



BALLROOM BY THE BAY

A publication for Members and Friends of the Bellingham Chapter of USA Dance, Inc.

Vol 12 Issue 1 USA Dance, Inc. Bellingham Washington Chapter 1013

April 2013

Dance the Night Away- At the Library!



The Fairhaven Library, built in 1905, was constructed with a Chuckanut Sandstone foundation and brick walls. However, in the 1930's when the

exposed brick began to flake, white stucco was applied over the building. Fortunately, the building's original design details and foundation still remain today.

In 1891, C.X. Larrabee of Fairhaven and P.B. Cornwall of Whatcom offered to donate a library building to be shared by Whatcom and Fairhaven, to be built on the boundary line between the two. The "Panic of 1892" spiked that prosperity bubble, and the cities could not contribute to its cost.

In 1892 The City of Fairhaven, newly incorporated, took over the little library and appropriated \$50 a month for its support. C.X. Larrabee was a prime mover and served on the first library board. Soon the Council became hard pressed for cash and could not increase the appropriations. In 1894, Larrabee and two other trustees resigned. The library struggled along anyway.

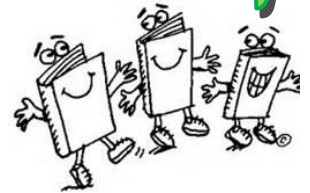
Continued on page 2

In this Month's Issue:

- 1 April Dance
- 2 Community Space
- 3 A Tax on Dancing?



USA Dance Moves to Fairhaven



Saturday, April 20th, USA Dance will hold the first event at our new venue, Fairhaven Library at 1117 12th Street in South Bellingham. We enjoyed the last two years of dancing at the Blue Moon Ballroom and wish owners Marcus and Molly Tasanasanta the best in their next adventure.

Asta will be teaching beginning Night Club Two Step for our "April in Paris" theme from 7-8 PM. General dancing follows from 8-10 PM. Refreshments will be available as usual.



There are several dance events coming up in the next month- please check the following pages for more information! Dance to The Still Bill Band at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club on May 3rd. Still Bill plays mostly Motown tunes; reservations in advance are required. Also coming up is the Tulip Two Step, dancing to Hugo's Accordion Band at the Freedonia Grange in Skagit County. If you love foxtrot and swing, this one's for you. Then on Saturday May 4, the Bellingham Traditional Jazz Society features The Saltwater Octet, the same band many of us enjoyed at the Wild Buffalo on Sunday nights.

USA DANCE, Inc. A volunteer 501 (c) non-profit organization promoting the healthy activity of ballroom dancing to communities across America

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT BALLROOM DANCE:

April in Paris, Fairhaven Library

Saturday April 20th. Night club two step lesson 7-8 p.m. General Dancing 8 -10 p.m.



UPCOMING DANCING OPPORTUNITIES

ARGENTINE TANGO DANCES

2nd Saturday of each month

Squalicum Yacht Club, 8 pm

May Bellingham Traditional Jazz Society Swing Dance

May 4, VFW Hall 625 N State Street 2-5 PM

JAZZ
Makes You COOLER!

Bellingham Traditional Jazz Society presents
Live HOT Jazz at the VFW
Saturday May 4 - 2 to 5 pm
Saltwater Octet
Great Jazz and Swing Standards
With 4 Horn Front Line

Mark Kelly, Director and Woodwinds with Ray Downey (saxes),
Lanny Jacobs (trumpet), Bob Hiorns (trombone),
Tom Miller (guitar), Bill MacDonough (piano),
Tom Anastasio (bass), Grant Wilson (drums, vocals)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1585
625 North State Street, Bellingham WA
Fine Acoustics & Large Wooden Dance Floor, snacks and beverages

Bellingham Dance Company

1705 N State St Bellingham

Club "Dance"

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month

\$7/person. \$5/students, seniors & military

360-224-4082

BELLINGHAMDANCECOMPANY.COM FOR MORE EVENTS

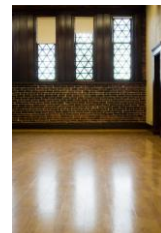
In 1902

Mrs. Laura Shaw was elected full-time librarian at \$20.00 per month. She was head of the Fairhaven Library until 1920 when Edith Carhart succeeded her.

Dec. 1903, Whatcom and Fairhaven were consolidated into one town. In January of 1904, the new library board was organized to run both the Fairhaven and Bellingham Bay libraries. Fairhaven had already been promised a Carnegie grant of \$12,000 for a new building. The lot was donated by C.X. Larrabee at 1117 12 Street and Carnegie eventually added another \$3,500 to the grant. On **Dec. 20, 1904** the new Fairhaven Library building was dedicated (construction was actually completed in July, 1905).

