



Newsletter

Ballroom Dance Charleston SC - USA Dance Chapter 6021
2408 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC – Pier Pont Crossing Center
Website: <http://www.ballroomdancecharleston.org/> **Phone:** 843-482-0871
Photos: <http://charlestonballroomdanceclub.shutterfly.com>
January 2015

President's corner

By Pamela C. Levi

Welcome Home! It was a fabulous New Year's Eve spent with 64 wonderful people! Thanks to each and every one of you for making the first event in our new home such a glamorous evening! And then we had a great party and celebrated again on Saturday night with a large group and lots of people we have not seen for years! Welcome back to all of you.

We have put together the facility we said we wanted and have paid for the essentials: the floor, the sound system and the mirrors. We still have many needs and the things that will make our new facility both beautiful and comfortable are going to come soon. The 2014 Board was faithful to the members and maintained the \$25,000 in reserve that the membership stated they wanted. Our rent in our new facility is \$300 more than the old BDC site and has many advantages-but the people in the club, more than the bank account balance is the resource of most value. That is crystal clear when you read about the hours of time given by many members to make our new location a beautiful and functional home for Ballroom Dance Charleston.

It is a grand thing to be back together in our own home. There are many decisions left to be made and as we settle in and "live" in our new home, we all know there will be a need for alterations and change. But today, I just want to thank all of you who came and worked, gave money and time and supplies.

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Happy birthday

Tina Baxley	Jan 14
Todd Biegger	Jan 10
Marie Cristo	Jan 1
Adele Fisher	Jan 31
George Gatgounis	Jan 1
Erin Henderson	Jan 3
Peter Lanzillotta	Jan 24
Lee Montimy	Jan 17
Margit Paskauskas.....	Jan 26
Toni Roberts	Jan 7
James Shanks	Jan 8
Judy Stewart	Jan 28
Kristen Sullivan	Jan 14

Special events

Board Meeting

Sunday, January 11, Calhoun Library 2:00

Argentine Tango Workshops, Linda Scott

Level 1 - Sunday, January 11, 2:00 – 4:00

Level 2 – Sunday, January 25, 2:00 – 4:00

\$25 BDC Members, \$35 Guests

Chinese New Year's Dance Party – POTLUCK!

Saturday, January 17

7:30 Rumba with Marina Fridmanovich

8:30 Oriental Potluck Dance Party

Hosts: Shiko, Kim, Les, DJ: Bob H.

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President's Corner continued

When the membership came through the door on New Years Eve, there was such pleasure in seeing their expressions and delight that it made the months of dealing with water leaks and zoning permits inconsequential.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank Connie Vance and Bob Olszewski. The 2014 Board gave the three of us the freedom to move forward on this project as quickly as possible and to spend construction funds as needed. This enabled us to buy almost everything on sale and to use as many discounts as possible. During the three months of construction, Bob O was at Pier Pont daily. He is a master planner and buyer-he saved us hundreds of dollars on the refrigerator and many other supplies. Thank you Bob for your drawings, your planning and the hours of work you gave-especially on the mirrors. Thank you Connie for the hours and hours you invested in making sure we stayed within budget and in helping us find the sound engineer (that we could not have afforded otherwise). And for loving BDC so much that you worked tirelessly to make sure we had what we needed to move forward, and for always being a voice of reason and a source of sound financial advice.

We start classes today and welcome back our instructors who have had to go elsewhere and work around schedules we had little control over.

Now what? I am honored to have been elected Board President and to be part of a Board that has such talent and potential. This is the smallest Board-only seven-ever elected. The 2014 Board believed that nine was too many and that seven Board members was more in keeping with the number of members at BDC. But the other rationale was that this is a social club and as such, members should have much more say in what happens in the club. When we surveyed members after the fire, members told us what they wanted. The 2015 Board intends to continue and enlarge that premise-membership direction of the Board and more member participation. We need to party like a club but run our financial affairs as the small business we are. I am going to work with the Board and BDC members to make sure all voices are heard, not just a few.

The 2015 Board will have its first regular meeting on Sunday, Jan 11th at 2 pm at the Calhoun St Branch of the Charleston County Library. Soon after we will have some announcements of changes I believe will please you. In the meantime, please come home to BDC and dance as often as you can.

2014 in review

What a year!!! Sometimes out of the worst of times comes the best of times.

- **February 23** The showcase had just gotten started, Linda kept peeking out the front door, Allen and Connie were waiting to go on the floor with the very timely music “Too Hot to Hold” and quickstep number.then it was suddenly EVERYBODY OUT!



- **March 7** We moved into St. Andrew's Family Fitness just across the parking lot.



- **April 10** An electronic survey was sent to all members asking them what kind of facility they wanted, where it should be located, and how much reserve should be retained. Also surveyed was what kind of parties they would want in our temporary home.

