



USA Dance, Inc.

Carolina Heartbeat



A publication of Carolina Heartland, Chapter #6092

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February 2019

The President's Column

No sooner had the hurricane season pummeled past than the winter weather came on with an early December snow storm that we won't soon forget!

Then we had unseasonably warm weather followed by the January ice storm. As a result, two of our dances were cancelled and rescheduled. The amazing and wonderful thing is that people came out in force to our rescheduled dances with great enthusiasm and energy. Both of our instructors, Randy Garner and Jordan Jewell were able to reschedule to our new dates and we had attendance numbers not seen in many months.

In spite of the elements, the Grange has been filled with warmth, friendship, laughter and the joy of dance. To quote Anton Chekhov, *People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy.* As we move into February, there is a renewed vigor and camaraderie among the group that continues to build. Thank you all for our support as we "weather the weather" and continue to share great moments together.

Sherri Raeford, President

Carolina Heartland, USA Dance, Inc.
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Upcoming Carolina Heartland Events

Saturday, February 9 — Argentine Tango Workshop, taught by Jordan Jewell. Guilford Grange, 4909 Guilford School Rd, Greensboro. 2:00-4:00 pm. Cost \$20, payable at door, but must register with Lib Johnson at LibSJohnson@triad.rr.com by Thursday 7pm, February 7.

Sunday, February 10— Monthly Dance, Guilford Grange. **3:30-4:15 pm:** Rumba lesson taught by Adina Harper. **4:15-6:00 pm:** social dancing to music prepared by Rockie Troxler. Admission: \$5 for USA Dance members, \$10 for non-members, \$5 for students, free for first-timers.

Saturday, April 6—"Black Tie" Annual Spring Formal Dinner-Dance, "Some Enchanted Evening", See article below for details.

Black Tie Ball 2019 – April 6th – Mark Your Calendars!!



Please join us for **"Some Enchanted Evening"**, the theme of our 15th Annual Spring Formal Black Tie. We will again hold the ball at the Koury Convention Center at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in Greensboro (just off I-40 at exit 217).

The date is Saturday, April 6, 2019. The fun starts with a reception/cash bar beginning at 6:30 and seated dinner at 7:00 pm, followed by social dancing from 8 – 11 pm. We are so excited to have the fabulous DJ, Maria St. John providing dinner and dance music. Maria did a great job as DJ at our NBDW Showcase in 2017. We are absolutely delighted to have her and her dancing husband Eric back with us again to make April 6th a truly **"Enchanted Evening"** for all.

Cost is \$50 person for USA Dance members, \$55 for non-members and \$45 for students IF reservations are received by March 10th. Reservations AFTER March 10th will all be \$55 per person.

To reserve seats for **Some Enchanted Evening Black Tie**, please either download and print the form on our website at www.carolinaheartland.org or on our Carolina heartland Facebook page, print the form you may have received by email, or pick up a reservation form at any of the dances held at the Guilford Grange.

To volunteer to assist with this year's Black Tie, please contact **Marty Bergman**, Chair at 336-209-2993 or mberg5906@aol.com.



Spotlight on Grace Marcus and Al Sirois

Grace Marcus and Al Sirois moved to North Carolina from Pennsylvania in September 2017 and could not be more pleased by the warm reception they've found here.

They took a few adult education ballroom dance classes a couple of years ago and are slowly learning their way around a dance floor again. "We appreciate the opportunities and the encouragement afforded by the members of Carolina Heartland Chapter #6092," Grace said.

She holds a master's in Theatre Arts (and immediately hit it off with **Sherri Raeford**) and has performed in summer stock, dinner theater and off-off Broadway. Al has worked as web content manager, graphic artist and computer animator. Both currently work as freelance writers and editors. Al's sequel to his novel *Jersey Ghouls* will be published in June and the opening chapter of Grace's novel *Visible Signs* is featured in the current issue of Embark Literary Journal. Both have short stories scheduled for publication this year. They are collaborating on a novel set in Ancient Egypt.

In addition to taking ballroom dance lessons with the incomparable Lib Johnson, they are studying keyboard (Al) and voice (Grace).