The library uses the main floor, plus there is the Northwest meeting Room and a fireplace room in the basement.

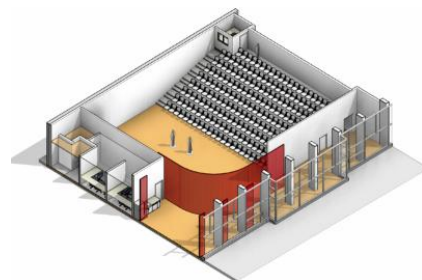
We will be dancing on the third floor, on a floating wood 1600 square foot space, regularly used by various dance groups and recently refinished. There is free parking on the north side of the building and on the street, with stairs and elevator access.



The Commercial Street Theatre Project

A new non profit group is converting a downtown, 3,847 square foot city-owned facility into a community focused performing arts space. The theater will be equipped with 216 seats, a sprung wood floor, light and sound equipment, multi-purpose rooms, a street front lobby, and more. All aspects will serve theatre, dance, and music performances, rehearsals, classes, film screenings, touring artists, community events, and school functions--all at affordable prices and an accessible location.

Losing space at the Amadeus Project helped prompt this group to pursue leasing and designing the space, with an acoustic engineer from Seattle to discuss noise mitigation from the street and the Parkade, as well as how to create wonderful acoustics for performance.



A gracious patron from New York has donated \$10,000 for use in fundraising efforts.

The Community Street Theatre Project has a grant writer pursuing foundation support, but also needs to show substantial community support in order to realize this community space. Pledges of any dollar amount, item, time, and service are being accepted. If you are interested in pledging to help, please go to CSTProject.org.

- A Kickstarter film and campaign are in production.
- Keep abreast of new developments by visiting (and "Liking"!)
- the CSTProject [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/CSTProject).
- Zervas Group Architects is assisting in design plans

This is a potential venue for future USA Dance Bellingham events!

There is a meeting April 22nd for members of the community interested in supporting and discussing this initiative. Please visit the 'contact me' area of the website to get more information and RSVP for the meeting.



CURRENT USA DANCE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Skeeter Smith

VICE PRESIDENT

Philip Ring

SECRETARY

LaDonna Smith

TREASURER

Bob Merth

Newsletter Editor

Karen Harris

BOARD MEMBERS

Bobbie Carter, Stanley and Karen Harris, Hope Reedy,
Jim Dickinson, Cathy Chambers



A Tax on Dancing???

By Hallie Kuperman,
Owner of the Century Ballroom

THE FACTS

In a nutshell, a few years ago the Department of Revenue identified a tax that had been implemented for aerobic studios and jazzercise and applied it to clubs. They quietly added language to the taverns section of their website, but did not send out a communication to the business sector notifying us of the change, as is customary. The Department then started targeting high profile clubs and assessing penalties far beyond what any are able to pay. In Century Ballroom's case it was around \$250,000. The Tractor Tavern's assessment was similar. While the DOR has reduced the assessments, they still are high enough that our business' future is unclear. Our final bill from the state amounts to approximately \$92,000.

It should be noted that when our current bookkeeper started about ten years ago, she contacted the Department by phone, reviewed with them all the various things we do and was assured we were paying everything appropriately, but the Department refuses to stand behind information they provide verbally.

The "Opportunity to Dance" is not in any law. It is only the DoR's interpretation of the law in the Department's rules. It is also impossible to clearly define what dance is, let alone what the opportunity to do so is. The DoR itself has acknowledged this. Because there is no reason to believe the Department will change its rules on its own, we are seeking to amend the law to clarify its intention and remove "opportunity to dance" as a tax liability (Senate Bill 5613). Currently this effort has the support of Senator Ed Murray, Washington State Arts Alliance, Washington Restaurant Association, The Recording Academy, AEG, Seattle Theater Group, Local 76 Musician's Association, Seattle Office of Film and Music and local venue owners from around the state.

Setting aside that this is a sin tax on an activity that is wholesome and promotes community and healthfulness, the impact on businesses statewide, if not addressed, will have a chilling effect on our vibrant nightlife economy.

Fiscal estimates have been created indicating that the effect of the tax is around \$1M/biennium. We suspect it is actually lower than this but even at this amount the loss is negligible compared to what will happen if clubs are forced out of business either through onerous audits or decreased business as all cover charges are raised 10% to cover the tax.

