



## **Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance**

*a non-profit foundation and a participatory membership organization that enriches people's lives and sense of community through traditional music, dance, song, and related arts*

### **2011 Annual Meeting Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Concourse Hall**

This is your opportunity to hear about AACTMAD's activities, ask questions, and VOTE for board members. See candidates' bios below and separate ballot.

### **Pot Luck Supper 5:30 p.m.**

A chance to eat and schmooze and party.

### **Dance and Entertainment 7:00 p.m.**

To celebrate spring or just because dancing is what we love to do.

**Candidates' Bios:** Vote for only 4 of the 5 candidates for the AACTMAD Board and 1 for Nominating Committee

#### **Linda Hanson, candidate for AACTMAD Board**



Originally from Washington State, I started dancing regularly in Junior High school in an after-school international dance club with an emphasis on dances of the Philippines. In high school and college I danced with various groups; in college I took classes in ballroom, swing, Scottish and Mexican dancing. I have continued to dance everywhere I have lived (including Michigan, New York, Texas, and Colorado). I have danced International Folk, Israeli, Scandinavian, Scottish Country, English Country, and Contra.

I moved to the Lansing area of Michigan in 2007 and started dancing locally shortly after I arrived. I participate in Scottish Country dancing, English Country dancing, and international folk dancing whenever my work schedule and the weather allow for the commute. I contra dance sporadically. I've usually danced with recreational dance groups and clubs. However, I also organized and called for the College Station contra dance while in Texas and now call English from time to time. I taught international folk, Scottish Country, and Scandinavian dancing at several locations and performed with the Storm Mountain Folkdancers while in Colorado.

Professionally, I am a research plant pathologist located on the MSU campus. I work on field crops, with an emphasis on sugar beet, dry bean, and potato. Field work makes my summers particularly busy.

I have some ideas for recruiting dancers; I also have had experience participating in a number of different dance communities and dance types. And I would like to provide some representation for those dancers who need to commute to participate in activities.

**Will Jaynes**, candidate for AACTMAD Board



I've been dancing since 1979, when St. Timothy's in Detroit was just down the street from me and Burt Swartz held Thursday night classes. Burt taught and called contras, English, squares, Kentucky running sets, and some Scottish. It wasn't until I moved to Ann Arbor that I found out that these were all different genres of dancing and they weren't usually danced at the same dance. Throughout the years I've been grateful that AACTMAD exists and supports the traditional music and dance that I enjoy so much. I've been a supporter financially, helping to establish Concourse Hall. Now I'd like to contribute by serving on the board. I have served for years as the treasurer of a small meditation center, so I have some experience working within a non-profit community organization. AACTMAD is much larger, but I look forward to working for its continued presence and growth in our community.

**Steve Johgart**, candidate for AACTMAD Board



In the dance realm, I am primarily a contra dancer. I've been contra dancing since the mid '90s, and contra dancing regularly since my divorce in 1997. I've found contra dancing to be a terrific mode of socializing, playing, and exercising, and am entirely grateful for all the work AACTMAD has put into maintaining a vibrant dance community in this part of Michigan. Professionally I have worked for ProQuest (a.k.a. University Microfilms a.k.a. UMI) since 1981. I grew up in Ann Arbor, and have lived here all but 10 of my 59 years. Serving on the AACTMAD board seems to me a fine way to give some energy back to both the dance community and the larger community that has energized me for so long.

I am currently on two board-type governing entities. I have served on the steering committee of the MDH Fall Weekend for several years now, as publicity guy, staff support coordinator, and this year I'll be registrar/staff support coordinator. I have also served on the Board of Directors of MacTechnics, the Ann Arbor Mac computer user group, since the early '90s, as BBS Operator, Shareware Guru, and Membership Secretary. I always enjoy board meetings, and (hopefully) bring a thoughtful spirit of cooperation and conciliation to board deliberations. I would consider it a privilege to add the AACTMAD board to my portfolio of board service, should the membership decide I'm the right one for the job.

**Robert Messer**, candidate for AACTMAD Board



Western square dancing in a neighbor's garage when I was in high school planted a seed that took root about twelve years ago when I discovered that Michigan was a hotbed of contra dancing. I started in Kalamazoo and soon found dances in Ann Arbor and Lansing. Being centrally located in Albion puts me within easy driving distance of lots of great English and contra dances. I have been the webmaster for Country Dancing in Kalamazoo since 2000. Since 2008 I have worked on the Michigan Dance Heritage website, and last spring I began working with Ray Bantle on the AACTMAD website. I have also been the esteemed registrar of the Ann Arbor Dawn Dance Weekend for the past five years and AACTMAD membership chair for the past three years. I am finishing a two-year term as a member of the AACTMAD Board and am currently the Board's vice-president.

My administrative experience outside dancing includes serving as treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church of Albion (1984 to 1997), serving as president of Albion Recycling (1997 to 2000), organizing and coaching a team of all-star high school math students to represent Michigan in a national math competition (1990 to 2003), directing a state-wide high school math competition (1999 to 2002), serving on numerous committees at Albion College, and serving as chair of the Mathematics Department at Albion College (1997 to 2002).

Now that I am retired from full-time college teaching, I have time to devote to the Ann Arbor dance community. I have volunteered to serve on the AACTMAD board to help propagate and perpetuate the fine tradition of music and dance that we enjoy. I feel that I will continue to bring a deliberate, analytical, and collaborative approach to working with the board and communicating with AACTMAD members.

**Gretchen Preston**, candidate for AACTMAD Board



I started contra dancing in 1984 – when there was only one contra dance a month! Over the years I have been on longsword and rapper teams and love to both contra and English Country Dance. The dancing friends and acquaintances I have made over the years and around the country are an important part of my life and a large part of why I love to dance. Nationally, I recently served on the CDSS Board of Directors (Country Dance and Song Society of which AACTMAD is a member). Locally, I have helped organize fifth Saturday weekends and the Dawn Dance in its early years. I am very committed to seeing

Concourse Dance Hall be successful; to that end I am currently an active member of the Concourse Dance Hall Facilities Committee and I respond to phone inquiries and book the hall to renters. My partial retirement as founder and president of Gretchen’s House, Inc. child development centers has given me some time that I would like to give back to the dance community. I believe my experience running a local business for 30 years, my commitment to AACTMAD, and my organizational and written communication skills will be an asset to the board. I am very grateful for all of the work of local individuals in organizing, calling, and playing for our dances and would like to see our dance and music community continue to grow and be a vibrant local social activity.

**Arlene Kindel**, candidate for AACTMAD Nominating Committee



I started dancing when I was in the sixth grade in Berea, KY, taught by one of my student teachers who was a Berea College Country Dancer. I have been involved in dance activities most of my life, and can’t really imagine what my life would be like without it now. There are many aspects of dancing that draw me—the music, the movement and patterns, and most of all the wonderful community of people who gather to dance, and end up becoming friends and providing support for each other.

I am currently serving on several committees: Tuesday English, AACTMAD First Saturday, Dawn Dance Weekend, Dancing in the Streets, and MDH Fall weekend. The Nominating Committee would provide a different avenue to serve this community which gives me so much.