(continued on page 2, column 3)
Below: Grace, Al, and Dieshell

Carolina Heartland Member Receives Award!

At our December 30 dance, President **Sherri Raeford** awarded **Lib Johnson** our chapter **Volunteer of The Year** award for 2018. This was for all the work she did to make our special events, such as NBDW Showcase-Dance, Beginner Dance Lessons, and other events, very successful.



January Funds Balance
\$2588.63



February Ballroom Dance Opportunities (all times PM)

Feb.1 , 1st Friday, Guilford Grange Dance, Guilford Grange, 4909 Guilford School Road, Greensboro, 8-10. Contact: libsjohnson@triad.rr.com.

Feb. 2, 1st Saturday, Southfork Recreation Center, Winston-Salem, Southfork Recreation Center, Winston-Salem, 8:00-10:00. Contact: 336-659-4305.

Feb. 3, 1st Sunday, Tim Saunders Pre-Super Bowl Dance, Guilford Grange, **SPECIAL TIME 3:00-5:00.** Contact: Tim, 336-324-1924.

Feb. 8, 2nd Friday, Dinner & Dance, High Point Elks Lodge, 700 Old Mill Rd., Dinner 7:00; Dancing 8:00. Contact: Carolyn Williams, 336-945-3635.

Feb. 9, 2nd Saturday, Greensboro Social Dance, Lewis Recreation Center, 8-10. Contact: Eileen Leggio, 336-643-6088.

Feb. 10, 2nd Sunday, Carolina Heartland Dance, Guilford Grange. See details near top of page 1.

Feb. 15, 3rd Friday, Step Set Dance, Guilford Grange, 8-10. Contact: Charlotte Jackson, 336-889-5534 or jercharjack@yahoo.com.

Feb. 23, 4th Saturday, Horizon Dance, Guilford Grange, 8-10. Contact: libsjohnson@triad.rr.com, 336-299-7412.

Jan. 24, 4th Sunday, Piedmont USA Dance, Jerry Long YMCA, Clemmons. Lesson at 4:00; dancing from 4:30-6:30. Contact: Marcia, 336-712-8183 or hmbar@aol.com.

Winter Storms Delay Our Dances!

On December 30 over 40 people came to our *rescheduled* dance on a nice day, including several from outside of this area and as far away as Maryland and Arizona. They enjoyed the great Samba lesson taught by Randy Garner and dance music prepared by Lib Johnson.

We thank Lynette Smitherman, who was hostess and Charlie Hafer who was teller. We also thank those who set up for the dance: Lynette and Charlie, as well as Rodger Haberfield, Sherri and Steve Raeford, and Mark Lichtenberger. And thanks to all who brought refreshments.

On January 20, 35 dancers came out to dance, despite falling temperatures and gusty winds. They enjoyed the excellent intro to Argentine Tango class taught by **Jordan Jewell**, and had a lot of questions about the dance. Many of those questions will be answered at the **workshop on February 9.**

We thank Melody Kearns and Liz Gilky, who served as hostesses, Rodger Haberfield who was teller, and Charlie Hafer who prepared dance music. Also thanks to those who brought refreshments: Liz Gilky, David Wood, Mary Beth Jordan, Caroline Owen, Donna Guinard, Ken Lommel, Melody Kearns, and Charlie Hafer.

Hopefully we'll have better luck with weather for our February 10 dance.

Most photos on this page by professional photographer Steve Raeford



Spotlight, from page 1

Al is a professional drummer and has joined two bands here. He's also an accomplished cartoonist, illustrator and painter. Grace is an intrepid gardener and a resourceful (as in consignment store finds) interior decorator. Both enjoy cooking. Thankfully, they (mostly) agree on food prep, which is imperative when two people are wielding kitchen knives.

"Seriously though," Al says, "relocating here has brought us immense joy and fulfillment and many new friends."

Left: Al and Grace jamming in the library



Below: Rodger Haberfield & Ellen Ashley; Randy Garner & Marty Bergman

Above: Mark Lichtenberger & LaShondra Atkinson; Lynette & Wes Smitherman



Jordan Jewell teaching Argentine Tango at January monthly dance.