



Newsletter

Ballroom Dance Charleston SC - USA Dance

Chapter 6021

2408 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC – Pier Pont Crossing Center

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Photos: <http://charlestonballroomdanceclub.shutterfly.com>

April 2015

President's corner

By Pamela C. Levi



March 7th was Ballroom Dance Charleston Day in Charleston SC! Thank you Mayor Riley, and a sincere thank you is due to all of you who helped make our Grand Opening a truly beautiful event! I hope you have had a chance to look at the images on Shutterfly-they really show how festive the evening was. Mr. Chen, President of USA Dance, has asked we submit pictures and information to the editor of *American Dancer*, which we have done. There may soon be an article in *American Dancer* about our chapter. We will keep you informed when that happens. Mr. Chen asked for additional copies of our program from the Phoenix Gala, if you would like a copy there are (continued on page 2)

Happy birthday

Jeff Arnold.....	April 1
Stephen Duane.	April 8
Irv Fisher.....	April 29
Robert Friedman	April 28
Tony Grasso.....	April 19
Debra Hamilton.....	April 17
James Lawrence.....	April 17
Brenda MacKaness.....	April 9
Elitza Miltcheva.....	April 18
Ray Montminy.....	April 27
Susan Riechert	April 12
Hans Riekerk.	April 5
Recci Rock.....	April 30
Selene Rui.....	April 1
Betty Stacks	April 8
Chuck Vergona	April 30
Bill Wilder.....	April 19

Special events

Board Meeting

Sunday, April 12, Calhoun Library 2:00p

Spring Garden Party – Bring Garden Party Snacks
for sharing

Saturday, April 18

7:30pm Bolero with Debbie Housand

8:30pm Share a Dish – Dance Party

Hosts: Jackie and Marcia

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President's Corner Continued:

still a few left at the reception desk. The proclamation from Mayor Riley will be framed and hung in the dance club soon, as will the plaque honoring our two Lifetime Appreciation recipients, Ernie Groome and Joop Peterson. Congratulations and thank you to both gentlemen.

We are almost finished with the initial "outfitting" of our new home; over the next several weeks there will be some modifications made to the DJ booth to make it easier to work on, and we will shade our windows in anticipation of the heat soon to be with us. It is now time to turn our thoughts and energies to programming. What should we be doing to meet our mission as a non-profit chapter devoted to the promotion of Ballroom Dance?

A questionnaire will come to you in the spring but your thoughts and suggestions are welcome at any time. What would you like to see offered in the way of classes? What suggestions do you have for improving our parties? It is time to plan for the next year, please send your thoughts, concerns to me at plevi@levicentral.com. If you prefer your comments to be kept confidential, indicate that in your email. You can talk to any Board member—we are all volunteers at BDC and everyone's talents and suggestions are needed to help us remain successful.

Increasingly we are receiving requests for demonstrations (retirement communities, conventions, etc). BDC used to have a performance team. Please consider being part of a group of members who will get together in April to discuss the possible formation of another performance team. More information will be available after the Board Meeting April 12.

April's dance Quote: *Life may not be all that we hoped for, but while we are here, we should dance.*

Spotlight on New Members:

Mike and Nancy Scott were born and raised in the Bronx, New York. They married in 1971, and moved to the Albany, New York area in 1973, where they continue to have their primary



residence. Mike is an engineer and Nancy a teacher. They both retired in 2011, but Mike continues to work part-time as a consultant. They have a daughter, Amy, and a son, Eric, who together with his lovely wife, Kirstin, have a delightful 14-month daughter Eliza, who are all in the Albany area. Mike and Nancy are members of a dance club called "The Benedicts" and have served on its Board during the years 2011-2014. Nancy's parents live in Myrtle Beach, which led to their exploration of and love for Charleston. The food scene, arts, access to the beach, and general abundance of things to do are what they like the most (in addition to escaping from the Northeast winter, especially this year). As a result, they purchased a second home in Carolina Bay. Nancy is a Master Gardener specializing in organic vegetables, avid reader, and excellent cook. Mike enjoys music, woodworking and cooking. Together they enjoy traveling, camping and paddling. They will be heading back north shortly but will return soon!