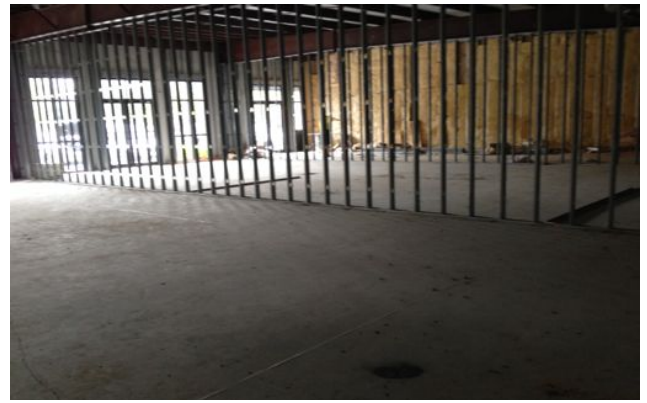
2014 in review continued

- **May 3, 2014.** The survey results were reviewed in a membership meeting. A search committee consisting of Pam Levi, Bob Olszewski, Jody Martindale, and Shelby Groome was formed to look for a facility. This group looked at many locations, narrowed the choices to five, and presented them to the Board.
- **July 12, 2014** The board narrowed the search committee recommendations to three choices: The former location, Carolina Dance Sport, and Pier Pont. Open houses were held for the membership on July 19 and 20 at Carolina DanceSport and Pier Pont.
- **July 21** Another survey goes out to the membership asking which facility they favor. 70 members voted and Pier Pont was favored by 79% of those voting. Lease negotiations with Pier Pont began.
- **September 9.** The lease with Pier Pont was signed. Negotiations with the contractor and building permits began.
- **October 27** Contract is signed and work began. See pages 3 and 4 for more construction photos.
- **December 31** First party in the new facility!



CONSTRUCTION PHASE

September the start. Construction began October 27



November 13, 2014, Back walls, duct work, drywall



November 24 Ceiling is up - painting



December 4 Cabinets are installed



December 8 Mirror planning, Bob and Pam



December 15 Floor is down



December 18 Sound system – Bruce Roberts



December 18 Sound system – Joe Richardson



December 22, Mirrors are up, Bob, Allen, Pam



December 23 Tables are “dressed”



December 27 Jackie and Jan moving in



December 27 Rope lights go up–twice!! Roger and Allen



December 30, Windows are washed



December 30 More installation



December 30 – Allen and Margie, floor testing



Thanks!!!

Without the time, expertise, cash, and material donations from these people, our new place would not have been possible.

Past Boards

Reserve Fund – Thanks to the good managers from our chapter's history, we had construction money.

Leadership

Pam Levi spent hundreds of volunteer hours and drove thousands of miles on this project. Her ability to negotiate with the owners, realtors, and contractors was invaluable to us. Those of us who watched this process could tell you that they all liked and respected her. In turn, they helped us get in quickly. Please give her great big thanks for this extraordinary effort!

Cash Donations

Michelle and Fred Turco

Pam Levi

Raymond and Margit Paskauskas

Anonymous

Beverly Birkhimer

Normandie Updyke

Margie LaPorte

Connie Vance

Furniture, Equipment Donations

Bob Olszewski – Coffee Pot, Stainless Crock Server

Anne DeGraffe – Microwave

Shiko Carter – Coffee Pot

Pam Levi – File Cabinet and DJ Cabinet

Michelle Turco – Fundraiser scarves and hangers

Steve and Jody Martindale – Fundraiser cruise

Bob and Jackie – Stainless trash can, 2 Clocks, Rug

Labor and Technical Donations

Maureen Matthew, Beehive, Design, Paint, Cabinets

Hammond Eve – Design Work

Bruce Roberts – Sound System

Fred Turco – Floor Negotiations

Pam Levi – Chief Negotiator and Project Manager

Connie Vance – Project Budgeting, Moving

Bob Olszewski - Purchasing

Allen Vance – Sound, Lights, Windows, Moving

Roger Viton – Rope Lights, Moving

Bob Ramey – Floor Protection, Sound

Joe Richardson - Sound

Jan Hyatt – Moving, Chair Cleaning

Jackie Kohn - Moving

Bob Kohn - Moving

Russell Barber – Moving and Storage

Larry Beldner - Moving

James Shanks - Moving

Gunars Medins – Moving

Monthly dance classes

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.

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.

\$40 for 4 weeks.

Individual Classes \$10 per week payable in advance.

January - Foxtrot

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. In October, David will teach rhythm dance technique

and will choose techniques common to all rhythm dances with a weekly emphasis on a different dance.

Member Prices - \$40 for 4 weeks

Guest Prices - \$60

Individual Classes \$15 per week payable in advance

January – Rhythm

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.

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.

Member Prices - \$40 for 4 weeks

Guest Prices - \$60 for 4 weeks

Individual Classes \$15 per week payable in advance

January – Samba

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!

Member Prices - \$40 for 4 weeks

Guest Prices - \$60 for 4 weeks

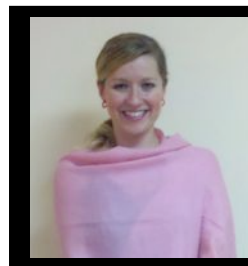
Individual Classes \$15 per week payable in advance

January – Advanced Tango

ALL LEVELS – ROTATING CLASS

Thursday – 2408 Ashley River Road

7:00 – 8:00, Marina Fridmanovich



Marina is back for January! The Thursday slot has been reserved for rotating instructors. This month it will be Salsa and will be a good fit all levels of dancers.

Member Prices - \$40 for 4 weeks

Guest Prices - \$60 for 4 weeks

Individual Classes \$15 per week payable in advance

January – Salsa



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

Party pricez increazoz

Starting Saturday, January 3 party prices will go increase to \$10 members and \$15 guests.

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 January has been reserved for a series of Bolero lessons with David Roland. 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

Fall Showcase, Saturday, November 8
709 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Suite B
Mount Pleasant
www.elitedancecharleston.com

Fred Astaire Studio

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

We can't say it enough.....

