

The Birth of the Texas Yoga Association and the Texas 2-Stepping with Yoga Tour!

By Jennifer Buergermeister

Seriously, I had no idea at the time that the "Got Yoga?" campaign to market yoga in Texas would have such significance in the creation of the Texas Yoga Association. After founding the conference, it just came to me that we needed a state-wide association to glue us all together. Then I saw the movie Milk! Shortly after that, I found out that the Texas Workforce Commission had moved toward regulating Austin Yoga closing many yoga schools and studios who could not afford the hefty annual fee to operate.

This raised my brow and enthusiastically set me steaming forward in action to find out more about "messing" with yoga in Texas. After speaking to many teachers and training program owners in Austin, I was appalled by what I had heard. Many of the studios were "raided" as if they had done something criminal. This really disturbed my heart and soul. I couldn't imagine how this could happen to our community. I found out the frenzy began after a conference of states gathered to discuss how they could generate more revenue for their individual state. A guy from New York stood up and spoke about the "billion" dollar yoga industry and off they went. The TWC movement to regulate is simply about what revenue they can squeeze out of us. News FLASH! The billion dollars isn't coming from the studios!

I began forming an alliance of Texans and New Yorkers and other yoga leaders and lawyers to form a plan for each state to follow as suggestions. The objective is to maintain our civil rights to practice our spirituality as intended in the tradition of yoga. In response to everything and as a way to develop relationships with other states, the Texas Two-Steppin' with Yoga Tour was birthed! We are launching this baby February 19-20th, 2010 at the Texas Yoga Conference.

I hope you will join us in seeing the TYA's first steps toward protecting yoga and our right to practice and teach as the tradition intended since 5000 years ago. We are ONE Yoga and our voice clearly states, "Don't mess with Yoga!" Become a Fan and march with us! You say you want a revolution, w-ell, you know....