



Nelda Drury

April 23, 1918 –

February 21, 2019

Nelda Drury nurtured the folk dance community in Texas, but her influence in the international folk dance community was felt throughout the United States. She was a dance specialist, her area of expertise being the dances of Mexico, and Central and South America.

At the age of five, Nelda gave her first dance performance during a celebration in a small town in Texas. She grew up learning a wide variety of Mexican dances and later studied at the University of Mexico in Mexico City under the late Alura Flores de Angeles. Nelda did extensive research in Mexican, Central American, and South American dance. Her teaching took her throughout the United States, Mexico, the Orient, and Europe, presenting her seminars and displaying her dance form. She had wealth of dance costumes that she collected on her round-the-world travels.

She devoted her life to bringing folk dances from around the world to San Antonio specifically, and to Texas in general. She taught at folk dance camps and workshops all over the United States and, in turn, invited teachers she met doing so to teach at the yearly San Antonio Folk Dance Festival that she founded.

Many *Let's Dance!* readers in California may have taken classes with Nelda when she taught at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1974.