If you want to prevent most dance admissions from going up about 10% to cover the tax, please contact your state legislators to approve SB 5613 to change the law. Go to

www.centuryballroom.com/home/events/opportunity-dance
to find out how to contact your legislator.

Remember, you are not writing a blog. Berating the DOR is not going to help the cause. Make it short, well-written and polite. Explain how a tax on the wholesome activity of dancing affects you personally.



COMUS DANCE CLUB
Invites Members and your Guests to our May 3rd Dance

Social hour - 7:00 pm hosted bar
Special margaritas (\$5) and Mexican beer

Buffet dinner
(choose your own seating) - 8:00 pm
Seasonal Green Salad with a Mexican Twist
Fresh Fruit Tray
Assorted Composed Salads
Chips & Salsa
Refried Beans
Spanish Rice
Roasted Peppers and Onions
Sliced Seasoned Skirt Steak or Grilled Chicken Fajitas
Dessert (Chef's Surprise)

Dancing to The Still Bill Band - 9:00 pm until Midnight

The Still Bill Band spreads the dance. Love it. Rhythm lay soft faster on warm toes: paying tribute to the still rhythms and other great musical come from years past in addition to original songs found live only!

Dress - Cocktail Attire or Mexican theme

Guest Cost - \$140 per couple

RSVP to Comus Secretary by April 22
comusclubsecretary@gmail.com

Payment by Check made out to Comus Club by April 22
Mail to: Donna Jefferts, 1314 Birch St., Bellingham, WA 98229

SUSAN BALSHOR, a professional artist who taught dancing for NW Dance in Seattle and organized Seabeck Dance Camp, died unexpectedly last month from the flu.

She enriched so many lives and will be missed. Here's a video of her first reading Leonard Cohen's Take This Waltz in English then singing it in Spanish with the **VALSE CAFE ORCHESTRA**:

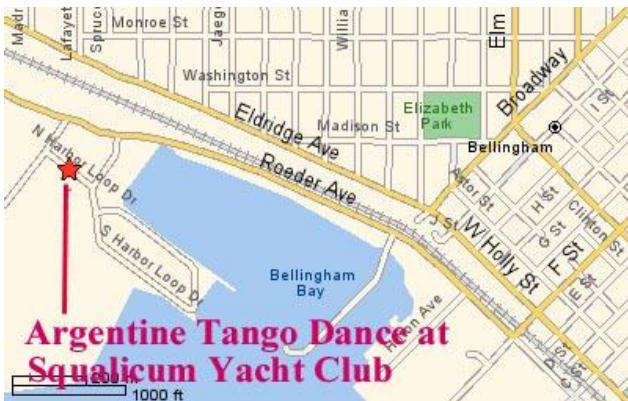
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xLMzM5CJ8.

Skagit County Historical Museum
invites you to dance at the
TULIP TWO-STEP
SUNDAY, APRIL 21 ~ 2-5PM
FREDONIA GRANGE, 1225 McFARLAND ROAD, MOUNT VERNON

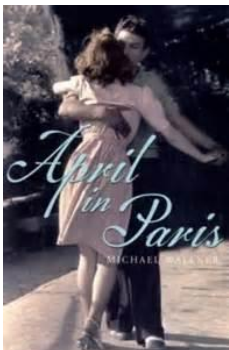


Tap your feet to the irresistible music of
Hugo's Accordion Band under the direction of Leif Holmes
at the "Tulip Two-Step" to benefit the Museum!
Admission by donation: \$15 per couple; \$10 individual; \$5 ages 6-12.
Pre-sale tickets available at the Museum or Stowe's, 420 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington.

Tango Dance
Every Second Saturday



Bellingham Ballroom Dancers Association
USA Dance Inc. Chapter 1013
2809 W. Crestline Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226



Whether you want to Tango in South America or Quickstep in the Caribbean, it's all part of the new *Dancing with the Stars: At Sea* activities now available on every Holland America Line cruise!

Participate in complimentary dance classes and a competition based on the ABC hit show: "*Dancing with the Stars*." One Cruise Champion will emerge from each cruise.

At the end of 2013, the Cruise Champion with the highest score from each ship will be invited to the complimentary 7-day Champions Cruise — where 15 Cruise Champions will dance for the coveted mirror ball trophy and title of Holland America Line's *Dancing with the Stars: At Sea* Grand Champion.

In addition, on five select cruises celebrities and professional dancers from "*Dancing with the Stars*" will be on board and will appear in production shows at night.

Ballroom Dance **Fairhaven Library**
Every Third Saturday 1117 12th Street, Bellingham

