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Every Vermonter Has a Story

Ana Araguas-DiTursi: tango teacher, empanada entrepreneur

Though Ana Araguas-DiTursi left Argentina 16 years ago, the culture of her native country continues to shape her life in Vermont. A former professional ballerina, Araguas-DiTursi works as a dance instructor, teaching traditional Argentine tango and other dances to any Vermonter who has "the spirit and the soul" to learn. Araguas-DiTursi and her husband, Robert DiTursi, the parents of two small boys, also operate Ana's Empanadas, a takeout food business built on her recipes for the traditional Spanish pastries. Araguas-DiTursi began selling her empanadas four years ago from a table at the Rutland Farmers Market, and the couple has since opened a winter snack bar at the base of the Needle's Eye chairlift at Killington resort and a commercial kitchen and storefront in Rutland.

VL: What made you leave Buenos Aires and move to New York?

AA-D: The ballet was run by the government ... and one day the government says, 'Why are we paying all these dancers? No more ballet.' That was in 1994, one year before I came here [to the U.S.].

VL: Why did you and your husband decide to move to Vermont?

AA-D: Robert knew Vermont, his uncle owned a house in Lake Bomoseen, and growing up, he loved Vermont. And then after 9/11, we were scared. We had a house in Brooklyn, and all the papers from the towers came into our backyard. ... There was too much going on, and Robert says, 'Let's move to Vermont,' and I said, 'Sure,' and we moved up here, and it is a wonderful, wonderful state. I just love it.

VL: So, no regrets?

AA-D: No. It is a little cold sometimes.

VL: What is your earliest memory of dancing tango?