March New Members

Our membership is rapidly growing. We would like to welcome other most recent new members:

Stephanie Boice,
Tamiko Waldon

Please look for bios on these and other new members soon.



Waltz your way into savings!

Thinking about becoming a member? Find out everything you need to know about **USA Dance**. Become a part of our community. From dance moves to member benefits, we have it all!

Dance your way into exclusive savings and discounts when you join. Save on a number of different goods and services. Should you have any questions regarding member benefits, e-mail membershipvalue@usadance.org

- Auto & Home Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Long Term Care
- Pet Insurance
- Hotel Discounts
- Rental Car Discounts
- Cruises & Vacation Packages
- Office Supply Discounts
- Online Shopping Mall
- Prescription Drug Savings Card

Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality and the quantity of ballroom dancing in the United States.

USA Dance is the National GoverningBody for DanceSport in the United States and with more than 160 chapters throughout the country is also the representative organization for all social and recreational ballroom and Latin dancers in America, ranging from pre- schoolers to seniors.

Educational and Charitable Mission

In furtherance of its educational and charitable purposes, **USA Dance** promotes ballroom dancing as a recognized sport and a recreational activity, providing opportunities to all Americans. Objectives include:

Educating the general public on ballroom dancing
Explaining the social benefits of participating in organized dance activities
Helping sustain purposeful **USA Dance** chapters throughout the United States

And so much more!

Chapter Social & Community Activities

USA Dance chapters create dance opportunities for local citizens by organizing affordable social dances, dance lessons and workshops.

Monthly dance class

The monthly group classes are structured so that there is a different dance featured each month.

- ✓ Choose classes at your skill level.
- ✓ Start on the first week of the month.

Every week the instructor will review the previous weeks and add a new pattern.

Member and Wednesday Beginner Class

\$10 per class if paid in advance

\$15 for single classes

Non Member – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

\$15 per class paid in advance

\$20 for single classes

BEGINNER

Wednesday – 2408 Ashley River Road

7:00 – 8:00, Debbie Housand, 843-991-3601



Beginning dance classes teach the basic frame and body positions, a breakdown of the basic rhythm and steps. Students should enroll in this class at the beginning of the month so that everyone will be on the same “page” every week.

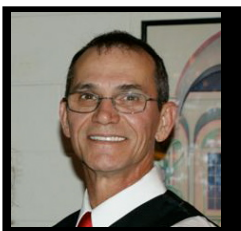
April – Cha Cha

5-Week Class

INTERMEDIATE TECHNIQUE

Thursday – 2408 Ashley River Road

6:00 – 7:00 David Roland, 843-568-6888



This class will help dancers of all levels correct form and function to maximize ease and enjoyment in dance. It is an excellent combination with the Wednesday Beginner class at 7:00. David will teach smooth dance technique and will choose

techniques common to all smooth dances with a weekly emphasis on a different dance. Member

April – Smooth

5-Week Class

ADVANCED to INTERMEDIATE DANCER

Tuesday – 2408 Ashley River Road

7:00 – 8:00 David Roland, 843-568-6888



Refining good lead and follow is a major part of dance. This class will start with lead-follow and technique that will be applied to the dance of the month then go on to advanced intermediate patterns.

April – Tango

4-Week Class

ADVANCED DANCER – ANYTHING GOES

Monday – 2408 Ashley River Road

7:00–8:00, Debbie Housand, 843-991-3601



The advanced dancer is someone who already understands directional movement for all dances. The advanced dancer utilizes sway and contra-body where needed to enhance

movement. You can remember about footwork and body position. This class will incorporate new and creative moves!

April – Foxtrot

4-Week Class

ALL LEVELS – ROTATING CLASS

Thursday – 2408 Ashley River Road

7:00 – 8:00, James Jiang

James will be joining us in April! The Thursday slot has been reserved for rotating instructors. This month it will be East Coast Swing and will be a good fit all levels of dancers.

