](#) OR Contra: \$10
 - Under age 25: \$8 for both, \$5 for either

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

Volunteer to help at the dance

Many hands make light work... All our dances are run by volunteers - We can't hold dances if everyone doesn't do their share. Thank you!

Visit TucsonContraDancers.org for more information about bands, dates and times.

New Dance Floor at SARDASA Dance Center

It's finally here! Thanks to SARDASA Treasurer Ray Burns and many TFTM and SARDASA volunteers, the new wood dance floor is installed and ready! Our August 1 dance will be our first opportunity to use it. The foam padding under the floor along with the flex of the wood

provides a fantastic dance surface. Come try it out Saturday!



Volunteers Come Through Again!

After 30 years, Dance in the Desert is moving from the Triangle Y Ranch in Oracle to the Voyager RV Resort in Tucson. Triangle Y graciously allowed us to store the DitD dance floor, decorations, and other supplies in a locked storeroom at the ranch. Several TFTM volunteers plus a few hired strongmen filled the 26 foot U-Haul truck in Oracle, then unloaded it into a storage shed here in Tucson. Of course, this being July in Tucson, the high for the day was 110 F. But, it got done!

Volunteer Opportunities

We have a couple volunteer opportunities:

- 1. TFTM Public Relations** - We know how great contra dance is, and we want the world to know (or, at least, Tucson). We are looking for someone who already has a relationship with local media, or can develop one, and keep the public aware of how great contra is. If you're interested, please email president@tucsoncontradancers.org
- 2. DitD Housing Coordinator** - This year, those attending Dance in the Desert will be responsible for their own housing. Many will stay at the hotel and RV spaces at the

Voyager RV Resort. Others will find other nearby lodging. Though not promoted, we often get inquiries from dancers attending DitD if there's an opportunity to stay with local dancers. We would like a volunteer to coordinate housing needs with local dancers offering a space to stay. If you're interested, please email president@tucsoncontradancers.org.

Attendance is Up!

We had 51 dancers at our July 18 dance. Admissions were just enough to cover hall rental, insurance, and pay for the caller, band, and sound technician. We look forward to even more people at our dances. More dancers are more fun and allows us to keep our admission price amazingly low. So, bring your friends. Tell them how great contra is. Enjoy our new dance floor. New dancers get a free pass to attend their second contra dance (we want to get them hooked...).

Input Requested on TFTM Dances

We'd love to hear your ideas on how to grow and improve our dances!

We have created an anonymous feedback form to gather input and ideas on how to continue to improve our dances. All questions are optional, and the form should take, at most, 10 minutes to fill out. The form can be found [here](#).

Waltz Workshop August 29

Karen, our snack queen, has organized a Waltz Workshop. See the [waltz workshop page](#).

About the Board

TFTM is managed by a volunteer board of directors elected in April of each year. The board meets the first Sunday of each month at 1:00 pm. If you would like to see an agenda or participate in a meeting, send an email to president@tucsoncontradancers.org.

Join SARDASA!

SARDASA is the nonprofit that owns the building where we host our dances. We (TFTM contra dancers) have contributed towards making the hall better. We supported the addition of the water dispenser and the AED, and have pledged support for the wood floor. As a member club, TFTM has one seat on the SARDASA board of directors. As an individual member, you can vote for officers and additional "at large" board members in March of each year.

TFTM members are encouraged to support SARDASA by becoming individual members. Your membership both helps support SARDASA and allows you to help guide its future through the elections. The SARDASA membership form is available [here](#). Individual membership is \$5 per year.

In addition, SARDASA is looking for a group of volunteers to help maintain the building. They would like two volunteers from each club (like TFTM) to help. The next volunteer opportunity (hall cleaning) is Friday August 14, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. If you'd like to volunteer, please email president@tucsoncontradancers.org .

TFTM Membership

New and renewing members will receive their new buttons and two free passes at the first dance they attend in 2026. Memberships are tracked using the form at <https://forms.gle/cE7r5zCY6ts7t3dp6> . We have received a few payments where we have not yet seen an application through the form. If you have paid and do not see your membership reflected in the search at <https://tucsoncontradancers.org/tftm-membership-form-3/> , please complete the online membership application.

Phoenix Contra Events!

Phoenix Traditional Music and Dance hosts contra dances most 2nd Saturdays at Mesa Community College and 4th Fridays near downtown Phoenix. For more information go to [Phoenix Traditional Music and Dance](#) .

Health Policy:

If you are not feeling well, PLEASE stay home. We are placing our trust in our dance community to comply and keep us all safe. Masking is welcome but optional at our local dances.

More TFTM info can be found on the [Tucson Friends of Traditional Music Facebook page](#), the [TucsonContraDancers.org website](#), the [Tucson Contra Dancers Meetup page](#), our [Gatherist page](#), and on [Instagram](#) Hope to see everyone at future dances.