April - East Coast Swing

5-Week Class

Practice time available

If you would like to rent the floor for practice, you may do so for \$10 per hour. Please contact Pam for details at pam@summermarshphotography.com



Party photos and vidzoz

We have a nice selection of class and workshop videos to help us all remember what we learned!
www.charlestonballroomdanceclub.shutterfly.com

Videos Posted on Shutterfly

Night Club 2-Step Workshop by Sam and Denise M.
Quickstep Workshop by David Roland
Beginner Cha Cha Workshop by Debbie Housand
Viennese Waltz Class by David Roland
Bolero Progressive Series by Debbie Housand
American Tango Progressive Series by David Roland
Argentine Tango Workshop by Linda Scott
Rumba Progressive Series by Debbie Housand
Waltz Progressive Series by David Roland – April
Argentine Tango Friday Series, Linda Scott, May
Bolero Progressive Series, Debbie Housand, June
East Coast Swing Series, David Roland, July
Farewell to Hans Riekerk July 26, 2014
Cha Cha Prog. Series by Debbie Housand, August
Hawaiian Luau August 16
Dance with the Stars Party – September 27
Cha Cha Progressive with Jason and Sheela, Oct
Halloween Party Dance Game Oct 25
Foxy Foxtrot Workshop, Marina November 2
Foxtrot Progressive, Debbie Housand, November
Bolero Progressive, David Roland, January
Quick Step Workshop, February 28
Viennese Waltz Workshop, March 1
Tango Progressive March, Week 2
Cha Cha Ball Formation Performance

Party payment options

If you have a “Free Pass”, it will be worth \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

“Pre-Paid Admittance Cards” are a little different because one of your fellow members purchased the card. In this case, they are worth whatever is shown on the card.

Discount cards have been printed and are available for sale. The price is \$90 for 10 squares worth \$10 each or \$100. If you are a guest, you may use one square and pay \$5 at the door.

Regular dance parties

Friday - April has been reserved for a series of Rumba lessons with Josh Ortiz. These are progressive, meaning that every week the previous weeks are reviewed and new patterns added – just like a class but with a party bonus! Each lesson will be videoed if possible and posted on Shutterfly in case you want to review or have to miss a lesson.

There is an hour-long lesson from 7:30 to 8:30 and then a dance party. Admission for the lesson and the party is the usual \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

Saturday Lessons vary every week and it is usually an instructor from a local studio--see the calendar for details. There is an hour-long lesson before the regular dance AND it is included in the price of party admission! Snack food, sodas, and coffee are included as well. Admission for is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

Area studio news

Area studios are very busy promoting ballroom dance as well. Only showcases are shown here, please check out these websites for special events, workshops, and more.

Arthur Murray Studio

1706 Old Towne Road, Charleston
www.arthurmurraychs.com

Carolina DanceSport Studio

1850 Wallace Road, Charleston
www.carolinadancesportcharleston.com

Elite International Dance Studio

709 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Suite B
Mount Pleasant
www.elitedancecharleston.com

Fred Astaire Studio

1938 Ashley River Road, Charleston
1767 N. Hwy 17, Mount Pleasant
www.fadscharleston.com

Dance Etiquette

This is a summary of good dance etiquette and below that, is a more detailed version from USA Dance.

- ✓ The dancers move counter-clockwise around the floor
- ✓ When things go wrong on the dance floor always apologize. Generally it does not matter who is at fault.
- ✓ If you are moving more slowly than other dancers keep to the center of the floor.
- ✓ If you are engaged in conversation move off the dance floor.
- ✓ To cross the room, either dance across the floor or walk around the perimeter.
- ✓ Carry food and beverages around the perimeter. Wipe up your own spill.
- ✓ A request for a dance must be accepted under almost all circumstances. If you decline a dance, you should not dance until the end of that song.
- ✓ If a Beginner wants to watch, don't insist on them joining a lesson.
- ✓ No unsolicited teaching on the dance floor! There is a good chance this will make your partner feel small and humiliated.
- ✓ Do not monopolize a partner on the dance floor.
- ✓ On the floor, be considerate of the other couples. Exercise good floorcraft; do not cut other couples off; no aerials or choreographed steps on the dance floor

Social Dance Etiquette

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?

When you ask someone to dance, be sure to make **eye contact** with your prospective partner, offer our hand, and ask clearly, "**Would you like to dance?**" If your partner says yes, smile, offer your hand, and escort him or her onto the dance floor and into dance position. This will make your partner feel supported and at ease.

YES, THANK YOU, I'D LOVE TO DANCE

When someone asks you to dance, your response should be, "**Yes, thank you, I'd love to.**" In a social dance environment, it is customary to say "yes" when someone asks you to dance. In order for dancing to be a joyous activity, it is important that social dancers are supportive and kind to each other at all skill levels.

YOU DANCE DIVINELY!

During the dance, be sure to be aware of your partner. Smile and make eye contact, *but don't stare*. It is fun to dance with a partner who is gracious and appreciative. At the end of the dance, **ALWAYS** say THANK YOU to your partner and begin to escort them off the floor.

WHEN TO SAY NO

When a person asks you to dance, it is appropriate to say no if you have danced with this person before and he or she has been physically or verbally abusive. It is also appropriate to say no if the person is obviously drunk or threatening in some way. If you feel that a dancer is physically dangerous to the other dancers, you should report the situation immediately to a Chapter Board member.

Unless someone is truly offensive, it is not appropriate to say no because your partner may have poor dance technique. While dancing with this person may not be

one of life's peak experiences, a dance is only three minutes long and the experience will not kill you.

CIRCULATING

In a social dance situation it is appropriate to dance with a variety of people. It is generally poor dance etiquette to partner up and dance with the same person all evening long. Naturally, some people will prefer certain dance partners to others, but this should not prevent them from accepting an offer to dance from a new person. If the same person asks you to dance repeatedly, for several dances in a row, it is acceptable to tell that person, "thank you, but I'd like to meet and dance with some other people for awhile. I'll be happy to dance with you again late in the evening."

CLEANLINESS IS HEAVEN AT A DANCE

Social dancing is a quasi-intimate activity that requires a certain degree of physical closeness. Good hygiene shows respect and consideration for the other dancers. Dancers should bathe, use deodorant, **use breath mints**, and wear clean clothes that will not be too hot. Some dancers sweat a great deal while dancing. In this case, it is considerate to bring a towel and/or change of clothes. If you find yourself getting too sweaty on the dance floor, you should stop, dry off, and cool down for a few minutes. Your partners will thank you for it. Dancers should also use a **light touch applying perfume or cologne**. Some people may be sensitive to fragrances.

YOUR PARTNER'S TECHNIQUE

Unless someone asks you directly to make a correction of their dancing, **you should never volunteer** criticisms of your dance partner's technique. Know that your dance partner is doing the best he or she can.

If your partner is dancing off time, you should view the situation as a challenge to dance to the same internal rhythms as your partner. Your partner is not dancing off time intentionally. Again, he or she is doing the best he or she can. Do your best to respect each others rhythms. If your partner is physically hurting you, it is probably

inadvertent. You should stop dancing for a second, and say "I'm sorry, but you're holding my hand a little tightly. Could we try again?" If you receive an inconsiderate response or your partner seems unwilling to modify his behavior, it is then appropriate to say, "thank you, but I'd like to stop now." Social dancing should never be physically painful or dangerous.

FLOOR CRAFT

In order for a social dance to be enjoyable for all participants, it is crucial to be considerate and aware in your floor craft. No matter how much you may want to *swing out*, on a crowded dance floor your primary consideration should be **respect for the other couples on the floor**. You don't have to dance big to have fun.

At times, collisions do occasionally occur in the heat of the moment. When there is a collision, everyone involved should **stop and apologize**, regardless of whose "fault" it was. If someone has been hurt, you should make sure that person is okay before you resume dancing. Sometimes people are not okay after a collision. In this case, you should escort the person off the floor to a chair and see if that person needs ice, a drink of water or medical attention.

Careful observation of the traffic lanes in a ballroom can prevent mishaps. In Waltz, Foxtrot, tango, Quickstep and Samba, dancers move in a counterclockwise circle around the floor. This circle is known as "**line of dance**". The very outside lane of the line of dance is the "fast lane"; it is generally used by very experienced dancers who cover a great deal of ground. The inside lane is for less experienced dancers who may be moving a bit more slowly. Beginners and those who would like to practice the basic steps without traveling can stay on the inside of the circle, out of the line of dance completely.

In addition -- It is considered inappropriate to cut across the dance floor, especially when carrying food or drink. And also, remember to move off the dance floor when engaged in conversation.